

Australian Institute of Administrative Law 2020 Treasurer's Report

Changing the Guard

Today will be my last Treasurer's Report at an AIAL Annual General Meeting, after about 10 years in the office. Recently I indicated my intention to stand down and Paul Pfitzner, a Senior Assistant Commonwealth Ombudsman, has offered to take over. Paul has been elected as a member of the Executive at today's AGM and he will assume the position of AIAL National Treasurer towards the end of this financial year.

Financial Results of 2019-20

I am pleased to report that the AIAL had another successful financial year in 2019-20.

On a National basis, the AIAL recorded:

- income of \$167,148 (2019: \$137,912);
- a surplus of \$10,174 (2019: \$360 deficit);
- members' equity at 30 June 2020 of \$317,994 (2019: \$307,820); and
- cash and investments at 30 June 2020 of \$357,484 (2019: \$364,196).

In 2019-20, the AIAL recorded a surplus of \$10,174, on a national consolidated basis and the State Chapters recorded a small deficit of \$387. The overall National surplus was a result of the successful National Administrative Law Conference in Canberra in July 2019.

The audited Financial Statements, at Note 13, give a detailed breakdown of income, costs, cash, etc for each Chapter. At 30 June 2020, the members' equity of \$317,994 was shared between the National Chapter (\$137,538), the New South Wales Chapter (\$78,213), the Victorian Chapter (\$71,755), the South Australian Chapter (\$17,418) and the Queensland Chapter (\$11,978). The West Australian Chapter had net assets of \$1,091 and will receive a "top-up" payment from National funds during the 2020-21 financial year.

The AIAL has two main sources of revenue: membership fees; and surpluses from the annual National Administrative Law Conference. Membership fees are relatively stable near the \$50,000 pa mark from about 450 members. We are in the middle of a three stage increase in membership fees, however the increase for 2020-21 was deferred as a response to Covid-19. Membership fees cover the Institute's administrative and membership costs, however there is little left over for important member services such as the *AIAL Forum* and the recent rush of AIAL Webinars

Contact Sue Hart

Email aial@commercemgt.com.au

Phone 02 6290 1505 **Fax** 02 6290 1580

Postal Address PO Box 83, Deakin West ACT

aial.org.au

**Australian Institute of
Administrative Law Incorporated**

ABN 97 054 164 064 A 01733



The long-term financial success of the Institute is closely tied to the financial success or otherwise of the annual National Administrative Law Conference which is held in Canberra every second year and rotates around the State Chapters in the other year. Because of the key role of the Conference in the Institute's financial viability, I have included in my Treasurers Report, for the first time, historical comparative data about AIAL National Conferences.

	Canberra 2019	Sydney 2018	Canberra 2017	Brisbane 2016	Canberra 2015
Attendance	160	158	166	165	150
Income	90,003	72,425	89,532	74,695	75,000
Expenditure	55,729	51,239	59,977	58,087	56,857
Surplus	34,274	21,186	29,555	18,143	18,143

	Perth 2014	Canberra 2013	Adelaide 2012	Canberra 2011	Sydney 2010
Attendance	125	174	204	141	Not known
Income	63,409	82,209	97,072	66,491	94,288
Expenditure	56,200	80,238	66,328	62,744	58,546
Surplus	7,209	1,971	30,744	3,747	35,742

Notes of interest about some of the Conferences are:

- the low venue and catering cost at the 2018 Sydney Conference at the UNSW Law School;
- Perth in 2014 achieving a small surplus through very strong WA attendance numbers but limited numbers prepared to fly across the Nullarbor;
- Adelaide achieving excellent attendance numbers, both from interstate and from South Australia itself.

A Difficult Year in 2020-21

Unfortunately, Covid-19 means that the AIAL will have a very difficult year in 2020-21 with the annual loss projected to be around \$30,000. In March 2020 we were forced to postpone the 2020 National Conference in Melbourne until July 2021 resulting in significant, adverse revenue effects. We have been able to roll venue prepayments to the 2021 Conference, which will be held at the same venues as intended in July 2020, however we cannot recover revenue losses. The AIAL was unable to access any of the Commonwealth Covid-19 stimulus payments and supports because we are not an employer and all support packages were targeted through the Commonwealth employment taxation and social security systems.

The AIAL has a very healthy balance sheet and will easily ride out the financial problems of 2020-21 by drawing down on National reserve funds. In fact, during the whole of my period as AIAL Treasurer, I have worked to increase members' funds to a level which would enable the Institute to survive, with equanimity, a national pilots' strike on the eve of a Conference. But you never foresee how the real world actually turns out!

Contact Sue Hart

Email aial@commercemgt.com.au

Phone 02 6290 1505 **Fax** 02 6290 1580

Postal Address PO Box 83, Deakin West ACT

aial.org.au

**Australian Institute of
Administrative Law Incorporated**

ABN 97 054 164 064 A 01733



Australian Institute of
Administrative Law

One interesting outcome of the Pandemic for the AIAL has been the rapid move towards Administrative Law Webinars, initially driven by some members in Queensland and now taken up by a number of the Chapters. There is a significant cost to well run Webinars, and our challenge in 2021 will be to develop a Webinar cost and price model which is affordable, expands the national reach of the Institute, and enhances our membership offering.

I regret that Paul comes in as Treasurer at the time of a down turn in the Institute's finances, however I am confident that the Institute has the financial capacity to see this through and even, if unfortunately necessary, to survive further disruptions to the July 2021 National Conference in Melbourne.

I would like to thank the staff of our Secretariat, Commerce Management Services Pty Ltd, and Jeremy Clarke from our Auditor, Anthony Curtis & Co, for their work on the finances during the year.

Because of the Pandemic, no work was undertaken this year towards a tender for audit services, and I recommend that Anthony Curtis & Co continue as the AIAL Auditor in the 2020-21 financial year.

Peter Sutherland
AIAL Treasurer
11 November 2020

Contact Sue Hart
Email aial@commercemgt.com.au
Phone 02 6290 1505 **Fax** 02 6290 1580
Postal Address PO Box 83, Deakin West ACT

aial.org.au

**Australian Institute of
Administrative Law Incorporated**
ABN 97 054 164 064 A 01733