

Sport Matters Annual Report

2023 – 2024



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Jackie Lauff
Ryan Pini
Leslie Tikotikoca
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Sport Matters

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A message from our Chair

Prof Shirley Randell AO

Welcome to the Annual Report for Sport Matters

I believe that sport can be a powerful vehicle to transform lives and to create lasting change within communities. I've seen this in my many years of work in Vanuatu, Bangladesh and Rwanda and particularly through the lens of cricket which is one of my many sporting passions. Our organisation remains committed to using sport to make a positive and long lasting impact on the communities we serve.

Sport Matters is committed to continuous quality improvement and seeks out regional and international research with partners that share our values to promote evidence-based practice and inform our work. We were delighted to contribute to a regional report on sport integrity in the Pacific and a series of interviews, focus groups and forums that revealed some of the current threats to sport integrity facing Pacific communities.

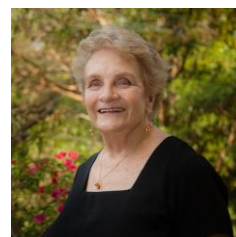
A strong focus of our work is on advocacy and creating opportunities for marginalised voices to be heard, often in complex development contexts. We seek out opportunities to advocate for sport and its potential as a positive agent of social change, and create space for people to share their stories, perspectives and recommendations for the future – including women, people with disabilities and importantly in a sporting sense – athletes.

I'm pleased to see a growing number of partners seeking out our services to provide technical assistance, deliver capacity building programs and design bespoke training workshops and presentations.

Our Sport Matters Board brings a diverse and complimentary set of skills, experience and leadership qualities to the table and it is a pleasure to have such an active Board that contributes not only to leadership and governance but to programme level activities wherever they are most needed in Australia, the Pacific or further afield.

With our sights set beyond 2032 as the Olympic and Paralympic Games head to our region, Sport Matters looks forward to amplifying our impact through inclusive and safe programmes and services that leave no one behind.

Prof Shirley Randell AO
Chair



Executive report

Jackie Lauff

It is a pleasure to present the Annual Report for Sport Matters for 2023 – 2024.

From our new Brisbane base Sport Matters continues to work with partners around the world to using sport to make a positive and long lasting impact on development.

Sport Matters has maintained a strong emphasis on advocacy and working together with regional partners, and was represented at high level meetings in the Pacific including the 2023 Pacific Sports Ministers Meeting and the Step Up Oceania 2.0 Conference.

It was a pleasure to receive support from the French Embassy in Fiji for our “Invisible to Included” project in Fiji and to see this program make a positive impact at the village level in Fiji working closely with communities in Rewa, Tailevu and Naitasiri.

Leading into the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games we were able to support the French Embassy with planning and delivering an award-winning celebration for the March 14 Relay around the World organised by French Embassies to unite through sport ahead of Paris 2024, and to host a dedicated event for children with disabilities in and around Suva in Fiji to generate excitement about the Paralympic Games and create opportunities for Fijian children with disabilities to access inclusive sport.

I am grateful for the ongoing support of our partners, our donors, our volunteers and our friends who share this passion and continue to get behind our work. We have a small but very active Board and I am very grateful for the contributions from our Board members who not only steer our organisation and diligently manage our governance, but also get involved in our many projects and activities on a regular basis. We share a strong passion for the power of sport to unite, to inspire and to change and to do so in a way that is safe, inclusive and sustainable.

It was a privilege to spend time in Palau working closely with the Palau National Olympic Committee to lead a series of national consultations to help shape Palau’s first National Sport Strategy and design a framework that will steer the sport sector for the next decade framed by a celebration of history and culture, strong community values, and the national sporting and political context.

Now is the time for innovation and I had the pleasure of joining the first International Symposium on “Impact Investing in sport along ESG emerging standards’ at the Milan Stock Exchange in Italy. We look forward to bringing that conversation to our region and exploring closer engagement with private sector partners for shared value and to maximise social impact in and through sport.

Recognising that we are already on the runway to Brisbane 2032, Sport Matters looks forward to establishing multi-year initiatives with a focus on leveraging the LA2028 and Brisbane 2032 Games to accelerate sport for development efforts.

Jackie Lauff
CEO



Who we are

Sport Matters uses the power of sport for more than sport.



Our Vision

More sport. Less poverty.

Our Mission

To make a positive and long-lasting impact on development in Australia and developing countries with a focus on the Pacific, Asia and Africa through **I**nnovation, **M**easurement, **P**artnerships, **A**dvocacy, **C**apacity-building and **T**echnical assistance.

Our Values

Sustainability - a long-term commitment to social change

Participation – building communities through active participation of individuals and families

Opportunity – creating opportunities for individuals, communities and nations through sport

Respect - and learning from the values & culture of people we work with

Tenacity - in advocating for human rights through a relentless belief in the power of sport

In developed countries, most people take for granted the lessons, opportunities and the education that comes from participating in sport. In developing communities where people often have limited access to health care, education and employment, sport can play a significant role in improving quality of life and uniting communities.

Access to sport and physical activity is a fundamental human right. Sport is well recognised internationally as a low-cost and high-impact tool for development and a powerful agent for social change. It is a culturally accepted activity that brings people together and unites families, communities and nations.

Using a rights-based approach Sport Matters combines sport and play with other non-sport outcomes to achieve specific development goals. These goals might be in the areas of health, education, economic development, social inclusion, peace and the environment and Sport Matters tailors solutions to meet community needs.

Sport Matters is an Australian-based NGO, and an independent registered charity with no religious or political affiliations. We believe that everyone should have the choice and opportunity to participate in sport, for life!

What we do

1. Advocacy

We spread the word about the power of sport

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace – April 6

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace on April 6 provides an important platform to advocate more investment in safe, sustainable, inclusive sports participation and related infrastructure. This year's theme, 'Sport for the Promotion of Peaceful and Inclusive Societies', recognises how sport can bring people together and create a shared sense of belonging.

April 6 marks the anniversary of the opening ceremony of the first modern Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, in 1896, and the day is celebrated around the world through many United Nations agencies, the Olympic Movement including sport federations large and small. Each year Sport Matters joins thousands of colleagues and friends around the world to advocate for the potential of sport to add value to development and peace outcomes.

In 2024, a resolution entitled "Sport as an Enabler of Sustainable Development" was approved by consensus of all 193 UN Member States. The resolution "recognises that sport, including sport for persons with disabilities and persons living with rare diseases, has an important role to play in the promotion of peace and development, physical and mental health, gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, respect for human rights, and the fight against racism and racial discrimination".



Sport Matters celebrated International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) in Palau working together with the Palau National Olympic Committee on the consultation and design of Palau's first National Sport Strategy. On April 6 we visited Peleliu one of the sixteen States of Palau.

International & Regional Advocacy Activities –

Sport4Impact Impact Investing Forum – Milan, Italy

Sport Matters joined the first International Symposium on Impact Investing in Sports along ESG emerging standard hosted at the Milan Stock Exchange. Sport Matters CEO joined the opening panel, delivered a presentation during the proceedings and gave a closing address at the symposium.

University of Sydney - Guest Lecture on Inclusive Sport for Development

Sport Matters CEO was invited back to give a guest lecture on Community Development through Sport at The University of Sydney to third year students within a course on Community Development.

International Traditional Sports and Games Conference

Sport Matters CEO was invited to present at a Traditional Sports and Games conference on 'TSG Educational Experiences at the South Pacific and Fiji Olympic Day celebrations'. The conference was hosted in Spain by the Worldwide Network of Teachers and Researchers on Traditional Games and Sport.

2. Programs

We work with partners to use sport to improve lives

Celebrating Olympic Day with Traditional Sports and Games in Fiji

To mark Olympic Day on June 23, Sport Matters joined the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee's (FASANOC) celebrations at Albert Park and delivered a series of inclusive and traditional sports and games.

Staff and students from the Physical Education Major at The University of the South Pacific, together with recipients of the Pacific Regional Sports Research Scholarship and Sport Matters volunteers delivered coconut cracking/husking/scraping, kite flying, and poi rakau and produced a flyer to introduce the history and origins of the traditional sports and games selected.

Participants from the Invisible to Included programme supported by the French Embassy in Fiji were also supported to join the event and participate in the sports programme and stations led by National Federations.



March 14 – French Global Relay

The Ambassador of France H.E. François-Xavier LÉGER hosted a special event as part of the March 14 Race-GPR - Global Paralympics Race: Women & Unity in Sports on Thursday 14 March 2024.

The event brought together an inclusive audience of adults and children with disabilities, key sporting stakeholders, Fiji Government, para athletes, local media and the representatives from the Diplomatic Corps. The programme included a three-kilometre walk around Albert Park in Suva followed by a celebration at the Suva Bowling club with official proceedings, a panel session with a focus on the experiences of women and girls with disabilities in Fiji, and a series of inclusive sports and games.

Sport Matters supported the French Embassy in Fiji with the event planning for the March 14 celebration, coordinated local transport for people with disabilities, and delivered a series of inclusive sports and games at the Suva Bowling Club. Sport Matters CEO was also invited to give a short address during the official proceedings.

The French Embassy team were recognised at a special event in Paris and were awarded a trophy celebrating their efforts to hosting the largest inclusive celebration for March 14 in 2024.



Invisible to Included

With the support of the French Embassy in Suva, people with disabilities have been enjoying sports and games at the community level thanks to a new Invisible to Included initiative. The project was developed by Sport Matters and aims to reach adults and children with disabilities from outside of Suva starting initially with Rewa, Tailevu and Naitasiri.



The project has included a focus on engaging children with disabilities and enabling people with disabilities to be active and included through sports and games at the village level. A key focus is on using locally available equipment, like lemons, buckets, sulus and coconuts, and adapting games and activities that feed into locally enjoyed sports volleyball, netball and touch rugby.



One of the highlights of the project in 2023 was the formation of a new team in the Suva Bowling Clubs Business House Bowls tournament. Across the latest six week competition, the new team “The One’s” were impressive on the greens with three wins and three losses over the tournament. Many of the players (men and women) are leg amputees and are playing lawn bowls for the first time. The Suva Bowling Club has created a welcoming and friendly environment for The One’s, and family members of “The One’s” including siblings, children and grandchildren have come down to cheer on their team.



To celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) in 2023, series of village sports days were held across Rewa with people of all ages and abilities enjoying hours of traditional and inclusive games. Rain of sweltering heat did not deter anyone from getting involved with over a hundred people of all ages and abilities getting active in Taci and Toga villages on the mainland and in Muanaira village in Vutia, a short boat-ride up the Rewa river.

The following project activities have been completed during the reporting period:

- An activation targeting children with disabilities from the target communities was held in October 2023 at the Nausori Village Hall including a roundtable talanoa session with stakeholders and an inclusive sports day.
- As a direct result of engagement in the Invisible to Included project, one participant joined the Business House bowls weekly tournament at the Suva Bowling Club in August and September 2023.
- This initiated interest from many more participants to form a whole team of persons with disabilities from the target communities in the Business House Bowls tournament. The team is called “The One’s” and features 7 men and 2 women from the target communities. The team travelled to the Suva Bowling Club twice a week for training and competition for seven weeks.
- The project team was invited by the District Sports Association in Rewa to conduct inclusive sports and games at an inter-district sports day hosted in Rewa in October 2023 alongside the Association and the Fiji National Sports Commission.
- Village-level inclusive sports activities were conducted in Muanaira Vutia, Taci and Toga villages in Rewa and the project connected with people living with disabilities and explored their sporting and activity needs and choices in conjunction with International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- Village-level inclusive sports activities were conducted in Tailevu South
- A dedicated event for children with disabilities from the greater Suva area was hosted in June 2024 ahead of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Children with disabilities from Suva based special schools and from the target communities joined an inclusive sports programme at Vodafone Arena. The French Ambassador to Fiji gave an address at the programme and the event was featured in the Fiji media. The project aims to provide a safe, fun and inclusive first contact for people with disabilities to engage in sport and physical activity in their local community.



Paris Paralympic Games Celebration – Vodafone Arena

Sport Matters hosted a special celebration on Thursday 30th May targeting children with disabilities in the greater Suva and Nausori area. With less than 100 days to go til the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, the event provided a fun and safe opportunity for participants to try a range different sports and games with a call to action for people with disabilities, especially children, to come out and play “maiqito”!

The Ambassador of France H.E. François-Xavier LÉGER joined the event and joined the sports stations. His Excellency also delivered a short address to excite and inspire inclusive communities in Fiji and gear up for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Coaches from the Fiji National Sports Commission and selected National Federations lead activities stations and a range of fun and inclusive sports and games will be offered including baseball, table tennis, volleyball and netball. Coaches and players from the Fiji Pearls national netball team were also on hand to lead activities.



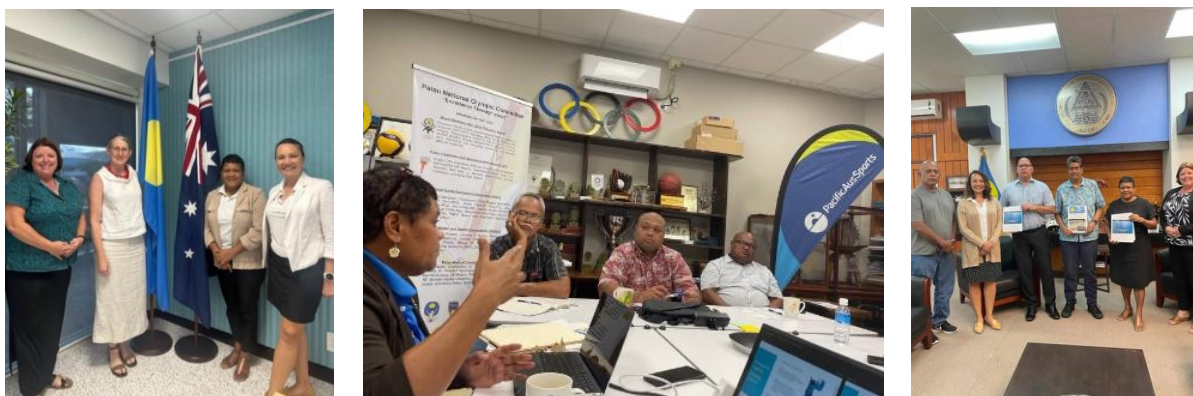
- **National Sport Strategy for Palau**

Building on the outcomes of the Step Up Oceania Conference and the Oceania Sport and SDGs Strategic Partners Forum, the Palau National Olympic Committee (PNOC) has taken the initiative to design a national sport strategy with a phased approach for the next nine years in the lead up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

PNOC received funding from the Australian Embassy in Palau to support the design of a national sport strategy in the lead up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the International Olympic Committee’s Olympic Solidarity Programme. Two in-country visits were conducted in November 2023 and April 2024 by Sport Matters CEO Jackie Lauff and Dr Caroline Riot from Griffith University in Queensland.



The project began with a series of national consultations in Palau through the leadership of PNOC, to identify, assess and measure where sport in Palau stands today, and create a shared vision where sport is expected throughout the years ahead. National consultations provided a pivotal platform for engagement, collaboration, knowledge exchange and networks for sports, to identify and connect with potential partners, and link with government, civil society, private sector, tertiary institutions, and other stakeholders. Over 150 stakeholders were engaged in the consultations for the national strategy.



The Palau National Sport Strategy was endorsed by the Palau National Olympic Committee AGM in April 2024. The strategy has been endorsed by the President of the Republic of Palau, the Council of Chiefs, Palau National Congress, the Association of State Governors and the Palau National Olympic Committee.

The strategy has a life span of ten years from 2024 to 2034 providing maximal opportunity to leverage the upcoming major sport events to accelerate our ambitions to develop a thriving sport sector for all Palauans. This begins in June and July 2025 with Palau’s hosting of the Pacific Mini-Games – a major milestone that will position Palau as a sporting powerhouse among our north Pacific neighbours, through to new opportunities and new sports on the programme in LA in 2028 and culminating in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Oceania.

The strategy aims to foster closer collaboration and coordinated action linking national, regional and international partners with the various sectors of national government across key portfolios including sport, health, education, finance, tourism, infrastructure and culture to develop a strong and thriving sector for sport that further strengthens sport, physical activity and physical education for the people of Palau.

3. Services

We strengthen the capacity of others to do effective sport and development

Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC)

Sport Matters continued to provide technical assistance to ONOC's regional efforts to progress sport policy, research and advocacy. Our CEO is a member of the ONOC International Relations Commission (IRC) and the Commission met alongside the ONOC Annual General Assembly in Nadi, Fiji, March 2024, and again in September in Suva, Fiji.

Sport Matters CEO joined ONOC International Relations Commission members for the 2023 Pacific Sports Ministers Meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands ahead of the Solomon Islands Pacific Games in November 2023. An update was presented to Senior Officials on behalf of the Pacific Regional Sports Taskforce by Baklai Temengil (PRST Chair) and Dr Masasso Paunga (PRST Secretariat). Sport Matters also contributed towards a written submission on behalf of ONOC to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat providing input for the Implementation Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Content advocating for greater inclusion and representation of sport across the drivers of change.



ONOC hosted the second edition of the Step Oceania Conference in Nadi, Fiji, in conjunction with the Annual General Assembly in 2024. During the proceedings Sport Matters Board Members supported the delivery of the conference with Ryan Pini (panel member) and Jackie Lauff (facilitator) of a panel session on 'Strengthening the Protection Mechanisms in Oceania Sport' and Leslie Tikotikoca joined the athlete power panel in the opening session and was invited to join the facilitation team for the master class session on 'Thriving Athletes: Balancing Wellbeing and Performance' alongside regional athlete representatives.

The University of the South Pacific

Sport Matters provided technical assistance to The University of the South Pacific across regional coordination in sport policy and sport for development, research, scholarships and curriculum development across sport, physical activity and physical education. The Pacific Centre for Sport and Sustainable Development maintains a presence at 1 Telau Street in Suva under the Pacific Regional Sports Taskforce.

As part of the UNODC funded regional research on Sport Integrity in the Pacific a half-day forum was hosted at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva in October 2023. Sport Matters Board Member, Ryan Pini, delivered an address via zoom during the forum, and CEO, Jackie Lauff, delivered a short address during the proceedings. Board Member Vivian Koster was also in attendance at the forum at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva.



The Pacific Regional Sports Research Scholarships continued with co-funding from The USP Research Office and ONOC and a further three scholarships were awarded in 2024 for the 2025 academic year. The PRSRS scholarships were launched in 2018 and since 2019 have provided Pacific Islanders with an opportunity to lead the way in post-graduate research on sport-related issues of national or regional significance.

4. Organisational Capacity

We are a well-resourced, well-managed and happy organisation.

The Sport Matters team is a close knit network of passionate and committed individuals that are connected and united in strategic vision of the organisation, and the power of sport to contribute in a positive and sustainable way to the people and partners we serve.

Sport Matters is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and Professor Randell represented Sport Matters at the annual ACFID conference at The University of New South Wales.



6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Sport Matters continues to embed monitoring, evaluation and learning into our everyday business. Our project activities use a combination of tools to capture inputs from our beneficiaries. These include participatory activities, paper-based evaluation forms and surveys, and also online survey tools and applications.

During the reporting period Sport Matters partnered with the Diabetes Hub who were able to assess blood pressure and blood sugar levels and educate families in conjunction with our inclusive community sport activities.



Sport Matters contributed towards regional research projects include a Review of Pacific Sport Integrity funded by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The research projects incorporated an online survey, focus groups and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders across four target countries – Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and Tonga. Other projects used evaluation forms and participatory approaches to capture project data, insights, reflections and learnings.

Governance

Governance Structure

Sport Matters is a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in NSW (ACN: 153 389 676), is a recognised Public Benevolent Institution with the Australian Taxation Office and endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

Board of Directors

Our board met twice during the reporting period to provide strategic advice and direction to the Company.

Prof Shirley Randell AO, PhD is a highly experienced board and committee member of government and non-government-organisations across Australia, the Pacific, Asia and Africa. Professor Randell is internationally renowned for her work advancing the status and rights of women, with many years of distinguished service to international relations through education, public sector and institutional reform particularly in Bangladesh, Rwanda and the Pacific. She is a recognised patron, ambassador and academic awarded for demonstrating significant influence globally, contributing to driving positive change in Australia and contributing to economic empowerment of women in the community and is an Ambassador for the Women's International Cricket League. Shirley is based in Sydney and has a strong passion for women's cricket and rowing.



Jackie Lauff is a sport and development practitioner who has worked in various roles within local, national and international sport organisations in Australia, Fiji, Germany and China. Jackie has an undergraduate degree in Occupational Therapy, a Master of International and Community Development from Deakin University and a Master of Adapted Physical Activity with the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences. She has coordinated international seminars on Sport in Post-Disaster Intervention and Sport Leadership and has lectured at the Australian College of Physical Education in Inclusive Coaching. Jackie is a member of the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) International Relations Commission, the Commonwealth Secretariat's Open-Ended Working Group on Sport and the SDGs, and the UNESCO Knowledge and Innovation Network (KIN), a team of cross disciplinary experts to advance inclusive, safe and values-based educational sport. Jackie is CEO of Sport Matters and is based in Brisbane.



Ryan Pini (MBE) is a decorated athlete (swimming) and sports administrator, having represented PNG at Pacific, Commonwealth and Olympic level for almost 20 years. Highlights for Pini have been to receive a multitude of awards; among them, ten awards for Best Male Athlete in PNG, Best Male Athlete – Pacific Games and Best Male Athlete – ANOC in Oceania, both in 2015. He has held a variety of executive positions on the Pacific Games Council, ONOC Athletes Commission, FINA, OSFO and the PNGNOC. He was awarded an MBE in 2006 and made an Officer of the Order of the Logohu (OL) in 2015. Pini describes himself as a dedicated and passionate leader with demonstrated success in sport, work and the community. As someone who is goal orientated, with strong community and family values, he is enthusiastic and passionate about life and sports.



Leslie Tikotikoca coordinates a Reproductive and Family Health Association Youth office that focuses on comprehensive sexuality education - a curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical and social aspects of sexuality. Leslie was also a co-coordinator for the Access to Justice Program for persons living with disability with the Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation. In his line of work, he has interacted with stakeholders, Legal Services and agencies in promoting and creating changes to see services be accessible to people with disabilities. He is passionate about his work as he believes that people with disabilities should have the same opportunities as able-bodied people. Leslie became the first disabled person in Fiji to take up the position of Inclusive Sports Officer in 2013. He has represented Fiji in Athletics, winning a gold medal in the 2016 Melanesian Games and participated in the Oceania Championships that same year. In 2017, he represented Fiji in the Mini Pacific Games in Vanuatu. Furthermore, in 2018 he took up the sport of Archery for the first time, winning a Silver medal in competition in South Korea and then going on to represent Fiji in the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games. Apart from his sporting achievements, Leslie has represented Fiji at various conferences, both local and international, as a voice for those living with disabilities. Leslie continues to champion and promote changes for the rights of his brothers and sisters living with disabilities.



Vivian Koster is the Chief Executive Officer of Netball Fiji. She sits on the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (FASANOC) Women in Sports Commission, is a member of the Innovation for Change Global Governance Circle and a trustee and technical advisor to the Pacific Youth Council. Prior to becoming CEO, Vivian was involved with netball for over 17 years as club and representative team manager, district secretary and vice president of Netball Fiji. She was also involved with schools swimming for 5 years as school coach, secretary of the schools association and executive committee member of the national association. She has an MA in Sociology with a focus on social policy and has worked extensively in the area of youth development and empowerment.

Principal Activities

The purpose and objectives of the company are to relieve the poverty, distress, helplessness, disability, disadvantage and misfortune of individuals and communities in Australia and in developing countries.

The strategies for achieving these objectives during the year included:

- (a) developing, implementing, coordinating, managing, monitoring and evaluating projects and initiatives that:
 - (i) incorporate the fundamentals of best practice based on integrity, transparency and accountability;
 - (ii) draw upon the spirit, power and love of sport to drive development goals;
 - (iii) are sustainable and innovative;
 - (iv) are underpinned by principles and practices of consultation and inclusion; and
 - (v) properly consider and incorporate the specific and unique circumstances and culture of the individuals and communities the company aids;
- (b) collaborating with communities, organisations, business, government and international bodies to further the company's purpose;
- (c) increasing the awareness of individuals, communities, business and government about the processes for and benefits of using sport in development;
- (d) conducting research into the use of sport in development (including Australian-based and international research); and
- (e) doing all other things necessary for or ancillary to the fulfilment of the purpose and activities of the company.

Accreditation & Membership

Sport Matters is a full member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct which demonstrates our commitment to ethical practice and public accountability. Sport Matters is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC).



Auditor

Sport Matters appointed Ken Wright of Meagher, Howard and Wright in Bondi Junction as the company auditor for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Remuneration

In accordance with section 11.3 (a) of Sport Matters' Constitution, Directors will not receive any payment for acting as a Director. No payment was made to any director for acting as a Director.

Complaints

Sport Matters is committed to transparency and integrity in its actions. Complaints can be lodged via:

Our office: 310 Edward Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 AUSTRALIA
Phone: 1800 388 859 Fax +61 2 8076 8605 info@sportmatters.org.au
Our CEO: jackie.lauff@sportmatters.org.au

For further information on ACFID or to report alleged breaches to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee, please contact ACFID directly:

ACFID office: Private Bag 3, Deakin ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA
Phone +61 2 6285 1816 Fax +61 2 6285 1720 www.acfid.asn.au

Full Financial Statements

Directors Report

The Board of Directors present their report on the financial report of Sport Matters for the company's financial year for the year ending 30 June 2024.

Board of Directors

The Directors in office during the financial period and until the date of this report are:

Director	Position	Experience/Professional Background
Prof Shirley Randell AO, PhD	Deputy Chair (Appointed 04/04/2019)	International development expert
Jacqueline Lauff	CEO, Secretary & Public Officer (Founding Director)	CEO Sport Matters
Ryan Pini	Non-executive Director	Athlete and Sports Administrator
Leslie Tikotikoca	Non-executive Director	Para-athlete and Disability Rights Advocate
Vivan Koster	Non-executive Director	Sport Executive

Principal Activities

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- (b) collaborating with communities, organisations, business, government and international bodies to further the company's purpose;
- (c) increasing the awareness of individuals, communities, business and government about the processes for and benefits of using sport in development;
- (d) conducting research into the use of sport in development (including Australian-based and international research); and
- (e) doing all other things necessary for or ancillary to the fulfilment of the purpose and activities of the company.

Significant Changes

There was no change in the nature of these activities during the year.

Operating Results for the Year

The operating result for Sport Matters for the year was a deficit of \$8,722 (2023: surplus of \$204).

Significant Events after the Balance Date

Up to the date of this report, there have been no significant events after the balance date that should be included in this financial report.

Indemnification and Insurance of Directors

The company held Directors and Officers Liability cover during the financial period. The amount of the cover is reviewed periodically.

Director's Meetings

The Board met twice during the reporting period. The AGM was held on 29th April 2025.

The number of meetings attended by each Director is set out in the following table:

Director	No. Meetings Attended	No. Meetings Eligible to Attend
Jacqueline Lauff	2	2
Shirley Randell	2	2
Ryan Pini	2	2
Leslie Tikotikoca	2	2
Vivian Koster	2	2

Limitations of Members Liability

Sport Matters is a company limited by guarantee. In accordance with its Constitution, the liability of its Members is limited to \$1 per person in the event of the company being wound up.

Auditor's Independence

The Directors have received an independent declaration from the auditor of Sport Matters, Meagher Howard & Wright.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



Prof. Shirley Randell
Chair



Jackie Lauff
CEO

MEAGHER, HOWARD & WRIGHT
CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS
ABN 42 664 097 441
2022

Ken WRIGHT J.P. M.Com. F.CPA
1355
Greg MIDDLETON B.Comm, G.Dip FP, CA
MaryJane HARDY J.P, B.Bus
John HOWARD OAM, J.P, F.CPA, B.Ec
Emma DIAMOND B.Bus

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TO THE MEMBERS OF SPORT MATTERS
ABN 29 153 389 676

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

This declaration is made in connection with our audit of the financial report of the company for the year ended 30 June 2024 and in accordance with the provisions of the Corporations Act 2001.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the period ended 30 June 2024, there have been:

- (i) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



.....
Ken Wright
MEAGHER HOWARD & WRIGHT

Dated: 30th June 2025

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Donations & Gifts – Monetary	157	0
Donations & Gifts – Non-monetary Revenue	<u>30,826</u>	<u>46,460</u>
Donations & Gifts	30,983	46,460
Asian Sports Partnership	0	0
Other Australian	17,921	10,528
Other Overseas	32,927	28,542
DFAT	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Grants	0	0
Fundraising - O/S Specific	0	0
Fundraising - Aust Specific	0	0
Fundraising – Aust Non-Specific	0	0
Subscriptions	0	0
- Other	<u>8,500</u>	<u>11,500</u>
TOTAL INCOME	90,331	97,030
Expenditure		
International Aid & Development Expenditure		
Funds to International Programs	77	0
Program Support Costs	28,467	8,133
Community Education	0	0
Fundraising Costs	0	0
Accountability & Admin Costs	39,683	42,233
Non-monetary Expenses	30,826	46,460
International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Program		
TOTAL INTERNATIONAL AID & DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE	99,053	96,826
Domestic Aid & Development Expenditure		
Funds to Domestic Programs	0	0
Program Support Costs	0	0
Community Education	0	0
Fundraising Costs	0	0
Accountability & Admin Costs	0	0
Domestic Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Program		
TOTAL DOMESTIC AID & DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE	0	0
Excess/(Shortfall) of Receipts over Payments	<u>(8,722)</u>	<u>204</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

As at June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$ AUD	2023 \$ AUD
Current Assets			
Cash	3	3,109	9,154
Trade and Other Receivables		3,503	4,043
Current Tax Liabilities/Refunds		0	37
Other		0	0
Inventories		0	0
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		6,612	13,234
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment		54	54
Trade and other receivables		0	0
Intangibles		0	0
Other non-current assets		0	0
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		54	54
TOTAL ASSETS		6,666	13,288
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables		6,300	4,200
Provisions	6	0	0
Borrowings			
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		6,300	4,200
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions		0	0
Payables		0	0
Borrowings		0	0
Other			
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		0	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES		6,300	4,200
NET ASSETS		366	9,088
Equity			
Reserves		0	0
Retained Earnings		9,088	8,884
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)		(8,722)	204
TOTAL EQUITY		366	9,088

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$ AUD	2023 \$ AUD
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Bequests		0	0
Grants		0	0
- Asian Sports Partnership		0	0
- Other Australian		17,921	10,528
- Other Overseas		41,427	39,003
Fundraising		0	0
Donations Received		0	0
Other		0	0
Disbursements/Payments		(65,393)	(40,574)
Interest Received			0
NET CASH PROVIDED/(USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		(6,045)	8,957
Cash Flow for Financing Activities			
Payment for Property, Plant & Equipment		0	0
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash Flow from Financing Activities			
Proceeds from Borrowings		0	0
Repayment of Borrowings		0	0
NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES		0	0
Net Increase/(decrease) in Cash Held		(6,045)	8,957
Cash at the Beginning of the financial year		9,154	197
Cash at the end of the financial year	10	3,109	9,154
Reconciliation of Cash			
Cash at Bank	3	3,109	9,154
Other Financial Assets		0	0
Cash at the end of the financial year		3,109	9,154

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Notes	Retained Earnings \$ AUD	Reserves \$ AUD	Other \$ AUD	Total \$ AUD
2023				
Balance as at 30 June 2023	8,884	0	0	8,884
Excess/Deficit of Revenue over expenditure	204	0	0	204
Shortfall of Revenue over expenditure	0	0	0	0
Transfer to reserves	0	0	0	0
Balance at 30 June 2023	9,088	0	0	9,088
2024				
Balance as at 30 June 2023	9,088	0	0	9,088
Excess/Deficit of Revenue over expenditure	(8,722)	0	0	(8,722)
Shortfall of Revenue over expenditure	0	0	0	0
Transfer to reserves	0	0	0	0
Balance at 30 June 2024	366	0	0	366

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes To and Forming Part of the Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2024

NOTE 1: Summary of Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations), the Corporations Act 2001 and the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.acfid.asn.au.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the income statement when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the balance sheet as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Sports Matters receives non-reciprocal contributions of assets from the government and other parties for zero or a nominal value. These assets are recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the balance sheet, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in the income statement.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service.

Revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(b) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

(c) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(d) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(e) Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

NOTE 2: Corporate Information

The financial report of Sport Matters for the year ended 30 June 2024 was authorised in accordance with a resolution of Directors on 29 April 2025. Sport Matters is a Public Benevolent Institution for the purposes of Australian taxation legislation and the company is registered for GST. Sport Matters is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR).

NOTE 3: Cash at Bank

	2024	2023
	\$ AUD	\$ AUD
Transactional Banking Account	3,109	9,154

NOTE 4: Operating Income

Sport Matters is a non-profit organisation operating in Australia and overseas and working in the field of international aid and development.

	2024	2023
	\$ AUD	\$ AUD
Donations & Gifts-Monetary	0	0
Other Income		
Fundraising	0	0
Grants & Donations	59,348	50,570
Government Subsidy	0	0
Investment Income		
Interest Received - Bank	0	0
Total Monetary Revenue	59,348	50,570
Total Non-monetary revenue	30,826	46,460

NOTE 5: Operating Expenses

Operating profit before income tax is arrived at after charging the following items:	2024 \$ AUD	2023 \$ AUD
Funds for Programs	28,467	19,811
Fundraising Costs	0	0
Advertising	0	0
Audit Fees	2,100	2,100
Bad Debts	0	0
Bank & Merchant Charges	211	108
Staff Amenities	0	0
Sundry Events	616	1,382
Insurance	20,241	10,946
Interest	0	0
Legal, Compliance & Statutory Fees	148	2,262
Printing & Stationery	329	21
Consulting	3,357	7,273
Promotional Items	0	0
Office Expenses & Rent	822	467
Seminars & Conferences	0	0
Subscriptions	1,873	1,304
Telephone, Fax & Internet	580	809
Travel & Promotion	9,483	3,525
Sundry expenses	0	0
Website & Computer	0	358
Total Monetary Expenditure	<u>68,227</u>	<u>50,366</u>
Total Non - monetary expenditure	30,826	46,460

Sport Matters values the contribution of volunteers and that contribution is included in this financial report to provide the reader with a better understanding of the company's activities, and have been estimated according to the Australian pay rates outlined in DFAT's Recognised Development Expenditure (RDE) guidelines available at http://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/rde_notes.pdf. The contribution of volunteers and non-cash gifts is estimated to be a total of \$30,915.

NOTE 6: Provisions

	2024 \$ AUD	2023 \$ AUD
Remuneration of auditors	2,100	2,100

NOTE 7: Subsequent Events

No events have occurred after balance date that require disclosure or inclusion in the financial statements.

NOTE 8: Members Equity/Retained Earnings

The company is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the company winding up its operations, the members have guaranteed to contribute a maximum amount of \$1 per member.

NOTE 9: Management Personnel

As per section 11.3 (a) of Sport Matters' Constitution, Directors will not receive any payment for acting as a Director. In the period ended 30 June 2024 no payment was made to any director for acting as a Director.

NOTE 10: Statement of Cash Flows

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Reconciliation of the operating profit/(loss) after tax to the net cash flows from operations		
Operating profit/(loss) after tax	(8,722)	204
Depreciation/Write off	0	0
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	577	10,461
(Increase)/Decrease in other assets	0	6,692
Increase/(Decrease) in sundry creditors	2100	(8,400)
Net Cash Flows from/used operating activities	<u>(6,045)</u>	<u>8,957</u>

Directors Declaration

The Directors of Sport Matters declare that in the opinion of the Directors:

- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- (b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct Financial Standards, and comply with the relevant Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements as applicable.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*.

Signed this 30th June 2025 in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Prof Shirley Randell
Chair



Jackie Lauff
CEO

MEAGHER, HOWARD & WRIGHT
CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS
ABN 42 664 097 441
2022

Ken WRIGHT J.P. MCom. F.CPA
1355
Greg MIDDLETON B.Comm, GDip FP, CA
MaryJane HARDY J.P, B.Bus
John HOWARD OAM, J.P, F.CPA, BEc
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To the Members of Sport Matters

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Sport Matters, (“the Entity”), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the period then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Entity is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Entity’s financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board’s APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (“the Code”) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to the Committee, would be in the same terms if given as at the time of this auditor’s report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and the Committee for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the special purpose financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the relevant Australian Accounting Standards in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission Regulations 2013* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the special purpose financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Committee are responsible for overseeing the Entity’s financial reporting process.

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit

conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the Committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.



Meagher Howard & Wright
CPA

Ken Wright
Partner

Suite 806, 35 Spring Street
BONDI JUNCTION NSW 2022

30th June 2025
Dated:

Acknowledgements

Our Board of Directors

Prof Shirley Randell AO (Sydney)
Jackie Lauff (Brisbane)
Ryan Pini (Papua New Guinea)
Leslie Tikotikoca (Fiji)
Vivian Koster (Fiji)

Our Staff

Jackie Lauff – CEO

Our Volunteers

Jill Scanlon (Melbourne)
Kalesi Nainoca (Fiji)

Our Suppliers

Nicholas Morris - Nicholas Morris Web Design (Sydney)
Oceanic Communications (Fiji)

Our Partners

Embassy of France in Fiji
Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (FASANOC)
International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE)
Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC)
Palau National Olympic Committee (PNOC)
The University of the South Pacific (USP)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

Our Memberships & Affiliations

Asia Pacific Society for Physical Activity
Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)
ACFID Small Member Working Group
Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC)
Commonwealth Secretariat Open Ended Working Group on Model Indicators for Sport and the SDGs
International Council of Sport Sciences and Physical Education (ICSSPE)
International Physical Literacy Association
International Platform on Sport and Development
Sport4Impact
The Association for International Sport for All (TAFISA)
Women in Aid and Development