

2023

Annual Report



CONNECT

EMPOWER

INSPIRE

Cosmos Alliance

Annual Report – November 2023

Overview

The last 12 months have been both productive and enjoyable. Since our big rebrand last November, we have worked to connect with as many of our supporters as possible across WA. Our aim has been to explain the new branding and to share our new focus which is to connect, empower and inspire. We are deliberately shifting our focus onto training to leave a legacy with our partners, to ensure strength and sustainability for the long-term.

It has been good to get several Cosmos teams out travelling again. In 2023 we sent three teams overseas with six people travelling in two teams to Zimbabwe, a four-person team going to Papua New Guinea. Jason also took Shelta from Sizolwethu to Uganda, to connect and inspire her as she grows Sizolwethu.

This year we have had our largest administrative team for quite some time, with two paid staff and five volunteers working to keep Cosmos running smoothly. We hope to maintain a similar size team and adjust some roles in 2024 to help us better cover our needs. As the year draws to a close, we need to acknowledge two people who are leaving us. Firstly, thanks go to Ian Mawson our Board Treasurer who can now fully enjoy his retirement after 6 years of service. Secondly, Melissa Clarke is moving to a full-time job in Hobart after doing a great job as our media volunteer over the past year.

The highlight for 2023 was just last month when our team delivered a comprehensive course over a week to 22 Community Health Workers in Wewak, Papua New Guinea. Despite delays to this trip and COVID impacting much of the team while they were in PNG, they managed to pull through and complete the training. Our reputation in PNG is growing and the local health authorities in the East Sepik Province have invited us back to do more training of CHWs and other health professionals in the future.

Financially, 2022/23 was another solid year. Our supporters and partners continue to supply our needs. It has been good to see growth in support from church partners and from a new foundation. As in previous years we completed our annual audit without any issues and have started the new financial year strongly.





Church Partnerships

This year Jason has travelled to several parts of WA to visit a variety of churches. He has spoken at Geraldton Church of Christ, Kalgoorlie Church of Christ, Bentley Baptist Church, Bridgeley Church in Northam, Como Baptist Church and Without Walls Church in North Perth. Jason also spent time with several long-term supporters in Albany and met with some new supporters in Mount Barker. He has also been building relationship with great people at Geraldton Baptist Church and Dreambuilders Church in Bunbury. It is great to know we have people from a broad group of churches praying for us; while we can offer opportunities for people from these churches to serve on our teams.



School Partnership – Grace Christian School

Over the years we have had a few schools support the work of Cosmos. Grace Christian School in Bunbury is by far the stand-out school. There are several teachers and students from Southern Africa at this school, so the connection is strong. We are very grateful for this connection and the support it brings.

When Jason visited Grace Christian School in September, he shared new updates about the work of Sizolwethu and about some new patients who needed support. This school has always been very supportive of our Extended Care Patients in Zimbabwe. We are so grateful for the staff support and whenever we share there the students always ask great questions.

In October the Year Five class conducted some lunchtime fundraisers selling “jelly cups” and they raised \$1,233 which will help several patients in Zimbabwe access the vital treatment and surgery that they need.



Zimbabwe – Sizolwethu Health

Sizolwethu Health have continued to grow over the last 12 months. During his visit back in February, Jason our CEO stepped off the Sizolwethu board after 11 years. Our strategy has always been to build a strong foundation for Sizolwethu, to enable them to be less reliant on our support in the long-term. Ultimately, we would like to see 3-4 organisations supporting Sizolwethu to better deliver their programs. This broadening of support has always been part of our growth plan for Sizolwethu.

Sizolwethu has had a strong year; they continue to provide vital front-line primary clinical care for 8 villages around Bulawayo. Through these outreaches the Sizo team impacts thousands of people each month. The Sizo nurses are the only health workers most of these villagers have access to, due to the cost of travel and the cost to access the public hospital system.

This year Sizolwethu has also strengthened their staffing and administration which has helped them to deliver more water sanitation and hygiene programs in several communities and rural schools. These programs all complement their excellent clinical programs.

It has been wonderful to hear how Sizolwethu’s reputation and influence continues to grow. They are a strong part of the Bulawayo community of health providers and are known to be reliable and to deliver on their promises.

Papua New Guinea

In late October we sent a team of two doctors and two nurses to Wewak in Papua New Guinea. This team had two goals. Firstly, they planned to deliver a 5-day training course for a group of 22 Community Health Workers. Secondly, we had sent two boxes of supplies for our “Blue Bag” project. These supplies were to be packed into waterproof bags and sent to 13 remote communities. They hoped to be able to deliver self-paced learning packages to several villages in person.

Of course, PNG being the “land of the unexpected” not everything went to plan. The team were hit by COVID but adjusted their plans and managed to deliver the training for the CHWs.

Meanwhile several factors meant the Blue Bags did not leave Wewak. A box of vital supplies did not arrive until the second last day; and our partners at Samaritan Aviation were down to one pilot and one plane which meant emergencies took priority over delivering our packages.

We are grateful for our growing partnerships in PNG. Firstly, the East Sepik Provincial Health Authorities have been very supportive, enabling us with logistical support and by supplying training venues and transport for our visiting teams.

Samaritan Aviation (samaritanaviation.org) deserve a special mention this year as they provided accommodation when we needed to isolate team members due to COVID during our most recent team visit. They have also agreed to fly our self-paced learning packages out to remote communities over the coming months to benefit more Community Health Workers.





Uganda – JENGA Community Development

Peer Support

Our “Cosmos Connect” WhatsApp program has grown slowly in 2023. After a slow start, we connected six more people between Perth and Uganda, enabling them to build supportive friendships via WhatsApp.

Mental Health Program

JENGA’s Mental Health program in Uganda is now in full swing. Veronica, the nurse coordinating the program reported that their radio programs with health messaging are going out via a local station that focuses on the main marketplace in Mbale. This area of shops and open-air markets is a key community hub for the town and thousands of people pass through each day. The messaging is also played over loudspeakers across the market throughout the day.

Project activities have also included visits to the local hospital, patients’ homes, and schools, plus information sessions for patients and their caregivers and families. JENGA have also provided practical support by providing medication and food for vulnerable patients to assist them to improve their overall health and well-being. Our funding is also providing vital emergency sedatives and some long-acting medicines to the mental health ward at the government hospital.

Below is a picture of a 17-year-old patient (centre) with her grandmother (left) and Veronica. The grandmother is very thankful for the great change she has noticed in her granddaughter’s health.



Administration

This year has been another exciting and busy year for our administration team.

Kylie Ramachenderan joined our team of admin volunteers in January this year as our bookkeeper; she has provided excellent support for Jason and me. We have also welcomed Louise Irvine to look after special admin projects. Louise is currently liaising with the Sizolwethu staff in Zimbabwe to rebuild their Extended Care record-keeping database.

Melissa Clarke has grown in her role as Media Assistant, taking care of social media, design, and our website for the past 12 months. Sadly, Mel will be leaving us in January as she moves to Hobart to pursue an incredible career opportunity. Mel will be greatly missed!

Lastly, I thank our long-time volunteer, Maureen Kapitola, for her ongoing assistance; and to thank our CEO Jason James for his leadership in all he does for Cosmos Alliance.

It really is a privilege to work alongside all these incredible people as we serve our partners in Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea, and Uganda.

Trudy James
Office Coordinator



(L-R) Trudy, Maureen, Kylie, Melissa, Jason



Louise

Treasurer's Report

We ended the year with a second excess of expenditure over receipts which is part of our plan to reduce the excess funds held in our account. We have opened several new Term deposits with Goldfields Money which are giving us a very good interest rate with the security of a government registered bank.

For the financial year ended 30th June 2023 Cosmos Alliance had an excess of expenditure over receipts of \$20,299. This was partly due to an audit adjustment against reserves which was written back to previous year's profit rather than being added into receipts.

Donations

Donations for the year were slightly up on last year which reflects the efforts Jason has put into building new relationships with donors. Several donors left our alliance which is an ongoing issue, through natural attrition.

Team Income

In 2022/2023 the composition of our teams and their focus deliberately adjusted to better align with the requests from our overseas partners. Two teams were sent to Zimbabwe this financial year. For more details see the CEO's report.

Special Projects

We did arrange for the purchase of some training assets in Papua New Guinea as well as improving and updating the Community Health Worker training manuals. Total expenditure was down on the previous year as several projects did not go ahead, although they may proceed in the 2023/2024 financial year.

Support for Sizolwethu and Extended Care in Zimbabwe

We were able to continue supporting Sizolwethu as budgeted, meeting our full commitment to them for the year. One Cosmos donor is providing support monthly for Sizolwethu's medical supplies, and we did also provide some funding for an existing patient. The Australian dollar is falling against the American dollar which has a major effect on how much we send to Sizolwethu.

We are working with Sizolwethu to reduce their reliance on our funding by helping them build a wider support base from other direct donors. Sizolwethu has grown their budget and our support only made up 58% of their total budget in this FY. This is down significantly from previous years.

Salaries

Salaries and wages are now becoming the major expense of the organisation due to wage increases and superannuation increases. We still only have two part-time employees (approx. 1 FTE) and while the number of total hours worked is increasing, they are not at pre-Covid levels.

Other Expenses

Most other expenses were in line with budget. Nothing else of significance to report.

Conclusion

We are in a strong position to continue to support our outreach in Zimbabwe, Uganda and Papua New Guinea.

My thanks to Len Lawrence (who has since "retired") and Kylie Ramachenderan (new bookkeeper) for their work as our volunteer bookkeeper, and to our auditors - Australian Audit - for their support.

After 6 years I will not be continuing as a committee member from the 2022/2023 Annual General Meeting. I wish the new committee and the organisation all the best for the future.

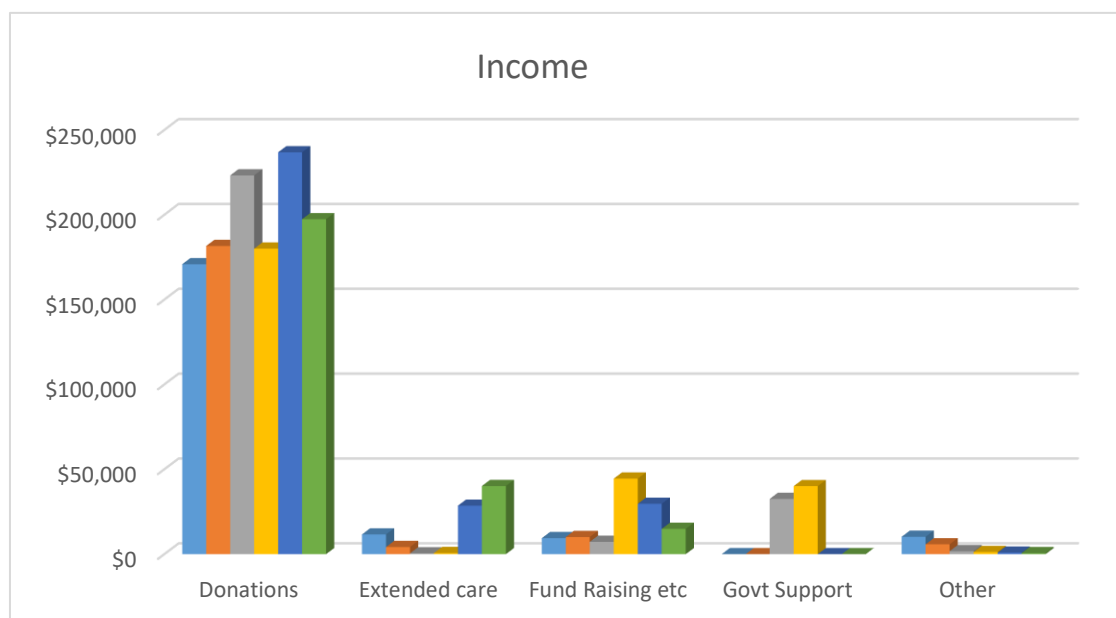
God bless and thanks,

Ian Mawson

Treasurer / Secretary

Income

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Donations	\$170,870	\$181,634	\$223,216	\$180,091	\$236,835	\$197,392
Extended care	\$11,633	\$4,205	\$500	\$666	\$28,559	\$40,161
Fund Raising etc	\$9,461	\$10,110	\$7,250	\$44,532	\$29,692	\$14,901
Govt Support	\$0	\$0	\$32,550	\$40,100	\$0	\$0
Other	\$10,264	\$5,823	\$1,752	\$1,286	\$923	\$629
	\$202,228	\$201,773	\$265,268	\$266,676	\$296,010	\$253,084



Expenses

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Team Expenses	\$9,716	\$4,425	\$108	\$25,648	\$82,763	\$48,221
Sizo Support	\$57,406	\$65,429	\$54,979	\$59,107	\$55,325	\$55,474
Extended Care	\$11,633	\$4,304	\$500	\$664	\$28,559	\$43,726
Special Projects	\$18,779	\$63,062	\$84,785	\$48,174	\$9,011	\$10,452
Staff Costs	\$78,248	\$62,173	\$68,484	\$82,695	\$68,048	\$57,703
Other	\$46,745	\$37,651	\$21,448	\$29,405	\$25,494	\$21,513
	\$222,528	\$237,044	\$230,305	\$245,692	\$269,201	\$237,090



Contributions from:

Jason James
Chief Executive Officer

Ian Mawson
Treasurer / Secretary

Trudy James
Office Coordinator