



NSW Writers' Centre Inc.

**2019 Annual Report
to
Members**

Annual General Meeting 22 June 2020

Chair's Report

Introduction

Writing NSW is the state's premier organisation for writers, providing services and support to thousands of writers each year.

There were many achievements in 2019 as Jane McCredie, our CEO, outlines in her report. This year was an important year of consolidation and renewal as the organisation's staff changed significantly, which provided significant challenges and opportunities.

Writing NSW does a huge amount with a small and dedicated team. Special thanks to Jane McCredie, Business & Property Manager David Henley, and Program Manager Julia Tsalis, but all our staff, interns, caretakers and volunteers work extremely hard to make it all happen.

Board update

Board members give their time voluntarily and I would like to thank all of the board members who served during 2019: Jane Pochon, Alison Green, Loretta Re, Roanna Gonsalves, Sarah Morton, Eliza Twaddell, Nardi Simpson and Adam van Rooijen.

There were a number of resignations over the course of the year. Thanks to Jace Armstrong, Kate Faherty and Ashlea Wallington for their contributions.

We had three new Board members join the team over the course of 2019. Welcome to Eliza Twaddell, Nardi Simpson and Adam van Rooijen.

Finance

We continue to build on the strong financial outcomes of the previous three years, which enables us to invest in additional services. The attached audited accounts and Treasurer's report give the details.

Strategy

Our four key strategic goals for the 2020-2022 triennium are:

- Support NSW writers and help them build sustainable careers in the constantly

changing writing and publishing environment

- Foster a vibrant and diverse writing culture in NSW through collaboration with other organisations and support for a wide range of writers and their stories
- Increase awareness of Writing NSW as the premier writing organisation in the state
- Ensure a sound financial and organisational base that will allow Writing NSW to thrive.

In conclusion

The year has seen some great successes in terms of programming including delivering the triumphant second Boundless Festival, among many other services and opportunities for writers. We have achieved strong financial performance in a challenging environment. We have exciting plans for the future, and we are leveraging our position as a relatively early mover in the digital writing course space to ensure that we are a vital and essential organisation to writers in a post-pandemic Australia. Nonetheless there will be challenges, but improving the accessibility of the organisation, expanding our reach and becoming more digital, and finding more diverse sources of income to execute those plans, are real and will continue to be a focus in 2020.

Joel Naoum
Chair

May 2020

CEO's Annual Report 2019

Introduction

Writing NSW supported thousands of writers in 2019, helping them to develop their skills and careers in a constantly changing writing and publishing environment. As always, we maintained our commitment to supporting writers from all backgrounds, across all genres and at all stages of their careers.

A key focus for the year was to expand digital programs, making our programs and services accessible to a broader range of writers, including writers in regional NSW and writers with disability. In 2019, we ran nine online courses covering poetry, creative non-fiction, personal essays, short stories and children's books as well as a new online course designed to help participants self-publish their book.

Writing NSW has always had a strong commitment to supporting Indigenous writers and writing and a major highlight of the year was our new Boundless Indigenous Mentorship in partnership with Melbourne's Text Publishing and with the support of the First Nations Australia Writers' Network. The inaugural prize saw emerging Barkindji writer Allanah Hunt complete a mentorship with award-winning Wiradjuri writer Tara June Winch.

Our successful Writing NSW grants program ran for the fourth time in 2019, thanks to devolved funding from Create NSW. Under the program, we gave grants to four early-career writers, one emerging writing organisation, 9 regional writers (access grants for professional development) and to a writer and scientist working on a joint project. Sadly, we learned at the end of the year that Create NSW would not be continuing its devolved funding programs so these grants will not be offered in 2020.

Other highlights in 2019 included two festivals (Speculative Fiction and the biennial Boundless Festival of diverse writers), the highest quality and most diverse professional development program for writers in NSW, the Honouring Sumner Locke Elliot event staged at the State Library of NSW, our industry symposium, The Forest for the Trees, presented in conjunction with the Sydney Writers' Festival, and the staging of our successful Inside Publishing event at the Bellingen Readers and Writers Festival, the Blue Mountains Writers' Festival and at Write Around the Murray in Albury.

A major priority for the organisation is to help writers build sustainable careers and to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities presented by the rapidly changing writing and publishing environment. In 2019, we addressed this need through a wide range of professional development and networking events. We also strengthened our role as an information hub for writers and writing organisations around the state, responding to thousands of individual inquiries and offering a suite of print and online resources, including up-to-date, practical and independent information about writing and publishing. Our free



weekly e-newsletter provided listings of opportunities for writers and practical information to nearly 10,000 subscribers.

One of the organisation's most important roles is as an employer of writers, helping established and emerging writers to sustain their careers by offering paid employment as speakers at events, tutors in courses and seminars, judges of competitions and contributors to our literary magazine, *Newswrite*. In 2019, we offered nearly 300 paid employment opportunities for writers from around NSW and Australia, to a total value of around \$170,000.

The 2019 year saw the organisation further consolidate its financial and governance performance. The financial surplus recorded in 2019 has allowed us to build modest financial reserves that will help to ensure we can continue doing our important work on behalf of writers into the future, particularly in a context of declining federal funding.

Many people and organisations make it possible for us to do everything we do to support writers and writing in NSW.

The vibrant 2019 program was made possible by the hard work of a talented and dedicated team, including Program Manager Julia Tsalis, Business & Property Manager David Henley, Membership & Administration Officer Lou Garcia-Dolnik, Senior Program Officer Ashley Kalagian Blunt, Program Officer Claire Thompson, and Project & Communications Officer Sarah Mott. Our wonderful team of caretakers was made up of Anthony Bell, David Edmonds, John Morgan and Matthew Venables.

We were sad to farewell two longstanding members of staff during the year: Business & Property Manager Jeanne Kinninmont and Membership & Development Officer Sherry Landow, both of whom made an enormous contribution to the organisation.

As part of our commitment to supporting and developing emerging arts workers, we offer a program of regular six-month internships. We were fortunate to have as our interns in 2019 Lou Garcia-Dolnik, Sarah Poh, Claire Thompson, Geordie Timmins and Annie Zhang. We thank them for their efforts on behalf of the organisation.

We are also grateful to our volunteer Board for the time and expertise they give to the organisation, particularly our Chair, Joel Naoum.

We thank the many generous people who make donations or volunteer their time to help with our programs and the many publishers and other organisations that support our programs through partnerships and donations. Thank you to Bibliotheque Wines, the Pantera Foundation and the University of Sydney for their generous sponsorship during the year. We are grateful to Five Star PR and the inestimable Nicole Lenoir-Jourdan for pro bono

publicity support, and to law firms Baker McKenzie and Glass Goodwin for pro bono legal services.

We are able to provide our comprehensive services to writers thanks to a number of funding bodies, to whom we are immensely grateful. For their support in 2019, we thank Create NSW, the Australia Council, Inner West Council and the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

Writing NSW grants

As a regional writer... the [Writing NSW] grant has been life changing; offering tools and pathways for my future writing career, and best of all connection with other writers.

– 2019 Writing NSW Regional Grant recipient

Our program of grants for writers and writing organisations ran for the fourth time in 2019, thanks to devolved funding from Create NSW. A total of 16 grants were awarded, including four Early Career Writer grants, one Emerging Writing Organisation grant, a grant for a writer and scientist working on a joint project and nine grants to assist regional NSW writers in accessing professional development.

The four Early Career Writers Grants were awarded to: Meera Atkinson of Balmain for her hybrid work of fiction, *Luna Alaska*, Eda Gunaydin of Cherrybrook for her non-fiction collection, *Root and Branch*, Paul Shields of Horse Station Creek for his collection of short stories, *Cob-O-Corn*, and Michael Caleb Tasker of New Lambton for his novel, *White Horses*.

The grant for an emerging writing organisation was awarded to Heroines Festival for its events and publications featuring women's stories in the Illawarra region.

The Writer and Scientist Grant was awarded to Bernard Cohen and quantum physicist Andrea Morello for their project, *Quantum Words, Electron Metaphors*, a poetic account of quantum mechanics and a quantum account of poetic language.

The Regional Access Grants were awarded to writers from Albury, Bellingen, Dubbo, Farrar's Hill, Shoalhaven, Tweed Shire and Walgett. Regional writers used the grants to attend professional development offered by Western Sydney University, the Historical Novel Society and Writing NSW.

Judges for the Early Career Writer and Writing Organisation grants were Shankari Chandran, Pip Smith and Jane McCredie. The Writer and Scientist Grant was judged by Professor Rob Brooks of UNSW, Sherry Landow and Jane McCredie.

Unfortunately, Create NSW decided not to continue its devolved funding programs after 2019 so these grants will not be offered in 2020. Given the contribution they have made to the state's writing culture, we will seek to relaunch them if an alternative source of funding is identified.

Professional development

I came into the Year of the Novel course feeling slightly like a fraud with a big dream. I know now that I can hold my head high and that I will accomplish what I set out to, but with a greater sense of confidence than I could have imagined.

– 2019 Writing NSW course participant

Writing NSW is the biggest provider of training and development for writers in NSW, offering the state's most diverse range of courses, seminars, masterclasses, manuscript assessments and mentorships. Many writers have achieved first publication of their work as a direct result of a Writing NSW course or mentorship.

The program is regularly renewed with new courses and tutors to ensure it continues to meet the needs of writers in the constantly changing industry environment.

Courses in 2019 covered a wide range of genres: children's literature, comedy, creative non-fiction, crime, educational, essays, fiction, historical fiction, history, journalism, memoir, picture books, playwriting, podcasting, poetry, romance, science writing, short stories, speculative fiction and Young Adult literature. There were also courses covering professional skills, such as book publicity, building an online profile, the business of being a writer, digital marketing, editing, e-publishing, interviewing, journalism, performance skills, pitching your work, research for writers, self-publishing, writing a synopsis, and writing tools and techniques.

In 2019, we expanded our offering of online courses, running nine courses including feedback courses focused on poetry, creative non-fiction, personal essays, short stories and children's books, led by tutors Aleesah Darlison, Anwen Crawford, Fiona Wright, Pip Smith, Ryan O'Neill and Tegan Bennett Daylight. We also introduced the Online: Self-Publish Your Book course taught by Joel Naoum, which culminated in the publication of all participants' manuscripts in ebook and print-on-demand formats. We will be further expanding our offering of online courses in 2020.

Tutors across the 2019 course program included: Meera Atkinson, Hilary Bell, Judith Beveridge, Emily Bitto, Jesse Blackadder, Dianne Blacklock, James Bradley, Barbara Brooks, Felicity Castagna, Laurel Cohn, Pamela Cook, Sam Cooney, Jan Cornall, Anwen Crawford, Kate Cuthbert, Timothy Daly, Marele Day, Terry Dowling, Dave Drayton, Nick Earls, Linda Funnell, Roanna Gonsalves, Anne Gracie, Alice Grundy, Maggie Hamilton, Amanda Hampson, Jacqueline Harvey, Pamela Hewitt, Catherine Hill, Kate Holden, Wendy James,

Toni Jordan, Cate Kennedy, Lee Kofman, Sarah Krasnostein, Patrick Lenton, Kristyn Levis, Anthony Macris, Emily Maguire, Walter Mason, Susan McKerihan, Miles Merrill, Kate Mildenhall, Patti Miller, Joel Naoum, Thang Ngo, Bianca Nogrady, Helen O'Neill, Ron Pretty, Sian Prior, Tohby Riddle, Michael Sala, Lisa Shanahan and Inga Simpson.

The year's courses were extremely well received by the nearly 1100 participating writers, who gave average ratings of 9.1/10 for tutors and 8.9/10 for course content.

Also in 2019, we continued our successful Open House program, which sees a publishing house come to our venue for the day to talk about the publishing process and provide individual feedback on submissions from participating writers. We ran the program in 2019 in partnership with Penguin Random House.

As part of the professional development program, we also offered paid mentorships and manuscript assessments, employing established writers and editors to give feedback on writers' work in progress. Advice covered technical writing issues and strategies for achieving publication. Sessions were conducted face-to-face, or electronically for regional writers and others who were unable to come to our venue.

Festivals and other events

Attending the festivals is very, very encouraging; listening to the panels and being around other writers is very special to me. That is where I have found my tribe.

- Response to 2019 Writing NSW survey

The organisation is renowned for its lively events, which attracted close to 1300 people in 2019 and received enthusiastic feedback.

The year's events included two of our flagship festivals, featuring a diverse mix of established and emerging writers, as well as publishers and other industry professionals. The 2019 festivals were the Speculative Fiction Festival and the Boundless Festival of Indigenous and culturally diverse writers. We were delighted to have Better Read than Dead as the bookseller for the 2019 festivals. Both festivals were rated good or excellent by more than 93% of participants. We were thrilled to see the Boundless Festival receive the FBI Radio Award for Best Sydney Arts Program of 2019.

The Speculative Fiction Festival was directed by Keith Stevenson and featured more than 30 writers, publishers and illustrators. The wide-ranging program covered topics including the speculative fiction canon, writing horror, science and speculative fiction, self-publishing and strategies for getting published. Programmed writers included Elise Bohan, James Bradley, Shankari Chandran, Hannah Donnelly, Aaron Dries, Brendan Fredericks, Michael Gillings, Sam Hawke, David Henley, Mitchell Hogan, Robert Hood, Dionne Lister, Catherine McKinnon, Margaret Morgan, Abigail Nathan, Shauna O'Meara, Mykaela Saunders, Cat

Sparks, Tiffany Tsao, Kyla Ward and Kaaron Warren.

The Boundless Festival in October was presented in partnership with Bankstown Arts Centre and in association with Sweatshop. Sessions covered Indigenous languages, diverse Australian childhoods, other worlds, identity, ethnicity and place, concluding with an oral storytelling event by Sweatshop. There were two professional development sessions for writers: one on navigating the grants system and one on finding your audience in print, on stage, on screen and online. Programmed speakers included writers Miranda Aguilar, Michael Mohammed Ahmad, Sarah Ayoub, Maryam Azam, Eugen Bacon, Ferdous Bahar, Janette Chen, Cathy Craigie, Hannah Donnelly, Winnie Dunn, Roanna Gonsalves, Phoebe Grainer, Emily Havea, Tasnim Hossain, Kiriaki Koubaroulis, Jack Latimore, Benjamin Law, HaiHa Le, Shirley Le, Donna McLaren, Miles Merrill, Audrey Newton, Sheila Ngoc Pham, Stephen Pham, Alice Pung, Sara Saleh, Andy Trieu, Divya Venkataraman, Khalid Warsame and Ahmed Yussuf, as well as industry representatives from the Australia Council for the Arts, the Copyright Agency, Create NSW, CuriousWorks, National Theatre of Parramatta, Screen Australia, Sweatshop, Sydney Review of Books and Text Publishing. We were grateful to the major sponsors of the festival, Australia Council for the Arts, Create NSW, the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, Pantera Press and the University of Sydney.

Also in 2019, we took our successful Quantum Words Festival of writing about science to Perth through a partnership with Writing WA. The festival, directed by Jane McCredie, attracted an audience of more than 1000. Speakers included New York-based rapper Baba Brinkman, former WA Chief Scientist Lyn Beazley, Noongar novelist Kim Scott, cofounder of SymbioticA Oron Catts, journalists Jo Chandler, Victoria Laurie and Mark Pownall, orangutan expert Leif Cocks, Indigenous scholar Len Collard, climate scientist Joelle Gergis, colorectal surgeon Michael Levitt, neuroscientist Alan Harvey, historians Andrea Gaynor and Joy McCann, experimental playwright Ian Sinclair, environmental engineer Paul Hardisty, psychologist Nick Haslam, speculative fiction writers Annabel Smith and Cat Sparks, environmentalist Keith Bradby, hydrogeologist Don McFarlane, astronomer Natasha Hurley-Walker, Noongar astronomy expert Maitland Hill, children's authors James Foley, Mark Greenwood and HM Waugh, forensic scientist Lynne Milne, crime writers Ron Elliott, David Whish-Wilson and Felicity Young, Radio National's Natasha Mitchell, and poets Vivienne Glance, John Kinsella, Caitlin Maling and Alicia Sometimes. Several festival sessions were broadcast on ABC Radio National.

Writing NSW continued its partnership with the Sydney Writers Festival in 2019, again staging its successful day-long industry symposium on the state of writing and publishing, The Forest for the Trees, at the State Library of NSW. Speakers included leading writers, Australian and international publishers, literary agents, journal editors, academics and booksellers. Other speakers included Jane Harper, Ashley Hay, Mitchell Hogan, Sophie Masson, Caroline Overington, Shaun Prescott, Mirandi Riwoe, Michael Sala and Emma Viskic. Industry speakers included academic Beth Driscoll, international agents Pamela Malpas and Rebecca Servadio (courtesy of the Australia Council's Visiting International

Publisher program) and representatives of Booktopia, Brio Books, *Griffith Review*, *Southerly*, *The Lifted Brow*, Nielsen Bookscan and the Potts Point Bookshop.

We took our successful Inside Publishing event to three regional festivals in 2019. In June, we staged the event at Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival with speakers including author and director of the Stella Prize Michelle Scott Tucker, academic and writer Marty Branagan, and bookseller and former journal editor Elias Greig. In August, we were at the new Blue Mountains Writers' Festival with speakers from Allen & Unwin, Gleebooks and Left Bank Literary, as well as editor Jody Lee. In September, we took part in Write Around the Murray in Albury with speakers from Affirm Press and Simon Schuster, as well as writer Jacqueline Kent.

Another major event of the year was the sixth presentation of our annual Honouring Australian Writers program, designed to bring an important writer from the past to a new generation of readers. The 2019 event, staged at the State Library of NSW, featured Sumner Locke Elliott, best known for *Careful, He Might Hear You*, which won the 1963 Miles Franklin Award and was adapted into the 1983 film of the same name. The fascinating and inspiring day included contributions from Elliott biographer Sharon Clarke, film producer Margaret Fink, theatre director Kimball Knuckey, and author Walter Mason. The event included conversations, readings, and archival material. The Honouring series is supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund and the State Library of NSW.

Other events in 2019 included the successful Talking Writing evening series, which is free to members and attracts a nominal payment for non-members. Topics in 2019 included adaptation to film with speakers Marele Day, Sarah Lambert and Suzanne Leal and Indigenous Languages, in an inspiring event curated by Cathy Craigie with speakers Donna Gayford McLaren, Kirli Saunders, Nardi Simpson and Jacinta Tobin.

Our First Friday events continued to offer a free monthly industry-focused event to members, featuring guests from across the literature sector. In 2019, speakers included Angela Meyer of Echo Publishing, Zoe Walton of Penguin Random House, founder of Better Reading Cheryl Akle, Bianca Whiteley from Nielsen Bookscan and Nicola Evans of the Copyright Agency. In March, we ran a booked-out grants information evening as part of the First Friday program with representatives from the Australia Council, Copyright Agency Cultural Fund and Create NSW.

Membership and community

Knowing there's a richly skilled and generous hearted community right here is inspiring and immensely encouraging. Writing NSW is not only a wonderful resource but a fountain of encouragement and inspiration. Thank you!

- Response to 2019 Writing NSW survey

Members and others highly value the services Writing NSW provides, as demonstrated by the results of our 2019 survey: 77% of members said their involvement with the organisation had helped their writing skills and 87% rated our support of writing in the state at 7/10 or higher. An impressive 21% of members said their involvement with the organisation had helped them achieve publication or performance of their work, with many citing our courses, manuscript assessments or mentorships as the key to getting their work published for the first time.

26% of respondents come from regional NSW, with most of the rest based in Sydney, and a small number from interstate and overseas. The survey revealed that 16% of respondents identified as coming from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) background, 13% as having a disability and 2% as Indigenous.

Most respondents are early career or aspiring writers, who value the support Writing NSW can offer at this early stage of their careers. Just over 80% see writing as a professional pursuit and many work in more than one genre, with the biggest group being fiction writers (57%), followed by children's and young adult literature, (23%), non-fiction (31%), autobiography and memoir (26%), poetry (23%), speculative fiction (17%), scriptwriting (14%) and journalism (14%). Other genres include picture books for adults, academic and travel writing, podcast scripting, educational writing and songwriting.

Members are enthusiastic participants in Writing NSW activities: 76% have attended a course, 23% a festival, 25% a writing group, and 36% have turned to the organisation for advice or information.

Services provided to members during the year included mentorships, manuscript assessments, work spaces for individual writers, writing groups, a free subscription to *Newswrite*, discounted or free access to a range of events including Talking Writing and First Friday, and general information and advice about writing and publishing.

In 2019, our member-only Writing NSW/Varuna Fellowships were awarded to Kaya Wilson for his memoir of the body, *As Beautiful as Any Other*, and to Winnie Dunn (under-30 category) for her autobiographical novel, *Islander*. Runners-up from a very strong field were Meera Atkinson and Jessica Kirkness. Judges were writer Chloe Higgins, Picador publisher Mathilda Imlah and Writing NSW CEO Jane McCredie.

We hosted more than 30 member-run writing groups during the year, a highly valued source of support and feedback for emerging and established writers. Over 300 writers participated during 2019, with groups covering poetry, fiction, writing for children and many other genres. The writing groups program is supported by Inner West Council.

Information hub

A key role of Writing NSW is to act as an information hub for writers, providing advice, connections and access to resources. Staff are constantly responding to email, phone and face-to-face enquiries from writers, adding up to thousands of individual responses over the year. Our website is regularly updated with a lively mix of resource sheets, FAQs and blog articles on all aspects of writing.

In 2019, our free weekly e-newsletter, *Newsbite*, provided information about writing and opportunities for writers to nearly 10,000 subscribers. The number of unique monthly visitors to our website steadily increased across the year, reaching close to 10,000. We also have a strong and growing presence in social media. Our Facebook following topped 5000 in 2019, while Twitter came to nearly 18,000.

The Writing NSW magazine, *Newswrite*, is edited by novelist Kirsten Krauth and offers a lively mix of articles on contemporary writing and the issues confronting writers. The magazine has a circulation of 3000 that includes members, funding bodies, writing organisations, publishers and industry contacts. In 2019, the magazine had more than 20 contributors, featuring an exciting collection of established and emerging writers including Maryam Azam, Eugen Bacon, Mark Brandi, Kevin Brophy, Janette Chen, Winnie Dunn, Nathania Gilson, Andy Jackson, Jack Latimore, Sophie Masson, Stephen Pham, Alice Pung, Mandy Sayer, Keith Stevenson, Khalid Warsame and Tara June Winch.

Partnerships and outreach

In 2019, Writing NSW contributed to the broader literary sector through regular advocacy on behalf of writers and writing, through building networks and through supporting and working with other literary organisations.

We worked closely with a wide range of writing and arts organisations during the year and were an active member of the National Writers' Centre Network, which brings together state and territory writers' centres from around the country for collaborative projects, advocacy and information sharing. In 2019, we also further strengthened our relationships with industry, working closely with publishers, agents, booksellers and other industry representatives.

In 2019, our programs were particularly enriched by partnerships with the ABC, Affirm Press, Allen & Unwin, Australia Council Visiting International Publisher program, Australian



Society of Authors, Bankstown Arts Centre, Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival, Better Read than Dead, Better Reading, Blue Mountains Writers' Festival, *Books+Publishing*, Booktopia, Brio Books, Brow Books, Copyright Agency, CuriousWorks, Echo Publishing, First Nations Australia Writers' Network, Foxtel, Gleebooks, *Griffith Review*, Jennifer Lyons Literary Agency, Left Bank Literary, London Literary Scouting, National Theatre of Parramatta, National Writers' Centre Network, National Young Writers' Festival, New England Writers' Centre, Nielsen Bookscan, Pantera Press, Penguin Random House, Picador, Potts Point Bookshop, Screen Australia, Small Press Network, *Southerly*, State Library of NSW, Stella Prize, Sweatshop, *Sydney Review of Books*, Sydney Writers' Festival, Text Publishing, *The Lifted Brow*, University of Sydney, Varuna, Whitlam Institute, Word Travels, Write Around the Murray and Writing WA.

To support young writers in Western Sydney, we again sponsored the Year 11/12 prize in the Whitlam Institute's *What Matters?* writing competition for school students, won by Mia Horsfall.

As advocates for writers and the writing sector, we continued to fight for a healthier writing sector, preparing submissions to all levels of government on funding and policy matters and the interests of writers.

The future

In 2020, Writing NSW will continue its proud tradition of serving the writers of New South Wales. We could not have anticipated at the end of 2019 the challenges we, and all arts organisations, would face in responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, our expansion of digital programs in recent years has put us in a good position to continue offering services and employment to writers, ensuring we can continue to support the wonderful and creative diversity of writing in NSW.

Jane McCredie
CEO

15 May 2020

Treasurer's Report

Summary of 2019 results and financial position

For the year ended 31 December 2019, Writing NSW achieved a surplus of \$36,171 (2018: \$37,480). Strong revenue growth was achieved with total revenue of \$851,431 (2018: \$786,273). Course fees grew strongly and grants continued to support our activities, however, I note that we expect 2020 to be a more challenging environment for all sources of revenue. Expenses were well controlled and where increasing, did so in line with increasing revenue.

The retained surpluses of \$140,374 as at 31 December 2019 provides a strong financial position for Writing NSW to meet the challenges of 2020 and beyond.

Writing NSW has maintained its financial governance, risk management and controls throughout 2019.

As I have alluded to, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 will be a much more difficult year for Writing NSW and the arts sector in general, however, with a strong cash position, an expanding digital offering and strong leadership, Writing NSW is in a strong position to weather this difficult period, continue to serve its members and achieve its strategic goals.

Eliza Twaddell
Treasurer

20 May 2020

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

ABN 55 552 981 839

Financial Statements - 31 December 2019

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

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NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

ABN: 55 552 981 839

Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Committee Members of NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as auditor of NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW) for the year ended 31 December 2019, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Rupaninga Dharmasiri
Partner

LBW & Partners
Chartered Accountants
Level 3, 845 Pacific Highway
CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

Date: 14 May 2020



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Analysis
Interpretation
Planning

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue	4	851,431	786,273
Expenses			
Administration expenses		(82,171)	(88,907)
Employee benefits expense		(437,192)	(436,763)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(86)	(1,035)
Program and events expenses		(226,327)	(157,259)
Property expenses		(25,389)	(19,722)
Publication and information resource expenses		(44,095)	(45,107)
Surplus before income tax expense		36,171	37,480
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus after income tax expense for the year		36,171	37,480
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>36,171</u>	<u>37,480</u>

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)
Statement of financial position
As at 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	808,576	829,736
Trade and other receivables	7	11,484	18,574
Inventories		829	829
Prepayments		11,619	5,972
Total current assets		<u>832,508</u>	<u>855,111</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	116	202
Total non-current assets		<u>116</u>	<u>202</u>
Total assets		<u>832,624</u>	<u>855,313</u>
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	9	115,757	105,982
Contract liabilities	10	446,334	514,390
Employee benefits	11	92,883	96,231
Other	12	30,042	19,319
Total current liabilities		<u>685,016</u>	<u>735,922</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefits	13	7,234	15,188
Total non-current liabilities		<u>7,234</u>	<u>15,188</u>
Total liabilities		<u>692,250</u>	<u>751,110</u>
Net assets		<u>140,374</u>	<u>104,203</u>
Equity			
Retained surpluses		<u>140,374</u>	<u>104,203</u>
Total equity		<u>140,374</u>	<u>104,203</u>

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)
Statement of changes in equity
For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Retained surpluses \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 January 2018	66,723	66,723
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	37,480	37,480
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total comprehensive income for the year	37,480	37,480
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 December 2018	<u>104,203</u>	<u>104,203</u>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Retained surpluses \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 January 2019	104,203	104,203
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	36,171	36,171
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total comprehensive income for the year	36,171	36,171
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>140,374</u>	<u>140,374</u>

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)
Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers (inclusive of GST)		545,938	477,732
Receipts from grants and other funding (inclusive of GST)		289,307	639,966
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)		(863,927)	(802,479)
		(28,682)	315,219
Interest received		7,522	7,529
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities		(21,160)	322,748
Cash flows from investing activities			
Change in term deposits		-	100,519
Net cash from investing activities		-	100,519
Net cash from financing activities		-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(21,160)	423,267
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		829,736	406,469
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	6	<u>808,576</u>	<u>829,736</u>

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2019

Note 1. General information

The financial statements cover NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW) (the association) as an individual entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the association's functional and presentation currency.

The association is a not-for-profit association incorporated in New South Wales under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. The association is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as a charity.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 14 May 2020.

Note 2. Significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The association has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

The adoption of these Accounting Standards and Interpretations did not have any significant impact on the financial performance or position of the association.

The following Accounting Standards and Interpretations are most relevant to the association:

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

The association has adopted AASB 15 from 1 January 2019. The standard provides a single comprehensive model for revenue recognition. The core principle of the standard is that an entity shall recognise revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The standard introduced a new contract-based revenue recognition model with a measurement approach that is based on an allocation of the transaction price. This is described further in the accounting policies below. Credit risk is presented separately as an expense rather than adjusted against revenue. Contracts with customers are presented in an entity's statement of financial position as a contract liability, a contract asset, or a receivable, depending on the relationship between the entity's performance and the customer's payment. Customer acquisition costs and costs to fulfil a contract can, subject to certain criteria, be capitalised as an asset and amortised over the contract period.

AASB 16 Leases

The association has adopted AASB 16 from 1 January 2019. The standard replaces AASB 117 'Leases' and for lessees eliminates the classifications of operating leases and finance leases. Except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets, right-of-use assets and corresponding lease liabilities are recognised in the statement of financial position. Straight-line operating lease expense recognition is replaced with a depreciation charge for the right-of-use assets (included in operating costs) and an interest expense on the recognised lease liabilities (included in finance costs). In the earlier periods of the lease, the expenses associated with the lease under AASB 16 will be higher when compared to lease expenses under AASB 117. However, EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation) results improve as the operating expense is now replaced by interest expense and depreciation in profit or loss. For classification within the statement of cash flows, the interest portion is disclosed in operating activities and the principal portion of the lease payments are separately disclosed in financing activities. For lessor accounting, the standard does not substantially change how a lessor accounts for leases.

The association has elected to apply the exemption not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short -term leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets when applying AASB 16 to leases previously classified as operating leases under AASB 117.

The association continues to occupy the Garry Owen House on the month to month basis since the expiry of the term of rental agreement. Therefore, neither right of use asset nor lease liability has been recognized.

Note 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

The association has adopted AASB 1058 from 1 January 2019. The standard replaces AASB 1004 'Contributions' in respect to income recognition requirements for not-for-profit entities. The timing of income recognition under AASB 1058 is dependent upon whether the transaction gives rise to a liability or other performance obligation at the time of receipt. Income under the standard is recognised where: an asset is received in a transaction, such as by way of grant, bequest or donation; there has either been no consideration transferred, or the consideration paid is significantly less than the asset's fair value; and where the intention is to principally enable the entity to further its objectives. For transfers of financial assets to the entity which enable it to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset, the entity must recognise a liability amounting to the excess of the fair value of the transfer received over any related amounts recognised. Related amounts recognised may relate to contributions by owners, AASB 15 revenue or contract liability recognised, lease liabilities in accordance with AASB 16, financial instruments in accordance with AASB 9, or provisions in accordance with AASB 137. The liability is brought to account as income over the period in which the entity satisfies its performance obligation. If the transaction does not enable the entity to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset to be controlled by the entity, then any excess of the initial carrying amount of the recognised asset over the related amounts is recognised as income immediately. Where the fair value of volunteer services received can be measured, a private sector not-for-profit entity can elect to recognise the value of those services as an asset where asset recognition criteria are met or otherwise recognise the value as an expense.

The association's activities are supported by volunteers. Association has not recognized the value of services provided by volunteers in the financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB'), as appropriate for not-for profit oriented entities, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and New South Wales legislation the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 3.

Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the financial statements presentation adopted for the current year.

Revenue recognition

The association recognises revenue as follows:

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the association is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer. For each contract with a customer, the association: identifies the contract with a customer; identifies the performance obligations in the contract; determines the transaction price which takes into account estimates of variable consideration and the time value of money; allocates the transaction price to the separate performance obligations on the basis of the relative stand-alone selling price of each distinct good or service to be delivered; and recognises revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied in a manner that depicts the transfer to the customer of the goods or services promised.

Note 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Variable consideration within the transaction price, if any, reflects concessions provided to the customer such as discounts, rebates and refunds, any potential bonuses receivable from the customer and any other contingent events. Such estimates are determined using either the 'expected value' or 'most likely amount' method. The measurement of variable consideration is subject to a constraining principle whereby revenue will only be recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognised will not occur. The measurement constraint continues until the uncertainty associated with the variable consideration is subsequently resolved. Amounts received that are subject to the constraining principle are initially recognised as deferred revenue in the form of a separate refund liability.

Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point in time when the customer obtains control of the goods, which is generally at the time of delivery.

Rendering of services

Revenue from a contract to provide services is recognised over time as the services are rendered based on either a fixed price or an hourly rate.

Grant revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when the association obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the association and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the association incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Centre hire and rental income

Income from subletting and short term hiring of the business premises is recognised in the month to which the payment relates. Deposits and payments received in advance are recorded as contract liabilities until the month in which the service is provided.

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Membership fees

Revenue from membership fees is recognised on a straight line basis over the period of the membership

Programs and courses fees

Booking to attend courses and programs are brought to account on payment of the relevant fees and initially treated as contract liabilities. Course and program fees are brought to account as revenue in the month in which they are held.

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Income tax

As the association is a charity in terms of subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

Note 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in the association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any allowance for expected credit losses. Trade receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the association prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities represent the association's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer and are recognised when a customer pays consideration, or when the association recognises a receivable to reflect its unconditional right to consideration (whichever is earlier) before the association has transferred the goods or services to the customer.

Leases

Lease payments, for short term and low value operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, and charges as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

Employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries, annual leave, long service leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Non-accumulating sick leave is expensed to profit or loss when incurred.

Other long-term employee benefits

The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Defined contribution superannuation expense

Contributions to defined contribution superannuation plans are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and other similar taxes

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Note 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority is included in other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority.

Note 3. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management and committee to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management and committee continually evaluate their judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management and committee bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management and committee believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Employee benefits provision

As discussed in note 2, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

Provision for estimated electricity charge

The amount of outstanding electricity charges due to invoices not being issued by the supplying authority has been estimated by the committee members. Refer to Note 15 : Contingent liabilities

Note 4. Revenue

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Advertising	6,245	7,690
Sponsorships	13,091	7,000
Centre hire	73,001	68,347
Festivals and events fees	7,930	12,580
Interest received	7,522	7,529
Mentorship program fees	6,814	5,941
Membership fees	101,493	109,319
Operating grants - Create NSW	175,000	175,000
Operating grants - Create NSW Devolved Funding	57,000	3,000
Operating grants - other	104,500	115,677
Course and program fees	242,520	228,072
Rental income	43,797	43,353
Other revenue	8,518	2,765
Reversal of allowance for expected credit losses	4,000	-
	<u>851,431</u>	<u>786,273</u>

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2019

Note 5. Expenses

Surplus before income tax includes the following specific expenses:

	2019	2018
Lease rental expense	11,338	11,338
Superannuation contribution	37,493	33,926

Note 6. Current assets - cash and cash equivalents

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash on hand	200	200
Cash at bank	454,845	482,833
Cash on deposit	353,531	346,703
	<u>808,576</u>	<u>829,736</u>

Note 7. Current assets - trade and other receivables

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Trade receivables	12,484	23,574
Less: Allowance for expected credit losses	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>
	<u>11,484</u>	<u>18,574</u>

Note 8. Non-current assets - property, plant and equipment

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Furniture and equipment - at cost	17,749	17,749
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(17,749)</u>	<u>(17,749)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Office equipment - at cost	25,582	25,582
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(25,466)</u>	<u>(25,380)</u>
	<u>116</u>	<u>202</u>
	<u>116</u>	<u>202</u>

Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:

	Furniture and equipment \$	Office equipment \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2019	-	202	202
Depreciation expense	<u>-</u>	<u>(86)</u>	<u>(86)</u>
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>-</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>116</u>

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)
Notes to the financial statements
31 December 2019

Note 9. Current liabilities - trade and other payables

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Trade payables	8,006	4,800
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	79,561	70,730
Superannuation payable	1,737	2,861
Refunds	9,813	-
BAS payable	16,640	27,591
	<u>115,757</u>	<u>105,982</u>

Note 10. Current liabilities - contract liabilities

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Grants and funding	337,370	409,500
Other	108,964	104,890
	<u>446,334</u>	<u>514,390</u>

Note 11. Current liabilities - employee benefits

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Annual leave	50,775	65,508
Long service leave	12,166	-
Personal leave	29,942	30,723
	<u>92,883</u>	<u>96,231</u>

Note 12. Current liabilities - other

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Gift vouchers	2,745	1,200
Deposits and bonds received	7,980	8,980
DGR Donations	19,317	9,139
	<u>30,042</u>	<u>19,319</u>

Note 13. Non-current liabilities - employee benefits

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Long service leave	<u>7,234</u>	<u>15,188</u>

Note 14. Key management personnel disclosures

Compensation

The aggregate compensation made to key management personnel of the association is set out below:

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Aggregate compensation	<u>252,520</u>	<u>223,251</u>

Note 15. Contingent liabilities

The association has not received an electricity or gas account for a number of years and is not aware of who is currently supplying and paying the cost of its supply. The association has accrued an amount of \$20,000 for these expenses, however until the supplier or funding body seeks recovery of the expense it is unable to determine the eventual cost, if any, for these supplies.

Note 16. Commitments

Operating Leases

Subsequent to the expiry of its lease, the association occupies Garry Owen House on a quarterly basis with a rental of \$1,994 (2018: \$1,994) per quarter.

Note 17. Related party transactions

Key management personnel

Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in note 14.

Transactions with related parties

During the year the association paid committee members the standard commercial fees for delivering tutoring, judging, course development and writer mentoring services. The aggregate of these payments was \$5,001 (2018: \$2,550) with individual payments ranging from \$150 to \$1,706 (2018: \$150 to \$970).

All committee members are financial members of the association who have paid membership fees to the association during the year.

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

Note 18. Events after the reporting period

At the date of authorisation of the financial report the company is continuing to monitor and respond to the effect of the COVID-19 virus. Any potential financial effect of the virus is unknown.

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2019 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the association's operations, the results of those operations, or the association's state of affairs in future financial years.

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)
Committee members' declaration
31 December 2019

In the committee members' opinion:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, New South Wales legislation of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 and the Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2019 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of committee members made pursuant to subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

On behalf of the committee members



Joel Naoum
Chair

14/05/2020



Jane Pochon
Deputy Chair



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NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

ABN: 55 552 981 839

Independent Audit Report to the members of NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW) (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the committee members' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association is in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 31 December 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with *Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements*, and the Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* and *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Committee Members for the Financial Report

The committee members of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements*, the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the committee members determine necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee members are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee members either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The committee members are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.



NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

ABN: 55 552 981 839

Independent Audit Report to the members of NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located in the auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Rupaninga Dharmasiri
Partner

LBW & Partners
Chartered Accountants
Level 3, 845 Pacific Highway
CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

Date : 15 May 2020