

# Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)

ABN 12 000 637 267

Financial report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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# Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)

(A company limited by guarantee and registered with ACNC)

## **Corporate information**

**ABN 12 000 637 267**

### **Directors**

The following Directors were in office at the date of this report:

P Khoury (Chairperson)  
J Bridge  
J Boynton  
D Cowan  
G Harrisson  
V Haar  
M Latour  
K Orvad  
E Russo  
P Rutledge

### **Company Secretary**

M Feros

### **Registered office and principal place of business**

Level 5, Tower B, The Zenith  
821 Pacific Highway  
Chatswood NSW 2067

### **Auditor**

Grant Thornton  
Level 26, Grosvenor Place  
225 George Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

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**Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd**

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## Auditor's Independence Declaration

### To the Responsible Entities of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as lead auditor for the audit of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) for the year 31 December 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD  
Chartered Accountants



James Winter

Partner – Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 25 February 2025

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# Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

## For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Revenue from continuing operations</b>			
Revenue from the provision of services		140,543,247	136,608,288
Donations, bequests and other grant funding		7,575,299	6,217,692
Other income		5,481,725	4,024,088
<b>Total revenue from continuing operations</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>153,600,271</b>	<b>146,850,068</b>
Employee expenses	4	(100,117,234)	(93,477,027)
Transportation costs		(1,753,875)	(1,904,132)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	4	(5,013,186)	(5,433,206)
Finance costs	4	(771,638)	(918,438)
Service costs		(7,174,500)	(6,186,311)
Other expenses		(10,119,940)	(10,023,012)
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>(124,950,373)</b>	<b>(117,942,126)</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>28,649,898</b>	<b>28,907,942</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Net changes in the fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) financial assets		777,123	1,335,059
<b>Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year</b>		<b>777,123</b>	<b>1,335,059</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>29,427,021</b>	<b>30,243,001</b>

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# Statement of financial position

## As at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	75,447,715	70,911,653
Trade and other receivables	6	679,832	933,680
Financial assets	7	16,735,646	7,720,996
Other assets	8	2,546,441	2,097,801
Total current assets		95,409,634	81,664,130
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Financial assets	7	33,235,943	31,490,734
Property, plant and equipment	9	77,456,264	62,387,567
Intangible assets	10	624,528	661,361
Right-of-use assets	11	7,834,391	8,657,239
Total non-current assets		119,151,126	103,196,901
Total assets		214,560,760	184,861,031
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	12	4,302,757	5,379,040
Service contract liabilities	13	9,557,701	7,225,248
Provisions	15	11,847,297	11,631,200
Lease liabilities	16	1,502,319	2,744,200
Total current liabilities		27,210,074	26,979,688
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	14	6,321,457	6,321,457
Provisions	15	2,616,539	2,663,350
Lease liabilities	16	8,256,408	8,167,275
Total non-current liabilities		17,194,404	17,152,082
Total liabilities		44,404,478	44,131,770
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>170,156,282</b>	<b>140,729,261</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
Fair value through other comprehensive income reserve		658,102	(119,021)
Accumulated funds		169,498,180	140,848,282
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>170,156,282</b>	<b>140,729,261</b>

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of changes in funds

### For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Fair Value Through OCI Reserve \$	Accumulated Funds \$	Total Funds \$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2023</b>	(1,610,203)	112,096,463	110,486,260
Surplus for the year	-	28,907,942	28,907,942
Other comprehensive income for the year	1,335,059	-	1,335,059
Transfers	156,123	(156,123)	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2023</b>	(119,021)	140,848,282	140,729,261
<b>Balance at 1 January 2024</b>	(119,021)	140,848,282	140,729,261
Surplus for the year	-	28,649,898	28,649,898
Other comprehensive income for the year	777,123	-	777,123
<b>Balance at 31 December 2024</b>	658,102	169,498,180	170,156,282

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of cash flows

### For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers and grants		151,638,693	145,314,069
Payments to suppliers and employees		(120,693,471)	(113,518,015)
Interest received		3,706,683	3,342,182
Dividends received		1,013,477	254,940
Interest paid		(771,638)	(918,438)
Net cash provided by operating activities	17	34,893,745	34,474,738
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Payments for investments		(968,085)	(5,144,921)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(18,808,161)	(17,704,210)
Net cash used in investing activities		(19,776,246)	(22,849,131)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Repayment of leases and bank loan		(1,566,786)	(2,349,374)
Net cash provided by financing activities		(1,566,786)	(2,349,374)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held		13,550,713	9,276,233
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		78,632,649	69,356,416
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	5	92,183,361	78,632,649

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



# Notes to the financial statements

## For the year ended 31 December 2024

### 1 Corporate information

Autism Spectrum Australia (“Aspect” or the “Company”) is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The Company is a not-for-profit entity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and under the *Charitable Fundraising Act (NSW) 1991*.

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors (who are Aspect’s Responsible Entities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*) on 25 February 2025.

The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical cost and presented in Australian dollars which is the Company’s functional and presentation currency.

#### Principal activities

The principal activities of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) are to provide a range of services to children, young people and adults on the autism spectrum that are person-centred, family-focused and customer-driven. These include customer engagement services, diagnostic and assessment services, therapy services (speech pathology, occupational therapy and psychology) including behaviour support programs, educational services for school-aged children to prepare them for transition to environments that are not autism-specific, individually-funded and block-funded programs for children, young people and adults in response to their individual needs, strengths and capabilities. A range of Support services for families of individuals on the spectrum are offered, including workshops, training, and consultations aimed at professionals and parents to improve their interactions with people on the spectrum. In addition, Aspect remained committed to its research program. Throughout the year, there were no significant changes in the nature of these activities.

#### Members’ guarantee

The Company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$20 towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 31 December 2024, the total amount that members of the Company would have been liable to contribute if the Company was wound up was \$2060 (2023: \$2,280).

#### Economic dependency

Government funding continues to provide the major operational income for Aspect. Revenue from this source increased in 2024 to \$130,219,432 compared with \$126,659,173 in 2023. This represents 84.78% of Aspect’s total revenue.

## 2 Material accounting policy information

### Changes in accounting policies

Material accounting policies are consistent with the previous financial year.

### Summary of accounting policies

The significant accounting policies that have been used in the preparation of these financial statements are summarised below.

The financial statements have been prepared using the measurement bases specified by Australian Accounting Standards for each type of asset, liability, revenue and expense. The measurement bases are more fully described in the accounting policies below.

#### a. Income tax

Under Section 50-1 and 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, the income of Aspect is exempt from income tax.

#### b. Property, plant and equipment

Land and Buildings

Freehold land and buildings are recorded at cost or deemed cost.

Leasehold property

Leasehold property is recorded at cost and depreciated over the useful life.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

Property and equipment are reviewed each year for impairment or whenever events or changes in business circumstances indicate that the carrying value of the assets may not be recoverable. Impairment losses are recognised if expected future cash flows from the assets are less than their carrying values. Plant and equipment that have been donated are valued at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the useful life to Aspect commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rate
Leasehold improvements (incl. buildings on leased property)	2.5-10%
Plant and equipment	20-33%
Buildings	2.5%
Motor vehicles	20%

### **c. Leases**

The Company has leases over buildings, vehicles and office equipment.

At the lease commencement, the Company recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where the Company believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises of the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration less any lease incentives.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of assets accounting policy. The right-of-use asset is assessed for impairment indicators at each reporting date.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the Company's incremental borrowing rate is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is remeasured whether there is a lease modification, change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI) or a change in the Company's assessment of lease term.

Where the lease liability is remeasured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the remeasurement or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

The Company has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for leases of low-value assets. For these leases, the Company recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

### **d. Financial assets**

#### **Initial recognition and measurement**

The Company classifies its financial assets into the following categories:

1. financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVPL),
2. amortised cost,
3. financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI).

The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and re-evaluates this designation at every reporting date.

Financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs unless they are carried at fair value through profit or loss in which case the transaction costs are recognised in the income statement.

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the balance date. The quoted market price used is the current bid price.

The categories of financial assets are:

### **Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss**

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management. Assets in this category are classified as current assets if they are either held for trading or are expected to be realised within 12 months of the Statement of Financial Position date.

After initial recognition they are measured at their fair values. Gains or losses on remeasurement are recognised in the income statement.

### **Financial assets at amortised cost**

Financial assets are measured at amortised cost if the assets meet the following conditions (and are not designated as FVPL or FVOCI): they are held within a business model whose objective is to hold the financial assets and collect its contractual cash flows, the contractual terms of the financial assets give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding. After initial recognition, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The Company's cash and cash equivalents, trade and most other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

### **Financial assets classified as fair value through other comprehensive income**

Investments in equity instruments that are not held for trading are eligible for an irrevocable election at inception to be measured at FVOCI. Under FVOCI, subsequent movements in fair value are recognised in other comprehensive income and are never reclassified to profit or loss. Dividend from these investments continue to be recorded as other income within the profit or loss unless the dividend clearly represents return of capital.

The fair value of investments that are actively traded in organised financial markets is determined by reference to quoted market bid prices at the close of business on the reporting date.

### **Financial liabilities**

The Company measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The financial liabilities of the Company comprise trade creditors, other payables, borrowings and lease liabilities

### **Fair value**

Fair value is determined based on current last sale prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

### **Trade and other receivables**

Aspect makes use of a simplified approach in accounting for trade and other receivables and records the loss allowance at the amount equal to the expected lifetime credit losses. In using this practical expedient, Aspect uses its historical experience, external indicators and forward-looking information to calculate the expected credit losses using a provision matrix.

Aspect assesses impairment of trade receivables on a collective basis as they possess credit risk characteristics based on the days past due. The Company has applied the simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses, which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance. To measure the expected credit losses, trade receivables have been grouped based on days overdue.

### **Derecognition**

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expire or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the entity no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are either discharged, cancelled or expire. The difference between the carrying value of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

### **Service contract liabilities**

Service contract liabilities generally represent the unspent grants or other fees received on the condition that specified services are delivered or conditions are fulfilled. The services are usually provided, or the conditions usually fulfilled within 12 months of receipt of the grant or fees.

Where the amount received is in respect of services to be provided over a period that exceeds 12 months after the reporting date or the conditions will only be satisfied more than 12 months after the reporting date, the liability is presented as non-current.

Where the monies are received for the Company to acquire or construct an item of property, plant, and equipment that will be controlled by Aspect then the funds are recognised as a contract liability and amortised to revenue as and when the obligation is satisfied.

### **e. Employee benefits provisions**

Provision is made for Aspect's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees up to the reporting date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs.

Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits plus related on-costs using a high quality corporate bond rate that represents the period to the expected payment.

Aspect contributes to several contribution superannuation plans. Contributions are charged against income in the period to which they relate.

### **f. Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when Aspect has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Management continues to review the probability factors used to accurately reflect the liability for long service leave for all staff.

### **g. 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.

## **h. Revenue and other income**

### **Revenue recognition policy for revenue from contracts with customers (AASB 15)**

AASB 15 requires revenue to be recognised when control of a promised good or service is passed to the customer at an amount which reflects the expected consideration. The customer for these contracts is the fund provider.

#### **Revenue from the rendering of a service**

Generally the timing of the payment for rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

#### **Revenue from government funding and grants**

Government and grant funding arising from an agreement which contains enforceable and sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised when control of each performance obligations is satisfied.

Within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract. Where control is transferred over time, generally the revenue is recognised based on either cost or time incurred which best reflects the transfer of control.

### **Income recognition policy for income streams which are either not enforceable or do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations (AASB 1058)**

#### **Grant income**

Assets arising from grants in the scope of AASB 1058 are recognised as income at their fair value when the asset is received. These assets are generally cash but maybe property which has been donated or sold to the Company at significantly below its fair value.

#### **Capital grants**

Capital grants received under an enforceable agreement to enable the Company to acquire or construct an item of property, plant and equipment to identify specifications which will be controlled by the Company (once complete) are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed. For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project as there is no profit margin. For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Company.

#### **Donations, bequests and other gifts**

Donations and bequests collected are recognised as income when the Company gains control of the asset.

#### **In-kind donations**

Services donated by volunteers, goods and facilities donated are included at the fair value to the Company where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost.

**i. 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 the expense of an item. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

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

**j. Reserves**

**Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) reserve**

This reserve records fair value changes at each reporting date on investments classified at fair value through other comprehensive income. It represents the unrealised fair value excess over cost for investments held.

**k. Comparative figures**

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

### 3 Revenue from continuing operations

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Revenue from the provision of services subject to specific performance obligations</b>			
School fees		7,663,450	7,352,556
Other fees for service		2,660,365	2,596,559
NDIS funding	(a)	17,029,874	17,303,366
Government grant funding subject to service obligations	(a)	113,189,558	109,355,807
<b>Total revenue from the provision of services</b>		<b>140,543,247</b>	<b>136,608,288</b>
<b>Income not subject to specific performance obligations</b>			
Donations, bequests and other gifts		7,575,299	6,217,692
<b>Total income</b>		<b>7,575,299</b>	<b>6,217,692</b>
<b>Other income</b>			
Interest income		3,706,683	3,342,182
Investment income		1,013,477	254,940
Other		761,565	426,966
<b>Total other income</b>		<b>5,481,725</b>	<b>4,024,088</b>
<b>Total revenue and income from continuing operations</b>		<b>153,600,271</b>	<b>146,850,068</b>
Timing of service revenue recognition			
Services transferred over time		7,663,450	7,352,556
Services transferred at a point in time		132,879,797	129,255,732

(a) **Revenue from government sources:**

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Commonwealth government</b>		
National Disability Insurance Agency	17,029,874	17,303,366
Department of Education	70,872,498	68,851,067
Department of Social Services	753,350	712,465
	<b>88,655,722</b>	<b>86,866,898</b>
<b>State government</b>		
Department of Education NSW	34,557,252	37,787,592
Department of Education SA	1,649,967	2,004,683
Department of Regional NSW	5,356,491	-
	<b>41,563,710</b>	<b>39,792,275</b>
<b>Total Government funded revenue</b>	<b>130,219,432</b>	<b>126,659,173</b>

### 4 Operating surplus from operating activities

Operating surplus from operating activities has been arrived at after charging the following items:

		2024 \$	2023 \$
- Depreciation of property, plant and equipment and amortisation of intangibles	9,10	3,776,298	3,689,556
- Depreciation of right-of-use assets	11	1,236,888	1,743,650
<b>Total depreciation expense</b>		<b>5,013,186</b>	<b>5,433,206</b>
Employee benefits expense			
-Wages and salaries		84,260,284	80,758,571
-Defined contribution plan superannuation expense		9,257,139	8,424,163
-Workers' compensation insurance expense		1,768,999	1,035,328
-Employee leave benefits		4,830,812	3,258,965
<b>Total employee benefits expense</b>		<b>100,117,234</b>	<b>93,477,027</b>



#### 4 Operating surplus from operating activities (continued)

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Finance costs		
- Bank loans, leases and overdraft interest and fees	771,638	918,438
Total finance costs	<b>771,638</b>	<b>918,438</b>
Net bad and doubtful debts expenses including movements in allowance for expected credit losses	(243,206)	477,501
Other leasing related expenses	116,832	114,149

#### 5 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash at bank and on hand	75,447,715	70,911,653
	<b>75,447,715</b>	<b>70,911,653</b>

#### Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Cash Flows

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash at bank and on hand, and short-term deposits at call, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash at bank and on hand	75,447,715	70,911,653
Short term deposits	16,735,646	7,720,996
Total cash and cash equivalents	<b>92,183,361</b>	<b>78,632,649</b>

#### 6 Receivables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Fees and government subsidies	812,306	1,332,443
Less: allowance for expected credit losses	(140,224)	(406,513)
	672,082	925,930
Other receivables	7,750	7,750
Total receivables	<b>679,832</b>	<b>933,680</b>

#### 7 Other financial assets

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current</b>		
Bank term deposits	16,735,646	7,720,996
<b>Non-current</b>		
Managed fund investments classified as FVOCI	18,235,943	16,490,734
Interest bearing deposit	15,000,000	15,000,000
	<b>33,235,943</b>	<b>31,490,734</b>
Total other financial assets	<b>49,971,589</b>	<b>39,211,730</b>

The Company holds a mixed portfolio of investments in fixed interest securities, alternative assets, property trust, Australian and international equities in its managed fund held at fair value managed by Perpetual.

The bank deposit of \$15,000,000 is secured against the borrowing facility - refer Note 14.

## 8 Other assets

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Accrued income	407,500	556,701
Prepayments	2,138,941	1,541,100
Total other assets	<b>2,546,441</b>	<b>2,097,801</b>

## 9 Property, plant and equipment

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Freehold land and buildings – at cost	16,349,250	14,299,718
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,129,964)	(1,041,646)
	<b>15,219,286</b>	<b>13,258,072</b>
Leasehold improvements (incl. buildings on leasehold) – at cost	71,539,041	56,764,569
Less: accumulated depreciation	(11,563,377)	(9,948,871)
	<b>59,975,664</b>	<b>46,815,698</b>
Office machines and equipment – at cost	3,938,870	4,552,993
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,677,556)	(2,239,196)
	<b>2,261,314</b>	<b>2,313,797</b>
Total property, plant and equipment	<b>77,456,264</b>	<b>62,387,567</b>

Movements in property, plant and equipment are shown as follows:

	Freehold land and buildings \$	Leasehold improvements (incl. buildings on leasehold) \$	Office machines and equipment \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2024	13,258,072	46,815,698	2,313,797	62,387,567
Additions	2,049,551	15,836,144	622,238	18,507,933
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	(88,337)	(2,676,178)	(674,721)	(3,439,236)
Balance at 31 December 2024	<b>15,219,286</b>	<b>59,975,664</b>	<b>2,261,314</b>	<b>77,456,264</b>

## 10 Intangible assets

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Software – at cost	1,455,272	4,531,411
Less: accumulated amortisation	(830,744)	(3,870,050)
Total intangible assets	<b>624,528</b>	<b>661,361</b>

  

	Software \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2024	661,361	661,361
Additions	300,229	300,229
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation	(337,062)	(337,062)
Balance at 31 December 2024	<b>624,528</b>	<b>624,528</b>

## 11 Right-of-use assets

	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Balance at 1 January 2024	8,254,953	402,287	8,657,239
Additions	347,420	66,620	414,040
Depreciation charge	(1,052,918)	(183,970)	(1,236,888)
Balance at 31 December 2024	<b>7,549,455</b>	<b>284,937</b>	<b>7,834,391</b>

## 12 Trade and other payables

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Trade creditors	2,406,113	1,406,020
Other creditors and accruals	1,896,644	3,973,020
	<b>4,302,757</b>	<b>5,379,040</b>

## 13 Service contract liabilities

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Capital grants received to acquire or construct an asset	3,850,875	2,021,114
Payments for future services and grants received in advance	5,706,826	5,204,134
	<b>9,557,701</b>	<b>7,225,248</b>

## 14 Borrowings

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current</b>		
Bank loan – secured	-	-
<b>Non-current</b>		
Bank loan – secured	<b>6,321,457</b>	<b>6,321,457</b>

### Financing arrangements

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Total facilities available:		
Bank loans	6,321,457	6,321,457
	<b>6,321,457</b>	<b>6,321,457</b>
Facilities utilised at the reporting date:		
Bank loan	6,321,457	6,321,457
	<b>6,321,457</b>	<b>6,321,457</b>
Facilities un-utilised at the reporting date:		
Bank loan	10,178,543	10,178,543

A term deposit of \$15,000,000 is secured against the unused and used flexible loan with a total limit of \$15,000,000. Additionally, a separate bank loan of \$1,500,000 is secured by the first mortgage over Aspect's property at Cardiff Heights.

## 15 Provisions

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current</b>		
Long service leave provision	8,716,447	8,260,743
Annual leave provision	2,130,850	2,370,457
Workers compensation	1,000,000	1,000,000
	<u>11,847,297</u>	<u>11,631,200</u>
<b>Non-current</b>		
Make-good provision under leases	697,711	684,073
Long service leave provision	1,918,828	1,979,277
	<u>2,616,539</u>	<u>2,663,350</u>
	<b><u>14,463,836</u></b>	<b><u>14,294,550</u></b>

## 16 Lease liabilities

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current</b>		
Lease liabilities	1,502,319	2,744,200
<b>Non-current</b>		
Lease liabilities	8,256,408	8,167,275
Total lease liabilities	<u>9,758,727</u>	<u>10,911,475</u>

Future lease payments are due as follows:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Within one year	1,849,377	1,775,625
One to five years	5,808,226	6,639,737
More than five years	4,933,596	5,455,686
<b>Total undiscounted lease payments</b>	<b><u>12,591,199</u></b>	<b><u>13,871,048</u></b>

## 17 Cash Flow Information

Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities with surplus:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	28,649,898	28,907,942
<i>Non-cash flows in operating surplus:</i>		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	3,439,236	2,963,171
Depreciation of right-of-use asset	1,236,888	1,743,650
Amortisation of intangible assets	337,062	726,385
<i>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</i>		
Increase in receivables and other assets	71,495	(341,646)
Increase in payables and other liabilities	1,256,169	2,170,474
(Decrease) in provisions	(97,003)	(1,695,238)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b><u>34,893,745</u></b>	<b><u>34,474,738</u></b>

## 18 Auditor remuneration

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Audit of the financial statements	73,000	69,000
Other fees	40,430	32,403
Total auditor remuneration	<b>113,430</b>	<b>101,403</b>

## 19 Fundraising appeals conducted during the year

Fundraising appeals conducted during the financial period included direct mail, telephone, digital and face to face appeals, regular giving program, major gift and family trusts programme, corporate giving including payroll giving, applications to trusts, foundations & registered clubs, events including Walk for autism, Run for autism, merchandise sales and other solicited and unsolicited donations including gift in will. In addition to the monetary donation, Aspect also received in-kind donations totalling \$256,707, which have been included in the philanthropic result.

Gifts from Wills generally do not fall under the definition of fundraising in the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and are disclosed below for clarity and consistency with Note 3.

Fundraising funds are incorporated into other operational income and applied as set out in the Financial Statements. All funds are applied for Aspect's Charitable purposes.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Results of fundraising appeals</b>		
Community fundraising	2,322,003	2,202,872
Individual giving	1,608,751	1,680,708
Philanthropy	1,601,855	1,972,631
Gift in Will	<u>2,042,690</u>	<u>361,481</u>
Income from fundraising	7,575,299	6,217,692
Less: Total costs of fundraising appeals	(2,912,309)	(2,402,658)
Net surplus	<b>4,662,990</b>	<b>3,815,034</b>
Add: fundraising income deferred in current year	735,255	278,692
Less: fundraising income deferred in prior year, recognised in current year	(376,922)	\$224,939
Cash surplus	<b>5,021,323</b>	<b>3,868,787</b>

## 20 Related party transactions

### a) Key management personnel compensation

The Directors act in an honorary capacity and receive no compensation for their services. Directors may receive reimbursement for direct expenses incurred by the directors in fulfilling their roles.

Key management personnel compensation consists of amounts paid to executive team members. In 2024, changes were made to the structure of the Executive team, including the addition of a dedicated CIO position.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Total key management personnel remuneration	<u>2,468,647</u>	<u>1,966,496</u>

## b) Other related party transactions

The Directors and other key management personnel may be donors to the Company. Nil other related party transactions.

## 21 Contingent liabilities

Security deposit guarantees of \$472,446 secured against term deposits at Note 7.

## 22 Commitments

	2024
	\$
<b>Capital expenditure commitments</b>	
Aspect Macarthur School	2,517,329
Aspect Central Coast School	850,000
Aspect Riverina School	1,480,229
Aspect South East Sydney School	3,159,535
Aspect South Coast School	551,603
Aspect Hunter School	1,840,751
Aspect Treetop School	550,000
<b>Total capital expenditure commitments</b>	<b>10,949,447</b>

## 23 Events subsequent to the reporting date

### a) Opening of Aspect Hills Shire School

Aspect launched a state-of-the-art primary school in Box Hill at the start of Term 1, 2025. Situated within The Gables, a thriving new suburb developed by Stockland, the school is designed to cater to 72 students on the autism spectrum, from Kindergarten to Year 6. The campus opened with 22 students and is expected to generate \$1.7m in revenue with a budgeted expenditure of \$1.8m in 2025.

### b) Closure of Adult Community Services in NSW

In 2024, Aspect made a strategic decision to discontinue its adult community services in NSW by the end of March 2025. This change will affect 26 participants and is expected to result in a revenue reduction of approximately \$1.4m and an additional closure cost of \$460k, partially offset by savings of \$1.5m in operation costs. Management is actively working to ensure a smooth transition for all impacted participants.

### c) Engagement of a Second Investment Advisor

To enhance the management of Aspect's assets, a second investment advisor, Evans and Partners has been engaged to oversee the newly established Liquid Pool and Growth Pool. This decision is intended to diversify risk, optimise returns, and ensure the long-term financial sustainability of Aspect. As of the date of this report, \$10m has been invested in fixed interest securities.

## Responsible Entities' declaration

In the opinion of the Responsible Entities of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect):

- a. The financial statements and notes of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
  - i. giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
  - ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*, and
- b. There are reasonable grounds to believe that Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

The Responsible Entities are the members of the Board of Directors. This declaration is signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



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Chair of the Board  
Paul Khoury

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025

## Declaration in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021 (NSW)

On behalf of Autism Spectrum Australia (the “Company”), I declare:

1. The Company is able to pay all of its debts as and when the debts become due and payable;
2. The 31 December 2024 financial statements of the Company satisfy the requirements of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021;
3. The contents of the 31 December 2024 financial statement of the Company are true and fair; and
4. The Company has appropriate and effective internal controls.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacqui Borland  
Chief Executive Officer

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025



## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the Members of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)

#### Report on the audit of the financial report

##### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (the "Registered Entity") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information and the Responsible Entities' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- 1 giving a true and fair view of the Registered Entity's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- 2 complying with Australian Accounting Standards -Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

##### 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 Registered Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (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 believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon**

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Declaration in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021 (NSW) but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of the Responsible Entities for the financial report**

The Responsible Entities of the Registered Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021 (NSW), and for such internal control as the Responsible Entities determine 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 financial report, the Responsible Entities are responsible for assessing the Registered 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 the Responsible Entities either intend to liquidate the Registered Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Responsible Entities are responsible for overseeing the Registered 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 the 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 Registered Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Responsible Entities.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Responsible Entities 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 Registered 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 Registered 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 those charged with governance 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.



Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd  
Chartered Accountants



James Winter  
Partner – Audit & Assurance  
Sydney, 25 February 2025