

WESTIR LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019



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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This year has seen some major changes at WESTIR. As mentioned in last year's report our former Executive Officer, Peter Rogers made the decision to retire after 28.5 years with us, due to illness, in September 2018. It was with great sadness that Peter passed away from his illness on the 27th December 2018. A celebration of Peter's life was held at Rookwood and the rooms were overflowing with family, friends and colleagues. Our then, Acting Executive Officer, Margaret Tipper, delivered Peter's professional eulogy. Peter is greatly missed by all at WESTIR and throughout the sector as he had a great impact over his years of working with communities.

With Peter's resignation, the Board placed Margaret Tipper into the position of Acting Executive Officer, while recruitment took place. The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) were notified and a diligent recruitment and selection process was undertaken. After this process, Margaret Tipper was offered the position and commenced in the permanent role in February 2019.

The staff team has continued to produce Census papers and updates and attend to other work, particularly after what has been a very difficult year both professionally and personally. I cannot thank them enough for their professionalism throughout Peter's illness.

This year, the Board and Staff have worked on and produced a Strategic Plan and looked at our Vision, Mission and Goals from 2019 to 2022. (A copy of this is contained in this Report.)

As a Board, we were also fortunate to obtain the services of a pro bono legal adviser, being Baker & McKenzie, through the Justice Connect Not for Profit Law Program. Baker & McKenzie prepared and assisted us to produce a draft Constitution that is being put to Members today. The new Constitution brings us into line with the Corporations Act 2001 [Cth] as our previous governing document were Memorandum and Articles of Association.

WESTIR is continuing its collaboration with communities and will continue to do so, as part of its core work and also produce work, when contracted, in other areas.

Finally, I would like to thank our funder, the Department of Communities and Justice, the organisations that consult with us as part of this funding; the services that contract us but most importantly to the WESTIR staff, and my Board colleagues – Erich Weller, Margaret Tipper, Professor Nicky Morrison, Charles Casuscelli, Shaun Beckley and Paul Falzon.

Ron Alder, Chairperson



Ron Alder has been endorsed by the Board, awarding him a Life Membership to WESTIR. Ron has been a member of the WESTIR Board since 2001. Ron is the second recipient of the Life Membership award to WESTIR Limited! Congratulations Ron!



Peter Rogers retired after 28.5 years at WESTIR



Margaret Tipper accepted role as Executive Officer



New Strategic Plan and Vision developed



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

This year has seen a number of changes at WESTIR, namely the retirement and passing away of WESTIR's Executive Officer, Peter Rogers, after 28.5 years being an employee of WESTIR. I was honoured to present Peter's professional eulogy at the service celebrating his life in January of this year. As I mentioned during that, I have big shoes to fill – figuratively and literally! Peter was awarded the inaugural WESTIR Life Membership Award and, in February of this year he was inducted into the ZEST Awards Hall of Fame for his work in the community sector in Western Sydney. Peter was part of the founding organisations for the ZEST Awards.

In August 2018, the WESTIR Board asked me to fill the position of Acting Executive role until the position was advertised and a permanent Executive Officer appointed. I applied for the position when it was advertised and after an extensive recruitment process by the panel I was offered the position. I accepted the offer of the permanent position and commenced in February 2019. The Executive Officer's position also has a place on the WESTIR Board as Company Secretary.

I commend the WESTIR Staff Team for their professionalism throughout this difficult time as they got on with their work on behalf of the community.

This year has seen us updating a number of our governance and operational documents. The Board and staff spent some time developing our Strategic Plan for 2019-2022. We reviewed and updated our Vision, Purpose, Values and Goals. As mentioned by our Chair, I have been engaging with our pro bono legal adviser, Baker & McKenzie, to prepare an up to date Constitution for approval by the WESTIR Membership. I cannot thank them enough for all the work that they undertook. The program of applying for a pro bono legal adviser is done through the Justice Connect Not for Profit Law initiative.

This year has also seen a lot of time directed to the recommissioning process being undertaken with our funder, the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), formerly Department of Community Services (FaCS). The Targeted Earlier Intervention Program was signed off by the new Minister with education around the new data collection tool commencing. Importantly, it allowed organisations to review their existing contracts and how they would fit into the new model. We are now at the point of beginning negotiations into the recommissioning and should know if we are receiving a new contract by the 31st March 2020. WESTIR has met all of our milestones in this process and looks forward to moving into a new contract. (The work that we have undertaken under the DCJ funding is displayed in this Report.)

WESTIR staff are continuing to update profiles and papers from the 2016 Census. Since the Census data was released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2017, WESTIR staff have produced over 21 research papers in areas of interest to the community and organisations around Greater Western Sydney, and beyond. They are also busy conducting consultancy projects and attending conferences and training.

As part of my role, I sit on the Board of the Local Community Services Association (LCSA) as Chair. The LCSA is the NSW peak for neighbourhood centres and sector development organisations. In 2020, we are hosting the international conference for the International Federation of Settlement and Neighbourhood Houses, which will be an exciting and informative event.

I cannot finish this report without thanking the wonderful staff at WESTIR, Barbara Beard, Amy Lawton and Vince Suarez and our newest employee, Laura Butler (commenced in July 2019); and, former employees Olivia Hamilton (finished in December 2018) and Jawed Gebrael (finished in April 2019).

WESTIR looks forward to continuing its work throughout 2019-20 and, once again, thank you to the WESTIR employees and the Board.

Margaret Tipper, Executive Officer



TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2018-2019 Audit of WESTIR's accounts was undertaken in August 2019 by William Tomiczek & Associates and are presented following.

The Auditor has congratulated the Board, Management and Staff as the Company made a surplus of \$22,699 in the financial year compared to \$24,766 in the 2017-18 year. The Company is in a strong financial position with cash resources of \$219,238.

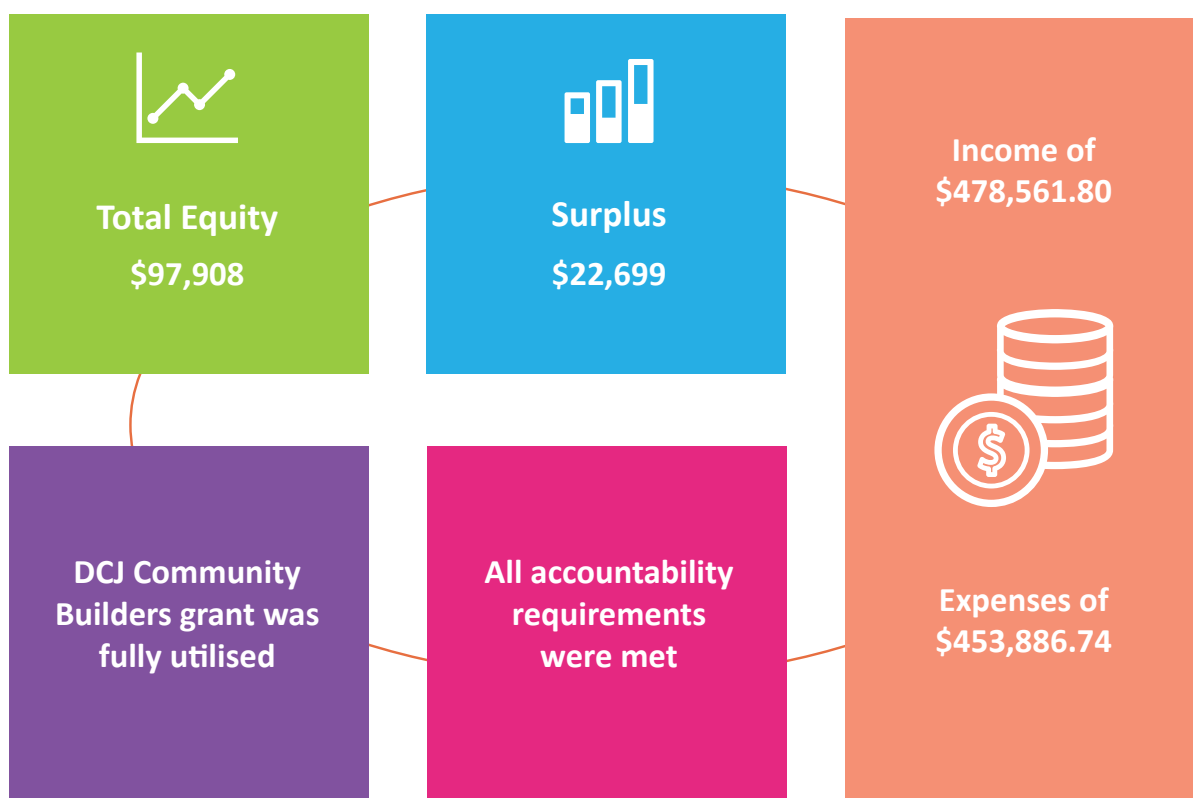
The Auditor has also recommended that an updated inventory of all company assets be undertaken throughout the year.

A couple of points to note are that an overpayment was made to the Australian Tax Office of \$3,772 and the Auditor requested a refund, which has since been received. Also, there were some historical invoices raised on work that was never undertaken amounting to \$13,860, which has been shown as not collectible and a provision for this amount was charged against 2019 surpluses.

It should be noted that the DCJ Community Builders grant was fully utilised and had a slight deficit which was covered by other income of the Company.

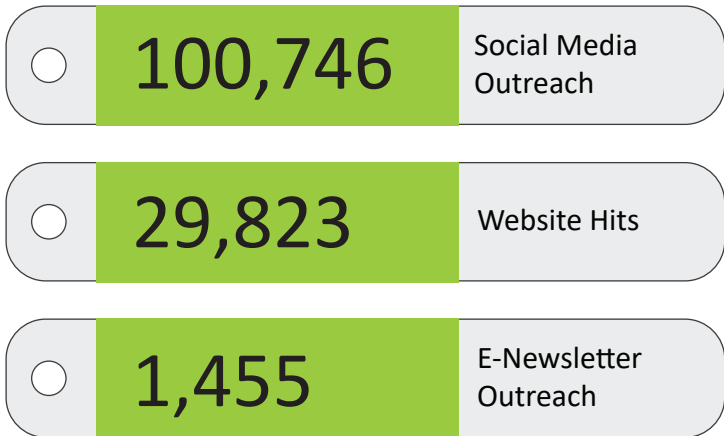
Overall, the Company is solvent and a going concern and holds all staff and other provisions in the balance sheet. A copy of the full financial audit for 2018-2019 is attached to this Annual Report.

Paul Falzon, Treasurer



A copy of the full financial audit is available from the WESTIR office. Please e-mail eo@westir.org.au

WESTIR produced a number of publications, collaborations and provisions of information through the 2018-2019 period. This culminated with us reaching out to more than 100,000 people through social media!



Did you know? WESTIR had over 29,000 unique visitors browsing our website for the 2018 - 2019 period!



210 people now subscribe to WESTIR's E-Newsletter



1,952 people read our Research Papers



120 people participated in our capacity building projects



62 engagements with other partners



23 organisations participated in skills development and training



Dr. Olivia Hamilton and Amy Lawton from WESTIR undertook a Penrith Homelessness Interagency service mapping research project for the Penrith City Council, which was publically released in 2018 and was promoted in the July 2018 issue of Parity Magazine - <http://bit.do/fjojb>



12 Research Papers
Published in 2018 - 2019

119 Research Briefs
Published in 2018 - 2019



12 Profile Published in
2018 - 2019

WESTIR had engagements with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and participated in its advertising campaign to promote the use of its data and analytics for the next Census! Members of our Team and Board were interviewed for this campaign.



EVALUATION

WESTIR STRATEGIC PLAN 2019 - 2022

OUR PURPOSE

We analyse, interpret, and share data and research insights, to support organisations in making informed decisions for their communities.



SURVEYS

OUR HISTORY

WESTIR Limited is a not for profit community organisation, partly funded by the NSW Department of Community Services.



STATISTICS

Established in 1981 (and becoming a company limited by guarantee in 1989). We provide enhanced and equitable access to social research and data for people and organisations.

OUR VISION

We aspire to provide organisations with access to high quality data and research for the enhancement of communities.



CONSULTING

OUR VALUES

- We provide high quality data and research
- We are trustworthy
- We respect diversity
- We collaborate
- We are responsive



RESEARCH

OUR GOALS

- We are recognised in the sector as an authority
- We provide unique narratives & data
- We build sector capacity
- We are sustainable



MAPS



TRAINING

BOARD MEMBERS

Chairperson:	Ron Alder
Deputy Chairperson:	Erich Weller
Treasurer	Paul Falzon
Company Secretary:	Margaret Tipper
Ordinary Members:	Charles Casuscelli (WSROC)
	Shaun Beckley (WSROC)
	Nicky Morrison
	(from April 2019)

WESTIR STAFF

Executive Officer:	Margaret Tipper
Senior Social Research Officer	Barbara Beard
Social Research Officer	Amy Lawton
Social Research Officer	Laura Butler
	(from July 2019)
Administration Officer	Vince Suarez
Executive Officer	Peter Rogers (dec.)
	(retired Sept 2018)
Social Research Officer	Olivia Hamilton
	(left April 2019)
Social Research Officer	Jawed Gebrael
	(left April 2019)

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