

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023



United Nations
Association
of Australia
Victorian Division



**“We must cooperate.
We must adapt
multilateral institutions
and foster trust where
it is most needed.
The urgency of global
challenges demands
bold and swift action.”**



António Guterres,
UN Secretary-General





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**“Indigenous people,
local communities,
young people, women
and girls, should be
leaders of climate
action and not victims
of climate policies.”**

Archana Soreng, UN Secretary
General's Youth Advisory Group on
Climate Change

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The 2022/23 financial year was a year of recovery and growth following on from the constraints placed on our programs by the COVID-19 pandemic. The reestablishment of UNAAB's programs and priorities saw a return to a full schedule of Model UNs, successfully hosting events and planning to again take study tours to the UN.

The massive impacts of COVID-19 on schools required changes to be made to our Global Education Program, with the introduction of online Model UNs and the inability of some schools to participate. However, by the second half of 2022, the program was operating at similar to pre-pandemic capacity. By the second half of the reporting period, all available places were successfully booked out by teachers and students eager for Model UNs to return to schools.

The Global Education team, guided by Executive Manager Dr Sally Northfield as she handed over to her successors Fanny Rios and Yen Siow, delivered Model UNs both in person and online. You can read more about our Global Education Program in this report.

Our Young Professional Network and UN Youth Victoria also continued to rebuild with events and programs held both in person and hybrid. Our Status of Women Committee continued to hold hybrid meetings so that speakers and attendees from regional Victoria and interstate could remain involved.

I would like to again thank UNAAB staff and my colleagues on the Board for their hard work and tireless commitment. Treasurer Tony Dobson continued to ensure that the organisation's financial situation was closely monitored and planned. At our 2022 AGM, we welcomed several new members to the board Rosie Dalheim, Lynette Phuong and Lisa Zembrodt. We also farewelled Michael Henry and Kerry Boland and thanked them for their contributions.

Dr Sally Northfield continued to lead the organisation in her role as Executive Manager, recruiting four staff members to assist UNAAB's work and programs. After Tayla Hamence left us for a job closer to her regional home, Fanny Rios and Yen Siow collaborated as Global Education Program Coordinators, with Maddy Golding and Caroline Sabater providing fabulous support as UNAAB Program Officers.

EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT



Our mission at UNAA Victoria is to bring the work and values of the UN to the Victorian community. Our focus during this year was to re-establish the three key pillars of our strategic framework designed to engage the community: the Global Education Program, Study Tours to the UN and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) program.

As we gladly moved back to in-person community engagement events, we also retained innovations forged during pandemic restrictions and continued to deliver online and hybrid events. We held our first hybrid event as a celebration of UN Day 2022, with a focus on SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong institutions: Australia and the UN - Our Common Agenda. We also held our first hybrid AGM in 2022 with the highlight being an address live from COP 27 in Egypt by our guest speaker, Young Professionals committee member, Elly Hanrahan.

In this rebuilding period, the Global Education Program returned to pre-pandemic levels with 31 events delivered. A new hybrid program connecting local schools with their international sister schools was initiated and the UN study tours were relaunched.

UNAAV's Young Professionals bounced back from the challenges of the past two reporting periods and ran four successful, and booked out, in-person events during 2022/2023. Thank you to Co-Presidents, Chandra Parihar with Tony Luo in 2022 and Angela Shen in 2023.

UNAAV welcomed three new board members as we thanked departing board members, Michael Henry, and Kerry Boland, for their significant contributions to UNAAV over many years. Four new staff members (job-sharing) began in February 2023 and their contributions to the rebuilding of our programs were significant.

As this is my first report as Executive Manager, I would like to note with appreciation the sustained and thoughtful handover from former Executive Manager, Sophie Arnold. I would also like to thank UNAAV Board members for their support. Thank you also to all our partners, members, and supporters for their continued involvement with the work of UNAAV. Your support for our programs gives thousands of students every year the opportunity to learn about global politics, international affairs, collaboration, diplomacy, and negotiation.

I look forward to exploring the opportunities that a strong UNAAV brings in the coming year.



“

“Keeping the promise of the SDGs will help us respond and recover faster and better from the COVID-19 pandemic; together we can ensure the SDGs benefit the planet and reach everyone everywhere.”

Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General

SPECIAL EVENTS

UN DAY 2022 – SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS IN FOCUS

With the support of the DFAT Victorian State Office, we celebrated UN Day in October with a special discussion around the future of the UN.

Moderated by Thenu Herath, CEO of the Oaktree Foundation and World Economic Forum Global Shaper, the discussion featured the authors of [*Implications of the UN Common Agenda for Australia: Renewing Multilateralism*](#) John Langmore AM and Erika Feller AO and William Smith, International Deputy Co-Prosecutor of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

The vibrant panel discussion centred around how Australia can contribute to the revitalisation of multilateralism, with each of the three panellists bringing their own interactions with the UN system to the discussion.

UN Day, 24 October, is the anniversary of the day in 1945 when the UN Charter entered into force.

GATHERING LOCAL UN ALUMNI TOGETHER

In February, we were very pleased to hold our first event with former UN staff members now based in Victoria.

In the first of planned annual events, we held welcome drinks for people who have worked all over the world, including in such organisations as UN Women, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), UN-Habitat and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).





OUR PEOPLE

PATRON

Her Excellency, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

BOARD

PRESIDENT

Ian Howie

VICE PRESIDENT

Monica Lillas

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Michael Henry AM

SECRETARY

Sonia Mohanan

TREASURER

Tony Dobson

MEMBERS

Andrew Hewett

Warwick Peel

Carlisle Richardson

Sophie Arnold

Chandra Parihar (Young Professionals Network Co-President)

Angela Shen (Young Professionals Network Co-President)

Is Hayes (2023 UN Youth Victorian President)

Shirley Reynolds (Status of Women Committee Representative)

EXECUTIVE MANAGER

Dr Sally Northfield

GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tayla Hamence (until October 2022)

Fanny Rios (from February 2023)

Yen Siow (from February 2023)

Caroline Sabater (from February 2023)

Maddy Golding (from February 2023)



2 ZERO HUNGER

1 NO POVERTY

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

15 LIFE ON LAND

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Thank you for providing the students with such a memorable and important experience and opportunity. I know that the students loved the day and gained so much from it.

(Teacher 2022/2023)

GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Attending a Model UN means participating in a realistic simulation of the UN General Assembly – the global forum for multilateral discussion of key issues, such as climate change, human rights, and equality. Throughout its history, the General Assembly has shaped society, advanced our common humanity, and demonstrated an ability to develop solutions to the world's biggest challenges.

With every Member State having an equal vote, the General Assembly holds democratic principles at its core and relies on countries working together to bring about change. Model UN participants taking part must do the same. Model UNs provide participants with an opportunity to expand their understanding of key global issues and enhance skills such as public speaking, advocacy, networking, and collaboration, to enable them to become active, informed, and responsible global citizens.

Acting as representatives of a country, participants learn to understand the viewpoints of different countries and research and put forward views with which they don't necessarily agree. Participants also have to structure complex valid arguments and use these in conversations with their peers to reach consensus. This means being able to think on their feet when challenged with differing views.

The UNAA Victoria Model UN program is not only highly interactive, but predominantly a student-led program that enables attendees to understand global issues and build the practical and personal skills to use their voice and develop leadership skills as global citizens.

In the second half of 2022, schools were keen to commit to activities outside core curriculum demands and there was renewed enthusiasm for the Model UN program.

31
EVENTS

144
SCHOOLS

2465
STUDENTS



MODEL UNS IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

In partnership with the Victorian Department of Education Languages Unit, we began this part of the year by delivering Model UNs in five target languages, German, French, Japanese, Italian and Indonesian.

VCE language students from a wide range of schools across Victoria were stimulated and challenged by another year of participation in our language Model UNs with the opportunity to practice their negotiation and public speaking skills in a second language for the entire day. The students excelled in transferring the language skills learnt in the classroom into a public setting to debate solutions to global issues. We thank the acting Secretaries Generals, teachers, language associations and assistants and the students for making these language immersive events possible.



“The Japanese Language Model United Nations was an amazing experience for our students. They were engaged all day, actively involved in the discussion about the topic. They just kept thinking and talking about it even during the lunch break! I was very impressed by all the participating students with their collaboration, perseverance, and determination. Congratulations to our future Ambassadors!” (Teacher 2023)



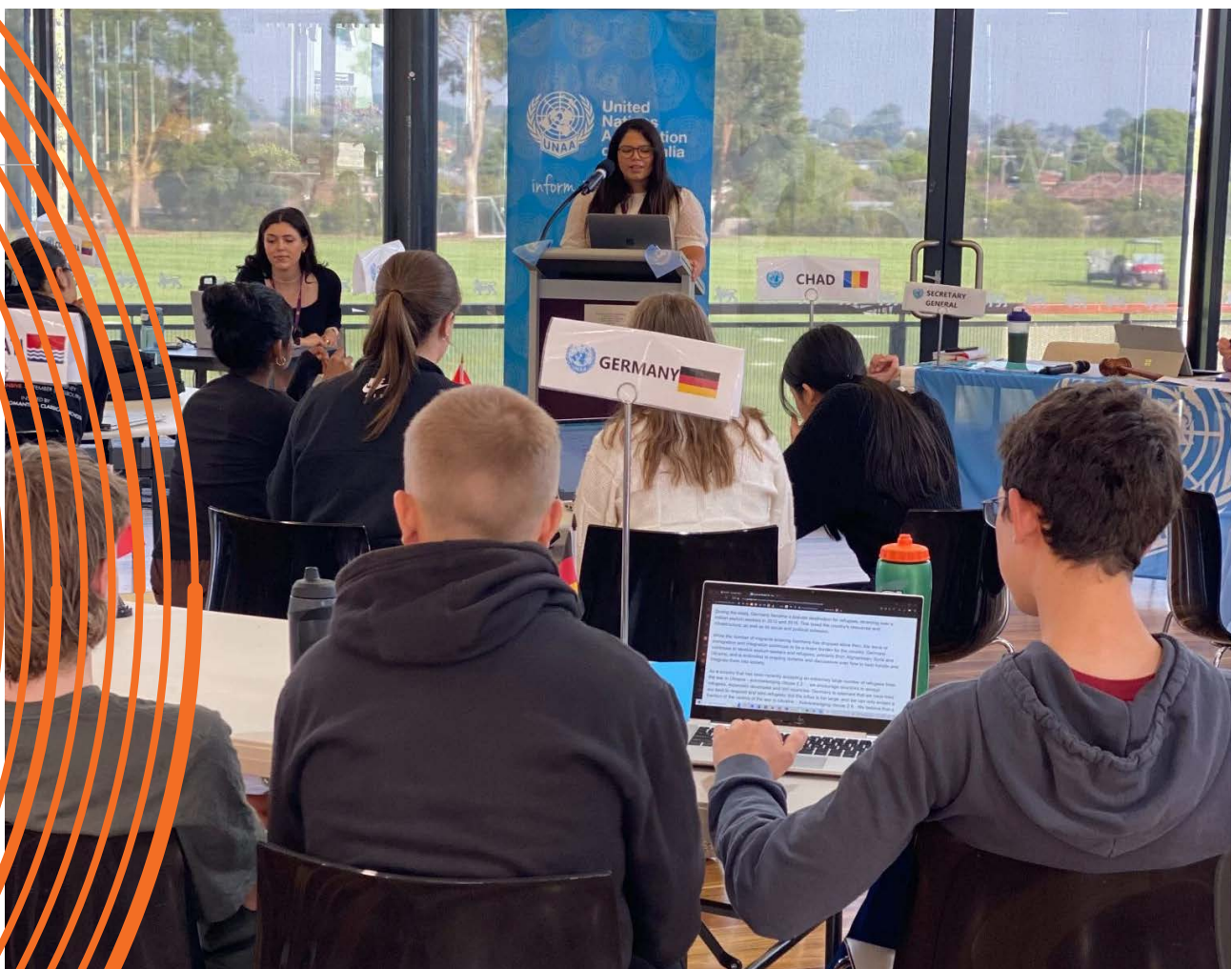
“What I gained was not only the improvement of my personal abilities, but more importantly, I was able to communicate with more Chinese and Australian peers and gain new friendships.”

(Student 2023)

NEW INTERNATIONAL, HYBRID MODEL UNS

In 2022, the Department of Education – Internationalising Education Unit (DET- IEU) approached UNAUV to deliver a pilot hybrid Model UN program to reconnect local government schools with international sister schools they had been unable to visit during the pandemic.

We crossed international time lines in early 2023 to run the first three hybrid Model UNs with students from Ballarat and Beaufort and their sister schools in China; students in Warrnambool with their sister school in Indonesia and students in Wodonga with their sister school in Vietnam <https://www.facebook.com/WodongaSeniorSC/videos/993793125112203>





ENSURING OUR WIDEST POSSIBLE REACH

UNAAV Model UNs, sponsored by the Department of Education Strategic Partnerships Program, focus on Government school student participation in rural and regional and disadvantaged schools.

Six were delivered across regional and metropolitan Melbourne. The UNAAV team travelled to Bacchus Marsh, Dromana, Traralgon, and Reservoir and Flemington. The online Model UNs sponsored in this program were hosted by two of the most remote schools in Victoria, Mallacoota and Corryong, with Coburg joining in as an urban representative.

We also returned to in-person delivery of Model UNs in three government schools, 12 independent schools, <https://www.facebook.com/ivanhoeGrammarSchool/posts/pfbid0yfqdDzVfL8XkeR-FAPLF21M7fXqSx6RpmncqamdCwTxFDkKcUkT59g8ngMc2tgM5rl> and at Monash University <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/access-monash-faculty-experience-model-un-mentoring-at-monash%3FtrackingId=yAN9X5HECiRHtWdKicZYCQ%253D%253D/?trackingId=yAN9X5HECiRHtWdKicZYCQ%3D%3D>

Ian Howie (pictured above at McKinnon Secondary College) often acts as Secretary-General at our Model UNs, providing students with helpful context and insightful commentary on international relations. <https://www.mckinnonsc.vic.edu.au/2023/06/2023-mckinnon-model-un.html>

Students who participated in UNAAV Model UNs in 2022/23 focused on a wide range of challenging global topics including climate action, pathways to peace, the rights of indigenous peoples, zero hunger, gender equality, modern slavery, refugees, and quality education.

“For me, the most beneficial part of today was the caucus – getting to witness/be part of big debates like these really allowed me to think about the issue. It was super fun”. (Student 2023)

Whether in-person, hybrid or online, the UNAAV Global Education program provides unique enrichment opportunities for students to experience a global, democratic, human rights institution charged with resolving the world’s most difficult challenges. The program is flexible, can adapt to changing conditions and time zones, and is able to offer increased access for remote and regional communities across the state and to their international school colleagues.



“The most beneficial thing was having to separate my own views from that of my country I was representing as they differed wildly”.

(Student 2023)

PARTNERING TO PROMOTE THE UN

Each year, we partner with three key networks to promote the UN to as many communities and sectors as possible. These are the UNAA Victoria Young Professionals Network, UNAA Victoria Status of Women Committee and UN Youth Victoria. Each network is represented on our Board.

The **UNAA Victoria Young Professionals Network** continues to deliver online and in-person events to empower and build the capacity of young professionals to achieve the UNAA's mission of creating a safer, fairer, and more sustainable world.

In late September 2022, the YPs arranged a screening of *Regenerating Australia* and panel conversation. This short film is based on interviews with a diverse group of Australians about their hopes and dreams for Australia's future. The panel discussion afterwards was moderated by Maddy Yewers, Senior Project Coordinator (Women in STEMM), RMIT University, and included Sanaya Khisty, Chief Strategy Officer, Beyond Zero Emissions and Darren Grover, General Manager, Threatened Species, Zoos Victoria.



One of the most effective and highly-attended events run by the Young Professionals Network (YPN) is the annual international careers mentoring event (pictured above). Held on 25 May, this event began with a panel discussion before attendees broke into small groups led by a mentor with diverse international career experience. Attendees chat informally to gain advice and ideas about potential careers with the UN and other international organisations before moving as a group to another mentor.

Special thanks to this year's mentors: Rana Ebrahimi (former UNHCR Officer), Lynette Phuong (World Health Organisation), Rosie Dalheim (former consultant at UN Women), Ian Howie (former UN Division of Human Resources, and International Labour Organisation) and Emily Megow (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Program and Partnerships).

In early 2023, the YPs also took part in one of UNAA Victoria's virtual tours of the UN in New York. At this online event, young professionals were able to interact with former UN Ambassador and UNAAV Board member, Carlisle Richardson.



The **UNAA Victoria Status of Women Committee** (SOWC) works to provide Information that stimulates critical thinking and the exchange of ideas for action (pictured above).

During 2022/2023, the SOWC continued to hold hybrid meetings so it could maintain the involvement of women from regional Victoria and other States that began during the COVID pandemic.

Attendees and speakers focused on a key theme during each monthly meeting, with these including modern slavery and human trafficking, violence and poverty and the welfare of children in residential state care.

Several Committee members took part in the *Oceanic Pacific Convening* held on 6-7 June in Melbourne as a forum to identify regional gender equality priorities to be raised during the global *Women Deliver 2023* Conference in Rwanda in July.

This event brought together gender equality advocates and activists from across the Pacific region and identified climate justice, decolonisation, ending gender-based violence, women's economic equality and resourcing for women's human rights as the top five regional priorities.

One of the Committee's key group, Soroptimists International, celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Melbourne Club during the reporting period and hosted a lunch, with proceeds going to the Afghan Women's Association.

UN Youth Victoria is a youth-led organisation that works to educate and empower young Victorians aged 16 to 24 on global issues. Each year, activities are run by and for young people and young people are trained to facilitate education in schools and community settings.

UN Youth Victoria helps to organise the national Evatt and Voice public speaking competitions and holds an annual State conference. The 2023 Conference in March attracted more than 100 delegates who took part in a weekend of leadership, diplomacy and advocacy around international law and its influence in the 21st century.



Is Hay, 2023 UN Youth Victoria President

FINANCES

> STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As At 30 June 2023

	FY2023	FY2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH AT BANK	\$42,352	\$88,942
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	\$1,848	\$0
PREPAID EXPENSES	\$43,189	\$4,683
WORK IN PROGRESS	\$71,544	\$0
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,810	\$1,810
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$160,742	\$95,434
FIXED ASSETS (Written Down Value)	\$4,400	\$5,511
TOTAL ASSETS	\$165,142	\$100,945
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$18,206	\$11,110
PAY-ROLL LIABILITIES	\$32,253	\$27,213
SHORT TERM LOAN ²	\$0	\$3,980
GST	\$849	\$1,215
DEFERRED REVENUE	\$105,436	\$52,052
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$156,744	\$95,569
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	\$8,398	\$5,376

> STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

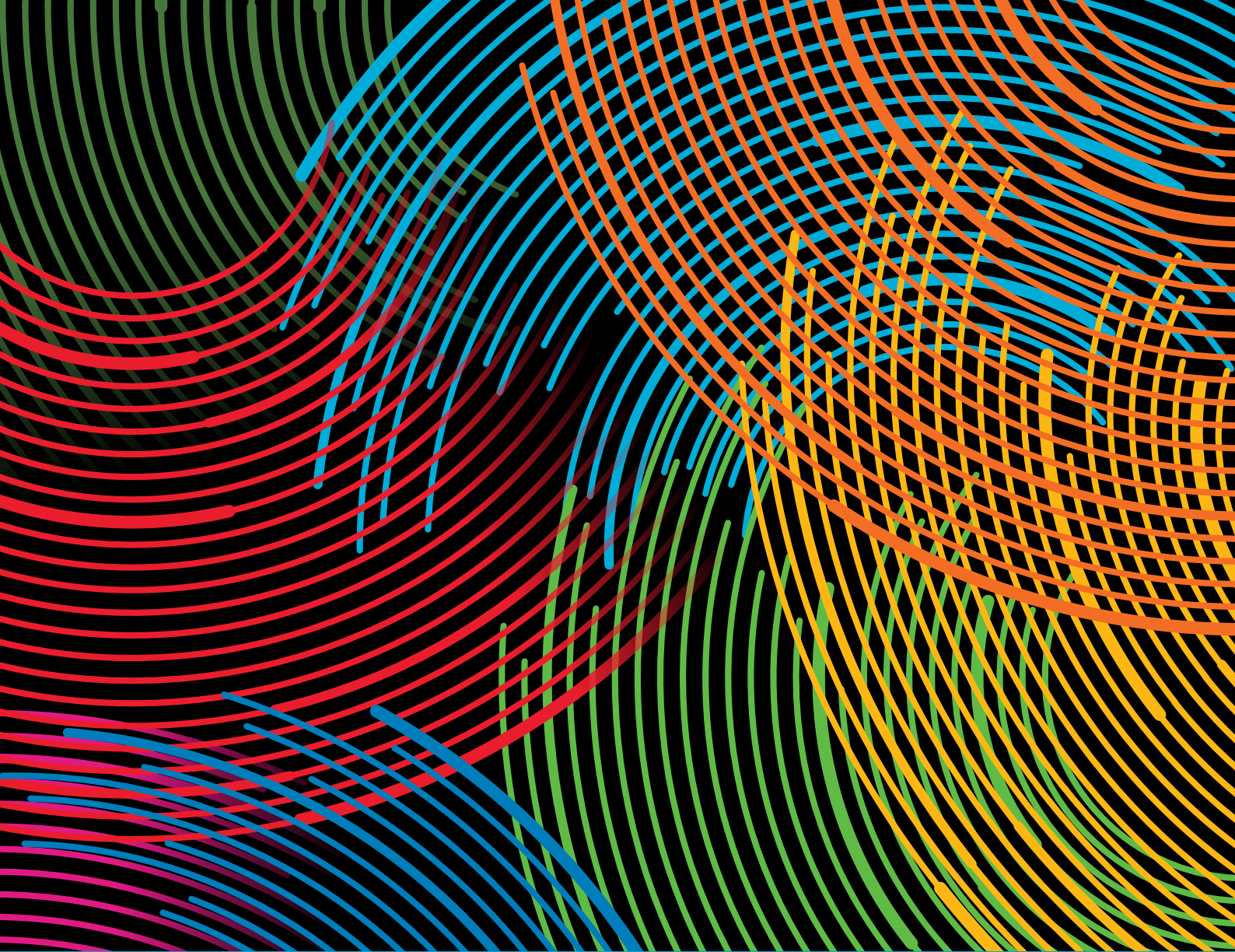
Year Ending 30 June 2023

	FY2022	FY2021
INCOME		
PROGRAM INCOME RECEIVED	\$86,005	\$168,676
MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVED	\$8,594	\$9,846
OTHER INCOME ¹	\$43,513	\$118,745
TOTAL INCOME	\$138,113	\$297,267
EXPENDITURE		
PROGRAM EXPENDITURE	\$34,439	\$20,814
EMPLOYMENT EXPENSES	\$110,005	\$168,954
OCCUPANCY EXPENSES	\$34,915	\$33,979
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	\$11,692	\$15,056
DEPRECIATION EXPENSES	\$1,111	\$1,508
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$192,162	\$240,311
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$3,022	(\$102,198)

Note 1: FY2022 includes Covid Related Government Subsidies and Grants

Note 2: FY2022 includes short term funding for Insurance premiums





United Nations Association of Australia

**United Nations Association of Australia
Victorian Division**

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**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD