



WESTIR LTD

ANNUAL REPORT

2022–2023



(02) 9635 7764



mail@westir.org.au



www.westir.org.au

ACN: 003 487 965 ABN: 65 003 487 965

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge that WESTIR Ltd 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.

BECOME A MEMBER AT WESTIR TODAY

As a member, you can take advantage of the following benefits:

- Updates on our research and events
- Discounts on our consultancy and information services
- Discounts on our events and training

Chairperson's Report

I am pleased to introduce you to WESTIR Limited's Annual Report for the 2022-2023 year.

As a Board, we continued our meetings both in person and by using ZOOM. There were five Board Meetings and the 2021-2022 Annual General Meeting held throughout the year. A new member, Sharmily Nagarsekar, from LEAD was welcomed onto the Board, in lieu of being able to have a nominated WSROC Member. As a Board, we are currently reviewing the WESTIR policies and developing a new strategic plan. Our Board meetings are productive, and we often have challenging discussions on potential research directions for WESTIR. The contributions from Board members and staff are important in maintaining a dynamic organisation.

At WESTIR we aspire to provide organisations with access to high quality data and research for the enhancement of communities by enabling them to make informed decisions.

WESTIR, as a community sector development organisation, continues to meet its obligations under the Department of Communities and Justice 5-year contract Targeted Earlier Intervention funding program. This work includes the production of Census Papers that review data sets from across Greater Western Sydney and formulates them into readable reports for organisations to use. These uses by organisations include strategic planning, grant applications and accountability for the work that they are undertaking with their communities. Other work under the TEI contract has been the development of suburb profiles for some organisations and reviews of community service programs. In addition to our contractual obligations, WESTIR staff have also worked on some important research for organisations and agencies. This work is of a confidential nature and is not available for publication.

The WESTIR staff were pleased with the releases by the Australian Bureau of Statistics of the Census 2021 data. The Census data was released earlier than in previous years and several papers have been prepared and released, or are currently being researched, by WESTIR staff. Some of this data was presented at a breakfast held by Sector Connect in South Western Sydney earlier this year.

A special thank you to our funder, the Department of Communities and Justice, and the organisations that we engage with as part of this funding as well as the agencies and services that contract us to undertake research. WESTIR believes in partnership and collaboration, and this continues regularly.

Most importantly thank you to the WESTIR staff Margaret Tipper, Laura Butler (left August 2023), Vince Suarez, Niki Baroy and Rajesh Bhusal, and my Board colleagues – Ron Alder, Associate Professor Emma Power, Charles Casuscelli, Shaun Beckley, Sharmily Nagarsekar, and Margaret Tipper.

The WESTIR Board and Staff look forward to the coming year's opportunities.

Erich Weller

Executive Officer's Report

The last few years have seen major changes at WESTIR, as many of our long-term staff retired or moved on to other work. WESTIR has been fortunate to recruit great new research staff, who have continued the contribution that we make to organisations in the Greater Western Sydney area, and beyond. Also, we had adjusted well to the restrictions of COVID and adopted a hybrid work arrangement, which has continued since lockdown restrictions.

Throughout the year, WESTIR continued producing its research and other papers. The following publications were released by WESTIR and submissions made to Government Enquiries, including:

- Beating The Heat: Mapping Public Swimming Access in GWS (July 2022)
- International Students in Greater Western Sydney-COVID affects (July 2022)
- Submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry on Philanthropy
- Published in the international journal *Land Use Policy* (July 2022) a collaborative research article with Prof Nicky Morrison (WSU) and Amy Lawton, when she worked at WESTIR – "The loss of peri-urban agricultural land and the state-local tensions in managing its demise: the case of Greater Western Sydney, Australia".

The Census 2021 data were released (in stages) and we have been rolling out papers for the use of organisations across Greater Western Sydney.

- Changing Australia: First Look at the 2021 Census Data (August 2022)
- Greater Western Sydney: First Look at the 2021 Census Data (August 2022)
- Household & Family Composition in Greater Western Sydney (November 2022)
- The Indigenous Population of Greater Western Sydney (November 2022)
- Our Inclusive City: Cultural & Linguistic Diversity in Greater Western Sydney (November 2022)
- South-West Sydney Census 2021 Presentation (April 2023)
- Disability in Greater Western Sydney (June 2023)

WESTIR's research staff are preparing other papers for publication and we look forward to presenting them to you. These papers were researched and prepared by Laura Butler, Niki Baroy and Rajesh Bhusal. The publications and Census papers are available on the WESTIR website at www.westir.au. Please note, that throughout the year, we have been developing a new website for WESTIR, which has professionalised our digital presence.

WESTIR also takes on some contracted work outside of our funding (and cannot be published), otherwise it is part of the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) funding. We were involved with organisations under TEI completing and commencing work, which included: Census Papers, Suburb Profiles, Project Evaluation, LGA Profile for an Aboriginal Service, a suburb listening project, presenting to services in South Western Sydney on the Census data, representation on Advisory Boards/Committees; and, information and advice. This information and advice is diverse and shows the scope and the increasing work that the community sector does across Greater Western Sydney. WESTIR also completed the surveys in relation to DCJ's TEI Evaluation and we await the publication of the outcomes of the evaluation. The 2022-2023 year saw the completion of the third year of our five-year TEI contract and recommissioning will commence in the next year as we move towards 2025. WESTIR would like to thank DCJ for the funding that allows us to continue our work for the communities in Greater Western Sydney.

Executive Officer's Report

WESTIR had some DCJ TEI retention funds available to us from the 2021-2022 year and with these funds WESTIR has been working with Insight Consulting undertaking a project around the infrastructure of TEI services in the Western Sydney District. We are currently awaiting the document and look forward to its findings.

This year WESTIR staff had the opportunity to represent the organisation at Conferences, including the Australian Institute of Family Studies (June 2022), NCOSS, the Inaugural DCJ Multicultural Conference, Communities in Control, and the World Community Development Conference (WCDC). It was a privilege to attend the WCDC conference as it was an enriching and informative conference. I was touched when speaking to an Aboriginal man whose country was in Central Australia. He said to me that he did not realise that all the same issues that affect his community, happen all around the world. It proves that for all our alleged differences, at the heart of it all, we are the same. I came back with a renewed interest to adopt human rights approaches in my work, which came out of a talk about housing in Scotland.

Throughout the year we produced 7 newsletters and special thanks goes to our IT Communications Officer, Vince Suarez, for the production of these. Vince also maintains our website and communications platforms. WESTIR staff continued to develop their skills by participating in many webinars and other specialised training throughout the year.

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. I thank the WESTIR Board for allowing me to participate in this role as part of my work. This is my final term as President and I have been re-elected to the LCSA Board as an Ordinary Member.

The Executive Officer also acts as the Company Secretary and I would like to report that all accountability documents for the 2022-2023 year were lodged and accepted by all the relevant bodies. Our current Strategic Plan is under review and will be finalised in early 2024. Also, the Board is currently reviewing the WESTIR Policies.

I formally want to thank all the staff at WESTIR, who have been mentioned earlier in my report, Niki Baroy, Rajesh Bhusal, Laura Butler, and Vince Suarez. It should be noted here that Laura left WESTIR in August 2023 to start work at the University of Wollongong where she is conducting her PhD. We wish her well and look forward to another WESTIR Alumni completing their PhD. With Laura leaving we welcomed Christina Klassen. WESTIR has changed the position title of 'Social Research and Information Officer' to 'Social Researcher'.

Especially, I thank the Board - Erich Weller, Ron Alder, Shaun Beckley, Associate Professor Emma Power, Charles Casuscelli, and Sharmily Nagarsekar for their ongoing working relationship with me.

WESTIR looks forward to its working, for and with you, throughout 2023-24 as we continue in our work of informing the communities of Greater Western Sydney, and beyond, about where they live, work, and play. "Let the Data Run Free."

Margaret Tipper

Treasurer's Report

The 2022-2023 Audit of WESTIR's accounts was undertaken by William Tomiczek & Associates and are presented as follows.

The Auditor has found that the Company made a surplus of \$48,833.40 in the financial year compared to \$53,024.08 in the 2021-22 year.

It should be noted that the Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ) Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) grant was under-expended on employment costs due to not being able to fill all staff hours. This should be the last time that the DCJ TEI funding will have unspent funds, as WESTIR now has a full staff complement. A Retention Funds application has been submitted to DCJ to undertake specialised research work that will utilise these residual funds. (This is yet to be determined.) The previous year's Retention Funds were used for an approved TEI Project on funded services infrastructure. The Project is in its final stages and will be reported to DCJ shortly.

The Auditor would like the Board to review the historic provisions, non-staff related, to see if they are required into the future and this will be done in the 2023-2024 year budget.

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 \$325,961.07.

All accountability documents have been submitted to our Funder, the Department of Communities and Justice, and the Annual Information Statement will be submitted to the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) after the AGM.

I would like to thank the other Board Members and the WESTIR Staff and as noted by the Auditor "to Margaret (our EO) and Lisa (our Bookkeeper) for their assistance during the Audit".

Please see the abridged report of the 2022-2023 finances. A full copy of the Audit Report is available upon request, or when lodged on the ACNC's website.

Shaun Beckley

Financial Report

WESTIR Audited Accounts (Summary) 2022-2023

Prepared by William Tomiczek & Associates

Income		
Grants Received	546,430.28	518,407.26
Membership	622.75	1,740.91
Info/Research/Consultancy	9,412.25	8,615.50
Sundry Income	0	5,538.91
ATO Cash Boost	0	0
Subscription	27.27	0
Interest Received	307.65	258.29
Total Income	556,800.20	534,560.87
Expenditure		
Total Employment Costs	341,100.86	340,104.00
Operational & Project Expenses	166,865.94	141,432.79
	507,966.80	481,536.79
Total Surplus	\$48,833.40	\$53,024.08

BALANCE SHEET

Total Assets	450,799.20	411,701.95
Total Liabilities	124,838.13	134,574.28
Net Assets	325,961.07	227,127.67
EQUITY		
Accumulated Funds	70,981.01	70,891.01
Retained Earnings	206,146.66	153,122.58
Current Earnings	48,833.40	53,024.08
Total Equity	325,961.07	277,127.67

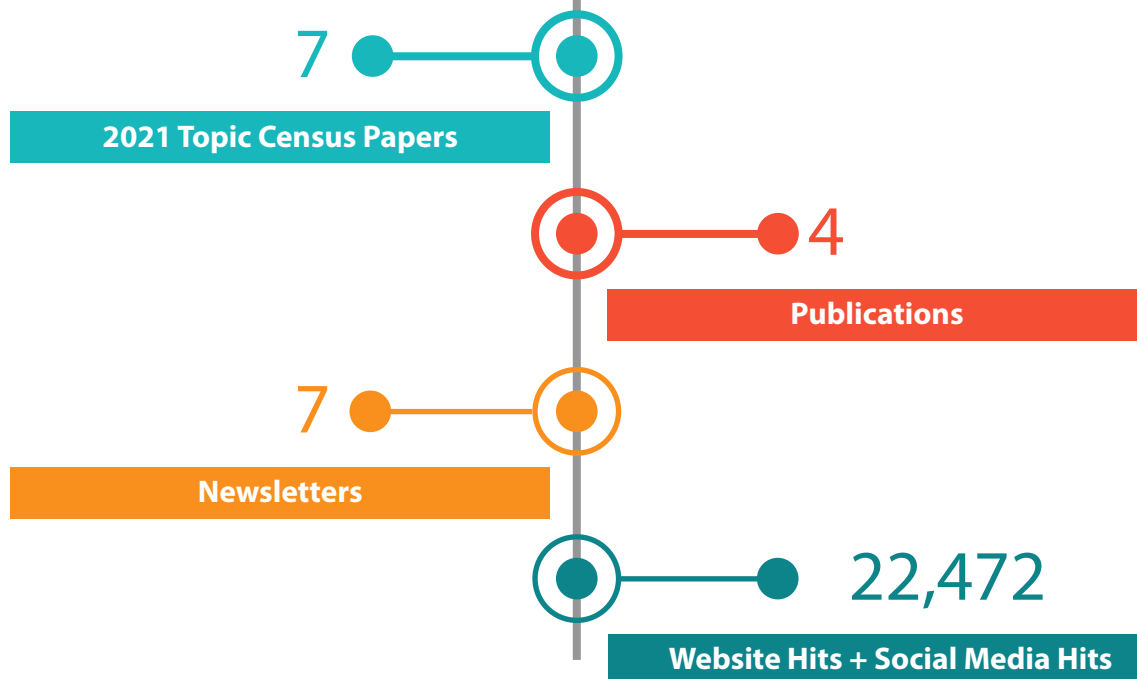
(Full copy available upon request.)

Analytics

DCJ FUNDING CLIENT STATISTICS



MORE STATISTICS



ABOUT WESTIR LTD

WESTIR STRATEGIC PLAN



EVALUATION

OUR PURPOSE

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



SURVEYS

OUR VISION

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



STATISTICS

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



CONSULTING

BOARD MEMBERS

Chairperson:	Erich Weller
Deputy Chairperson:	Charles Casuscelli (WSROC)
Treasurer:	Shaun Beckley
Company Secretary:	Margaret Tipper
Ordinary Members:	Emma Power Ron Alder (WESTIR Life Member) Sharmily Nagarsekar



RESEARCH

WESTIR STAFF

Executive Officer:	Margaret Tipper
Social Researcher:	Niki Baroy
Social Researcher:	Rajesh Bhusal
Social Researcher:	Christina Klassen (Commenced October 2023)
IT Communications:	Vince Suarez
Social Researcher:	Laura Butler (Resigned August 2023)



MAPS



TRAINING

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.

Let the data run free!

www.twitter.com/westirltd



www.facebook.com/WESTIRLtd



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



PO Box 136 Parramatta 2124

