



GENERAL PURPOSE

# Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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**Operator's Report**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

The Operator of the Catholic Development Fund Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle trading as the Catholic Community Fund (the Fund) present its report on the entity for the year ended 30 June 2023.

**1. Trustees**

The Fund is an agency of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (the Trustees) and a registered charity.

The following persons were members of the Trustees during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report:

- i. M Kennedy – Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle – installed 17 March 2023.
- ii. M Muller
- iii. G Barker
- iv. G Mackie
- v. A Doohan – Resigned 31 July 2023
- vi. T Chirackal
- vii. R Searle

On 2 February 2023 the Holy Father Pope Francis announced Bishop Michael Kennedy as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The installation of Bishop Michael Kennedy as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese occurred on 17 March 2023.

**2. Advisory board**

The following persons were members of the Fund's Advisory Board during the financial year:

S Scanlon

A Haynes – Resigned 17 August 2022

J O'Connor

G Barker

A Starrett

B Gleeson

G Meagher

G Skinner

M Kloosterziel - Appointed 14 September 2022

**3. Principal activities**

The Fund, through the issue of debentures to investors, raises funds to:

- provide finance and credit for capital and other expenditures in the work of the Catholic Church primarily within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle;
- assist in the financial management of the investments and assets of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, parishes and other Catholic Church entities; and
- provide the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle with a financial return that will be used to further its pastoral mission.

**4. Registered office**

841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West NSW 2302.

**Operator's Report**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

**5. Solicitors**

The current solicitor for the Fund is Thynne Macartney details of which are listed below.

Thynne Macartney

Level 32, Riverside Centre, 123 Eagle Street, Brisbane QLD 4001.

**6. Investment advisors**

The current investment advisor for the Fund is Laminar Capital details of which are listed below.

Laminar Capital

Level 5 Rialto North, 525 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000.

**7. Bankers**

The current financial institution of the Fund is the Commonwealth Bank of Australia details of which are listed below.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

11/22 Wolfe St, Newcastle NSW 2302.

**8. Auditors**

The current external auditor for the Fund is PriceWaterhouseCoopers Australia (PwC) details of which are listed below.

PwC

Level 3, 45 Watt Street, Newcastle NSW 2300.

PwC's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2023 as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* has been received and can be found on page 7 of the financial statements.

Details of the remuneration paid to the Fund auditors during the reporting period can be found at Note 18 to the financial statements.

**9. Capital management and distributions**

Distributions paid to the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (the Diocese) during the financial year were as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	\$000	\$000
Final distribution for year ended 30 June 2022 (2022: 30 June 2021)	3,000	2,500
Interim distribution for year ended 30 June 2023 (2022: 30 June 2022)	7,000	3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>5,500</b>

**Operator's Report**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Management will recommend to the CCF Advisory Board at the 18 October 2023 CCF Advisory Board meeting that the Board approve and recommend to the Bishop the payment of the final distribution of \$3,000,000 for payment on 19 October 2023 out of retained earnings at 30 June 2023.

The timing and amount of the annual distribution to the Diocese is based on 2 principal factors:

*i. Approval of annual budgeted distribution by the Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.*

Standing authority is given by the Bishop for the Fund's Advisory Board to recommend a distribution to the Diocese through review of the Fund's monthly performance against that approved by the Bishop at the start of the financial year in its budget. If no material negative variation exists between year-to-date performance and the budget, the Fund's Advisory Board will recommend the standing distribution as outlined in the Fund's budget to the Bishop for approval.

*ii. The Fund's Capital Adequacy and Distributions Policy*

On a regular basis, the Fund's Advisory Board reviews the financial performance of the Fund as well as, if applicable, the expected time left for it to meet its target capital/total assets ratio range of 10%-15%. At the CCF Advisory Board meeting held 17 August 2022, a revised methodology of capital/total assets ratio was adopted. A revised target capital/total assets ratio range of 10%-15% has now been adopted by the Fund in accordance with the recommendations of the CDPF Limited review. This review is mandated in the Fund's Capital Adequacy and Distributions Policy. The Fund's capital supports its operations by providing a buffer to absorb unanticipated losses from its activities and, in the event of problems, enables the Fund to continue to operate in a sound and viable manner while the problems are addressed or resolved.

After performing this review and considering other relevant factors, the Fund's Advisory Board will recommend to the Bishop for approval, the timing and amount of any distribution payable.

The Fund's accounting policy is to accrue any distribution payable to the Diocese in accordance with the above 2 factors at balance date.

At balance date, the Fund's risk weighted capital/total assets ratio was 32.89% (2022: 29.11%) based on distributions paid and provided.

## **10. Review of operations**

The Fund had a continued solid performance for the financial year with an Operating profit of \$12.80m (2022: \$7.77m).

By harnessing the financial resources of the Catholic community, the Fund was able to further the pastoral mission of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle through providing cost-effective financial arrangements for capital works and other essential pastoral programs.

Throughout the financial year the Fund supported the work of the Catholic Schools Office through the funding of various school development projects which included the expansion of facilities over various sites including Catherine McCauley College Medowie, St Bede's Catholic College Chisholm, St Patricks Primary School Lochinvar and Holy Family Primary School Merewether Beach.

The Fund supported the Diocese's continued expansion into early education through its agency, St Nicholas Early Education, providing funding for the development of early education facilities at Fletcher, Swansea and Medowie.

Acquisitions by the Diocese for the future development of Early Education Centres and Social Housing were also funded during the year.

The Fund also continued its focus on meeting its regulatory requirements, building the capital base and strengthening its risk management framework.

## **11. Significant changes in the state of affairs**

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Fund for the year ended 30 June 2023.

### **Operator's Report**

For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued...)

#### **12. Events since the end of the financial year**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since 30 June 2023 that have significantly affected the Funds operations, results or state of affairs.

#### **13. Insurance of Officers & indemnities**

During the financial year, the Fund incurred insurance expenditure of \$10,000 (2022: \$10,000) which included premiums paid to insure the Advisory Board members and Officers of the Fund. The liabilities insured are legal costs that may be incurred in defending civil or criminal proceedings that may be brought against the Officers in their capacity as Officers of the Fund, and any other payments arising from liabilities incurred by the Officers in connection with such proceedings. This does not include such liabilities that arise from conduct involving a wilful breach of duty by the Officers or the improper use by the Officers of their position or of information to gain advantage for themselves or someone else or to cause detriment to the Fund.

#### **14. Proceedings on behalf of the Fund**

No person has applied to the Court under section 237 of the *Corporations Act 2001* for leave to bring proceedings on behalf of the Fund, or to intervene in any proceedings to which the Fund is a party, for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Fund for all or part of those proceedings.

No proceedings have been brought or intervened in on behalf of the Fund with leave of the Court under section 237 of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

#### **15. Rounding of amounts**

The entity is of a kind referred to in ASIC Legislative Instrument 2016/191, relating to the 'rounding off' of amounts in the Operators' Report and Financial Report. Amounts have been rounded off in accordance with the instrument to the nearest thousand dollars, or in certain cases, to the nearest dollar.



## Auditor's Independence Declaration

As lead auditor for the audit of Catholic Community Fund Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

VINCENZO DEDE'

Vincenzo Dede  
Partner  
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Newcastle  
18 October 2023

**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Interest income		25,813	10,538
<b>Total interest income</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25,813</b>	<b>10,538</b>
Interest expense		11,595	1,376
<b>Total interest expense</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11,595</b>	<b>1,376</b>
Fee and commission expense		44	56
<b>Total fee and commission expense</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>56</b>
Other operating income		5	-
<b>Total operating income</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>
Employee-related expenses	4	599	533
Depreciation expense	9	3	3
Other operating expenses	4	773	802
<b>Total other expenses</b>		<b>1,375</b>	<b>1,338</b>
<b>Profit for the year</b>		<b>12,804</b>	<b>7,768</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>12,804</b>	<b>7,768</b>
Distributions for the year - current year profits		10,000	6,000
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year after distributions</b>		<b>2,804</b>	<b>1,768</b>

*The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**Statement of Financial Position**  
As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	50,494	51,257
Other assets	6	214	48
Financial investments	7	104,372	119,836
Loans and advances to clients	8	289,099	246,844
Fixed assets	9	10	13
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>444,189</b>	<b>417,998</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Deposits	10	355,588	346,901
Payables	11	3,229	3,114
Borrowings	12	53,775	39,229
Employee benefits	13	183	144
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>412,775</b>	<b>389,388</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>31,414</b>	<b>28,610</b>
Retained profits		31,414	28,610
<b>Equity</b>		<b>31,414</b>	<b>28,610</b>

*The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Retained Earnings \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>26,842</b>	<b>26,842</b>
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	7,768	7,768
Distributions for the year - prior year profits	-	-
Distributions for the year - current year profits	(6,000)	(6,000)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>28,610</b>	<b>28,610</b>
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	12,804	12,804
Distributions for the year - prior year profits	-	-
Distributions for the year - current year profits	(10,000)	(10,000)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>31,414</b>	<b>31,414</b>

*The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**Statement of Cash Flow**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Interest received		25,813	10,538
Other revenue received		5	-
Interest paid		(11,595)	(1,213)
Fees and commissions paid		(44)	(56)
Payments to employees and suppliers (inclusive of goods and services tax)		(1,417)	(1,408)
Net (increase)/decrease in investments		15,464	(37,025)
Net (increase)/decrease in loans and advances to clients		(42,254)	(25,029)
Net increase/(decrease) in deposits due to clients		8,687	34,656
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>		<b>(5,340)</b>	<b>(19,538)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		-	(7)
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(7)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from borrowings		18,353	30,274
Repayment of borrowings		(3,807)	(2,719)
Distribution paid		(10,000)	(5,500)
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities</b>		<b>4,546</b>	<b>22,056</b>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(793)</b>	<b>2,510</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		51,288	48,777
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50,494</b>	<b>51,288</b>

*The above statement of cash flow should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023

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**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

**1. Summary of significant accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below.

**(a) Basis of accounting**

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) released ASIC Corporations (Charitable Investment Fundraising) Instrument 2016/813 (the Instrument) with effect from 1 January 2017. The instrument under which the Fund operates requires preparation of financial statements for the financial year that comply with all recognition requirements and measurement requirements that apply to reporting entities. This instrument also requires the Fund to provide a 31-day notice period for all non-associate retail investments and for the Fund to hold an Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL). This is held by a related company CDFMN AFSL Limited, establishing an intermediary authorisation with the Fund to enable the Fund to issue debentures, provide access to non-cash payment products and provide general financial product advice to retail, non-associated clients in accordance with the requirements of ASIC and APRA.

The financial report is a general-purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards Simplified Disclosure and interpretations as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The Fund is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The Fund is registered as a not-for-profit charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. The Fund was incorporated on 1 November 1999 and was domiciled in Australia.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis including expenses and are based on historical costs except where indicated. Comparative information is reclassified where appropriate to enhance comparability.

*Presentation currency*

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars which is the Company's functional currency.

*Going concern*

As a holder of an AFSL, the CDFMN AFSL Limited is required to meet the Financial Requirements of RG166 Licensing: Financial Requirements. These include a requirement to meet solvency and positive net assets levels. These have been met at balance date.

At the date of this report, the Fund continues to operate as a going concern and therefore will realise its assets and settle its liabilities and commitments in the normal course of business and at the amounts stated in the financial report. For this reason, the Diocesan Finance Council believe that the Fund prepare its financial report on a going concern basis.

**(b) New, revised and amended standards adopted**

The Catholic Community Fund has not adopted any new, revised or amended accounting standards and interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are mandatory for the current reporting period. Any new or amended accounting standards or interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been adopted early.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

**2. Financial risk management**

The Fund's principal financial assets and liabilities comprise cash and cash equivalents, loans and advances to clients, amortised cost investments, liabilities due to clients and payables.

The main risks arising from the Fund's financial assets and liabilities are Market Risk - Interest Rates, Credit Risk and Liquidity Risk. The Fund maintains policies and procedures for managing these risks.

**Market risk - Interest rates**

*Exposure*

Interest rate risk is the risk of loss to the Fund arising from adverse fluctuations in interest rates.

The Fund is exposed to interest rate risk to the extent that it borrows or invests for a fixed term at fixed rates. Exposure to interest rate risk is managed through the application and analysis of financial assets and liability profiles embedded in the Fund's Risk Management Framework.

Financial reporting to management and the Advisory board of all exposures occurs regularly. Interest rate sensitivity analysis is completed quarterly.

*Sensitivity*

The interest rate sensitivity analysis based on exposures at 30 June 2023 sees the contractual Net Interest Income at Risk to a 1% (100 basis points) fall in interest rates is -\$511,484. The market value interest rate sensitivity as measured by a 1% (100 basis points) parallel downward shift in the yield curve is -\$619,290 meaning that if rates fall by 1% the notional market value of the balance sheet decreases by this amount.

**Credit risk**

*Exposure*

Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents, trade receivables, investments held at amortised cost and loans and advances to clients.

The Fund's Investment Policy sets counterparty exposure limits for cash and cash equivalents, held-to-maturity investments and available for sale investments based on independent credit ratings. Investments with counterparties below A Category (Long Term) and below A-1 (Short Term) are restricted to Authorised Deposit Taking Institutions (ADI's).

Loans and advances to clients are restricted to related parties within the Diocese funding schools, childcare centres, affordable housing, disability homes and other property. Loan approval is subject to assessment criteria and approval delegations.

Credit risk exposures are monitored on an ongoing basis and regularly reported to management and the Advisory Board.

*Credit quality*

The credit quality of financial investments at balance date is:

Credit Rating (S&Ps)	Policy Max (%)	Market Value (\$'000)	Market Value (%)
AAA	100	-	-
AA	100	115,033	74
A	60	25,857	17
BBB	20	13,759	9
Unrated	10	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		154,650	100

All loans and advances are with Diocesan related parties who do not have an independent credit rating. No loans were considered impaired at balance date.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

**2. Financial risk management continued...**

**Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund will have insufficient liquidity to meet commitments associated with financial assets and liabilities.

The Fund manages liquidity risk through its Liquidity Risk Policy by:

- Maintaining a minimum liquidity pool based on High Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA) which are free of encumbrances and can be readily convertible into cash within two business days
- Monitoring a minimum liquidity ratio, which is a minimum liquidity holdings comparison with adjusted liabilities
- Investment counterparty limits
- Regular reporting of liquidity and associated controls.

The Fund's liquidity ratio at balance date was 13% (2022: 13%), above its policy minimum of 11% and its trigger minimum of 13%.

*(i) Financing arrangements*

The Trustees entered into a Syndicated Loan Facility Agreement with The Corporation of The Trustees of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane on 23 April 2020. The Development Fund's party to the syndication agree to provide the \$120m loan facility to The Trustees to fund the works program for early education centres and schools. The Fund is currently undergoing negotiations with the Archdiocese of Brisbane with the intention to extend the syndication agreement for a further 5 years.

*(ii) Maturities of financial liabilities*

The Fund's contractual cash flows (undiscounted) for its financial assets and liabilities at balance date are:

2023	On	6-12							TOTAL
	demand	0-6 Months	months	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	+5 years	
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>ASSETS</b>									
Cash and cash equivalents	46,138	4,356	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,494
Financial investments	-	92,960	2,411	12,086	12,399	-	-	-	119,856
Loans and advances to clients	-	10,685	9,963	18,464	18,383	18,156	17,934	195,513	289,099
Receivables	-	214	-	-	-	-	-	-	214
	<u>46,138</u>	<u>108,214</u>	<u>12,374</u>	<u>30,551</u>	<u>30,782</u>	<u>18,156</u>	<u>17,934</u>	<u>195,513</u>	<u>459,663</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>									
Deposits due to clients - notice accounts	-	2,033	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,033
Deposits due to clients - term investments	-	45,301	39,643	-	-	-	-	-	84,944
Deposits due to clients - other	267,895	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	267,895
Borrowings	-	2,119	2,119	49,538	-	-	-	-	53,775
Payables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>267,895</u>	<u>49,453</u>	<u>41,762</u>	<u>49,538</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>408,648</u>
<b>NET LIQUIDITY</b>	<b>(221,757)</b>	<b>58,762</b>	<b>(29,388)</b>	<b>(18,987)</b>	<b>30,782</b>	<b>18,156</b>	<b>17,934</b>	<b>195,513</b>	<b>51,015</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

**2. Financial risk management continued...**

2022	On demand \$000	0-6 Months \$000	6-12 months \$000	1-2 years \$000	2-3 years \$000	3-4 years \$000	4-5 years \$000	+5 years \$000	TOTAL \$000
<b>ASSETS</b>									
Cash and cash equivalents	47,258	3,998	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,257
Financial investments	-	103,910	1,987	8,627	17,703	-	-	-	132,227
Loans and advances to clients	-	12,127	12,107	24,030	23,868	23,703	22,668	128,342	246,845
Receivables	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
	<u>47,258</u>	<u>120,083</u>	<u>14,094</u>	<u>32,658</u>	<u>41,571</u>	<u>23,703</u>	<u>22,668</u>	<u>128,342</u>	<u>430,377</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>									
Deposits due to clients - notice accounts	-	3,348	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,348
Deposits due to clients - term investments	-	50,361	34,920	-	-	-	-	-	85,281
Deposits due to clients - other	258,182	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	258,182
Borrowings	-	1,860	1,860	3,721	31,787	-	-	-	39,229
Payables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>258,182</u>	<u>55,570</u>	<u>36,781</u>	<u>3,721</u>	<u>31,787</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>386,041</u>
<b>NET LIQUIDITY</b>	<b>(210,923)</b>	<b>64,513</b>	<b>(22,687)</b>	<b>28,937</b>	<b>9,784</b>	<b>23,703</b>	<b>22,668</b>	<b>128,342</b>	<b>44,336</b>

Liabilities 'Deposits due to clients – other' constitutes cash deposited by related parties and other Catholic associate non-retail investors. While contractually on demand, expected cash flows are considered minor. During the current period, cash outflows of liabilities 'Deposits due to clients – other' are \$9.71m and future cash flows are expected to be similar with sufficient liquidity to meet requirements.

Negotiations are occurring with the Archdiocese of Brisbane to extend the Syndicated Loan Facility beyond the current term end date of 31 December 2024. The Fund is intending to extend the facility for a further 5 years. In line with the term clause of the agreement, the Fund and the borrower have until 31 December 2023 to negotiate this extension.

**3. Revenue and other income**

**2023**  
\$'000

**2022**  
\$'000

Revenue over time:

**i. Interest income**

Interest on cash and cash equivalents	1,863	218
Interest on financial investments	5,668	1,213
Interest on loans and advances	18,282	9,107
	<u>25,813</u>	<u>10,538</u>

**ii. Other operating income**

Sundry income	5	-
	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

**3. Revenue and other income continued...**

**Accounting Policy – Revenue recognition**

Revenue is recognised when the right to receive payment is established. All revenue is stated net of goods and services tax (GST).

**Interest income**

Interest income is recognised in the statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for all instruments measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or a financial liability and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument or, when appropriate, a shorter period to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Fund estimates cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument (for example, prepayment options) but does not consider future credit losses. The calculation includes all fees paid or received between parties, transaction costs and premiums incurred, or discounts received in relation to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate.

Once a financial asset or group of similar financial assets has been written down due to an impairment loss, interest income is recognised using the rate of interest used to discount the future cash flows for the purpose of measuring impairment loss.

**Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions**

The Fund makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities including impairment on investments and loans, within the next financial year. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstance.

**4. Expenses**

**2023**  
\$'000

**2022**  
\$'000

**i. Interest expense**

Interest on deposits	9,360	563
Interest on borrowings	2,110	650
Investment premiums	125	163
	<b>11,595</b>	<b>1,376</b>

**ii. Employee benefit expenses**

Salary and wages	498	473
Superannuation	53	47
Leave expense	44	12
Other employee expenses	4	1
	<b>599</b>	<b>533</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

4. Expenses continued...	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>iii. Other operating expenses</b>		
Communication and connectivity	131	138
Auditors remuneration	71	64
Professional and legal fees	14	26
Building costs	48	52
Staff training and development	2	2
Management fees	60	60
Insurance	10	20
Other operating expenses	435	439
Fair value loss on investments	-	1
	<b>773</b>	<b>802</b>

**Accounting Policy – Interest expense**

Interest expense is recognised in the statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for all instruments measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Details of the effective interest method is included at Note 3.

Expenses incurred directly in relation to the origination of loans, investments and other debt instruments are deferred and recognised as an adjustment to the effective interest rate on loans and debt instruments. The outstanding balance of the deferred origination expenses is recognised in the balance sheet as an increase in the balances outstanding.

**Accounting Policy – Employee benefits expense**

**Salaries and wages**

Liabilities for salaries and wages, including non-monetary benefits and annual leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in provisions in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

**Superannuation**

The Fund pays contributions to publicly or privately administered defined benefit contribution superannuation plans on a mandatory, contractual, or voluntary basis. The Fund has no further payment obligations once the contributions have been paid. The contributions are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due.

**Accounting Policy – Other operating expenses**

Other operating expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis recognising the financial effects of transactions or other events in the financial years in which they occur.

5. Cash and cash equivalents	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	1,188	714
Deposits at call	49,305	50,543
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>50,494</b>	<b>51,257</b>
Balances as per the above	50,494	
Balances as per the Statement of Cashflows	50,494	

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

### 5. Cash and cash equivalents continued...

#### Accounting Policy - Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise balances with less than three months' maturity from the date of acquisition, including cash, interest accrued on bank accounts, deposits at call, bank overdrafts and highly liquid investments which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value. Bank overdrafts are shown within other borrowed funds in liabilities on the balance sheet.

### 6. Other assets

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
GST receivable	2	3
Prepayments	4	14
Other receivables	208	31
	<u>214</u>	<u>48</u>

#### Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Fund is treated as an input taxed entity for GST purposes and is a member of the Diocesan grouping for GST purposes. Recoverability of GST incurred is subject to the financial acquisitions threshold tests applied to the group on a monthly basis.

Where the tests are passed, the Fund is entitled to recover GST incurred from the Australian Taxation Office. The Fund does not charge GST on services provided and any GST amounts incurred that are not recoverable are recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense.

### 7. Financial investments

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>Amortised cost</b>		
Term deposits	90,230	102,300
Residential mortgage-backed securities	12,484	17,227
Accrued interest	1,658	309
	<u>104,372</u>	<u>119,836</u>

#### Accounting Policy - Financial investments

Financial investments are classified into the following:

- investments at amortised cost

#### Investments at amortised cost

The financial assets are only classified at amortised cost if both of the following criteria are met:

- the asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cash flows, and
- the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

**7. Financial investments continued...**

At initial recognition, the Fund measures a financial asset at its fair value plus any acquisition costs at the date on which the Fund commits to purchase or sell the asset or trade date. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Fund has substantially transferred all the risks and rewards of ownership.

**Offsetting financial instruments**

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, and the net amount reported in the balance sheet when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

**Impairment of financial assets**

The Fund assesses at each balance date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or a group of financial assets are impaired, which includes observable data that comes to the attention of the Fund about loss events.

In the case of loans and receivables, the Fund first assesses whether objective evidence of impairment exists individually for loans that are not individually significant. If the Fund determines that no objective evidence of impairment exists for an individually assessed loan, whether significant or not, it includes the loan in a portfolio of loans with similar credit risk characteristics and collectively assesses them for impairment. Loans that are individually assessed for impairment and for which an impairment loss is or continues to be recognised are not included in the collective assessment of impairment.

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss on loans has been incurred, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the assets' carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the loan's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount of the loan is reduced using an allowance account and the amount of the loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. If a loan has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract.

When a loan is uncollectible, it is written off against the related allowance for impairment loss. Such loans are written off after all necessary procedures have been completed and the amount of the loan loss has been determined by management and approved by the Diocesan Finance Council. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off shall be reversed directly or by adjusting the allowance for impairment loss. The reversal shall not result in a carrying amount of the loan that exceeds what the amortised cost would have been had the impairment not been recognised at the date the impairment is reversed. The amount of the reversal is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

**Impairment losses on investments**

The Fund reviews its investment portfolios to assess impairment at least on an annual basis. In determining whether an impairment loss should be recorded in the statement of comprehensive income, the Fund makes judgements as to whether there is any observable data indicating that there is a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows from a portfolio of investments and loans and/or with an individual investment in that portfolio. This evidence may include observable data indicating that there has been an adverse change in the payment status of counterparties or borrowers in a group, or national or local economic conditions that correlate with defaults on assets in the group. Management uses estimates based on historical loss experience for assets with credit risk characteristics, market-based prices where available and objective evidence of impairment similar to those in the portfolio when scheduling its future cash flows. The methodology and assumptions are reviewed annually.

**Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions**

The loss allowances for financial assets are based on assumptions about risk of default and expected loss rates. The entity uses judgement in making these estimates and assumptions and selecting the inputs to the impairment calculation. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and based on the entity's history and existing market conditions as well as forward-looking estimates at the end of each reporting period.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

8. Loans and advances	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Loans – Diocese	125,413	103,117
Loans – Parishes	366	245
Loans – Diocesan School System	160,495	139,910
Loans – Held by Diocesan School System for Parishes	2,825	3,572
	<b>289,099</b>	<b>246,844</b>
Amounts due within the next 12 months	20,648	
Amounts due greater than 12 months	268,451	
<b>Total amounts due</b>	<b>289,099</b>	

#### Accounting Policy - Loans and advances

Loans and advances are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in the active market. They arise when the Fund provides money directly to a debtor with no intention of trading the loans. Loans are recognised when cash is advanced. Loans are initially recognised at fair value net of transaction costs. Loans and advances are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Interest calculated using the effective interest rate method is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income; refer to note 3 above.

#### Impairment losses on loans

The Fund currently holds loans and advances to associates of the Fund, this includes loans to parishes, the Diocese and Diocesan agencies. These loans are carried at amortised cost and the Fund assesses on an ongoing basis the credit risk of associate loans as at 30 June 2023. The loans are considered to have low credit risk and the loss allowance during the period are limited to 12 months expected credit loss. Based on the current known macroeconomic environment and the nature of the loans, the probability of default over the upcoming 12-month period is considered to be nil, as in excess of 99% of loans are supported by the assets of the Diocese which exceed the value of the loan portfolio. Repayments over the next 12 months are supported by the provision of the annual budgets for diocesan agencies inclusive of repayments as approved by the Diocesan Advisory Board. This is further supported by historical evidence where no loans have fallen in arrears over the last 18 months.

#### Significant accounting policy - Allowance for impairment losses

The value of the allowance for impairment losses is estimated on a forward-looking basis by considering the credit risk of the loans, communication with the borrowers and prior history of contractual defaults.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

9. Fixed assets	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>Plant &amp; equipment</b>		
At cost	136	136
Accumulated depreciation	(126)	(123)
Written down value	10	13

**Movements in carrying value**

	Plant & equipment	Total
Balance at the beginning of the year	13	13
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation	(3)	(3)
<b>Carrying amounts at the end of the year</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

**Accounting Policy - Fixed assets**

Items of property, plant and equipment, are recognised to the extent that the entity controls the asset and is expected to benefit economically in future periods from its use.

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost, less, where applicable any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Plant and equipment acquisitions costing less than \$5,000 on a per item basis are expensed.

**Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all items of property, plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over the asset's expected useful life to the Fund commencing at the time the asset is held ready for use.

<b>Asset Class</b>	<b>Depreciation</b>
Furniture and Equipment	10% - 20%
Computer Hardware	25% - 40%

The residual values and useful lives of all depreciable items of property, plant and equipment are reviewed annually, and adjustments made if necessary.

An assessment of the recoverable amount of all items of property, plant and equipment is made annually and if the recoverable amount is considered less than the carrying value the asset is immediately written down to its recoverable amount.

**Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions – Estimated useful life of assets**

The useful life of each item of property, plant and equipment, determined for the purpose of calculating the annual depreciation charge, is estimated by the Fund based on initial recognition of the asset. These are reviewed annually, and adjustments made for any significant changes occurring that might impact on the useful life initially estimated. Additionally, where events have occurred that result in a major deterioration in the useful life of an asset or the asset not being capable of any future use for any reason, an appropriate impairment charge is recognised.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

10. Deposits	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Client deposits – Diocese	10,185	3,388
Client deposits – Parishes	23,801	23,529
Client deposits – Diocesan School System	269,810	258,974
Client deposits – St Nicholas	1,945	1,844
Client deposits – CatholicCare	1,317	4,579
Client deposits – Other Associates	15,103	18,169
Client deposits – Other (including accrued interest)	33,427	36,418
	<b>355,588</b>	<b>346,901</b>

### Accounting Policy - Deposits

Deposits represent cash obligations accepted from related parties, other Catholic organisations and staff (associates) and retail investors of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. They are initially recognised at fair value (being fair value of consideration received) and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method; refer to Note 3 above.

11. Payables	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Trade payables	142	3
Dormant funds	-	5
Accrued expenses	88	92
Accrued Wages	-	14
Distribution payable	3,000	3,000
	<b>3,229</b>	<b>3,114</b>

### Accounting Policy - Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Fund during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability. Trade and other payables are unsecured.

#### Distribution payable

The timing and amount of the annual distribution to the Diocese is based on 2 principal factors:

- i. Approval of annual budgeted distribution by the Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Standing authority is given by the Bishop for the Fund's Advisory Board to recommend a distribution to the Diocese through review of the Fund's monthly performance against that approved by the Bishop at the start of the financial year in its budget. If no material negative variation exists between year-to-date performance and the budget, the Fund's Advisory Board will recommend the standing distribution as outlined in the Fund's budget to the Bishop for approval.

- ii. The Fund's Capital Adequacy and Distributions Policy

On a regular basis, the Fund's Advisory Board reviews the financial performance of the Fund as well as, if applicable, the expected time left for it to meet its target capital/total assets ratio range of 10%-15%. This review is mandated in the Fund's Capital Adequacy and Distributions Policy. The Fund's capital supports its operations by providing a buffer to absorb unanticipated losses from its activities and, in the event of problems, enables the Fund to continue to operate in a sound and viable manner while the problems are addressed or resolved.

After performing this review and considering other relevant factors, the Fund's Advisory Board will recommend to the Bishop for approval, the timing and amount of any distribution payable.

The Fund's accounting policy is to accrue any distribution payable to the Diocese in accordance with the above 2 factors at balance date.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

12. Borrowings	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Syndicate Loan Facility	53,775	39,229
	<b>53,775</b>	<b>39,229</b>

**Accounting Policy - Borrowings**

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial liabilities may be held at fair value through profit or loss or at amortised cost. When a financial liability is recognised, initially it should be measured at its fair value net of transaction costs unless the financial instrument is designated as fair value through profit or loss.

The Trustees on 23 April 2020 entered into a syndicate loan facility agreement with The Corporation of the Trustees of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane, the purpose of the loan facility is to provide funding for the works program for education centres and schools being undertaken by the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and its agencies. The Fund as an agency of the Trustees facilitates the management of the agreement. The limit on the facility is \$120m. It has a term of 5 years which commenced on 1 January 2020 and expires on 30 December 2024. During the period 3 months prior to 31 December 2023 negotiations between the parties to extend the term beyond the expiry date will be undertaken.

Quarterly payments of interest are made on the facility. The interest rate is calculated with reference to the Australia Bank Bill Swap Reference Rate for 90 days on the first day of each quarter being the first day of January, April, July and October plus a margin of 2.50% per annum (June 2023 quarter rate 6.249%). Monthly repayments of principal are made based on the related loan repayments received by the Fund from the Diocese and the Diocesan School Building Fund. The amortised cost value approximates the fair value of the loan.

13. Employee benefits	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<i>Current</i>		
Annual leave payable	102	70
Provision for Long Service Leave	81	74
	<b>183</b>	<b>144</b>

**Annual Leave**

The current portion of this liability includes all accrued annual leave. The entire amount of \$102,286 (2022: \$70,000) is presented as current since the Fund does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for any of these obligations. However, based on past experience the group does not expect all employees to take the full amount of accrued leave or require payment within the next 12 months.

**Accounting Policy - Employee benefits**

Provision is made for the Fund's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits not expected to be wholly settled within twelve months have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increase and the probability that the employee may not satisfy vesting requirements. Those estimated cash outflows are discounted using market yields on Millman Group of 100 bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows.

**Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions – Provision for employee benefits**

Provisions for employee benefits after 12 months from the reporting date are based on future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service, as described in the note above. The amounts of these provisions would change should any of these factors change in the next 12 months.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

**14. Contingencies**

The Fund has no significant contingent liabilities as at balance date.

**15. Commitments**

**(a) Capital commitments**

The Fund did not have any outstanding capital commitments as at balance date.

**(b) Loan commitments**

The Fund had outstanding loan commitments of \$2,167,205 (2022: \$18,036,364) as at balance date.

**16. Related party disclosures**

**2023**  
\$'000

**2022**  
\$'000

**a) Key management personnel compensation**

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Fund, directly or indirectly, is considered key management personnel (KMP). Where KMP are paid by other related parties, an allocation of their remuneration has also been disclosed. The total of the remuneration paid to KMP of the Fund during the year are as follows:

Total compensation paid or payable	294	248
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**b) Distribution paid by the Fund**

The timing and amount of the annual distribution to the Diocese is based on 2 principal factors:

i. *Approval of annual budgeted distribution by the Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.*

Standing authority is given by the Bishop for the Fund's Advisory Board to recommend a distribution to the Diocese through review of the Fund's monthly performance against that approved by the Bishop at the start of the financial year in its Budget. If no material negative variation exists between year-to-date performance and the Budget, the Fund's Advisory Board will recommend the standing distribution as outlined in the Fund's Budget to the Diocesan Administrator for approval.

ii. *The Fund's Capital Adequacy and Distributions Policy*

On a regular basis, the Fund's Advisory Board reviews the financial performance of the Fund as well as, if applicable, the expected time left for it to meet its target capital/total assets ratio range of 10-15%. This review is mandated in the Fund's Capital Adequacy and Distributions Policy. The Fund's capital supports its operations by providing a buffer to absorb unanticipated losses from its activities and, in the event of problems, enables the Fund to continue to operate in a sound and viable manner while the problems are addressed or resolved.

After performing this review and considering other relevant factors, the Fund's Advisory Board will recommend to the Bishop for approval, the timing and amount of any distribution payable.

The Fund's accounting policy is to accrue any distribution payable to the Diocese in accordance with the above 2 factors at balance date.

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

**17. Related party disclosures continued...**

**2023**  
\$'000

**2022**  
\$'000

**c) Transactions with other related parties**

The following transactions occurred with related parties:

**Interest income**

Interest on loans - associates	18,282	9,107
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**Interest expense**

Interest on deposits - associates	8,580	323
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**Other expenses**

Shared service costs	353	665
Management fees (AFSL)	70	70

**Other transactions**

Diocesan distribution	10,000	6,000
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**d) Outstanding balances arising from related party transactions**

The following balances are outstanding at the end of the period in relation to transactions with related parties:

**Loans with related parties**

Loans – Diocese	125,413	103,117
Loans – Parishes	366	245
Loans – Diocesan School System	160,495	139,910
Loans – Held by Diocesan School System for Parishes	2,825	3,572

**Total loans with related parties**

<b>289,099</b>	<b>246,845</b>
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**Deposits due to related parties**

Client deposits – Diocese	10,185	3,388
Client deposits – Parishes	23,801	23,529
Client deposits – Diocesan School System	269,810	258,974
Client deposits – St Nicholas	1,945	1,844
Client deposits – Catholic Care	1,317	4,579
Client deposits – Other Associates	15,103	18,169

**Total deposit due to related parties**

<b>322,162</b>	<b>310,484</b>
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**Payables**

Diocesan distribution payable	3,000	3,000
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**Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2023 (continued)...

**18. Auditor remuneration**

**2023**  
\$'000

**2022**  
\$'000

**PricewaterhouseCoopers**

Audit of financial statements

71

64

**Total auditor remuneration**

**71**

**64**

**19. Subsequent events**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Fund, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Fund in future financial years.

### Operator's Declaration

The Operator of Catholic Development Fund Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle trading as the Catholic Community Fund declares that:

- a) in the Operator opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
- b) in the Operator opinion, the attached financial statements and notes thereto are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including compliance with accounting standards simplified disclosure and giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Fund.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Operator. The Catholic Development Fund Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has the power to amend and reissue the Financial Report if required.

Dated at Newcastle this 18th day of October 2023.



Sean Scanlon  
Chief Executive Officer  
Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle



## Independent auditor's report

To the Operator of Catholic Community Fund Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

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### Our opinion

In our opinion:

The accompanying financial report of Catholic Community Fund Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (the Fund) is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended;
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

### What we have audited

The financial report comprises:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023;
- the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the statement of cash flow for the year then ended;
- the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the notes to the financial statements, which include significant accounting policies and other explanatory information;
- the Operator's declaration.

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### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Independence

We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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### Other information

The Operator is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon through our opinion on the financial report.



In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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### Responsibilities of the Operator for the financial report

The Operator is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act 2012* and for such internal control as the Operator determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Operator is responsible for assessing the ability of the Fund to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Operator either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report. A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

PricewaterhouseCoopers

VINCENZO DEDE'

Vincenzo Dede  
Partner

Newcastle  
18 October 2023