STROKE RECOVERY ASSOCIATION NSW

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026



Supporting Stroke survivors and carers in NSW through social support, education and advocacy since 1977.

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/2026

































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S.R.A AT A GLANCE

Association Net Assets

$1,209,359

As of 30 June 2026

Our Strategies

- **Mutual Support**
- **Government Collaboration**
- **Education**
- **Consumer Voice**
- **Promote Recovery**
- **Information**

Membership

899 Members

81 New Members

- **591** Stroke Survivors
- **265** Carers
- **7** Corporate
- **12** Health Professional
- **17** Volunteers
- **14** Life Members

- **144** General Members
- **730** Club Members

Peer Led Groups

31 Stroke Clubs

- **20** Metro Clubs
- **11** Rural Clubs

3 Stroke Choirs

- **2** Face-to-face Choirs
- **1** Online Choir

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Financial Year 2025/2026

It is my pleasure to present the President's Report for the Stroke Recovery Association NSW for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

This year has been one of significant change, continued commitment and renewed focus on the future of our Association. Throughout the year, our fundamental purpose has remained unchanged: supporting people affected by stroke, providing opportunities for connection and recovery, and ensuring that the voices of stroke survivors and their families are heard.

Supporting Our Members and Communities

Our Stroke Recovery Clubs, groups and choirs remain at the heart of the Association. They provide an invaluable opportunity for stroke survivors to connect with others who understand their experiences, build confidence, develop friendships and participate in their communities.

Our dedicated volunteers and club organisers continue to make an extraordinary contribution. Their generosity, compassion and commitment are fundamental to the Association's success.

Our online support groups also remain an important part of our services, particularly for stroke survivors living in rural and regional NSW, where access to face-to-face support can be challenging.

Advocacy, Partnerships and Education

The Association continues to advocate for the needs and rights of stroke survivors, working collaboratively with government, health professionals, researchers and community organisations.

Our commitment to education, information sharing and consumer representation remains central to our work.

We recognise that recovery after stroke extends well beyond hospital discharge. Social connection, accessible services, community participation and ongoing support all play essential roles in helping survivors live fulfilling lives.

Significant Personnel Changes

The 2025/2026 financial year has been particularly significant in the history of our Association, marking the end of two extraordinary chapters and the beginning of a new era of leadership.

After 29 years of dedicated service, our long-serving Chief Executive Officer, Michelle Sharkey, retired from the Association. Michelle's contribution over almost three decades has been nothing short of remarkable. Her passion, commitment and tireless advocacy for stroke survivors have helped shape the Association into the respected organisation it is today.

Michelle has been instrumental in building our services, strengthening relationships across the health and disability sectors, and ensuring that stroke survivors and their families have a voice. Her legacy will continue to be felt throughout our Association for many years to come.

We also farewelled our long-serving Finance Manager, Cheryl Smith, who retired after an extraordinary 34 years of service. Cheryl's dedication, professionalism and stewardship of the Association's finances have made an invaluable contribution to our stability and success. Her commitment behind the scenes has helped provide the financial foundation that has enabled the Association to support thousands of stroke survivors over the years.

On behalf of the Board, our members, staff and volunteers, I extend our deepest appreciation and heartfelt thanks to both Michelle and Cheryl. Together, they have contributed almost 63 years of service to the Stroke Recovery Association. Their loyalty and dedication represent an extraordinary legacy, and we wish them both every happiness and fulfilment in their retirement.

With these retirements came the opportunity to welcome new people, fresh perspectives and renewed energy into our organisation.

In March 2026, we welcomed **Andrew Scott as our new Chief Executive Officer**. Andrew brings extensive leadership, strategic management and organisational development experience, and we look forward to working with him to strengthen the Association, expand our partnerships and ensure our long-term sustainability.

We also welcomed **Georgie Paspalas as our new Information and Communication Officer** and **Stephanie Ho as our Community Engagement Director.** Both bring enthusiasm, new ideas and valuable skills to our team. Their contributions will be important as we continue to strengthen our communications, community engagement and relationships with members and stakeholders.We also welcome **Alex Choy as our new Finance Manager** who brings with him a wealth of experience is the finance sector.

Periods of significant personnel change can present challenges for any organisation, particularly when farewelling colleagues who have contributed so much over such a long period. However, I am pleased with the way our staff and Board have embraced this transition while maintaining our commitment to the people we serve.

I also acknowledge our continuing staff member **Lani Cutuli** whose experience, dedication and support have been invaluable throughout this period of change.

Financial Stewardship

The Association recorded an operating deficit of $169,621 for the financial year, compared with a surplus of $162,505 in the previous year.

This result reflects, in significant part, the substantial reduction in bequest and donation income following an unusually strong previous year.

While the Association maintains significant financial reserves, the Board recognises the importance of ensuring our ongoing operating expenditure is sustainable and supported by reliable income.

Financial sustainability, funding diversification and responsible stewardship of our resources will remain important priorities.

Looking Ahead

As we approach the Association's 50th anniversary in 2027, we have an opportunity to reflect on our proud history while preparing for the future.

Our priorities will include strengthening our Stroke Recovery Clubs and online services, extending our reach into underserved communities, developing strategic partnerships, supporting advocacy and identifying sustainable funding opportunities.

The changes in our leadership and staffing provide an opportunity to build on the extraordinary foundations established over the past five decades while bringing fresh ideas and approaches to the challenges ahead.

Above all, we remain committed to our guiding principle:

No stroke survivor left behind.

Acknowledgements

I sincerely thank my fellow Board members for their dedication, guidance and commitment throughout the year.

To our staff, both past and present, thank you for your professionalism, compassion and unwavering commitment to the Association.

To our volunteers and club organisers, your extraordinary generosity and dedication continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of stroke survivors across NSW. Our Association simply could not achieve what it does without you.

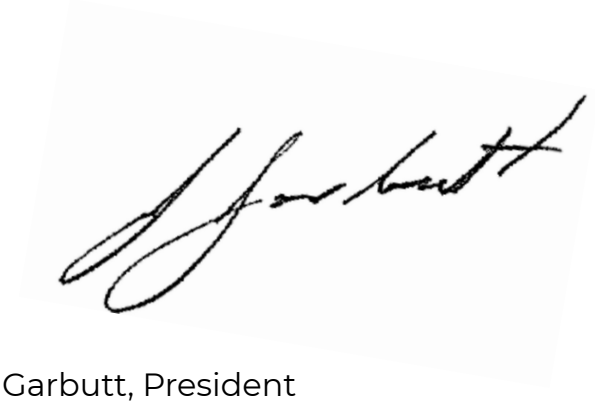
I also acknowledge NSW Health, the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, our donors, sponsors, community partners and supporters for their continuing assistance.

Most importantly, I thank our members and stroke survivors. Your resilience, experiences and voices are the reason this Association exists.

Most importantly, I thank our members and stroke survivors. Your resilience, experiences and voices are the reason this Association exists.

While this has been a year of considerable change, it has also been a year of opportunity. We honour the remarkable contributions of those who have helped build our Association, welcome those who will help shape its future, and remain united in our commitment to supporting stroke survivors and their families.

Together, we look forward to building a stronger, more connected and sustainable Stroke Recovery Association NSW.



John Garbutt, President

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Information and Advocacy

3,402
Phone Calls

41,576
Comms: Mail/Email

3,297
Info Sheets

5,133
Newsletters

102
Stroke Club Visits

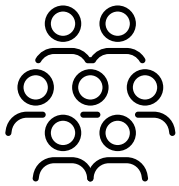
117
Club Meetings

Member Engagement

8
Events



524
Event Attendees



Online Groups

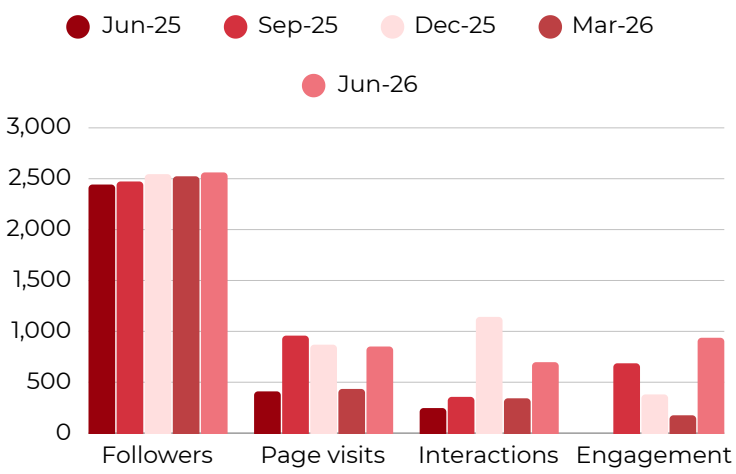
125
Online Meetings

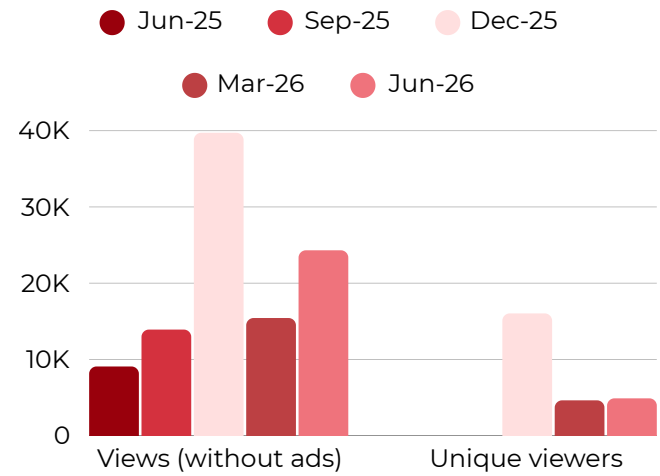


995
Attendees

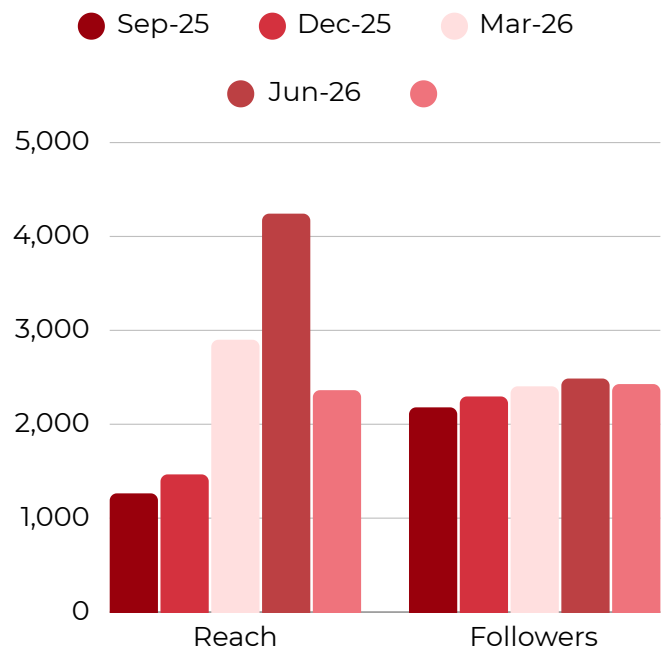
SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

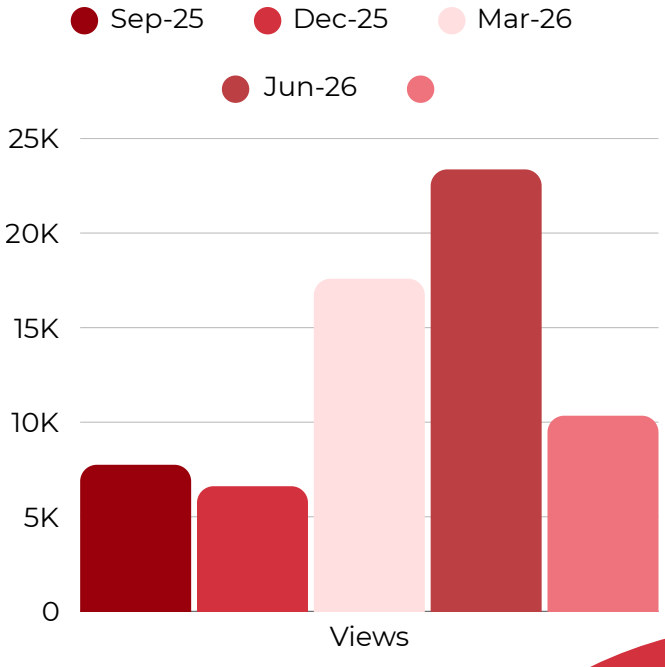
Facebook | @StrokeRecoveryAssociationNSW



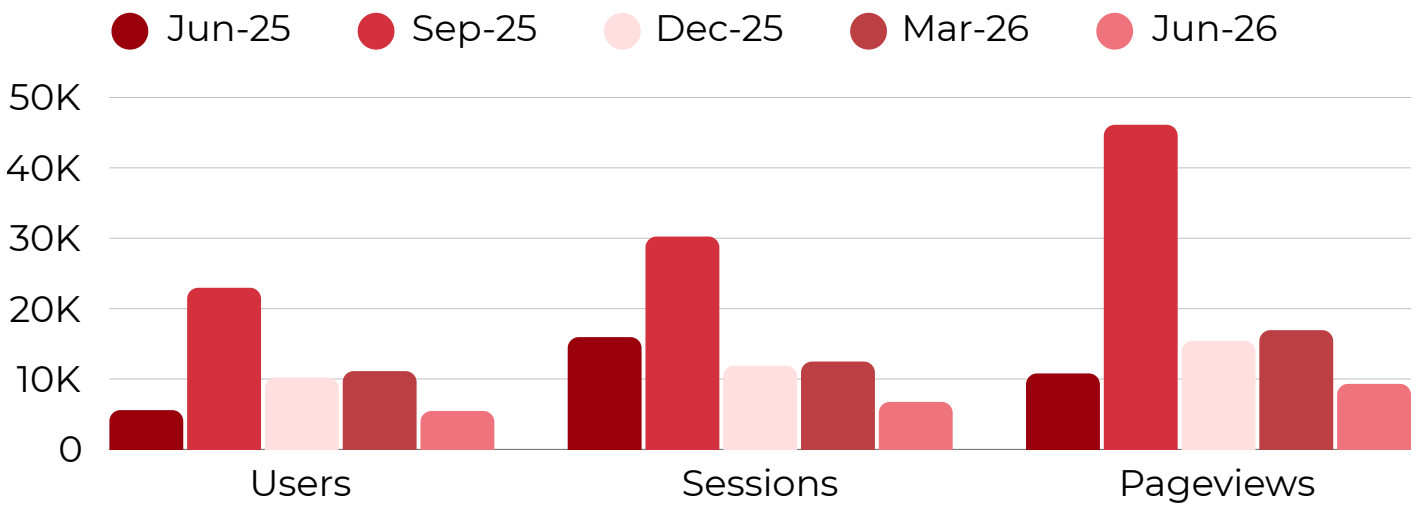


Instagram | @StrokeNSW

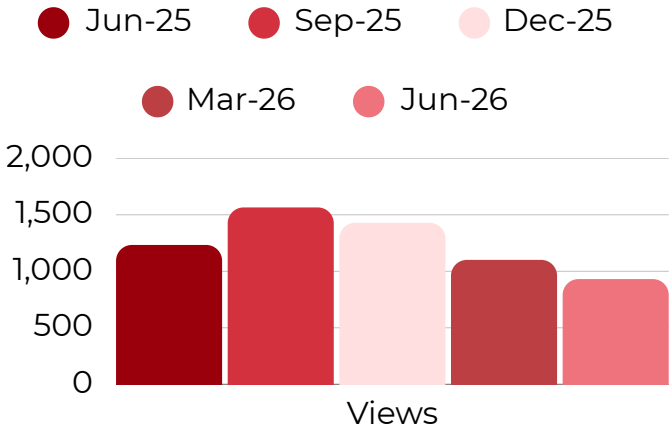


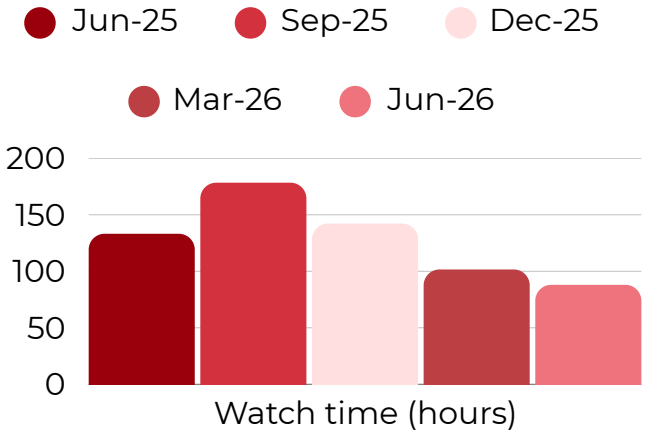


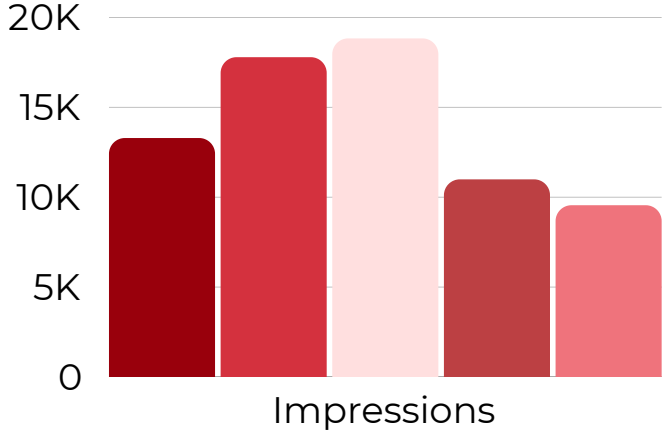
Website | www.strokensw.org.au

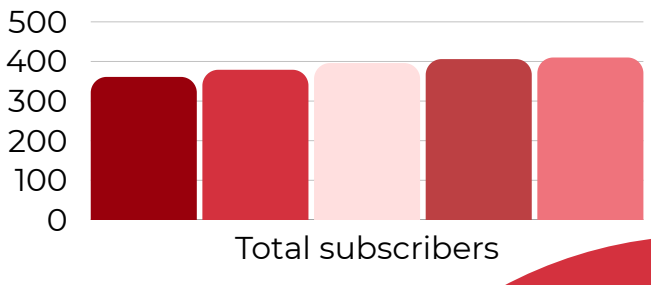


Youtube | @StrokeRecoveryAssociationNSW









TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Year Ended 30 June 2026

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the Stroke Recovery Association NSW for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

The financial year has presented some challenges, particularly in relation to the level of donations and bequests received. Nevertheless, the Association continues to maintain substantial financial reserves, providing a sound foundation for our ongoing operations.

Financial performance

For the 2025/2026 financial year, the Association recorded a deficit of $169,621, compared with a surplus of $162,505 in the previous year.

Total income was $582,829, compared with $857,356 in 2024/2025, representing a reduction of approximately 32%.

The most significant contributor to this decline was the reduction in donations and bequests, which fell from $293,543 in the previous year to $23,057.

The previous year's result benefited from significant bequests, highlighting the important contribution these gifts make to the Association, while also demonstrating why they cannot be relied upon to fund recurring operating expenditure.

Encouragingly, government subsidies and grants increased from $362,421 to $376,534, reflecting the continued importance of government funding to our operations.
Income from clubs and related activities was $109,212, compared with $142,977 in the previous year.

Interest income increased to $42,069, providing an additional source of revenue from the Association's financial reserves.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was $752,450, compared with $694,851 in 2024/2025.
Employee benefits and superannuation remained our largest expenditure categories, totalling $496,471.

Club expenditure was $117,626, reflecting the Association's ongoing commitment to supporting Stroke Recovery Clubs and their activities throughout NSW.

The Board continues to recognise the importance of carefully managing operating costs while ensuring that essential services and support remain available to our members.

Financial position and reserves

Despite the operating deficit, the Association maintains a substantial financial position.

As at 30 June 2026, total assets were $1,440,318, with total liabilities of $230,959, resulting in net assets of $1,209,359.

Cash and cash equivalents totalled $1,411,431, including $1,091,267 held in term deposits.

These reserves provide an important financial buffer and allow the Association to continue delivering services while responding to changing funding circumstances.

However, reserves are finite, and the Board remains mindful that ongoing deficits cannot be sustained indefinitely.

Financial sustainability

Looking ahead, the Association must continue to diversify its funding sources and seek opportunities to strengthen its recurring revenue.

This includes maintaining government funding relationships, pursuing grants and sponsorships, encouraging donations and bequests, and identifying opportunities to operate more efficiently.

Our objective is to ensure that the Association remains financially sustainable without compromising the quality of support provided to stroke survivors, their families and carers.

Audit and financial governance

The Association's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 have been prepared for independent audit by Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Ltd.

We are grateful to Nexia for continuing to provide its audit services on a pro bono basis. The audit process has also identified opportunities to strengthen our financial reporting practices, including improvements to expense allocation, supporting documentation, prepayments, depreciation and the recognition of accrued interest.

The Board and management will work to address these recommendations as part of our ongoing commitment to sound financial governance.

Acknowledgements

I thank our Finance Manager, management team and Board members for their assistance and commitment throughout the financial year.

I also extend my appreciation to our funding partners, donors, sponsors, clubs and volunteers, whose contributions make our work possible.

While the financial result highlights challenges that require attention, the Association's financial reserves provide a solid foundation from which to plan responsibly for the future.

I look forward to working with the Board and management to strengthen our financial sustainability and ensure that the Association can continue supporting stroke survivors across NSW for many years to come.



Karen Felton, Treasurer

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Nexia Australia

Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Ltd
Level 22, 2 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box Q776
QVB NSW 1230
E: info@nexiasydney.com.au
P: +61 2 9251 4600
F: +61 2 9251 7138

nexia.com.au

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Stroke Recovery Association Incorporated

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Stroke Recovery Association Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, and the Committee members' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

i) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2026 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and

ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report' section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Committee members' responsibility for the financial report

The Committee members of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the Committee members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee members are 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 members either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Nexia Australia

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at The Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Nexia

Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Ltd

Vishal Modi

Vishal Modi
Director
Dated at Sydney this 4th day of November 2026

Nexia Australia

Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Ltd
Level 22, 2 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box Q776
QVB NSW 1230
E: info@nexiasydney.com.au
P: +61 2 9251 4600
F: +61 2 9251 7138

nexia.com.au

To the Committee Members of Stroke Recovery Association Incorporated

Auditor's Independence Declaration under section 60-40 of the ***Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012***

As lead audit director for the audit of the financial statements of Stroke Recovery Association Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2026, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

(a) the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and

(b) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Nexia

Yours sincerely
Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Ltd

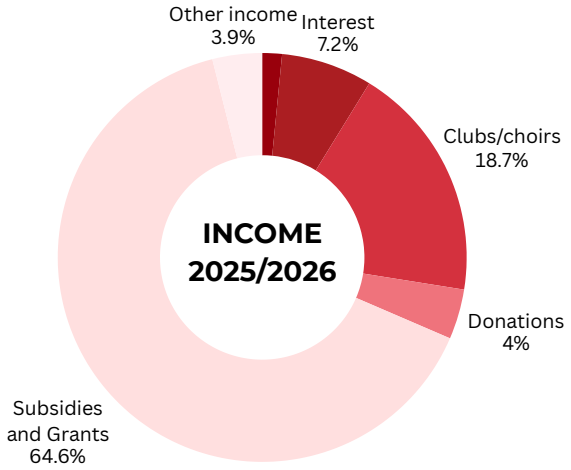
Vishal Modi

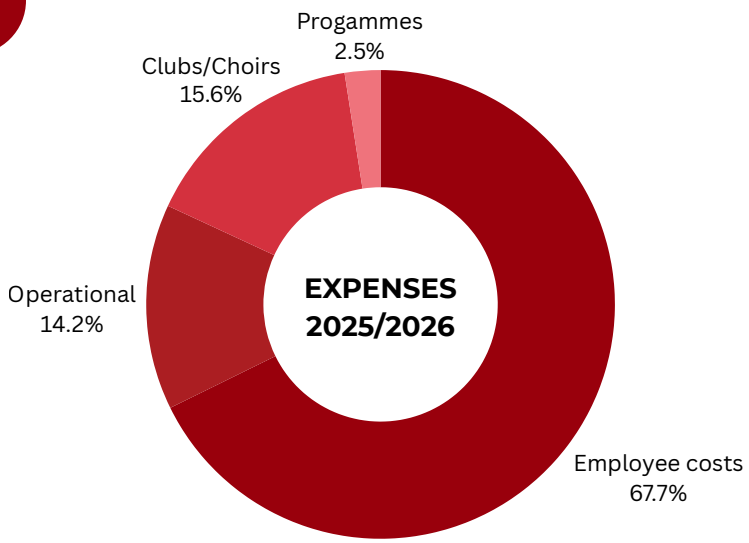
Vishal Modi
Director

Date: 4 November 2026
Sydney

FINANCIAL POSITION

Financial Year - 2025/26

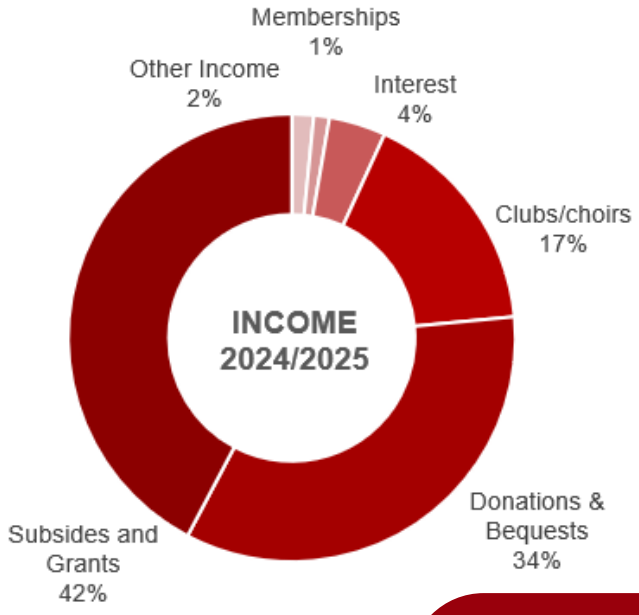


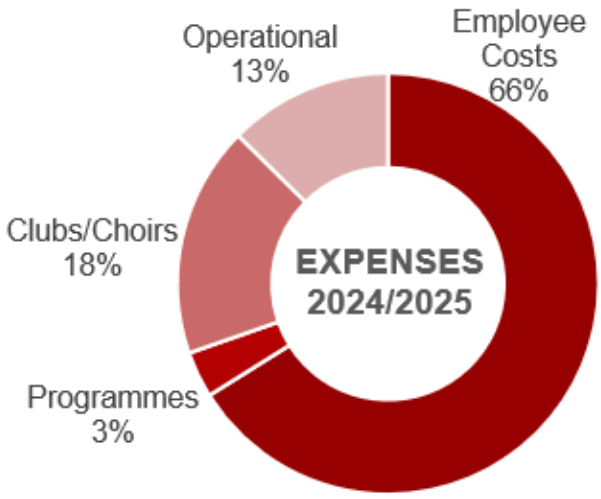


Net position 2025/2026

- $ 169,621

Financial Year - 2024/25





Net position 2024/2025

$ 162,505

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	2024/2025 $	2025/2026 $
Revenue		
Revenue	822,118	540,760
Other Income	35,238	42,069
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense	416,234	449,112
Superannuation	43,004	47,359
Insurance expenses	6,599	6,642
Printing and stationary	24,671	27,070
Travel expenses	14,261	13,126
Conference expenses	2,713	8,250
Grants paid	-	-
Program expenses	7,705	10,256
Club expenses	123,455	117,626
Other expenses	56,119	73,009
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	**162,505**	**(169,621)**
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax	**-**	**-**
Total comprehensive loss/profit for the year	**162,505**	**(169,621)**

	2024/2025 $	2025/2026 $
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,565,874	1,411,431
Trade and other receivables	24,190	25,017
Other assets	2,907	2,907
Total current assets	**1,592,971**	**1,439,355**
Non-current assets	-	963
Total assets	**1,592,971**	**1,440,318**
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	16,479	40,124
Employee benefits	197,512	190,835
Total current liabilities	**213,991**	**230,959**
Total liabilities	**213,991**	**230,959**
Net assets	**1,378,980**	**1,209,359**
Equity		
Reserves	308,249	308,249
Retained earnings	1,070,731	901,110
Total equity	**1,378,980**	1,209,359

GRANTS & SPONSORS

Major Funders

NSW Health

NSW Department of Communities & Justice

Corporate Sponsors

Royal Rehab

Nexia Australia

Brown Wright Stein Lawyers

Major Donors

- Sydney Bridge Center
- Christine & Roy Young
- Robin Hutchins
- Geoff Stein
- J & D Milston

Thank you to the following organisations, councils and clubs who have provided over:

$198,600

in cash and in-kind funding grants to our Stroke Recovery Clubs/groups/choirs in 2025/2026.

Club Fundraisers

- Woy Woy
- Tamworth
- GLAMS
- Maitland
- Bega
- South Illawarra
- North Illawarra

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/2026

































CONTACT US

1300 650 594

PO Box 3401
Putney NSW 2112

info@strokensw.org.au

www.strokensw.org.au

Stroke Recovery
Association NSW

@StrokeNSW

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Association NSW

Stroke Recovery
Association NSW

STROKE RECOVERY ASSOCIATION NSW

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