

# The future. Together.

Annual report 2021





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# Who is NextSense?

**We are a not-for-profit organisation supporting people across Australia who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or have low vision.**

Our wide range of experts work with children, adults, and their families to educate or create an individual program of care to meet their unique needs. We've been providing services since 1860 and now deliver Australia's largest cochlear implant program. We harness the latest technology, educate the next generation of experts, and are world leaders in research.



**Here's our video**



# NextSense.

## Enhancing lives every day, by redefining what's possible.

### Our purpose

We exist to enhance lives by working with people who have hearing or vision loss, so we can redefine what's possible, together.

### Our ambition

As a unified organisation, we lead and influence the field of hearing and vision, through dedication to our services, and advancing research, education, innovation, and technology.

### Our values

- **Integrity.** We make sure our words and actions align
- **Empowerment.** We own our roles and experiences
- **Community.** We connect and collaborate
- **Respect.** We all matter and have different strengths
- **Courage.** We look and go beyond fear
- **Communication.** We share and communicate with purpose.

### Our strategic priorities

- Build a unified organisation under one brand
- Create a people-first culture
- Lead and influence the sector
- Grow and evolve our offering
- Future-proof a sustainable business.

# 2021—the year in numbers

# 10,300+

clients supported in 2021

## 5,000+

adults and children supported by our cochlear implant service

## 358

cochlear implant surgeries

## 3,250+

children received diagnostic audiology services

## 58

Students graduated with a Master of Disability Studies

## 440+

children who are blind or have low vision supported

## 17

of Australia's top ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeons worked with us, across 25 hospitals

## 1,200+

children supported through our early intervention programs

## 200+

children supported by NextSense education services

## 37%

of sessions delivered by telepractice (a 15% increase on 2020)

## 172

students enrolled in the NextSense Institute Master of Disability Studies course, affiliated with Macquarie University

## 5

international awards for our new NextSense brand, designed to communicate the full depth and breadth of all we do

## 4,149

training and development days delivered by NextSense Institute

## 66,500

downloads of NextSense apps

# Message from the President and Chief Executive

At the heart of every successful and sustainable organisation is the willingness and courage to adapt and evolve—and to do so in such a way that draws people together.



# Message from the President and Chief Executive

At the heart of every successful and sustainable organisation is the willingness and courage to adapt and evolve—and to do so in such a way that draws people together.

In 2021, we rose to this challenge. We reached major milestones in delivering the NextSense of the future, all while keeping people at the heart of our decision-making. And by people, we mean those for whom we work—our valued clients—and those who keep the wheels in motion—our incredible staff.

## Finding strength in adversity

In a year where COVID-19 continued to disrupt life, work, mental and physical health, and finances, our board and senior management worked as a cohesive team to balance service delivery with keeping people safe and maintaining our financial sustainability.

Through it all, we continued to provide essential, in-person services to children and families in a COVID-safe way, with our school and preschools resuming in-person learning at the earliest opportunity. Across all of our services, we developed creative new ways to work with adults, children and families, pivoting in and out of online delivery.

We had two powerful advantages that prepared us incredibly well for this: an unwavering commitment to our clients, and decades of expertise in telepractice. Offering services remotely has for many years been central to our work with people right across Australia. Our NextSense Institute is also a pioneer in online learning.

This rich knowledge base proved invaluable. We drew on each other's strengths, shared what we learned, and supported each other.

It was heartening to witness such collegiality during physical and emotional isolation and see new understandings develop as each of our people had to navigate new ways of working. We really did overcome the tyranny of distance, transitioning safely through each pandemic phase with a considered, clear and well-communicated plan, and new wellbeing initiatives to help staff navigate the challenging environment. As we reach a level of 'COVID normal' and return to in-person services in the safest possible way, we've learned some important lessons that have prepared us well should the need arise to pivot once again. We've also learned about how to carry those new ways of working forward, developing hybrid models of service delivery that are even more client centred.

## Forging ahead on our new best practice centre

In the face of supply chain and other COVID-related disruption, our most significant infrastructure development to date—establishing a new centre for innovation and best practice at Macquarie University—forged ahead during 2021.

This purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility is much more than a building. It's a significant investment in Australia's social infrastructure as it opens up new opportunities for people with hearing and vision loss and brings together the best minds in the field of sensory disability.

In May, the project was approved by New South Wales Planning and Public Spaces Minister Rob Stokes, and after a rigorous tender process we appointed construction firm ADCO to lead the build. We began detailed consideration of how our clients and staff should experience the new centre, working with our project partners on the external and internal environment. And we built on the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Macquarie University in late 2020, strengthening the relationship with our university colleagues and advancing discussions on possible new collaborations.

Throughout the year, we continued conversations on this significant project with government ministers at both state and federal

level. We are building a shared understanding with policy makers of what this will mean for those with hearing and vision loss. We're also seeking true government partnerships so this venture will help cement Australia as a leading thinker in the field and leverage further benefits for NSW as the home of the Australian Hearing Hub and a springboard for national innovation in sensory disability.

## Responding to demand for services

In response to a significant and growing need for services in Western Sydney and regional NSW, we expanded and enhanced our services. We extended our Liverpool centre footprint and opened a new centre in Broadmeadow, Newcastle. By co-locating our Hunter team with leading ENT surgeons, we will be able to deliver a more streamlined experience for people with hearing loss who could benefit from cochlear implants.

In Wagga Wagga we continued our well established outreach services, and in Wollongong we laid the foundations for an expanded service in the future. All this work will contribute to better health services in population growth areas, a key priority for governments as demographics shift and the population ages.

# Message from the President and Chief Executive

## One, unified organisation

As we've grown and changed in recent years, drawing a wider group of different services, staff, and clients under our umbrella, we began to recognise the need to tell a more cohesive story about our role in the world, our ambition and what we could offer. The culmination of that thinking resulted in us rebranding from Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children to NextSense in March 2021. This was a transformational piece of work and a very significant step in reaching our strategic goal of building one single, strong, future-focused organisation. Our incredible 161-year legacy remains core to who we are, and we're deeply grateful that our supportive people, our broader communities, and generous donors have joined us on this journey. The change is truly about connecting with more people—both children and adults—through a single experience, making it easier for clients to find us when and where they need us and to understand all the ways we can help them reach their potential.

In 2021 we also harmonised our internal work environment, bringing most of our people under one enterprise agreement. This landmark achievement was the result of taking a 'people

first' approach, where everyone participated in a fair, transparent, and inclusive process. The outcome was overwhelming support from staff.

The NextSense Board, conscious of the connection between organisational culture and business sustainability, has reaffirmed its commitment to 'people first' principles. It has established a new People and Culture sub-committee, deepened engagement across the organisation, built even stronger relationships with the leadership team, and played an active role in our COVID response and wellbeing initiatives. This commitment to our people is a strategic initiative that will chart the course for our future.

Thanks to government assistance through the JobKeeper and JobSaver initiatives, we were also able to retain our staff and continue our operations in the face of such major change to our business operations during COVID lockdowns. We could not have achieved so much without our volunteers, stakeholders, friends, and wonderful agile staff who stayed the course with us through challenging times.

We have emerged from 2021 undeniably stronger, financially sound, and with a clear view of the road ahead. We're energised by the generosity of spirit in the partnerships we're building, across boardrooms, classrooms, consulting rooms, and beyond. The future looks bright for 2022.

**David Dinte**  
NextSense President

**Chris Rehn**  
NextSense Chief Executive



Chris shares his highlights





# Towards next



In 2021 we took a leap into our organisation's future.

We laid the foundations for new ways of working—as our external environment changed, we responded creatively.

We focused on how we, as a diverse group of highly skilled individuals, could come together, uniting around a new organisational strategy.

We transformed our clients', supporters', and partners' experience of what we do by launching a single, united brand.

And so, while this report is a reflection on where we have been, it is also very much about where we are going.

We are heading into a new era. There is new thinking about how the hearing and vision loss sectors might come together more effectively. And there is a louder and more encouraging conversation around what it means to influence the field.

This presents us with many opportunities, and the right time to be planning a new home for best practice in sensory disability—a place to nurture innovative new ideas about education, care and service delivery for Australians with hearing and vision loss—and a vehicle for sharing this knowledge and learnings to benefit Australian society.

That's what our new centre for innovation at Macquarie University will be designed to achieve. The doors will open in 2023—but we are thinking, planning, and doing right now. We did much groundwork in 2021, and that work continues.

This new era does not mean leaving the past behind. Our 161-year legacy is in our DNA. What we have already achieved, in partnership with our clients, our people, our incredible donors,

and the many experts and supporters we work with in the community, is the rock on which we're built—our organisational heart and soul.

Asking 'what's next?' is something we work with our clients on every day.

But it's also a question we must ask ourselves as an organisation. It means pushing our own boundaries to go higher and better and making sure we remain focused on financial sustainability and sound governance so we can be around for our clients in the long term.

The answer to 'what's next?' might often be change and adaptation. Sometimes transformation. We're up for that. We hope you are too. We have always worked in partnership and that won't change. We want to walk boldly into this new future—together with you.

# Hearing services

Delivering in-person hearing services during ongoing COVID disruptions was not without challenge during 2021. But our approach, informed by the latest research and our long-term expertise in telepractice, meant we could continue supporting people in the most effective way throughout the unpredictability of the pandemic.



## Hearing services

Uniting all our services under one NextSense brand also simplified the experience for our clients, making it easier for them to find us and understand how we could support them.

At NextSense, we understand everyone's needs and journey are unique, so our collection of services support spoken language, Auslan or both.

In-person support for children continued at our paediatric audiology service throughout COVID lockdowns. The pivot to online service delivery was swift, and speech pathology and early intervention services translated well to this environment.

We produced online resources for parents and children, such as the Early Intervention at Home with NextSense video series—a fun and practical way to support families at home and supplement the goals and ideas identified in their individual sessions with us. And we launched Auslan Tutor 2, the latest of our Auslan learning apps.

Our outreach services were curtailed, with the team delivering one service at Tennant Creek, in the Northern Territory, during the year. This resulted in 53 children being able to have hearing screenings. However, not every service can be effectively delivered virtually. So, we, along with our clients and so many others, felt the ongoing impact of the pandemic. We were, however, able to swing back into action quickly as rules changed around living with COVID.

And we did not lose focus on expanding our reach. We did this in many ways. We extended our Victorian cochlear implant service to provide mapping services to children from 12-months post-implantation. And in an exciting first step forward in Victoria, we held the first switch-on at our Blackburn centre, where world-renowned ENT surgeon Markus Dahm's private practice is now located.

For adults with hearing loss who could benefit from a cochlear implant, only around 10% currently access one<sup>1</sup>. This leaves a huge gap that, if filled, could see this life-changing technology create possibilities for so many. That is why bringing cochlear implant services to more people who need it, and growing and evolving the services we offer, is a key strategic priority.

So, we have nurtured and strengthened partnerships with hearing providers to make it easier for clients to navigate the health system. And we made significant gains in improving access and increasing awareness for a large cohort of adults with severe to profound hearing loss.

We remained focused on our purpose to enhance the lives of people with hearing loss through a wide range of initiatives. These included co-locating with ENT surgeons at our new Broadmeadow centre in Newcastle and holding Discovering Hearing Implants sessions for those who need a forum to gather information and ask questions about the cochlear implant journey. We held these information sessions together with Cochlear—our longstanding partner and fellow member of the leading Australian Hearing Hub at Macquarie University.

The coming together of our people and services under one united brand, evolving our existing services, developing hybrid models of service delivery, and investing in the future of hearing services has set us up for an exciting future. This future is one where we can work together with even more people who are deaf or hard of hearing to reach their potential and stay true to our purpose of enhancing lives.

<sup>1</sup> The Social and Economic Cost of Hearing Loss in Australia (Hearing Care Industry Association, June 2017)



## Caio is 'limitless'

Diagnosed with mild to moderate hearing loss, Caio's level of hearing loss continued to decline, and by his first birthday he had developed severe to profound hearing loss. Shortly before his second birthday, he received bilateral cochlear implants (cochlear implants in both ears), giving him the best access to sound.

Early intervention at NextSense, along with cochlear implants, has been the best solution for Caio, according to mum, Joanne.

'We were searching for a place where we could have early intervention for Caio, to get him starting to learn language and have a head start in life.'

'The support that we receive is phenomenal. They have taken us under their wing from day

one—not only Caio but us as a family. Not only has Caio had amazing support, but they've also given us amazing tools to use in our day-to-day and activities. Having this program behind us means we are never alone, and it means Caio has the support and confidence to be who he wants to be in life.

'We have full confidence in Caio, that he'll navigate the world as he pleases. He is limitless.'



**More on Caio's story**

# Vision services

NextSense vision services are built on strong professionalism and the passion and drive of our people who deliver for our clients and lead their field. They are also built on a 150-year legacy of supporting and advocating for children who are blind or have low vision. And they are about breaking down barriers—across service delivery, education, and research.



## Vision services

Through our vision services, we partner with children and their families at every stage of their journey: from birth and our evidence-based early intervention services, through to childcare, preschool, and school support.

Orthoptists, early childhood teachers, assistive technology consultants, occupational therapists, psychologists, physiotherapists, and specialist teachers form an expert team around each child we support with early intervention. This team is linked by a key worker—a central person to walk alongside each child and family, who builds a strong partnership with them and simplifies the experience of accessing services and care.

This best-practice approach empowers children to achieve their goals and has advocacy at its core. We advocate for the development of sensory, social and play skills, along with braille literacy, best-in-class services and support.

And we continue to pull the right levers to ensure a better experience for children with vision loss. As a registered NDIS provider, we worked closely in 2021 with peak bodies to address the delays that children with vision loss experience when accessing NDIS funding. We were encouraged when the NDIS paid attention and we began to see momentum in terms of removing systemic barriers. We are confident that change for the better will be the result of this work—a more streamlined entry process to the NDIS for children with vision loss via an early intervention vision pathway.

We advocate for students to have equal access to education. Our Accessibility and Inclusion team worked tirelessly in 2021 to ensure NAPLAN test papers were accessible to students who are blind or have low vision. In a first-time achievement, the team successfully transcribed all required papers for the 2021 NAPLAN into braille and following a rigorous

tender process, went on to win the contract to produce the 2022 NAPLAN papers. Despite COVID restrictions, the team successfully transcribed a range of trial papers, tests, and exams to enable access for students. This work is resource intensive and would not be possible without the generous support of our donors.

And we advocate on the international stage. In 2021, NextSense Institute lecturer and president of International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment Dr Frances Gentle, shared her perspectives on the right to education for children who are disadvantaged and marginalised in many countries due to blindness, low vision, deafblindness and multiple disability.

Invited by Queen Letizia of Spain to open the World Blindness Summit in Madrid, Frances addressed 4000 leaders and decision makers with lived experience of blindness and low vision, UN agencies, national government and educational institutions, and services providers around the world on key issues and areas for development.

We enhanced our commitment to best-practice in 2021 by appointing a best practice lead, vision, after an exhaustive talent search. As a person who is legally blind, Claire Dorling is driven to make a real difference to the lives of children and adults and we are delighted to bring her aboard.

This commitment to embedding evidence in our day-to-day service delivery is what really sets NextSense apart.

Moving forward, we will develop a framework for vision services as we advance towards our new best-practice innovation centre at Macquarie University in 2023. This will enhance our ability to lead the way in sensory disability education and service delivery.



## Nothing is holding Joshua back

With the support of his family and a team of NextSense experts, Joshua Wood is breaking down barriers, gaining international recognition, and going above and beyond to achieve his goals.

Joshua was born blind, but that's never stopped him from achieving his goals. The right support means this 14-year-old is navigating the world on his terms and reaching his amazing potential.

Joshua has been learning braille and how to use his other senses and assistive technology with the support of his parents and NextSense since he was less than 12 months old. His braille teacher, Tricia d'Apice, a vision consultant at NextSense, has been working with Joshua since he was four years old. They meet every week, and Joshua also meets regularly with other experts in our team who support him virtually and with the learning he receives at his school.

He has also been supported by the NextSense Accessibility and Inclusion team

which ensures he can access the resources and materials he needs to participate and excel in school. And excel he does. Joshua achieved straight A's in 2021, along with an award for academic excellence. He also became the first Australian to win the 2020–21 Lions Peace Essay Contest—a prestigious international competition created to give young people who are blind or have low vision the opportunity to express the relationship between service and peace.

Mum Jenny says NextSense has been there all the way: 'All the staff at NextSense have been amazing. Tricia just feels like family now. She has dedicated her life to kids like Joshua and they have a really special relationship.'



**More on Joshua's story**

# Education and research

NextSense educators, academics, and researchers continued to lead the way in 2021, taking the fields of hearing and vision loss forward.



We pride ourselves on being an organisation of firsts and this year was no exception.

Educators in our school and preschools faced an extremely challenging year but they continued to focus on quality teaching and student outcomes, to be there for our students throughout the COVID disruptions. This included adapting to online teaching when required and adopting innovative approaches to learning. Our school continued to consolidate the new one school with three streams model, to meet the needs of all children in one, inclusive setting.

The reputation of our Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program led to several invitations to convene and deliver large sector conferences online, due to COVID. NextSense Institute organised and ran three such conferences for Australian and international audiences, reaching around 500 delegates. This included the South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment (SPEVI) national conference, held online for the first time, with presenters from nine countries, two keynote addresses, 26 concurrent sessions, and eight virtual poster presentations.

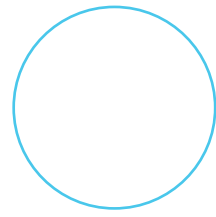
NextSense Institute Director Professor Greg Leigh chaired the Scientific Committee and gave the closing address at the 23rd

International Congress of Educators of the Deaf (ICED)—the peak international forum for sharing evidence-based practice, research, and ideas about education of students who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is also the longest continuously held conference in any field of education in the world. Four NextSense experts from a range of disciplines delivered presentations and latest findings at the congress of 500 delegates.

After his significant 16-year contribution in the role of chair or co-chair of the ICED International Committee, Professor Leigh stepped down from this role.

The NextSense team organised and delivered VISCON, the annual national conference for professionals working in the education of children and young people who are blind or have low vision. Delivered entirely online for the first time, VISCON secured a cast of international presenters.

Our educators and academics also made important contributions to a range of other Australian and international conferences in countries from Nepal to the United Kingdom. Sharing our knowledge is one key way we contributed to advancing the hearing and vision sectors.



In the NextSense Institute postgraduate stream we worked with 170 students—equivalent to 60 full-time enrolment students.

It was rewarding to see student Melissa McCarthy recognised for the quality and importance of her doctoral thesis, ‘Comparison of Telepractice and In-Person Models of Family-Centred Early Intervention for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing’. Melissa undertook her doctoral studies through NextSense Institute and the University of Newcastle (previously affiliated with NextSense Institute). Examiners described her work as ‘unique, extensive, and important’, noting it ‘has major implications for service delivery worldwide.’ Professor Leigh was one of Melissa’s two research supervisors.

We have celebrated with our students and staff as they have succeeded, and we’ve been there for our postgraduate students when they have needed support. We continue to foster the careers of many amazing, committed professionals, to share our learning with our colleagues right across the organisation, and beyond.

Looking forward, we will explore extended streams of specialisation in the Master’s programs, continue building our short courses to meet the needs of current and future generations of service providers, and collaborate on new ventures with our Macquarie University colleagues as we establish our presence on campus in 2023.

## Ten-year research project builds key evidence base on vision loss

Our Australian-first collaboration with industry, government, and corporate partners to build knowledge on children’s experience of vision loss hit a key milestone in 2021, with a 10-year report on key findings published in leading international journal, ‘Nature’s Eye’, the official journal of The British College of Ophthalmologists.

Our evidence shows that more male children than female children are affected with vision loss in Australia, and most of those with vision loss have a condition called retinal dystrophy and a significant secondary diagnosis of nystagmus that can also impact on their quality of vision in everyday situations.

Dr Sue Silveira, research fellow, NextSense Institute academic, and lead author on the Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register (ACVIR) paper, says the register has filled key gaps in the evidence base on Australian children with vision loss. It involves more than 1000 children and provides reliable data that can be used by agencies to plan services. ‘This not only benefits children who are blind or have low vision, but also service providers and government,’ she says.

## Holding key conversations on hearing technology

NextSense Institute Director Professor Greg Leigh was invited to provide expert input to a conversation on the impact of cochlear implant technology for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, facilitated by the SBS television program ‘Insight’.

In an episode titled ‘The Deaf Divide’, varied views and perceptions of those communities about the technology were shared. Greg shared the evidence around spoken language and sign language, highlighting the importance of access to language models in both languages, and the opportunity to become bilingual when that is a desired outcome.

## Expanding our expertise

Groundbreaking researcher Teresa Ching rejoined the NextSense academic and research staff as Professorial Fellow in December 2021. Teresa was a member of our team in 1993 before going on to be Head of the Communication Sciences Department and Leader of Paediatric Hearing Loss Research at the National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL). Teresa is well known in the field for her leadership of the Longitudinal Outcomes of Children with Hearing Impairment (LOCHI) Study. The LOCHI study is internationally regarded as ground-breaking research and has operated continuously since 2007. Teresa’s new part-time role at NextSense will allow her to explore research initiatives as well as continuing her work on investigating the efficacy of early intervention for populations of children with bilateral or unilateral hearing loss and identifying factors that influence children’s outcomes.

# Our generous supporters

We were thrilled that our supporters continued to give throughout 2021, even with the unprecedented environment of a pandemic, and are incredibly grateful for their ongoing commitment to giving so generously. In 2021, we hit a partnership milestone, achieved our biggest ever Loud Shirt Day outcome, and received some extraordinary gifts to ensure we can continue to enhance the lives of children, adults, and their families into the future.

**5,411**

donors who gave one or more gifts in 2021

**8,947**

total number of donations in 2021

**\$5,814,471**

total value of donations (excluding bequests)



The ongoing pandemic resulted in us sadly having to cancel some long-running planned in-person events, including our highly anticipated Qantas Pathfinders Charity Flight, and many other events and committee-driven initiatives.

But we received continued kindness, loyalty, and compassion from our supporters—including individuals, committees, groups, and businesses who so generously gave their money, time, energy, and heart to support the people who need it.

A key focus for the year was bringing our supporters on the journey with us as we rebranded to NextSense in March. Our rebrand creates many exciting opportunities for us, so we increased our regular communication with our supporters to build understanding about why this transformation is a critical step for us as an organisation. While our name, look, and feel may have changed, our reason for being remains the same—to enhance lives by working with people who have hearing and vision loss so that we can redefine what's possible, together. Our shared history with our valued donors and partners also remains a bedrock of our identity and is crucial to delivering the high quality of services people deserve.

The second year of the pandemic and its broader impacts saw a decline in giving across many areas of the not-for-profit sector, as well as the redirection of giving to meet urgent short-term needs related to COVID-19 and other natural disasters.

The pandemic also limited our opportunities to connect with donors and supporters in-person. So, to stay connected, we had regular communications and wellbeing check-ins with our supporters via video conferencing, telephone, letters, and cards.

Some of our services staff also stepped up to connect with donors by phone during lockdowns, which was a wonderful experience for both donors and our people.

It's thanks to our valued supporters and the journey we take together that we can continue to lift the limits of what's possible. Thank you for being an important part of the NextSense family, and for the impact your support has on the lives of many children, adults, and their families.



## Our generous supporters



### Our biggest ever Loud Shirt Day

Loud Shirt Day is a fun campaign aimed at fostering inclusivity, raising awareness and funds, and supporting children who are deaf or hard of hearing. NextSense runs Loud Shirt Day in Victoria and the Northern Territory. In spite of the COVID pandemic, our dedicated fundraisers delivered our most successful year to date, inspiring 846 donations and raising a record \$77,650.

### Hyundai Help for Kids extends support

We are thrilled to continue our valued partnership with Hyundai Help for Kids, which was extended for a further 12 months in 2021, marking eight years of NextSense and Hyundai working together.

The partnership has delivered an incredible \$1.1 million in support, which has enabled 400 in-person consultations for families across Australia, and more than 3,300 clients and their families to be supported through Connected Services. This support included 30 camps that enable children with hearing or vision loss in more remote areas of Australia to come together in a social environment while continuing to progress with tailored educational milestones.

Hyundai Help for Kids' support comprises \$150,000 per annum, and in-kind provision of an additional three Hyundai motor vehicles. This supports NextSense Early Intervention programs, further enabling in-person and remote support from a team of NextSense experts so children with hearing and vision loss can get the best possible start in life.

### An extraordinary gift

Bequests make an important contribution to ensuring we remain sustainable long into the future—we thank everyone who is considering leaving this type of legacy gift.

More than a decade ago, back in 2010, we contacted Jim\*, then in his eighties, for our fundraising lottery. At the time he indicated he was sorry, but he was unable to buy a ticket. He was, however, keen to let us know he really valued our work and that he had kindly included a gift to us in his Will.

In 2020, Jim's gift in Will was enacted, and in 2021 we received the proceeds of his estate. Despite being unable to donate during his lifetime, Jim left a loving and incredibly generous gift in his Will of around \$4 million—funds that are now being put towards improving the lives of people with hearing and vision loss, in accordance with his wishes.

Over the intervening years a team of NextSense bequest officers stayed in touch with Jim and were lucky enough to visit and chat with him, enjoying his company and hearing stories from his interesting life.

Jim's amazing legacy is now going a long way, and we can't thank him enough.

\* 'Jim' is a pseudonym

### Generous longstanding foundation supporters—a special mention

We are incredibly fortunate to have so many individuals, families, foundations, and organisations who provide ongoing support. To these generous donors who supported NextSense in 2021, and in the past, we thank you wholeheartedly on behalf of all those you have helped. The following foundations are among those who have made large and longstanding contributions over many years, and we would like to recognise them below—thank you so very much for your long history of generosity.

The J&K Wonderland Foundation has built on Kenny Cheng's more than 15 years of significant personal support and their generous donation will go towards the world-leading centre we are building at Macquarie University.

The Parramore Family Foundation was originally a supporter of the Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre (SCIC), which merged with us in 2014. The Foundation has made a significant contribution over the past decade.

The Victorian Foundation for the Promotion of Oral Education of the Deaf has supported us since 1988 (when we were known in Victoria as Taralye). This invaluable support continued in 2021.

The Miller Foundation has also been a staunch supporter of our Victorian services since 1983, and it continues to support our children and families.

# Our generous supporters

## Life Governors as of 31 December 2021

Abigroup Limited  
Dr Andrew Pethebridge  
Broadspectrum (Australia) Pty Limited  
Bruce and Joy Reid Trust  
Charles P Curran AC  
Cochlear Limited  
Crane Group Limited  
De Lorenzo Hair & Cosmetic Research  
Don and Sharon Moss  
Dorothy Malouf OAM  
Dr John Gregory-Roberts  
Dr Pat Mutton  
Emeritus Professor Christine E Deer AM  
Graeme Skarratt OAM  
Gwynvill Group  
Ian Holmes  
James N Kirby Foundation  
Janet Calvert-Jones AO  
John Calvert-Jones AM  
John Race  
Kathleen Breen Children's Charity Trust  
Kenny Cheng  
Kumagai Australia Pty Ltd  
Lynda Rydge Guyton  
Lysia O'Keefe  
Merry Howie  
Myer Community Fund  
National Australia Bank  
Network Ten Pty Limited  
Norman Rydge AM OBE  
Norths  
Opera Australia  
Patricia Tang  
Qantas Airways Limited  
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Richard Owens AM  
Robert Albert AO  
Rotary Club of Carlingford  
Rotary International District 9680  
Rotary International District 9690  
Rotary International District 9750  
Royal New South Wales  
Bowling Association Inc  
Sean P Wareing AM  
Sir Michael Parkinson CBE  
St Andrew's Cathedral School  
Suttons Motors Pty Ltd  
Sydney Airport Corporation Limited  
Terrace Tower Group  
The Profield Foundation Trust  
The R A Gale Foundation  
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation

## Life Members appointed in 2021

Lindsay Benaud  
William A Bennett  
David Goddard  
R Howson  
Brian Keegan  
Peter Landau  
David Lovell  
Gwen R Lyons  
Larry Magid  
Meredith Miller  
Ben Nicholas  
Richard Porter  
Margaret Pye  
Peter Ryba  
Margaret Stevens  
Peter Whitehead  
Walter Withers  
Robin Yabsley

## Permanent funds

18th Australian Infantry Brigade  
Association of NSW Fund  
Ann Ratcliffe Fund  
Dora & George Garland Memorial Fund  
Elsie McLachlan Bursary Fund  
Frederick Gregory-Roberts Prize Fund  
Ian Paul Fund  
Ivan Rado Memorial Fund  
Jack and Gwen Freeman Fund  
Jane Vickery Memorial Fund  
Japan Australia Friendship Fund  
John B Bedwell Fund  
Joseph Tyrrell Fund  
Neville McWilliam Prize Fund  
Robert Simpson & Amy Caroline  
Brown & Family Fund  
Stan and Betty Graham Bursary Fund for  
NextSense School Spoken Language program  
Stan Graham Bursary Fund for NextSense  
School Sign Bilingual program  
The Estate of Joan Isabel Craven Fund  
Vera Rado Fund  
William & Gladys Judd Memorial Fund  
William H Boydell Fund

## Trusts and foundations

ANZ Community Foundation  
Ausgrid Employees' Children's Appeal  
Birchall Family Foundation Trust  
Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation  
Bruce & Joy Reid Trust  
Carolyn & Michael Gray Foundation  
Commonwealth Bank Foundation  
Datt Family Foundation Pty Limited  
Duchen Family Foundation Pty Ltd  
Foundation of Graduates in  
Early Childhood Studies  
Goudswaard Family Foundation  
Henson Foundation  
J&K Wonderland Foundation  
James N Kirby Foundation  
JLDJS Foundation  
Kathleen Breen Children's Charity Trust  
Lady (Mary) Fairfax Trust  
Liangrove Foundation Pty Ltd  
Luca Miraglia Foundation  
Maple-Brown Family Foundation Ltd  
Nell & Hermon Slade Trust  
Olsson Property Group Trust Pty Ltd  
Parramore Family Foundation  
Payne Family Charitable Fund  
Sibley Endowment  
Skipper-Jacobs Charitable Trust  
The Amelia Eliza Holland Trust  
The Belalberi Foundation Pty Limited  
The Dick and Pip Smith Foundation  
The F M Bradford Endowment  
The Graham and Pam Nock Foundation  
The Hargrove Foundation  
The Hildanna Foundation  
The J & G Bedwell Endowment  
The John Bedwell Endowment  
The Manildra Foundation  
The Miller Foundation Ltd  
The Perpetual Foundation  
The Ruth Marie Sampson Foundation  
The Rydge Foundation  
The UBS Australia Foundation  
The Victorian Foundation for the Promotion  
of Oral Education of the Deaf  
William Angliss Charitable Fund

## Corporate and community supporters

Abacus Property Group  
Apple Inc  
Australasian College of Optical Dispensing  
Bundeena Art & Crafts Group  
Clinical Audiology Students' Association (CASA)  
Endes Pty Ltd  
F B Rice  
Felton Industries  
GyMEA Activity Centre for  
Visually Impaired People  
Hyundai Motor Company Australia Pty Ltd  
Intopia  
J J Richards & Sons Pty Ltd  
Keysborough Golf Club  
LaManna Supermarket  
Lee & Sons (Aust) Pty Ltd  
Lions Club of Sussex Inlet & District Inc  
Maxim Accounting & Business Advisors  
Mitsubishi Electric Australia Pty Ltd  
RBA Group  
Rotary Club of Carlingford  
Seasonal Supplies  
Security Portman Pty Ltd  
The Chase Hotel

## Bequests received in 2021

James Anderson  
June Ashton  
Kaleria Avramenko  
Leon Basser  
Mary Brisebois  
Geoffrey Burfoot  
Enid Burge  
Yvonne Byrne  
George Clark  
Hilda Clayton  
Frances Corson  
Doris Cox  
Margaret Crawley  
Gretchen Dechert  
Lionel Dege  
Jean Elliot  
Neville Ellis  
Kenneth England  
Helen Ford  
Barbara Forsyth  
Valerie Franks  
Lyndall Garrard  
Fay Gilbert  
K & G Gluck Trust  
Geoffrey Gover  
Joyce Hamilton-Smith  
Norman Heaton  
Shirley Hemmings  
John Hickenbotham  
Valda Hickey  
June Hilder  
Margaret Hill  
Judith Hodge  
Eric Horton  
Edward Jacob  
Raymond Jones  
John Karlik  
J & C Kennedy Trust  
Nita Keys  
Allan Knights  
John Koop  
Bessie Mann  
Patricia Markham  
Alan Matheson  
Robert McDonagh  
Anita McKenzie  
Ian McLean  
William Moore  
John Pickford  
Michael Priceman  
Edmund Resch  
Wanda Resler  
Bernard Rothbury  
Allan Rowling  
Florence Smith  
Edward Spechler  
Norman Steadman  
Peter Stephens  
Anne Thorburn  
Thomas Tuite  
Grant Turnbull  
Reginald Turner  
William Tyler  
Joyce Tyrer  
Basil Vincent  
Graeme Vines  
Sir William Walkley  
Warren Watkins  
June Weller  
Sidney Williams  
Derek Wyatt

## Individual supporters

F Adamson  
Robert O Albert AO  
Ross Anderson  
Betty Armbruster  
J Bastian  
Lindsay Benaud  
William Bennett  
Clive Berghofer  
Christine Bishop  
Timothy Blomfield  
Pauline Bridge  
Leo and Ann Browne  
Peter Campbell  
Rosemary Campbell  
Evelyn Chan  
Justin Cherrington  
Angela Cho  
Peter Choy  
Allyn Colgan  
Hugh C Condon  
Patricia Connors  
Carole Cragg  
Charles P Curran AC  
Nellie Davies  
Bruce Dawkins  
Judith de Brazay  
David Dinte  
Margaret Dobbin  
John Dorrington  
Mr & Mrs Greg Douglas  
Michael Driscoll  
Dawn Dunn  
Robyn Dwyer  
John Ealey  
William Elliott  
Janelle Ellwood  
Rachel Fitzhardinge  
Anton Gaudry  
John Gerofi  
Peter Gibson  
William Gibson AO  
David Goddard  
Maureen Graham  
Matthew and Catherine Gwynne  
Peter Haeusler  
Brian Harrison  
Geoff Hartnett  
Greg Hatch  
Barbara Humphrey  
Rhona Humphreys  
Ian Huntley  
Gordon Ingate  
Frank Isaacs  
Dorae Jesberg  
Johann Kainbacher  
Sudha and Vijay Khandelwal  
Lawrence Kupkee  
Ivy Kwan  
Rowan and Paula Lane  
John Little  
Helen Livsey

Raymond Love  
Andrew Lu  
Iain MacDonald  
Fiona MacGregor  
Ruth Magid  
Graham and Judith McKnight  
Narelle McLennan  
Rosemary McNeill  
Joe Mediati  
Janice Mercer  
Sue Metzmacher  
Meredith Miller  
Jeanette Milston  
Mary Milton  
Mr and Mrs M Monaghan  
Roger Moore  
Catherine Moroney  
Nicoletta Muner  
Mancelino Neves  
Patricia New  
Philip Newall  
Norm O'Neill  
Alice Oppen  
Andrew Pethebridge  
Brian Pinch  
Tom and Robyn Pinzone  
Nathalie Quinlivan  
Rosemary Rajola  
Hugh Ralston AM and Jan Ralston  
Sylvia and John Read  
Geoff Reidy  
Michael and Karen Rich  
Tony Robinson  
Peter Robson  
Sandra Rollo  
Kerry Rose  
Alison Rosenberg  
Sophie Rothery  
Bernard Royle  
Richard Rydge  
Diane Sandrejko  
Greg Shalit and Miriam Faine  
Carolyn Shih  
Charles Shuetrim AM and Sandy Shuetrim  
Guy Silberstein  
Barbara Stone AM  
Claus Stort  
Helen Swan  
Anthony Sweetman  
Patricia Tang  
Matt Tillotson  
Graham Timmins  
Graham Todd  
Anthony Wales AM and Gai Wales  
Peter Watts  
Ken Williams  
Susan Wilson  
Tani Wilson  
Brian Winter  
Roy and Gay Woodward  
Janet Wright  
John Wright-Smith  
Jason Yeo

# Our board



## David Dinte

President  
BEd, LLB, MAICD

David is a property developer with extensive experience in commercial, retail, industrial and residential development, acquisition and management in both Australia and the United States of America. David is a Director of Souths Cares and a member of the International Council of Shopping Centres. David joined the board in 2000 and was appointed a Vice President in 2009. In December 2019 David was appointed President and Chairman of the Board. He is a Life Member of NextSense.

## Barbara Stone AM

Vice President  
BA, DipEd, MEd, MAICD, FACE, FACEL

Barbara is a former National Chair of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA), past State Chair, AHISA NSW/ACT, former President, Alliance of Girls' Schools of Australasia. Barbara retired as Principal of MLC School in 2011. Current other board directorships include Association of Independent Schools, NSW. Barbara joined the board in 2002, was appointed Vice President in 2012 and is a Life Member.

## Peter van Dongen

Vice President  
BComm (Acc), FCA, F Fin, GAICD

Peter is Chairman of PwC Australia's Board of Partners and a Director of PwC Asia Pacific Ltd. Previously, he was National Managing Partner of PwC Australia's assurance practice and a member of PwC Australia's Executive Board. Peter has over 30 years' experience in delivering assurance services to many of Australia's largest ASX-listed companies, and he has served a term as the Independent Auditor of the Australian National Audit Office, having been appointed by the Governor General. Peter is also a Board Member of the European Australian Business Council. He joined the board in November 2013 and was appointed a Vice President in 2018.

## Matt Pearce

Vice President

Matt Pearce has an extensive career in media and events. He has worked in newspapers and magazines and, for the last 18 years, events. He has strong mergers and acquisition experience and sits on a number of industry boards. He has been involved in hearing services in Victoria for the last 25 years, previously serving as Chairman and Board Director for NextSense (then known as Taralye) and Taralye Foundation. Matt joined the board in 2018 and was appointed a Vice President in 2021.

## Clinical Professor Catherine Birman OAM

Director  
MBBS, PhD, FRACS, GAICD

Clinical Professor Birman is one of the most experienced cochlear implant surgeons in the world, having performed more than 1700 cochlear implant procedures for children and adults. Catherine is the Medical Director of the cochlear implant program at NextSense, a past Chairman of the NSW Australian Society of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, past Secretary of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Paediatric Otolaryngology Society and has served on a number of hospital and NSW government committees.

## Charles M Cowper

Director  
BA, LLB, FAICD

Charles Cowper is a solicitor and former partner of national commercial law firms, Corrs Chambers Westgarth and Gadens Lawyers. He is currently a consultant to global law firm Dentons. He is an acknowledged expert in mergers and acquisitions, corporate law and governance. He has held board positions in a range of for profit and for purpose organisations including in education, on the Council of Shore School and in disability, as a director of Royal Blind Society of New South Wales. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Charles joined the board in May 2017.

## Roger Gee

Director

Roger retired from Qantas in 2006 after a 41-year career with the airline. He retired as a 747-400 Senior Check Captain. He has been an active member of the NextSense Qantas Pathfinders Auxiliary for more than 30 years. He instigated the Charity Flight, a very successful fundraising event, and piloted the Qantas Children's Jumbo Joy Flight for many years. He joined the board in 2008 and is a Life Member of NextSense.

## The Hon Robyn Parker

Director  
DipEd, DipTeach, GAICDMs

Robyn Parker has over 30 years of public sector experience. Beginning with roles in child and family services across a number of disadvantaged communities, Robyn spent 14 years as a TAFE teacher of child studies and as a CEO of ageing and disability organisation. She also spent 12 years as an MLC, MP and Cabinet Minister in the NSW Government. Currently, Robyn serves as a non-executive director of several not-for-profit and government boards such as Hume Housing and Hunter Local Land Services. She is the Deputy Chair of the NSW Heritage Council. She joined the board in 2019.

# Our senior leaders

as at 31 December 2021



## Hockman Chang

Director, Technology, Operations & Property

Hockman has extensive experience and expertise in project and program management. Prior to joining NextSense in 2013, he held senior management roles in several ASX Top 50 multinationals across a range of industries.

## Marie-lyse Eliatamby

Company Secretary

Marie-lyse has worked in the banking and financial services industry for over 20 years in roles such as Head of Group Legal, General Counsel and Company Secretary. She joined NextSense in January 2021 with extensive experience in governance and risk.



## Chris Rehn

Chief Executive

Chris brings a wealth of health management experience and expertise to NextSense, having held senior roles within a range of public and private sector healthcare organisations. He was appointed Chief Executive in 2010.



## Professor Greg Leigh AO

Director, NextSense Institute

Professor Leigh has built an impressive career specialising in education for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. He is well known and respected within the sector and internationally, through his many sector leadership roles and research.

## Shy Bastianpillai

Director, Services

Shy has extensive experience and a proven track record in financial management and business transformation, and is a people-focused leader, with a passion for coaching others. She joined NextSense in 2016 after a series of senior roles in business.



## Kylie Pearson

Director, People and Culture

Kylie is a commercially focused HR professional who has held HR roles across multiple industries, including healthcare and children's services, where she had responsibility for large and complex workforces. She joined NextSense in 2020.



## Melissa Bergin

Director, Fundraising & Development

Melissa is a passionate people leader with over 20 years' experience in the not-for-profit and media sectors. She brings leadership, fundraising, marketing, and event management experience to her role.



## Nicole Smith

Director, Marketing and Communications

Nicole is a senior marketing and communications executive with over 20 years' experience. She has successfully led major organisational change responses, built brand campaigns and marketing initiatives. She joined NextSense in 2015.

## Robyn Bridgwood

Executive Officer

Robyn is an experienced executive assistant, providing high-level support, guidance and administrative assistance to chief executives, senior leadership teams, board members and members of special committees. She joined NextSense in 2005.



## Andrew Steen

Chief Financial Officer

Andrew is a commercially focused finance leader and has held senior financial management roles in the transport, energy, engineering, and infrastructure industries. He joined NextSense in 2016 with a wealth of finance and business expertise.



# Financial summary

We continued to closely manage finances in 2021 to ensure we are sustainable for the next 160 plus years.

Revenue in 2021 increased due to a strong year in both bequests and investment income. We reported a net surplus of \$11.3M compared to a deficit of \$0.6M in 2020. Total revenue was \$62.7M, an increase of \$13.5M or 27% from 2020. This included a non-operating gain of \$6.7M which relates to realised gains on the divestment of investment funds and shares.

Total operating expenditure on activities increased by \$1.6M or 3.2% to \$51.4M, with 73% of our outgoings utilised for delivering student and client services, including our cochlear implant program. Our generous donors and bequestors contributed 32% of our operating revenue in 2021, compared to 21% the previous year. We are enormously grateful for this generosity.

Commonwealth and State Governments contributed 42% of our Operating Revenue in 2021, 48% of which related to 'fee for

service' NDIS revenue generated from client activity. As well, the JobKeeper and JobSaver subsidies (\$3.5M) supported us to retain our talented workforce throughout the pandemic.

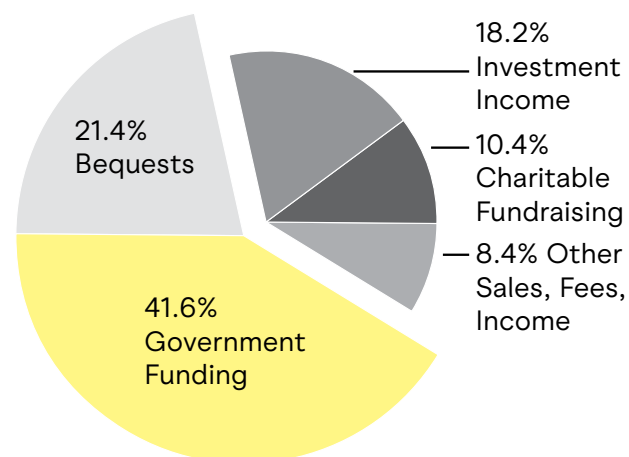
Operating revenue was \$55.9M, an increase of \$7.2M or 14.8% from 2020.

Income from donations and fundraising continued to be challenging and this was even more apparent in 2021 with the impacts of COVID. As a result, the benefits of our five-year fundraising and development strategy which kicked off in 2019 is expected to be realised over a longer period.

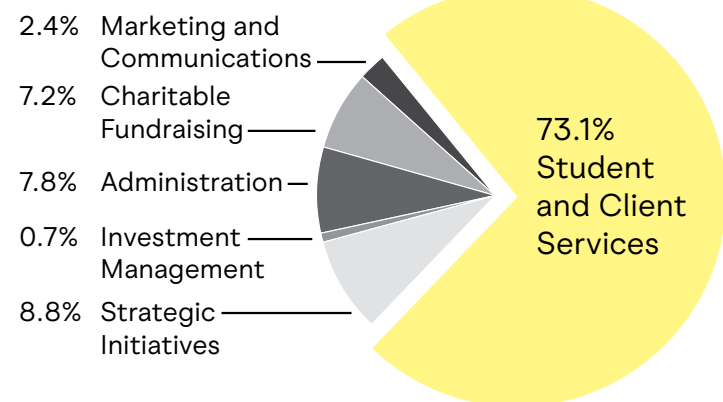
Finance, Administration, and General Management costs were contained to 7.8% of operational expenditure.

The NextSense Board and leadership team are committed to achieving long term sustainability and delivering on our purpose through diverse activities and solid fiscal management. We are grateful to our donors and funders who contribute to achieving this, together.

## 2021 Revenue



## 2021 Expenditure



## 2021 income and expenditure summary

|                                   | 2021<br>(\$'000) | 2020<br>(\$'000) | % Change |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|
| Total Operating Revenue           | 55,932           | 48,731           | 14.8%    |
| Total Operating Expenditure       | 51,423           | 49,817           | 3.2%     |
| Operating Surplus / (Deficit)     | 4,509            | (1,086)          |          |
| Non-Operating items*              | 6,747            | 440              |          |
| Surplus after non-operating items | 11,256           | (647)            |          |

- \* 2021 includes a \$6.7M realised gain on the divestment of investment funds and sale of shares
- \* 2020 includes a \$0.5M gain on the sale of property, plant and equipment at Floraville

### Auditor

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd

### Banker

St George Bank

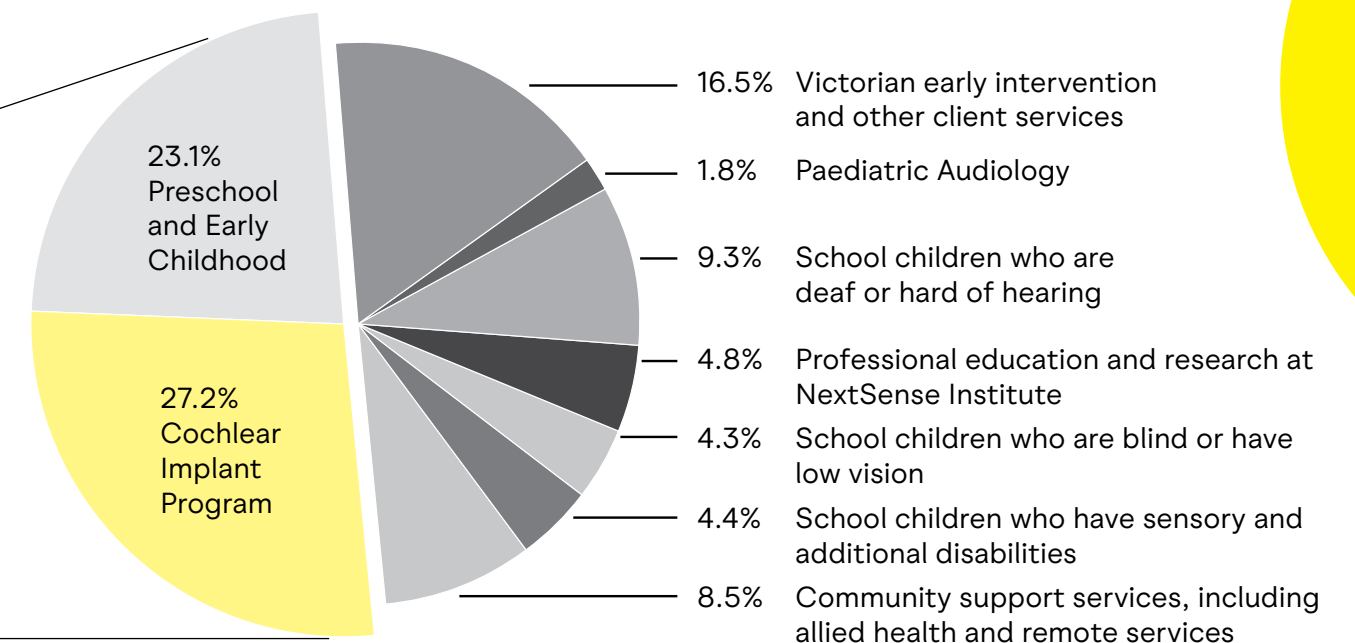
### Investment adviser

JANA Investment Advisers

### Solicitors 2021

Bartier Perry  
Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
Integroe Partners  
Makinson d'Apice  
Marquette Intellectual Property  
Matt Crouch Legal  
Meyer Vandenberg  
HB Legal

## 2021 Expenditure: Student and Client Services



# Our people

Our people continued to achieve in 2021, both collectively and individually—going above and beyond to keep our clients safe and supported, and to advance our collective understanding of hearing and vision loss more broadly.



We pulled together in a time of uncertainty and change, working with each other, with our clients, and with our partners and supporters, to ensure NextSense remained agile in the face of challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic.

Our visiting and honorary professional staff play a key role in our ability to provide vital services. The professionals we worked with in 2021 are listed here.

## Consulting Otolologists

**Professor William Gibson**  
SCIC founding Medical Director  
MBBS, MD (London), FRCS, FRACS

**Clinical Professor Catherine Birman OAM**  
Medical Director  
MBBS, PhD, FRACS, GAICD

**Dr Tristan Allsopp**  
MBBS, MPhil, FRACS (Otolaryngology)

**Dr Daron Cope**  
MBBCh, FRACS (ORL-HNS)

**Dr Toby Corlette**  
BMedSci, MBBS (Hons I), FRACS (ORL-HNS)

**Dr Graeme Crossland**  
MBChB MRCS DOHNS MD FRCS FRACS

**Associate Professor Melville da Cruz**  
MBBS (UWA), MSC (UWA), FRACS  
(OTOLARYNGOLOGY), MD (U. SYDNEY)

**Dr Markus Dahm**  
MD (RWTH Aachen), PhD (Humboldt U Berlin),  
FRACS (ENT, H&N Surgery)

**Associate Professor Robert L Eisenberg**  
MBBS FRACS (ORL-HNS)

**Dr Johnson Huang**  
MBBS BSc, MS (ORL), FRACS (ORL-HNS)

**Dr Joshua Jarvis-Bardy**  
MBBS PhD FRACS

**Associate Professor Jonathan Kong**  
FRACS(ORL-HNS), FRCS, MBBS(Syd), AMusA

**Professor Kelvin Kong**  
BSc, MBBS (UNSW), FRACS (ORL-HNS)

**Dr Timothy Makeham**  
BE, Bsc, BM, FRACS

**Dr Hemi Patel**  
BSc MSc DLO MRCS FRCS FRACS

**Associate Professor Alexander Saxby**  
MB BChir MA (Cantab. 1st) FRACS

**Dr Joanna Walton**  
MBBS, BSc (Med) (Hons), MS, FRACS

## Consulting Paediatrician

**Dr Elizabeth Peardon**  
MBBS DCH, MPH, PhD, FRACP

## Several of our staff and supporters were acknowledged in 2021 on a state, national, and international stage for their incredible work. We highlight some of these achievements.

### Dr Robyn Cantle Moore won Outstanding Professional Service Award

NextSense Institute lecturer Dr Robyn Cantle Moore was recognised for her exceptional professional contribution to education, receiving the Outstanding Professional Service Award (OPSA) for her significant contribution to deaf education and the Educators of Deaf Students Association Inc. The award was part of the Professional Teachers' Council World Teachers' Day Awards. Robyn has dedicated more than 30 years to enriching the lives of those she supports and contributing to the innovation and enhancement of the sector. She currently convenes the Research in Sensory Disability unit (Master of Disability Studies) at the NextSense Institute, in affiliation with Macquarie University, where she guides practitioner-researchers to develop and pursue innovative research projects.

### Dr Frances Gentle re-elected to international council

NextSense Institute lecturer Dr Frances Gentle was re-elected for another four-year term as president of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI). Frances is recognised as a world-leading expert who collaborates and contributes to the global vision sector as an academic and through her many honorary positions—advocating for the rights of children from all around the world who are blind, have low vision, or are deafblind to receive education using braille.

### NextSense volunteer Alan Carter awarded Order of Australia Medal

Alan Carter was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his service to the Probus organisation and 25 years volunteering with NextSense. As a volunteer, Alan has played a key role at the NextSense centre in the Hunter region since its opening through to its new location at Broadmeadow. Over 25 years Alan has been involved in all areas of the NextSense Hunter operations and continues to be invaluable to the Hunter team.

### NextSense volunteer fundraiser Jackie Stamford awarded Order of Australia Medal

Jackie Stamford was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her dedication to people with disability, particularly through her support of NextSense. Jackie is a dedicated NextSense Horizon Committee member of more than 25 years, helping to raise more than \$500,000 to support children with hearing and vision loss and their families.

### A century of service

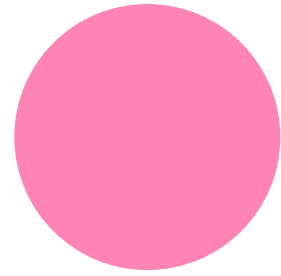
Three of our staff celebrated major anniversaries with us in 2021 and together they have devoted a century of service to children with hearing and vision loss.

NextSense School Teacher Aide Val English celebrated 40 years of employment with NextSense in November. Val has shown exemplary commitment to her work and the students she supports, and has stayed in touch with many former students, supporting them into their adulthood years.

NextSense Teacher Consultant Trish Lange was part of the original, innovative team that launched 'The Tingira Centre' in Newcastle 30 years ago and continues to have a positive impact on the lives of students and families. She was the first early childhood teacher in Newcastle to teach braille to preschool children and started her career as a preschool teacher for children who had sensory disabilities.

In her 30-year tenure, Maree Rennie OAM has inspired colleagues and clients alike with her dedication as she coordinates operations at our Waverly centre. She has tirelessly pursued new research to ensure she applies a mixture of best practice and a tailored approach to meet the child and family needs. She is relentless in her search for answers for families and colleagues describe her as astoundingly creative.

# Get involved



As a registered charity, NextSense relies on the support of the community to help deliver our vital services to those who need us. With the continued impact of the COVID pandemic this has never been more important.

## Here are some ways you can help



### **Make a philanthropic contribution to our future**

Our move to establish a new NextSense best practice centre for innovation at Macquarie University is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for philanthropists, corporate partners, and governments to invest in a new era of service provision for Australians with hearing or vision loss, and their families. We'd be delighted to discuss your personal philanthropic goals, and tailor an opportunity for you to make an impact.

### **Make a donation or become a regular giver**

Your gift, large or small, supports the ongoing delivery of services that help redefine what's possible for children and adults with hearing or vision loss, and their families.

### **Leave a lasting legacy**

Funds donated through leaving a kind-hearted gift in your Will, or through trusts, foundations, or permanent funds, continue to support future generations of children with hearing or vision loss.

### **Create a strategic corporate partnership**

Talk to us about becoming a NextSense corporate partner and how your organisation and staff can make a difference, while building staff and customer engagement at the same time.

### **Become a community fundraiser**

There are all sorts of ways you can fundraise to support NextSense, your imagination is the limit. Create or join a fundraiser to help Australians with hearing or vision loss access the services they need to reach their full potential.

### **Join a fundraising committee**

Raise funds for children and adults with hearing or vision loss, and their families, and support our community through fun social events and activities.

Get in touch with our friendly fundraising team to find out more about how you can make a difference.



**1800 043 411**



**Redefining what's  
possible for people with  
hearing or vision loss.**

