



SOUNDFAIR

EMPOWERING. HEARING. EQUALITY.

90 years
of creating a fair world for all
people with hearing conditions
Financial Year 2021 - 2022





A message from our Chairperson

Christopher Carter

As Soundfair celebrates 90 years since inception, I am proud of the impact Soundfair has had. I am sure that the founders of the Victorian Lipreading Club in 1932 (the original iteration of Soundfair) would feel proud of the work we are doing in 2022 and beyond. I reflect on the several transformations this organisation has been through to remain impactful and meaningful to the community. In the 2021-22 financial year, we were pleased to see many of the transformation investments 'hit the road' and directly improve the hearing health and wellbeing of people with hearing conditions.

Highlights

- Delivered on 2019-2021 Strategic Plan based on engaging, creating, catalysing and transforming.
- Welcomed new Board Director - Samantha Bartlett.
- Acknowledgement and thanks to Caitlin Barr and the Soundfair team.



A message from our CEO

Dr Caitlin Barr

Ninety years young, and our reason for existence and the problems we solve remain ever important. A warm thank you to our collaborators, supporters, and the community we serve in a what was a year of re-connecting. We are excited to move into a new phase for our organisation, having invested in developing a new identity, services and team, we now focus on embedding this and preparing to grow. I would like thank Soundfair's board directors and my team, who, across 2021-22, have achieved a great deal, all of which put people with lived experience at the centre.

Highlights

- Offering new Hearing Wellbeing Services.
- Launching a national film festival platforming the voices of people with lived experience of hearing conditions.
- Success in philanthropic, government and research grant applications to continue our impactful work.

Soundfair Hearing Centre



A message from our Clinic Lead

Melissa Chandler

The Hearing Centre team are thrilled to have completed our first full year of offering whole person focused hearing health and wellbeing services from our Mount Waverley premises and critically, seeing the impact these services are having on people's lives. We have an outstanding and caring team who are willing to work differently to serve the community.

Highlights & Key stats

- Connection Coach service available, serving the social and emotional needs of the community.
- 20% growth in people accessing our services.
- Life changing outcomes delivered.

Generosity



Generosity and impact

Hearing Bank

Soundfair's Hearing Bank provides low or no cost hearing wellbeing services and devices to vulnerable people in our community. We would like to thank our referrers, supporters and donors who allow us to offer this life changing service.

Donations and fundraising

- 90 individuals supported through our hearing bank, contributing \$650,000 to the economy.
- Almost 100 donations of hearing devices.
- \$35,000 in donations.
- 200 hours of volunteer time.

Engaging with the community

Highlights & Key Stats

- Special Issue of Public Health Research and Practice on "Hearing: a public health approach for equitable, person-centred solutions" widely read nationally, including award winning papers.
- Over 4K followers across socials.
- 10 Soundfair Socials events.
- 6 Yarn Nights with outstanding story tellers
- 150 members of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Aussies Facebook group.

"As someone who was ashamed to wear my hearing aids for so many years, I'm incredibly passionate about changing the conversations and perceptions around hearing loss and hearing health. I am excited to be part of Soundfair's movement to build these conversations and to ultimately work towards ensuring that we have hearing equality in Australia."

Kate

Research & Education



A message from our Education, Research and Innovation Lead

Dr Jessica Vitkovic

We are proud to have released several deliverables in the innovation and research space this year. In addition to our Hearing Wellbeing services, we launched our education platform, collaborated on a telehealth project and ran a consultation project to understand the hearing services needs of diverse communities.

Highlights & Key stats

- Soundfair education platform now offers a suite of professional, public and workplace education.
- Grant success to deliver a communication education to the public.
- 5 peer reviewed publications.

THE

UNHEARD STORIES

FILM FESTIVAL



To tackle stigma, raise awareness and generate empathy, Soundfair proudly premiered **The Unheard Stories Film Festival** in March - showcasing four short films about the diversity of living with hearing conditions and deafness. The film festival was screened at 10 locations around Australia, to over 400 attendees!

Thank you to our storytellers, film makers, sponsors and partners who put on screenings!

Tinnitus Australia



This year we have seen growth in educating hearing professionals and the public about the impacts of tinnitus. We also welcomed three new members to our steering committee and look forward to working together to deliver education, advocacy and fundraising campaigns.

Highlights & Key stats

- Delivered the online Tinnitus Masterclass for nearly 190 hearing professionals.
- Developed two new information resources
- Agreement with the British Tinnitus Association to use some of their resources.
- Tinnitus Awareness Week engaged over 2,000 people.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

'If we don't have an inclusive society - the impacts are not just physiological, the impacts are emotional, they're psychological, they're social and we need to take this into account when designing strategies to support people to navigate it.'

Maxine

'When I walked in and met the Soundfair team, they listened to me, understood me, showed immense empathy and understanding. I would just like to say coming from a low strata, Soundfair showed me the true meaning of these two words: fraternity all-inclusiveness not exclusiveness.'

James

OUR BOARD AND LEADERSHIP FY 2021-2022



Christopher Carter
Chairperson



Kim Turudia
Deputy
Chairperson



Dianne Semmens
Director



Scott Fisher
Director



Samantha Bartlett
Director



Dr Caitlin Barr
CEO

We welcomed two new directors who joined our Board in late 2022. We extend a welcome to recently joined Board members, Soeren Iversen and Mayada Dib.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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**BECOME A SOUNDFAIR
SUPPORTER TO HELP US FOR
THE NEXT 90 YEARS AND BE
PART OF OUR FUTURE**

SOUNDFAIR.ORG.AU/GET-INVOLVED