



Our Journey

Annual Report 2015



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Front Cover: Ethan Chan (QLD) celebrates another win in the pool at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in LA. Ethan returned to Australia with two gold and one silver medal.

Forward

The future looks bright for Special Olympics Australia.

This Annual Report covers highlights from 1 January – 31 December 2015. It demonstrates what a great year it was at Special Olympics Australia and presents a strong foundation for the future.

As CEO of Special Olympics Australia since February 2016, I look forward to building on this work and bringing success to the organisation through great partnerships, organisational excellence and member engagement.

2016, marks the 40 year anniversary of Special Olympics Australia and I hope we can work together to ensure it is successful far into the future. A future where more people with an intellectual disability are playing sport and Special Olympics Australia is known as the place to come.



Corene Strauss
Chief Executive Officer
Appointed February 2016

Athletes' Voice

Special Olympics Australia is important because it provides opportunities for people with an intellectual disability to participate in sport, and in life.

As an athlete leader I provide input into the organisation to keep the focus on athletes and I advocate for athletes at all levels of the global community. Empowering people to be part of our communities is important because inclusion helps everyone. Sport enables athletes to showcase their skills and who they are – thus creating true respect.

We have an Athlete Oath that says participating is more important than winning, that's what sport is about. Every time an athlete has access to quality training, or attends a competition is important. At these times they are with friends, enjoying life and reaping the benefits of sport and community.



Ben Haack
Board Member, Athlete, Ambassador
Special Olympics Australia

Global Movement, Local Impact

Special Olympics Australia is part of a global movement that encourages people with an intellectual disability to reach their personal best through sport.

Misconception

Special Olympics is often confused with the Olympics and Paralympics, but it is unique.

The **Olympics** is a major competition for elite athletes.

The **Paralympics** is a major competition for elite athletes with a disability, mainly physical.

Special Olympics is a year-round sports program for all people with an intellectual disability who can also access competition pathways which pinnacle at the World Games.

Fact

Special Olympics is the only organisation authorised by the International Olympic Committee to use the word "Olympics" under a Protocol of Agreement signed in 1988.



Global Community

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, whose sister Rosemary had an intellectual disability, founded the Special Olympics Movement in the 1960s when she invited people with an intellectual disability into her backyard to experience the joy of sport and companionship.

In 1968, Special Olympics officially launched onto the world stage when 1,000 athletes with an intellectual disability competed at the first International Games in Chicago.

Today, Special Olympics supports 5 million athletes in 177 countries.

Local Community

Special Olympics began in Australia in 1976. Back then many people with an intellectual disability were shut in institutions. Today, many remain shut out by low expectations of what they can achieve.



Our first media headline in *The Age*, 24 June 1975.

Special Olympics Australia Today



ATHLETES
3,108
ACCREDITED CLUBS
59



SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS
2,427
OTHER PARTICIPANTS
748



VOLUNTEERS
779
VOLUNTEER COACHES
555

Messages

Welcome to our 2015 Annual Report.

From the Chairman

For almost 40 years, Special Olympics Australia has transformed the lives of people with an intellectual disability through sport, and 2015 was a great year of sport and competition.

One of the highlights was the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles where Team Australia competed alongside 7,000 athletes from 170 countries. To see them march into the Opening Ceremony to the roar of the crowd was an incredible moment. To then witness their skills and sportsmanship throughout the competition reminded me again what athletes with an intellectual disability can achieve with the right support and encouragement.

Of course, not every athlete with an intellectual disability wants to compete on the world stage, so we are very proud of our weekly sports programs where athletes of all abilities and aspirations can experience the fun and friendship of a local club. It is at this local level where the most immediate impact on athletes is made.

Thank you to the many volunteers, coaches and families who give their time and talents to make these local clubs function. Clubs have been a big focus of the organisation this year and more than ever before we have collaborated with clubs to improve processes.

By working together we have brought stability to the organisation. This has allowed us to refocus on welcoming athletes, delivering sport and celebrating achievements.

Thank you to everyone who provides support and funds to ensure that Australians with an intellectual disability have access to the benefits of a sporting community.

You make a difference. We just need more generous people like you to make an even greater impact, because there are too many people with an intellectual disability still missing out on the joy of Special Olympics Australia.



Nigel Milan AM
Chairman
Special Olympics Australia

From the CEO

2015 was a year of collaboration. Together we developed and began implementing a four-year strategic plan focussed on: increasing athlete participation, engaging more volunteers, achieving operational excellence, and welcoming more supporters to our sporting community.

We put the organisation once again on the road to prosperity with a surplus for the second year running, demonstrating what can be achieved when we work together.

Most importantly, we have ensured that future generations of people with an intellectual disability continue to have opportunities to achieve their personal best in sport, and in life, as part of the Special Olympics Movement in Australia.

In the sports arena, it was a year of celebration and competition with two flagship events captivating our attention.

In June, all eyes were on Team Australia when they demonstrated their skills at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles. Our athletes were fierce and fair competitors while being role models for all Australian athletes.

The Governor-General was very generous in hosting the team prior to the Games and was so impressed with their performance on and off the field that he sent each athlete a personal card on their return. It is an honour to have His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC as our Patron.

Then in September, I had the pleasure of declaring open the second Special Olympics Australia National Winter Games in Mt Buller from which, 12 athletes were selected to represent Australia at the 2017 World Winter Games in Austria.

In addition to these major competitions, hundreds of training sessions, club competitions and recreational activities took place across the country and it couldn't have happened without our dedicated volunteers. Thank you. Thank you also to the Board, who are themselves volunteers and who lead the organisation with the support of the hardworking team at head office.

Of the many local club events I attended throughout the year, a basketball competition hosted by Special Olympics Dandenong Valley comes to mind not only because of the quality of the basketball on display but also because I recall our athletes cheering from the stands when Mazda Foundation presented us with a \$500,000 cheque to support the recruitment and development of our coaches. Thanks Mazda!

Also, 2015 saw the introduction of our newest sport, netball. This was made possible by ANZ Bank and throughout the year we introduced 300 athletes to netball and established teams in three states, positioning netball to be one of our leading sports in the future. As well as ANZ Bank, this leap forward was made possible by Netball Australia and Netball SA, NSW and VIC – thank you for your technical support.

Indeed my heartfelt gratitude to all our partners, sponsors, suppliers and supporters for your time, money and in-kind support. You are each very important members of the Special Olympics Australia family.

Aside from creating sporting opportunities, this great group of organisations and individuals allow us to support athletes in other areas and it was wonderful to be present at three graduation ceremonies for our Athlete Leadership Programs, as well as being present to see athlete Liam O'Donnell (ACT) accept the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Award from our Chairman Nigel Milan in recognition of his leadership skills.

Finally, to all athletes and families, my very best wishes for a healthy and happy 2016. You are an inspiration to us all as you make the seemingly impossible, possible while spreading joy to everyone around you.



Nicola Stokes
Chief Executive Officer
Special Olympics Australia

From Our Principal Partner

The past year has seen considerable success and progress for Australian sport, as the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and national sporting organisations (NSOs) continue to build on our nation's proud sporting tradition.

The Government's 2014–15 investment of nearly \$120 million into Australian sport continues to be refined to ensure funding is aligned to sports with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia's Winning Edge 2012–2022 targets, and drive greater participation outcomes for sport.

The sporting landscape has changed rapidly in recent years, as have the options for people's scarce leisure time. More than ever before, sport faces tough competition for our attention from electronic media and other sedentary pursuits.

In March the Commission launched Play.Sport.Australia – our plan to help NSOs build participation in sport and make sure all Australians enjoy its benefits. Sports have the opportunity to attract more than 4.5 million Australians into their communities. It's important that we work together to ensure that more Australians, particularly young Australians, participate in sport more often and that we have strong sporting organisations that deliver the products and opportunities Australians want.

Other highlights in 2014–15 included:

- The transition to Sporting Schools and the development of its website – the main portal for sporting organisations, schools, coaches and parents to access this \$100 million program which aims to reach more than 850,000 children.
- The development of the AusPlay survey. The ASC has committed to introducing a new national survey to better understand how Australians engage with, and play, sport. Good decisions require good data and this initiative by the ASC is critical.
- And through Australia's Winning Edge we will continue to give our athletes the best chances at international success.

So now, more than ever, we have a clear plan to make sure all Australians enjoy sport and maximise our chances of success. On behalf of the ASC I thank you for your hard work in helping us achieve these goals and I look forward to working with you into the future.



John Wylie AM
Chair
Australian Sports Commission



Inset: Footballers from ACT and NSW relax before the kick off at the State Games.

Right: The Australian women's basketball team love the limelight and had fun at the Team Australia farewell.

Invisibility, Disability or Ability



What is Intellectual Disability?

Intellectual disability is a term used to describe a person with reduced ability to understand new or complex information and to learn and apply new skills. People with an intellectual disability all have the capacity to learn, they just learn differently and require varying levels of support.

15-year-old Special Olympics Australia athlete Brittney Neill (VIC) sums it up: "It's about what I can do and not what I can't do. I can do everything everyone else can do, but it sometimes takes me longer to learn and process information. I just have to keep trying."

Intellectual Disability in Australia

Almost **600,000 Australians** have an intellectual disability² and every two hours another child is diagnosed³.

Our Impact

Athletes get fit, have fun and make friends, which improves their ability to succeed in all walks of life.

Families gain a network of support, are better able to understand their child or sibling's capabilities and can see hope for the future.

Inclusive **communities** are built on the respect for diversity that Special Olympics Australia encourages and celebrates.

The **public** open their hearts and minds to people with an intellectual disability when they get to know them.

Corporate partners can demonstrate social responsibility, corporate volunteering and diversity strategies in action.

People with an intellectual disability are among the most marginalised groups, experiencing high levels of health, social, and financial inequities. Their invisibility is accompanied by low expectations.¹

We Can!

By focussing on sporting ability, athletes with an intellectual disability demonstrate what they can do and the effect is reflected in our logo.



The 'globe of figures' represents a worldwide community that values people with an intellectual disability and celebrates their achievements.



The figure with arms lowered is a person with an intellectual disability facing life's challenges without Special Olympics.



The figure with arms outstretched is a new athlete exploring their abilities.



The figure with arms raised in joy is an athlete sharing their talents with family, friends and wider community.

1. The Lancet Vol 4, May 2016
 2. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012
 3. PwC, Disability Expectations, 2011

Athletes – Sport and Lifestyle

Sport allows people with an intellectual disability to get fit, have fun, make friends and achieve their personal best.

Our Sports

Special Olympics Australia offers weekly sports training for people with an intellectual disability in:

Aquatics	Netball
Athletics	Sailing
Basketball	Softball
Bocce	Table Tennis
Cricket	Tennis
Equestrian	Tenpin Bowling
Football (Soccer)	Winter Sports (Alpine skiing, ice-skating, snowboarding)
Golf	
Gymnastics	

Participation Highlights

Athlete Satisfaction

In our 2015 Satisfaction Survey, 87% of athletes were satisfied with their sporting experience at Special Olympics Australia.



Netball Roll-out

Netball, the most popular women's sport in Australia, is now active in Special Olympics Australia clubs in NSW, SA and VIC thanks to funding from ANZ and the support of Netball Australia.

More Winter Sports

With the support of Disabled Wintersport Australia (DWA) over 40 athletes participated in five winter sports camps, as well as the annual DWA Race Week.

DWA helped us host the National Winter Games at Mt Buller (VIC) for 21 athletes (ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC).

From these Games a team of 12 athletes and 5 volunteer officials were selected to represent Australia at the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017.

Participation Programs

Community Sports Link

Community Sports Link is an 8-week sports program that caters to participants needs and celebrates their achievements at a gala day. Programs are delivered to schools and disability service providers and provide a pathway to Special Olympics Australia clubs.

Young Athletes

Children with an intellectual disability aged 2–8 can learn sports skills through the Young Athletes program, which focuses on activities that support social and physical growth.

On average, participants experience a 7-month gain in motor skills after participating for 8-weeks⁴. Programs are underway in NSW, QLD and VIC.

Unified Sports

Unified Sports brings people with an intellectual disability and those without a disability together to play sport. It helps change attitudes towards people with disability and increases competition opportunities. Unified Sports competitions are underway in ACT, NSW, QLD, SA and TAS.

Lifestyle Programs

Healthy Athletes

People with an intellectual disability are more likely to have unidentified or untreated health issues and will die younger than the general population (average of 13 years for men, 20 years for women)⁵. The Healthy Athletes program helps them improve their health and stay fit to play sport by offering free health screenings at major competitions.

Special Olympics Australia tennis star Kelly Wren (NSW) is an ambassador for the Healthy Athletes program. In 2015 she took part in the official opening of Healthy Athletes at the Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Athlete Leadership Programs

Through Athlete Leadership Programs, athletes learn to share their voice, make informed decisions and play an active role in the organisation.

Ben Haack (QLD) represents athletes on the Board of Special Olympics Australia and each club is required to have an athlete leader on their committee.

In 2015, 26 athletes graduated from the program and many of them have already given speeches at schools, businesses and community events.

Since 2007, Special Olympics Australia has awarded the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Award to an athlete who has shown great leadership skills, both on and off the field. In 2015, Liam O'Donnell (ACT) was recognised for his outstanding sportsmanship and support for Special Olympics Australia. As well as being a sportsperson, he is also a volunteer and assistant coach.

⁴ Research Overview, Special Olympics Inc
⁵ Research Overview, Special Olympics Inc



Above: Craig Muhlbock (NSW) was easily spotted on the slopes at the National Games and has since been selected to represent Australia at the World Winter Games. He will now compete in his family's homeland of Austria in 2017.

Left: Gregory Blanch (NSW) is proud to graduate as an athlete leader and his mum Ruth is delighted too.



The Australian men's basketball team get together before their gold medal winning match. Shown here are (left-right): Philip Mahoney (VIC), Thomas Preston (NSW), Wayne Kinross (SA), Dean Pallier (NSW), Jack Littleton (ACT).

Athletes – Competition

Competition is important because it gives athletes opportunities to demonstrate their skills and be recognised for their achievements.

Competition Pathways

A process of divisioning allows athletes of similar abilities to compete together. That means athletes of all abilities can enjoy meaningful competition from local, state and national to international events. At the top of the competition ladder is the World Games, which is hosted on a four-year cycle in both summer and winter sports.

Interclub Competitions

Special Olympics Australia hosted 198 interclub competitions in local communities across the country.

State Games

23 State Games were held across Australia.

National Games

The search began for a host city for the next National Games in 2018. The fourth Junior National Games for athletes aged 8-15 will be held in 2017.

Invitational Games

A team of 124 Australian athletes will compete in aquatics and athletics at the third Trans-Tasman Tournament in New Zealand in 2016.

World Games

In 2015, 76 Australian athletes with an intellectual disability competed at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles. See how they went on pages 10-13.

Twelve athletes and 5 officials were selected to represent Australia in Alpine skiing and snowboarding at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria in March 2017.

Competitive Edge

In May, Tottenham Hotspur Foundation hosted a clinic for footballers. It promoted the importance of quality coaching for people with an intellectual disability and strengthened the global partnership between Tottenham Hotspur and Special Olympics.

In June, footballers were put through their paces by coaches from Chelsea FC.



Next Major Games

Trans-Tasman Tournament 2016

25-27 November 2016, Hamilton, New Zealand

World Winter Games 2017

14-25 March 2017, Austria

Junior National Games 2017

Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

National Games 2018

World Summer Games 2019



Everyone got plenty of attention at the Tottenham Hotspur Football Clinic.

World Games Spotlight

The Special Olympics World Summer Games was the largest sporting event in the world in 2015.

RESULTS

23 GOLD
19 SILVER
18 BRONZE
22 RIBBONS

Place Ribbons (4-8)



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15

Special Olympics World Summer Games 25 July–2 August 2015

- 7,000 athletes
- 170 countries
- 30,000 volunteers
- 3,000 coaches
- 500,000 spectators in LA
- 100+ million television viewers

Team Australia

- 76 athletes
- 29 officials
- 12 sports: aquatics, athletics, basketball, bocce, equestrian, football (soccer), golf, gymnastics, sailing, softball, tennis, tenpin bowling.
- 1 training camp
- 150 family members in LA
- 2,000 herograms
- Immeasurable smiles

Media Highlights

ESPN, the worldwide leader in sports broadcasting, produced a 23-minute documentary which followed the journey of eight Australian athletes. The documentary was shown prior to the live broadcast of the Opening Ceremony and was shortlisted for an Australian Sports Commission Media Award.

Queensland athlete Matthew Pascoe was one of only four athletes to star in Microsoft's global campaign to their 7.1 million Facebook fans, 7.2 million Twitter Followers, 342,000 YouTube subscribers and countless others across their suite of websites and blogs.

Award-winning journalist Robert Penfold joined Team Australia in LA and his report for National Nine News was broadcast to over 1 million Australians.

ABC Grandstand did a live radio cross to Team Australia on arrival in LA and at the Opening Ceremony.

Almost 400,000 people engaged with Team Australia via the Special Olympics Australia Facebook page and 1,000 new fans were gained.

Eight National Sporting Organisations published at least two posts promoting Team Australia.

The Journey in Pictures

1. Team Australia Announcement

Team Australia were announced on 3 December 2014.

2. Training Camp

Even a tropical cyclone couldn't dampen the spirits of Team Australia at a training camp on the Gold Coast. With lashing rain, severe winds, flash-flooding and all outdoor venues closed for the weekend coaches had to get creative. So, the tennis players set up a net in the undercover carpark, golfers headed to the local putt-putt course and sailors practised in the pool alongside the swim squad.

3. Uniform Presentation

On 5 June, Sir Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia hosted representatives of Team Australia at Admiralty House in Sydney to celebrate 50 days to go to the World Games, and officially present the Australian uniform.

4. Team Farewell

On 21 July, Team Australia came together for one final celebration before hopping on a plane to Los Angeles. The team farewell was a fun-filled event with plenty of green and gold, lots of smiles and a few tears... from mums and dads.

5. Host Town Program

Despite Team Australia running three hours later than scheduled, the community of Huntington Beach stuck around for a street party to kick off three days of cultural exchange. Their arrival was reported on ABC7 Los Angeles News.

6. Host Town Program

The first ever Australian equestrian team enjoyed posing with mounted police in front of the Huntington Beach pier made famous by the TV series Baywatch.

7. Family Fun

Almost 150 family members were in Los Angeles to cheer on Team Australia and it was a sea of green and gold wherever they went.

8. Opening Ceremony

There was thunderous applause as Team Australia proudly marched into the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum for the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Summer Games. There were plenty of movie stars and celebrities, including First Lady Michelle Obama who declared the Games open. But the red carpet was firmly reserved for the real stars, the 7,000 athletes.

9. Competition

Matthew Pascoe (QLD) crosses the finish line to win gold for Australia in the 400m at the track.

10. First Medal

Nicole Bartley (QLD) won Australia's first medal in the pool when she took silver in the 1,500m freestyle.

11. Healthy Athletes Program

Tennis star, Kelly Wren at the official opening of the Healthy Athletes venue.

12. Consul-General Reception

During the Games, the Australian Consul-General in LA, Karen Lanyon hosted a BBQ for Team Australia on her lawn. The lamingtons went down a treat with athletes and celebrities.

13. Celebrity Spotting

The Australian men's basketball team were delighted to meet Tim Shriver, Chairman of the global Special Olympics Movement.

14. Closing Ceremony

Swimmers Ethan Chan (QLD), Keiran Corry (NSW) and Jordan Brown (NSW) kick back and enjoy the Closing Ceremony.

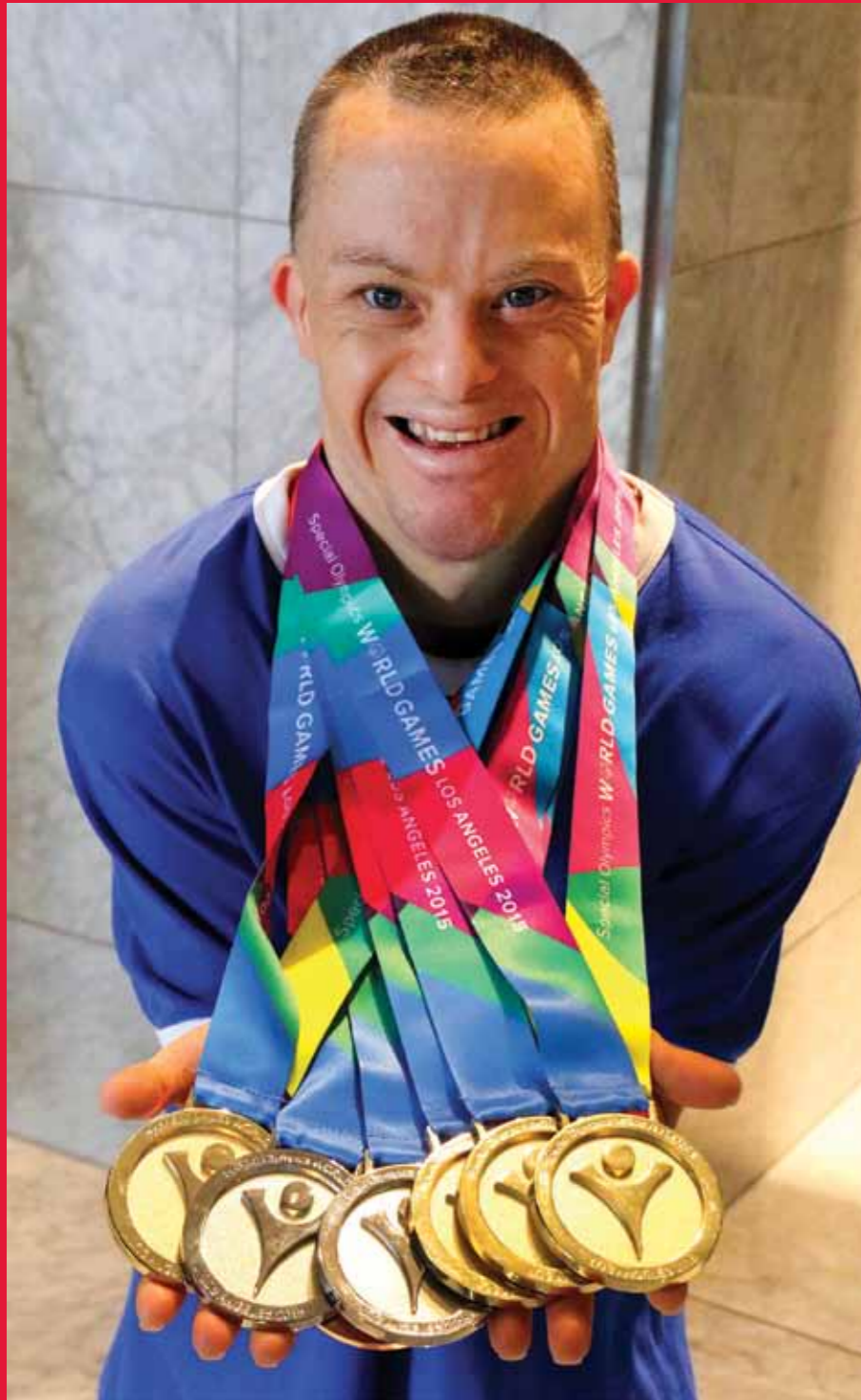
15. Welcome Home

A green and gold cheer squad were on hand to greet Team Australia as they headed back home to share their stories with families, friends and coaches.



Joy!

Meet some of the talented athletes who represented Australia at the Special Olympics World Summer Games.



Martin (Gymnastics, QLD)

For over 20 years, Martin's dream was to represent Australia. At the age of 33 his dream came true when he wore the green and gold to represent Australia in gymnastics at the World Games. He cried when he received his selection letter and everyone cried when he told his family he would do his best to honour his dad. Sadly Martin's dad passed away before he could see him achieve his dream. But Martin's mum was in LA to cheer him on where there were more tears with Martin's magnificent medal haul. Martin honoured his dad with 4 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal, including the All Around award.



Martin on set with Producer Simone Skinner-Saxby for ESPN's Road to the Special Olympics. Watch it at:

www.specialolympics.com.au/joy



Brittney (Athletics, VIC)

At 15 years old, Brittney was Australia's youngest competitor at the World Games. Competing in athletics on the international stage for the first time, Brittney won 1 silver and 2 bronze medals with her mum and grandpa cheering her on from the stands. Brittney is now back at school and training in circus skills outside of athletics. She was named Junior Sportsperson of the Year at the 2015 Victorian Disability Sport & Recreation Awards.



Liam (Football, ACT)

Liam loves sport. When he is not playing sport he is watching his favourite teams. This was the first time he had represented Australia at the World Games and his football team returned home with a silver medal. Liam is otherwise known as Hollywood because he loves the limelight, so it was a running joke among the team that he was at home in Los Angeles. In December, Liam was awarded the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Award to recognise his leadership skills, both on and off the field.



Brad & Wayne (Basketball, SA)

During the day, twins Brad and Wayne quietly go about their jobs at Bedford Industries, but once they hit the basketball court they've been described as "the smiling, silent assassins." The dynamic duo live and breathe basketball and it runs in the family with their sister, mum and dad all involved in the sport. The World Games in LA was Brad and Wayne's third consecutive World Summer Games and they brought home gold for Australia.



Alyse (Sailing, NSW)

Behind Alyse's calm manner and infectious smile is an athlete with a fierce desire to win. In LA her goal was to match her gold medal from the 2011 World Games in Athens. Supporting her ambition was her coach Bob, who Alyse shares a special bond with despite a 49-year age difference. To their delight Alyse won gold, which she proudly showed off to her colleagues at the Royal Motor Yacht Club where she has been employed for five years.



Jason (Softball, TAS)

Jason made his debut on the international stage at the World Games where his softball team played the final against India and had the crowd on the edge of their seats. While the Australian team were beaten in the final minutes Jason was very happy with his first international medal. "It was very exciting to be able to go to the World Games as an Australian athlete and win silver," he said. It was also his first trip overseas.



Sara (Equestrian, WA)

Sara (pictured right) has always dreamed of travelling the world with her horse but she wasn't able to take her horse with her to the World Games. Instead, all riders were paired with a local horse. Sara was paired with George and together they won two bronze medals. This was Sara's first World Games and the first time Australia was represented in equestrian.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders play an important role in raising funds and awareness to support athletes with an intellectual disability to train and compete in their community.

Fundraising Focus

In 2015, Special Olympics Australia developed a new fundraising strategy to build diversified and sustainable income streams, strengthen mutually-beneficial partnerships and celebrate community engagement. We broadened our donor base and enjoyed continued success from our fundraising events.

Highlights

Sports Challenges

The SPLASH swimming challenge brought together 15 corporate teams, including Westpac, Frasers Property Australia and McGrathNicol, competing for the chance to swim with Olympic, Paralympic and Special Olympics Australia athletes. The fast-paced relay event, hosted by Australian Olympic gold medallist Peter Hadfield and held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, raised over \$100,000. The winning trophy was taken out by Macquarie Group.

The inaugural GOALS football challenge in July attracted 15 corporate teams, with a second event held in November. Teams included Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Konica Minolta and NRMA, and each team included a Special Olympics Australia athlete which added a great dimension to the event. Together the two events raised over \$70,000.

Variety Celebration

Our showcase event, the Variety Dinner, celebrated its 10-year anniversary in August and was attended by 500 guests who enjoyed a terrific evening of entertainment. The event raised over \$150,000. Stars of the evening were the Special Olympics Dance Performance Group who together hit a landmark of having helped raised over \$1 million for Special Olympics Australia.

Dream Ride

The Special Olympics Dance Performance Group travelled to America, funded by Romeo's Retail Group and Ritchies Supa IGA, to attend and perform at Dream Ride in Connecticut. The car and motorbike festival is being brought to Australia in December 2016 to raise funds for Special Olympics Australia.

Special Olympics Australia Cup

For the fourth year, Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs and South Sydney Rabbitohs contested the Special Olympics Australia Cup at ANZ Stadium in Sydney. For the first time, athletes and Law Enforcement Torch Run officers carried the Flame of Hope on a lap of honour. This was shown live on Channel 9 to almost a million viewers. Prior to the match, both clubs held mini-Olympics for Special Olympics Australia athletes.

Other Fundraising Activities

Breakfasts and lunches proved as popular as ever with hundreds of guests attending breakfasts to celebrate inspirational women in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney; sports lunches in Perth, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane; and the much loved comedy breakfasts in Sydney and Melbourne. We continued to benefit from the Mater Prize Home Draw in 2015 but drew to a close the Gift Voucher scheme.

Local Fundraising

From sausage sizzles, to golf days and trivia nights, local clubs worked hard to raise funds for their sports programs and athletes. Their passion and dedication brings fundraising to life across the country, raising much needed funds and community awareness.

Stellar Support

We thank our wonderful long term supporters TMA, SAS, IGA, Cisco, Stuart Alexander and the hundreds of individual donors who share our belief in the power of sport to change lives.

New Partnerships

Mazda Foundation

Mazda Foundation provided \$500,000 for the retention, recruitment and development of coaches. Special Olympics Australia formally launched the partnership in March at an interclub competition basketball competition in Dandenong, where Martin Benders, Chairperson of Mazda Foundation formally presented the cheque.

Nielsen

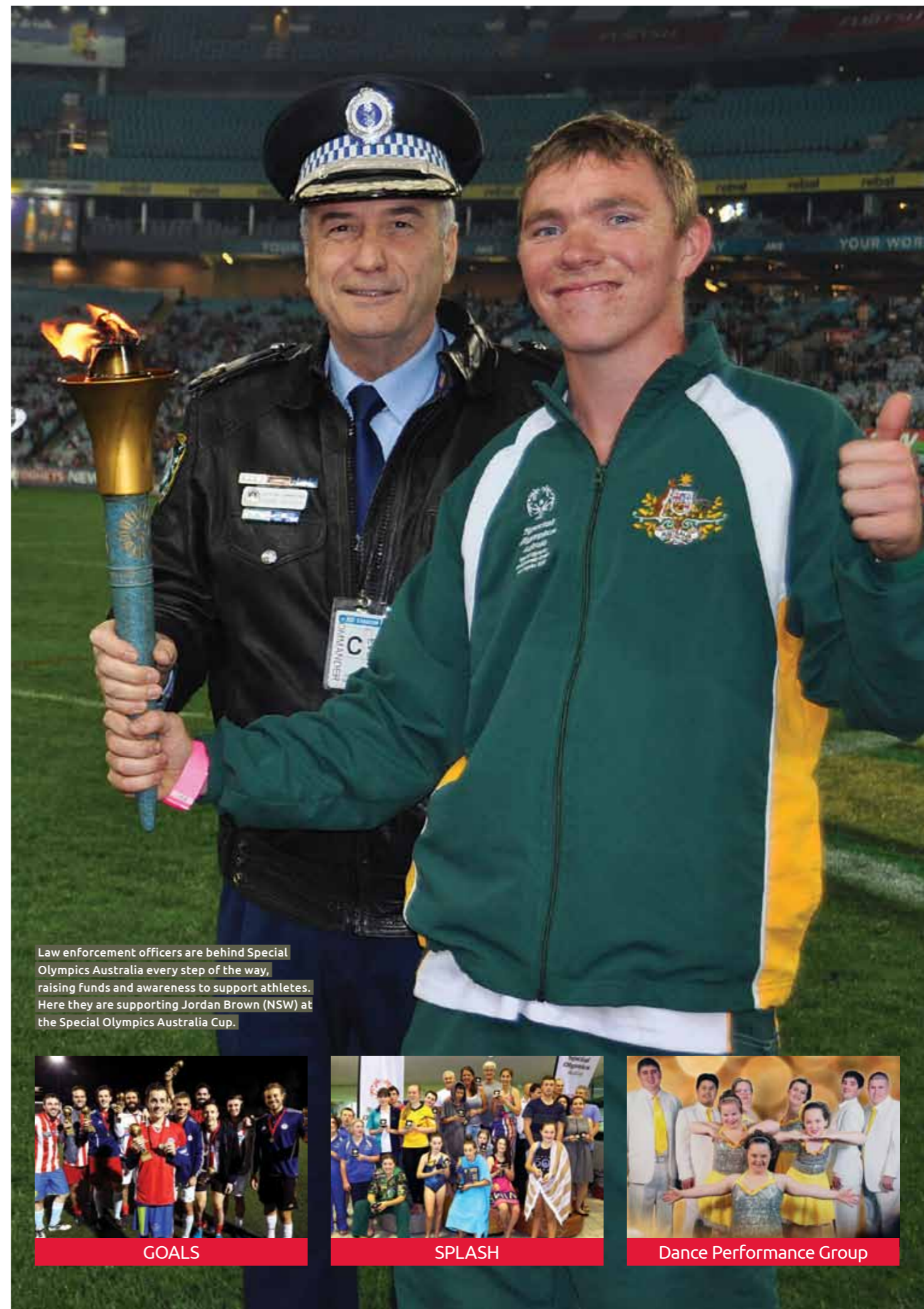
Global information and measurement company, Nielsen held a worldwide company challenge to support Special Olympics and Australia won. Athlete ambassador, Sandy Freeman spoke to staff and accepted a \$5,000 cheque.

FlexiGroup

Financial services group FlexiGroup raised \$12,000 from staff fundraising activities to help send athletes to the Special Olympics World Summer Games.

Norton Rose Fulbright

International law firm, Norton Rose Fulbright chose Special Olympics as a global fundraising partner. In Australia, the firm participated in corporate volunteering and fundraising initiatives. They are also providing pro bono research into supported decision making models, which help people with disability make their own choices.



Law enforcement officers are behind Special Olympics Australia every step of the way, raising funds and awareness to support athletes. Here they are supporting Jordan Brown (NSW) at the Special Olympics Australia Cup.

Stakeholders (Continued)

While much of the focus was on the World Games in 2015, Special Olympics Australia continued to use social, online and traditional media channels to share athlete stories and celebrate their achievements.

Patron

The Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) is Patron of Special Olympics Australia, as well as a number of other important charities. In 2015, His Excellency held a dinner for 10 charities which Special Olympics Australia attended. On 5 June, to mark 50 days to go to the Special Olympics World Summer Games, he presented Team Australia with their uniforms, he shared their results via social media and on the team's return he sent a letter of congratulations to each athlete.



Media Highlights

At the Victorian Disability Sport & Recreation Awards, *Ready For Special Olympics* by the ABC 7.30 Report won the award for Most Outstanding Media Coverage.

Attitude Group produced *Keeping up with Chris* a 30-minute documentary about Special Olympics Australia athlete and employee Chris Bunton. The documentary was broadcast on TV1, the national channel of New Zealand, and promoted by www.attitudelive.com. The documentary was the focus of Disability Awareness Week activities at Sydney University where Chris is studying.



Special Olympics Australia CEO was featured on ABC Breakfast News and ABC Radio National to discuss how Special Olympics Australia is often the stepping stone for children with an intellectual disability to reach their full potential. As a result, Special Olympics Australia was invited to present on social inclusion at the 2015 Early Links Conference in Sydney in front of 420 disability support workers.

For all media enquiries please email media@specialolympics.com.au or phone us on 1300 225 762.

Telstra Business Women's Awards

Special Olympics Australia CEO, Nicola Stokes was a finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards (NSW) in the category of Purpose and Social Enterprise.



Excellence

Special Olympics Australia regularly reviews how it operates to ensure that its objectives are delivered in an effective and efficient way.



Global Strategy, Local Focus

Special Olympics Australia provided input into the Special Olympics Global Strategic Plan and reviewed and aligned our Strategic Plan 2015-18 to it. Special Olympics Australia also achieved accreditation from Special Olympics, our international governing body, until 31 December 2017.

Recognition by the ASC

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC), our Principal Partner, recognised Special Olympics Australia as a National Sporting Organisation for Disability (NSOD) until 2018, which is an eligibility requirement for funding.

The ASC maintained our existing funding in 2015, despite budget cuts. They also awarded Special Olympics Australia a grant to conduct a comprehensive governance and structure review.

The Member Protection Policy was updated in accordance with ASC guidelines and volunteer Keith Brown (QLD) became national Member Protection Information Officer.

Audit

Pro bono partner KMPG conducted the year-end audit and noted significant improvements in governance, oversight and compliance.

Company Secretary

Company Matters was engaged to provide company secretary services to support the Board, including providing advice on the Constitution and running the AGM.

Office Relocation

Special Olympics Australia is now located in professional suites at North Ryde (NSW) thanks to the generosity of Goodman.

Committees

Zone Committees

Volunteer committees that assist clubs with administration, operations and accreditation.

Eastern Zone: Jon Erickson (Chair), Andrew Jobson, Cheryl Cheong, Ellena Morris, Scott Whyte, Marc Ferguson, Rob Regent, David Wilson, James Souter-Robertson

North Western: Keith Brown (Chair), Richard Fahy (Vice Chair), Christian Bendelack, Rita Bunney, Martin Bevan, Annette Dundas, Briana Horton, John Leembruggen, Terry Visscher

Southern: Peter Flood (Chair), Cameron Glover (Vice Chair), Chris Crawford, Daniella D'Ambrosio, Chris Lemm, Phong Neang, James Quarmby, Moira Ryde, Jehad Rasheed, Cindy Zhang

Finance and Audit Committee

A volunteer sub-committee of the Board that makes recommendations on risk management, internal controls, performance reporting, and financial and audit processes.

Shaun Fraser (NSW), Cameron Brownjohn, (NSW), Irena Reiss (NSW), Tony McGrath (NSW)

Board Nominating Committee

A volunteer committee that helps recruit Board Directors.

John Wakefield (NSW), Michael Hogan (NSW), Trin Taber (NSW), Anna-Louise Kassulke (QLD), Ben Haack (QLD)

Sports Advisory Committee

A volunteer committee that helps develop and define our yearly sports plan.

Anna-Louise Kassulke (QLD), Moira Ryde (VIC), Suzy Chainey (QLD), Tony Moore (NSW)

Awards Committee

A volunteer committee that helps develop and define our yearly awards schedule.

Natalie Pausin (TAS), Cheryl Haack (QLD), Trin Taber (NSW), Penny Lello (SA)

Executive Team

Rick Van Brugge, Chief Operating Officer
Amanda Beehag, Sports Development
Karen Miller, Fundraising
Sharon Nixon, Communications



Members

Together, volunteers, families, partners and supporters create a welcoming environment for people with an intellectual disability.

Coaches

Thanks to our coaching partner Mazda Foundation, Special Olympics Australia is helping coaches achieve minimum standards so that in 2016 each will have completed:

- Community Coaching Course (Australian Sports Commission)
- Working with Children Check
- Police Check
- Athlete Centred Coaching

In October, Larry O'Regan (QLD) and Igor Ferrari Negrão (SA), attended a football coaching clinic in Singapore funded by Special Olympics Asia Pacific and delivered by Tottenham Hotspur.

Volunteers

Our 2015 Satisfaction Survey showed that 93% of volunteers are satisfied with the organisation. The satisfaction of volunteers is reflected in an overall satisfaction rating of 87% for athletes.

Clubs

Working groups were set up to review processes and tools to improve registrations, accreditation and leadership. The first Club Leadership Handbook, finalised by a working group, will be distributed in 2016.

Our Locations

ACT: Greater Canberra

NSW: Blue Mountains/Nepean, Central Coast, Central West, Flinders, Hunter Valley, Illawarra, Macarthur, Mid North Coast, North Coast, North West New England, South Coast, Southern Highlands, Sydney East, Sydney Hills, Sydney Inner West, Sydney Northern Beaches, Sydney South, Sydney Upper North Shore, Sydney West

QLD: Brisbane, Bundaberg, Far North Queensland, Fraser Coast, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Gympie, Logan, Mackay, Moreton North, Redlands, Sunshine Coast

WA: Perth Metro, Goldfields, Kimberley, South West

SA: Adelaide Hills/Fleurieu, Adelaide North, Adelaide South, Limestone Coast, Riverland, Spencer Gulf, Encounter Bay

TAS: North West, Northern, Southern

VIC: Ballarat, Barwon, Bendigo, Dandenong Valley, Echuca Campaspe, Gippsland, Melbourne Eastern Ranges, Melbourne Inner East, Melbourne North, Melbourne Southern, Melbourne West, Ovens & Murray, Westernport



Honour Boards

Hall of Fame

2015	Not Awarded
2014	Moira Ryde (VIC)
2013	Albert Green OAM (ACT)
2012	Norm Maroney APM, OAM (NSW)
2011	Robyn Cook OAM (VIC)
2010	Susan Grealy (QLD)
2009	Rex Langthorne AM (NSW)
2008	Alan Burke (VIC)
2007	Eric Jones OAM (VIC) & Kurt Kraushofer OAM (VIC)
2006	Barry Easy OAM (NSW) & Marian York (QLD)
2005	Robyn Hanson OAM (TAS)
2004	Anna-Louise Kassulke (QLD)
2003	Jan Sharp OAM (VIC)
2002	Leon Burwell OAM (NSW)
2001	Carol Tanner OAM (TAS)
2000	Des Renford MBE, OHC (NSW)

EKS Award

2015	Liam O'Donnell
2014	Joshua Frost (NSW)
2013	Mel Eustace (NSW)
2012	Steven White (VIC) & 'Rusty' Nelligan (WA)
2011	Andrew Williams (VIC)
2010	John Faulkner (QLD)
2009	Saxon Graham (NSW)
2008	Gabrielle Clark (NSW) & Kelly Wren (NSW)
2007	Christopher Farmer (SA)

Above: Liam O'Donnell (ACT) was the EKS Award winner for 2015.

Left: Gymnast Cassy Geffke (VIC) and Head Coach, Natalie Upshall (QLD) at the World Summer Games where Cassy won one gold, three silver and one bronze medal.



Team Australia 2015 consisted of athletes from across the country and came together for this official photo before flying to LA for the World Summer Games. Getting James McKinley-Hendley (WA) to the Games involved 50 hours of trains, planes and automobiles. It was 7 hours by train from Kalgoorlie to Perth, an overnight stay, a 5-hour flight to Sydney and a 14-hour flight to LA before James was in town to compete.

Around Australia



Australian Capital Territory

- Six sports competitions in six sports
- Initiated inaugural Summer of Cricket
- Liam O'Donnell won the EKS Award
- Seven athletes competed at the World Games



Queensland

- 71 sports competitions in 13 sports
- Two unified sports events in Futsal and Football
- 225 Community Sports Link participants
- Young Athletes programs launched in partnership with Gymnastics Queensland
- Stepping Stones initiative to develop partnerships through mainstream sports clubs
- Unified swim school launched
- 17 athletes competed at the World Games



New South Wales

- Ten State Games with almost 700 competitors
- 51 sports competitions in twelve sports
- Inaugural City vs Country swim meet with over 80 athletes
- 284 Community Sports Link participants
- 11 Athlete Leadership Program graduates
- New golf program in south-west Sydney
- 25-year anniversary for Sydney South club
- 20-year anniversary for South Coast club
- 18 athletes competed at the World Games



Northern Territory

- Negotiations are underway to establish a Unified Sports program in the Northern Territory.



Victoria

- Two State Games with over 1,200 competitors in 14 sports
- 62 sports competitions in 14 sports
- 504 Community Sports Link participants
- Five multi-sports days with 750 participants
- Three Young Athletes programs launched in partnership with Gymnastics Victoria
- New Special Olympics Victoria golf academy
- Four awards won at the Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards
- 13 athletes competed at the World Games



Tasmania

- Five State Games
- 740 Community Sports Link participants
- Four athletes competed at the World Games



South Australia

- Six State Games in 9 sports
- 320 Community Sports Link participants
- 15 Athlete Leadership Program graduates
- Six athletes competed at the World Games



Western Australia

- 325 Community Sports Link participants
- New offices at the WACA
- Inaugural Coach Education Workshop
- 10 athletes competed at the World Games

Working Together

Together we are making Australia a better place for people with an intellectual disability.

Board of Directors



About the Board

1. Nigel Milan AM, Chairman

Nigel has had a distinguished career in media, both in the public and private sectors in Australia and New Zealand. Nigel has also held CEO roles in service delivery organisations and has held roles on the Board of numerous not-for-profit, government and private organisations. Appointed 9 July 2012 and elected Chairman 17 May 2014.

2. Michael Hogan, Vice Chairman

Michael has completed a long career in the areas of public affairs, public profile management, policy analysis and government relations, and he is wise counsel in stakeholder management issues. His son Nick has participated in many Special Olympics sports and Michael believes Special Olympics Australia provides opportunities for people with an intellectual disability that were unheard of 20-30 years ago. Appointed 9 July 2012 and elected Vice-Chairman 17 May 2014.

3. Cameron Brownjohn

Cameron is Division Director of Macquarie Capital's Principal Investments division. Prior to joining the corporate world, Cameron was competitive at state and national level across a range of sports. In addition to combining his passions for sport and the community, Cameron brings his business acumen, corporate knowledge and fiscal skills to the Board. Cameron is a member of the Finance and Audit Committee. Appointed 2 May 2014.

4. Shaun Fraser

Shaun is a chartered accountant with over 26 years' experience in Australia and the US. Shaun was a founding Partner of McGrathNicol and currently leads the firm's Corporate Advisory business. Shaun has spent the majority of his career assisting companies, boards and stakeholders through difficult situations and he has been involved in some of Australia's largest and most complex insolvency and restructuring assignments. Shaun is the Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee. Appointed 30 May 2015.

5. Benjamin Haack

As a Special Olympics Australia athlete, coach, volunteer and leader, Ben brings vast experience to his role on the Board. He has played sport at all levels, completed athlete leadership training and has served on his club committee as well as international committees and sports panels. Ben is the third athlete representative to the National Board. Appointed 26 May 2012.

6. Maxwell Jackson

Max is a highly experienced consultant, providing training and consultancy services to government funded, voluntary and private sector organisations in Victoria. Appointed 14 April 2007. Resigned March 2015.

7. Anna-Louise Kassulke

Anna-Louise is Service Manager for Gold Coast Recreation and Sport. She has worked in sport and disability for 30 years and has experience in project development and leadership. Anna-Louise was instrumental in establishing Special Olympics Australia in Queensland and has served Special Olympics Australia in a variety of capacities since 1988, including Head of Delegation for the World Games (2007, 2011, 2015). Anna-Louise was originally appointed to the Board in 2009 and stepped down in 2014 to take up the position of Head of Delegation for the 2015 World Games. Appointed 30 October 2015.

8. Anthony McGrath

Tony brought considerable financial expertise and a network of contacts to Special Olympics Australia. He is Partner and Chairman of McGrathNichol. Prior to that Tony was partner and Head of KPMG's Corporate Recovery Team where he was involved in major liquidation work. Tony was Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee. Appointed 14 April 2007. Resigned 12 March 2015.

9. Irena Reiss

Irena is a practising lawyer with an extensive career having provided high-level commercial advice and dispute resolution services to a broad client base including the corporate, private and public sectors. Irena has a demonstrated understanding of the needs of people with an intellectual disability having served at a club committee level and as a parent of a Special Olympics Australia athlete. Irena's passion is driven by a long-standing commitment to human rights, social responsibility and cultural diversity. Irena is a member of the Finance and Audit committee. Appointed 30 May 2015.

10. Luke Sayers

Luke Sayers is the CEO of PwC Australia and Vice Chairman of PwC Asia. Luke leads the strategic direction of the firm and provides leadership to a team of over 5,000 people, who partner with businesses, governments, high net-worth individuals and entrepreneurs. Luke also has a long term commitment to community organisations and external Boards. Appointed 16 June 2011. Resigned 30 May 2015.

Patron

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

National Partners

Principal Partner



Gold Partners

IGA, TMA

Silver Partners

Cisco, Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, SAS

Coaching Partner

Mazda Foundation

Netball Partner

ANZ

Medal Presentation Partner

OTIS

Media Partner

News Corp Australia

Property Partner

Goodman

National Ambassadors

Duncan Armstrong (Olympic Swimmer), Tahir Bilgic (Comedian), Iva Davies (Australian Music Legend), Paula Duncan (Actor), John Foreman (Musical Director and Composer), Amber Lawrence (Singer and Songwriter), Laurie Lawrence (Olympic Swim Coach), Damien Leith (Singer and Songwriter), Jim Maxwell (ABC Cricket Commentator), Peter Overton (Nine Network), Rob Shehadie (Comedian), Maria Venuti (Actor and Entertainer)

Supporters

180 Group, 2GB, 2KY, 2UE, ABC Tissue, ADHC, Adidas, Adpost Online, AHEPA Golf Club, Aileen Beale, Alctel One Touch, Altis Property Group, Ange Postecoglou, Angela Vassallo, Angelo Tsarouchas, Anja Nissen, Ann Sherry, ANZ Bank, ANZ Stadium, Apex Club, Aspen Medical, Australian Disability Sport, Australian Event Services, Baker & McKenzie, Bank of America, Barker College, Bathurst Council, Bayview Boulevard Sydney, Brad Foreman, Burke Marine, Canada Bay Council, Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs, Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL, Christina Matthews, CIC Australia, Clayton Utz, ClubsNSW, Collins House Private Wealth, CMTEDD, Commonwealth Bank, Craig Bennett, Dan Crowley, Danielle Keys, Darren Care, Datacom, Deborah Knight, Deloitte, +Denis Carnahan, Department of Premier and Cabinet NSW, Dick Smith, DLA Piper, Dolby Australia, dVT Group, Elizabeth Shaw, Equestrian Wear, Ernst & Young, Emirates, Epping Club, FactorONE, Dr Fiona Wood AM, FlexiGroup Australia, Frasers Property, Freshflowers.com.au, FTI Consulting, Galston Club, Gilbert + Tobin, Harvey Norman, Hellenic Club of Canberra, Horseland, ICAP Australia, Impact AV, Iva & Evan Davies, James Smith, JB Metro, Jessica Orcsik, Jim Carmichael, Joanne Thomas, John Trevillian, Julie McDonald OAM, Kerry Chikarovski, KPMG, Lachlan Turner, Laurie Daley AM, Layne Beachley AO, Lexie Duncan, Lexus of Parramatta, Lions Australia, Lord Taverners Australia, Luna Park Venues, Lynch Group, Macquarie Group, Mannings Funerals, Mary Coutis, Mayer Family, McGrathNicol, Media Smiths, Merrill Lynch, MKB Creative, Natalie Barr, National Financial Advisors, Network of Caring, Network10, Network21, Newington College, Nick Cody, Nine Network, Nova Employment, Norton Rose Fulbright Australia, Nova FM Sydney, NRL, O'Maras Valuers & Auctioneers, Patrick Hunt Consulting, Peter Hadfield, PPI Promotions, Prestige African Safari, PwC, Raelene Castle, Raytheon Australia, Ritchies Supa IGA, Rob Shehadie, Romeo's Retail Group, Ronstadt, Ross's Auctioneers & Valuers, RSM Australia, Sally Carbon OAM, Savills Australia, Score Recruitment, Srixon, Sefiani Communications, Sherry Hogan Foundation, Simon Elgie, Smeg, South Coast United Football Club, South Sydney Rabbitohs, St George, STAX Electrical, Stuart Alexander, Sunblest Cleaning, Sydney Markets Ltd, Sydney Olympic Park Business Association, Talent Development Project, Taste Creative, The Boys in the Band, The Comedy Store, The Westpac Group, Tile Factory Outlet, Tim Gavel, Tony Squires, Wales Truck Repairs, Walshs, Waterview in Bicentennial Park.

Financial Summary

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue		
Fundraising revenue	2,766,892	3,371,271*
Sports and program income	2,272,003	5,659,012**
2013 Asia Pacific Games income	5,814	338,273
Programs support and administration	262,020	336,334
Total Revenue	5,306,729	9,704,890
Expenses		
Fundraising expenses	1,381,109	1,833,211
Sports and program expenses	2,515,811	6,080,920**
2013 Asia Pacific Games expenses	-	-
Programs support and administration	1,301,064	1,518,079
Total Expenses	5,197,984	9,432,210
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	108,745	272,680
Tax expenses	-	-
Surplus(Deficit) for the Year	108,745	272,680
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	108,745	272,680

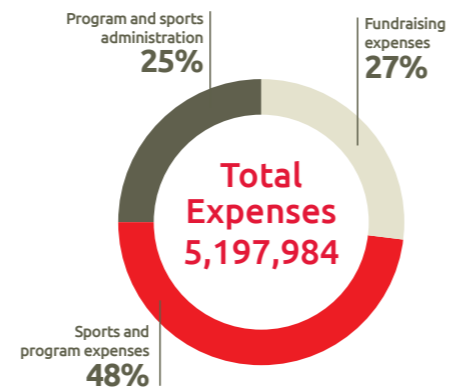
Statement of Financial Position

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,867,934	2,310,154
Receivables	180,744	249,106
Other assets	37,969	626
Prepayments	77,897	58,213
Total current assets	3,164,544	2,618,099
Property, plant and equipment	14,123	13,210
Total non-current assets	14,123	13,210
Total assets	3,178,667	2,631,309
Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	423,254	344,255
Unearned income	890,722	561,445
Employee benefits	136,238	120,695
Total current liabilities	1,450,214	1,026,395
Employee benefits	42,488	27,694
Total non-current liabilities	42,488	27,694
Total liabilities	1,492,702	1,054,089
Net assets	1,685,965	1,577,220
Member's Funds	1,685,965	1,577,220

Revenue 2015



Expenses 2015



From the archives: This is believed to be Team South Australia on their return home from the Special Olympics Australia National Games held in Melbourne in 1991. Twenty-four years later, we know that Paula Morrissey (circled left) and Mary Folland (circled right) are still training and competing with Special Olympics Australia.



Celebrating 40 Years

In 2016, Special Olympics Australia celebrates 40 years of providing weekly sports training and regular competition to people with an intellectual disability, helping them achieve their personal best in sport and in life. Thank you to everyone who has been part of the journey. We hope you will continue to support us into the future. www.specialolympics.com.au/40years

*Gift Voucher income is reported net of voucher costs.
 ** 2014 includes National Games income and expenses.
 This Financial Summary is for the year ended 31 December 2015. A copy of the complete Financial Statements, Directors' Report & Declaration, and Independent Audit Report signed by KPMG is available from www.specialolympics.com.au or by calling Special Olympics Australia on 1300 225 762



Volunteer, Tanvir Islam (NSW) takes some Special Olympics Australia basketballers through their paces.

Special Olympics Australia is proud to offer weekly sports participation and regular competition to people with an intellectual disability in local communities across Australia.

Through a network of dedicated volunteers, people with an intellectual disability can enjoy multiple sports and experience the thrill of competition.

If you know someone with an intellectual disability encourage them to get involved.



**Special Olympics
Australia**

Charitable Status

Special Olympics Australia is a national charity with tax-exempt and deductible gift-recipient status granted by the Australian Tax Office. ABN: 28 050 738 728

Contact

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Show Your Support

Thank you for your interest in Special Olympics Australia. If you want to get involved, make a donation or need more information please visit www.specialolympics.com.au

Stay in touch with us.



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