



Supporting your choice

ASCENT GROUP 68th ANNUAL REPORT



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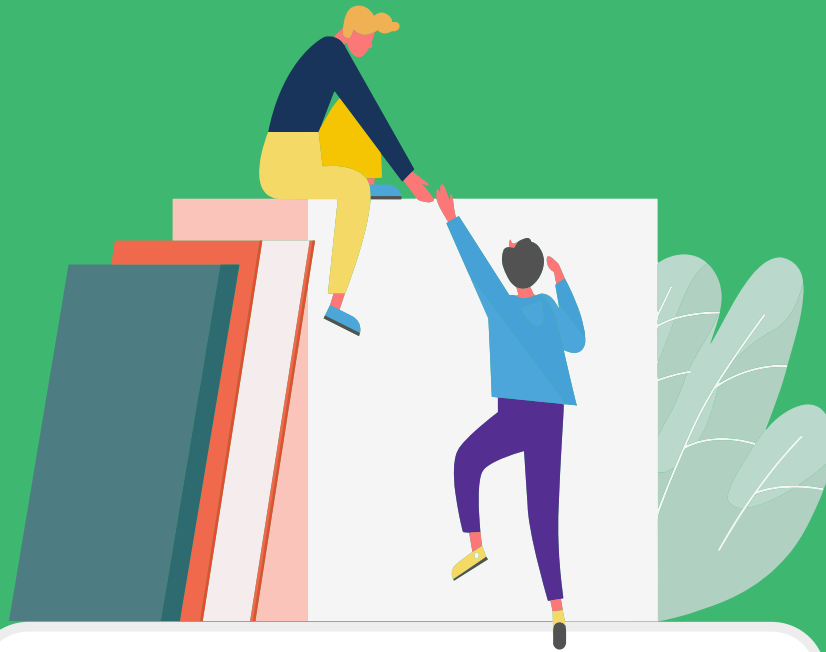
Ascent is a leading not for profit organisation with 68 years experience in supporting people with disability in their daily life.

As a registered NDIS provider, we deliver specialised supports that ensure people with disability can safely live the life they choose under the NDIS.

Through our commitment to maintaining a pool of available trained staff who can meet the short and longer term needs of the people we support, we can deliver a flexible approach to support individual choice and we are able to provide quality support to meet changing circumstances.

We believe that everyone should be able to live a fulfilling and inclusive life as is possible, with reliable flexible supports available to ensure their choices can happen.





OUR MISSION

To provide Quality support for people with disability that enables the pursuit of their goals and aspirations.

OUR VISION

We aspire to be the leading provider of Disability Support Services and Community Support in the New England and Northwest NSW.

OUR PARTICIPANTS

We support people with disability who are funded by the NDIS

Message from the CEO

I am pleased to share that the Ascent Group has successfully concluded our 68th Year, achieving positive outcomes both operationally and financially. Despite grappling with the enduring challenges of Covid-19 we maintained a high standard of support and celebrated numerous successes with our clients and their families.

I extend my gratitude to our caring staff whose dedication and commitment ensured the fulfilment of our Mission, especially during periods of reduced workforce capacity.

In the realm of Workforce Development

Throughout the year, we partnered with the NGO Training Centre to create a tailored Online Training Platform branded, Ascent Training Centre. This initiative ensures the availability of consistent, contemporary, reliable, and compliant training. It serves the dual purpose of aiding in the induction process for new frontline support workers and can also be extended to all staff.

NGO Training Centre offers complete and innovative online training solutions to the Australian Disability Sector. The modules are informative and engaging, assisting us to develop our staff to provide the best level of care and support for our clients while ensuring that our service delivery meets the NDIS Practice Standards.

Review & Change

The Disability Sector experienced significant tremors during the year as the Disability Royal Commission conducted their hearings and finally released their report and recommendations for reform. Concurrently, The NDIS undertook an internal review, and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission initiated their Own Motion Inquiries. It has become clearly evident that as the NDIS enters a second decade of operating, significant changes will be implemented. Throughout the year, we maintained close vigilance to inform and guide our operational practices and performance, as a Registered NDIS Provider.

In last year's Annual Report, it was recorded that "The Leadership Team and the Board of Directors are looking forward to celebrating a Covid-19 free New Year with an agenda to reset and finalise the development of a new five-year strategy to guide the organisation." I am pleased to announce that throughout year we conducted a comprehensive Organisation Planning Review that facilitated the formulation of a new Strategic Plan. This new plan will guide our Management in addressing the changing needs of our established services, provide direction for future development while maintaining a flexible approach to respond to the imminent changing as the NDIS undergoes reform.

Anticipating the Future

As we progress, acknowledging that change inevitably brings opportunities, Ascent maintains a steadfast commitment to our Mission and Purpose. We are well prepared and resourced to meet demand and embrace forthcoming changes. We express sincere gratitude to our clients, families, Carers, Staff, Business Partners and Funding providers for their reliable and ongoing support.

Peter Westbrook
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Financial Overview for the Year Ending 30 June 2023

The organisation improved its financial position during 2022-23, with an operating surplus of \$505,445 and a positive cash result with cash on hand up \$923,000. This result was shaped by the gain on the disposal of 7 Kent Ave, Armidale.

The impact of COVID continued to be seen across a number of areas of the business with a decrease in demand for a number of services, and not all services returning to full capacity. COVID also continued to place pressure on staffing levels with quarantine periods of 7 days still in place for staff who contract COVID. This placed pressure on already tight staff levels.

We expect that the impact of COVID will decrease over the coming year, however there is still uncertainty around potential outbreaks, impacts on demand for support and the continued impact on staff levels and outages.

Improvements to capital and infrastructure continued, with a focus over the last year on repairs due to the tornado. Other improvements to capital and infrastructure commenced with upgrades planned at Leone's Place. The sale of 7 Kent Ave Armidale was completed in August 2022.

Income 2023

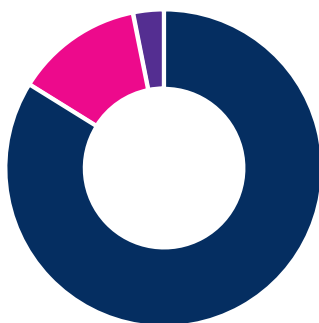


Income 2022

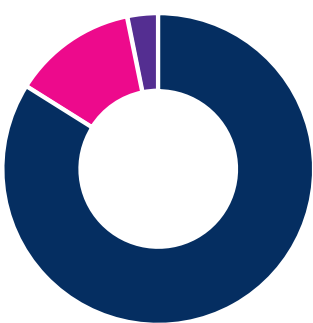


- Government Funding
- Sale of Goods
- Rental Income
- NDIS Service Fees
- Donations
- Other

Expenses 2023

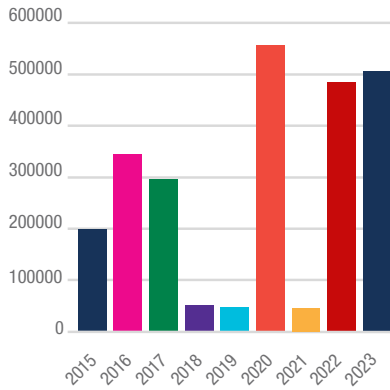


Expenses 2022

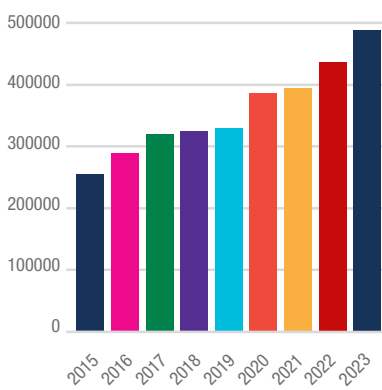


- Employee Benefits
- Supplier Expenses
- Depreciation

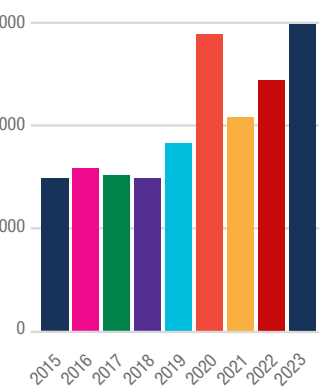
Operating Results



Net Assets



Cash In Bank



Statement Of Profit Or Loss And Other Comprehensive Income

INCOME	\$ 2023	\$ 2022
Revenue from Government	599,097	533,537
Rendering of Services	9,741,777	8,124,282
Interest	33,762	2,240
Other Revenue	178,621	965,623
Gain on Disposal of Assets	420,919	15,317
Total Income	10,974,176	9,640,999
EXPENSES	\$ 2022	\$ 2021
Employee Benefits	8,777,249	7,690,582
Supplier Expenses	1,361,124	1,180,509
Depreciation Expense	330,358	293,808
Total Expense	10,468,731	9,164,899
Surplus before income tax expense	505,445	476,100
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income attributed to the members of The Ascent Group Australia	505,445	476,100

Statement of Cash Flows

	\$ 2023	\$ 2022
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash receipts from customers	10,652,387	9,602,553
Interest received	17,199	2,150
Member's Subscriptions	-	-
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(10,125,202)	(8,813,084)
Cash generated from operating activities	544,384	791,619
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from Sale of Property, Plant & Equipment	598,911	21,638
Purchase of Property, Plant & Equipment	(220,275)	(416,991)
Net cash used in investing activities	378,636	(395,353)
Cash Flows from financing activities		
Repayment of Borrowings	-	-
Net Cash used in financing activities	-	-
Net increase (decrease) in cash	923,020	396,266
Cash at beginning of the period	2,446,487	2,050,221
Cash at the end of the period	3,369,507	2,446,487

Board of Directors and Senior Management Team



Will Warrick
Chairman



Brian McRae



Huntly Gordon



Jennifer Bailey



Anthony Fox



Penny Lamaro



Peter Westbroo
Chief Executive
Officer



Michelle Cooper
Chief Operating
Officer/
Company Secretary

Statement of Financial Position

	\$ 2023	\$ 2022
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,369,507	2,446,487
Trade Receivables	698,352	757,755
Assets Held for Sale	-	177,990
Other Assets	35,845	494
Total Current Assets	4,103,704	3,382,726
Non Current Assets		
Property, Plant & Equipment	2,505,499	2,615,584
Total Non Current Assets	2,505,499	2,615,584
Total Assets	6,609,203	5,998,310
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	613,673	554,223
Provisions	752,881	737,026
Other Current Liabilities	219,000	219,000
Total Current Liabilities	1,585,554	1,510,249
Non Current Liabilities		
Provisions	142,647	112,504
Total Non Current Liabilities	142,647	112,504
Total Liabilities	1,728,201	1,622,753
Net Assets	4,881,002	4,375,557
Equity		
Members Equity	4,103,459	3,598,014
Capital Reserve – Funding Body Contribution	777,543	777,543
Total Equity	4,881,002	4,375,557

NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides funding for supports and services for Australians under 65 years of age, who have permanent and significant disability. Introduced in 2013, the scheme is overseen by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and is now fully rolled out across Australia.

Ascent is a registered NDIS provider delivering Quality support to over 230 people with disability to meet specific individual needs and progress goals.

During the year we continued to assist all the people we support and their families to undergo the annual review their NDIS plan.

Ascent provides a broad range of support including:

- Assistance with daily life
- Accessing the community
- Providing social and recreational support
- Finding and keeping a job
- Behaviour management

Additionally

Ascent can provide you with Support Coordination to help you understand your NDIS Plan and decide the best way to spend your funds so that you can achieve your goals

Ascent can provide you with Plan Management as a great option to maximize the flexibility of your NDIS plan without the administrative burden of self-management.



Care for Children

Ascent is providing quality support to children with disability and their families. Assistance is provided with personal activities and support to develop life skills or to participate inclusively in the community.

Ascent can offer families a comprehensive choice of supports designed to suit individual requirements.

We can also offer a choice of professional support staff who can work with you, in your home and in the community.

Individual support can be available to you daily, in the evening or on weekends. We will work with you to plan your regular support requirements and respond to your shorter-term needs

At Ascent, we believe that family involvement is essential for the wellbeing and happiness of the children we support and is at heart of what we do.

We encourage young people to plan for an exciting future, by supporting them to build valuable skills for life, work, and community involvement.

Activities may include art, music, sport or social activities and are offered on an individual or group basis.



Acacia Park Enterprises Finding & Keeping a Job

Ascent specialises in providing Supported Employment opportunities for people with disability at Acacia Park Enterprises.

Acacia Park Enterprises provides supported employment for around 40 employees who live with disability. We are committed to providing ongoing quality employment and training opportunities for our employees. A diverse range of job opportunities are available to match a wide array of career aspirations.

Our business activities include digital printing, car detailing, grounds maintenance, cleaning, secure document destruction, paper and cardboard recycling.



Housing & Supported Independent Living

Ascent provides general assistance with daily life and activities to enable people with disability to live inclusively within their local community. Our support is designed to meet individual needs and maximise independence.

Ascent can provide support with daily life and activities to enable you to live inclusively within your local community. Support is designed around your NDIS plan to meet your individual needs and achieve outcomes.

Support can be provided on an outreach basis, where staff can assist you in your own home with specific tasks, such as budgeting, cooking, domestic chores and managing appointments.

Formal support may only be for a small part of everyday life, with other activities being managed independently or with assistance from networks of your family, friends and community. Formal support could be for as little as 1-2 hours per week.

Higher intensity accommodation support can be provided for up to 24 hours per day within single or shared group home residences, where residents may require medium to high levels of assistance to complete basic self-care and domestic routines. Staff may provide one-on-one support with all daily household activities, as well as facilitating social and leisure opportunities in the community. They may also assist with tasks like banking, shopping, and attending appointments, or with accessing daily activities such as supported employment and community access.



LifeSkills & Community Participation

Ascent specialises in providing support to adults living with disability, injury, or social disadvantage to achieve their goals, increase their independence, and participate as a valued member of their community.

We can offer you a range of services that will support you in learning everyday skills including:

- Improved daily living skills in the community
- Improved relationships
- Increased social and community participation
- Improved life choices
- Transport to access daily activities

Support can be provided individually or in group activities both centre based or in the community.

Individual Skills Development

We can offer you centre-based skills development support to learn and participate in activities independently.

Group support or activities

Activities are designed to allow you to participate in a wide range of enjoyable activities such as cooking, gardening, music, art and craft, sport or fitness. You are supported to access the community and events.



We provide skill development for you to become more independent and improve your skills in:

- Cooking
- Budgeting
- Time Management
- Travel
- Social interaction
- Caring for health and wellbeing
- Being independent in everyday activities
- Communication with others

We work in partnerships with many local organisations such as NERAM (New England Regional Art Museum) and NECOM (New England Conservatorium of Music) to deliver a wide range of activities and programs.

We have a specialist Clinical Team comprising a Registered Nurse, Behaviour Specialist and Psychologist who work with families and participants to develop personalised medical and behaviour plans, supports and strategies.





How can you help?

**There are many ways for you to be involved or to support our work including -
Providing us with Ideas and Feedback, Using our Services, Becoming a Member,
Volunteering, making Donations of money or goods and Bequests.
Your contribution, however large or small, is truly appreciated.**

If you would like to donate, your generous donation will ensure we are able to continue providing that “extra” support for people, who live with a disability, to lead a normal life.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO

**Direct Deposit: National Australia Bank
BSB: 082-407 Account: 64111-8228**

Account Name: The Ascent Group Australia

Please use YOUR NAME and “DONATION” as reference.

Alternatively, please forward cheques to:
The Ascent Group, PO Box 18, ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Thank you for your kind consideration