



Australian Council for
STUDENT VOICE

Community Report 2023



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the unceded lands, skies, and waterways, on which we live and learn.

As we walk this journey, we offer our deepest respect to the Elders and Ancestors who have cared for this country, that surrounds and sustains us, since time immemorial.

Australian Council for Student Voice Ltd.

ACN 672 202 078

c/o Our Community House
552 Victoria St
NORTH MELBOURNE
VIC 3051

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hello@studentvoice.org.au



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North Melbourne VIC 3051

From the Executive Director

I am pleased to present our annual report detailing the engagement and impact of our activities over the past year. This report highlights our efforts in various areas, including community outreach, growing volunteer involvement, fundraising initiatives, and program development. Our commitment to our mission has been unwavering, and we are grateful for the support of our stakeholders in helping us achieve our goals.

2023 was an incredible year for the Australian Council for Student Voice Ltd. (ACSV). It marked a significant milestone in our history, underpinned by the unwavering strength and dedication of our community.

As we entered 2023, the ACSV was still in its early stages as an unincorporated association, striving to establish its identity in the sector. However, with the support of our community, we embarked on a journey towards greater growth and recognition.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Committee of Student Voice Australia Inc. Their swift and unwavering support proved invaluable as we navigated the challenges of the past year. Despite unforeseen circumstances that necessitated our immediate incorporation, the formation of the SVA Committee provided us with the necessary foundation to overcome hurdles with agility and determination.

Looking ahead, the lessons learned in 2023 will serve as guiding beacons, shaping the trajectory of our future endeavours. Our commitment remains steadfast—to continue championing our cause, to nurture our community, and to strive towards an education system where the voice of every student not only matters but thrives.

I extend my deepest appreciation to each and every one of you for your ongoing support and dedication to the mission of the ACSV. Together, let us forge ahead with determination, empowered by our collective efforts, as we pave the way for a brighter future.

Mitchell Sprague

Executive Director & Company Secretary



Welcome

Achievements & Challenges Seminar

Wednesday, 11 October 2023



Community Engagement

Sienna Gladstone at the Achievements & Challenges Seminar in Melbourne



2023 Student Voice Symposium

Partnerships & Opportunities

2023 Student Voice Symposium: Partnerships & Opportunities

The 2023 Student Voice Symposium centred its discussions on the theme of "partnership opportunities," delving deeply into the realms of curriculum and pedagogy.

Departing from a traditional format, this symposium unfolded over the course of three days, spanning three weeks. Each session was a vibrant exchange of ideas, featuring insights from distinguished experts in the field, which were then followed by engaging Q&A sessions.

By transitioning to an online platform, the symposium broke down geographical barriers, enabling participation from not only across Australia but also from around the world. The decision to make the event free of charge further democratised access, ensuring that individuals from diverse backgrounds could actively engage in these critical conversations. Moreover, the provision of recorded sessions for on-demand viewing added an extra layer of accessibility, allowing attendees to revisit discussions and share valuable insights with their networks long after the symposium's conclusion.

Overall, the 2023 Student Voice Symposium stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and innovation in advancing the discourse on education and student engagement.

This event was proudly supported by:



Achievements & Challenges Seminar Series

In 2019, a significant international conference in Melbourne focused on Student Voice, Agency, and Participation. Now, four years later, the Achievements & Challenges seminar series revisited the topic to explore the changes and current state of student voice in schools. Attendees were from a diverse backgrounds including students, teachers, school leaders, academics, policy workers, and support organisations.

Key speakers at the NSW session included members of the NSW Minister's Student Council, Dr. Keith Heggart, and the Youth Accountability Project (YAP). Hayley Dureau, Emma Donaldson, the Rosanna Primary School Junior School Council and the Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC) joined us for the session in Victoria.

The seminar challenged and inspired attendees by exploring practical solutions and strategies for embedding student voice, agency, and partnerships in schools and pedagogical practices, moving beyond mere rhetoric. It offered a valuable opportunity for engaging discussions and networking among stakeholders, contributing to the ongoing improvement of education systems.

This event was proudly supported by:



Rosanna Primary School at the Achievements & Challenges Seminar in Melbourne

ReConnectEd

In continuation of the longstanding tradition established by the publication *Connect*, which graced our shelves from 1979 to 2021, ReConnectEd has worked hard over the past year to meet the benchmark set. Our mission is to honour the legacy of our predecessor while expanding upon the growing needs of the sector. ReConnectEd is more than just a publication; it is a commitment to documenting and sharing innovative student participation approaches and initiatives. We strive to cultivate reflective practices among educators and stakeholders dedicated to enhancing student engagement. Our primary goal is to provide accessible resources that place student participation at the heart of both primary and secondary school learning and governance.

Through ReConnectEd, we recognise the transformative power of amplifying student voices in educational discourse. Therefore, we focus on showcasing how student participation can permeate various school and classroom practices, ultimately placing students at the forefront of school policy development and implementation. Moreover, we advocate for the necessity of fostering co-agency among students, teachers, and the wider community, recognising that meaningful dialogue and collaboration are essential for progress.

As you peruse the pages of this journal, we invite you to engage with articles that challenge conventional thinking and inspire positive change in the classroom and beyond. Together, let us embark on a journey of exploration and empowerment, where the voices of students are not only heard but celebrated as catalysts for educational innovation and societal transformation.





Governance



From the Chair

I extend to you a heartfelt welcome as we embark on an exciting journey together. As the Inaugural Chair of the ACSV, I am thrilled for the year ahead. Bringing my extensive teaching and curriculum leadership experience spanning over a decade within primary and secondary schools across three states and all sectors, I look forward to applying my wealth of educational expertise to the ACSV's Board.

In my role as Inaugural Chair, I am dedicated to ensuring that the ACSV remains steadfast in its mission to cultivate an educational community where student voice, agency, and participation are valued and championed. I firmly believe in the power of collaboration and dialogue to bring about meaningful change. As such, I encourage all community members to engage actively in shaping the future of student voice and agency within education through involvement with the ACSV.

As we embark on this transformative journey, I extend a warm invitation to all members of the educational community to join us in our inaugural year. I urge you to reach out to your networks, particularly current school students, and encourage them to engage with their organisation – the ACSV. Together, let us work towards building an educational landscape where every student's voice is heard, and their agency is empowered to drive positive change.

Towards a brighter future together,

Jack Bennett
Past Board Chair

What we stand for

The Australian Council for Student Voice is the national body for the promotion and development of student voice. We bring together like minded individuals and provide support for them to create meaningful change as a collective, towards an education system where student voice thrives.

Our vision is for an education community in which student voice, agency, and participation is valued by all.

Our mission is to advance education through the support, leadership, and promotion of student voice, agency, and participation in schools and communities.

COLLABORATION

We value real connections and collaboration with all our stakeholders, ensuring we understand different points of view and treat each other with respect.

INTEGRITY

We act with purpose; we are accountable for our actions.

INCLUSION

We strive for authenticity, to hear the unheard voices, and to encourage the sharing of practice across the divides.

LEARNING

We love to learn and discover new things; we are excited about the future and want to take an active part in it.

Organisational Structure

Board of Directors

The Board are responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the ACSV.

National Office

The National Office takes care of the day-to-day management of the ACSV. The National Office is made up of two teams, Corporate Services Group and Engagement & Advocacy Support.

Corporate Services Group

The Corporate Services Group is dedicated to maintaining the seamless operation of ACSV, handling essential functions spanning Finance to IT and all areas in between. CSG oversees Regulatory Compliance and Organisational Governance to ensure our operations are conducted in accordance with regulations and established standards.

Engagement & Advocacy Support

The Engagement & Advocacy Support team actively connects with our community and bolsters their advocacy efforts. They furnish resources, facilitate communications, and offer assistance to our Members. These are the individuals you encounter leading events, participating in forums, and engaging with the community at large.

Staffing & Volunteers

In FY2023, the ACSV reported 0 FTE paid employees.

In FY2023, the ACSV reported 9 unpaid volunteers including: 5 Directors, 5 Committee Members, 2 Staff Members.

In FY2023, key management personnel received no remuneration.



Student Voice Australia Inc.

The ACSV extends its gratitude to the Committee of Student Voice Australia Inc. For their work in the establishment of the ACSV. In response to an urgent need, this passionate group stepped up to act as intermediary organisation while the ACSV was coming together. Their contribution has helped to build the ACSV into what it is today.



Adam Brodie-McKenzie
Committee Member



Roger Holdsworth
Committee Deputy President



Linh Dang
Committee President



David Mould
Committee Member



Sienna Gladstone
Committee Member



Mitchell Sprague
Committee Member

Board of Directors



Jack Bennett (VIC)

Past Board Chair

BEd/BA, GradCertEdIntlEd,
GradCertDataAnl, MEd(Ldshp&Mgt), MICDA

Academic, School of Education, Deakin
University

Jack Bennett served as Chair of the Australian
Council for Student Voice Ltd. for 2023.



Dr. Claire Golledge (NSW)

Board Treasurer

PhD (Ed), BA(Hons)/LLB, GradDipEd, FHEA

Lecturer and Coordinator of HSIE Curriculum
(Secondary), Sydney School of Education and
Social Work, University of Sydney.

Dr Claire Golledge is an education academic and experienced school teacher and leader. She is currently the co-ordinator of HSIE Curriculum (Secondary) in the Sydney School of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney. Prior to taking up her academic role, Claire held executive leadership roles as Leader of Pedagogy and Head of Professional Practice. Claire's research spans both the history of schooling as well as contemporary classroom-based projects exploring the relationship between education policy, teacher practice and student experience. She has a particular interest in the impact of teacher professional learning on changing teacher practice and in broader school reform. She is part of the Culturally Nourishing Schooling research project, a collaborative research study investigating new ways to provide equitable, quality schooling for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.



Flynn O'Hallahan (QLD)

Board Deputy Chair
BC (currently studying)

Distance President at Te Tira Ahu Pae,
Massey University's Students' Association

My name is Flynn, and I'm the current Deputy Chair for the Australian Council for Student Voice. I'm 20 years old and a student myself, so I understand the importance of agency and voice amongst youth, and how crucial it is to ensure that everyone who works with students knows how to support them. Alongside my part-time studies towards a Bachelor of Communication, I work full-time as the Distance President for my University's students' association. In this role I'm able to fulfill my passions in advocacy, representation, and support. I have experience through governance and boards via holding a place on both my Association's board of governance, as well as representing students at my University's Academic Board. I'm based in regional NSW at Armidale, however spent much of my life growing up in rural Central Queensland. Because of this, I understand the hardships involved in regional/rural/isolated learning, and always fight to ensure these students get a fair go and aren't left behind.



Mitchell Sprague (VIC)

Executive Director and Company Secretary
BA(Pol&Policy), MICDA

Mitch Sprague (he/him) is the Founder of the Australian Council for Student Voice. Mitch worked with a passionate team to build the ACSV following the 2019 Student Voice Conference, in response to the need for a national body to bring the sector together. Mitch is passionate about fostering participatory environments where all those passionate about student voice can come together in the sharing of knowledge. Mitch is passionate about youth advocacy and empowerment, particularly in civics education. He is an award-winning leader, winning the 2020 VCE Leader of the Year award as a Year 12 Student in 2020. Beyond his work in the education sector, Mitch is a post-graduate student completing a Master of International Relations at Deakin University in Victoria.



Adam Brodie-McKenzie (VIC)

Independent, Non-Executive Director

Curriculum Manager - History/Civics,
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment
Authority

Adam Brodie-McKenzie is an educator passionate about student voice. After winning a fellowship to study at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2016 to research how to empower young new citizens, he is now completing a Doctorate of Education at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, concentrating on the relationship between Civics and Citizenship Education and student agency. Adam is part of the executive of Social Education Victoria, where his focus is building teacher capacity and communities relating to student agency and civics and citizenship education.

Meeting Attendance

Director	Jack Bennett	Claire Golledge	Flynn O'Hallahan	Mitchell Sprague	Adam Brodie-McKenzie
Meeting Attendance	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	0/1

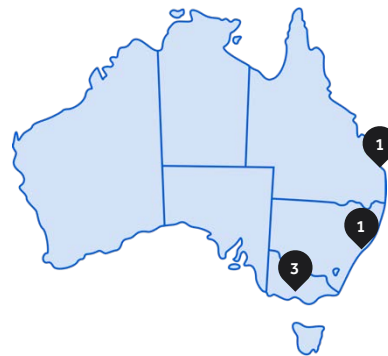
Gender Diversity

4 male	1 female
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Tenure

0-1 year	5
1-2 years	0

Geographical location



Board Independence

4 independent	1 non-independent
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Financial Statements

From the Treasurer

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the ACSV for the fiscal year ending 31 December 2023. This report outlines the financial performance of the ACSV, including income, expenses, and the current financial position.

Expenses and Income

The ACSV has retained a surplus of \$2,201 for FY2023, indicating a stable financial position. This surplus reflects the careful management of resources and diligent budgeting practices.

The assets of the ACSV consist of various items, along with a surplus from the previous conference, totalling assets of \$2,900. Additionally, there is an investment/loan of \$10,000 contributed by the ACSV Founder, dedicated to establishing the organisation.

During FY2023, the ACSV received \$80 in donations. The main source of income was from events and services, generating \$477.

The ACSV incurred various expenses during the fiscal year, totalling \$8,276. These expenses include operating expenses, and short-term governance and registration costs. These short-term costs are expected to reduce in future years.

Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements are presented in Australian Dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest dollars, in accordance with ACNC recommendations.

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, as appropriate. The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis, and are based on historical costs that do not take into account changing money values.

The company determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation charges for its property and other equipment. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation charge will increase where the useful lives are

less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or will be written off or written down.

The ACSV has maintained a positive financial performance for FY2023, with a retained surplus of \$2,201. The organisation remains committed to effective financial management to ensure continued success.

Dr. Claire Golledge

Treasurer

General Purpose Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet	
Assets	
Marketing Materials	\$ 200
Lanyards	\$ 500
Previous conference surplus	\$ 2,200
Total Assets	\$ 2,900
Expenses	
Previous expenses (2019 – 2022)	\$ 1,081
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,876
Governance & Registration	\$ 909
Marketing & Engagement	\$ 4,360
Staffing & Administrative	\$ 49
Total Expenses	\$ 8,276
Income	
Products & services	\$ 477
Investment	\$ 10,000
Total Income	\$ 10,477
BALANCE	\$ 2,201



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