Deaf Advocacy, Sports & Recreation ACT Inc

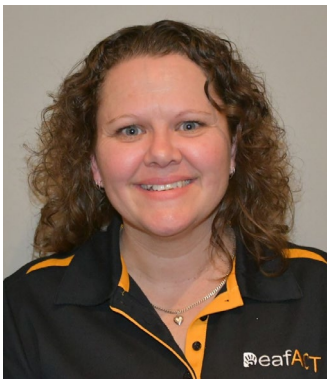
Annual Report
2025 - 2026

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President’s Report



To the members of DeafACT,

It is my pleasure to present the President's Report for 2025–2026 as part of our Annual General Meeting.

The period since our previous AGM has been one of community connection, dedication and collaboration despite ongoing funding challenges. While DeafACT continued to operate without ongoing organisational funding for much of this period, our members, volunteers and community groups remained committed to supporting one another through advocacy, social activities and community engagement.

As we reflect on the past year, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed their time, energy and support to DeafACT. Your continued commitment has helped us maintain a strong and connected Deaf community, even during challenging times.

Our Year in Review

Convo Access

An important development in accessibility across the ACT was the expansion of Convo Access to all Libraries ACT branches in 2026, including Belconnen Library, as part of a 12-month trial. This service provides free, on-demand video Auslan interpreting, allowing Deaf and hard of hearing community members to communicate more easily with library staff and access services independently.

Following the earlier introduction of Convo Access at Access Canberra service centres in 2025, its expansion into public libraries represents another positive step towards improving communication access and inclusion across the ACT.

DeafACT welcomes this initiative and encourages continued investment in accessible communication services that meet the needs of our community.

Canberra Health Services Engagement

DeafACT has continued to strengthen its positive and collaborative relationship with Canberra Health Services (CHS), advocating for improved accessibility and communication access for Deaf, hard of hearing and Deafblind community members.

Through ongoing discussions, we provided feedback on interpreter booking procedures and emphasised the importance of engaging appropriately qualified Auslan interpreters, particularly in healthcare settings where clear and effective communication is essential.

We also raised concerns about barriers experienced by Deaf patients when accessing health services and advocated for greater availability of face-to-face interpreting services where appropriate. DeafACT

facilitated discussions between CHS representatives and experienced interpreters to help improve understanding of Deaf patients' communication needs.

A significant development this year was DeafACT's involvement in disability inclusion initiatives, including participation in the CHS Disability Action and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) Implementation Steering Group.

This involvement provides an important opportunity for DeafACT to contribute to policy discussions, promote accessibility and ensure the experiences and perspectives of the Deaf community are considered in the planning and delivery of healthcare services.

Seniors Grant – Deaf Butterfly Dance Program

We were delighted to receive funding through the ACT Government's 2025–26 Seniors Grant Program to support the continuation of the Deaf Butterfly Dance program.

This grant will enable DeafACT to continue providing regular dance and exercise activities that promote physical wellbeing, social connection and community participation among older Deaf and hard of hearing members. The program has provided a wonderful opportunity for our seniors to remain active, build friendships and enjoy activities in an accessible and inclusive environment.

We are grateful to the ACT Government for recognising the positive impact of this program and supporting its continuation.

Australian Deaf Games 2026

DeafACT was proud to support and celebrate members of our community who participated in the 2026 Australian Deaf Games, held on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland in July. Several members of our Deaf community participated in sports including lawn bowls, golf and beach volleyball, demonstrating enthusiasm, determination and community spirit.

We extend our congratulations to Phil Cox, who achieved a bronze medal in golf. A special acknowledgement also goes to Louise Irvine for her participation in the golf competition and her enthusiastic representation of our community.

The Games provided a wonderful opportunity for Deaf athletes and supporters from across Australia to come together, compete, celebrate their achievements and strengthen connections through sport and Deaf culture.

We congratulate all participants and thank everyone who represented and supported our community throughout the games.

Assistant Director recruitment panel

In late 2025, DeafACT participated in the ACT Government's recruitment process for the Assistant Director, Community Engagement (Auslan and Accessibility) position.

Our involvement provided an important opportunity to contribute a Deaf community perspective to the selection process and highlight the importance of lived experience, cultural awareness and effective communication in government engagement.

Following the recruitment process, Dylan Beasley was appointed to the position. This role supports efforts to improve accessible communication and inclusive engagement across the ACT Government, particularly for Deaf and hard of hearing people who use Auslan.

We welcome the establishment of this position and look forward to seeing continued improvements in accessibility and community engagement across government services.

Board and Community Group Updates

This year brought several changes to the DeafACT Board and our community groups.

Aisha Hitaua stepped down from her role leading the DeafACT Women's Group to focus on personal commitments and wellbeing. We sincerely thank Aisha for her time, dedication and contribution to the group, and wish her all the best.

Following her departure, the Women's Group has been less active than in previous years. We recognise that members may have missed opportunities to connect through these activities, and we apologise for the reduced number of events. We remain hopeful that 2027 will bring renewed enthusiasm and opportunities for women in our community to come together.

In December 2025, we welcomed Simone Xirakis to the DeafACT Board as the Youth Group representative. We look forward to Simone's contributions and to supporting further opportunities for youth participation and engagement within DeafACT.

We would also like to acknowledge Helen Trendos for her ongoing dedication to the DeafACT Seniors Group. Helen has played an important role in coordinating activities and supporting our senior members, helping them remain active, connected and involved in the community.

On behalf of the board, I sincerely thank our volunteers, group leaders and members for their continued efforts and commitment. DeafACT would not be where it is today without your valuable contributions.

Looking Forward to 2027

As we look ahead to 2027, I'm feeling hopeful and optimistic about DeafACT.

I'm pleased to share some exciting news. After a difficult period without ongoing funding, DeafACT has received wonderful news about support from the ACT Government.

Not knowing whether we'd have funding made it hard to plan ahead, and hard to offer the activities and services our community deserves. But through all of it, our volunteers and members showed real dedication and resilience.

So, to everyone who stood by DeafACT through the tough times, thank you, from the bottom of my heart. Your encouragement, your patience and your support have helped us get here.

This funding gives us the chance to rebuild and strengthen DeafACT, try new things, and bring more activities and programs to our members.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to thank the ACT Government for recognising how important DeafACT is, and the role we play in supporting our community.

This support means we can start looking towards a more positive and sustainable future. We can develop new programs, strengthen our partnerships, and reconnect with members through community activities.

Our priorities will be strengthening community engagement, supporting our existing groups, encouraging more young people to get involved, and continuing to advocate for better accessibility and inclusion across the ACT.

There's plenty of work ahead, and rebuilding will take time, planning and commitment but with the passion of our members, volunteers and Board, I'm confident DeafACT will keep moving forward.

I can't wait to see the organisation grow, and to see more opportunities for connection, participation and celebration in our Deaf community.

Stepping down as President

This may come as a surprise to many of you, but I have made the difficult decision to step down as President of DeafACT and resign from the DeafACT Board. While only a few people have known about my decision, I believe the time has come for me to focus more on my personal life and other commitments.

Serving on the DeafACT Board has been a privilege and an experience I will always treasure. I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside our dedicated board members, volunteers and community members, and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together.

Throughout my time with DeafACT, we have celebrated successes, faced challenges, supported one another and created many wonderful memories. These experiences have strengthened my appreciation for our community and the remarkable people who make DeafACT what it is. I am deeply grateful for the friendships, encouragement and support I have received along the way.

Although I am stepping away from my leadership and board responsibilities, I am certainly not saying goodbye to the Deaf community. I will continue attending community events, supporting activities and staying connected wherever I can. So, you will still see me around, and you certainly cannot get rid of me, just yet!

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported me throughout my journey with DeafACT. It has been an honour to serve our community, and I look forward to remaining an active member for many years to come.

As I step aside, I do so with confidence and hope for DeafACT's future. With renewed opportunities ahead, I believe the organisation is entering an exciting new chapter.

Closing remarks and Christmas wishes

As we approach the end of another year, I would like to thank all our members, volunteers, community group leaders and Board members for your continued support, involvement and dedication.

You are the heart of DeafACT, and your commitment is what makes our community so special.

I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas, a safe and joyful holiday season, and a happy New Year.

Thank you once again for allowing me the privilege of serving as your President.

Lauren Reid
President, DeafACT

Deaf Advocacy Sports & Recreation ACT Inc

ABN: 25 826 092 369

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc.

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Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc.

Committee's report
30 June 2026

The committee members present their report on Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Information on committee members

The names of each person who has been a committee member during the year and to date of the report are:

- Lauren Reid - President
- Jacob Clarke - Vice President
- Louise Irvine - Secretary
- Kellyanne Rosalion - Treasurer (until 30 Nov 2025) continued as Committee Member
- Gavin Reid - until 29 Oct 2025
- Nicole Seifert - until 30 Nov 2025
- Ian Slinn - until 30 Nov 2025
- Helen Trendos
- Aisha Hitaua - until 8 May 2026
- Simone Xirakis - appointed 30 Nov 2025

Committee members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of the report unless otherwise stated.

Principal activities

The principal activities of Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc. during the financial year were:

- To support advocacy, sports and recreation groups for the deaf and hard of hearing community of the ACT and its surrounds
- To promote the recognition and acceptance of methods of communication preferred by deaf people in the ACT and its surrounds
- To foster pride in the deaf and hard of hearing community, its language and culture
- To promote sport, recreation and social activities for deaf and hard of hearing people in the ACT and its surrounds

Operating results

The surplus/(deficit) of the Association amounted to ($1,480) (2025: ($11,791)).

Significant changes in state of affairs

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Association during the year.

Events after the reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

Environmental issues

The Association's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory of Australia.

Indemnification and insurance of officers and auditors

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc..

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee of Management.



Committee member

Dated: 21st November 2026

Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc.

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
Revenue			
Donations		551	720
Grants		11,600	11,768
Services income		2,655	-
Total Revenue		**14,806**	**12,488**
Cost of sales			
Grant funds returned		-	(1,503)
Total Cost of sales		-	(1,503)
Gross Surplus		14,806	10,985
Other income			
Sundry income		580	90
Memberships		704	730
Bank Interest		-	3
Total Other income		1,284	823
Expenses			
Operating expenses		(49)	(2,273)
Accounting/Auditing fees		(1,700)	-
Equipment		(161)	-
Computer/Software		(2,575)	(2,387)
Donation/Gift		(182)	-
Meeting expense		-	(308)
Events expense		(326)	(4,992)
Insurance		(3,015)	(2,525)
Interpreting		(3,736)	(270)
Membership & Subscription fees		(533)	(217)
Postage		(175)	(165)
Stationery/Printing/Office		(14)	(369)
Uniforms		(455)	(682)
Website		(456)	(2,769)
Rent - Office & Storage		(4,189)	(4,189)
Staff training		-	(1,585)
Volunteer expenses		-	(868)
Bank Charge fees		(4)	-
Total Expenses		(17,570)	(23,599)
Deficit before income taxes		(1,480)	(11,791)
Income tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		(1,480)	(11,791)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc.

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 $	2025 $
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	21,194	20,897
Trade and other receivables	4	10	1,629
Other assets	5	1,524	1,565
Total Current assets		22,728	24,091
Total Assets		22,728	24,091
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	117	-
Non-current liabilities			
Touch income in advance	7	282	282
Total Liabilities		399	282
Total Net Assets		22,329	23,809
Member's Funds			
Contributed Equity		12,820	12,820
Retained earnings			
Opening balance		10,989	22,780
Deficit for the year		(1,480)	(11,791)
Total Retained earnings		9,509	10,989
Total member's funds		22,329	23,809

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc.

Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 30 June 2026

2025	Contributed equity $	Retained earnings $	Total $	Total member's funds $
Opening balance	12,820	22,780	35,600	35,600
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-	(11,791)	(11,791)	(11,791)
Closing balance	12,820	10,989	23,809	23,809

2026	Contributed equity $	Retained earnings $	Total $	Total member's funds $
Opening balance	12,820	10,989	23,809	23,809
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-	(1,480)	(1,480)	(1,480)
Closing balance	12,820	9,509	22,329	22,329

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2026

1. Introduction

The financial statements cover Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc. as an individual entity. Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc. is a not-for-profit Association incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory under the *Associations Incorporations Act (ACT) 1991* ('the Act').

The functional and presentation currency of Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc. is Australian dollars.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the committee of management.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical cost basis and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

a. Income tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

b. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

c. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

d. Trade and Other Receivables

Trade and other receivables are recognised at the amounts expected to be received. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the reporting date are classified as current assets

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

e. Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

f. Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

g. Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

3. Cash and cash equivalents

a. Accounting policy

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

b. Cash and cash equivalent details

	2026 $	2025 $
Cash at bank	20,232	20,484
Cash on hand	962	413
	21,194	20,897

4. Trade and other receivables

Current	2026	2025
	$	$
Trade debtors	-	419
GST receivable	10	1,210
	10	1,629

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivable in the financial statements.

5. Other assets

Current	2026	2025
	$	$
Prepayments	219	1,565
Accrued income	1,305	-
	1,524	1,565

6. Trade and other payables

Current	2026	2025
	$	$
Trade payables	117	-

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying value of trade and other payables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

7. Other liabilities

Non-current	2026	2025
	$	$
Touch income in advance	282	282

8. Contingencies

In the opinion of the Committee, the Association had no contingent liabilities or contingent assets at 2026 (2025: None).

9. Events occurring after the reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year that have significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc.

Certificate by members of committee

Annual Statements Give True and Fair View of Financial Position and Performance of the Association

The Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee, the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Deaf Advocacy, Sports & Recreation ACT Inc as at 30 June 2026 and its performance for the year ended that date; and

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Deaf Advocacy, Sports & Recreation ACT Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due

The statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Name: Louise Irvine

Signature: 

Dated: 21st November 2026

Independent audit report to the members of Deaf Advocacy Sport & Recreation ACT Inc.

Independent Auditors Report to the members of the Association

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Deaf Advocacy Sports & Recreation ACT Inc (the association), which comprises the committee's report,the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2026, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, cash flow statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Deaf Advocacy Sports & Recreation ACT Inc is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 1991 (ACT) and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the committee member and those charged with governance

The committee member is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the committee member determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee member is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee member either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

Auditor's Responsibility (continued)

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Deaf Advocacy Sports & Recreation ACT Inc as at 30 June 2026 and (of) its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associated Incorporations Act 1991 (ACT).

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Deaf Advocacy Sports & Recreation ACT Inc to meet the requirements of the Associated Incorporations Act 1991 (ACT). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Tim Allen

Laterals Accounting Solutions

LATERALS

41 Goldsmith Street, Goulburn NSW 2580

Dated: 13-1-26