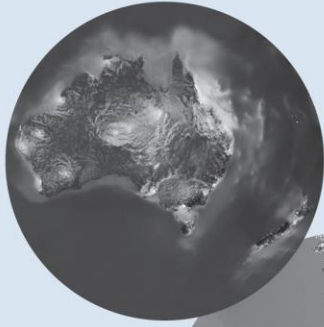


ascia

australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

Annual Report 2023

ASCIA MEMBER SERVICES



Website and Communications

AIFA Research Grants

Sustainability

Advocacy and Submissions



ASCIA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual Conferences

Committees and Meetings

Education and Training

Online Resources



ASCIA COLLABORATIONS

National Allergy Council

ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy

Research Groups

Professional and Patient Organisations



www.allergy.org.au

ASCIA is the peak professional body for allergy and clinical immunology in Australia and New Zealand since 1990

Contents

Introduction – Jill Smith, ASCIA CEO	1
ASCIA President's Report - A/Prof Theresa Cole*	2
ASCIA Finance Report - Dr Michael O'Sullivan*	8
ASCIA Council 2023-2024	12
ASCIA Staff 2023-2024	13
ASCIA Contractors 2023-2024	14

*This report includes the presentations from the ASCIA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2023 that was held on Thursday 7 September 2023, 17.30-18.00 at the International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney, NSW.

Introduction – Jill Smith, ASCIA CEO

It is almost ten years since ASCIA expanded its operations and moved into an office in the Lifestyle Working Building (Brookvale, Sydney) in November 2013. Since then ASCIA has:

- Expanded its membership by almost 50%, from 504 to 749 members as shown on page 2.
- Hosted nine ASCIA Annual Conferences, with the last two being highly successful hybrid events, as highlighted on page 3.
- Tracked finances to provide a long term financial summary, as outlined on pages 8-11.
- Employed more staff, and a summary of their main responsibilities is included on page 13.
- Worked with contractors that support ASCIA's operations and initiatives, and are listed on page 14.

In recent years ASCIA has worked on developing Strategies for Allergy and Immunodeficiency, which are now being implemented. These collaborations will be a major focus for ASCIA in the next few years.

To ensure that ASCIA can plan for the future, we will also develop a new:

- **ASCIA member workforce survey**
- **ASCIA Strategic Plan** - based on ASCIA's Purpose, Strategic Areas of Focus, Priorities, findings from the [ASCIA Priorities Report 2022-2023](#), National Allergy Council projects assigned to ASCIA and the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy.

ASCIA's purpose is to advance the science and practice of allergy and clinical immunology. ASCIA works towards achieving its purpose by focusing on three strategic areas:

- **Member Services**
- **Professional Development**
- **Collaborations**

Details about ASCIA's prioritised initiatives within these focus areas are on the [ASCIA website](#).

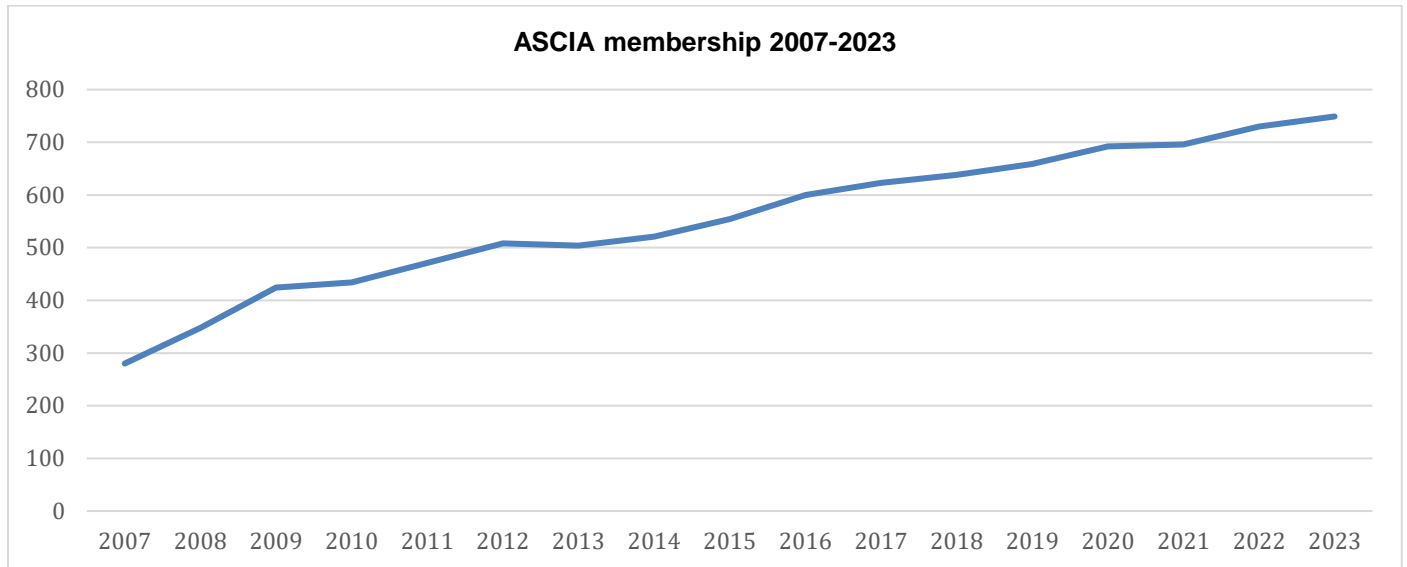
ASCIA initiatives depend on utilising the clinical and academic expertise of ASCIA members and project coordination by ASCIA staff, working together with contractors.

I take this opportunity to thank ASCIA Directors, Council and other ASCIA members, staff and contractors who have contributed to ASCIA's initiatives, which have resulted in ASCIA providing world leading online resources and meetings.

Thank you also to Dr Katie Frith for chairing the highly successful ASCIA 2023 Conference, with a record high number of registrations, abstracts and social functions – a report is available on the [ASCIA website](#).

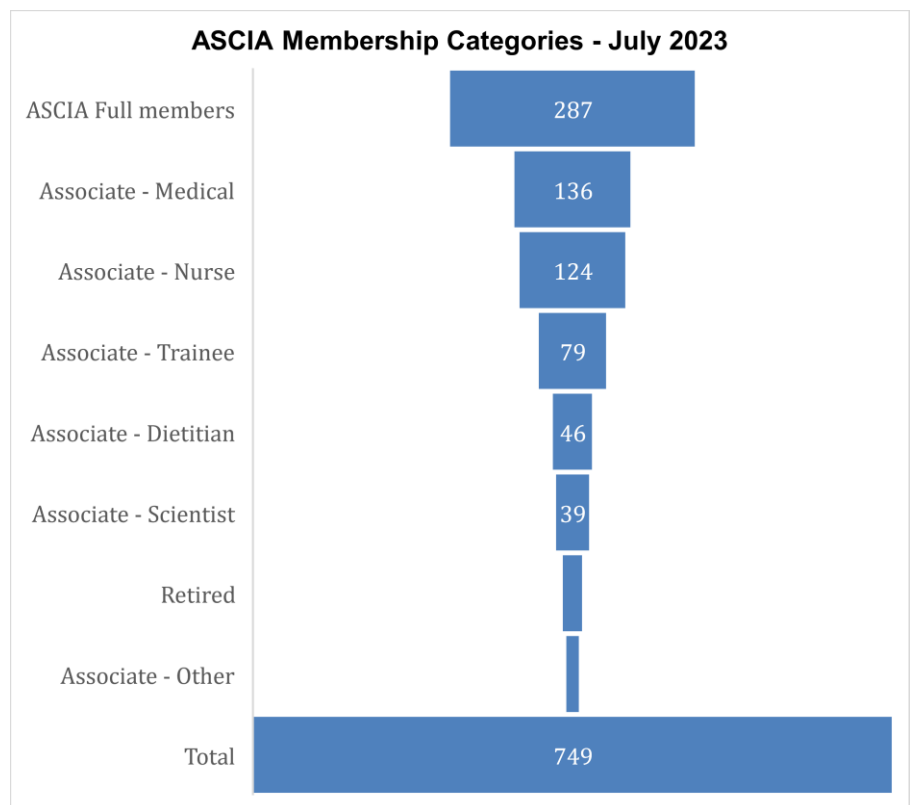
ASCIA President’s Report – A/Prof Theresa Cole

It is a pleasure to report that ASCIA membership continues to grow. As of July 2023 there was a total of **749** ASCIA members, which is a significant increase since 2007 when there were 280 ASCIA members.



ASCIA membership comprises:

- **287 Full ASCIA members**, who are mostly clinical immunology/allergy specialists and they are listed on the ASCIA website.
- **79 Associate (Trainee) members**, who are completing their advanced training to become clinical immunology/allergy specialists.
- **136 Associate (Medical) members**, who are medical practitioners who manage some patients with allergic conditions, but are not clinical immunology/allergy specialists.
- **185 Associate (Other Health Professional) members**, including 124 nurses and 46 dietitians.
- **39 Associate (Scientist/Researcher) members**.
- **23 Retired** ASCIA members.



ASCIA HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023

ASCIA initiatives highlighted in this report depend on voluntary contributions from ASCIA members of their clinical and academic expertise, as well as project coordination by ASCIA staff, working with contractors.

We are very grateful for contributions from ASCIA members and the coordination of projects, which have resulted in ASCIA providing world leading online resources and meetings.

ASCIA Annual Conference

- Leading source of allergy and clinical immunology CPD in Australia and New Zealand
- ASCIA 2022 Conference – 1st hybrid ASCIA Conference - over 600 delegate registrations - 60% in-person.
- ASCIA 2023 Conference – 2nd hybrid ASCIA Conference – over 700 delegates – 72% in-person. Congratulations to Dr Katie Frith, the committee, ASCIA and ICMSA teams on a very successful conference.



ASCIA website

ASCIA provides world leading, accessible, consistent and evidence-based online resources, education and training. From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 the ASCIA website attracted more than:

- 2.9 million pageviews
- 1.9 million sessions (visits)
- 1.5 million users (unique visitors)

The ASCIA website will continue to be reviewed and updated.



ASCIA e-training courses

ASCIA anaphylaxis e-training courses have all been updated in 2023 with the 2023 versions of ASCIA Action Plans and First Aid Plans.

ASCIA has provided world leading online training since 2010, with over:

- 100,000 registrations from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023
- 1,000,000 registrations since March 2010

For the first time since 2010 reports have been developed based on feedback surveys conducted during 2022 and are available at:

<https://www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports#scap>

ASCIA e-training courses can be accessed at <https://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/about-ascia-e-training>



ASCIA communications

Each month ASCIA e-newsletters are sent to:

- 749 ASCIA members
- 5,330 community subscribers

ASCIA members are also sent interim updates by email.

Regular social media posts are uploaded to highlight key news items.



ASCIA advocacy

ASCIA continues to advocate on behalf of ASCIA members.

ASCIA lodged more than 15 submissions over the past year, which are available at <https://www.allergy.org.au/ascia-submissions>

Recent submissions have focused on specialised infant formula used in cow's milk (dairy) allergy and implementation of SCID newborn screening.



ASCIA collaborations

ASCIA is involved in over 30 collaborations, including the National Allergy Council partnership, Transplantation and PID (TAPID) group, National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE) and Centre for Food Allergy Research (CFAR).

In 2023:

- The first in-person TAPID meeting since 2019 was held on Saturday 29 April 2023
- Government funding was confirmed for NAC and NACE from 2022-2026

For details go to <https://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/collaborations>



AIFA research grants

Thank you to our generous donors and sponsors who have enabled \$719,160 to be awarded to 34 research projects since 2015.

A total of 23 research projects that received AIFA grants up to 2021 have been presented at ASCIA Annual Conferences since 2021.

Thank you also to the AIFA grant selection panel.

For details go to <https://www.allergyimmunology.org.au/projects>



ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy

Implementation of the Strategy is a priority for ASCIA:

- An Implementation meeting was held on Friday 28 April, to coincide with World Primary Immunodeficiency Week 2023
- Outcomes of the meeting are listed on the ASCIA website: <https://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/info-updates/outcomes-from-ascia-immunodeficiency-strategy-meeting>



ASCIA advanced trainee education

Providing education opportunities for advanced trainees is also an important priority for ASCIA:

- ASCIA hosted an in-person Advanced Immunodeficiency Training Meeting from Sunday 30 April to Tuesday 2 May 2023
- TAILS (Trainees In Allergy and Immunology Lecture Series) online meetings for Advanced Trainees will commence in October 2023
- Advanced Trainees continue to regularly attend TAPID and PIAIG online meetings



ASCIA PRIORITIES REPORT 2022-2023

ASCIA members were surveyed from November 2022 to January 2023 to ensure alignment of the ASCIA priorities with member needs. Uptake of the ASCIA Member Survey was 40% which attests to the enthusiasm and engagement of members.

Members were asked to provide their feedback on each of the current ASCIA priorities and identify potential future priorities. Responses were analysed to understand the priorities of different membership categories. Members were highly supportive of the ASCIA priorities and the hard work undertaken.

ASCIA undertakes a wide range of initiatives that are prioritised to maximise benefits to ASCIA members. ASCIA has reviewed priorities for 2022-2023, which are grouped into three areas, with synergies and overlap between these areas.

1. ASCIA Member Services:

- All membership categories rated **Anaphylaxis/allergy online resources, education and training** as the highest priority.
- This was closely followed by **Access to ASCIA member only resources**.
- **Immunodeficiency resources, education and training** were perceived positively, however members noted that these resources lacked the development and maturity in comparison to allergy.

2. Professional Development:

- The **ASCIA Annual Conference** was rated the most important for most membership categories.

3. Collaborations:

- ASCIA members identified the **National Allergy Council** as the most important Collaboration Priority, but all collaborations were rated highly.

When looking to future ASCIA priorities, members wanted to extend existing priorities rather than identifying completely new areas. The areas recognised for ASCIA to continue to prioritise include advocating for MBS item numbers to drive better service availability for patients, extending education to other clinicians, and expanding stakeholder engagement.

ASCIA will implement actions as a result of the members' survey responses, as summarised at the end of the report, which is available open access on the ASCIA website <https://www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports>



ASCIA ACTIONS 2023-2024

ASCIA will implement actions as a result of the members' survey responses, as summarised at the end of the ASCIA Priorities Report 2023, which is available open access on the ASCIA website

<https://www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports>

ASCIA will continue to prioritise:

- Advocacy on behalf of ASCIA members.
- Providing ASCIA member services, including online resources and communications.
- Providing professional development opportunities, including the ASCIA Annual Conference and regular online meetings.
- Implementing the National Allergy Strategy (through the National Allergy Council) and the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy.
- Collaborations, including TAPID and research organisations.



ASCIA will promote:

- Accessibility of ASCIA online resources for all ASCIA members, including member only resources.
- Eligibility of all ASCIA members to join ASCIA committees and participate in the ASCIA Annual Conference.
- ASCIA e-training and online resources to all health professionals, patients, carers and the community to increase knowledge.*



ASCIA will improve by:

- Developing more autoimmunity resources and increasing autoimmunity content in ASCIA Annual Conferences.
- Reviewing and updating of the ASCIA website to improve accessibility and the user experience.
- Identifying additional educational opportunities.*



* These actions will be taken as part of implementing the National Allergy Strategy (in ASCIA's role as a partner in the National Allergy Council), and as part of implementing the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

I am pleased to report that ASCIA remains in a very strong position, despite the significant changes over the past year and challenges over the past few years.

I would like to thank the:

- Other ASCIA Directors - Dr Michael O’Sullivan, A/Prof Jane Peake and Dr Kathryn Patchett, and ASCIA Council members for their valued advice and support.
- ASCIA team - Jill Smith, Michelle Haskard, Rikki Dunstall, Nadene Dorling, Emily Mamo and Georgina Egan for working together with contractors (including Impagination and ICMSA) to ensure that ASCIA provides members with important services, whilst keeping ASCIA operations sustainable.

Thank you also to the departing ASCIA Council members (for all their work over the past few years and welcome to new ASCIA Council members, who I look forward to working with.

Through collaborations such as the National Allergy Council and the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy, we believe that ASCIA has an even stronger foundation for future growth.

It is a very exciting time for allergy and clinical immunology. We believe that ASCIA is at the forefront to lead initiatives in Australia and New Zealand to improve access and standards of care for patients with allergies, immunodeficiencies and other immune system disorders.



Congratulations to Dr Katie Frith and her organising committee on the ASCIA 2023 Conference, which has attracted over 700 delegates, including 72% in-person, and an exhibition that has sold out.

We believe that the hybrid model will be useful into the future, to increase participation when travel isn’t possible or feasible for all delegates.

In September 2024 I look forward to seeing you at the ASCIA Conference in Adelaide which is being organised by Dr Jovanka King and her committee.



ASCIA Finance Report: Dr Michael O’Sullivan

This report is based on the audited ASCIA financial report which covers the 2023 financial year (FY23) from 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023.

This financial report has been submitted by ASCIA on 12th September to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and is available on the [ACNC website](#).

ASCIA’s financial report has been consolidated since 2015 to include ASCIA, AIFA and the National Allergy Strategy (NAS), held in separate bank accounts.

ASCIA FINANCIAL POSITION

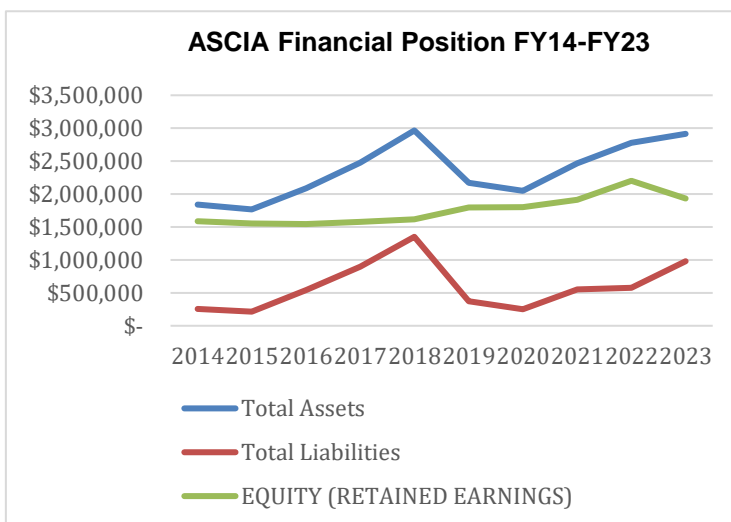
The financial outlook for ASCIA is positive, due to ASCIA’s strong financial position, which reflects:

- Strategic planning and monitoring of finances
- Successful new hybrid format for the ASCIA Annual Conferences
- Revised focus on ASCIA priorities to balance funded and unfunded work
- Significant and ongoing voluntary involvement of ASCIA members in ASCIA initiatives
- Expansion of the National Allergy Strategy (NAS) into the National Allergy Council (NAC), with funding from FY23 to FY26.

ASCIA has significant retained earnings over the past ten years, with a total equity of **\$1,933,353** in FY23.

There was a 12% decrease (\$268,031) in equity, from \$2,201,384 in FY22 to \$1,933,353 in FY23.

This was mainly due to a one-off transfer of non-government NAS funds (\$185,000) in FY23 from ASCIA to the NAC, which has been set up as a separate legal entity to ASCIA.



ASCIA will receive government funding of \$3,168,500 for NAC projects for four years (FY23 – FY26):

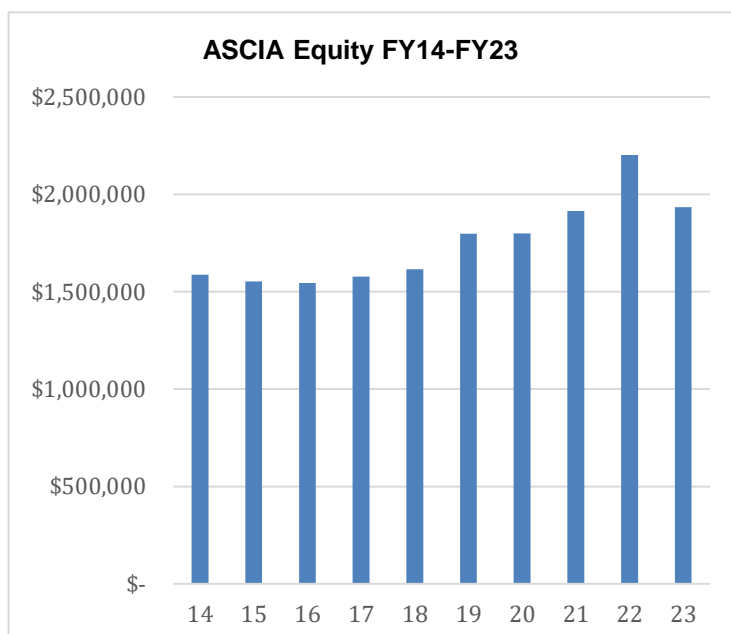
Year 1 - 2022-2023 - \$680,500

Year 2 - 2023-2024 - \$853,000

Year 3 - 2023-2024 - \$856,000

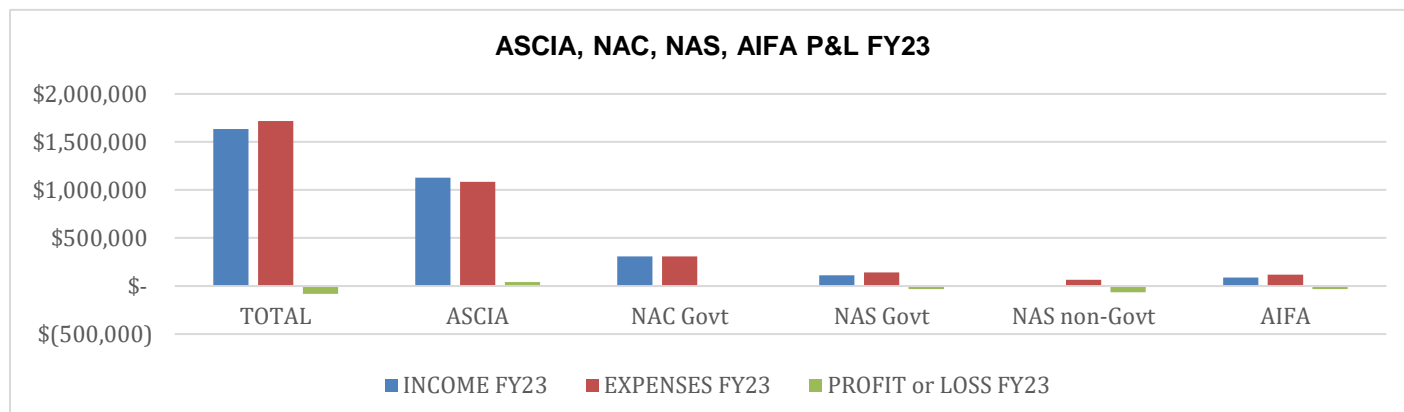
Year 4 - 2024-2025 - \$779,000

Therefore, we expect that the reduction in equity is a one-off event, and ASCIA’s equity should continue to be approximately \$2 million.



PROFIT AND LOSS – ASCIA, NAC, NAS AND AIFA

Whilst the consolidated financial statement shows a loss of \$82,823 in FY23, the graph below shows that ASCIA core business (including the ASCIA 2022 Conference) made a ‘surplus’ of **\$43,424** in FY23.



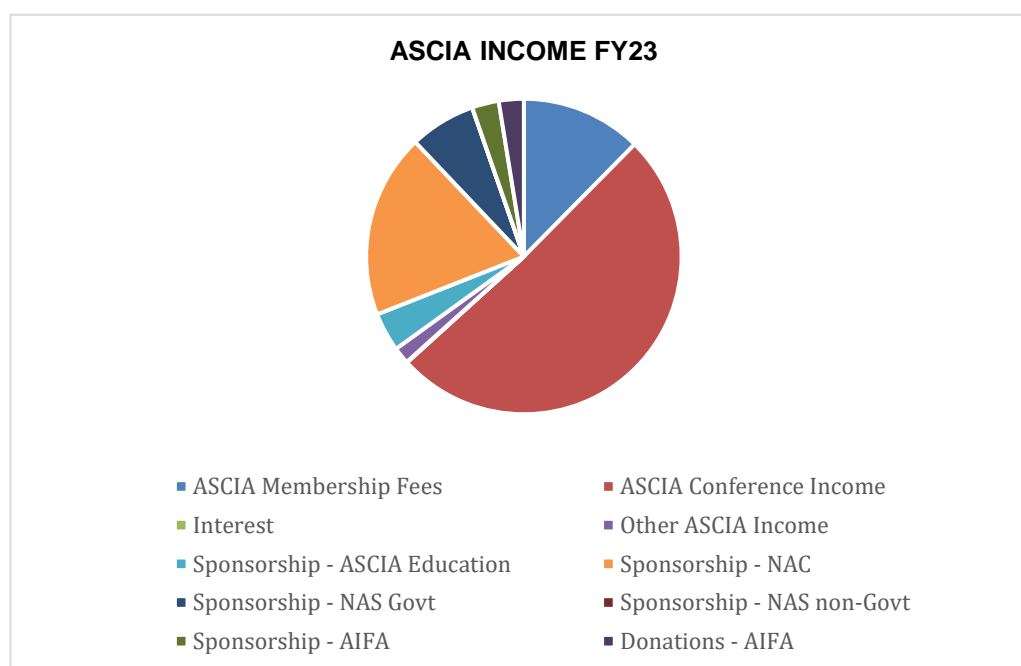
ASCIA INCOME SOURCES

In FY23 the three main income sources for ASCIA were the Annual Conference (51%), NAC grants from government (19%) and annual ASCIA membership fees (12%). It is important to note that the NAC government grants are allocated to specific projects and includes staffing allocations.

The ASCIA Annual Conference is the main source of funds for ASCIA. The last three ASCIA Conferences (2022, 2021 and 2019) have provided ASCIA with important sources of funding, particularly with so much uncertainty from 2020 to 2022 regarding the hosting in-person events.

A detailed budget is now prepared by ICMSA (in collaboration with ASCIA) for each conference, which reflects variations in income and expenses due to:

- Income from sponsorship and registrations
- Expenses due to venue costs and costs for speakers and chairs



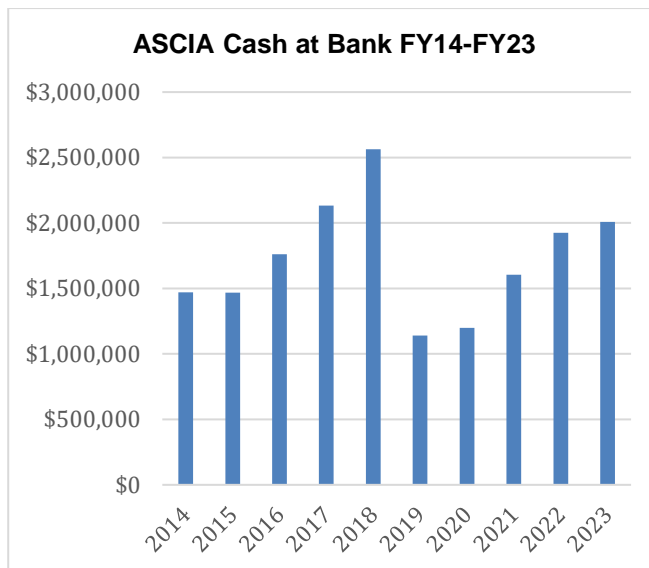
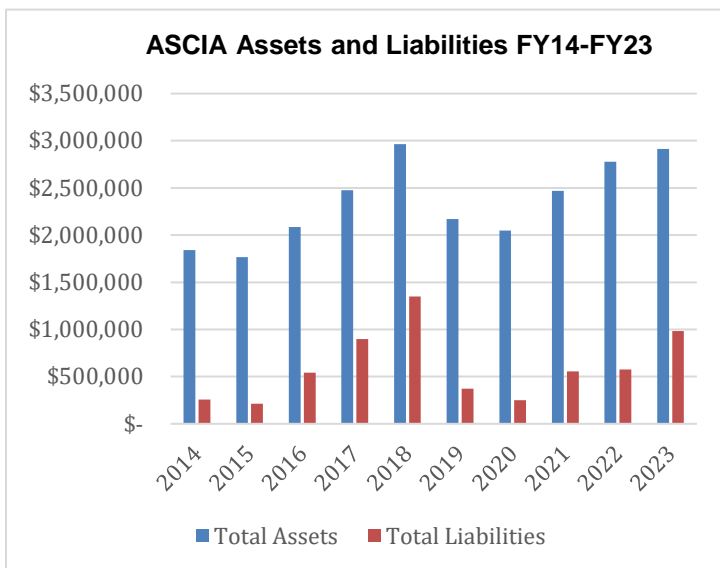
ASCIA ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

ASCIA's assets include:

- Cash at bank of **\$2,009,342** – including funds that are committed to NAC projects and income in advance for the ASCIA 2023 Conference.
- ASCIA office – purchased outright for **\$580,000** in 2019 with no debt. Prior to this ASCIA leased an office from 2013 to 2019 in the same building, and did not lease an office prior to 2013.

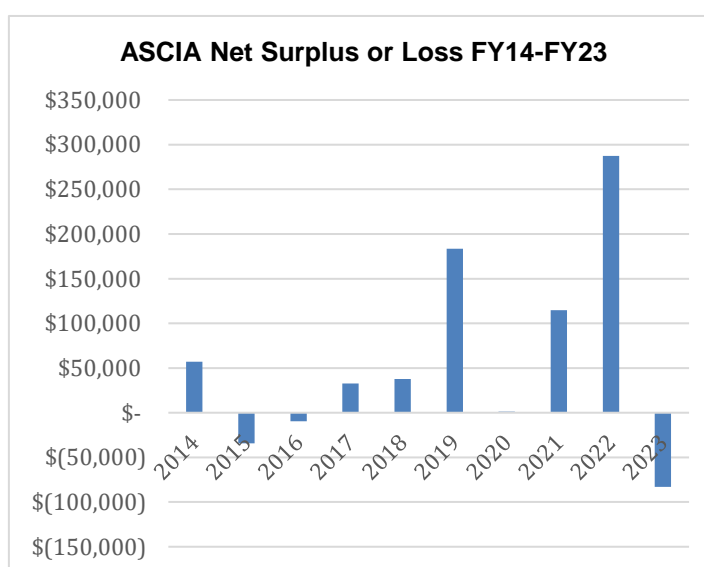
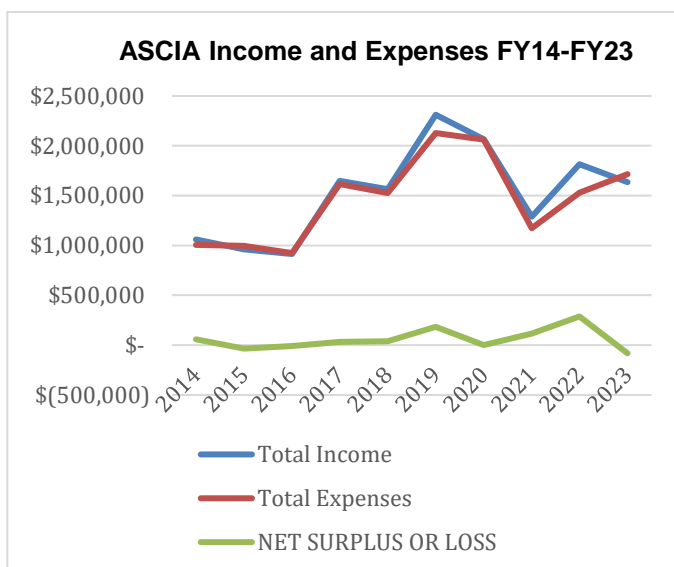
ASCIA's liabilities include income received in advance from:

- Government grants (NAC) **\$371,657**
- Conference income **\$412,227**



ASCIA INCOME AND EXPENSES

Whilst ASCIA is a not for profit organisation, it is important that the ASCIA Annual Conference results in a profit, to ensure sustainability for ASCIA. This allows ASCIA to provide some members services that are not directly funded by grants from government or industry.



AIFA RESEARCH GRANTS

Since ASCIA established the Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia (AIFA) in FY14:

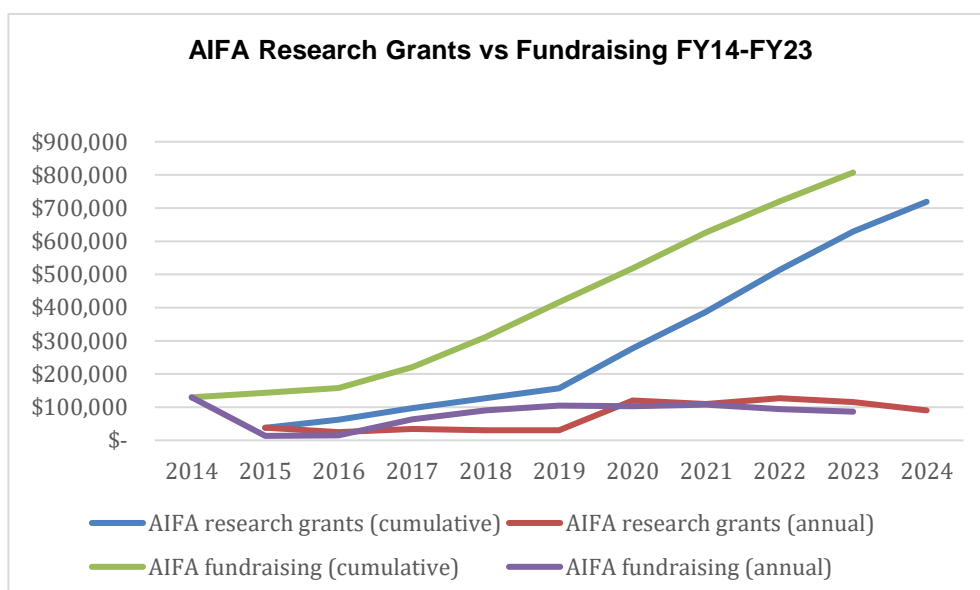
- A total of **\$807,196** has been fundraised by AIFA for research grants.
- A total of **\$719,160** (including \$641,160 up until FY 23 and \$90,000 in FY24) has been awarded in research grants to **34** research projects. After the \$90,000 has been paid out, there will remain a total of \$88,036 in AIFA accounts, until further funds are raised.

The intention of AIFA is to allocate all donations to fund AIFA research grants. This means that in some years AIFA shows a loss, as the fundraising is not always received in the same FY as the grants are awarded. There is generally a delay of a year between fundraising and awarding of grants, as shown in the graph below.

AIFA has awarded \$719,160 in research grants to 34 projects since the program commenced:

- \$90,000 awarded to 7 research projects in 2023, to be announced at the ASCIA 2023 Conference, which includes presentations by recipients of AIFA grants that were awarded in 2021 .
- \$115,000 awarded to 4 research projects in 2022, announced at the ASCIA 2022 Conference, which included presentations by recipients of AIFA grants that were awarded in 2020.
- \$127,000 awarded to 5 research projects in 2021, announced at the ASCIA 2021 Conference, which included presentations by recipients of AIFA grants that were awarded from 2015 to 2019.
- \$110,000 awarded to 5 research projects in 2020.
- \$120,000 awarded to 5 research projects in 2019.
- \$157,160 awarded to 8 research projects from 2015-2018.

We encourage ASCIA members and supporters to donate and/or sponsor AIFA research grants, particularly as 100% of donations to AIFA fund allergy and immunology research projects, not administration or marketing campaigns.



SUMMARY

ASCIA has continued to improve its financial sustainability:

- ASCIA has no debt, a considerable fixed asset (ASCIA Office) and cash flow.
- Significant and ongoing voluntary involvement of ASCIA members in ASCIA initiatives.
- Changing ASCIA Conferences to hybrid has had many positive effects including financial benefits.
- Government funding for National Allergy Strategy projects via the new National Allergy Council over the next four years will provide an additional stable income source for ASCIA.

ASCIA Council 2023-2024

DIRECTORS (EXECUTIVE)

PRESIDENT	AProf Theresa Cole (VIC)
PRESIDENT ELECT	Dr Michael O'Sullivan (WA)
DIRECTOR	A/Prof Jane Peake (QLD)
DIRECTOR	Dr Kathryn Patchett (NSW)

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY	A/Prof Katrina Randall
NEW SOUTH WALES	Dr Jessica Lai
NEW ZEALAND	Dr Shannon Brothers
QUEENSLAND	Dr Alberto Pinzon
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Dr Jovanka King
VICTORIA	Dr Samantha Chan
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	A/Prof Kristina Rueter

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Anaphylaxis	Dr Katie Frith (NSW)
Drug Allergy	Dr James Yun (NSW)
Education	Dr Joseph De Luca (VIC)
Laboratory Practice	Dr Chris Bundell (WA)
Paediatric	Dr Lara Ford (NSW)
Immunodeficiency	Dr Patrick Quinn (SA)

ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES

Associate (Dietitians)	Caroline South (VIC) – from September 2023
Associate (Nurses)	Jan Belcher (NSW)
Associate (Medical)	Dr Kathryn Heyworth (QLD)
Associate (Trainees)	Dr Aimee Huynh (QLD) and Dr Liam Beiglari (NSW)

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS

Immediate Past ASCIA President	Prof Michaela Lucas (WA)
Chair of the Committee for Joint College Training in Immunology/Allergy	Dr Kahn Preece (NSW) – from November 2023
Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia (AIFA) Chair	Dr Melanie Wong (NSW)
National Allergy Strategy co-chair (ASCIA)	Prof Michaela Lucas (WA)

OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS

We thank the following ASCIA Council members who have left ASCIA Council since the 2022 ASCIA AGM for their contributions which will be greatly missed. However, it is reassuring to know that they will still be involved in many ASCIA initiatives and collaborations:

Kathy Beck (from September 2023), Dr Hannah Hu, Prof Connie Katelaris AM, Dr Narinder Kaur, Dr Preeti Joshi, Dr Fred Lee (from November 2023), Dr Stephanie Richards, Briony Tyquin and Dr Brynn Wainstein.

ASCIA Staff 2023-2024

Name	Role	Main Responsibilities – as at September 2023
Jill Smith	CEO (full time) (0.4-0.5 NAC)	Overall management of ASCIA operations, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASCIA Annual Conference • ASCIA strategic planning and reporting • ASCIA website, communications and advocacy • NAC projects assigned to ASCIA • AIS implementation • Meetings and communications to ASCIA committees, working parties and online discussion groups (PIAIG, TAPID, AIAIG and TAILS), and coordinating delegation of some tasks to other staff.
Rikki Dunstall	Finance and Operations Officer 0.6 FTE (0.2 NAC)	ASCIA/AIFA finances and operations, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASCIA Annual Conference sponsorship, planning and support • Financial reporting requirements • Membership register and annual fees • ASCIA website Locate a Specialist section • Organising in-person and virtual meetings • NAC and AIS projects
Michelle Haskard	Senior Project Officer 0.8 FTE (0.2 NAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASCIA Annual Conference abstracts, planning and support • AIFA research grants, website and communications • Updating of ASCIA HP online resources to include introductory statements with links to patient/carer support organisations. • Special projects including NAC initiatives. • AIS implementation. • Meetings and communications to some ASCIA committees, working parties and online discussion groups.
Nadene Dorling	Senior Project Officer 0.8 FTE (0.6 NAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASCIA Annual Conference planning and support • ASCIA e-training for health professionals, schools and CEC services - ongoing updates and CPD accreditation • New and updated ASCIA resources (allergy and immunodeficiency). • Transforming survey content into Qualtrics. • Social media communications - allergy (including NAC projects) and immunodeficiency. • Meetings and communications to some ASCIA committees, working parties and online discussion groups.
Emily Mamo	Senior Project Officer 0.8 FTE (0.8 NAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project coordination - NAC Shared Care for Allergy project • Project support - NAC Schools and CEC project
Georgina Egan	Project Officer 0.8 FTE (0.8 NAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project coordination - NAC Schools and CEC project • Project support- NAC Drug Allergy project • Project support - NAC Shared Care for Allergy project • ASCIA public and HP Inquiries - relevant to NAC projects

Abbreviations used in the table on page 13:

AIS = ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy	AIAIG = Adult Immunology and Allergy Interest Group
CEC = Children’s Education and Care	PIAIG = Paediatric Immunology and Allergy Interest Group
CPD = Continuing Professional Development	TAILS = Trainees In Allergy and Immunology Lecture Series
HP = Health Professionals	TAPID = Transplantation and Primary Immunodeficiency
NAC = National Allergy Council	

ASCIA Contractors 2023-2024

Impagination https://impagination.com.au	ASCIA’s webmasters since 2007	Management of ASCIA websites, e-training courses and e-newsletters.
ICMSA https://icmsaust.com.au/	ASCIA’s Professional Conference Organisers (PCO) since 2006	Management of logistics and operations for ASCIA Annual Conferences.
Rachael Hopkins	ASCIA’s Graphic designer since 2014	Graphic design of ASCIA resources
All IT https://www.allit.services/	Information/Communication Technology (ICT) since 2013	ICT support
Lanham Media https://www.lanhammedia.com.au/	Communications agency since 2015	Media campaigns
Allan Hall https://allanhall.com.au/	Accountants and HR services since 2013	Accounting and HR services
Walter Allan Hall auditors https://allanhall.com.au/audit-and-assurance/	Auditors since 2013	Annual audit