



Australian  
Lions Hearing Dogs

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022

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# WE WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Hearing loss affects more than just an individual, it flows onto their friends, families and the local communities.

It also impacts an individual physically and mentally. And while technological advances have significantly improved hearing aids and cochlear implants nowadays, many people who use assistive technology for hearing are still unable to depend on these aids in difficult circumstances or after they go to bed.

This is where Australian Lions Hearing Dogs make a difference.

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There are times when something extra is needed.

## HOW WE ASSIST

For over 40 years, Australian Lions Hearing Dogs (ALHD) has provided over 670 Australians a set of 'furry ears' free of charge.

This program was made possible from the ongoing support of our generous donors, supporters and Lions Clubs all across Australia.

Australian Lions Hearing Dogs was initially founded in 1980 when two Lions, PDG Bob Allen and PDG Brian Carter, attended an International Lions Convention in the US and discovered the Hearing Dog Training Centre in Colorado. The idea was adopted and brought back to Australia, where the Lions Clubs of Australia and Lions Clubs International Foundation voted to fund the launch of Australian Lions Hearing Dogs.

Deafness or profound hearing loss is predicted to impact one in four Australians by 2050. Currently, more than 400,000 Australians are suffering with severe or profound hearing loss. Factors impacting these difficulties range from our aging population to noise or occupation induced hearing loss. Many of our Hearing Dog recipients are deaf from birth as well. Hearing loss affects more than just an individual, it flows onto their families and friends.

**This is where we come in.**



# OUR PATRON



**“It has been a momentous past 12 months for the Australian Lions Hearing Dogs.”**

## Mr Rod Buntten

As patron, I am delighted that your organisation has delivered 32 Assistance Dogs in the last year - the highest number since the organisation was founded in 1980.

Last year also saw the placement of the first ever Australian Lions Medical Alert dog, an 18 months old Labradoodle named Sal, who can detect the scent of a hypoglycaemic event and react accordingly.

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of visiting the Australian Lions Hearing Dogs National Training Centre in Verdun to see firsthand the life-changing services that you provide.

I was struck by the extensive sound work and public training that each dog must undertake before it is placed with its new owner. Being aware of sounds such as smoke alarms, alarm clocks, text messages, and phone calls, not only makes a real difference to deaf people's lives - it can also save them.

As well as serving as their recipients' ears, they provide the equally important benefit of companionship, and give people who are hard of hearing confidence to reconnect with their family, friends and community. With one in six Australians experiencing some form of hearing loss, dogs that are specifically trained to support the needs of hearing-impaired people, are crucial.

I also enjoyed hearing about plans for redevelopment of the Verdun centre, and subsequent expansion of the training centre. This is a significant step which will quadruple the number of service dogs provided to people with disabilities.

I thank the extraordinary contribution of Lions Clubs across Australia and their dedicated members who, through a wide range of fundraising activities, ensure each Lions Hearing Dog can continue to be given to people free of charge, and also provide important follow up to ensure that all is going well with each dog placed.

A special thanks to the donors, supporters, puppy raisers and volunteers for their support which enables the Australian Lions Hearing Dogs to provide the wonderful service that it does.

I remain honoured to be the patron of Australian Lions Hearing Dogs, and I commend all who are involved for another successful year of helping people who are hard of hearing or deaf to lead independent and connected lives.

*Rod Buntten*  
**Government House  
ADELAIDE**





# CHAIR'S REPORT



**Australian Lions Hearing Dogs (ALHD) program was founded in 1980, following the success of a similar program in the United States.**

The training centre in Verdun was purchased and the first Australian Lions Hearing Dog, Amber, was delivered in 1982. Since then, over 670 Hearing Assistance have been placed with recipients in Australia, free of charge, with the involvement of local Lions Clubs.

One in six Australians suffer from some form of hearing loss. This not only affects them but also their family and friends.

**Each individual's needs are different, and this is where our Hearing Assistance Dogs are trained to assist with their specific needs.**

The development of a Medical Alert Dog Program, with a focus on training and providing Diabetic Alert Dogs for people with type 1 diabetes, has been a priority of the program over the last couple of years. The first diabetic alert dog 'Sal' was delivered in October 2022 to a woman with type 1 diabetes in South Australia. It has been proven successful. More Diabetic Alert Dogs will be trained and delivered in 2023.

**Recent years has also seen the development of the Volunteer Program, which sees our band of enthusiastic volunteers working with our staff and dogs in training.**

Our Breeding Program has provided several litters and our Puppy Program, where puppies are fostered out to local members of the community until they are mature enough to start training, both have proven to be financially viable and have overall been greatly beneficial to the program.

Our success has of course come with a cost. Our facilities are now in need of a major overhaul. Plans for construction of new facilities for the current site at Verdun have been lodged for approval and we are hopeful that the upgrading of our facilities will commence later this year.

**It will ultimately enable the training and delivery of over 100 dogs per year in the coming years.**

The board approved a restructure of the Training program in December 2022. This will allow for the staff to further enhance their skills as a body, allowing growth as well as personal advancement within the team.

**The success of the program is attributed to our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors and the Lions Clubs of Australia.**

They all have a passion for helping others and we are grateful for their continued commitment to the program.



Yours sincerely,

Norm Alcock  
Chairperson

# CEO'S REPORT



With the majority of restrictions placed upon us due to the pandemic now gone, 2022 saw Australian Lions Hearing Dogs dealing with the lasting impact. Despite it all, we continued from strength to strength in the delivery of both new and existing services to Australians in need.

Firstly, the year saw 31 placements of Hearing Assistance Dogs. Our specialty Hearing Assistance Dog team grew in numbers and continued to refine and evolve our existing program to take advantage of technological advances and our new breeding program to provide more engaging services to our recipients. Zoom and Facetime have been particularly helpful in making us more present during follow up training and allowing us to support both recipients and sponsoring Lions Clubs in real time.

## We celebrated our very first placement of a Medical Alert Dog with Sal going to her new home in October.

Within the placement week, Sal was consistently alerting her new recipient to lows in blood glucose levels (BGL), including in public settings with high distraction. In one instance, Sal alert to a drop in BGL 15 minutes before the technology did, further highlighting the need for our services to people suffering type 1 diabetes.



Our infant Breeding Program continued to develop with the arrival of three labradoodle litters throughout the year, with a fuller program planned for 2023. Puppies from our very first litter have now entered the training program and will be placed in early 2023. Support for our Breeding Program in the form of both naming and monthly sponsors has been amazing, helping to fund and further develop the program.

**The outlook for 2023 is positive, with our Medical Alert Dog program placing a number of dogs both locally and interstate, our Hearing Assistance Dog program continuing to meet demand and our Training Centre expansion finally breaking ground.**

Yours sincerely,

David Horne  
Chief Executive Officer





# 2022 FAVOURITES

Bear at Rundle Mall,  
Adelaide SA  
National Hearing  
Dog Day 2022



MAD in training Belle  
between scent sessions  
Australian Lions  
Medical Alert Dogs



Puppy Tommy posing  
for the camera at the  
Training Centre,  
Verdun SA  
Australian Lions  
Hearing Dogs



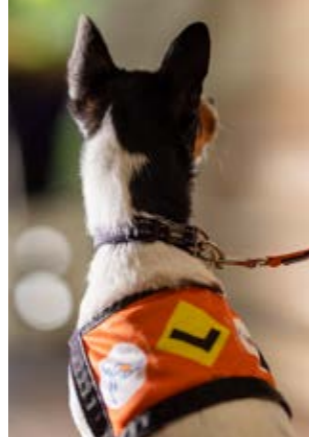
# SAL & ELIZA



'Getting Sal has been great! She fits me so well. I just take her everywhere, it's almost like having a new baby!'



# OUR IMPACT



## OUR DOGS

**127**  
Active Assistance  
Dogs all over  
Australia.

**20** New pups welcomed into the world through our puppy breeding program.

**32** Puppies entered the training program and matched with their trainer.

**29** Hearing Assistance Dogs in training.

**3** Medical Alert Dogs in training.

In 2022, together with our partners, volunteers, and supporters, our team achieved:

## OUR CLIENTS



**72** Applications for an Assistance Dog received.



**32** Assistance Dogs delivered.



The first Medical Alert Dog to be delivered by Australian Lions Hearing Dogs.

CLIENTS

FAMILY & FRIENDS

WORK & COMMUNITY

Countless lives positively impacted through our services, including clients and their support network.

## OUR PEOPLE

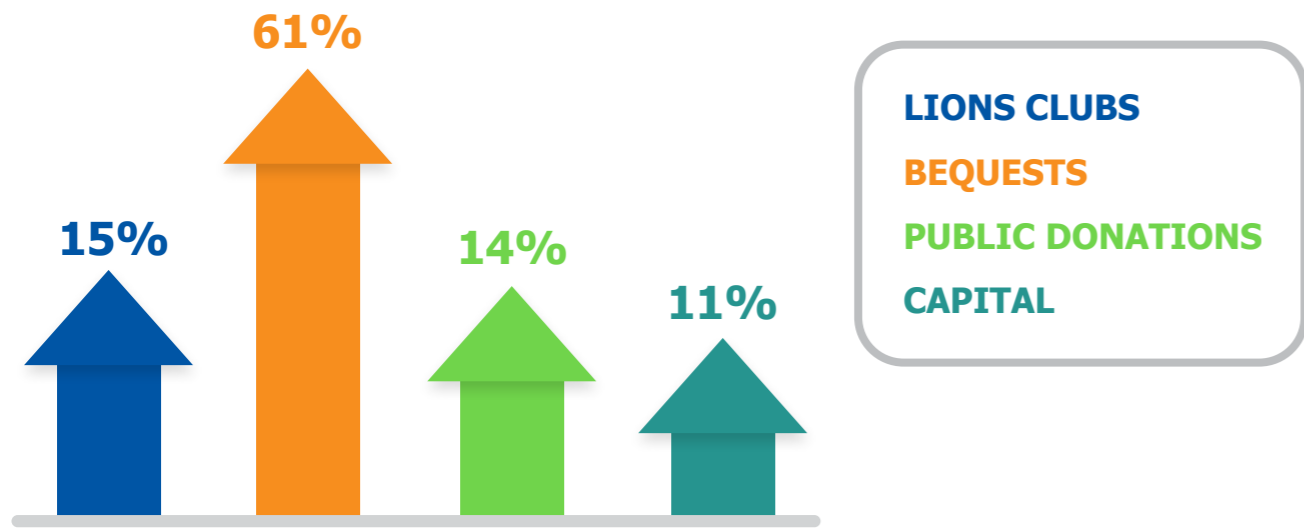
**15** PERMANENT STAFF

**233** ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

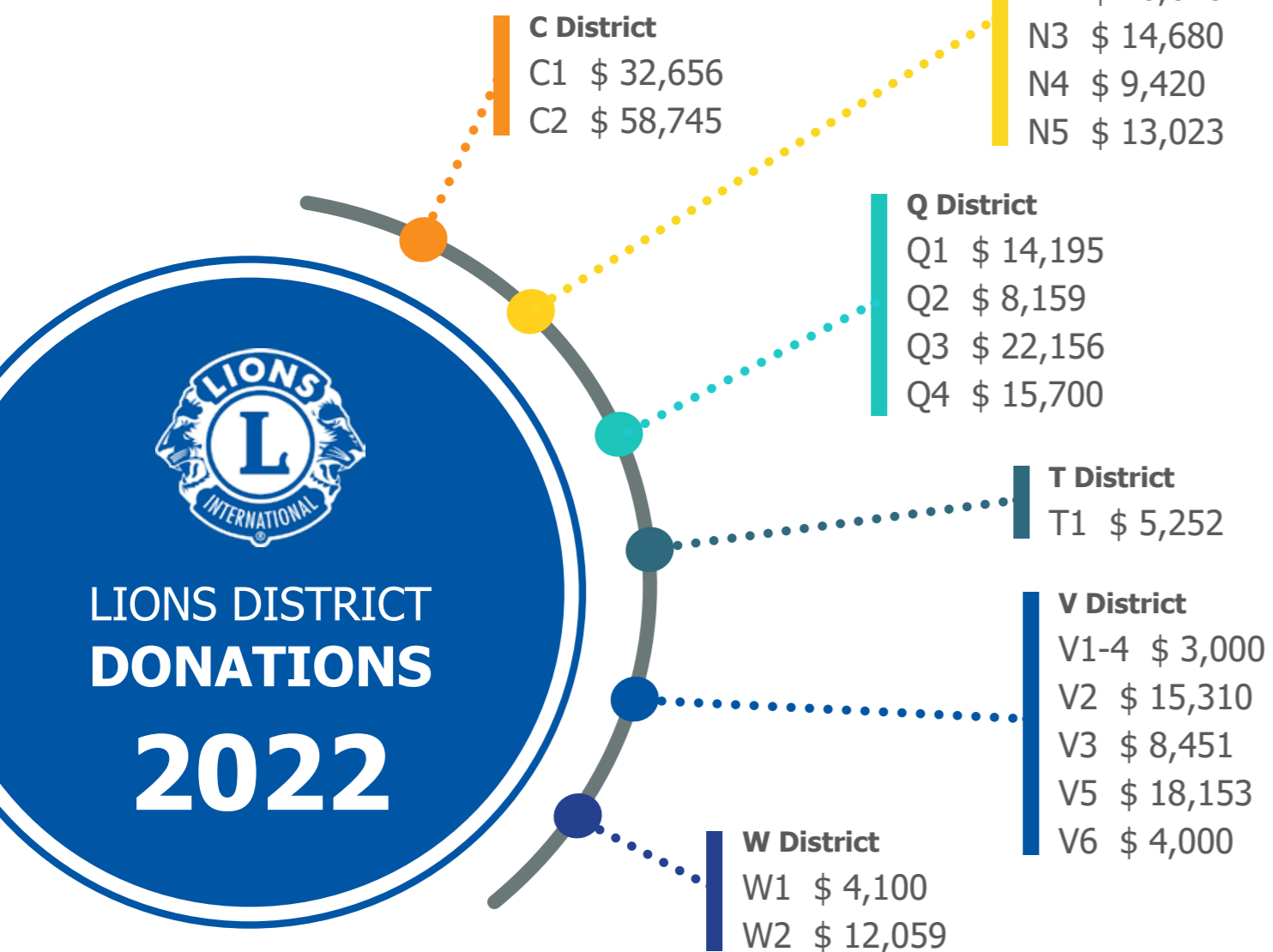
**4,201** VOLUNTEER HOURS



# DONATIONS & LIONS SUPPORT FINANCIAL REPORT



Donation Sources



2021	OPERATING INCOME	2022
\$ 324,464	Donations - Lions Clubs	\$ 334,564
\$ 198,441	Donations - General Public	\$ 260,359
\$ 1,345,952	Donations - Capital Campaign	\$ 250,723
\$ 3,819,336	Donations - Bequests	\$ 1,389,738
\$ 130,400	Government Subsidies	\$ 26,879
\$ 26,009	Merchandise Sales	\$ 55,252
\$ 45,663	Other	\$ 21,382
<b>\$ 5,890,265</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 2,338,897</b>
	<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
\$ 798,273	Staff Expenses	\$ 907,959
\$ 614,648	Other Operating Expenses	\$ 523,147
<b>\$ 1,412,921</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,431,106</b>
<b>\$ 4,477,344</b>	<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>\$ 907,791</b>



# BOARD & GOVERNANCE

Our Patron, Board, and District Chairpeople provide continuous oversight and guidance of the strategic and operational development of Australian Lions Hearing Dogs.

## Patron

Mr Rod Bunten

## Board of Directors

PDG Norm Alcock

### Chairperson

PDG Tom Kimber

### Deputy Chairperson

PDG Megan Butler

### Treasurer

PDG Frank Gratton

### Secretary

Lion Margie Thomas

### C Districts Coordinator

Lion John Chate

### N Districts Coordinator

VDG Andy Fitzgerald

### Q Districts Coordinator

Lion Geoff Clow

### T District Coordinator

Lion Maria Baade

### V Districts Coordinator

PDG Alan Hawkins

### W Districts Coordinator

## DISTRICT

### C Districts

Lion Vanessa Malycha

Lion Margie Thomas

### N Districts

PDG Kevin Thornton

Lion Vicki Bond

Lion Wilma Lilley

PDG Bob Smith

Lion John Chate

### Q Districts

Lion Jenny Rainbird

Lion John Holliday

Lion Dell Emery

Lion Juanita Goodland

### T District

Lion Geoff Clow

### V Districts

Lion Sarma Pochincharla

Lion Maria Baade

Lion Peter Harrison OAM

Lion Glenys Needham

Lion Robyn Harrison

### W Districts

Lion Roslyn Barnes

Lion Dot Jacobs

# RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Thank you to our team of volunteers and staff that dedicate their time to the day-to-day operations of our Assistance Dog service delivery.

A special mention to the following people on their significant milestones:

## FOSTER CARERS

### 2 Puppies

Christine Sellick

Christopher & Helen Tippett

Danielle Greig

Dayna Hill

Georgia Clinton

Jane Fisher

Lenara Scandrett

Lyn Sickerdick

Margot Albrecht

Norlinda Nicholl

Susan Crompton

Veronica Seedhouse

### 3 Puppies

Amanda Kearton

Leonie Bok

Rozanne Andrew

### 4 Puppies

Barbara & Colin Colquhoun

Caroline Mathieson

Gordon McLean

The Muehlberg Family

### 5 Puppies

Belinda Trigg

Meg Haseldine

Pamela Parker

### 6 Puppies

Bronte Cameron

Mike & Leanne Edmondson

## VOLUNTEERS

### 100 hours or more

Abby Bone

Barbara Goldspink

Brianna Lambert

Christine Martin

Elliot Oldman

Elly Snudden

Sue Opie

Samantha Fuchs

Julie Abbery

Karla Stone

Laura Bone

Louise Warne

Luke Manser

Shannon McCune

## STAFF

### 5 years or more

Nick Liemandt

Dayna Hill

### 10 years or more

David Horne

Darren Coldwell

Jodie Snudden

### 20 years or more

Belinda Henschke

Mary Knight

## LIONS VOLUNTEERS

In 2022, Lions volunteers contributed 3,456 hours supporting each Hearing Assistance Dog placement Australia-wide. Our program is only made possible with the financial and hands-on support from each Lions Club and their members.



# PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to our generous supporters and partners for your commitment to helping us provide Assistance Dogs to people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Thank you to our corporate partners and supporters for their generosity and commitment to Australians in need.

Whether their support provides services to Australian Lions Hearing Dogs, gift-in-kind, or financial, it is with their kindness and contribution that our Assistance Dogs can continue to be provided, free of charge.



## Australian Lions Hearing Dogs

2022 Annual Report

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