



Annual Report 2023-2024



CHAIRPERSON'S Report

As I look back on the past year, my first as chair of Rebound WA, I find myself thinking about the transformative journey for both Rebound WA and myself personally, and I am honoured to serve in this capacity alongside a passionate and dedicated team. The past 12 months have been marked by significant challenges, but also incredible resilience and progress.

As an organisation, we have had to navigate the ongoing impacts of global events, local challenges, and the shifting needs of our community, especially as para-sport becomes more mainstream. With a look ahead to the upcoming years and the opportunities presented by the Paralympic games in Australia for 2032, as well as the Paris 2024 games, the growth and opportunities that will be presented, is creating a buzz around the place and is a really exciting time for Rebound WA and Para-sport as a whole.

As we look to the future, the focus will remain on expanding our impact and improving the lives of people with physical disabilities across Western Australia. We are incredibly proud to announce that we are working towards the possibility of a clubhouse style centre for para-sport in WA. Following in the footsteps of our eastern state colleagues, the staff at Rebound WA have been working to try and secure funding for the facility with the aim to have it ready by the 2032 Brisbane Games.

I am excited for what lies ahead and confident that Rebound WA is well-positioned to thrive and grow in the coming years. The future is looking promising and we are so excited to contribute and grow the presence of para-sport in WA.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Board for their guidance and leadership throughout my first year. To Simon Hardbottle—thank you for your support and guidance, and for all the work you put into the role over so many years. A huge thank you to the Rebound WA team, without whom our operation would not function. Under the leadership of Simon Mead the team have ensured we continue to excel at what we do and enriched so many people's lives. This year the team has gone over and above and made great in-roads in side projects and planning to ensure we set ourselves up for future success. A special thank you also goes out to our members—you are the heart and soul of Rebound WA.

In conclusion, this first year has been both challenging and rewarding. I am honoured to have the opportunity to lead such an incredible organisation, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside each of you to build a brighter, more inclusive future.

Thank you for the continued support and opportunity to lead this special organisation.

Suzanne Perry

Suzanne Perry
Chairperson

CEO'S Report

It is with immense pride that I reflect on the past year at Rebound WA, a year filled with significant milestones, growth, and moments that underscore our commitment to inclusion and sporting excellence.

One of our standout achievements was fielding the first Division 1 majority WA Wheelchair Rugby team since 2015. This accomplishment highlights the dedication of our athletes and the strength of our programs, positioning WA as a key player on the national stage once again. We look forward to building on this success as we continue to grow this incredible sport.

We've also seen remarkable growth in Para-Padelball and Sitting Volleyball, with new programs and more participants than ever before. These sports have brought together a diverse range of athletes, creating inclusive environments that welcome all ranges of abilities. The enthusiasm surrounding these programs is a testament to the power of sport in fostering community and belonging, as well as testament to both Volleyball WA and Padel WA for their commitment to growing inclusive sport.

Our collaboration with Telethon created a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to welcome WWE superstars to our community, an event that allowed some of our superstar junior athletes to engage with some of the talent at WWE and showcase some wheelchair basketball skills.

We are also excited to report the first year of a new grant initiative, thanks to the support of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. This grant has empowered us to engage local sporting clubs across the state, providing education and resources to grow inclusive practices. The positive feedback from clubs has been overwhelming, and we are seeing a genuine shift toward more accessible and inclusive sporting environments for all.

Additionally, WA had the honour of hosting the Para-football championships this year, further solidifying our state's reputation as a leader in adaptive sports. Events like these not only showcase elite athletic talent but also inspire the next generation of athletes.



Our team has seen changes this year, with a new bookkeeper in Chantel Tracey and a new Marketing and Communications Officer in Sam Starkie. These new faces have brought fresh perspectives and energy to our work. Their contributions have already had a significant impact on our ability to expand programs and better serve our community.

We also saw a new relationship being built with Sonshine FM, a family radio network based in Perth. We can't wait to see how this relationship develops in the times ahead.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Ben Wright, who proudly represented WA and Rebound WA on the global stage, at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. This year Ben had his fourth-place finish elevated to third and thus a bronze medal. His achievement is an inspiration to us all, and we look forward to supporting more athletes like Ben in their pursuit of excellence, as well as growing the grassroots of para sport.

In closing, this year has been a remarkable chapter in Rebound WA's journey, that wouldn't have been possible without our incredible board, staff members and supporters, as well as the amazing membership base that we have, so a massive thanks must be given to all. The growth of our programs, the achievements of our athletes, and the support from our community have been truly inspiring and would not have been possible without countless volunteers and athletes participating at every opportunity possible. Together, we are breaking barriers and ensuring that sport is accessible to all, regardless of ability. I am excited for the times ahead and the opportunities it holds for Rebound WA, as we look to continue our growth and secure the future of inclusive sport in WA.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Mead". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Simon Mead
CEO

Our ORGANISATION

Rebound WA is a charitable association to enhance the lives of Western Australians with a physical disability through sport and recreation opportunities and access to a like-minded community.

Our vision is to be the place that provides Western Australians with a physical disability the opportunity to live a more connected, engaged, and active lifestyle.



114

Wheelchair basketball games with 119 different players (64 with a disability)



46

Wheelchair rugby games with 33 different players (24 with a disability)



56

New members joined the Rebound WA community in 2023-24



247

patients talked to across
23 hospital visits



5,500+

participants in over
75 wheel life disability
education sessions



12

Families of kids with
disabilities attended
Family Camp



Our MEMBERS

Ben Wright: From Rebound WA to the World Stage

Ben Wright's connection to Rebound WA runs deep. His grandmother, Patricia Warren, was instrumental in the establishment of Wheelchair Sports WA, and his uncle was a member of the organization. Born with spina bifida, Ben has been a full-time wheelchair user for his entire life. Now 37 years old, he balances his career as a digital modeler and BIM manager in the engineering industry with his passion for elite sport.

In 1999, Ben's dream of becoming a Paralympian was sparked when he watched Louise Sauvage, a legend of Australian wheelchair racing, dominate the track on the world's biggest stage. Inspired by her achievements, Ben set his sights on becoming a Paralympian himself. He began his journey in wheelchair basketball, competing in junior teams and progressing through C Grade, B Grade, and eventually playing A Grade games in Rebound WA's State Wheelchair Basketball League. His skills and determination earned him a spot on the Perth Wheelcats, a powerhouse team in wheelchair basketball at the time, competing with and against some of the very best players from around the world.

But Ben's sporting talents didn't stop there. Over the years, he also participated in track and field, pistol shooting, and tennis. However, it was in 2001, at a Junior Games event, that Ben first discovered para-powerlifting. During the competition, he lifted close to an Australian record in his age and weight class, catching the attention of Ray Epstein, the national coach at the time. Ray confidently announced that Ben was destined to become a powerlifter—and a decade later, that prediction came true.

After 10-12 years of focusing on other sports, Ben fully embraced para-powerlifting, going from "strength to strength" as he dedicated himself to training at least three times a week. His hard work and resilience paid off, leading him to compete in three consecutive Commonwealth Games:



Glasgow in 2014, where he finished 10th; Gold Coast in 2018, where he impressively placed 6th despite competing with a broken back; and Birmingham in 2022, where he finished 4th, with a lift of 190kg, setting a new national and Oceania record. In 2023, Ben was upgraded to a 3rd place finish and a bronze medal after an adverse drug result from another competitor.

Now, with a Commonwealth Games bronze medal to his name, Ben is achieving his lifelong dream—competing as a Paralympian for the first time at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Ben's journey is a testament to his unwavering determination, and he continues his mission to inspire not only the Rebound WA community but also athletes around the world, to get involved in sport and exercise, pick up a weight and get down to the local gym, to show that just because people have a physical disability, they too can be a part of a gym and get fit and active.

Editors Note: Ben has returned from an excellent performance at the Games, lifting 192kg earning a 7th place finish, well exceeding his own personal expectations. Congratulations on this performance Ben.

Our ACTIVITIES

Rebound WA programs and activities play a pivotal role in fostering a sense of community among active Western Australians with physical disabilities.

Sport and recreation are pathways to developing a sense of belonging and maintaining good mental health. For those with physical disabilities, adaptive sports provide not only the physical and social benefits of sport, but a rare opportunity to connect with others who have physical disability.

A Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries grant allowed for us to develop a program to engage people with relatively minimal disabilities into classifiable sport at a younger age, through engagement with sporting clubs. It is recognised that these athletes are often overlooked and can miss out on being a part of sport and recreation, so such a grant has been incredible to make in-roads in finding avenues for this community to be a part of. This year we have worked with both swimming and athletics clubs to facilitate these and we look forward to continuing to work with these sports, as well as others, as the project continues.

These programs foster a supportive and active community that can develop into lifelong friendships and important support systems.

Rebound WA's diverse activities and programs, means that members of all ages have the opportunity to engage with peers who have physical disabilities, creating an environment ripe for informal mentorships.

Our Whiz Kidz, Family Camp, and Spinners Youth Active programs, provide children and youth with physical disabilities with a unique opportunity to connect with others. These programs foster a supportive and active community that can develop into lifelong friendships and important support systems.

For adult Members, we continue to provide a range of opportunities to develop informal mentorship. Strong team bonds are forged during our weekly Wheelchair Rugby and Wheelchair Basketball Games. Friendly bonds are forged during our fishing trips and playing in our wheelchair sport demos such as at the City Showcase, Telethon Family Festival, and the Rebound WA Para Sport Festival. These regular activities not only brings Western can be key for Members who are new to disability, or recently moved to Perth, to find a community that fully accepts and gets disability.

Rebound WA programs and activities provide opportunities for Western Australians with physical disabilities to get active together. By providing regular moments for check-ins, sharing tips, and connection around community issues, they also help develop a sense of belonging.



Our PEOPLE

Our Board

Suzanne Perry, Chairperson **Board member since July 2019**

Suzanne was a General Manager for the Rottneest Island Authority from 2012 to 2017 and now works for the PACT group as their Marketing & Innovations Manager. Suzanne brings to the Board strong skills in the areas of business strategy and development and commercialisation and marketing.

Aaron Camm, Vice Chairperson **Board member since July 2021**

Aaron has been a member of Rebound WA for 18 years. He started his sporting career in Swimming before moving to Wheelchair Rugby where he has represented the West Coast Enforcers since 2012, including captaining the side to a Division 2 National Championship in 2021.

Aaron also co-hosted Spoked on 91.3 SportFM for many years that provided coverage to disability sport on the airwaves.

Professionally Aaron works in the Financial Advice Industry currently working for Viridian Advisory. He has previously worked for the Commonwealth Bank. He has a Bachelor of Business majoring in Economics and a Graduate Diploma in Financial Planning.

Karen Harvey, Elected Director **Board member since October 2019**

Karen has 30 years of lived disability. She is passionate about access and inclusion in different forms whether it be access to buildings, accessible tourism or disability awareness.

Her experience has been in the area of presenting to local governments and implementing accessibility projects. She worked as a tutor with people with a brain injury and taught computer and communication skills for six years in New Zealand. She also worked as an injury prevention presenter for PBF. Karen holds a diploma in Training and Assessment and is a qualified access consultant.

Also a keen water skier, Karen's history with disabled sports has been winning a bronze medal at an international fespig games in China and more recently, threetime Australian H4 handcycling champion.

Karen is the Founder and Chairperson for Spinal Chatter Inc, and Advocacy and Access officer for Spinal Life.

Alison Hilton, Secretary **Board member since November 2023**

Alison has been a parent member of Rebound WA for approximately eight years. Her daughter, Asha has previously been involved in the Whiz Kids program both at Mirrabooka and Murdoch. More recently Asha has been involved in para kayaking and wheelchair tennis, whilst also continuing to enjoy swimming, adaptive mountain bike riding and any other sport or outdoor challenge she can.

Alison is a firm believer that sport and leisure activities are important for physical, mental and social wellbeing and advocates at a range of levels to ensure sport and recreation is accessible and available to everyone.

Professionally Alison is a passionate educator and is the Academic Chair of the Bachelor of Education (Secondary) program at Murdoch University in the School of Education. Her most recent research focuses on student experiences as well as social justice, inclusion and differentiation within secondary schools.

Alison holds several qualifications including a Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Asian Studies, Graduate Diploma in Education and is a Doctor of Education.

Outgoing Board Members

Simon Hardbottle

Board member 2016-November 2023

Simon first became involved with Rebound WA through his daughter's attendance in the Whiz Kids program.

Simon is a strategic business leader with strong analytical skills, commercial acumen, business improvement, transformation capability, risk identification and management skills.

Simon commenced his career in Finance and has held senior executive roles in Finance, Operations and Technology, with companies including Wilson Group, Programmed, Skilled Group, Rib Loc and Sigma.

Simon has completed a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Adelaide, a Master of Business Administration from the University of South Australia and is a Certified Practising Accountant. Simon is an experienced executive and brings to the Board valuable skills in achieving strategic and operational outcomes.

Simon is a fellow of CPA Australia and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

We thank Simon for the years of commitment to leading our organisation and the expertise he has provided to the board.

Edoardo Argentino

Board member 2018-January 2024

Edoardo graduated from the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Commerce (Finance and Economics Degree) in 2016, and has been working as a Consultant at Mainsheet Capital, a corporate advisory and Management Consulting firm, after graduation.

In seven years at Mainsheet, Edoardo worked on and managed a number of consulting and M&A projects across a range of industries such as resources, aged and disability care, mining services and financial services.

Edoardo is also a Director of a small commercial cleaning business, where he manages the finances and accounts for the business. During University, Edoardo worked for the Perth Wildcats for five years as a casual staff member, was a Basketball coach at Scotch College and worked at Subiaco Oval for three years.

We thank Edoardo for the years of commitment to our organisation and the expertise he has provided to the board.



THANK YOU to our supporters

In order for Rebound WA to successfully deliver programs and activities to our members, we greatly depend on the support of our partners and supporters. Through them, we are able to make a meaningful impact in our members' lives.

New equipment is crucial in our mission to expand sport and recreation opportunities for our members and other Western Australians with physical disabilities.

This past year, we have been fortunate enough to receive more frame runners, bringing our tally to 23. This has allowed for rapid growth of our frame running program.

Continued support for our other programs means that our programs have a chance to thrive. This results in more accessible opportunities for all Western Australians living with physical disability.

- All Teams that participated in our City Showcase
- All participants of the Wheelchair Challenge
- All schools, organisations, and companies who participated in the Wheel Life Sessions
- Ascot Capital Limited
- At Home Care
- Atlas
- Bendat Basketball Centre
- Break the Boundary
- Brookfield Properties
- Carbine Club of WA
- Castledex
- City of Perth
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Development WA
- EIW Architects
- Fiona Stanley Hospital
- Freedom Motors Australia
- Fremantle Foundation
- Fremantle Sailing Club
- Geraldton Amateur Swim Club
- FTT group
- Healthway
- ISPA Handa
- LotteryWest
- Mt Helena Swim Club
- Murdoch University
- Perth Children's Hospital
- Ridgewood Little Athletics Centre
- Telethon
- Telethon Community Cinemas
- The Oliver Charitable Foundation
- Stan Perron Charitable Foundation
- WA All Abilities Football Association
- WA Government
- WA Opposition
- Wheelchair Sports South West
- Wild West Wheelchairs



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries

FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
ASSETS		
Current Assets	2429	2803
Non-Current Assets	1368	1491
Total Assets	3798	4294
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	274	381
Non-current liabilities	234	276
Total liabilities	508	657
NET ASSETS	3289	3637

Statement of Financial Performance


	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
INCOME		
Donations	305	187
Grants	487	785
Gain on disposal of building	-	411
Other income	273	211
Total income	1065	1594
EXPENDITURE		
Employee entitlements	864	906
Programs, services, and administration	548	541
Total expenditures	1412	1447
NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	(347)	147



Rebound WA

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