



Annual Report 2025





About SWAN

Our Vision

A community where every autistic person is able to live the life they choose.

Our Mission

To enhance the lives of autistic people and their families in their own communities by:

- Providing holistic support to individuals and their families through peer support, information, linkages, and advocacy
- Working together with autistic people and their families to build their capacity to make choices and have control in their own lives
- Working together with organisations and networks with similar values to share strategies and resources to bring about positive change and improve regional services
- Building the understanding, awareness, and capacity of the community, to enable participation, inclusion, and contribution of all people with disabilities.

Our Philosophy and Values

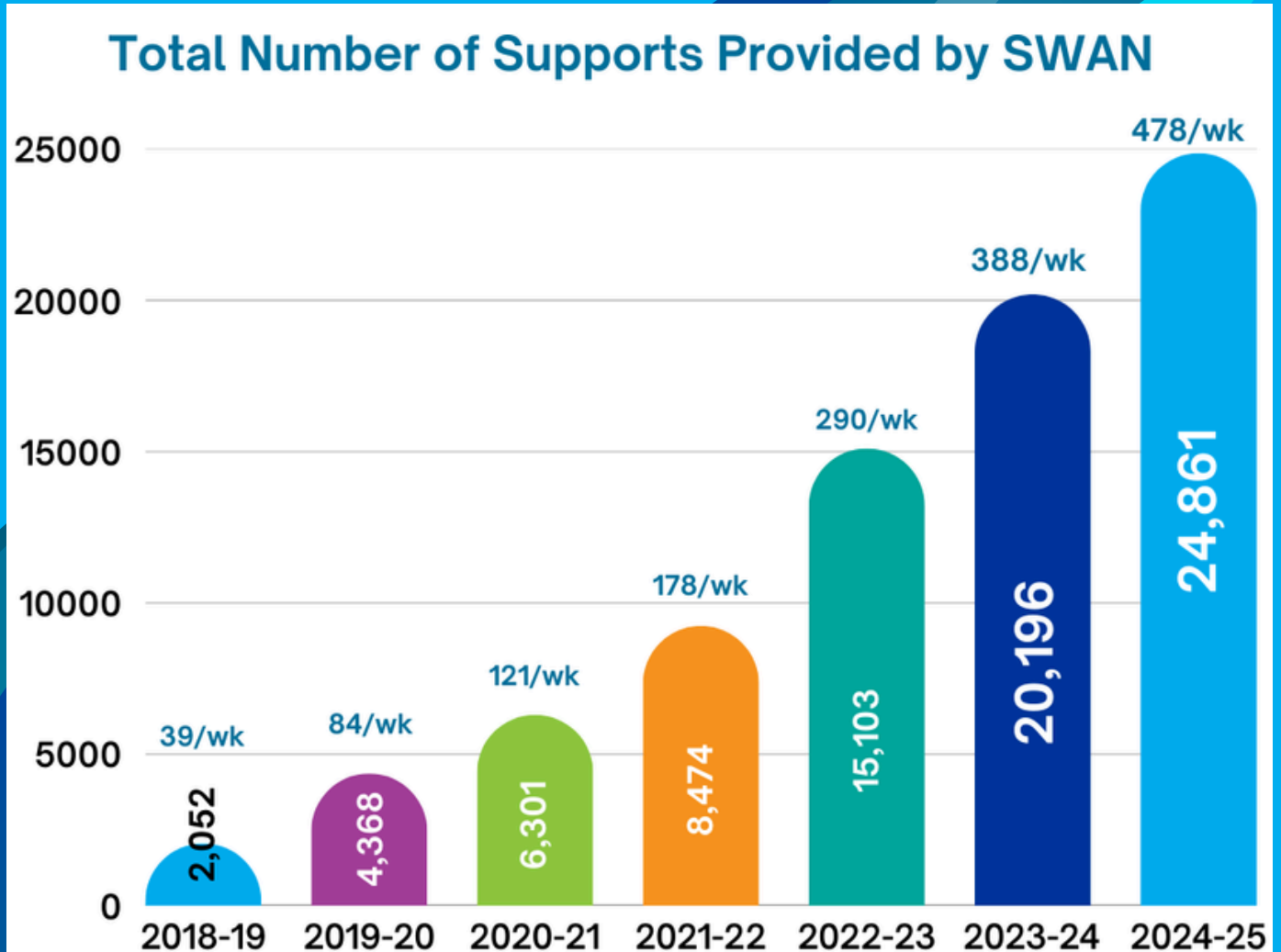
SWAN operates from a philosophy that all people have the right to live in inclusive and supportive communities.

Our work with individuals and families strives to uphold and promote the values of inclusion in line with our vision and mission statement.





SWAN Supports



2,975
family
members

1,860
people with
disability

1,115
professionals



SWAN Supports

3,581
meetings

478
supports
per week

1,804
workshop
attendees

24,861
supports
provided

13,426
online peer
support



President's Report

Another good year with many families helped through a wide variety of issues, in the SWAN way. Non judgemental and positive assistance from people who have lived experience and genuinely understand the issues faced by many families.

Unfortunately, the many changes the Government has made with funding and requirements have taken large amounts of Nick, Mel and Sam's time. This has been done as efficiently as possible, but still has taken time that would have been better spent on real SWAN work.

Thank you to all our employees and volunteers for their level of support to our members and their families. You only have to read some of the comments from families and those individuals who use SWAN to realise the difference made to their lives.

The Board have continued to work together to get the best for SWAN and to support those on the frontline. We would like to thank Clare Gibellini for her support over many years, and understand her need to pull back on some of her commitments. We have a stable group to see through the changes happening in the disability sector.

Well done to the SWAN team, a good year and getting stronger all the time.

Ant Pursell





SWAN's Autism Go-To Guides



Setting up the SWAN Sensory Zone



Treasurer's Report

The 2024/25 financial year marked a period of significant growth and prudent financial management for South West Autism Network Inc. (SWAN). The organization continued to deliver vital services to the community, supported by a combination of government grants, consulting work, and generous donations.

SWAN's total income for 2024/25 was \$523,374 (an increase of 16% from the previous year). Our key income streams were \$452,000 in grants (up 34%) and \$50,485.69 in donations (down 42%).

The increase in grant funding, particularly from Information, Linkages and Capacity building (ILC), was instrumental in supporting SWAN's operations and programs. However, donations and other fundraising income declined, reflecting broader economic challenges and shifting funding priorities.

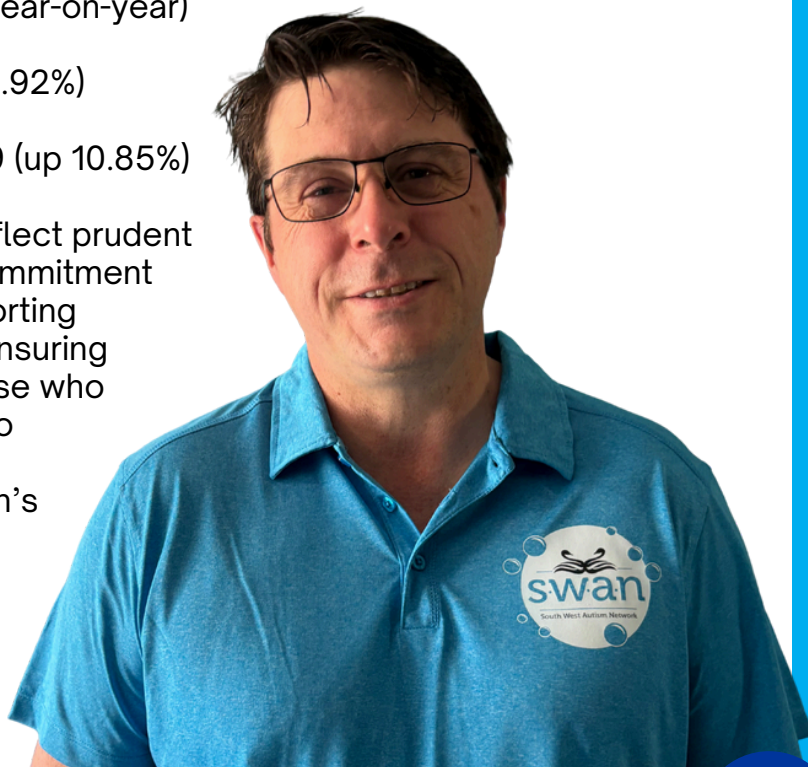
The \$200,000 in unexpended grant funds were for a grant project to commence in July 2025 but paid in June 2025. SWAN also received \$2,525 in deposits due to a job offer scam having a transposition error resulting in the funds landing in SWAN's bank account, which we are working with our bank to resolve.

SWAN's major expense categories were:

- Wages and Salaries: \$351,536 (stable year-on-year)
- Rent/Venue Hire: \$17,227 (down 19%)
- Printing & Stationery: \$896.58 (down 70.92%)
- Training: \$9,135.12 (up 297.17%)
- Subscriptions and Software: \$10,506.39 (up 10.85%)

SWAN The financial results for 2024/25 reflect prudent management, effective advocacy, and a commitment to sustainability. SWAN will continue supporting people with disabilities and their families, ensuring that vital services remain accessible to those who need them most. The Board will continue to monitor financial performance and seek opportunities to strengthen the organisation's capacity to serve the community.

Grant Avery





Balance Sheet

	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
SWAN - Card Account	\$3,062	\$1,022
South West Autism Network	\$320,610	\$158,127
Bendigo Bank - Term Deposit	\$156,449	\$55,476
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$480,121	\$214,649
Trade and Other Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	\$7,264	\$7,264
Prepayments	(\$988)	(\$988)
Prepaid Expenditure	\$18,988	
Total Trade and Other Current Assets	\$25,264	\$6,276
Total Current Assets	\$505,385	\$220,925
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Plant and Equipment	\$32,292	\$29,914
Less Accumulated Depreciation on P & E	(\$15,052)	(\$13,546)
Furniture and Fittings	\$6,083	\$6,083
Less Accumulated Depreciation on F & F	(\$3,443)	(\$3,229)
Total Plant & Equipment	\$19,879	\$18,561
Leasehold Improvements		
Leasehold Improvements	\$16,476	\$11,620
Less Accumulated Depreciation on LI	(\$6,700)	(\$5,308)
Total Leasehold Improvements	\$9,777	\$6,312
Total Property, Plan and Equipment	\$29,656	\$25,533
Intangibles		
Website/CRM	\$59,154	\$32,621
Less Accumulated - Website/CRM	(\$33,573)	(\$23,273)
Total Intangibles	\$25,581	\$9,348
Total Non-Current Assets	\$55,238	\$34,881
Total Assets	\$560,623	\$255,806



Balance Sheet

	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables		
Accounts Payable	\$17,390	\$3,694
Wages Payable	-	(\$7,164)
Provision for Printing Liability	\$2,588	\$8,834
PAYG Withholdings Payable	-	\$10,142
Superannuation Payable	\$1,410	\$1,081
Unexpended Grants	\$200,000	
Accrued Expenses	\$2,000	
Funds Identified as Fraud	\$2,525	
Total Trade and Other Payables	\$225,913	\$16,587
Tax Liabilities		
GST	\$20,898	\$15,398
Total Tax Liabilities	\$20,898	\$15,298
Provisions		
Provisions for Annual and Long Service Leave	\$28,835	
Total Provisions	\$28,835	
Total Current Liabilities	\$275,646	\$31,985
Net Assets	\$284,977	\$223,821
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Equity		
Retained Earnings		
Retained Earnings	\$223,821	\$230,432
Current Year Earnings	\$61,156	(\$6,611)
Total Retained Earnings	\$284,977	\$223,821
Total Equity	\$284,977	\$223,821



Hanging out at the SWAN Sensory Zone



Relaxing at the SWAN Sensory Zone



Staff Report

At SWAN's first AGM in 2013, we had 57 families registered as members, with 176 people subscribed to our e-Newsletter, 228 members of our Facebook peer support group, and 236 people following the SWAN public Facebook page. Today we have more than 2000 registered SWAN members, 1,754 members of our Facebook peer support group for individuals and families, and 3,236 people following the SWAN public Facebook page. Such growth clearly shows the need for support within our community and the efforts of the SWAN team.

Over the course of the 2024-25 financial year, we provided information, advocacy and support to 7,957 people on 24,861 occasions (an average of 478 people engaged per week), a 23% increase in support provided compared to 2023-24. 1,804 people attended 16 workshops or webinars delivered by SWAN, and 719 people used our Sensory Zone at seven community events.

Sam Connor joined the SWAN team, working across our Information, Linkages and Capacity building (ILC) JumpStart project, and supporting Mel and Nick with grant applications and systemic advocacy submissions. Sam was instrumental in the success of our Inclusion and Accessibility Fund grant application, with the project commencing July 2025. Rikki's presentation of our Understanding Autism workshop continues to be in high demand, while Kylie and Ronnie have increased their expertise in supporting people navigating NDIS and other systems. SWAN also commenced outreach to Great Southern and other regions, with Ronnie and Kylie providing information, advocacy and support to people in more isolated South West and Great Southern towns.

SWAN continues to be contracted by Every Australian Counts to provide systemic advocacy and co-design engagement with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and Commonwealth Government, represented by Nick. Through this work, we emphasise the critical need for NDIA and the Commonwealth to recognise the additional barriers for people with disability in regional WA, and the impact of geographic isolation and thin markets. Nick recommended that NDIA establish a Rural and Remote Advisory Group, which commenced this financial year. Over the course of 2024-25 SWAN also made three systemic advocacy submissions Commonwealth Government Inquiries and Department of Social Services consultations:

- Supplementary Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs NDIS Amendment Bill Inquiry – July 2024
- Submission to the Department of Social Services Consultation on the Draft Lists of Permitted and Prohibited 'NDIS Supports' – August 2024
- Submission to the Department of Social Services Consultation on General Foundational Supports – December 2024



Staff Report

We continue to receive no State or Commonwealth funding for advocacy, relying on volunteer effort and community donations.

As an independent Disabled Persons Organisation reliant on grant funding to operate, staff were cautious with our finances over the 2024-25 financial year, given the previous funding uncertainty and a grant extension of only 12 months. Again, staff needed to advocate to Commonwealth representatives and the Minister to seek a funding extension to continue operating. In July we submitted a new grant application for our core business of information and support, and in November 2025 were advised that the application was successful – with funding secured until 31st December 2027.

On behalf of everyone at SWAN, we would like to express our deep gratitude to our major sponsors, Greg and Kathy Walsh; and the wonderful community donors who enable SWAN to advocate for autistic people and people with disability living in the south west. Our thanks to our incredible volunteers, without whom SWAN projects and events would simply not happen. Our sincere gratitude to Tina Williams, who has now been volunteering with SWAN two days per week for twelve years. Tina manages the administration of the organisation, and is surrogate Mum to the whole team.



Nick Avery	CEO
Mel Jacobson	2IC Coordinator
Kylie Robinson	Coordinator
Ronnie Madge	Coordinator
Rikki McCabe	Coordinator
Sam Connor	Project Manager
Tina Williams	Admin Volunteer
Lara Cheeseman	Junior Admin Assistant



Taking a break at the SWAN Sensory Zone



Quiet play at the SWAN Sensory Zone



Feedback

"Both staff members were incredibly knowledgeable and kind and compassionate. I felt heard and supported, which is not how we feel about the NDIS or their community partners."

"I've attended several NDIS webinars about the NDIS changes, including ones by the NDIA. This is the first one that properly explained them in a way that makes sense. Thank you."

"We have never been able to go to an event before, they are just too overwhelming. Having the sensory space here meant that not only could we come but we have the opportunity to stay for the whole event."

"I was completely overwhelmed. Everything is so confusing and complicated, whether its NDIS, Centrelink, employment services or applying for public housing. Thank God we have SWAN to help!"

"SWAN is a one-stop shop. I contacted so many other organisations before one of them suggested SWAN, and I'm so grateful they did. The staff at SWAN actually understand the issues I'm dealing with for NDIS, school, mental health, paediatrician, accessing therapy and more. I know that I can trust the information from SWAN, and feel much more confident to tackle the next steps and advocate for my son and daughter."

"I finally understood why NDIS were telling me things that didn't make sense. SWAN listened to all the issues for me and my kids, and helped decide what I need to do for each of us to sort things out. ***** also clearly explained the reasons for everything."

"I'm stunned by the how much ***** knows. I had a long list of problems that no one had been able to help me with. I was really overwhelmed. ***** helped me break them down, and gave me several options for each issue. I now have a list of steps to take, and options to choose from. And I know that I can come back any time with more questions or if I get stuck again."

"SWAN explained the process for review with my daughter's plan and was an essential service to me and my family. They offered help and emotional support during the entire process. I would have felt more overwhelmed and unable to adequately advocate for my daughter."



**Ronnie, Tina, Lara and Kylie relax
with an ice cream after an event**



**Volunteer Annabel tidying up the
SWAN Sensory Zone**



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