

SOCIETY FOR EMPOWERMENT, SERVICE, TRAINING AND AWARENESS - AUSTRALIA

Helping the disabled and disadvantaged
Registered charity in Victoria, Australia

INDEPENDENCE, INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION

Annual Review, 2022-23

We had a very busy year during 2022-23 organising our first ever local activity in Melbourne, Australia. We celebrated International Day of Families on 20th May 2023 with a vibrant and colourful, all-inclusive musical programme showcasing talents of all ages and abilities. With grant received from Manningham Council, we organised an afternoon of music and dance at Doncaster Secondary College, to showcase the talent of people with disabilities. We actively sought out performances that included or performed by PWDs/ diverse people and thereby got an exposure to various groups of diverse performers. Different groups of people with disabilities came together to make the event a success. The programme included contemporary dance performance by *Emotion21* (Inclusion Foundation for people with Down Syndrome), para dancing by *Dance & Roll* (Winner of Darebin Community Award), instrumental music by students from *Keys of Life* program (Sharing instrumental music socially), *High St Bells Choir* (Singing for Joy), Bollywood dance troupe of *SESTAA* and *REAL* Inc. participants, the *Vibe Bollywood* dance group and solo performances by Neel Rastogi and Charlie Smith.

We started our free Bollywood dance classes in February, 2023 with one keen, talented student. Charlie Smith, an accomplished actor who relocated from Tasmania to Manningham, came to us as he was looking for performing opportunities within the local area. We trained him in his solo Bollywood dance performance and also the solo theatrical piece 'Me and My Shadow'. From late March, 2023, we joined hands with local Manningham based organisation *REAL* Inc., and held dance classes for their participants on four Tuesday nights.

Putting together an event of this magnitude can be especially challenging for a small organisation like *SESTAA*, as we realised during the process of organising this event. But for our team of dedicated volunteers and Committee members, our collaborators like the *Real* Inc, Red Cross Blood donation group (Sathya Sai Society), donors and the support from Manningham City Council, this event would not have been possible.

We also gained valuable knowledge and experience during the process. Members increased their awareness of disability specific issues, such as, how we view disability and what language to use, use of appropriate terminology and learning new disability specific words. We gained experience of engaging an Auslan interpreter. Increase in knowledge of the

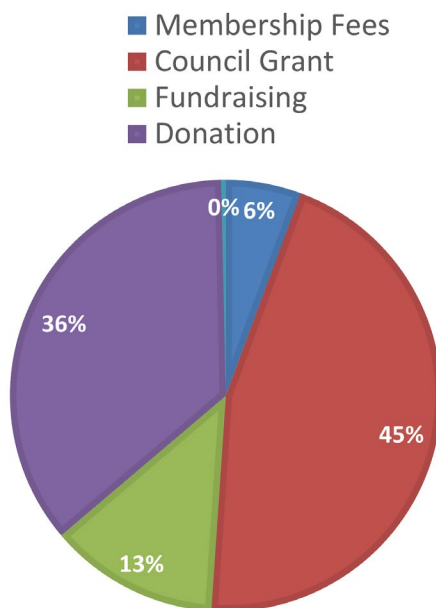
specific needs to be addressed in event management for people with disabilities and things to look for when identifying the most suitable venue.

During the year, *Shishu Sarothi*, Guwahati was able to recover from the Covid lockdown and started its weekly outreach camps in Goalpara. From April 2022 to March 2023, 45 visits were made to Goalpara, and a total 77 new children had enrolled in the Early Intervention Outreach Program at Goalpara while an average of 34 previously enrolled children were regularly followed up with every month.

SESTAA organised two fundraising activities for our Goalpara project They were, a food stall at Carols by Candlelight, Manningham and Movie Night in Palace Cinema in December 2022. The total net income from the two fundraising events in December came to \$1115.94.

SESTAA had 47 members during the year- 9 Active members, 1 Associate member and 37 Ordinary members. We thank all supporters, donors, volunteers and Committee members for their contribution during the year. Thank you.

2022-23 INCOME



2022-23 EXPENSE

