



**Supporting families for over 60 years**

# **Annual Report**

## **2022-2023**

Parents of Deaf Children Incorporated  
[www.podc.org.au](http://www.podc.org.au)



# President's Report - Suzanne Robertson

As my second term as President concludes, I'm delighted to present the Annual Report for 2022-2023. This year has been marked by challenges, but it's also been a time of significant progress in various aspects.

Our family program has evolved from offering sporadic support to becoming inclusive, through hosting Deaf-friendly events with Auslan interpreters and Deaf Mentors. We've fostered connections both online and in person, expanding our reach and impact.

The 2022-2023 Strategic Plan aimed not only to leverage our strengths but also to seize new opportunities and introduce initiatives based on identified needs. Gratitude goes to everyone who provided feedback, be it individual or on behalf of an organisation.

Throughout this year, we've continued our wonderful programs for families like the Pinot and Picasso family art events, open caption movie and picnic days, the musical morning tea with members from the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, the Empowered Kids Pilot, and our family day at Winterfest medieval fair. What's different this year is our expansion into an online platform for Pinot and Picasso, making these opportunities more accessible even in regional and rural areas. We expanded our in person outreach to Port Macquarie, with plans made to visit Dubbo. These trips were invaluable, offering us a firsthand insight into the challenges faced and deepened our understanding of the unique needs of those communities. The opportunity to connect with families in these areas was immensely appreciated and provided us with a clearer perspective on how to better serve and support them.

Our presence at the Deaf festival in Sydney was welcomed, with families seeking support and spaces for connection and assistance. It was heartening to witness such a massive turnout and the evident need for our services.

Among our highlights are the ongoing support for the Junior Science Academy Deaf and Hard of Hearing program, the launch of the popular online space 'Let's Chat,' the inception of the Hub Hangout, and the release of our Inclusive Swimming e-course. These initiatives have significantly contributed to our mission.

The Hub Hangout, led by committee member Karina and our dedicated volunteer Michelle, has provided a valuable space for children and parents alike to connect, supported by Deaf Mentors

and Auslan interpreters. Similarly, 'Let's Chat' has served as an invaluable online platform for parents to exchange experiences and connect with others through their lived experience.

The Inclusive Swimming course, launched earlier this year, garnered fantastic feedback from families, serving as a crucial resource to educate instructors and empower families in supporting their children's swimming skills.

Operating as a State-wide organisation like PODC presents challenges in supporting members outside metropolitan areas. Yet, advancements in technology have allowed us to transcend these barriers, moving our key programs online and planning more events for the future. We are also actively planning to re-establish POD groups and are organising roadshows to combat the sense of isolation.

While this is the President's report, I do not work in isolation and need to make mention of our wonderful team.

Working in our office this year was Roxi David, who organised events and made connections with families. We really want to thank Roxi for all her hard work.

A heartfelt appreciation goes to Kellyanne Rosalion, our Information and Communications Officer, whose dedication has been invaluable. Kellyanne's efforts have forged numerous avenues for families to connect both in person and online, furthering our mission. Completing a Diploma of Governance from Institute of Community Directors Australia, Kellyanne's skills will undoubtedly steer the organisation towards continued success.

Special recognition is due to Michelle Bamber for her remarkable role in maintaining structure around our events, programs, and governance. Her contribution has been indispensable, ensuring PODC's commitment to good corporate governance and transparency.

My personal gratitude extends to our committee members Maria Fresta (Treasurer/Secretary), Chi Yhun Lo (Vice President), Karina Elliott, Lauren Patrick, and Jess Lamont for their unwavering dedication. Maria, in her dual role as Treasurer and Secretary, has been instrumental in shaping PODC's trajectory. Karina's volunteering efforts both on the committee and at our events have brought an exceptional energy and understanding to our organisation, for which we are immensely grateful.

We extend our thanks to our stakeholders whose allyship has been pivotal in our joint endeavours. Collaborations, including presentations and our invitation to the Deaf Sector Round Table, have provided valuable opportunities for collective action and progress.

Our events were enriched by the magic brought by our Deaf Mentors and the invaluable support of Auslan interpreters, especially Margie and Terri, whose dedication has been exemplary.

Gratitude goes to everyone who contributed to our growth and efficient service delivery this past year. We acknowledge the confidence shown by our funding bodies in our ability to deliver quality service and support.

Lastly, our deepest thanks go to our members and their families whose participation in our events has created lasting memories. We exist solely for you, and we're incredibly grateful for your continued support. Here's to building more memories together in the future at Parents of Deaf Children.

Warm regards,

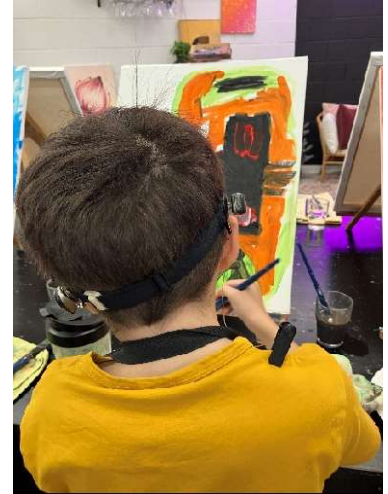
Suzanne Roberston

President

on behalf of the Parents of Deaf Children Management Committee







# Treasurer's Report – Maria Fresta

I have pleasure in presenting the Treasurer's report this year.

The accounts have been audited as at 30 June 2023 and the auditor's report and Financial Statements are attached.

Our total Income of \$269,174 for the year was derived as follows:

ILC Grant	\$236,120
City of Ryde Community Grant	\$15,000
Science Sponsorship Grant	\$15,000
Other Grants	\$325
Donations Received	\$1733
Miscellaneous Income	\$996

This income has enabled us to fund the valuable projects as detailed in the President's Report. It has also allowed us to employ dedicated staff, Deaf Mentors and Auslan interpreters to ensure all events are well supported.

Our total expenditure was \$86,908 arriving at a net profit of \$6931.

Our asset consists of our cash balance, which was \$202,934 at the beginning of the financial year and we have a closing balance of \$214,556, which includes a term deposit of \$50,000. Our liabilities total \$19,563 and relate to Leave Provisions of \$4997 and GST/PAYG payable of \$14,386. This leaves us in a net asset position of \$195,183.

The Committee have been diligently working on Grant applications for next year.

I could not perform my role without the continued support from the President, the Committee and Michelle. Their dedication, commitment and professionalism will ensure the wonderful work of PODC will continue next year and beyond.

Regards,

Maria Fresta

Treasurer for Parents of Deaf Children