



YMCA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**23/24**

ANNUAL REPORT










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## Our impact

-  Recreation Centres
-  Outdoor Pools
-  Gymnastics
-  Out of School Hours Care
-  Early Learning Centres





Riverbanks College B-12

Gawler East Primary School

Mark Oliphant College

Adelaide North Special School

Munno Para Primary School

Craigmore South Primary School

One Tree Hill Primary School

Airdale Primary School  
St Mark's College

The Valleys Lifestyle Centre

Riverton Outdoor Pool

The Pines School

Tyndale Christian School

Para Hills West Primary School  
Para Hills School

Modbury Special School

Woodville Gardens School

The Parks Recreation and Sports Centre

Pennington R-6 School

St Clair Recreation Centre  
Whitefriars School

Rosary School

Heritage College

St Francis of Assisi School  
Rostrevor College

Emmaus Christian College Brooklyn Park

YMCA SA Head Office

Pembroke School

Emmaus Christian College South Plympton

Unley Primary School

YMCA Gymnastics Glengowrie

Westbourne Park Primary School

Clapham Primary School

Purruna Spencer Newton Centre

Marion Leisure & Fitness Centre

Scotch College

Our Saviour Lutheran School

St Mark's Lutheran School

Reynella Primary School

Flaxmill School P-6

YMCA Gymnastics O'Sullivan Beach

Hackham West School

YMCA Gymnastics Seaford

Moana Primary School

Aldinga Payinthe College

# CEO / President's Report

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The past year has been an exciting time of growth and innovation for YMCA South Australia while also staying true to our mission to provide opportunities for all people to grow in body, mind and spirit.

Significantly, this was recognised when we became one of just over 200 organisations in South Australia and the first in our sector nationwide to be certified as a social enterprise through Social Traders. This certification is awarded to organisations prioritising public good over private gain and highlights our commitment to creating positive change in the community.

It has been a record year of growth, with YMCA South Australia revenues exceeding \$34 million, an increase of 18% on the prior year culminating in a surplus of \$967,107.

Importantly, the surplus contributes funds towards the YMCA Impact Fund. The recently launched YMCA Impact Fund provides funding and support to employees who identify possibilities for program innovation or partnerships with community organisations. It will be a valuable support mechanism to the great work we do in our programs and services.

We have continued to experience unprecedented growth across all of our portfolios. In particular, the number of OSHC sites rose by eleven including Emmaus Brooklyn Park, Emmaus South Plympton, Mark Oliphant College, Pembroke, The Pines, McDonald Park, Pennington, Heritage, Clapham, Hackham West and Moana.

There has also been substantial growth in employee numbers with The Y now employing more than 1,100 South Australians across 65 locations. Centrally, we welcomed Annaleisa Hart to the position of Head of People and Culture. Annaleisa brings to the role a wealth of experience and knowledge in employment law and psychology.

This year we furthered our focus on innovation to ensure sustainability and greater impact. We committed to environmental goals to halve our emissions and a longer-term net zero position, while partnering with Trellis Technologies to monitor and inform that journey. We continued to strengthen our defences to cyber threats and will work with 4walls Cyber Advisory for independent review and advice.



**DAVID PATERSON**  
*CEO, YMCA South Australia*



**VADIS RODATO**  
*President, YMCA South Australia*

We also broadened our sphere of influence this year with Komala Champion, Head of Children’s Services appearing before the Royal Commission in Early Education and Care. The Commissioner, Julia Gillard, interviewed the sector in a series of roundtables, individual interviews, written feedback and evidence

based presentations in order to make recommendations on the following areas:

- ↘ A vision for South Australia’s children in their first 1,000 days of life
- ↘ Universal quality preschool programs for three and four-year old children
- ↘ Out of school hours care

Thank you to the Board, staff and volunteers for your dedication and hard work through the year.

**Vadis Rodato**

(President)

**David Paterson**

(Chief Executive Officer)

## Board Members



**SIMON CAMPBELL**

*Vice President and Treasurer*



**CHRISTINE CHATBURN**

*Director*



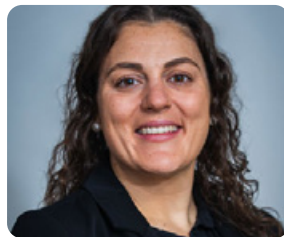
**SOPHIE CHRISTIAN**

*Director*



**DANIEL EDGECOMBE**

*Director*



**JESS MARTIN**

*Director*



**DYLAN NOACK**

*Director*



**MATTHEW PEARS**

*Director*



**MARIE SKRODZKI**

*Director*



**MEL WATSON**

*Director*

# Sport and Recreation

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Delivering community outcomes through strong local leadership, innovative programs and collaborative partnerships. Recreation facilities are the very heart of the community, a place where residents can come together to connect, to improve health, learn new skills and to play.

Our programs and services recorded more than 1.5 million visits across the Sport and Recreation portfolio, generating over \$16.2m of social value to the communities we serve and highlighting the important role we play in preventative health.

As our business grows, it is important our leadership and operational support structures scale proportionality. For the first time the recreation business unit welcomed a Head of Sport & Recreation role, with Craig Hortin commencing in June. The role will be critical to the strategic direction of the Sport and Recreation portfolio. Further structure changes across Recreation included Haydn Bellamy, appointed to the role of Recreation Development Manager – Gymnastics, with a dedicated focus on gymnastics growth as a strategic pillar for the Y. These two appointments provided further growth opportunities to Leeann Ksiezak as the Centre Manager – The Parks Recreation and Sports Centre and

Tyler Godfrey, Centre Manager – Marion Leisure & Fitness Centre.

The financial year has seen ongoing business development through tender submissions for Thebarton Aquatic Centre, submitted with a successful outcome advised in June 2024 and is a strong strategic partnership with the Department for Education. St Clair Recreation Centre was market tested in March 2024. The Y was formally advised as the successful respondent in October 2024, ensuring we will continue our impact at St Clair for a further 10 years.

Glengowrie Gymnastics won the Gymnastics SA Large Club of the Year and Jo Davidson from Seaford Gymnastics was awarded the Gymnastics SA Volunteer of the Year. With our continued growth in gymnastics, we have launched a new venture at the State Sports Park in Gepps Cross, bringing our gymnastics offerings to four locations.

Our health and fitness programs were again benchmarked for Quality Accreditation with AUSActive and became the first organisation to be 100% re-accredited. Fleurieu Aquatic Centre and The Parks partnered with Surf Lifesaving SA to deliver the Parnggi Yarlular Porlar (PYP); a program designed to provide swimming lessons to indigenous children before they graduate to a SLSSA Nippers program.

The team at The Parks also partnered with Allianz to provide the Allianz Swim Club, an 8 week adult learn to swim program. Capping off a big year in aquatics, the launch of the Purrana Swim Team in partnership with Scotch College was a great milestone to provide competitive opportunities for families and students of the Purrana Swim School and Scotch College.



Whyalla Recreation Centre underwent a \$2m renovation of the aquatics infrastructure with a new plant room, upgraded interactive play equipment and re-instatement of the spa to continue to provide the facilities required in the local community. The team had to pivot programs and services during a 4-month closure period with innovative programs and community engagement strategies which led to new programs such as chair yoga and day outings to neighbouring pools.

The Parks delivered \$150,000 worth of infrastructure upgrades in preparation for the closure of the Adelaide Aquatic Centre to increase accessibility and accommodate a diverse range of needs.

Through strong guidance and leadership, The Parks Theatre was awarded the national award for Most Outstanding Theatre Production at the annual Junior Theatre Festival held in Newcastle.

Without these programs, many children would miss out on recreating in a way that achieves their ambitions and goals.

The last year has been busy with a solid foundation for future success and growth delivered.



Our programs and services throughout the 2023/24 financial year recorded over 1.5 million visits across the Sport and Recreation portfolio generating over \$16.2m of social value to the communities we serve.





## Children's Services

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YMCA Children's Services has seen substantial growth over the last 12 months with January producing our biggest growth period in one month, with a record 8 new OSHC sites opening. In this time, we have continued to strengthen partnerships with our local schools and communities.

Our biggest grown period to date; YMCA commenced operations at 11 new OSHC sites in 2023/24. In January we welcomed new services at Emmaus Brooklyn Park, Emmaus South Plympton, Mark Oliphant College, Pembroke and The Pines to the Y. We also opened brand new services at McDonald Park, Pennington and Heritage. We continued the year strong, with Clapham OSHC coming on board in February, and the addition of two new services at Hackham West and Moana in April, growing our presence within the community. This led to opportunities for our current staff to step up into leadership doles, and for new staff to join the Y team.

We celebrated the opening of our 40th site in 2024, and now have our eyes set on the 50th milestone. Due to our rapid growth, Children's Services has expanded to five OSHC Regions. We have also welcomed two new Regional Managers, and expanded our Support Services Team, introducing Inclusion Support roles and growing our Customer Support Team. Not only have we achieved significant growth, but we have also retained all contracts due for extension or renewal this year. YMCA are on track to become the largest third-party OSHC provider in South Australia.

St Joseph's OSHC, Airdale OSHC and Para Hills OSHC were all assessed against the National Quality Framework, by the Education Standards Board, and have successfully met all Quality Standards, upholding YMCA's values.

Our ELCs had another successful year, with both Aldinga Payinthe and Riverbanks increasing their capacity by 10 spaces, catering for growing waitlists. We have also implemented traineeships in both services, with 4 employees working towards their qualifications.

Over 2023/24 our impact included:

389,519

Attendances in a  
**YMCA OSHC program**

110,205

Visits for  
**Before School Care**

211,492

Visits for  
**After School Care**

64,204

Visits across  
**Vacation Care**

6,646

Families supported in  
**YMCA OSHC programs**

18,927

Attendances in a  
**YMCA ELC program**

130

Families supported in a  
**YMCA ELC program**

611

Staff working in our  
**Children's Services team**

A focus of this year was educator development and growth. This involved the roll out of our Educating the Educators Program, with Management and Support Services providing weekly online and in person trainings to Directors to enhance their professional development. We implemented and delivered a new Responsible Persons training, resulting in 149 newly trained Responsible Persons across Children's Services. In response to an increase of challenging behaviours, we partnered with QCAN (Queensland Children's Activities Networks) to implement an intensive behaviour management training for all Directors and Educators.

**Among other highlights, YMCA Children's Services:**

- Won 2 awards at the YMCA SA Award for Excellence; Customer Support Team's Chelsea Buckley – Excellence in Operations & Munno Para OSHC's Zoe McKee – Engaging Future Minds
- Participated in the Coles Healthy Kicks program
- Competed in the AFL Max Leadership challenge
- Participated in the Activated OSHC research project that is being trialled across South Australia, New South Wales & Western Australia
- Strengthened Partnerships with local schools, running and attending family information sessions.

# Allied Health

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In the past year, YMCA Allied Health provided exceptional care to 798 patients through our Physiotherapy and Exercise Physiology services. Our dedicated clinicians delivered 8,976 health services in the 2023/24 financial year, more than double our outreach than the previous year.

Our team effectively bridges the gap between healthcare clinics and recreation centres, creating an inclusive environment for those who may not typically engage with conventional fitness services. This has significantly improved clients' quality of life and reduced pressure on the broader health system.

Our Physiotherapists and Exercise Physiologists focus on empowering clients to thrive in body, mind, and spirit. Over the past year, we expanded our team by adding three part-time Physiotherapists, one full-time Exercise Physiologist, and our first Practice Coordinator, totalling 11 clinicians and administrative staff.

YMCA Allied Health extended its geographical reach by opening 2 new clinics at the Purruna Spencer Newton Centre within Scotch College

and the Holdfast Bay Community Centre. The Purruna physiotherapy service, the first of its kind in a South Australian high school, launched in July 2023, offering individual and group physio sessions for students, staff, and community members. This service improves accessibility to injury prevention and management and promotes well-being, particularly for boarding school students.

The Allied Health team also developed specialised clinical exercise groups, including 'Strong Bones, Stable Bodies' to enhance balance and bone density for at-risk adults, 'Mighty mYnds' supporting mental health for teens not attending mainstream schools and 'Clinical Reformer Pilates' offering tailored Pilates programs under health professional guidance.

Our clinicians also collaborated with local health centres to run health education workshops and implemented cross-referral systems with Recreation Centre staff. Our Allied Health team continues to support YMCA employees through occupational health initiatives, including ergonomic assessments and a voluntary influenza vaccination program.

# Youth Empowerment

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## Youth and Junior Parliament

The Youth Parliament team provides opportunities for young people to collaborate and contribute their thoughts and opinions through the Youth and Junior Parliament programs.

In October 2023, Junior Parliament held its 9th sitting, welcoming 40 young participants aged 12 to 15. This program empowers youth through leadership and confidence-building workshops within a parliamentary framework.

During March 2024, SA Youth Week featured Youth Governor David Deex, who delivered an inspiring speech on youth engagement in politics. The Youth Empowerment team also continued to support the Walk to D-Feet MND fundraising event, fostering community awareness and support.

The YMCA South Australia Youth Parliament program saw an impressive 102 participants this year. With a focus on collaboration, both Youth Governors and Program Coordinators engaged in national discussions to enhance connections among volunteers across the country. This initiative aims to create a supportive network that encourages young leaders to share ideas and experiences.

A significant addition this year was the Youth Press Gallery, developed in partnership with the Youth Parliament program. This initiative provided participants with invaluable opportunities to grow their skills in journalism, communication, and public speaking. The program allowed young people to report on parliamentary sessions, conduct interviews, and engage with key issues, all while fostering their confidence and capacity for civic engagement.

This year the Youth Parliament and associated programs received SACE-accreditation, ensuring that participants gain recognised qualifications while developing essential skills for their future through their education.

### Defence Programs

Due to some rollover in funding, YMCA South Australia ran additional programs for Defence Families this year. This saw great growth in the program with a 138% participation increase on the previous year. Over 2023/24 our impact included 302 participants in eight programs.

Some highlights from the year included a sleepover at the zoo, family fun day at The Parks and Explorers Day at Tree Climb.

Explorers' Activity Days saw children come together in a fun environment, promoting personal growth, leadership and team building. Parents expressed how their children had returned home eager to connect with the new friends they had made.

Family Camps were held at The Barossa & Brown Hill Creek. The Camps gave families the opportunities to participate in a range of activities and use some free time to explore the region with their YMCA Discovery Guide. Families have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to connect further with their own family and with other families who have shared experiences in defence.

## Safeguarding: Protecting Our Children and Young People

At YMCA South Australia, the safety of children and young people in our programs remains our paramount concern. In 2023/24, we continued to strengthen our safeguarding measures, embedding them deeply into our organisational culture.

### Independent Review

We successfully passed an independent review against safeguarding licensing standards conducted by the Australian Childhood Foundation. This review provides assurance that our programs maintain a safe environment for all participants.

At a governance level we established a Safeguarding Working Group, composed of board members and staff, which oversees our strategic approach and priorities in safeguarding children and young people.

### Professional Development

Our industry leading training approach continued with staff participating in:

- Feel Safe Be Safe
- RRHAN-EC (Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect - Education and Care)
- Safe Behaviours
- Stay Safe Tell Someone

Safeguarding staff further developed their knowledge through participating in Australia wide safeguarding consultation groups and completing investigation training under the guidance of a former police detective.

### Resource Development, Communication and Data Integrity

We produced a safeguarding poster as a resource for our sites, developed in consultation with children, to provide important safeguarding information. We strengthened our staff qualification and training information review processes through the engagement of a data assurance officer.

### Continuous Improvement

We continue to consult with Y Safeguarding on improvements to the Safeguarding framework, standards and training resources, while supporting our operations through incident reporting and procedure guidance.

Our unwavering commitment to safeguarding ensures that The Y remains a trusted, safe space for all children and young people in our community.

# Environment

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The YMCA South Australia Board has set ambitious carbon emission reduction targets as part of our long-term commitment to addressing climate change and adapting our operations:

- ↘ 50% reduction in greenhouse gases from baseline by December 2030
- ↘ Net zero carbon emissions by December 2040

To track progress towards these goals, The Y has partnered with Trellis Technologies to implement a comprehensive carbon emissions measurement platform. This initiative will establish a baseline and ensure data-driven decision-making in our environmental efforts.

At The Parks Recreation and Sports Centre we partnered with the Office for Recreation, Sport & Racing to conduct an energy audit and review to identify the next steps in further electrifying energy systems onsite and reducing the carbon footprint, following previous joint initiatives of installing a solar photovoltaic power system, converting to LED stadium lighting and enhancing the operational monitoring of on-site energy systems.

After a collaborative journey with Scotch College, architects, and builders, we

have fine-tuned and operationalised the environmental design of the Purruna Spencer Newton Centre. This includes advanced ultra-fine filtration for significant water usage reduction, a heat pump pool heating system, roof-mounted photovoltaic solar panels, skylights for natural lighting, high-performance double glazing, LED efficient lighting with sensing and dimming systems, and rainwater tanks for landscaping and toilet flushing.

These experiences have provided deep operational insights and experience in reducing the carbon footprint of both new builds and retrofitting existing recreation facilities, preparing us to work with other partners in our collective journey to enhance environmental outcomes and adapt operations to changes in climate.

Our OSHC environmental initiatives included implementing a bicycle recycling project, launching plastic waste reduction and recycling promotions and development of a sustainability journal to strengthen our alignment of OSHC services with the National Quality Framework environment standard.

These initiatives demonstrate The Y's commitment to environmental sustainability across our facilities and programs, aligning with our long-term carbon reduction goals and promoting eco-friendly practices in our community.

# Social Traders

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In 2024, YMCA South Australia achieved certification as a social enterprise through Social Traders.

The Y's roots lie in creating positive change in the community to improve the whole person in mind, body, and spirit.

Through its diverse service offerings in Sport and Recreation, Children's Services, Youth Empowerment and Allied Health, Y SA is committed to building a stronger, healthier community.

By earning this certification, The Y joins a group of organisations that have demonstrated a contribution and commitment to creating a better world.



# A Snapshot of 2023/24

Connected, engaged, supported community

2,040,912

Visits to YMCAs in South Australia

6,892

**Members**  
at YMCA Recreation Centres

389,519

Attendances in a  
**YMCA OSHC Program**

18,927

Attendances in a  
**YMCA ELC Program**

132,159

Attendances in a  
**YMCA Swimming Lesson**

613,548

Attendances in  
**YMCA sporting competitions**

52,049

Attendances in a  
**YMCA Gymnastics Class**

120,089

**Older South Australians**  
participated at the YMCA

6,646

**Families** supported in  
YMCA OSHC Programs

130

**Families** supported in YMCA  
ELC Programs

1,097

**Staff and Volunteers**  
at the YMCA

15,333

**Volunteer hours**  
at the YMCA

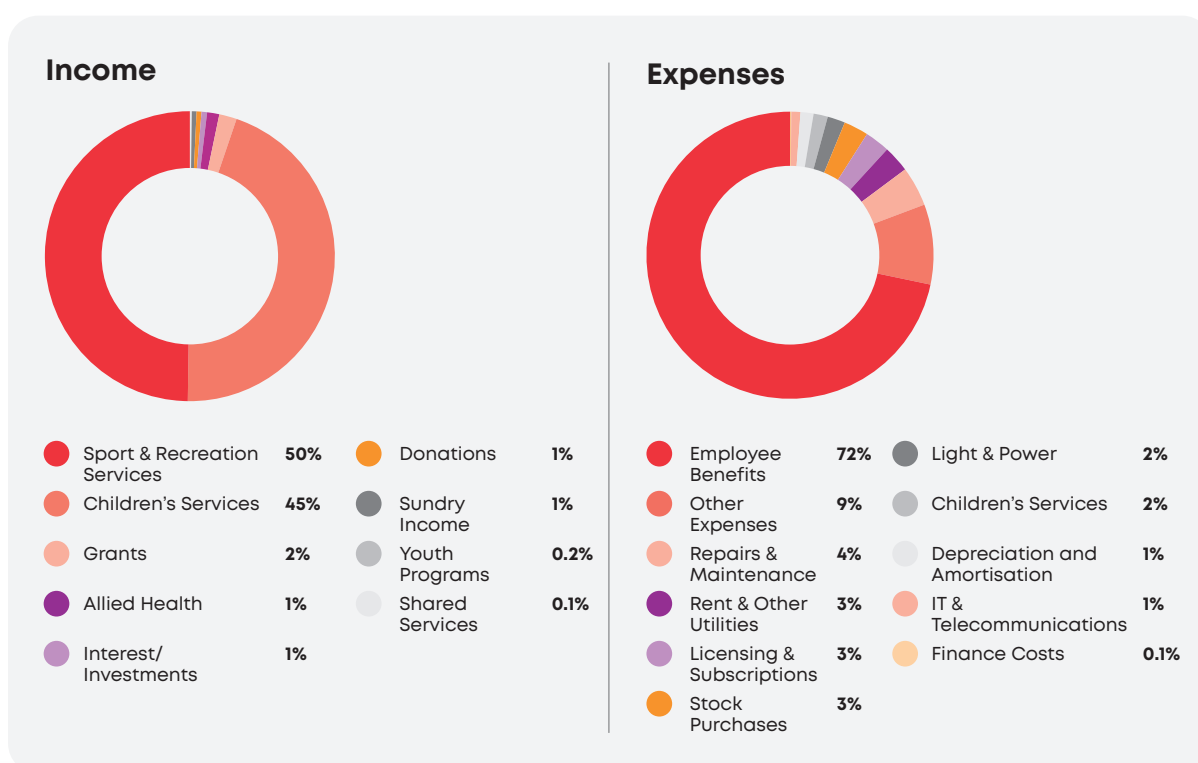
# Financial Report

The financial year ending 30 June 2024 returned a combined surplus of **\$967,470**

Our Entities	Net Income
The Young Men's Christian Association of South Australia Inc.	\$967,107
YMCA South Australia Youth and Family Services Inc.	\$363

Consolidated Results	2023-24
Total Revenue	\$35,494,522
Total Expense	\$34,527,052
Total Surplus	\$967,470

Balance Sheet	Combined
Current Assets	\$6,760,811
Non-Current Assets	\$,3276,725
Total Assets	\$10,037,536
Current Liabilities	\$5,134,665
Non-Current Liabilities	\$1,030,308
Total Liabilities	\$6,164,973
Net Assets	\$3,872,563



# Thank You

YMCA South Australia could not do the work it does without support from generous contributors in the community. We would like to recognise and thank all those listed here for their support this year.

## Grants

- Law Foundation of South Australia
- Electoral Commission of South Australia
- State Government – Dept of Human Services
- State Government – Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing
- Australian Government – Dept of Social Services
- YMI Service Club of Adelaide
- City of Marion
- Australian Government – Dept of Defence
- Australian Government – Dept of Education, Skills and Employment
- Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Community Schools and Languages SA

## Government & Industry



## Partners





**YMCA SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Level 10, 44 Waymouth Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

**p** 08 8200 2500

**e** [contact@ymcasa.org.au](mailto:contact@ymcasa.org.au)

**[sa.ymca.org.au](http://sa.ymca.org.au)**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work.  
We pay our respects to Elders past and present.