

The 2020-21 financial year has continued the run of testing financial operating conditions for AARE. The absence of a national conference meant that our income was down by nearly 75% compared with the previous financial year. However, a significant tightening of our expenditure and less activity within the Association overall, has resulted in a small operating deficit, meaning we have not needed to draw down on our reserves as much as we anticipated. The outstanding result from the 2019 conference, coupled with the fantastic efforts to deliver a national conference this year has provided us with the necessary buffer that we will need to see out the next 12- 18 months which are likely to be challenging ones for AARE and its members.

Income from membership fees is an issue that the Executive continually monitors; growth from this source of income will continue to be limited, particularly in light of the significant changes that are playing out in the Higher Education sector. We will need to continue to be vigilant on the matter of membership income as many of our members feel the impact of the outcomes of decisions being made in Universities to manage their financial circumstances in a highly volatile operating context. Previous means open to us to grow our income may not be so readily available to us and we will need to be sensitive to the circumstances of our members as we seek to balance our need to generate income to meet the operating costs of the Association with ensuring we provide a vital and energized space for educational research to thrive.

For the 2020-21 financial year, AARE 's major areas of expenditure were the following:

- maintaining the national office
- publishing the AER Journal;
- social media activities including our Blog; and
- funding for the Special Interest Groups.

Our Audited Financial Statements for the 2020-21 financial year are reproduced at the end of this report and can be accessed on the AARE website. The profit and loss statement show our income and expenditure for the year 1 July 2020 - June 30, 2021. Without a national conference, our income (largely from memberships and supplemented with support from the Job Keeper initiative) totalled \$108,288. Operating expenses for the financial year totalled \$ 210,813 and is reflective of the significant outlays that AARE needs to cover in order to continue to operate.

The Balance Sheet provides a summary of the financial position on of AARE as at 30 June 2021. It lists our assets (the money that we hold in our accounts), the liabilities that we are responsible for and our equity position (what we 'have' in terms of funds available to us). Our equity position has declined slightly this financial year because we have had to draw down on funds to maintain some of the day to day operations of the Association.

During the year we were able to respond to member feedback about the banking organisation we use. We have taken this feedback on board and have now transferred some of our banking activity (specifically the account that holds our financial reserves) to Teachers Mutual Bank. In doing this we have retained only those banking accounts and services that are essential to the operation of AARE with the Commonwealth Bank.

In concluding this report, it would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to Deborah Cracknell who will be leaving us at the beginning of December. All of us in AARE, in some way or another, owe a great deal to Deborah for all that she has done for the Association. Deborah has worked with untiring dedication and has now well and truly earned the opportunity to enjoy the next exciting phase of her life. I hope Deborah has some wonderful adventures ahead!