

2022 Annual Report

Better vision for all



Message from our Chair and Managing Director



Peter Forbes and Professor Bill Morgan

On behalf of the Board we present to you the Lions Eye Institute's **2022 Annual Report.**

2022 was a year of **inspiration and achievement** for the Lions Eye Institute, with a number of key projects reaching significant milestones.

Through collaborations with The University of Western Australia (UWA) and Curtin University, we significantly increased our research capacity in clinical vision sciences and data science and analytics. Professor Allison McKendrick was appointed as the inaugural **Lions Eye Institute UWA Chair in Optometry Research**, and Professor Andrew Turpin accepted the role of inaugural **Lions Curtin Chair in Ophthalmic Big Data**. Both researchers moved to Perth from Melbourne in the latter half of the year.

In an exciting development, we opened a **new state-of-the-art clinic in Midland** in the second half of the year. The purpose-built facility offers residents in Perth's eastern suburbs and surrounding regions a wide range of specialist eye care that was previously only available in the city and western suburbs.

We welcomed a **new ophthalmologist, Dr Evan Wong**. Dr Wong specialises in the management of corneal

disease including cataract and pterygium. He also specialises in refractive surgery and is actively involved in clinical research at the Institute.

JoAnne Forrest joined the Institute as Director Clinical Research, with a remit to build greater capacity within our clinical trials centre, as well as develop our immediate and long term vision for clinical research activities. The clinical trials team currently supports around 80 clinical trials each year.

We were grateful to receive **more than \$1.5 million from Channel 7 Telethon Trust** to support our medical research in inherited retinal diseases, myopia and paediatric community outreach. Thanks to Telethon and the generosity of the Western Australian community, our researchers will continue their dedication to improving the quality of life of children throughout the state.

We were successful in obtaining a substantial grant from the

State Government's inaugural Innovation Seed Fund to support the development of a portable hand-held device for non-invasive measurement of intracranial pressure (ICP) via the eye. This innovation will be a game-changer for ICP measurement, which typically is carried out through invasive techniques such as lumbar punctures or holes drilled into the skull.

The **Lions Outback Vision Kimberley Eye Hub** was **officially opened** in Broome, in a ceremony that celebrated the immense progress being made in treating eye disease in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions. The Hub is providing greater equity of eye health services and transforming patient care in remote, regional and vulnerable Aboriginal communities across the North West.

The **Doctor of Optometry program** at UWA continues to gain momentum, with the inaugural students now in their second year, and a strong cohort



kicking off their studies in 2022. The course will support the development of high-calibre optometrists with a focus on early detection, diagnosis and treatment of eye disease. The program also includes a comprehensive research curriculum.

We continue to manage the risks associated with **COVID-19**. Early in 2022, and in line with government direction, we made the difficult decision in early 2022 to postpone non-urgent surgeries for a brief period. Urgent surgery was able to go ahead with enhanced safety protocols. The pandemic also impacted on availability of staff, in particular in our clinics, and led to the temporary suspension of our volunteer program.

However, our enhanced focus on the safety and wellbeing of patients and staff during 2020 and 2021 enabled minimal overall disruption to services.

Thank you to our Board of Directors and Executive team for continuing to provide strong direction and leadership during a year of uncertainty. In particular, we would like to express our gratitude to **Rudolf Brunovs** who served on the Board of the Lions Eye Institute from 2005 until July 2022. We are immensely grateful for his contributions over the last 17 years.

We also **thank our staff for their unwavering dedication and loyalty** during this extraordinary year. Your commitment to our mission has been truly inspiring,

and we couldn't have made it through without each and every one of you.

Thank you also to our supporters. Without you, we would be unable to continue providing world-class care and treatment to our patients, or discover the next sight saving medical research breakthroughs.

Peter Forbes
Chair

Professor Bill Morgan
Managing Director



Our vision and values

At the Lions Eye Institute, we make a difference to people’s lives through **exemplary patient care** and by pushing the frontiers of science to discover **new treatments and cures** for eye disease.

The first of its kind in Australia, the Lions Eye Institute is a not-for-profit centre of excellence combining the best of medical research and clinical care for our patients. Every day, we work towards our goal of preventing and curing blindness and eye disease.

Clinical services

World-class ophthalmology services including eye examinations, treatment and day surgery in our Nedlands, Murdoch, Midland and Broome clinics. Western Australia’s first laser vision centre, Lions Laser Vision. Comprehensive optometry services through Lions Optics.

Research

Six priority areas of translational research.

- 1 Glaucoma
- 2 Diabetic and vascular retinopathies
- 3 Indigenous eye disease and community eye research
- 4 Genetic eye disease, gene therapies and macular degeneration
- 5 Cornea, ocular surface and ocular immunology
- 6 Myopia

Community and education

Delivering quality specialist eye health care to rural, remote and Indigenous communities through Lions Outback Vision. Sharing our expertise with global and local partnerships, particularly in Indonesia. Supporting eye tissue donation with Lions Eye Bank.

The Lions Eye Institute is also home to an internationally recognised and highly experienced Clinical Trials Centre.

Vision

Better vision for all

Values



Integrity: we do what we say we’re going to do, and are accountable, transparent and responsible in our actions.



Care: we consider and respect our patients, collaborators and each other.



Curiosity: we ask questions, are interested and never stop learning.



Impact: we make a positive difference to the lives of others and the communities in which we operate.



Unity: we support each other and work as one to achieve common goals.

JANUARY

A sign of the times. We introduced a number of **safety measures to protect patients and staff** in our clinics, including mandatory face masks. Our clinic volunteer program was temporarily suspended.

42 inaugural **Doctor of Optometry students** (pictured right) commenced their second year of the new program at UWA, and 58 students entered into their first year.

Lions Outback Vision welcomed new optometrist Raj Prasad and doctors Dr James Wiffen, Dr Joshua Taylor, Dr Shilpa Kulkarni, Dr Amy Kalantary and Dr Sae Cho.



FEBRUARY

Associate Professor Fred Chen was invited by the United States Army to contribute towards a study looking at the long-term safety of using tafenoquine, an anti-malarial medication. Dr Chen's involvement included eye examination for corneal and retinal changes.

Research co-authored by **Dr Samantha Lee** found more than a third of young adults may experience a myopic shift in at least one eye after the age of 20 – suggesting regular eye checks are vital in your 20s. It was previously thought that myopia stabilises in children by their mid-teens.

We celebrated **International Women in Science Day** by showcasing our incredibly talented female ophthalmologists and researchers (some of whom are pictured above) and what they enjoy the most about working in the field of medicine and medical research.

MARCH

COVID-19 caused some disruption to clinic services in Perth. We are grateful to patients and staff for your flexibility and understanding during this time.

As case numbers increased and regional communities closed to protect their residents, the Lions Outback Vision team worked quickly to reorganise the **Vision Van** (pictured below) schedule in order to accommodate as many patients as possible. For some people living in the regions, the Vision Van is their only opportunity to access eye health care.

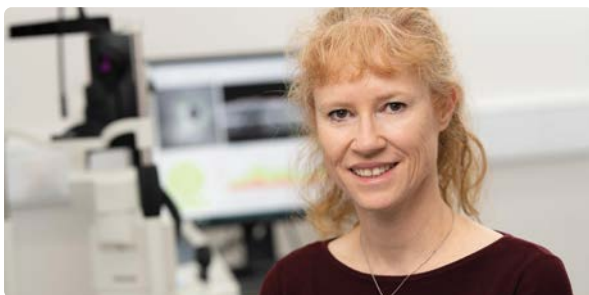


APRIL

Lions Eye Bank of WA celebrated the **first ever Eye and Tissue Awareness Week**. Eye tissue donation can restore sight, prevent blindness, and dramatically change an individual's quality of life. Donor tissue is also crucial to advancing medical research.

We were grateful to **Channel 7 Telethon Trust** for naming the Lions Eye Institute as one of 97 beneficiaries of Telethon 2021, with funds used to purchase a stem cell robot, commence a paediatric ophthalmology service in the North West, and instigate several medical research projects targeting childhood blindness.

The Lions Eye Institute and UWA announced the appointment of **Professor Allison McKendrick** (pictured below), a world leader in clinical vision sciences, as the inaugural Lions Eye Institute UWA Chair in Optometry Research.



MAY

Yvonne (pictured above), a proud Yawuru woman, bravely shared her story of losing her sight to cataracts and swelling inside her eyes from diabetes. Thankfully, Yvonne was able to access **sight saving eye health care** with Lions Outback Vision and is now able to look after her grandchildren, enjoy gardening and re-enter the workforce.

We celebrated **International Clinical Trials Day** and the incredible work of the multidisciplinary clinical trials team who support around 80 clinical trials each year at the Lions Eye Institute.

JUNE

A national team of researchers including **Professor David Mackey AO** (pictured right) uncovered hidden genetic markers for glaucoma, the world's leading cause of permanent blindness, opening the door to new treatment options.

We published our **inaugural Impact Report**, highlighting the direct impact philanthropic support has made on not only the Lions Eye Institute, but on the Western Australian community, nationally and in the Asia-Pacific region.

Professor Graham Barrett was awarded a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for **significant service to ophthalmology**.



JULY

We were proud to receive **State Government Innovation Seed Funding** to progress the development of OcuLinx™, a portable hand-held device for non-invasive measurement of intracranial pressure via the eye. The research behind the device was pioneered by Professor Bill Morgan, Professor Dao-Yi Yu and the Physiology and Pharmacology research team.

Alongside Curtin University and the Lions Save-Sight Foundation (WA) Inc, we announced the appointment of **Professor Andrew Turpin** (pictured right) to the inaugural Lions Curtin Chair in Ophthalmic Big Data.

We celebrated **NAIDOC Week** with a special morning tea where staff sampled a variety of delicious native inspired delicacies from Gather Foods, a majority Aboriginal-owned and led catering company.



AUGUST

We officially opened a brand **new clinic in Midland**, with four leading ophthalmologists covering the full spectrum of eye diseases for residents of Perth's eastern suburbs and surrounding areas.

A new Nikon AX-R confocal microscope arrived at our research laboratory thanks to generous support from Telethon and The Ian Potter Foundation. The new microscope will assist **Dr Livia Carvalho** (pictured above) and her team to expedite the process of developing new personalised therapies for Western Australian children with inherited retinal diseases.

Professor Bill Morgan returned to **Indonesia** for the first time in two years to teach registrars and consultants how to monitor progression in glaucoma, continuing the Lions Eye Institute's long-standing commitment to improving eye health care in the region.

SEPTEMBER

Led by **Dr Samuel McLenachan**, researchers at the Lions Eye Institute, Ear Science Institute Australia, UWA, Curtin and Murdoch Universities joined forces to tackle Usher syndrome, the most common form of inherited deaf-blindness, thanks to a prestigious Medical Research Future Fund grant.

With support from Telethon, Perpetual, the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and other valued supporters, Brian King Fellow Dr Jessica Mountford and Dr Antony Clark continued world-first medical research into genetic and environmental risk factors for **childhood myopia**, a disease of growing global concern.

An incredible milestone! Three staff, including Janine (pictured below), celebrated **25 years of service** at the Lions Eye Institute. All are extremely valued members of our team.





OCTOBER

Dr Evan Wong joined the Lions Eye Institute Nedlands clinic, specialising in corneal, cataract and refractive surgery.

We were thrilled to be part of the **2022 Telethon Family Festival**, held at the new home of Telethon, RAC Arena.

Professor Graham Barrett AM was invited to deliver the prestigious Barraquer Lecture at the 2022 American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting in Chicago USA.

Professor Thomas Gardner (pictured above) joined us from the US to deliver the **23rd annual Ian Constable Lecture**, exploring the way we name, treat and manage disease.

The **Kimberley Eye Hub** (pictured below) was officially opened in Broome by Senator Patrick Dodson and Ms Divina D'Anna MLA with the Hon Linda Reynolds and many distinguished guests in attendance. The Hub is a game-changer for eye health services delivery in Australia's North West.



NOVEMBER

New research co-authored by **Associate Professor Angus Turner** demonstrated for the first time that Indigenous people are affected more by the blinding ocular effects of diabetes than non-Indigenous populations.

With travel restrictions lifted, a number of our leading medical researchers and ophthalmologists attended the **2022 RANZCO Annual Scientific Congress** in Queensland. As experts in their fields, they shared their knowledge on topics ranging from cataract to uveitis and everything in between.

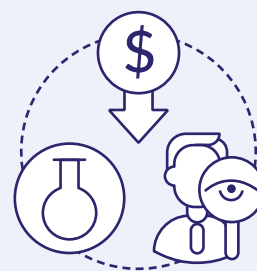


DECEMBER

In line with lessening restrictions, we were delighted to remove entry screening requirements from our clinics, and prepare to **recommence our clinic volunteer program** in early 2023.

We introduced you to Kate (pictured above), a 15-year-old from Perth, Western Australia who was born with cataracts, and **lives with childhood glaucoma**. Kate has been a patient at the Lions Eye Institute since she was just three years old. Philanthropic support has allowed our researchers to provide Kate with the latest possible treatments available and save her sight.

Grants



The funding we receive through grants is **crucial** in ensuring that our medical research programs can **continue without interruption**.

Australian Competitive



GRANT	CHIEF INVESTIGATOR/S
NHMRC Ideas	Chen, F et al
NHMRC Investigator	Yu, D-Y
NHMRC MRFF	McLenachan, S
NHMRC Partnership	Turner, A et al
NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship	Mackey, D
NHMRC Program	Mackey, D et al
NHMRC Project	Morgan, B
ORIA	Mountford, J
RANZCO	Turner, A
Retina Australia	Rashwan, R

Government



GRANT	CHIEF INVESTIGATOR/S
Australian Government Department of Health	Turner, A
Australian Government Department of Health	Turner, A
WA Country Health Service	Turner, A
WA Government Department of Health	Balaratnasingam, C
WA Government Department of Health	Chen, F
WA Government Department of Health	Mackey, D
WA Government Department of Health	Morgan, B
WA Government Department of Health	N/A

Philanthropic



GRANT	CHIEF INVESTIGATOR/S
Channel 7 Telethon Trust	Balaratnasingam, C
Channel 7 Telethon Trust	Carvalho, L
Channel 7 Telethon Trust	Carvalho, L
Channel 7 Telethon Trust	Chen, F
Channel 7 Telethon Trust	Mountford, J
Channel 7 Telethon Trust	Turner, A
Channel 7 Telethon Trust	Turner, A
Lions Save-Sight Foundation (WA) Inc	Carvalho, L
Lions Save-Sight Foundation (WA) Inc	Mountford, J
Lions Save-Sight Foundation (WA) Inc	Roshandel, D
McCusker Charitable Foundation	Chen, F
McCusker Charitable Foundation	Turner, A
Perpetual	Mountford, J
Perth Eye Foundation	Balaratnasingam, C
Stan Perron Charitable Foundation	Carvalho, L
Stan Perron Charitable Foundation	Mountford, J
Stan Perron Charitable Foundation	Yu, D-Y
The Fred Hollows Foundation	Turner, A
The Ian Potter Foundation	Carvalho, L

International



GRANT	CHIEF INVESTIGATOR/S
Artema Therapeutics	Carvalho, L
Dr Sjakon Tahija	Carvalho, L
Google LLC	Turner, A

Other



GRANT	CHIEF INVESTIGATOR/S
The University of Western Australia	N/A

Grants active in the 2022 calendar year.

Our supporters

Health, industry and government



Broome International Airport
GKMI Pty Ltd
Google LLC
Hawaiian
Karratha International Airport
Onesight
Oxford Compounding
Rural Health West
Topcon
University of Melbourne Indigenous Eye Health Unit
WA Country Health Service
Zeiss

Bequests



Estate of the late Dorothy and William Hill
Estate of the Late Joan Jones
Estate of the Late Dr Zena Barber Lowe
Mr John and Mrs Cynthia Lyall
Estate of the Late Wilhemina Pennenburg
Estate of the Late Pamela Rowland
Estate of the Late Mrs Pamela Sawyer

Individuals



Mrs Ann Ashbrook
Mr David Bailey
Mr William Brogan
Mr Brian Fitzgerald
Mr & Mrs Vernon and Anne Fountain
Mr Malcolm French
Mr John Giles
Ms Penelope Herbert
Mr & Mrs Norman and Freda Hogg
Mr Walter Millstead
Mr & Mrs Milenko and Frances Mihaljevich
Mr & Mrs Brad and Carolyn Miocevich
Mrs Allison Nolan
Mrs & Mr Vida and Alan Piper
Mr James Pritchard
Mr & Mrs John and Lee Saleeba
Dr Erica Smyth
Mr Keith Spence
Mrs Nora Susac
Mrs Helen Sweet
Dr Sjakon Tahija
Mrs Marisa Thackray
Mr Reginald Watts

We are **indebted to our supporters** who consistently provide us with the means to **continue our sight saving medical research**. This research contributes to the exceptional level of treatment and care we provide to patients in our clinics.

Foundations, trusts and not-for-profit



Carcione Foundation
Channel 7 Telethon Trust
Constantine Family Foundation
Harry and Margaret Kerman Trust Fund
Harry Cohney Charitable Foundation
Idle Acres Foundation
Jimfan Foundation
Joyce Henderson Trust
Judy Glover Foundation
Lions Club of Capalaba Inc
Lions Club of Dunsborough Inc
Lions Club of Girrawheen Inc WA
Lions Club of Wellington Incorporated
Lions Save-Sight Foundation (WA) Inc
Mandurah Murray Mayday
McCusker Charitable Foundation
Perth Eye Foundation
Stan Perron Charitable Foundation
The Fred Hollows Foundation
The Ian Potter Foundation
The Lindsay and Heather Payne Medical Research Charitable Foundation
The Murray R & Rodney A Brownless Charitable Trust
Wen Giving Foundation
Wheatley Family Foundation

Support received in the 2022 calendar year.

Board of Directors



Peter Forbes Chair

Peter Forbes joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2014 and was elected Chair in 2017. He is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is board member of the East Metropolitan Health Service, Chair of the Local Government Indemnity Scheme, and external member of the Law Society of WA's Professional Indemnity Insurance Management Committee.



Professor William (Bill) Morgan Managing Director

Professor William (Bill) Morgan has been an ophthalmologist at the Lions Eye Institute for more than 25 years and was appointed Managing Director in July 2019 after joining the Board in 2018. He is a consultant ophthalmologist at Royal Perth and Perth Children's Hospitals, Director of the Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science at UWA, a visiting professor at the University of Udayana, Indonesia and Co-Director of the Lions Eye Institute's McCusker Glaucoma Centre.



Richard Alder

Richard Alder joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2017. Richard is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has worked in the securities industry since 1965. He was employed by JBWere for 31 years, consulted to Australia's largest ASX-listed investment company, Australian Foundation Investment Company, and was Employer Director on the Government Employees Superannuation Board.



Rudolf Brunovs (to July 2022)

Rudolf Brunovs is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds a Masters of Business Administration. He retired as a partner of the chartered accounting firm Ernst & Young (now EY) after 27 years in a number of their offices. He is currently a Director and the Principal of Mainstay Consulting Pty Ltd and Non-Executive Director of Deep Yellow Limited. He joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2005.



Dr Margaret Crowley Deputy Chair

Dr Margaret Crowley joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2016. She is an experienced Chief Executive Officer and Board Director and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has held senior executive positions in state and national governments, universities and the not-for-profit sector – including 15 years as Chief Executive Officer of the Association for the Blind of WA Inc. She has served on state and federal health boards and regulatory authorities over the last five years.



Professor Emeritus Jane den Hollander AO

Professor Emeritus Jane den Hollander AO joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2020. She received an Order of Australia for her distinguished service to tertiary education in the 2017 Australia Day Honours. She is currently a Director of the WA Public Health Authority (WAPHA) Board and Senator on the Board of The University of Western Australia. She is also Chair of the Centre for Stories Board, a Director of Navitas and a Director of the Breakthrough Victoria Pty Ltd Board.



Tony Joyner

Tony Joyner joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2013. He has more than 30 years' experience as a commercial and corporate lawyer and for nine years was the Managing Partner of the Perth office of international law firm Herbert Smith Freehills, where he is currently employed as a partner and Global Head of Technology. He sat on the global board of the firm for nine years, and chaired its Risk Management and Audit Committee. He is also a board member of the WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Professor Ian McAllister

Professor Ian McAllister joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2010. He is a consultant ophthalmologist at the Lions Eye Institute and Royal Perth Hospital. He is actively involved in research for cures for vitreoretinal disorders, especially retinal vascular disorders. He has been involved for many years in statewide diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment and was Vice-Chair of the Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia and Chair of the Research Board.



Dr Erica Smyth AC

Dr Erica Smyth AC joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2019. She is a Fellow of both the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Academy of Technological Science and Engineering. She has 45 years' experience in the mineral and petroleum industries. She is currently a Non-Executive Director of the MinEx Co-operative Research Centre and is a member of the Advisory Board of the UWA Oceans Institute Foundation.



Professor Grant Waterer

Professor Grant Waterer joined the Board of the Lions Eye Institute in 2018. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the American College of Chest Physicians. He is Professor of Medicine at UWA and Director of Clinical Services at Royal Perth Bentley Group. He holds a PhD focused on pneumonia and a Master of Business Administration.

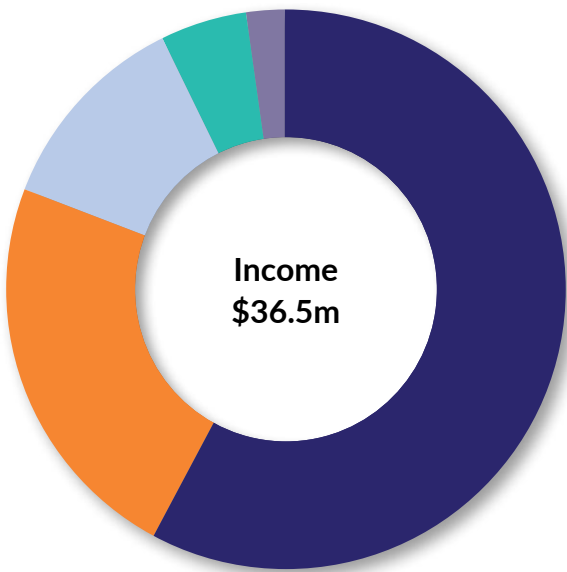
Financial report

The Lions Eye Institute was not immune to the tough global market conditions felt during the 2022 year and our final deficit result of \$4.7 million was largely driven by a \$4.4 million unrealised loss within our investment portfolio.

Income

Commercial income continues to be the Lions Eye Institute's major source of funding, contributing \$21.09 million in 2022. The remainder was sourced through grants, contracts, philanthropy and investment returns.

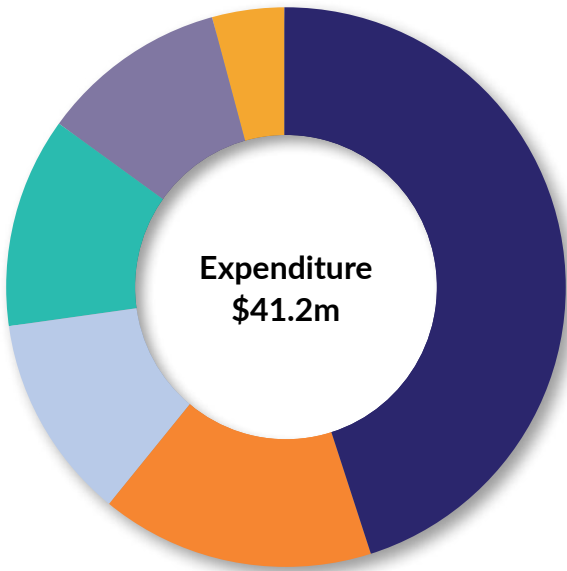
Commercial	58%
Public grants and contracts	23%
Donations, philanthropic and other grants	12%
Investment returns and other	5%
Bequests	2%



Expenditure

Total expenditure of \$41.2 million included an unrealised loss of \$4.4 million within our investment portfolio which was affected by the turbulent market conditions during the 2022 year.

Direct operating expenses	45%
Support and infrastructure	16%
Research	12%
Materials, supplies and consumables	12%
Unrealised loss on investments	11%
Other	4%



Statement of comprehensive income

	\$m
Income	
Revenue from ordinary activities	34.6
Other	1.9
Expenditure	
Direct operating expenses	(18.7)
Administration	(6.7)
Research and development	(4.8)
Materials, supplies and consumables	(4.8)
Unrealised loss on investments	(4.4)
Occupancy	(1.5)
Marketing	(0.2)
Finance costs of leasing	(0.1)
Net deficit	(4.7)

Statement of financial position

	\$m
Assets	
Financial assets	37.2
All other assets	25.2
Cash and cash equivalents	5
Total	67.4
Liabilities	
Trade and other payables	(9.2)
Provisions	(3.3)
All other liabilities	(1.9)
Total	(14.4)
Net assets	53.0

To access our audited financial reports, please visit lei.org.au/publications



Snapshot 2022



We acknowledge the traditional owners and people of the lands on which we operate, and honour their elders past, present and future.



265 employees

19 highly experienced clinicians
42 dedicated researchers
20 students

64,793 consultations

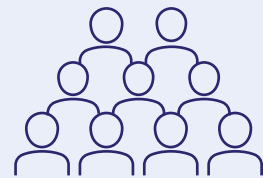
across our Midland, Murdoch and Nedlands clinics

10,273 surgeries and minor procedures
338 telehealth consultations
92% satisfaction with clinic services



105 research papers published

20 professional education forums

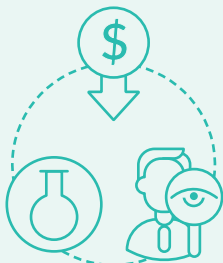


15,557

total patients treated by Lions Outback Vision

41

research grants



86 active clinical trials

47 external **34** sponsored
plus **5** investigator initiated

5 new trials activated
13 new patients enrolled in trials
830 clinical trial patient visits

9,630 outreach patients,
39% Indigenous
3,352 injections, lasers and
other minor procedures
2,239 pairs of spectacles
dispensed
1,560 eye surgeries conducted
1,175 telehealth consultations
360 Vision Van driving hours,
a total of **26,724km**



304 corneal transplants
56 corneas exported
interstate or overseas

117 sclera
transplanted by
Lions Eye Bank

581 frames

1,882 lenses

sold by Lions Optics



1,087

Lions Optics
eye examinations



Gifts
received

\$4.2M



\$0.77M

received from **12 bequests**