



2019-20

**The Abbie Basson
Sarcoma Foundation
(Sock it to Sarcoma!)
Annual Report**

ANNUAL REPORT

Well, the last twelve months has been quite the rollercoaster! In common with so many organisations, COVID-19 and its necessary restrictions have had an impact on some of our normal activities. However, with very grateful thanks to the generosity of the West Australian community, we have managed to keep investing in improving outcomes for our sarcoma community.

The year started with energy, with West Australian Sarcoma Awareness Week; the 'Shine a Light on Sarcoma!' campaign reaching venues in Perth, Mandurah, Bunbury, Fremantle, Albany, Kalgoorlie, Busselton, Broome; the Football Awareness Sarcoma Round in July and Sarcoma Awareness Month all highlighting sarcoma and those impacted. Once again, we were very fortunate to have the support of Dom Sheed and the West Coast Eagles to help spread awareness in the Junior Football Community leading to over \$10,000 being raised towards sarcoma research. We decided to relocate our Scientific Symposium into the early part of 2020 to help spread our calendar through the year, although eventually we had to cancel this at very short notice due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Ride & Stride for Sarcoma! took place on November 2nd and with the support of HBF and Turpin Holdings once again, and led by Ride Ambassador Chris Masten, nearly 100 participants had a great morning Riding and Striding to raise over \$50,000 for sarcoma research.

The 2019 'Sock it in 50's Style' Gala Dinner was a great evening for all of the attendees with wonderful live music throughout the evening provided by Going Postal and a demonstration of 50's rock 'n roll dance and raffle-ticket selling roller-skaters adding colour to the evening. An engaging speech by Professor Willem 'Joost' Lesterhuis discussing the research being conducted in the sarcoma laboratory at the Telethon Kids Institute was a highlight of the evening and an opportunity to celebrate some of the research funded by the donors to Sock it to Sarcoma!

To wrap the calendar year off, District Cricket Awareness Round and Family Fun Day took place on December 1st, spearheaded by ambassador Mathilda Carmichael of the Perth Scorchers.

2020 then began, with our Quiz Night in February; and future planning for the Scientific Symposium; a fundraising Skydive; Truffle Night and WASAW – all of which activities were then placed on hold as COVID-19 and its restrictions hit.

Whilst many of our community awareness activities in person were temporarily shelved, and working from home took its place, we were still able to continue ever in demand patient support activities on-line and to use the time to work towards our 2020-25 Strategic and Business Plan.

With grateful thanks to Lotterywest and their generous support, we were able to engage strategic development specialist Catalyse to work with us on this project and we look forward to generating a plan that can take build sustainability through the next five years of our development. We were also very pleased to welcome onto our Board Mr Luke McNiece, who brings his expertise in strategic and business development to help us drive our new Business Plan forward. We are also very grateful to Kensington Partners for their continued pro bono support in producing our annual financial statements.

Despite the community down-turn in fundraising over this period, we are delighted to have been able invest a further \$122,820 into sarcoma research including funding a Cancer Council WA vacation scholarship to Caitlyn Richworth working on AFAP1L1 with Associate Professor Evan Ingley; continuing the support awarding two Abbie Basson Sarcoma Research Scholarships to Francois Rwandamuriye and Breanna Weston, working with Professor Joost Lesterhuis in the sarcoma laboratory at the Telethon Kids Institute and funding a molecular subtyping of osteosarcomas project led by Professor Sulev Koks and Professor David Wood. It is wonderful to be able to support new scientists in the early stages of their research career and see them flourish under the tutelage of established quality researchers.

Our patient support activities have been increasing through the year, as one thing COVID-19 cannot stop is sarcoma diagnoses. We started to attend orthopaedic clinic once a month on a regular basis, with a pause inevitably during the most restrictive period of COVID-19. Our patient support volunteers have been very active in providing peer-to-peer support nationally for families and patients on the sarcoma journey. We have also been liaising with the State Sarcoma Service to create a new clinical database to assist with and streamline administration and functionality of the service; and thanks to the generosity of the Green family in memory of Elaine Green, we have been developing a holistic patient app specifically for sarcoma patients. We attended the GPCE at the end of July to provide information about sarcoma and access to the State Sarcoma Service to GPs, to encourage early diagnosis and referral to a specialized multi-disciplinary service.

Overall, 2019-20 has been largely a very productive year, with Sock it to Sarcoma! continuing, despite the challenges thrown at all of the community, to fulfill its purpose. None of this would be possible without the dedication and expertise of our Board; the intellect and innovation of our researchers; the constant energy and passion of our volunteers and Ambassadors and the much-appreciated continuing generosity of our community donors. It is my honour and privilege as Executive Director to have the chance to work with each and every one of these groups and I can't thank them all enough for their part in Sock it to Sarcoma! being able to improve outcomes for our inspirations, all those who are impacted by sarcomas.

Mandy Basson
Executive Director



PROGRAMS



RESEARCH

EDUCATION

**COMMUNITY
AWARENESS**

**PATIENT
SUPPORT**

ADVOCACY

