



WESTIR LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020



(02) 9635 7764



mail@westir.org.au



www.westir.org.au

ACN: 003 487 965 ABN: 65 003 487 965



Chairperson's Report

I am pleased to introduce you to WESTIR Limited's Annual Report for the 2019-2020 year. The last quarter of the year will be one not quickly forgotten. COVID-19 has impacted on society in ways that were very unexpected. On the other hand WESTIR has continued to produce research papers on Greater Western Sydney; undertake research and evaluation for funded clients; and produce research for other organisations.

I would like to thank the WESTIR Members for passing the new Constitution of the company, at last year's annual general meeting, to bring our key governance document up to date. The Board, along with the Staff, have also been updating our Policy documents and these are accessible by login, so that we have clearer guidance when required.

The last year also saw the final steps in the commissioning of funding by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) as our older contract with them came to its conclusion. As a sector development organisation, WESTIR now sits under the Targeted Earlier Intervention Program (TEI), and I congratulate our Executive Officer and the staff for negotiating a maximum 5-year contract, thus securing NSW government funding until 2025, which commenced on the 1 July 2020. This will ensure the continuing production of research for the community sector in Greater Western Sydney and beyond. WESTIR also looks forward to the other opportunities, that reviewing our operations to bring it into line with the TEI, offers us.

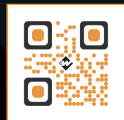
WESTIR staff participate in many initiatives and activities with other organisations, to contribute knowledge and undertake new learnings. For the Board the ongoing education and training for the staff is critical as the type of work undertaken is highly technical and we need to ensure that we are up to date in our research capacity.

At last year's Annual General Meeting, the Board awarded Life Membership to Ron Alder. Ron has served on the Board at WESTIR, originally as a WSROC Member, and now as an individual member. He is also our most immediate past Chairperson. Ron was the second person awarded Life Membership and we congratulate him.

Finally, I would like to thank our funder, the Department of Communities and Justice, the organisations that we engage with us as part of this funding and the services that contract us to undertake project work. With regret, it is noted that Paul Falzon is stepping down from the Board and I thank him for his contribution to the work of WESTIR.

Most importantly I thank the WESTIR staff – Margaret Tipper, Barbara Beard, Amy Lawton, Laura Butler and Vince Suarez, and my Board colleagues – Ron Alder, Professor Nicky Morrison, Charles Casuscelli, Shaun Beckley, Paul Falzon, Margaret Tipper for their many contributions over the last year.

Erich Weller



Executive Officer's Report

I would like to acknowledge that WESTIR works with communities and operates on Aboriginal lands and we would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians and their continuing connection to land, water and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. The WESTIR office is located on the Burramattagal Lands of the Darug Nation.

Who could foresee the delivery of nature, so impactfully, into our lives over the last 12 months since I reported at the 2018-2019 WESTIR Annual General Meeting. Droughts, floods, bushfires and COVID-19 has certainly affected us all in some way. WESTIR staff and board members, either lived near the bushfires, or knew people who were directly affected by it. Then we had a short break from the bushfires and COVID-19 came into the community. Public Health Orders saw WESTIR staff start to work from home from late March and they still are at the time of the writing of this Report.

Throughout the year, WESTIR continued producing its research and evaluation papers. As we come to the end of the production of papers from the 2016 Census, we produced 8 Census Papers over the 12 months. To view these papers please go to <https://www.westir.org.au/new/index.php/census/cen2016>

Since the 2016 Census was released, WESTIR has produced 29 papers relating to the regional data on the Greater Western Sydney area. This is a very commendable output for what is a very small team. During this year five Publications were researched and prepared and these can be accessed at <https://www.westir.org.au/new/index.php/publications>

These papers were researched and prepared by Barbara Beard, Senior Social Research & Information Officer; Amy Lawton and Laura Butler, Social Research and Information Officers. They are quality publications and, we know, that are used by many organisations, including our Funder, the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).

This year saw Amy Lawton, asked to present at the Australian Evaluation Society's Conference, along with Cheryl Jackson from Marrin Weejali Aboriginal Corporation on the Evaluation that WESTIR undertook on their Aboriginal Family Planning Circle Program. This was an honour, but more importantly, was the recognition of the growing cultural competencies that WESTIR gained in doing this evaluation. Amy Lawton then was asked to prepare an academic paper on the evaluation that was featured in the *Evaluation Journal of Australasia*.

Barbara Beard started a series on COVID-19 and the effects on employment and she is currently working on a paper that will look at the potential that COVID will have on the upcoming Census.

Laura Butler has now been with WESTIR for 12 months and has been working on a series of papers on Young People (12 to 24 years).

The Census research papers are part of our obligations under our state government funding contracts with the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). Over the last few years, services under the Community Builders funding have been moving to what is now the Targeted Earlier Intervention Program (TEI) under a commissioning framework. Funding was to be negotiated around a number of deliverable milestones from a 1 year up to 5-year contracts. WESTIR met all its contractual milestones and we have secured a contract for 5 years, up to 2025, which commenced on the 1st July 2020. This has meant considerable work on my behalf as Executive Officer, but it has been the same for every service in NSW moving to TEI. DCJ took a "try, test, learn" framework on the implementation of the TEI systems. This allowed me to provide input around some governance groups and forms that were developed by DCJ. While the profile papers for Greater Western Sydney is one of our main products, we also do smaller profile work for TEI, and associated, services.

As well as the TEI funded work that WESTIR undertakes, we also do some contract work for organisations and this has occurred throughout the 2019 to 2020 year. Much of this work cannot be published but this allows WESTIR to make a small surplus and supplements the TEI funding.



Executive Officer's Report continued

Throughout the year we produced 9 Newsletters and special thanks goes to our Administration Officer, Vince Suarez for the production of these. Vince also maintains our website and makes sure that our IT needs are met. This is integral for the types of specialist software that the researchers use and to ensure that WESTIR's work is continually distributed throughout the year.

This year has also been a year of ongoing learning for WESTIR staff. Congratulations also go to Amy Lawton for completing her Diploma of Governance; and, for Laura Butler concluding her Honours studies at the University of NSW. Laura was also awarded the University Medal!

Education and learning are very important to WESTIR and its staff, as the type of work that we do requires current knowledge and technical skills. Staff attended a number of conferences prior to COVID and switched to an overload of ZOOM meetings, webinars and workshops online since March. We will continue with this, as best we can, during the current health orders.

WESTIR is a COVID Safe Organisation and we are preparing risk assessment plans for when staff return to work. I am fortunate to live close to Parramatta and have attended the office for the majority of the time.

As part of my work, I serve as Chairperson of the Local Community Services Association Inc. This is the peak body for neighbourhood centres and sector development organisations in NSW. This is an honour and gave me some direct knowledge of the effects of the natural disasters on organisations across the State. This has led to some research, which was being published shortly, which was worked on with WESTIR.

The Executive Officer also acts as the Company Secretary and I would like to report that all accountability documents for the 2018-2019 year were distributed and accepted by all the relevant bodies.

I formally wish to thank all the staff at WESTIR, which has been mentioned earlier in my report, Barbara, Amy, Laura and Vince.

Especially, I thank the Board - Erich Weller, Ron Alder, Shaun Beckley, Professor Nicky Morrison, Charles Casuscelli, and Paul Falzon (who is retiring from the Board) for their ongoing working relationship with me.

WESTIR looks forward to continuing its work throughout 2020-21 in whatever way the "new normal" is.

Margaret Tipper



Treasurer's Report

The 2018-2019 Audit of WESTIR's accounts was undertaken in August 2020 by William Tomiczek & Associates and are presented as following.

The Auditor has congratulated the Board, Management and Staff as the Company made a surplus of \$32,579 in the financial year compared to \$21,204 in the 2018-19 year.

The increase in surplus was made through the Australian Taxation Office's Cash Boost of \$12,467. The cash boost was part of the first instalment of the Federal Government's Stimulus Package due to COVID-19.

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. Total Equity, after these provisions, is \$129,172.55.

All accountability documents were submitted to the Department of Communities and Justice and to the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission; and were accepted.

This will be my last Report as Treasurer, and a Board Member, of WESTIR. My work and other commitments have led me to make this decision. I would like to thank the other Board Members and the WESTIR Staff for their collegiality during my term on the Board..

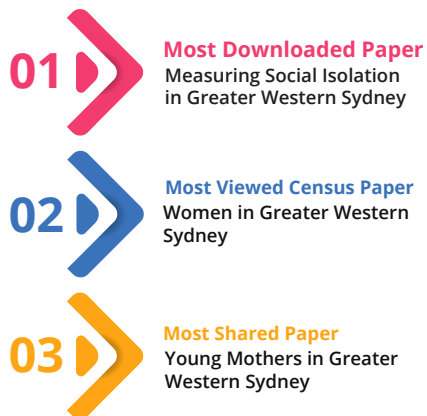
Please see below an abridged report of the 2019-2020 finances.

Paul Falzon

PROFIT & LOSS	2019-2020	2018-2019
Income		
Grants Received	487,967.66	463,247.99
ATO Cash Boost	12,467.00	0.00
Membership	909.09	627.28
Info/Research/Consultancy	15,775.62	23,323.54
Interest Received	761.55	1,876.00
Sundry Income	6,507.88	2,125.10
Total Income	524,388.80	491,199.91
Expenditure		
Total Employment Costs	384,192.09	364,312.61
Operational & Project Expenses	107,436.89	105,683.12
Total Expenditure	491,628.98	469,995.73
Total Surplus	32,759.82	21,204.18
BALANCE SHEET		
Total Assets	269,732.80	237,139.47
Total Liabilities	140,560.25	140,726.74
Net Assets	129,172.55	96,412.73
EQUITY		
Accumulated Fund	70,981.01	70,981.01
Retained Earnings	25,401.72	4,197.54
Current Earnings	32,759.82	21,204.18
Historical Balancing Account	30.00	30.00
Total Equity	129,172.55	96,412.73



Analytics Report





Staff Highlights

BARBARA BEARD SENIOR SOCIAL RESEARCH OFFICER

"This year has been quite different to many others I have experienced in my 17 years at WESTIR. As usual, I have worked on several projects with outside organisations and written a few Census based papers but the COVID 19 pandemic has presented new challenges and opportunities. While the lockdown and the pandemic has meant many changes, such as working from home and conducting meetings via Zoom, it has also provided an opportunity to observe how people respond to abnormal situations and the effect it will have on all levels of society in Australia, now and into the future. I have already written one paper titled 'COVID 19 Pandemic 2020 – Employment' with a second paper in the pipeline looking at how the pandemic will impact the 2021 Census. The highlight of this year and previous years has been working with my colleagues and continuing the strong research focus of WESTIR."

AMY LAWTON SOCIAL RESEARCH OFFICER

"My highlight for the 2019-20 financial year was the presentation of our work on the Aboriginal Family Planning Circle (AFPC) evaluations at the Australian Evaluation Society (AES) conference in Sydney. The conference was a great opportunity to demonstrate our qualitative and quantitative evaluation skills, as well as showcase the great Aboriginal-led work undertaken by AFPC in reducing the number of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care in Greater Western Sydney. Our AFPC conference work was also accepted for publication in the Evaluation Journal of Australasia, allowing us to promote the program to an even wider audience. Many thanks to Marrin Weejali Aboriginal Corporation who partnered with us to make this a reality."

LAURA BUTLER SOCIAL RESEARCH OFFICER

"This year was my first at WESTIR after I joined the team in July 2019. It was a year packed with opportunities to dive into research projects and learn from the wisdom of experienced colleagues. Highlights include connecting with the GWS community sector at events like the 2019 Blacktown Community Conference and engaging with innovative social research at the 2019 Australian Social Policy Conference. In the office, I was especially proud to commence WESTIR's first Census paper 'series', looking at youth in GWS. I was also thrilled to finish my Honours thesis in social research and policy and be awarded the UNSW University Medal, with the invaluable support of the WESTIR team."

VINCE SUAREZ IT COMMUNICATIONS

This year was quite a challenging year for everyone. The sector was placed in a unique position and was required to adapt its administrative and technological capacity to that which accommodates a post-COVID world. Indeed, such challenges were faced by WESTIR and its staff, but thankfully we were fortunate enough to respond effectively to what lay ahead. There was an outpouring of knowledge that was immediately made accessible through to the advances of communication technology. I found myself in the midst of this reservoir, in a humble posture of learning, ready and able to apply what could be learned. Although chaotic in its introduction, 2020 served as a catalyst for change and help bring about a transformation both in myself and in my understanding of the world around me.



WESTIR LIMITED

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.

OUR VISION

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

OUR VALUES

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

OUR GOALS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

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

WESTIR STAFF

Executive Officer:	Margaret Tipper
Senior Social Research Officer:	Barbara Beard
Social Research Officer:	Amy Lawton
Social Research Officer:	Laura Butler
IT Communications:	Vince Suarez

OUR HISTORY

WESTIR Limited is a not for profit community organisation, partly funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. 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.

We wish to thank you for your continued support of WESTIR and its activities through what has been a challenging and difficult year for everyone. What 2020 proved is how the community sector rallied together in order to meet unique challenges, and carry forward our activities in the interest of those we serve. We thank our members, and if you have yet to join us as a member, please consider how your valuable contribution will shape our activities. Your investment goes towards research outcomes about the communities of Greater Western Sydney.



EVALUATION



SURVEYS



STATISTICS



CONSULTING



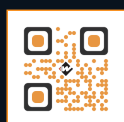
RESEARCH



MAPS



TRAINING



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www.facebook.com/WESTIRLtd

Suite 7, Level 2, 154 Marsden Street
Parramatta, NSW 2150

PO Box 136 Parramatta 2124