

# Annual Report 2021

(Text-only)



Arts Access Australia

A.B.N. 20 084 007 321



THE PEAK BODY FOR ARTS AND DISABILITY



## Arts Access Australia

ABN: 20 084 007 321

Address: PO Box 3240  
Robertson NSW 2577

Phone: +61 419 201 338

Email: [info@artsaccessaustralia.org](mailto:info@artsaccessaustralia.org)

Websites: [www.artsaccessaustralia.org](http://www.artsaccessaustralia.org), [www.meetingplaceforum.org](http://www.meetingplaceforum.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/artsaccessaustralia](https://facebook.com/artsaccessaustralia)

Twitter: [twitter.com/artsaccessaustralia](https://twitter.com/artsaccessaustralia)

Instagram: [instagram.com/artsaccessaustralia](https://instagram.com/artsaccessaustralia)

YouTube: [youtube.com/channel/UCCMGFYMOFbCDqwjMgAwr2Qw](https://youtube.com/channel/UCCMGFYMOFbCDqwjMgAwr2Qw)

Linked In: [linkedin.com/company/arts-access-australia](https://linkedin.com/company/arts-access-australia)

©Arts Access Australia 2022

Cover image: 'Celebrating Deaf Clap at Midsummer 2021' by Chelle Destefano. This image is our "hero image" for our consultation to develop Australian Code of Conduct for Access in the Arts, used with kind permission from the artist. Thanks Chelle!

## Acknowledgement of Country

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the first peoples and traditional custodians of Australia – people who have sung their songs, danced their dances and told their stories on these lands for thousands of years, across many generations, and continue to do so. They have never ceded sovereignty and remain strong in their enduring connection to land and culture.

## Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
About Arts Access Australia	4
Language used in this document	4
Our Board	5
Our staff	6
<b>Our supporters</b>	<b>7</b>
Our major funder	7
Project funding	7
Our members	7
<b>Chair's report</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CEO's report</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2021 overview</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Providing information</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Systemic advocacy</b>	<b>13</b>
CEO Leadership Group	13
Consultation on an Australian Code of Conduct for Access in the Arts	13
Representation to government	14
<b>Sector development and representation</b>	<b>16</b>
Meeting Place 2021	16
Writing Place	17
National Leadership Award	17
National Arts and Disability Awards	18
<b>Treasurer's report</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Thank you to our 2021 supporters</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Support us</b>	<b>20</b>
Become a member	20
Donate	21



## Introduction

---

### About Arts Access Australia

Arts Access Australia (AAA) is the national peak body for arts and disability in Australia. Our vision is for a future where every Australian has equality of opportunity to participate in, and contribute to, arts and culture fully, effectively and equitably.

We listen to the varied voices, and respond to the needs, of our members and the wider Australian arts and disability community, to increase opportunities nationally for artists, arts workers, and audiences with disability to fully participate in, and contribute to, Australian arts and culture. We do this by providing information, arts and disability sector representation and development, and systemic advocacy.

It is an important part of our mission to lead on sustainable artistic practice, professional and career development, and leadership opportunities for artists and arts workers with disability who are forging professional careers or making art through creative community connections, to create space to share their own stories, or inform and challenge audiences.

Established in 1992, AAA is a disability-led company limited by guarantee registered under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012, and governed by a volunteer board. We are recognised by the Australian Taxation Office as a “public benevolent institution”, and have “deductible gift recipient” status.

Our CEO and at least 50% of our Board members identify as a person with disability.

AAA adopts an inclusive approach and works across all States and Territories of Australia, in all areas of the arts, with all art forms, in respect of all of the ways in which people engage with the arts, for all age groups, and across all experiences of disabling barriers.

AAA is a membership-based organisation. Our members include State-based arts and disability organisations, individual artists, arts workers and arts leaders with disability, and others within the broader arts and cultural sector who share our vision of full and equal opportunity for cultural participation and contribution by all Australians.

---

### Language used in this document

AAA uses “person-first” language - for example “people with disability”. This is a deliberate decision taken by the AAA Board. This is the form of language used in the United Nations Convention the Rights of People with Disability, and by government in Australia. Most peak bodies in the Australian disability sector also use “person-first” language.



AAA also uses this language because it puts the person before the disability. It emphasises the value and worth of the individual by recognising them as a person, instead of a medical condition.

Consistent with this position, AAA uses “person-first” language in this Annual Report.

However, we also recognise that many people with disability prefer to use “identity-first” language because disability is an inherent part of their identity, and “identity-first” language shows connection to the disability community, demonstrates disability pride and emphasises that it is society that is disabling.

Different preferences about how language is used reflects the different ways people consider their identity, their experience of disability and attitudes of their community. AAA acknowledges and respects people’s personal preferences and the individual right to choose how their identity and experiences are described.

When we say ‘people with disability’, we mean anyone who is d/Deaf, with learning disabilities or sensory, physical, hidden or mental health conditions.

---

## Our Board

AAA is a disability-led organisation governed by a Board of Directors, at least 50% of whom identify as a person with disability.

In 2021, the Board Members were:

- Belinda Locke, Chair and Ordinary member from Victoria
- Liz Martin, Deputy Chair and Original Board Member from NSW (Accessible Arts)
- Peter Kearney, Treasurer and Co-opted Board Member from NSW
- Dan Graham, Ordinary Board Member from NSW
- Larissa MacFarlane, Ordinary Board Member from Victoria
- Madeleine Little, Original Board Member from Queensland (Access Arts)
- Martin Sawtell, Ordinary Board Member from South Australia
- Satvinder Sekhon, Co-opted Board Member from Western Australia

Six of our eight directors (75%) identify as a person with disability.

The CEO holds the position of Company Secretary.



## Our staff

AAA is run as a virtual organisation. All staff are part-time and work together to coordinate the daily running of AAA from locations across Australia.

- Matthew Hall, Chief Executive Officer
- Yvette Tulloch, Communications Manager
- Sarah Houbolt, National Program Manager, Code consultation project
- Lisa Beilby, Program Manager, Meeting Place
- Jo-Anne Jenkins, Finance Manager



## Our supporters

---

### Our major funder

AAA's core funding support in 2021 was received from the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. AAA is very grateful for this support, for without it, we would not have been able to operate for the benefit of our members and the wider arts and disability community in Australia.

---

### Project funding

In 2021, AAA received funding to support the following projects, without which these important projects would not have been able to continue:

- National Leadership Award, from the Feilman Foundation
- Meeting Place 2021, from the Australian Government through:
  - Australia Council for the Arts
  - National Disability Conference Initiative
- Consultation on an Australian Code of Conduct for Access in the Arts, from the Re-imagine Sector Recovery Initiative: Industry Collaborations stream from the Australia Council for the Arts (generously supported by the Sidney Myer Fund).

---

### Our members

AAA is supported by our 153 members, comprised of individuals who are artists, arts workers and arts leaders with disability who are forging professional careers in the arts or making art through creative community connections, and arts and cultural and community organisations. This includes our Original Members – the arts and disability organisations in the States and Territories:

- Access2Arts
- Access Arts (CPL)
- Accessible Arts
- Arts Access Darwin
- Arts Access Victoria
- DADAA
- Incite Arts





## Chair's report

Arts Access Australia and our members continued to navigate the evolving challenges presented by the global pandemic in 2021. AAA responded to and advocated for the needs of our members and the wider Australian arts and disability community in this context and an increasingly constrained funding environment.

We delivered Meeting Place in Queensland for the first time in partnership with Access Arts Inc. and Undercover Artist Festival at Queensland Theatre. Meeting Place was offered in an accessible hybrid format with two days of thought-provoking presentations, online panel discussions and masterclasses with national and international speakers, and a third day of in-person workshops, readings, exhibitions, and networking events in Brisbane.

The second annual publication of Writing Place, edited by Dr Jessica White, showcased the excellent work of fifteen d/Deaf and Disabled writers responding to the theme of Meeting Place for 2021 'Reflect, Redefine, Revolutionise'. AAA's Connecting Creatives online networking forums highlighted the importance of maintaining connections with our peers in the community, especially in times of uncertainty and change.

We partnered with Australia Council for the Arts to present the National Arts and Disability Awards for a third year in 2021, as a live-streamed, inclusive, and accessible online event. Together, we recognised and celebrated Australian artists and arts-workers who have made an outstanding contribution to the artistic and cultural life of the nation. AAA proudly announced Eliza Hull as the 2021 recipient of our National Leadership Award. Eliza is a contemporary musician, audio producer and disability activist based in regional Victoria. We are so proud of her continued successes since receiving the Award.

AAA launched a major national project to develop an Australian Code of Conduct for Access in the Arts. We travelled across the country and consulted with the disability and arts communities, our members, arts funding bodies and other stakeholders. This initial consultation phase seeks to reach a broad consensus across the sector, all levels of government, and the community on the key elements of the Code of Conduct.

In 2021, we welcomed Madeleine Little (elected by the Original Members) and Dan Graham (elected by the Ordinary Members) to the AAA Board. We also farewelled Leah Maund from the Board, who contributed greatly to the organisation. I would like to thank Leah for her keen eye for detail and four years of dedicated service to AAA.

On behalf of my fellow Board members, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the organisations, members, and individuals whose support has allowed us to deliver a year of successful initiatives. Finally, a huge thank you to AAA's staff: Matthew Hall, CEO; Yvette Tulloch, Communications and Marketing Manager; Jo-Anne Jenkins, Finance Manager; Lisa Beilby, Meeting Place Program Manager; and Sarah Houbolt, National Program Manager, Code of Conduct Consultation. Your leadership and commitment have seen us through a year of challenges as well as rewards and we are deeply grateful.





After six years on the Board of Arts Access Australia, and four years serving as Chair, this is my final report. I will retire at the upcoming AGM having served the maximum of three terms. During the past six years I have seen the arts and disability sector in Australia develop beyond my imagining. I am proud to have played a part in the national advocacy for our community, and of what AAA has achieved as an organisation.

Belinda Locke

Chair, Arts Access Australia



## CEO's report

I am very pleased to present my second report to AAA's Members and other important stakeholders as Chief Executive Officer. The time since my first report, and, indeed, since joining this tremendous organisation has flown by, and, I am pleased to be able to say, much has been done, in an increasingly constrained funding environment.

I was very pleased that we were able to secure significant funding in 2021, that allowed us to continue with important projects, including Meeting Place, Writing Place, and the National Leadership Award. We were also successful in some funding applications to develop new programs and activities, especially our project to develop an Australian Code of Conduct for Access in the Arts. I must thank our funders for those projects - the Australia Council for the Arts, the National Disability Conference Initiative, through the Department of Social Services, the Feilman Foundation, and the Australia Council's Reimagine Sector recovery funding initiative, supported by the Sidney Myer Foundation.

As a result, my fantastic team and I, assisted by your Board, have continued to work to achieve a future where every Australian has equality of opportunity to participate in, and contribute to, arts and culture fully, effectively and equitably. I believe that we continue to listen to the varied voices, and respond to the needs, of our members and the wider Australian arts and disability community, to increase equitable access and opportunities nationally for artists, arts workers, and audiences with disability to fully participate in, and contribute to, Australian arts and culture, through systemic advocacy, sector development and representation, and providing information. More details of our work, and projects for 2021 are set out in later sections of this Annual Report.

However, I would like to speak a moment outlining our work on the Code of Conduct, and why I believe it is such an important project, and a key part of my vision for AAA's future.

The Australian Code of Conduct for Access in the Arts, or Code of Conduct, will provide a set of national community standards of access in the arts, that aims to:

- increase opportunities for people with disability or who are Deaf to fully participate in Australian arts and culture, as artists, arts workers and audiences
- increase agency of people with disability or who are Deaf, and
- tackle ableism in the sector.

The Code of Conduct will assist everyone to understand the needs of people with disability so as to be able to access the arts at all levels, and what arts organisations must do to meet those needs. Signing up to the Code's standards will be voluntary.

The idea is that arts organisations voluntarily agree to the Code, and use it as a high level resource for strategic and operational planning to embed access and inclusion, as well as a practical tool to guide work and decision making. We also plan to develop a "trust mark" (similar to the National Heart Foundation TICK logo, and the AUSTRALIAN MADE logo) that signatories to the Code are able to use in their marketing and communications materials, as



a short-hand way of letting the disability community, and the wider market of the organisation's commitment to access and inclusion. AAA's goal is that the Code of Conduct will be embraced by all areas of the arts, with all art forms, in respect of all of the ways in which people engage with the arts, for all age groups, and across all experiences of disabling barriers.

Whilst our funding for national consultation and stakeholder engagement for this project ends on 30 June 2022, we are waiting on decisions from a number of different funding bodies which, if successful, will allow us to continue this important work.

I want to thank all of the team who have worked incredibly hard with me on your behalf throughout 2021: Yvette Tulloch, Jo-Anne Jenkins, Lisa Beilby and Sarah Houbolt. I also want to thank your Board for their support and, in particular, AAA Chair Belinda Locke. As Belinda has noted, she will conclude her final term as a director, and Chair, of AAA at this year's AGM. I would like to add my personal thanks to Belinda for her guidance and wise counsel, and her commitment to AAA and the arts and disability sector in Australia. I know that, whilst no longer part of AAA's Board, Belinda will continue to make a valuable contribution, and be an important voice for the sector, and a champion of AAA.

Onwards and upwards for 2022!

Matthew Hall

Chief Executive Officer, Arts Access Australia



## 2021 overview

2021 was another challenging year for AAA.

Despite these challenges, AAA persevered in our work to advance equity in the arts for d/Deaf and disabled Australians through information, systemic advocacy, and sector development and representation.

We delivered our first hybrid Meeting Place forum in September to 154 registrants (page 16), and we made detailed submissions to government on arts and disability and national employment strategies and the 2022-2023 Federal budget (pages 14 and 15).

We co-hosted the third National Arts and Disability Awards with the Australia Council for the Arts, at which we presented our National Leadership Award for the third year running (pages 17 and 18).

## Providing information

In 2021, AAA provided information, advice and opportunities to our Members and the arts and disability sector more widely, through our content and media partners, key stakeholders, our social media channels, by email, and through our websites: [artsaccessaustralia.org](http://artsaccessaustralia.org) and [meetingplaceforum.org](http://meetingplaceforum.org).

### 2021 in numbers

Membership increased by 10%

Up to 48,197 people reached with information, advice or opportunities, an increase of 17.5% on 2020

\$10,000 provided in leadership training and skills development

64 d/Deaf and disabled artists/arts-workers profiled and promoted, an increase of 88% on 2020

2 submissions to government on improving policy to support d/Deaf and disabled artists, art workers, participants and audiences



## Systemic advocacy

In 2021, AAA continued to engage leaders from State-based arts access organisations through the CEO Leadership Group. AAA also reached out to disability peaks (including Australian Federation of Disability Organisations) and arts peaks (including NAVA and Theatre Network Australia), and engaged with them on a range of issues, and in a range of different forums. We were a community supporter and participant in the inaugural National Justice Project Disability Law Hack.

---

### CEO Leadership Group

AAA continues to facilitate the CEO Leadership Group, where leaders from each of the State-based arts access organisations and AAA meet to share information and insights and collaborate around key issues and advocacy.

As with many initiatives, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the CEO leadership group met only online in 2021. The slack of progress with a national disability strategy and the related arts and disability strategy (see page 13), Meeting Place (see page 15) and the National Leadership Award (see page 16) were key matters for discussion throughout the year.

Many of the State and Territory arts access organisations represented at the CEO Leadership group meetings are Original Members of Arts Access Australia.

Organisations represented at the meetings in 2021 were:

- Access2Arts (SA)
- Access Arts (QLD)
- Accessible Arts (NSW)
- Arts Access Australia (host)
- Arts Access Victoria (VIC)
- Belco Arts (ACT)
- DADAA (WA)
- Darwin Community Arts (NT)
- Incite Arts (NT).

---

### Consultation on an Australian Code of Conduct for Access in the Arts

In 2021, AAA was able to start work on our ambitious project to developing an Australian Code of Conduct for Access in the Arts. Our goal is for the arts and disability communities to agree on a set of national community standards of access in the arts, that aims to:

- increase opportunities for people with disability to fully participate in Australian arts and culture, as artists, arts workers and audiences



- increase agency of people with disability, and
- tackle ableism in the sector.

The Code of Conduct will assist everyone to understand the needs of people with disability to be able to access the arts at all levels, and what arts organisations must do to meet those needs. Signing up to the Code's standards will be voluntary.

The idea is that arts organisations will use the Code as a high level resource for strategic and operational planning, to embed access and inclusion, as well as a practical tool to guide work and decision making. The code of Conduct will provide arts organisations with practical, and constructive opportunities to learn and grow knowledge, practice and connection to the arts and disability community. It will also improve awareness of the issues of access for people with disability within the broader community, and build capacity throughout the sector.

AAA's goal is that the Code of Conduct will be embraced by all areas of the arts, with all art forms, in respect of all of the ways in which people engage with the arts, for all age groups, and across all experiences of disabling barriers.

Throughout 2021, we rolled out a national program to consult with the disability and arts communities, and the wider public, and to engage with our members, arts funding bodies and other stakeholders. This consultation phase seeks to reach a broad consensus, across the sector, all levels of government, and the community on the key elements of the Code of Conduct, including Guiding Principles, key definitions, and possible models, to ensure a strong foundation of the Code of Conduct.

This consultation phase has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts.

You can find out more about this public consultation process at [www.artsaccessaustralia.org/CodeOfConduct](http://www.artsaccessaustralia.org/CodeOfConduct).

---

## Representation to government

In 2021, AAA continued our dialogue with the Commonwealth government in relation to the release of the revised National Disability Strategy, and the revised National Arts and Disability Strategy. We also made submission to the Commonwealth Government in relation to the Government's National Disability Employment Strategy and the 2022/2023 Federal Budget.

With the release of "Australia's disability strategy 2021-2031 on 3 December 2021", we have continued to work with the Office for the Arts and each of the other jurisdictions in relation to the development of the "associated plans" for arts and disability under that strategy.

In our submission on the National Disability Employment Strategy we were pleased to be able to provide our views on the four priority areas of the Strategy, as those areas relate to



and affect artists, screen practitioners and arts workers with disability, including identifying key issues and examples of good practice, and to make an important contribution to the important discussion on how the Australian government can make meaningful changes to the way supports to jobseekers with disability are delivered. In particular, we urged the Department of Social Services to recognise that there are important considerations that must be kept front of mind when looking at employment as it relates to artists, screen practitioners and arts workers with disability. Given the characteristics of the arts and cultural sector, how professional artists and arts workers are engaged, how they undertake work and the income earning opportunities that are available in the sector, we were concerned to ensure that the Strategy is not limited to “employment” (in the legal sense, of an employer/employee relationship under a “contract of service”). We urged the Government to expand the focus and actions of the Strategy to improve people with disability’s access to real opportunities for meaningful work and to earn real incomes.

We sought commitments to and investments in meaningful actions to resolve wage disparity and provide greater equality of opportunities for people with disability working in the arts in Australia as a priority. We also provided feedback on the vision and priority areas, as they relate to the arts sector, and our ideas and suggestions about actions and initiatives to create positive change for artists and arts workers with disability, that were outside the scope of the priority areas, but which are essential if there is to be meaningful change in the work and income opportunities and career development of people with disability in the arts and cultural sector.

A copy of our submission is available on our website.

In our submission to the Treasury as part of our contribution to the identification of priorities for the 2022-23 Federal Budget, we urged the Government to ensure:

1. sufficient funding is allocated under the 2022-2023 Budget and forward estimates to maximise the opportunities for significant, sustainable improvements in disability access and inclusion consistent with the with Guiding Principles and Outcome Areas of the Strategy and Employ My Ability, and
2. the development, implementation and monitoring of the arts and disability Associated Plan is sufficiently resourced, and funded, so as to maximise its potential to improve opportunities for people with disability to engage with and participate in the arts, as artists, arts workers and audiences.

A copy of this submission is available on our website.



## Sector development and representation

AAA presented several events in 2021 centred on the arts and disability sector: Meeting Place, a disability only forum as part of the digital launch of Alter State, and the National Arts and Disability Awards, (co-presented with the Australia Council for the Arts). These events, along with professional development outputs and opportunities such as Writing Place magazine, “Connecting Creatives” networking events/ and the National Leadership Award, aimed to boost development and representation for the arts and disability sector.

---

### Meeting Place 2021

**“Incredibly inspiring and filled my heart to overflowing”**

**“I learned a lot and felt like I was involved with something really important”**

**“The presenters were really engaging and wise and thought provoking. There was interactions with others and our group and facilitator was awesome!”**

*Meeting Place survey respondents*

Meeting Place, AAA’s annual signature event, is a national disability-led forum. The forum brings artists and arts workers with disability and arts and cultural leaders together in an accessible, safe, inclusive and supported space to present, perform, discuss and debate the latest in arts and disability.

In 2021, Meeting Place was delivered online, for a second year. The forum took place on 15, 16 and 17 September 2022, in partnership with Undercover Artist Festival, in Brisbane. engaging an audience of 154 registered participants. Recordings of each session, where copyright allowed, were made available after the event via the dedicated Meeting Place website: [meetingplaceforum.org](http://meetingplaceforum.org).

The Meeting Place 2021 program was curated around the theme ‘Reflect; Redefine; Revolutionise’. The three-day program (two days online, and one day in person, at Queensland Theatre in Brisbane) included a diverse mix of speakers, panel discussions, artistic showcases and interactive sessions. The program development was greatly assisted by an Advisory Committee of Paul Calcott, Racheal Missingham, Alison Richardson and David Truong. We are immensely grateful for their invaluable contribution.

AAA staff member Lisa Beilby took on the role of Project Manager for 2021 and technical support was provided by Pyrus Event Services Pty Ltd. We received important project funding from the Australia Council for the Arts and National Disability Conference Initiative (for access costs). We are very grateful for the support and assistance of each of these invaluable partners, without whom we would have struggled to present a professional, engaging and relevant event.



## Writing Place

**“d/Deaf and disabled people often face significant hardship, misunderstanding and prejudice, but they persevere in the face of this. The fact that we are still creating during such uncertainty is testimony to our resilience.”**

*Editor, Dr Jessica White*

In 2021, the Meeting Place forum again included the launch of the second edition of Writing Place.

Writing Place was conceived and produced as a way of creating space to profile the work of Australia’s underrepresented d/Deaf and disabled writers. An open call out for contributions resulted in a competitive selection of entries in genres including short fiction, personal essays and poems.

Editor Dr Jessica White curated the final selection, with fifteen exceptional writers selected (and paid) for inclusion (up from ten, in the first year). Collectively, their writings reflected on their journeys with disability and the discrimination in our culture; they redefined their disability not as a burden but as something that adds value; and their revolutionary words agitated for change.

Writing Place can be found at on the Meeting Place [website](#) and is available for free.

---

## National Leadership Award

**“If we are to see more opportunities for artists with disability, we need more people with disability in positions of leadership. The Award is a key part of our work in creating the opportunities for this to happen.”**

*Matthew Hall, CEO, AAA*

The AAA National Leadership Award was established to improve employment and enterprise outcomes for new and emerging leaders with disability in the arts, emphasising the importance of disability-leadership in long-term change making. The Award provides \$10,000 and other support to the recipient to develop leadership skills to realise their leadership ambitions.

In 2021, AAA was delighted and honoured to present our National Leadership Award to Eliza Hull, a contemporary musician, audio producer and disability activist based in regional Victoria. Her music has been described as ‘stirring, captivating and heartfelt.’ The Award recognised Eliza’s leadership as disability advocate within the contemporary music space.



AAA presented the Award (with generous support of the Feilman Foundation) at the National Arts and Disability Awards ceremony, which was again held in partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts.

---

## National Arts and Disability Awards

AAA again partnered with the Australia Council for the Arts to present the National Arts and Disability Awards for the third year running.

The National Arts and Disability Awards recognise and celebrate the talents of Australian d/Deaf and disabled artists and arts workers, and the vibrant and critically important contribution they make to the fabric of Australian culture. The Awards recognise artists who have made an outstanding contribution to the artistic and cultural life of the nation.

The recipients of the 2021 National Arts and Disability Awards were Georgia Scott (Young Artist), Timothy Cook (Established Artist) and Eliza Hull (National Leadership Award).

The Awards Ceremony was held entirely online for the second time, with tremendous engagement and participation by our community, throughout the event. The format provided a great opportunity for people from all over the country to participate, on an equal footing, and with equal access. There was very strong support for the separate (YouTube) feed for audio description and the “picture in picture” Auslan interpretation. Anecdotally, the audience felt they were a real and important part of the event, and that it was an event that was designed for them, at home, rather than an event designed for an ‘in-person’ audience and the ability of remote or online attendance as an after-thought.

The event was produced by FourthWall productions and was streamed via the EventCast app and web platform, Facebook and YouTube.

The recording of this event is available on-demand, so you can join in celebration of the award recipients.

Audio-described feed via the AAA YouTube Channel.

Auslan-interpreted and captioned feed via Australia Council for the Arts’ Facebook page.

AAA looks forward to continuing to work closely with our partner, the Australia Council for the Arts, in presenting the National Arts and Disability Awards in 2022.



## Treasurer's report

2021 was, again, a challenging year for everyone and Arts Access Australia was not immune.

Our total revenue in 2021 was \$290,351 [2020: \$344,100]. This reduction was, in part, as a result of no longer receiving significant subsidies from the Federal Government to carry us through the Covid pandemic, which were received the previous year. It is very pleasing to see donations, individual and corporate, increase significantly in 2021 to \$11,015 [2020: \$2,992], and that memberships followed the trend from 2020, and continued to grow to \$7,910 [2019: \$6,990]. Whilst Meeting Place ticket sales were down on 2020 (\$5,347 compared to \$7,091), that result is still better than 2019, the last time Meeting Place was held in person [2019: \$4,470].

Our overall expenditure increased marginally in 2020 to \$279,803 [2020: \$277,450]. However, despite the very small drop in income, through careful management of expenses and operations, we were able to deliver a positive net result; a profit of \$10,548 [2020: \$66,650].

Significant savings were made in staffing \$166,139 [2020: \$199,340].

AAA ended 2021 in a positive financial position.

Peter Kearney

Treasurer, Arts Access Australia

The financial report for the financial year ending 31 December 2021, including the audited financial statements, notes accompanying the statements, auditor's independence declaration and independent auditor's report is available separately as a [PDF on the AAA website](#).

## Thank you to our 2021 supporters

MAJOR FUNDER



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD FUNDING

# FEILMAN FOUNDATION

MEETING PLACE ACCESS FUNDING

NATIONAL DISABILITY CONFERENCE INITIATIVE



MEETING PLACE TECHNICAL PARTNER



## Support us

---

Become a member

Arts Access Australia relies on the support of our Members to achieve our goals. By becoming a Member, you are actively sharing our vision for full and equal opportunity for cultural participation and contribution by all Australians.

[You can join us as a Member via our website.](#)



## Donate

We are a small disability-led organisation who is fiercely committed to championing accessibility in the arts for all Australians. By donating, you can help us create real and lasting change for artists and arts-workers with disability.

[You can donate to AAA via our website.](#)