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Annual  
Report

2025

# President's Report

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In 2025, the Directors continued working towards meeting the primary strategic objectives of the Company, particularly through the promotion, development, and support of education and training programs for Trainees and members.

Some of the key indicators of success measured in 2025 can be reviewed on pages 4-5.

Throughout 2025, the GSA Board, Training Board, and Regional Training Committees continued their work to support the delivery of world-class education and training for Members and Trainees, while strengthening the speciality of General Surgery.

A major organisational achievement in 2025 was the delivery of the inaugural General Surgery Workforce Snapshot in August. This report provided a comprehensive overview of the current general surgical workforce across Australia, including detailed insights into workforce distribution, demographics, and practice patterns. The Snapshot is designed to support workforce planning, policy development, and advocacy, with the aim of ensuring equitable access to surgical care for all Australians.

Following the organisational restructure approved by the Board in 2023, executive recruitment for a new Chief Executive Officer commenced in August and concluded in December, with the appointment of Michael Carpenter, who will commence in March 2026. The appointment of a CEO marks a new phase for the Society, positioning GSA to continue delivering education and training at the highest standards while expanding its advocacy capacity on behalf of members. In its announcement to members, the Board highlighted Michael's depth of experience and strategic vision, noting that these qualities would complement the work of the dedicated GSA team as the organisation continues to champion excellence in General Surgery, advocate for the future of surgical care in Australia, and provide strong support to members and trainees.

Improvements to the GSA website and the TIMS application continued throughout 2025, with a focus on increasing platform responsiveness and enhancing assessment forms to improve the end-user experience. This work will continue into 2026, aligned with the evaluation of the GSET Program and feedback from key stakeholders.

Education delivery remained a core focus during the year. Practice Exams for the Queensland Core Course and South Australian Short Course, including timed spots, short-answer questions, and MCQs, were again delivered via the GSA Online platform. In addition, 63 Regional Education

Program sessions were delivered, including the NSW–ACT Education Program (11), Queensland Core Course (16), South Australian Long Course (24), and the WA Registrar Training in Surgery Program (12). These sessions generated a further 153 webcasts, which were added to the GSA website's Educational Resources.

Two GSA Trainees' Day events were delivered in 2025. The Trainees' Day on Vascular and Transplantation Surgery was held as a virtual event in May, attracting 150 online delegates. The second Trainees' Day, focused on HPB Surgery, was delivered as part of the 2025 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Perth in October, with 97 Trainees, SIMGs, and Junior Doctors registered to attend.

The national Online Fellowship Exam Preparation Course was again delivered via GSA Online from February to April. A total of 92 Trainees and SIMGs participated across nine sessions, supported by 51 faculty members and 35 tutors. The program covered a wide range of topics, including Colorectal Surgery, Abdominal Wall and Hernia Surgery, Breast, Endocrine, Melanoma and Sarcoma, Upper GI, HPB and Bariatric Surgery, Trauma and Emergency Surgery, and a Spot Exam. Small-group viva practice sessions continued to focus on exam technique, including Operatives, Pathophysiology, Long and Short Cases, and Anatomy. A practice viva Refresher Course was held in August and attended by an additional 48 Trainees and SIMGs, supported by 22 tutors.

The 2025 GSA ASM was held as a joint meeting with the Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Hepatic, Pancreatic and Biliary Association (AANZHPBA). This was the first joint meeting between the two societies since the 2015 ASM held in Cairns. The meeting theme, Navigating Change: Evolving Practices and Debates in HPB and Upper GI Surgery, attracted 447 delegates, speakers, and industry representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Fiji, India, and the Solomon Islands. The ASM was held over four days at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre from 15-18 October 2025.

The scientific program featured 67 national and international speakers and research presenters, including keynote speakers Professor Arul Immanuel, Professor of Robotic Surgery and Consultant Oesophago-Gastric Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, and Professor Shailesh Shrikhande, Deputy Director of Tata Memorial Hospital and Head of Cancer Surgery in Mumbai.

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Excellence in Surgical Teaching Awards were presented at the ASM Social Spectacular to Dr Mathew Jacob (VIC), Dr Kevin Chan (QLD), and Mr Chuan Ping Tan (SA). Additional award recipients in 2025 included Dr Allen Yeo (WA) and Dr Assad Zahid (NSW).

Through the GSA Pacific Island & South Eastern Travel Grant Program, two General Surgeons were sponsored to attend the GSA ASM and Trainees' Day in Perth. Recipients were Dr Ana Tugia from Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Fiji and Dr Michael Buin from Gizo Hospital in the Solomon Islands.

The ASM continued to provide Trainees and Junior Doctors with valuable opportunities to meet their Research Requirement and gain presentation experience. A total of 106 abstracts were reviewed by the GSA Research and Scholarships Committee, with 12 abstracts selected for Quick-Shot Poster Presentation and 10 selected for Podium Presentation. Prize and award recipients included Dr Lashith Wickramasuriya (CICD/ISDS Australian Chapter Prize), Dr Yusuf Hassan (GSA Poster Award), Dr Harine Siribaddana (GSA Research Award), Dr Thomas Mackay (Nabeel Ibrahim Award), and Dr Jessica Au (Noel Newton Prize).

GSA also delivered Event Management Services for external conferences during the year, including The Alfred General Surgery Meeting, held in Melbourne from 31 October-1 November, and the Provincial Surgeons of Australia 2025 Annual Scientific Conference, held in Mount Gambier from 19 to 21 November. Event Management Services were also provided to AANZHPBA for the joint ASM in Perth.

The Research and Scholarships Committee approved six research projects and surveys in 2025, covering topics such as surgeons' experiences treating GBMSM proctology patients, preferences for skin graft affixation, video-based assessment of laparoscopic cholecystectomy, learning needs in benign anorectal disease training, the financial realities of General Surgery training, and physician perspectives on vaping and e-cigarettes.

The Quinquennial Hospital Inspection Program was delivered in Queensland in June, with 20 General Surgery Consultants and Trainees supporting the review of 22 hospitals between 17-19 June. GSA also provided administrative management of supervision and oversight requirements for 34 SIMGs in General Surgery following their initial clinical assessment by RACS.

The Post-Fellowship Education and Training Programs attracted eight applications, resulting in four successful offers in Transplantation and one in Trauma.

A total of 154 applications were received for the GSET Program in General Surgery, reflecting an anticipated reduction from the previous year due to fewer vacant training

positions for the 2026 intake. Eighty-seven applicants progressed to interview across five regions, with 55 offers accepted for the 2026 Intake. Selection fees totalled \$177,100, with expenditure correspondingly reduced due to fewer candidates proceeding to interview.

Financially, the organisation continued to monitor its investment strategy amid short-term market volatility driven by global events. Based on advice from Findex, the Board maintained a steady investment approach and continued to review the diversity of the portfolio. Interest income and investment returns totalled \$352,557 for the year. As at 31 December 2025, total funds invested were \$5,296,335, with an additional \$1,176,090 held in term deposits and interest-earning accounts.

During the 2025 financial year, the organisation employed 15 full-time, part-time, and casual staff, with three long-term staff concluding their employment between March and July. The operational surplus was primarily driven by strong performance from the 2025 GSA ASM and course revenue, combined with disciplined cost management, particularly in payroll and selection-related expenses. Total expenses were 2.1% below budget and 4.6% lower than the previous year. Although investment income was lower, improved operating performance resulted in a higher net surplus overall.

While financial outcomes remain sensitive to the timing and scale of the Annual Scientific Meeting, ongoing cost discipline and prudent assumptions regarding non-operating income will remain critical to future budgeting cycles.

On behalf of the Directors:



**A/Prof Kellee Slater FRACS** | President

# Key Indicators of Success

INDICATOR	TARGET	2025 RESULTS
<b>Membership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership increase &gt;5% p.a.</li> <li>80% of new General Surgery Fellows joining GSA each year, including SIMGs</li> <li>New membership amongst junior doctors of &gt;5% p.a.</li> <li>Diverse membership that reflects the profession of Specialist General Surgery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>93 new members; 6.3% overall decrease (21.1% decrease in Junior Doctor members)</li> <li>25 of all new members were Junior Doctors (26.88%)</li> <li>110 new General Surgery Fellows in 2025; 39 of these joined GSA (35.45%)</li> <li>5 new Ordinary members were Fellows &gt;10 years post FRACS (7.4%)</li> <li>Ordinary &amp; Senior Membership: 25.8% Female; 74.2% Male (FRACS General Surgery Active &amp; Retired 2024 Activities Report: 19.66% Female; 80.31% Male; 0.03% Not Specified)</li> <li>Junior Doctor Membership: 63.4% Female; 36.6% Male</li> </ul>
<b>Diversity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balanced and diverse representation on GSA Boards and Committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GSA Board of Directors               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four out of nine (44.4%) female</li> <li>- Six out of nine (66.6%) born outside Australia</li> <li>- Six out of nine (66.6%) practice in a Regional or Rural setting</li> <li>- Average 15 years post-FRACS (Range: 5-23 years)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Membership management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75% of Members paying online or via direct deposit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>99.9% of annual Membership Subscriptions paid via GSA website (21.8%), MYOB Online (53.7%), or Direct Deposit (24.4%).</li> </ul>
<b>Workforce</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain General Surgery workforce data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025: Publication of inaugural General Surgery Workforce Snapshot</li> </ul>
<b>Selected Trainees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retention &gt;90%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>97.69% retention in 2025 (2.31% <i>Withdrawn</i>; 1 <i>Deferred Trainee did not commence</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Supervisors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of General Surgery Supervisors as members of GSA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>57.53% of General Surgery Supervisors (84) were members of GSA. A further 18.49% of Supervisors were previous members of GSA.</li> </ul>
<b>Fellowship Examination pass rate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% by second attempt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall pass rate: 64% (excluding failed writtens). Of those that passed, 81.7% (58 candidates) passed within two attempts</li> <li>The overall pass rate from the first cohort of trainees on the new GSET Program was 90% (excluding failed writtens), compared to 47% for the SET Program.</li> </ul>
<b>Collaboration</b> (and continued over page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-authoring submissions to government and other bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025: Publication of Statement of Neutrality and Safe Space</li> <li>2024: Endorsement of RACS Reusable Surgical Gowns Position Statement</li> <li>2024: Joint Submission to Victorian Chief Surgical Adviser regarding Nasogastric tubes and EnFit connectors</li> </ul>

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# Key Indicators of Success

INDICATOR	TARGET	2025 RESULTS
<b>Collaboration</b> <i>(continued from previous page)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-authoring submissions to government and other bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2023: Co-badged submission on Consultation on the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine</li> <li>2023: Co-badged submission on New Standards for Assessment and Accreditation of Cosmetic Surgery Programs of Study</li> <li>2023: Endorsement of AMA/DEA GreenCollege Guidelines and the Australian Healthcare Sector Emission Reduction Targets.</li> <li>2022: Co-badged Consultation Paper on Bundling Arrangements for General Use Items on the Prostheses List</li> <li>2022: Co-badged AHPRA Consultation on Cosmetic Surgery Registration Standards</li> <li>2021: Published THANZ Multidisciplinary VITT Guideline for Doctors developed in collaboration with the Thrombosis &amp; Haemostasis Society of Australia New Zealand (THANZ). The guideline was developed in response to the severe prothrombotic syndrome associated with thrombocytopenia described in a small number of patients exposed to the COVID-19 AstraZeneca and Janssen (Johnson &amp; Johnson) vaccines.</li> </ul>
<b>GSA ASM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 50% of ASM delegates as surgeons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025: 56.15% of delegates were surgeons</li> <li>2024: 45.42% of delegates were surgeons</li> <li>2023: 63.99% of delegates were surgeons</li> <li>2022: 53.7% of delegates were surgeons</li> <li>2020/2021: N/A</li> <li>2019: 58.9% of delegates were surgeons</li> <li>2018: 66.6% of delegates were surgeons</li> <li>2017: 64.5% of delegates were surgeons</li> <li>2016: 61% of delegates were surgeons</li> <li>2015: 50% of delegates were surgeons</li> </ul>
<b>Surgical Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All scholarships awarded annually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025: Prizes awarded at GSA ASM included the GSA Research Award, Noel Newton Medal, GSA Poster Award, CICD/ISDS Award, and Nabeel Ibrahim Award.</li> <li>2025: 2 Pacific Island &amp; South East Asian Travel Grants awarded</li> <li>2025: 2 Junior Doctor Research Grant awarded</li> </ul>
<b>Budget performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+/- 5% of budget annually</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total revenue 5.54% over budget; Total expenditure 2.07% under budget</li> <li>Total surplus 17.57% over budget due to investment returns</li> </ul>
<b>Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lodgement of Statutory Accounts four months after EOFY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Submission lodged 16 May 2025</li> </ul>

# Treasurer's Report

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This Treasurer's Report details the financial position for General Surgeons Australia (GSA) for the 2025 financial year, and highlights performance from some of our core business activities.

The Board of Directors remains committed to investments in online learning and educational events and activities, and to promoting both high quality training and continuing medical education for our members.

## **Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**

Total operating revenue (excluding investment income) was \$3,110,062 in 2025, compared to \$3,015,827 in 2024. Total expenditure in 2025 was \$2,864,885, compared to \$3,026,549 in 2024.

The overall surplus for 2025 was \$597,734 (2024: \$531,079), primarily driven by strong performance from the combined 2025 GSA & AANZHPBA ASM held in Perth, as well Event Management fees and other course revenue. Although investment income was lower than in 2024, improved operating performance resulted in a higher net surplus overall.

### *Key Revenue and Expenditure Items for 2025*

- Training Services income was \$2,281,663 in 2025 (2024: \$2,197,414)
- Post Fellowship Education & Training income was \$34,527 in 2025 (2024: \$33,686)
- Income on investments for 2025 was \$265,061 (2024: \$444,467)
- Course and Event income was \$475,993 in 2025 (2024: \$462,912)
- Course and Event expenditure was \$381,741 in 2025 (2024: \$511,986)
- Grants and award expenditure was \$33,295 in 2025 (2024: \$29,763)
- External professional services expenditure was \$51,522 in 2025 (2024: \$41,467)
- Personnel costs remained the dominant expense, followed by the 2025 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting, the educational webcast program, depreciation, website and database development, quinquennial hospital inspections for Queensland, and development and delivery of Online Educational and Regional & Other Educational Programs.

## **Statement of Financial Position**

Key movements in assets included a 3.2% decrease in cash and cash equivalents, and an increase of \$295,313 held in short- and mid- Term Deposits (compared to a \$8,923 increase in 2024). Total liabilities decreased by 1.53%, compared to an increase of 8.24% in 2024. The overall increase in the total investment portfolios was 5.27% for the year (compared to a 9.69% increase in 2024) bringing the total funds invested as at 31 December 2025 to \$5,296,335.

## **Statement of Cash Flows**

In 2025, the Statement of Cash Flows indicated a net cash inflow from operating activities of \$347,316 (2024: \$306,888), and a net decrease in cash held of \$29,913 (2024 increase: \$204,366).

## **Independent Auditor's Report and Audit Opinion**

The Independent Auditor's Report and Audit Opinion of BDO Audit Pty Ltd is included with the Annual General Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2025, which is available for download from the GSA website.

## **Directors' Declaration**

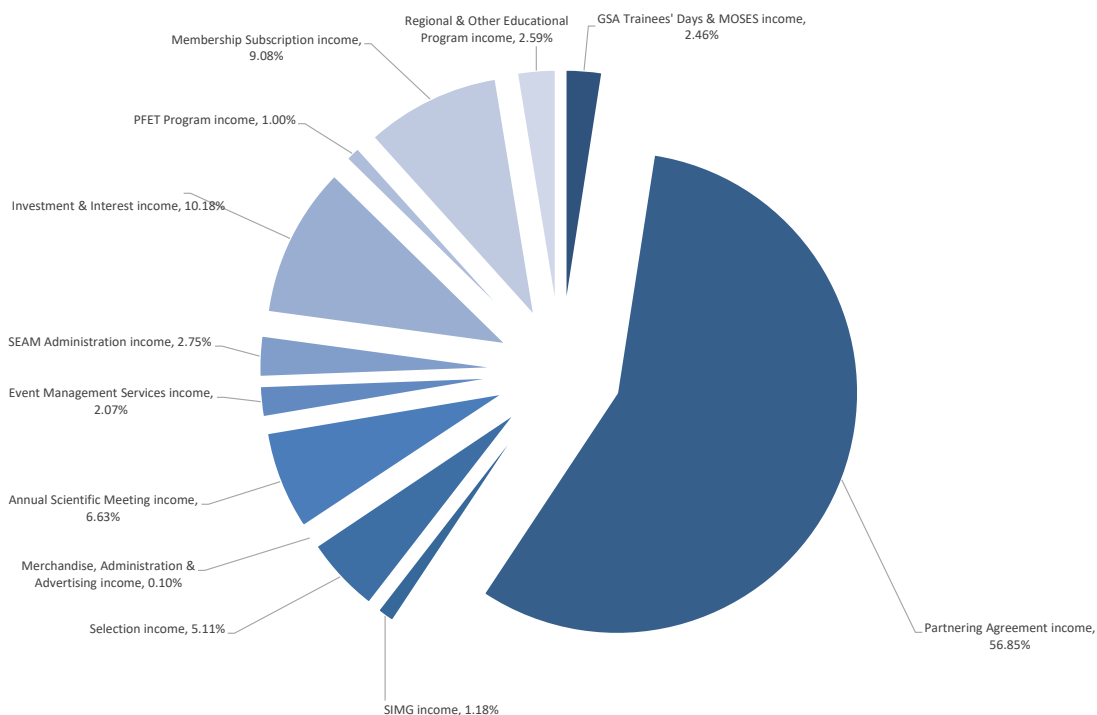
The Directors of General Surgeons Australia declare that the summarised financial report set out on pages 8-10 have been derived from and are consistent with the full General Purpose Financial Report of The Australian Society of Specialist General Surgeons (trading as General Surgeons Australia) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

On behalf of the Directors:

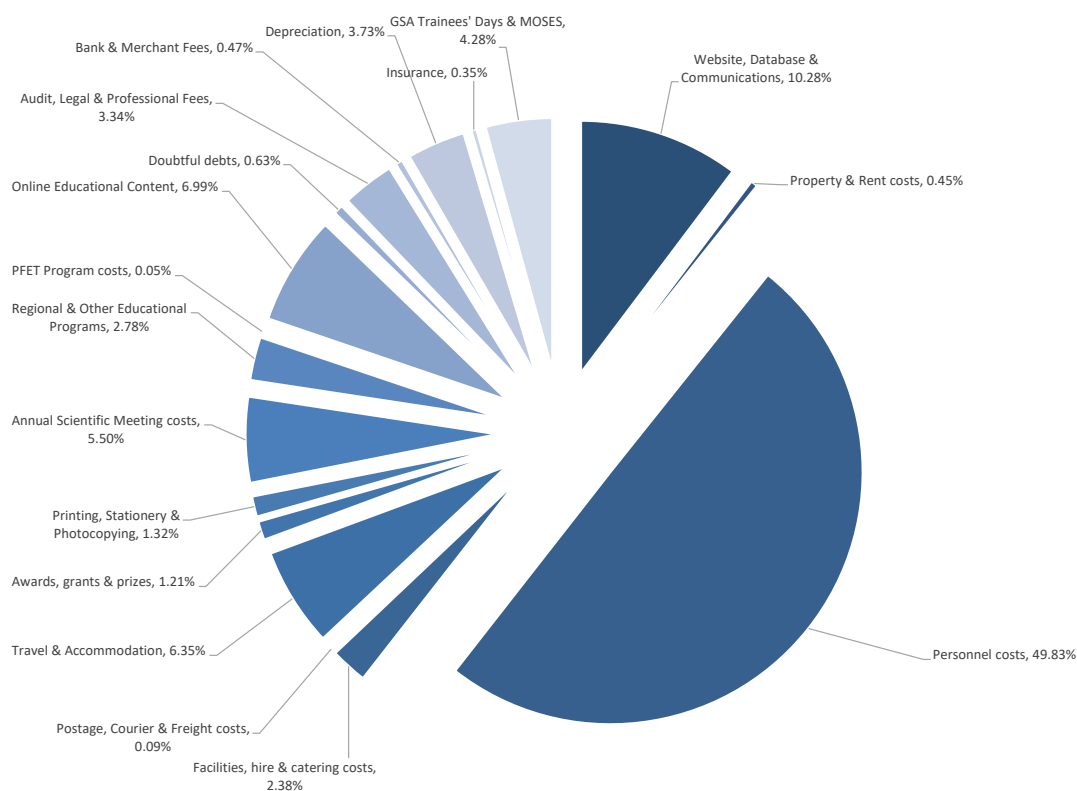


**A/Prof Jonathan Fong FRACS** | Treasurer

# Total Revenue 2025 | \$3,462,619



# Total Expenditure 2025 | \$2,864,885



# Financial Report

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Members' income	314,302	316,265
Training Services income	2,281,663	2,197,414
Post Fellowship Education & Training income	34,527	33,686
Courses income	174,724	217,560
Event income	301,296	245,352
Other income	3,550	5,550
	<u>3,110,062</u>	<u>3,015,827</u>
Other revenue - interest	87,496	97,334
Income on investments	265,061	444,467
	<u>3,462,619</u>	<u>3,557,628</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Employee benefits expense	(1,427,556)	(1,363,585)
Administrative & Training Services expense	(850,602)	(929,408)
Courses expense	(162,754)	(205,614)
Event expense	(218,987)	(306,372)
Grants & Awards expense	(33,295)	(29,763)
Finance costs	(13,328)	(16,762)
External professional services expense	(51,522)	(41,467)
Depreciation expense	(106,841)	(133,578)
Surplus for the year	<u>597,734</u>	<u>531,079</u>
Other comprehensive income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u><u>597,734</u></u>	<u><u>531,079</u></u>

# Financial Report

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	898,809	928,721
Other financial assets	1,054,965	759,652
Trade and other receivables	64,243	47,016
Inventories	3,857	3,857
Prepayments	78,183	14,625
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>2,100,057</u>	<u>1,753,871</u>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Right-of-use asset	58,255	55,804
Plant and equipment	17,956	2,460
Intangible assets	12,461	53,595
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	5,296,335	5,031,274
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	<u>5,385,007</u>	<u>5,143,133</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>7,485,064</u>	<u>6,897,004</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	114,521	97,098
Deposits for future services	6,935	11,900
Provision for employee entitlements	432,918	437,873
Paid Parental Leave funds	948	-
Lease liability	58,535	56,798
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>613,857</u>	<u>603,669</u>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Provision for employee entitlements	8,138	28,002
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>8,138</u>	<u>28,002</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>621,995</u>	<u>631,671</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>6,863,069</u>	<u>6,265,334</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		
Accumulated surplus	6,863,069	6,265,334
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	<u>6,863,069</u>	<u>6,265,334</u>

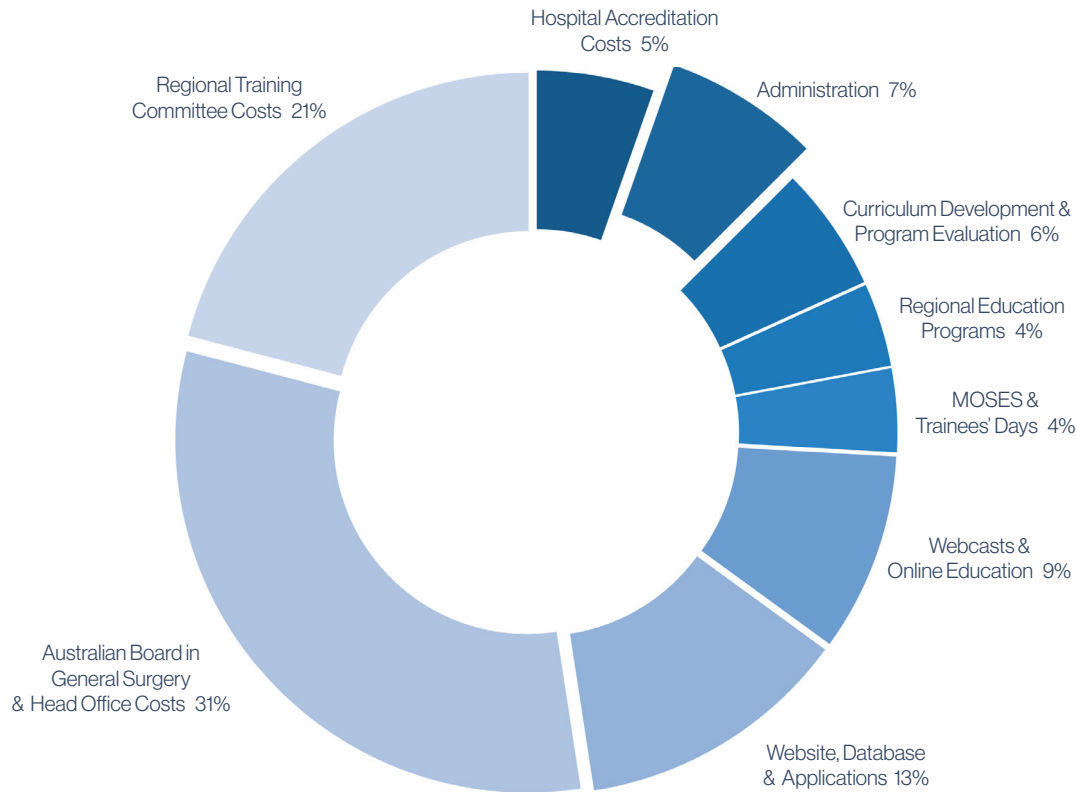
# Financial Report

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
- Receipts from members and customers	3,290,691	3,206,426
- Payments to suppliers and employees	(3,036,505)	(2,980,110)
- Interest received	87,496	97,334
- Interest paid	(13,328)	(16,762)
	18,962	-
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	<u>347,316</u>	<u>306,887</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
- Transfer to term deposit	(295,313)	(8,923)
- Payment for plant and equipment	(25,248)	(3,373)
- Payment for intangible assets	-	(37,381)
- Net return from investments	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(320,561)</u>	<u>(49,678)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
- Lease payments	(56,668)	(52,845)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(56,668)</u>	<u>(52,845)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(29,913)	204,365
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	928,722	724,356
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u><u>898,809</u></u>	<u><u>928,721</u></u>

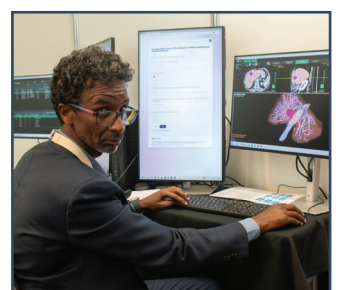
# Training Fee Breakdown

**93% OF YOUR SPECIALTY TRAINING FEE FUNDS CORE ACTIVITIES FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE GENERAL SURGERY EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMS**



Category	Includes activities such as:	Category	Includes activities such as:
<b>Hospital Accreditation Costs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quinquennial Hospital Inspections</li> <li>• Regional Hospital Inspections</li> <li>• Travel &amp; Accommodation</li> <li>• Facilities &amp; Catering</li> <li>• Personnel</li> </ul>	<b>Webcasts &amp; Online Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online Education Program Development</li> <li>• Webcast Production &amp; Hosting</li> </ul>
<b>Curriculum Development &amp; Program Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module Development</li> <li>• Committee Meetings</li> <li>• Working Party Meetings</li> <li>• Personnel</li> </ul>	<b>Website, Database &amp; Applications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website Hosting</li> <li>• Database Hosting &amp; Maintenance</li> <li>• TIMS &amp; MMS Applications</li> <li>• GSA Online Hosting</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Education Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Education Sessions</li> <li>• QLD Core Course Program</li> <li>• SA Long Course Program</li> <li>• VIC Simulation Courses</li> <li>• WA Registrar Training in Surgery Program</li> <li>• National &amp; Regional Examination Preparation</li> </ul>	<b>Australian Board in General Surgery &amp; Head Office Costs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialty Governance</li> <li>• Committee Meetings</li> <li>• Rent &amp; Outgoings</li> <li>• Travel &amp; Accommodation</li> <li>• Facilities &amp; Catering</li> <li>• Personnel</li> </ul>
<b>MOSES &amp; Trainees' Days</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AV &amp; Equipment Hire</li> <li>• Travel &amp; Accommodation</li> <li>• Facilities &amp; Catering</li> </ul>	<b>Regional Training Committee Costs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Meetings</li> <li>• Travel &amp; Accommodation</li> <li>• Facilities &amp; Catering</li> <li>• Personnel</li> </ul>
<b>Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit, Legal &amp; Professional Fees</li> <li>• Bank &amp; Merchant Fees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depreciation, Finance Costs &amp; Insurance</li> <li>• Awards, Grants &amp; Prizes</li> </ul>	

# 2025 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting Perth



The 2025 GSA ASM was held as a joint meeting with the Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Hepatic, Pancreatic and Biliary Association (AANZHPBA). This was the first joint meeting between the two societies since the 2015 ASM held in Cairns. The meeting theme, Navigating Change: Evolving Practices and Debates in HPB and Upper GI Surgery, attracted 447 delegates, speakers, and industry representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Fiji, India, and the Solomon Islands. The ASM was held over four days at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre from 15-18 October 2025.

The scientific program featured 67 national and international speakers and research presenters, including keynote speakers Professor Arul Immanuel, Professor of Robotic Surgery and Consultant Oesophago-Gastric Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, and Professor Shailesh Shrikhande, Deputy Director of Tata Memorial Hospital and Head of Cancer Surgery in Mumbai.

Our sincere thanks to convenors Prof Mohammed Ballal FRACS, Prof Mayank Bhandari FRACS, Dr Jonathan Foo FRACS and Dr Linda Vu for another excellent Trainees Day and Annual Scientific Meeting program.

# Board of Directors

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## **A/PROF KELLEE SLATER | PRESIDENT**

MBBS (Hons), FRACS, FACS. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interests in complex abdominal wall repair, Hepatobiliary Surgery, and Liver Transplant. Research interests include complex abdominal wall repair and Hepatobiliary Surgery. Surgical Fellow at University Colorado, USA from 2002-2004. SMO Greenslopes Private Hospital, Queensland Children's Hospital, and Princess Alexandra Hospital since 2003. General Surgery Representative for RACS Queensland State Committee in 2010. Surgical Supervisor at Princess Alexandra Hospital from 2006-2010. Member of RACS Board in General Surgery - Queensland Training Committee from 2006-2015 (Chair, 2014-2015). Member of RACS Board in General Surgery 2014-2019. Deputy Chair and IMG Representative, RACS Board in General Surgery from 2015-2017. Chair, RACS Board in General Surgery from 2017-2019. Scientific Convenor, 2023 GSA ASM. GSA Vice-President since 2021. Elected May 2019.



## **DR SALLY BUTCHERS | IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

MBBS, FRACS. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interests in Rural Surgery, Trauma, Breast Surgery, and Surgical Teaching. VMO General Surgeon at Lismore Base Hospital since 2008. Chair of RACS Rural Section from 2014-2019. Deputy Chair of RACS Rural Section 2010-2014. Member of RACS NSW State Committee 2011-2020 (Executive 2014-2020). Chair, Lismore Community Theatre Management Group 2009-2012. Scientific Convenor, Provincial Surgeons of Australia 2015 Annual Scientific Conference. GSA Treasurer 2019-2020. GSA Vice President 2020-2021. GSA President 2021-2025. Elected May 2017.



## **MISS NISHANTHI GURUSINGHE | VICE PRESIDENT**

FRACS, MBChB, BSc (Psychology), PGDip Clinical Education. General surgeon with sub specialist interests in Colorectal Surgery, Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery, Colonoscopy & Endoscopy. Research interests include surgical education and training. Scientific convenor combined 2019 GSA/CSSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting and 2019 Colorectal Trainees' Day. Surgical Supervisor of Training at Launceston General Hospital 2015-2023. Member of RACS Tasmanian State Committee 2015-2017, 2020 to 2024. RACS Tasmania Annual Scientific Meeting Convenor 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023. SEAM Committee Member since 2016. Tasmanian Representative RACS Council 2021-2024. Board member Launceston City Mission 2022-2024. GSA Vice President since May 2025. Elected May 2019.



## **DR JONATHAN FONG | TREASURER**

MBBS (B Med Sci), Masters Surg Ed, FRACS, AFRACMA, MAICD. General surgeon with sub specialist interests in Surgical Education, Rural and Regional Surgery. Research interests include perioperative medicine and collaborative research. General Surgeon, North West Regional Hospital since 2020. General Surgery Hospital Supervisor, North West Regional Hospital & Tasmanian Health Organisation - North West since 2020. Head of Department, General Surgery, North West Regional Hospital since 2021. Co-Director, Regional Training Hub, University of Tasmania since 2025. Member, Board in General Surgery - VIC-TAS Regional Training Committee since 2020. Member, Board in General Surgery Logbook Working Party since 2021. Member, Board in General Surgery GSET Evaluation Working Party since 2022. Member, RACS Tasmanian State Committee since 2022. Co-Deputy Chair RACS Younger Fellows Committee since 2022. Chair, RACS Rural Surgical Curriculum Working Group 2024-2026. GSA Treasurer since May 2025. Elected May 2024.

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# Board of Directors

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## **DR ANDREW HUGHES | IMMEDIATE PAST TREASURER**

***RETIRED 4 MAY 2025***

MBBS, FRACS. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interests in Laparoscopic Gastrointestinal, Hernia, Endocrine, Melanoma Surgery, Robotic Surgery, and Endoscopy/Colonoscopy. Research interests include Surgical Education and Data Collection for Clinical Trials, and Surgical Outcomes in Highly Comorbid Patients. Senior Staff Specialist, The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) since 2007. VMO Northwest Private/St Vincent's Private Hospital Northside since 2007. Trauma/Transplant Fellowship at Princess Alexandra Hospital in 2006. Surgical Supervisor TPCH and Member of RACS Board in General Surgery - Queensland Training Committee 2007-2017. Convenor, Queensland Core Course for SET Program in General Surgery 2007-2017. RACS ASC General Surgery Convenor Brisbane 2016. GSA Treasurer since 2020. Elected May 2016.



## **DR THOMAS BOWLES | DIRECTOR**

***APPOINTED 4 MAY 2025***

MBBS (B Med Sci), FRACS. General surgeon with sub specialist interests in Rural Surgery, Trauma Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, and Endocrine Surgery. Research interests include workforce projection and allocation. General Surgeon (current HOD), Albany Regional Hospital since 2006. General Surgeon, Esperance Regional Hospital, since 2010. Director of Surgery, WA Country Health since 2012. Surgeon/Medical Director, Albany Day Hospital since 2018. Treasurer, Provincial Surgeons of Australia, since 2006. Member, RACS WA State Committee (Chair 2013-2015). Member, RACS Rural Surgical Section Executive Committee from 2007-2013 (Chair from 2009-2013). Member, EMST National Committee from 2015-2016. Member, General Surgery WA Regional Training Committee from 2008-2016. Elected May 2025.



## **PROF PETER COSMAN | DIRECTOR**

BA, MBBS, FRACS, FCHSM, PhD. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interests in Oesophagogastric, Pancreatic, Bariatric, Hernia, and Gastrointestinal Surgery, and Advanced Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery. Research interests include Pancreatic Cancer, Obesity and Bariatric Surgery, Oesophagogastric Motility and Reflux, Surgical Education, and Human Factors in Medicine. Medical Director, Surgical Services Line at Redcliffe Hospital 2021. Professor of Surgery, Faculty Head of Discipline at University of Wollongong 2017-2018. Director, Skills Division at Sydney Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre 2008-2011. VMO Liverpool Hospital 2007-2017. Director of Surgical Services, Royal Darwin & Palmerston Hospital 2023-2024. Member of RACS NSW State Committee 2017-2021. Chair of RACS Clinical Examinations Committee 2017-2019. Executive Committee Member of Sydney Upper Gastrointestinal Society 2013-2018. Chair of SWSLHD/ISLHD Low Volume Oncology Research & Governance Committees 2014-2018. Member of AGITG Advisory Committee 2007-2010. Elected May 2022.

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# Board of Directors

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## **DR DAMIAN FRY | DIRECTOR**

BN, MBBS, FRACS. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interests in complex hernia, Trauma Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, and Rural Surgery. Research interests in acute surgery, including SUNRrISE Trials and laparoscopic vs open appendicectomy. Colorectal Fellow at Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Alexandra Hospitals in 2019. General Surgeon at Toowoomba Hospital since 2020. NSQIP lead for Toowoomba Hospital. Queensland Representative and Member of RACS Trainees Association 2016-2018. Member, RACS Queensland State Committee since 2016. Member of RACS Rural Surgical Section Committee since 2019; RACS Rural Coach since 2019. Supervisor of Training at Toowoomba Hospital since 2020. Chair GSA PFET Rural Program Training Committee since 2021. Elected May 2020.



## **DR SU MEI HOH | DIRECTOR**

MBBS, FRACS. Master of Public Health (The University of Melbourne). General Surgeon with sub-specialist interest in Colorectal Surgery, Hernia Surgery, Global Surgery, Health Systems (equity and diversity), Public Health, and Aging and surgery. Research Interests in Colorectal Surgery, Global Surgery, and Aging and surgery. Colorectal and General Surgeon since 2022, appointments at Barwon Health, Epworth Geelong and Werribee Mercy. CSSANZ Colorectal Fellow at Auckland City Hospital in 2020 and Lyell McEwin Hospital, Adelaide in 2021. Trainee Representative, ANZ Training Board in Colon and Rectum Surgery (CSSANZ) since 2021. RACS Victorian State Committee, Executive; elected 2023. RACS Younger Fellows Committee Chair, since 2024. RACS History, Heritage and Archives Committee, Deputy Chair, since 2022. Elected May 2021.



## **PROF MATTHIAS WICHMANN | DIRECTOR**

General Surgeon, Bavarian Chamber of Medicine, Munich (2002); FRACS (2007). General Surgeon with sub-specialist interest in Rural Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, Emergency Surgery, and Minimally Invasive Surgery. Research interests in Colorectal Cancer outcomes, Endoscopic Surgery, and Emergency Surgery. Consultant General Surgeon at Mt Gambier General Hospital since 2006. Surgical Registrar and Consultant General Surgeon University of Munich from 1996-2006. Research Fellow at Brown University from 1995-1996; Michigan State University from 1994-1995. Former Board Member, Mt Gambier Private Hospital. Former Member RACS Rural Section. Member, Former Member RACS South Australian State Committee. Convenor, 2024 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting. Elected May 2021