



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025



WAAMH



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The Western Australian Association for Mental Health acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the lands upon which we work. We pay our respects to their Elders, both past and present.

We also wish to recognise the central role that lived experience voices continue to play in the work that we do. We wish to acknowledge all those with lived and living experiences of mental health challenges or suicide, as well as their families, friends, carers and kin.



WAAMH ABOUT US



The Western Australian Association for Mental Health (WAAMH) is the peak body for the community-managed mental health sector in WA.

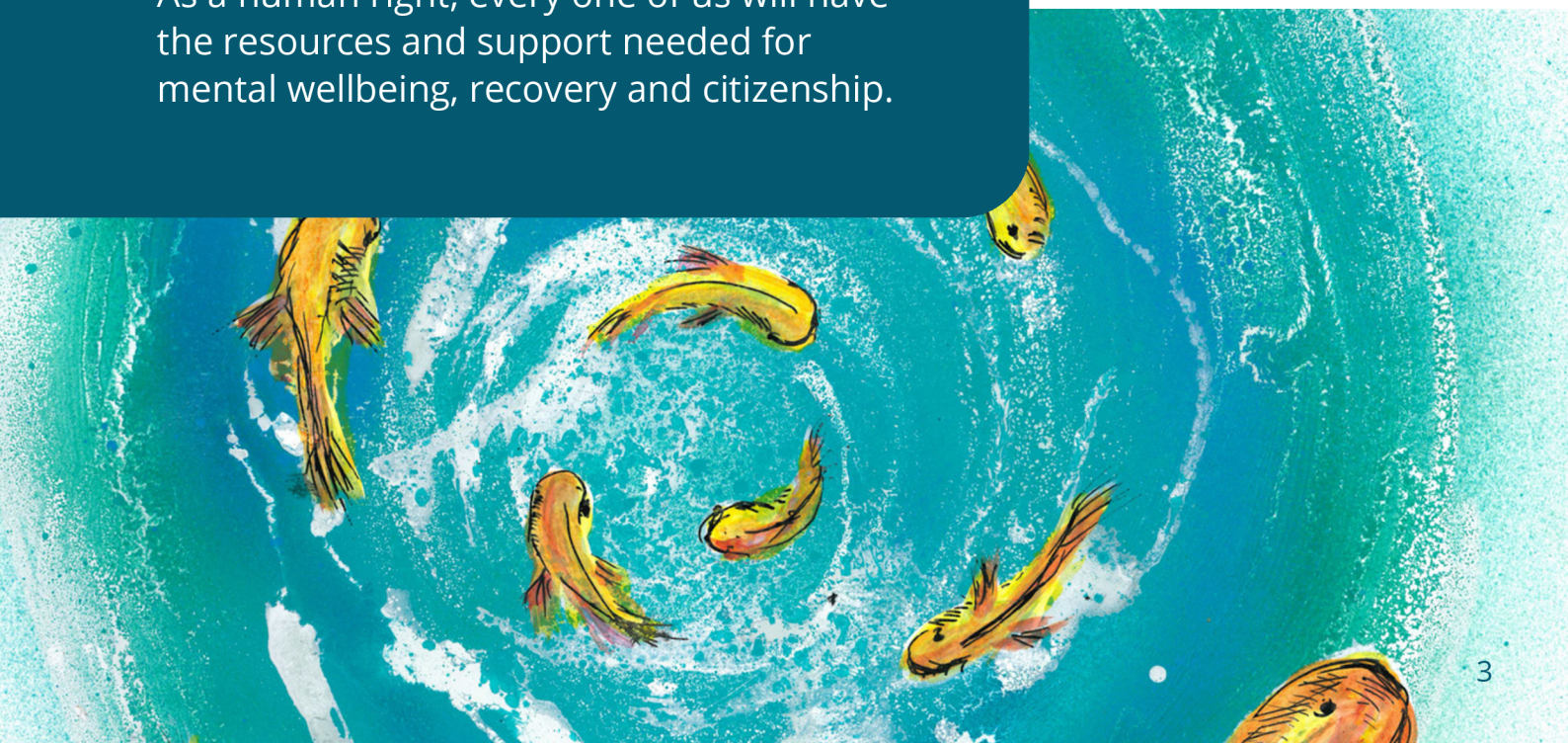
For close to 60 years, we've been representing our members, and advocating for our sector and the delivery of more holistic mental health services. Our evidence-based mental health training continues to support the development of the sector's workforce.

As the nation's only accredited Individual Placement and Support (IPS) trainers and fidelity reviewers, we play a leading role in facilitating the use of this world-renowned supported employment program right across the country.

In Western Australia, our statewide events like WA Mental Health Week and the WA Mental Health Awards, continue to bring communities together to raise awareness and reduce the stigma of mental ill-health.

OUR VISION

As a human right, every one of us will have the resources and support needed for mental wellbeing, recovery and citizenship.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It's a pleasure to present the Western Australian Association for Mental Health's 2025 Annual Report.

The 2024-25 period certainly tested our sector, as well as the collective mental health of Western Australians.

We continued to see rising levels of mental ill-health – particularly among young people. Mental health is now one of the top personal concerns in WA, and the interrelation between mental distress and other challenges such as housing insecurity or financial stress are clearer than ever.

Add to that persistent service gaps, stagnant funding, overwhelmed systems, and a disconnect between policy rhetoric and investment or reform.

It was against this backdrop that WAAMH continued to do what it does best – persistently calling for change, raising awareness of the issues affecting Western Australians' mental health, and collaborating closely with its stakeholders to stay informed of emerging challenges and opportunities. We pursued this with determination, courage and care, ensuring that everything we do is informed by evidence and experience, and primed for impact.

It was an honour to step into the role of Chairperson at WAAMH earlier this year. I was fortunate to work alongside and learn from our former Chair, Kerry Hawkins, in my previous position on the board, so it's a great pleasure to now take up the mantle.

As I reflect on the range of achievements across 2024-25, some highlights stand out. Celebrating the winners of the 2024 WA Mental Health Awards during Mental Health Week, the continued expansion of our training services within and beyond the mental health sector, and the engagement of our members, to name just a few.



I'd like to acknowledge the hard work of the team at WAAMH, led by Taryn Harvey. The team's work continues to embody the idea that change doesn't come from one action; rather it happens over time, as the result of many coordinated efforts across several areas of focus. The team continue to champion our roles in systemic advocacy, sector development, and mental health promotion with passion and commitment.

I'd also like to extend my thanks to my fellow Board Directors, for their strategic leadership over this period – leveraging our wealth of diverse sector knowledge and lived experience expertise. At the end of 2025 we'll say farewell to Leanne Strommen – thank you Leanne for your service over the last three years.

In looking ahead to the future, we'll be continuing to expand our sphere of influence through our advocacy work, strengthening the capacity of the sector's workforce, delivering more statewide events, and continuing our advocacy efforts to achieve better mental health outcomes for Western Australians.

CLAIRE TIMMELL
BOARD CHAIR

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

In reflecting on the year that was, I'd like to begin by thanking my staff, our Board of Directors, and our members, stakeholders and funders, for the valuable roles they played in all we achieved in 2024/25.

While the period continued to be strategically and operationally challenging for the association and the sector, there were also a number of positive developments, as well as a wealth of important work that continued behind the scenes.

We saw great success once again, with our events calendar for 2024, including WA Mental Health Week, our *Solutions in Motion* themed conference, and the annual WA Mental Health Awards.

Our training continued to experience growing demand, particularly around workplace mental health and psychosocial risks. And our IPS Works team also oversaw the continued expansion of the world-leading supported employment model in Australia, enabling more service providers to offer employment as a successful form of intervention.

Delays in state and federal policies and commissioning decisions, continuing contract rollovers, and ongoing contracting challenges, all had a cumulative impact and continued to impede the sector.

This also impacted WAAMH, and like many of our members, we have had to remain agile and find resourceful ways to work. The result is that we have less capacity across all our funded activities, meaning we will be limited in our ability to respond to new and emerging issues in the sector without additional resources.

In April 2025 we said farewell to our long-standing Board Chair, Kerry Hawkins, with Acting Chair, Claire Timmel, being elected to the role by our board. Claire brings her own lived experience of mental health challenges to the role, as well as professional expertise in economics, financial modelling, strategic policy reform, and service design and evaluation.

From board elections to state elections, in March 2025 we welcomed the Hon. Meredith Hammat MLA as the new Minister for Health and Mental Health. I have found Minister Hammat to be accessible, engaged, and appreciative of the unique contribution of the community-based mental health sector, as well as our role as a peak body, given her past experience leading Unions WA.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Minister, as I do with all our stakeholders, to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the coming year.

TARYN HARVEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



OUR PEOPLE

Taryn Harvey

Chief Executive Officer

Cassandra MacDonald

Manager of Operations & Business Development

Vanessa Cullen

Training Manager

Amisha Miller

Executive Officer

Christine Hastie

Finance & Corporate Support Lead

Lorna Lobo

Training & Facilities Officer

Judi Barrett-Lennard

Training Development Officer

Wendy Allen

Training Officer

Colin Penter

Policy & Research Officer

Rosie Hanson

Communications Officer

Cindy Cox

IPS Trainer & Fidelity Reviewer

Corey Dwyer

IPS Trainer & Fidelity Reviewer

Diane Moe

IPS Trainer & Fidelity Reviewer

Kenneth Dinsdale

IPS Trainer & Fidelity Reviewer

Roshani Shrestha

Project Lead - IPS

STAFF DEPARTURES**Robyn Brendenkamp**

Training and Membership Officer

Michele Burnlar

Training Development Officer

Kathy Greenwood

Lived Experience Engagement Coordinator

Shendelle Oliver

Marketing and Events Officer

Corey Gaidzionis

Training Development Officer



OUR BOARD

As per WAAMH's constitution, we proudly embed lived experience voices in our governance, through dedicated Lived Experience Representative positions. This ensures a strong combination of lived experience and sector knowledge on WAAMH's Board of Directors.

2024/25 BOARD MEMBERS

Kerry Hawkins - Chairperson

Lived Experience Representative (retired April 2025)

Claire Timmel - Chairperson

Lived Experience Representative (appointed April 2025)

Monique Williamson - Deputy Chairperson

CEO of MIFWA

Tanya Steinbeck - Deputy Chairperson

Lived Experience Representative

Pamela Bubrzycki - Deputy Chairperson

Chief Services Officer at Hope Community Services (retired October 2024)

Debbie Childs - Board Director

CEO of HelpingMinds

Nicole Jolly - Board Director

Director of Integrated Support at Neami National

Shaun Mays - Board Director

General Manager at Rise

Leanne Strommen - Board Director

General Manager of Community Services at Centrecare (retiring in December 2025)

Ben Smith - Board Director

CEO of Holyoake

Tam Hazell - Board Director

Lived Experience Representative (appointed in December 2024)

Melissa Russell - Board Director

Lived Experience Representative (appointed in December 2024)

2024/25 BOARD COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

Debbie Childs, Claire Timmel, Nicole Jolly, Rod Lillis (retired June 2025) and Pamela Bubrzycki (retired October 2024)

Governance, Risk, Remuneration and Nomination (GRRN) Committee

Shaun Mays, Leanne Strommen, Tanya Steinbeck and Ben Smith

ADVOCACY

MAKING CONNECTIONS

WAAMH continues to play a key role as the 'go-to' organisation for mental health in WA, facilitating partnerships between our sector and stakeholders with an interest in community mental health. We actively engage with our fellow state and territory peak bodies, and continue to provide support, promotion, and input into research projects and consultations.

In 2024/25, we contributed to projects and initiatives across a range of topics including:

- youth mental health;
- the impacts of climate change, gambling, and homelessness and housing policy on mental health;
- access to the Individual Placement and Support model in Australia;
- workforce capacity to support people who have experienced child sexual abuse or exploitation;
- management of co-occurring disorders for the mental health workforce;
- the impact of NDIS changes on people with psychosocial disability;
- the national review of vocational mental health qualifications; and
- the proposed benefits of a WA Human Rights Act.



ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

During 2024/25, we maintained our strategic focus on advocating to state and commonwealth governments for increased investment in community mental health supports.

We focused on utilising the national work on unmet needs for psychosocial supports outside the NDIS; urging the WA Government to leverage this opportunity to secure localised investments that align with its own strategy, while maximising integration and responding to local priorities.

Key strategic opportunities included:

- consultations on the state's new Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Strategy;
- the Productivity Commission's review of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement; and
- the review of the Primary Health Network's business model and mental health flexible funding model.

WAAMH made its own submissions and collaborated closely with national peak bodies, in addition to utilising forums such as the WA Ministerial Advisory Panel for mental health and AOD. Capacity constraints limited our ability to actively engage in the state and federal elections; however, since the appointment of WA's new Minister for Mental Health, we have seen increased engagement.

During this period, our Policy Officer and CEO continued to focus on maintaining our strong working relationships, trusted partnerships, and open lines of communication with stakeholders.

In addition to our strategic advocacy, WAAMH met regularly with the Commissioner for Mental Health and Deputy Commissioners, as well as the WA Primary Health Alliance. We supported member and non-member organisations, by escalating targeted engagement on specific priorities in relation to commissioning, program management, and the transition to the new National Safety and Quality Mental Health Standards for Community Managed Organisations.

WAAMH also contributed advice on matters outside the mental health portfolio, including the NDIS supports lists (Department of Social Services) and the Domestic and Family Violence Workers Capability Framework (Department of Communities).

TRAINING

Feedback throughout 2024/25 showed our training continued to be highly valued for its practical activities and realistic scenarios; comprehensive, evidence-based resources and strategies; and engaging group discussions which enhanced reflective learning.

Our training focus shifted in 2024/25, towards integrating new legislative requirements with contemporary, evidence-based practices to create safer, more inclusive workplace cultures, while still prioritising staff wellbeing. The strong uptake of *Reflective Supervision* highlighted a growing interest in training that addresses both personal and organisational responsibilities in maintaining staff wellbeing. This resulted in the creation of a brand new course - *Understanding Vicarious Trauma* - which we launched in September 2024.

Although face-to-face learning continued to be the preferred delivery method, we saw increased interest for trainer-guided online sessions. We introduced Reflective Practice sessions (one-hour, online follow-ups for a range of courses) which provide participants with a structured opportunity to apply new skills, share experiences, and reflect on challenges they may have encountered in practice.

Over this period, our training was delivered by nine Contract Trainers, eight Wellness Responders and five Lived Experience Speakers, with support from WAAMH's training team.

CUSTOM TRAINING & COLLABORATIONS

We partnered with a diverse range of organisations to deliver custom training during 2024/25, including the Department of Justice – Courts & Tribunal Services, Uniting WA, RAC, Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (Newman), Bega Garribirringu Health Service (Kalgoorlie), WA Primary Health Alliance and LAMP.

In addition, new clients such as Linear Clinical Research, Pilbara for Purpose, WA Cricket and Football Futures sought comprehensive training programs for their teams. We also partnered with Consumers of Mental Health WA (CoMHWA) to pilot their innovative *Collaborate to Connect: Exploring New Frontiers of Co-design* course, and worked alongside Multicultural Futures to deliver their culturally responsive program *See Me, See You*.

EMBEDDING LIVED EXPERIENCE VOICES

We continued to integrate lived experience voices across multiple areas of our training, including through Lived Experience Speaker presentations during semester courses and consultancy for new courseware. Our dedicated lived experience speaker workshop, *Sharing Stories*, ran three times during 2024/25 - twice in Perth and once in Bunbury for Keipa Boodja Corporation.

The scope of our Wellness Responder Program extended beyond our core training in 2024/25, to include a number of contract clients. The presence of a Wellness Responder ensures that participant wellbeing is actively monitored, allowing trainers to focus on delivering high-quality content. This approach has been widely praised, reinforcing our reputation for innovation and our commitment to mental health best practice.

24

SEMESTER
COURSES
DELIVERED

65

CUSTOM
COURSES
DELIVERED

89

COURSES
DELIVERED
OVERALL

562

TRAINING
HOURS
DELIVERED

1,364

PEOPLE TRAINED

5

WA
REGIONS
VISITED

60

COURSE
SCHOLARSHIPS
OFFERED

De-escalation Skills
Being Trauma Responsive
Reflective Supervision
Understanding Vicarious Trauma
MOST IN-DEMAND COURSES



SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT IPS WORKS

SUPPORTING AUSTRALIANS WITH MENTAL ILL-HEALTH TO GAIN AND RETAIN MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

Our work to support the expansion and continued success of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) programs across the nation, continued throughout 2024/25.

As Australia's only accredited IPS trainers and fidelity reviewers, our IPS Works team continues to play an integral role in the delivery of this internationally acclaimed model of supported employment.

In recognition of our expertise, for the past 10 years WAAMH has been invited to attend the IPS International Learning Community's Annual General Meeting (AGM) as an honorary member. The community's 2025 AGM was held in Nashville, Tennessee, in May; with the event proving to be an invaluable opportunity for us to share insights about the use of IPS within an Australian context; as well as explore the latest research and best practice with leading IPS practitioners, including the original architects of the model.

On return from the AGM, we were successful in securing Australia's inclusion in the International Learning Community, in recognition of the strength and fidelity of Australia's IPS programs.

In 2024/25, IPS Works provided mentoring, training, and independent fidelity reviews for 56 sites across Australia, enabling those sites to deliver successful IPS programs to thousands of individuals.

2024/25 SITES SUPPORTED

- Community Bridging Service
- headspace
- Medicare Mental Health Centre
- Ruah
- Youth Focus

57

FIDELITY
REVIEWS

37

SITE
VISITS

34

TRAINING
SESSIONS

245

MENTORING
SESSIONS

Australia now joins an esteemed global network of more than 26 US states and eight nations, to the benefit of all Australian IPS providers. And as a result of Australia's acceptance, we were honoured to host IPS Co-Author, Sandy Reese, who travelled from the US to officially welcome Australia into the community and witness our country's IPS programs first-hand.

We continue to be committed to the expansion of the IPS model in Australia. The scalability, affordability, success rates, and positive impact with many different cohorts of Australians, provides a promising opportunity for our nation's community mental health sector in the future.



WA MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2024

BRINGING WA COMMUNITIES TOGETHER TO RAISE AWARENESS AND REDUCE STIGMA

WA Mental Health Week ran from 5 to 12 October in 2024, encompassing World Mental Health Day on 10 October.

The 2024 theme - *Empowering Communities, Thriving Workforces* - was a study of the power and resources we all have to take charge of our mental health, with the key focus areas being *Empowerment, Employment and Expectations*.

In a continuing effort to connect with regional communities, we partnered with the City of Greater Geraldton and more than 15 local providers for the 2024 opening event, which was held on the foreshore in Geraldton. More than 700 people enjoyed free food, market stalls, and a wide range of free activities including yoga, dodgeball, arts and crafts, and water balloon volleyball.

As part of our annual Community Grants Program, we administered \$70,000 worth of funding to 90 not-for-profit organisations for education, equipment or events throughout Mental Health Week.

A luncheon and panel discussion marked the official end of proceedings for 2024, with Lisa O'Malley MLA giving an address on behalf of the State Government. The panel discussion centred on the theme of the week, and was so engaging that question time was extended.



The panel of speakers for the closing event - pictured below - included Michele Burnlar, Lived Experience Speaker and Project Officer at CoMHWa, Dr Sarah Pollock, Chief Mental Health Advocate for WA, Katie Llewellyn, IPS Coordinator with headspace and Youth Focus, and Chris Harris, Head of Mental Health at Mineral Resources.



WA MENTAL HEALTH AWARDS 2024

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MENTAL HEALTH IN WA

The 2024 WA Mental Health Awards brought together the mental health sector, lived experience, government stakeholders and the WA community in celebration.

The awards presentation ceremony - held at Beaumonde on the Point on 26 November 2024 - honoured 11 outstanding individuals, organisations and initiatives.

The award winners were chosen by independent judging panels, from more than 110 nominations across the nine award categories.

2024 AWARD WINNERS

Minister's Award

- Brenda King

Lived Experience Impact and Inspiration Award

- Joanne Khan

Prevention or Promotion Award

- Mark Barrett-Lennard – Youth Focus
- Blackwood Youth Association

Diversity and Inclusion Award

- Victor Adeseolu
- Rise, Multicultural Services Centre of WA and Wungening Aboriginal Corporation

Employee or Volunteer Excellence Award

- Landon Punch

Mentally Healthy Workplace Award

- Anglicare WA

Mental Health Education Award

- Kingston Primary School

Innovation in Service Delivery Award

- Enhanced Services Delivery Project – Ruah

News and Media Award

- ABC Great Southern





WA MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2024

On 26 and 27 November 2024,
the WA Mental Health Conference
brought together sector expertise and lived experience
knowledge, under the theme *Solutions in Motion*.

Across two days, the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre came to life as attendees delved into the existing initiatives within the mental health system that could be expanded, while exploring new insights and innovative ideas.

From the 75 abstracts received, 44 were accepted and contributed to a dynamic program of speakers, break-out panel discussions, workshops and more than 14 displays. Renowned Australian actress and producer, Claudia Karvan, was the keynote speaker, sharing her lived experience as a family member and sparking an interesting discussion about the complexities of individual access to supported accommodation.

As with all our events, accessibility was front of mind. A range of complimentary and subsidised tickets, as well as student scholarships, were available to attendees. The combination of Wellness Responders, a designated Wellbeing Room and Chill-Out Zone, all helped to ensure a safe, trauma-informed event.



FULL ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS 2024-25

aha Great Southern
Allergy Support Hub
Anglicare WA
Ark Home Care
Avivo
Casson Homes
Collie Family Centre
Healthy Minds
HelpingMinds
Holyoake
Kindred Instinct Support Services
Lamp
Life Without Barriers
Men's Health and Wellbeing WA
Mental Illness Fellowship of WA (MIFWA)
MercyCare
Moonlight Health and Wellbeing Services
Neami
Ngala
Northern Compassion (Tenacious House)
Pathways SouthWest
Peace By Piece Art
Perth Inner City Youth Service (PICYS)
Pindari House
Queer and Diverse Pathways
Recovery Coach WA
Relationships Australia WA
Rise Network
Ruah
Soldiers and Sirens
Southern Cross Care WA
St Bart's
St Vincent de Paul Society (WA)
Tender Care (Home Health)
The Wanderlust Age
The Wellness Initiative
UnitingWA
Warren Blackwood Mental Health Services
YesAbility
Youth Focus

ASSOCIATE ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS 2024-25

12 Buckets
ATI-Mirage
Blooming Minds
Calvary Youth Services Mandurah
Centrecare
City of Stirling
Department of Justice
GAIM ON
Kidsafe WA
My Place WA
Regional Counselling Services
TrainSmart Australia
SportWest
WA Mental Health
Youth Affairs Council of WA

MEMBERSHIP

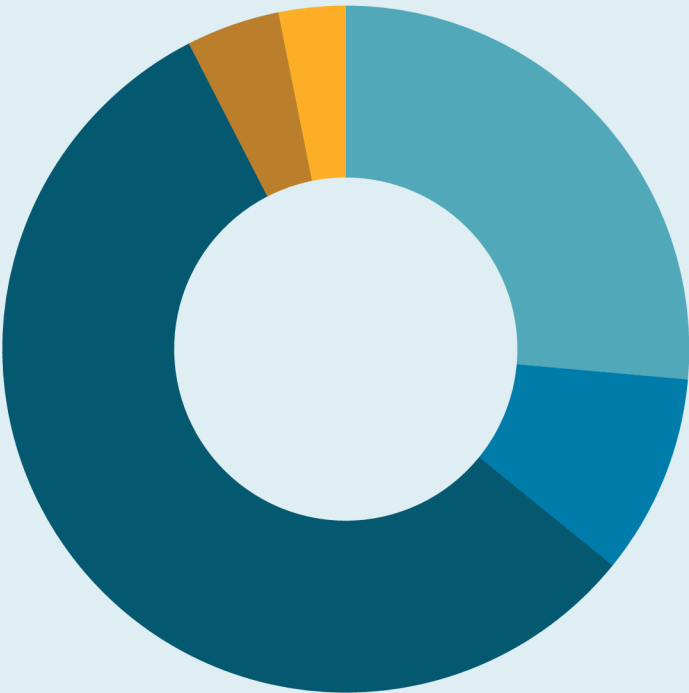
As a peak body, the authentic representation and genuine partnership of our members is one of our top priorities. Our dual membership base continues to be a highly valued strategic asset.

Both organisational representatives from the sector and individuals with lived or living experience are welcomed as members across four categories - Full Organisational, Associate Organisational, Full Individual or Associate Individual.

Membership figures continued to be steady overall in the 2024/25 period. To protect individual members' privacy, only organisational members are listed here.

2024/25 Membership

- Full Organisational - 26.4%
- Associate Organisational - 9.4%
- Full Individual - 56.6%
- Associate Individual - 4.4%
- Honorary - 3.1%



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

REVENUE

WAAMH's overall revenue for 2024/25 has seen an increase from the previous year.

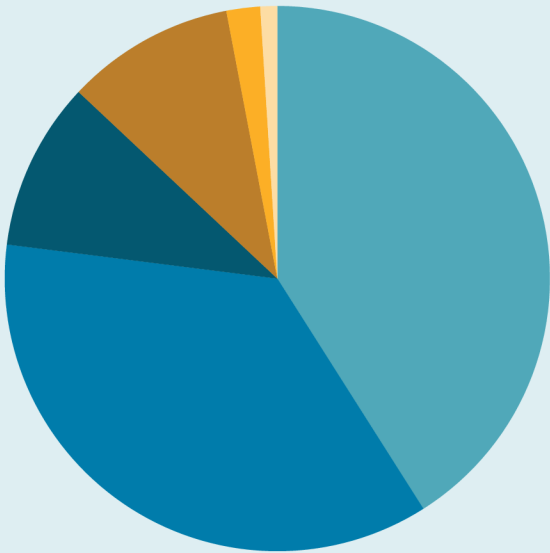
The largest contributors to this revenue boost include an uplift in funding from the Mental Health Commission and additional events income from our biennial conference held in 2024. Other major events such as the WA Mental Health Awards, and sponsorship for WA Mental Health Week, also played a role in enhancing our revenue during this period.

As noted, WAAMH benefited from a flat percentage uplift of around 50% to our 12-year-old Service Agreement with the Mental Health Commission for the year 2024/25. While we are appreciative of this increase, it is worth noting that it does not fully cover the natural rise in costs we have experienced over the last 12 years. Nonetheless, we continue to operate within our approved budgets and closely monitor our financial position to ensure we remain on track.

Furthermore, the two Australian Accounting Standards - AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities - continue to shape our financial position. These standards will continue to influence the rolling surplus and deficits in the life of our projects, and we will keep a close eye on their impact.

2024/25 Revenue by Account Group

- Service Agreements - 41%
- Grants - 36%
- Training & Program Fees - 10%
- Events & Activities - 10%
- Membership Fees - 2%
- Other Revenue - 1%



Revenue by Account Group	2024-25	2023-24
Service Agreements	\$1,335,252	\$876,429
Grants	\$1,193,761	\$895,810
Training & Program Fees	\$310,369	\$295,790
Events & Activities	\$314,065	\$73,614
Membership Fees	\$70,909	\$64,964
Other Revenue	\$28,964	\$27,358
Total Revenue	\$3,253,591	\$2,233,965

EXPENDITURE

For the 2024/25 financial year, WAAMH's overall expenditure has also seen an increase compared to the previous year.

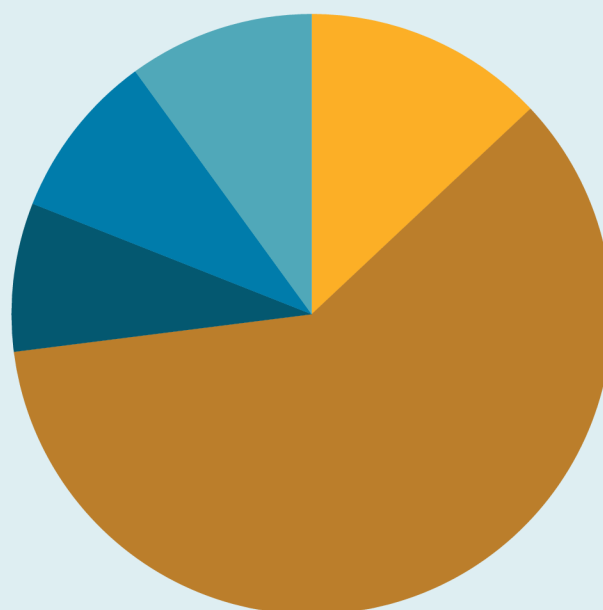
This rise in spending was attributed to several factors, but most notably, the biennial conference in 2024. The event contributed significantly to our overall expenditure, reflecting our strategic focus on sector development and capacity building.

Despite these increased costs, we maintained a strong focus on minimising administrative expenses. We continued to prioritise efficient operations and upheld robust governance practices throughout the year.

These efforts meant that resources were allocated in a way that supported our objectives, while ensuring we remained financially responsible.

2024/25 Expenditure by Activity

- Systemic Advocacy - 13%
- Sector Capacity Building - 60%
- Development & Training - 8%
- Mental Health Promotion - 9%
- General Operations - 10%



Expenditure by Activity	2024-25	2023-24
Systemic Advocacy	\$383,959	\$387,948
Sector Capacity Building	\$1,774,997	\$1,507,939
Development & Training	\$254,834	\$464,476
Mental Health Promotion	\$267,758	\$207,419
General Operations & Governance	\$279,641	\$359,590
Total Expenditure	\$2,961,191	\$2,297,372

OUR PARTNERS

Throughout the 2024/25 financial year, we were fortunate to partner with generous organisations, businesses and individuals. Thanks to this support, we were able to continue raising awareness and reducing the stigma of mental ill-health.



Mental Health
Commission



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service



WA Primary
Health Alliance
Better health, together

phn
PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,
COUNTRY WA
An Australian Government Initiative





WAAMH

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR MENTAL HEALTH INC.

**PHONE**

08 6246 3000

EMAIL

info@waamh.org.au

WEBSITE

www.waamh.org.au

ADDRESS

PO Box 8482
Perth WA, 6649

ABN

15 165 640 637

Connect with us