



auSDANCE  
WA

# Annual Report 2023

Providing dance services and education  
across Western Australia

[ausdancewa.org.au](https://ausdancewa.org.au)

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# About Ausdance WA

Ausdance WA is the peak service body for advocacy, promotion, participation and education for dance in Western Australia. Established in 1977, Ausdance WA is a not for profit membership organisation, providing support services to dance artists, teachers in schools, studios and community cultural and recreational contexts, and dance companies and organisations across the state. We exist to ensure West Australians have access to the best experiences of dance - as participants, audiences, creators and performers. We do this through the delivery of a suite of programs offering access and participation, education and training, employment, and promotion of artists and companies, along with audience development and, therefore, contribute significantly to the capacity building and sustainability of the sector. We support engagement with dance across all ages, all genres, all abilities, and across the state.

As part of a national network, Ausdance WA contributes to the national voice representing the dance sector

## Mission Statement

To educate, inspire and support the dance community in reaching its potential as a dynamic force within local, national and international communities.

## Our Vision

To be a voice and provide leadership for dance in Western Australia as its leading advocate, and to be a sustainable organisation that is well prepared for future challenges, provides accessible platforms for information and dialogue, and contributes to the growth and profile of the sector.

## Our Aims

- a. To provide a voice in the development of dance in Western Australia.
- b. To provide leadership in dance education, advocacy, lobbying, policy development and debate.
- c. To champion innovation, creativity and diversity in dance.
- d. To encourage access to and understanding of dance in communities throughout Australia.
- e. To assist in the identification and promotion of all dance traditions which exist in Australia, in recognition of their cultural importance.
- f. To foster national links with dance and dance related organisations.

## Our Values

- Inclusivity
- Diversity
- Excellence
- Accountability
- Sustainability

## Key Priorities for Ausdance WA:

### Strengthen sector networks & resource access

- Expand and strengthen strategic partnership initiatives
- Develop/facilitate live and virtual opportunities for engagement and participation across WA

### Capacity building & industry sustainability

- Identify and respond to industry issues and needs
- Provide programs to support sustainable sector development
- Build online communication resources to strengthen sector capacity
- Sustain viable revenue streams for the organization

### Access, engagement & participation

- Facilitate and develop programs that enable participation across WA
- Promote the work of members & the organization nationally & globally
- Raise membership and E-News subscribers.

### Advocacy & development of artform & sector

- Provide representation for WA dance to key government figures.
- Establish mechanisms & programs to support WA dance initiatives.

### Building Ausdance WA organization capacity & sustainability.

- Strengthening the organization via board & committee's development.
- Ensure operational, financial, marketing & specific plans are in place.
- Secure sustainable and diverse revenue streams for the organisation & new income streams.

# President's Report

2023 was a year of limited programs due to limited resources. However, the year ended with some good news.

## Teacher Professional Learning

As in recent years, Creative Moves WA stepped up to deliver the ATAR Set Solo Workshops for teachers of Year 12 dance on our behalf. Creative Moves WA delivered two Set Solo Workshops on Friday 3 February at WAAPA and Wednesday 1 March, with the latter workshop co-presented with HotHouse Company, at All Saints' College Dance Studio. An additional workshop, Teaching Yr 7 - 12 Dance, co-presented with HotHouse Company, was delivered on Monday 27 February. We are indebted to Rachael Bott of Creative Moves WA, WAAPA and HotHouse Company and All Saints' College for their support in providing these essential professional learning opportunities for teachers in schools and independent peripatetic dance teachers.

## Dance in Country Week

Ausdance WA has been producing and presenting Dance in Country Week for School Sport WA for more years than we can recall. The program was regularly revised on the basis of feedback from teachers and continued to grow in both content and attendance, attracting over 100 participants from schools across the state in more recent years. The project has been subsidised by School Sport WA and, until 2019, was delivered with financial support from Healthway. Healthway support was withdrawn in 2020. However, we were able to secure funding to subsidise the project from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in 2021 and 2022. (Country Week was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID19 restrictions). Regrettably, our application for support for the project in 2023 was unsuccessful. Without the additional financial support, we were unable to deliver the project in 2023. Whilst it is extremely regrettable that Ausdance WA was not able to run this much-loved project in 2023, School Sport WA was able to source funding from the Education Department to cover the cost of engaging a teacher to coordinate the Dance in Country Week program.

## Advocacy

Throughout 2023, our Director continued to liaise with the Ausdance national network of branches to continue

our advocacy work for the dance industry. In 2023, the priorities were

- Connecting with unregulated private dance studios as a priority in the context of government implementation of responses to the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse
- Teacher accreditation and studio compliance with regulations
- Music licensing – unravelling the labyrinth of OneMusic licensing
- Insurance - responding to member needs

Given our very limited resources, the support of the national network has been invaluable, enabling us to continue to have an influence on issues impacting the sector.

During September 2023, Ausdance QLD hosted the National Dance Gathering in Brisbane.

Representatives of the dance sector from across Australia met to consider and address major issues identified in pre-meeting surveys. Major companies, small and medium sized companies, private businesses, community groups and independent dancers/producers attended.

The Gathering identified high level issues:

- Career pathways
- Government funding strategies
- Venue accessibility
- Fair pay and employee rights
- Safety in the dance sector
- Advocacy for dance

The next steps are to develop a detailed plan - including delegation of responsibilities, funding and accountability. Ausdance QLD will work with all Ausdance offices to advocate for recommendations with governments at all levels and industry stakeholders, in collaboration with sector. This will include delegating responsibility for recommendations.

The meeting was coordinated and produced by Ausdance QLD and supported by Queensland Ballet, Creative Australia and Ausdance National.

## Representation

Our Director continued to represent the sector as a member of the FutureNow Performing Arts Advisory Network.

## Capacity Building

In mid-2023, Ausdance WA was approached by a number of youth dance advocates to help facilitate reactivating a youth dance company for Western Australia. As most of you will be aware, STEPS Youth Dance Company was closed in 2014 to become part of Co3. Regrettably, Co3 made a decision at the end of 2019 to discontinue the Co-Youth Ensemble. As was the case at the time that STEPS was established some 34 years ago, we have a state subsidised youth theatre company, youth jazz orchestra and youth orchestra, but no youth dance company. A call-out for interest in supporting the conversation resulted in 48 stakeholders expressing interest. Shona Erskine developed a conversation plan to inform the initial discussion to determine the priority strategies to progress a plan to re-establish a youth dance company for the state. Two meetings with stakeholders were held at WAAPA on 19 August and 18 November. The discussions were extremely positive and covered a broad range of issues to be considered. The meetings determined to establish a Reference Group to develop Terms of Reference to progress the planning. A Reference Group will be established in early 2024.

## Funding

Since Ausdance WA's core operational funding was withdrawn by the state government in 2018, we have continued to seek funding from a number of sources to support both our operational costs and projects, with limited success. However, in August 2023, we received advice from the state Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries that our application for \$60,000 to reboot our operations was successful.

This funding, for the period December 2023 until May 2024, enabled us to appoint paid personnel to reinvigorate our services and advocacy for the dance sector across the state. We were delighted to appoint Amy Wiseman to the position of Associate Director in December in a part time capacity (2 days/week). Amy comes to Ausdance WA in this capacity with a strong understanding of the organisation, having previously worked as Project Manager with us, and has strong connections and an extensive network across both the independent dance and teaching communities. Our current Director, Gabrielle Sullivan, will be working with Amy to handover leadership of the organisation in 2024. We will also be appointing a Memberships and

Marketing Manager and Finance Manager early in 2024.

With our membership having declined in recent years, we are offering free membership until 30 June 2024, to rebuild, and will be increasing our membership benefits to ensure membership growth across the coming year.

Our first task in 2024 will be to undertake a significant survey of the dance sector to determine priority issues to be addressed at a state level. Whilst we have a long history of research into the needs of the dance industry in Western Australia which will inform discussions through the consultation process, we anticipate there will be new, significant needs that have emerged from the impacts of the COVID pandemic and Ausdance WA's absence from the sector. We cannot predict the outcomes of sector consultation, so anticipate that new priorities will be identified for future action.

Industry consultation will develop a road map for implementation of programs and initiatives and the development of resources to support identified needs as well as advocacy. Through the consultation process, we will identify priorities to support the dance sector across portfolio areas.

The process will see a better-connected industry through revitalised membership, communications, information and resources.

## Thank you

I take the opportunity to express our deepest gratitude for the incredible dedication and hard work of our outgoing Director, Gabrielle Sullivan, and our former Memberships Officer, Miranda De Baughn and Finance Officer, Natalie Johnson, who have continued to volunteer their time and expertise to ensure a future for Ausdance WA. We thank them for their generosity and commitment. We are so fortunate to have had them as part of our team.

Their willingness to continue to support Ausdance WA is truly inspiring and greatly appreciated. It is because of volunteers like them that we are able to reboot our operations and continue to support the dance sector in Western Australia.

Finally, I extend thanks to our Management Committee Members who have made themselves available to support and advise our Director.



Simon Owen  
President

## Management Committee

<b>President</b>	Simon Owen
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tatyana Kozyreva
<b>Secretary</b>	Lisa Honczarenko
<b>Committee Members:</b>	
	Leanne Page

## Volunteer Personnel

<b>Director</b>	Gabrielle Sullivan
<b>Marketing and Membership Officer</b>	
	Miranda De Baughn
<b>Finance Officer</b>	Natalie Johnson



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