



# Annual Report 2021

[ParticipateAustralia.com.au](https://ParticipateAustralia.com.au)

**Participate  
Australia**  
Empowered living.



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**Our goal is that people with disabilities can actively participate in ordinary and extraordinary activities every day.**

## Our Vision

We are **making a difference** in the lives of people with disabilities by supporting them and the achievement of their goals.

## Our Purpose

Participate Australia provides high quality person-centered care, advice and support for people with disabilities, their families and carers.

## Our Values

We value an all-inclusive society that appreciates difference and has a place for everyone, ensuring equal opportunity and accessibility.

We listen to and respect people with disabilities and the people in their lives.

Our values guide us to continually learn, innovate and embrace the highest ethical standards.

## Who we support

- ▶ Children and adults with intellectual disabilities;
- ▶ Their families;
- ▶ Their carers;
- ▶ Our community.

## What we do

Since 1983 Participate Australia has worked to support people with disabilities live active and independent lives in the community.

## We focus on:

- ▶ Caring for people in their homes and in the community;
- ▶ Skills development that leads to greater independence;
- ▶ Inclusion through meaningful community participation;
- ▶ Training and education to support lifelong learning and employment prospects;
- ▶ Support and coordination of NDIS plans.



## Strategic Goals



### Strategy 01.

We enhance **quality assurance** and **risk** oversight processes to minimise risk, while managing and maximising stability.



### Strategy 02.

We will continue to **build partnerships** and alliances to secure our long term sustainability, while also looking to grow and diversify our range of support services.



### Strategy 03.

We strive for continual improvement by **listening, learning** and **responding** to the needs of Participants and their families, as well as our employees.



### Strategy 04.

We will prepare for **growth** by building capacity and capability across our workforce, technology and infrastructure.

## A message from the Chair and CEO

**The 2020 / 2021 financial year has arguably been one of the most challenging years that Participate Australia has seen due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on our ability to provide operate and supports and services to people with disability. After functioning in our first full year in the pandemic, the effects COVID-19 were felt across every area and all people in our organisation, and by all those people whose lives we touch; from participants and families, to support workers and administrative staff, to our Executive and Board.**

Through the uncertainty our team quickly adapted and moved to offer virtual supports where possible to reduce the risk of any anxiety and social isolation that may have been felt by the participants, their families and our team due to our reduced ability to provide traditional group supports.

During this unprecedented time our dedicated team continue to provide one to one support for participants and families who require personal supports. Even through the increasing challenges that have faced us, providing care our team continue to ensure that participants, and their families, remain at the centre of all that we do. Participate Australia is grateful and proud to be supported by our resilient, innovative, and committed workforce. They are the people who ensure that we can provide the ongoing supports to our participants during this challenging time, whether that we face to face or online.

Nevertheless, it has been an extremely difficult year for Participate Australia from a financial perspective, with lockdowns and the concerns around COVID-19 resulting in a significant loss of income and slow returns to supports. Throughout the pandemic Participate Australia maintained a strong commitment to provide ongoing NDIS supports throughout the year. While some areas of the NDIS supports were particularly negatively affected by the pandemic, others experienced growth and continued to go from strength to strength. Most notably is Support Coordination, where we provided support to over 300 participants, which is a growth of 28% compared to the previous year. This is a strong endorsement to the quality of service that they provide, and to the trust participants have with the Support Coordination team.

RASAID continued to provide 24/7 supports to the 15 residents during the lockdown period which required incredible amounts of teamwork and dedication from all RASAID staff.

NDIS Core Supports experienced a slow return to services after the 2020 lockdown. Group activities saw a reduction of 21% of total hours of support provided, as compared to the previous year. Despite this slow return, the final quarter of the financial year saw attendance an increase in group activities, approaching pre-COVID figures. Participation in Individual Supports experienced slight decline in attendance, and overall support remained consistent.

Critical to our sustainability was the support of the Federal Government, through the JobKeeper scheme. The JobKeeper payment provided much needed relief to Participate Australia and enabled us to manage the pandemic without the loss of jobs due to COVID-19. By necessity, the financial year just gone has seen an increased focus on cost savings and efficiencies within our operations, in response to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. The key challenge for Participate Australia remains building organisational capability across the workforce, technology, and infrastructure.

The last financial year has been an extremely challenging year, but despite these obstacles, Participate Australia is in a healthy cash position at the end of June 2021, primarily due to JobKeeper.

The future direction of the organisation was set out in the Strategic Plan 2019-2023, which focuses on building our long-term viability and securing our future by building a capital base to underpin future growth.

This next financial year will also see the launch of our In-Home Aged Care services, which the Board believes will complement our existing services. The Board also continues to seek long term partnerships and collaboration with like-minded organisations, across the Disability sector and beyond.

Participate Australia has put a focus on business development during the past financial year and into the future. We have employed a manager whose role is to focus on business development, as well as building sustainable partnerships. Their work has seen increased networking and tangible business referrals for the support coordination team and increase in donations and an increase in applications for higher value grant applications. They are also focusing on launching a new product called Making Money Easy, which is designed to improve basic money handling and financial skills.

The next financial year will pose a new set of challenges as the pandemic continues to create uncertainty and disruption. But if the last 12 months has taught us anything, it is that Participate Australia has a strong foundation and will manage any challenges we may face in the future.

Finally, our long-term CEO Jerry McNamara, after leading the organisation through many stages of growth and expansion for 18 years has decided that he will retire and commence a new stage in his life. Therefore, the board is engaged in a process to ensure that there is a smooth transition to new leadership that will optimise future growth and development.

**Jerry McNamara**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Glenn Ball**  
Chair



**Participate Australia  
is grateful and proud  
to be supported by our  
resilient, innovative and  
committed workforce.**



# What our Participants Did

## NDIS Supports

### **Being Participate Australia's first year functioning in a COVID-19 environment, the 2020/2021 was a year of significant challenges and triumphs.**

The key focus was the safety and wellbeing of our participants and staff, particularly our Support Workers, who have been most impacted by COVID-19. Committed to meeting NSW Health guidelines we provided a COVID-19 safe environment by supporting participants with an ongoing focus on social distancing, cough, and sneeze hygiene, washing hands and wearing masks.

The largest impact of COVID-19 has been seen in our group activities. Outside of lockdowns, many participants were not able to join activities due their ongoing concerns regarding the threat of the virus. This led to Core Supports providing 14% fewer hours of support across the year and supporting 19 fewer participants than the previous year.

In response, the Support team found creative ways to continue to engage participants, including providing support in one to one in outdoor settings such as in parks or playgrounds. We also conducted virtual group sessions to ensure a continuity of support and reduce the chance of social isolation. While this has been a difficult 12 months, in our recent Your Say Survey, approximately 80% of participants reported that their needs were met by Participate Australia this year.

During lockdown we focussed on reviewing our systems and processes to come back stronger once lockdown was lifted. We have made some significant achievements in streamlining processes for our support workers and families, improved reporting, data cleaning and making the most of our customer relationship management system, Visicase.

The Support team have worked hard on going cashless and paperless. We have developed an online booking system which will improve the experience for participants by allowing activity bookings to be made online. This will allow for activity fees to be made immediately and more choice and control for the participants in what they do. We anticipate that this will be launched during quarter 4 of 2021.

In addition, all documents and participant profiles are managed online through secure and safe systems. This not only means that Participate Australia is able to provide 'contactless' information to staff, but the accuracy and efficiency of information will increase, ultimately providing a better experience for staff and participants.

Finally, we have also moved our incident reporting system completely online, through Visicase. This is a major enhancement as it allows incidents to be reported in real-time and followed up immediately. It also creates a higher level of transparency and security compared to manual systems. Most importantly, it allows Participate Australia to identify any reportable incidents and efficiently report these to the Quality and Safeguard Commission in a timely manner, thus improving our ability to meet our provider requirements.

While there have been many hurdles over the past 12 months, there are none we cannot overcome. We are excited to continue to work with our participants and families and to continue improving our services and supports.

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## Supported Accommodation

**As NSW went into a second lockdown due to the highly infectious delta strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, so did the residents in our supported accommodation sites.**

The RASAIID residents went into onsite lockdown to ensure they remained safe and virus free. As this is the second lockdown at RASAIID residents have had a greater understanding of what lockdown entails and the restrictions that come with it. The RASAIID staff have worked to provide additional physical, mental and emotional supports to our the RASAIID residents while visits from family and friends are on hold. These additional activities have helped maintain the overall health of the RASAIID residents.

Participate Australia maintains strict COVID-19 practices, in alignment with all health advice, to ensure that staff and residents remain well and healthy. 97% of staff and 100% of residents are fully vaccinated. The remaining 3% of staff are waiting to receive their second dose of vaccine.

Due to the model of care and support offered by Participate Australia, RASAIID remains fully occupied with 15 residents. Interest has been shown by external parents and participants to become part of the RASAIID family. Support hours remained stable as many of the residents received additional onsite supports as they were unable to undertake their normal routines and attend work, day options, group activities and pursue individual goals, activities and hobbies.

Hours of Support	2020-2021	2019-2020	Change	Change Hrs
NDIS Core Supports	76,140	88,828	▼ 14%	-12,688
RASAIID	129,352	103,614	▲ 20%	+25,738
Support Coordination	10,655	7,303	▲ 31%	+3,352

No. of Participants	2020-2021	2019-2020	Change	Change pax
NDIS Core Supports	234	253	▼ 8%	-19
RASAIID	15	15	-	-
Support Coordination	300	215	▲ 28%	+85



**216,147**

Total hours of Participate Australia supports



**549**

Total Participate Australia Participants

## Support Coordination

Based on the success on the past financial year and the business development and geographical expansion strategies we are putting in place for continued growth, we expect to surpass our current rate of expansion.

### Building a sustainable future

**The Support Coordination leadership team significantly refined its systems and processes to improve the experience for our participants, referrers and staff.**

This 12-month process has been undertaken to build a scalable platform that will support our ongoing growth and expansion through an increase of referral sources built upon a solid reputation of excellence in service delivery, and the development of a more in-depth onboarding and training system, including a competency framework to ensure the highest standards of NDIS knowledge and expertise are attained by all support coordination team members.

We are proactively seeking new sources of referrals and identifying areas of opportunity for both clinical and geographic expansion. In the coming year we will undertake a series of education and marketing initiatives to develop new networks and share our knowledge of the NDIS with the wider community, allowing us to showcase our expertise.

Based on the success on the past financial year and the business development and geographical expansion strategies we are putting in place for continued growth, we expect to surpass our current rate of expansion.

### Staying Covid Safe

**To keep our participants and team safe Participate Australia has a flexible work from home policy that allows maximum support our participants, while maintaining COVID safe practices.**

While the majority of the last financial year has seen Australia relatively free of COVID restrictions, where restrictions have been introduced, the team has managed well. When our team are working from home, we have a daily check-in meeting to ensure that the team stay safe and well.

We share tips to manage stress and maintain positive mental health, as well as utilising the virtual world to manage meetings. We only meet with participants in the very rare instance that a virtual or phone meeting is not possible, and when not holding of the meeting would be detrimental to the delivery of support for the participant.

Any such meetings are carried out with all COVID safe practices being adhered to. 100% of the Support Coordination team have been fully vaccinated.



Participate Australia  
Team vaccinations:

**83% 1st dose**

**59% fully vaccinated**



## David's Story

**David was the survivor of an assault on New Year's Eve 2016. He suffered a traumatic brain injury, and he was in a coma for a month. He also suffered amnesia after the attack for 110 days, it is worth noting that 7 days of amnesia is considered severe. Because he was in a coma for so long the right side of his body atrophied.**

David was referred to Participate Australia for Support Coordination in October 2017. Our task was to assist him to transition out of the brain injury rehabilitation unit where he had lived for approximately 10 months. We supported David to find appropriate providers, and work through the different aspects of his NDIS goals including speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and diversional therapy.

These various supports helped him to achieve significant improvement in his mobility, speech, and overall function. He was also assisted by support workers for in home support and accessing the community for appointments and social outings.

Over the next couple of years, David worked hard and made amazing progress in regaining his mobility, communication skills, and improving his fine and gross motor skills. During this time, he was going to the gym to build up his strength and get fit again.

While David was improving his physical health, his greatest goals were to re-join the work force and regain his licence so that he could start driving again and be able to access the community independently.

Initially, regaining his driver's licence was a long-term goal that some thought unachievable. The support coordination team at Participate Australia worked to help David achieve his goals. The team found an occupational therapist to help David regain the skills he needed to develop so that he could drive again. The support coordinator team also found a qualified disability driving instructor, so that David could undertake specifically developed driving lessons to help him realise his dream of regaining his licence. This was all funded through the NDIS.

Through David's hard work and dedication, he regained his unrestricted driving licence in October 2020. To celebrate his achievement David drove to our office to share this amazing news with us!

David's story shows how his drive and determination, combined with the expertise of the support coordination team at Participate Australia culminated in achieving a goal that some thought was unachievable.



**Drive & determination.**

# People and Culture

## The achievements of Participate Australia in the 2020-21 financial year continued to demonstrate the dedication and adaptability of our employees.

The first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic affected the demand for certain services and necessitated new ways of working to keep staff and participants safe. We recognise the commitment and resilience of all our staff during such a time of uncertainty.

During the 2020-21 year, the federal 'JobKeeper' program provided financial relief and minimised workforce impacts. We continued to review the structure and capabilities of the organisation and made further changes to ensure sustainability, without compromising our focus on supporting participants. This included building marketing capability, reviewing diversification opportunities, and growing certain service areas, such as NDIS Support Coordination.

We fully implemented a Human Resources Information System (HRIS) to ensure systematic management of staff onboarding, staff movements, performance evaluation, training and development, certifications and compliance requirements. More resources were invested in staff development and we expect that to continue.

While COVID-19 affected the level of in-person contact in the workplace, managers checked-in regularly with staff in the interests of wellbeing and engagement. Internal efforts to promote COVID-19 vaccination of staff will continue into the 2021-22 year to maximise the safety and wellbeing of everyone within the Participate Australia community.

Employees	2021	2020	Variance
Full-time	34	31	▲ 10%
Part-time	59	59	0%
Casual	36	52	▼ 31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>▼ 9%</b>

Employee type	2021	2020	Variance
Direct support	104	111	▼ 6%
Office staff	25	31	▼ 19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>▼ 9%</b>

	2021	2019	Variance
Volunteers	10	11	▼ 9%

Employee length of service	2021	2019	Variance
0 to 12 months	14	16	▼ 13%
1 to 2 years	29	50	▼ 42%
3 to 4 years	39	40	▼ 3%
5 to 9 years	33	23	▲ 43%
10+ years	14	13	▲ 8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>▼ 9%</b>



**129**

Participate Australia  
Employees

## Our Supporters

Participate Australia would be unable to run existing programs, as well as develop new programs, without the ongoing assistance of our funders and supporters.

**We would like to thank every organisation and person that has supported us with grants, donations or in-kind support.**

### These include but are not limited to:

- ▶ Burwood Council
- ▶ Canterbury Leagues Club
- ▶ Inner West Council
- ▶ NSW State Government
- ▶ Produce Marketing Australia
- ▶ Participate Australia's Giving Circle
- ▶ Town Hall Hotel
- ▶ and our many individual donors.



## Awards

Participate Australia is **very proud** to have four strong workers recognised by their peers and thank Sangita, Michael, Sanaa and Alexa for their outstanding contribution.

### **RASAID award**

**This year, there are joint recipients for the RASAID award with Sangita Prasad and Michael Hristov both receiving equal votes.**

#### **Sangita Prasad**

Sangita joined Participate Australia in late 2019. Having a child with disabilities, Sangita brings a great deal of understanding and experience to the role that she wants to share. Motivated by a desire to better understand the participants she supports better, Sangita says, "a participant's smile is the best" and works hard to help people achieve their goals.

Sangita is proud of this acknowledgment of her work and dedication and Participate Australia is equally proud to have Sangita on the team.

***Congratulations Sangita!***



#### **Michael Hristov**

Coming from a background as a Sergeant in the army, Michael joined Participate Australia in 2015. After working for a time in the aged care sector, Michael made the jump to disability support as he was able to be more actively involved with participants in activities and helping them to achieve their goals.

Michael loves the weekend sports days where all 15 RASAID residents engage in sports such as tennis, cricket, soccer, and basketball. As well the participants, Michael says that "it is the people I work with here at RASAID who keep me motivated, I love it!".

***Congratulations Michael!***





## Dick Conroy Memorial Award

During the year office staff are invited to nominate three colleagues who, in their view — have influenced the success of Participate Australia through their dedication and professionalism.

This annual award is named after the late Board Member and Treasurer, Dick Conroy. He embodied passion and dedication to continually improve the outcomes for participants and families.

### This year's winner is Sanaa Chadda.

Working as a Justice and Specialist Support Coordinator, Sanaa, thoroughly enjoys supporting participants to achieve goals in their life and being part of the journey with their teams to see significant changes in their lives.

"As a coordinator I have learnt through my participants and my team just how resilient everyone is and I am grateful for this experience in life, as I believe it is important to meet and learn for people from all walks of life".

**Congratulations Sanaa!**

## Moore Brother's Award

The Moore Brother's Award for Excellence in Direct Support work is an incredibly important recognition at Participate Australia. Our support workers are the heart and soul of the organisation, they represent our values and help Participate Australia realise our mission and vision.

This year, and for future years, we would like to honour the significance of the direct support worker role by recognising one support worker in Core Supports and one in RASAIID as both areas provide significant contributions to Participate Australia.

Throughout the year, we ask all staff to vote for support workers who they feel embody the professionalism, attitude, and values we all aspire to.

### The worker who received most votes in Core supports is Alexa Rea.

Alexa joined the Participate Australia team in 2017 after a friend mentioned how enjoyable the work is. Growing in Sydney, after studying film production and international studies, Alexa made the move to support work as the role promotes an inclusivity and intersectionality that is both important and very rewarding.

When asked what motivates you to do the work, Alexa's response came easily and enthusiastically, **"Our participants! And working towards a stronger community for all...the amazing support worker team is also a big factor"**.

**Well done Alexa!**





## Treasurer's Report

**The audited accounts for the year ended 30 June 2021 are presented for your consideration and adoption. The 2020/2021 financial year finished with an operating surplus of \$136,923 compared to a surplus of \$53,860 for the previous financial year, an increase of \$83,063.**

### Income

**Revenue from ordinary activities increased by \$273,741 on the previous year.**

In the year, revenue from programs and activities from government funding and grant income reduced, compared to the previous year. This was due to the significant and ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with revenue from group programs and activities running well below pre-pandemic levels.

During the year, Participate Australia qualified for the Federal Government's Jobkeeper scheme, and other government financial support introduced as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which helped to offset this reduction in revenue:

- \$50,000 in emergency stimulus payment
- \$1,783,800 in JobKeeper payments

### Expenses

**Expenses increased by \$440,678 on the previous year, mainly due to:**

- \$798,138 increase in salaries and wages, with JobKeeper supporting ongoing employment of staff, in the face of reduced revenue from programs and activities.
- \$417,202 decrease in program expenses, consistent with the decrease in NDIS funding.
- \$59,742 increase in other operating costs of depreciation, occupancy, motor vehicle and other expenses.

### Transfer from Reserves

An amount of \$300,000 was transferred into NDIS working capital reserves during the year (a \$550,000 transfer into reserves in 2019/2020), in order to continue to rebuild the reserves.

### Financial Position

On the Balance Sheet, Current Assets exceeded Current Liabilities by \$1,168,011 at 30 June 2021, indicating a sound cash position and a business that is financially sustainable and a going concern.

In addition to cash held for working capital reserves, the Balance Sheet includes \$263,336 in Bank Term Deposits also set aside for working capital reserves as at 30 June 2021, which is available for working capital supplementation in 2021/2022.

### Statement of Cash Flows

Net cash flows from operation activities were \$106,245.

Any queries regarding the 2020/2021 results can be addressed to me or to the CEO.

I would like to thank the Board, Staff, and our Auditor, David Conroy for their support, help and advice throughout the year.



**Warren Dawes**

Treasurer

Date 8th September 2021

## Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2021

	Note	2021	2020
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash And Cash Equivalents	4	1,999,303	1,979,638
Accounts Receivable And Other Debtors	5	324,917	753,349
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>\$2,324,220</b>	<b>\$2,732,987</b>
<b>Non - Current Assets</b>			
Property, Plant And Equipment	6	177,046	144,312
Right Of Use Assets	7	364,230	587,025
<b>Total Non - Current Assets</b>		<b>\$ 541,276</b>	<b>\$ 731,337</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$2,865,496</b>	<b>\$3,464,324</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable And Other Payables	8	289,108	1,313,125
Provisions	9	730,601	522,028
Lease Liabilities	10	136,500	224,154
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>\$1,156,209</b>	<b>\$2,059,307</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>			
Lease Liabilities	10	246,541	379,194
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>		<b>\$ 246,541</b>	<b>\$ 379,194</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>\$1,402,750</b>	<b>\$2,438,501</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>\$1,462,746</b>	<b>\$1,025,823</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
NDIS Working Capital Reserves		1,020,000	720,000
Retained Surplus		442,746	305,823
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>\$ 1,462,746</b>	<b>\$1,025,823</b>

## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021	2020
Revenues from ordinary activities	2	10,571,898	10,298,157
Employee benefits expense		(9,282,995)	(8,484,857)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	3	(276,641)	(262,955)
Occupancy expense		(171,621)	(117,710)
Programme activities expense		(64,022)	(481,224)
Motor vehicles expense		(19,163)	(48,062)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(320,533)	(299,489)
<b>Current year surplus/(deficit) before income tax</b>		<b>\$ 436,923</b>	<b>\$ 603,860</b>
<b>Income tax expense</b>	1	-	-
<b>Net current year surplus/(deficit)</b>		<b>436,923</b>	<b>603,860</b>
Transfer (to)/from NDIS working capital reserves		(300,000)	(550,000)
<b>Total comprehensive income surplus/(deficit)</b>		<b>\$ 136,923</b>	<b>\$ 53,860</b>

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021	2020
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>			
Receipts From Fees And Sale Of Services		104,015	103,143
Grants And Programme Funding Received		8,653,703	9,189,969
ATO Covid-19 Relief		2,187,800	653,000
Interest Received		1,247	3,232
Payments To Suppliers And Employees		(10,840,520)	(8,523,295)
<b>Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities</b>	12 (b)	<b>\$ 106,245</b>	<b>\$1,426,049</b>
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>			
Purchase Of Property, Plant And Equipment		(86,580)	(46,882)
<b>Net Cash Provided By Investing Activities</b>		<b>(86,580)</b>	<b>(46,882)</b>
Net Increase (Decrease) In Cash Held		19,665	1,379,167
Cash At The Beginning Of The Financial Year		1,979,638	600,471
<b>Cash At The End Of The Financial Year</b>	12 (a)	<b>\$1,999,303</b>	<b>\$1,979,638</b>

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PARTICIPATE AUSTRALIA LIMITED ABN 39 136 853 895**



**Principal:** David Conroy FCA

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### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Report Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Participate Australia Limited (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, 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, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Participate Australia Limited has been prepared in accordance with Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

### **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 registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (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.

### **Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon**

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the registered entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report**

The directors of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the directors 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 directors are responsible for assessing the registered entity'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 directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- – Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- – Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 registered entity's internal control.
- – Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- – Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- – Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### **CONROY AUDIT & ADVISORY**



D R Conroy  
**Principal**

Sydney  
Dated this 8th day of September 2021

## Statement by the Board of Directors

In the opinion of the Board of Directors the accompanying financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Participate Australia Limited as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Participate Australia Limited will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



**Glenn Ball**  
Chair



**Warren Dawes**  
Treasurer

### **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities**

Participate Australia supports the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and our employees are bound by the principles for which it stands.

The Convention's purpose is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.



## Participate Australia

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**CFN** 14593

**NDIS Provider No.** 4050002920

