



**Annual**

**Report**

2020 - 2021

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## Acknowledgment of Country

**SECCA acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional owners of this country and its waters. We wish to pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend this to all indigenous people.**

# About SECCA

## We support the right to respectful relationships and safe sexual expression for everyone

SECCA is a not-for-profit organisation that supports people with disability to learn about relationships, sexuality, and sexual health. Nearly thirty years ago, a passionate group of health professionals, with firsthand experience of disability, saw a vacuum of understanding around sexuality and disability. This was compounded by a flawed education system that allows crucial learning about human sexuality to fall through the cracks, with dramatic flow through effects on society.

People with disability are extremely vulnerable to being both perpetrators and victims of abuse, often driven by a lack of understanding and knowledge. SECCA's team of specialist counsellors, educators, and advocates works to fill this void.

At the core of SECCA is an understanding of our clients' vulnerability living at the intersection of disability, mental health, and [involvement with] social services, and the criminal justice system.

Through therapeutic support and education, we aim to build capacity in individuals to achieve positive relationships, and sexual expression in a way that suits them. We see systemic changes in relationships, and sexuality education as crucial to fulfilling human rights, and reducing the disproportionate violence, abuse and exploitation experienced by people with disability.



## Our Mission

To deliver impactful, current sexuality and relationship support that is relevant to people with a disability, and their carers.

## Our Vision

To empower people with a disability to thrive in richer, safer relationships

## Our Values

**Self-determination** - We empower individuals to live richer lives

**Equality** - We recognise human rights and help our clients achieve their goals

**Collaboration** - We work with others to achieve the best outcomes for clients

**Creativity** - We innovate to effect change and deliver critical education

**Accountability** - We drive quality, transparency, integrity, and justice

# Co-Chairs

## Message

**Like all agencies that continue to respond and manage the ongoing impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and changes in the NDIS, SECCA has faced a year of enormous change, but one that has also provided opportunity.**

SECCA's unique offering, that is proven by the overwhelming desire for our services, has provided us with an opportunity to grow further, and by reshaping our organisation, build for the future and continued excellence.

The Board are grateful and would like to thank Juana Terpou for her leadership prior to the restructure, and the ongoing support she has provided to SECCA and the team. We would also like to thank Louise Forster, who provided interim CEO support during the time of transition.

As a Board, we were thrilled to welcome Tara Eastep, and we are so pleased with her taking the reins at a particularly pivotal time for SECCA and aligning the organisation back onto a stable pathway of viable growth and excellence.

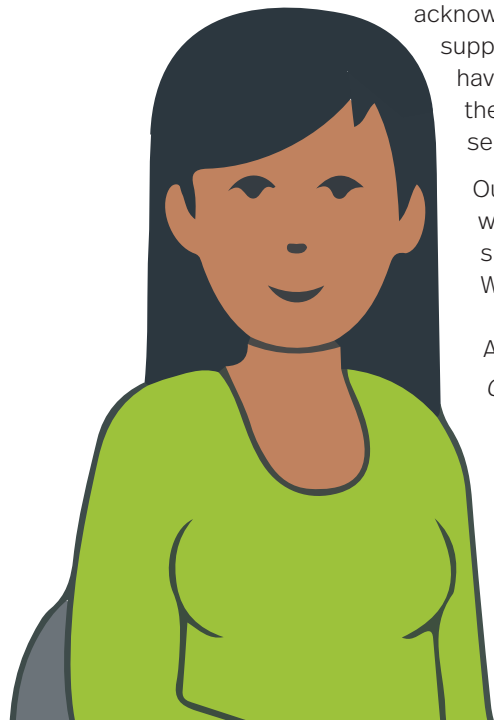
Our heartfelt thanks go to all the SECCA staff, who have continued to provide valuable services to the community of Western Australia, whilst actively responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and complying with government advice that ensured the safety and wellbeing of everyone.

The SECCA Board mobilised this year and will continue to actively seek further ways we can support the team, to improve our services to people with disability, their supports – and the community. We acknowledge our funding bodies for the ongoing financial support and advice, and all our valued partners, who have continued to support SECCA navigate through the NDIS, to ensure we provide the best possible services for our clients and their families.

Our commitment to enriching the lives of people with disability through education and therapeutic support has never been stronger.

We are looking forward to a great future!

Amanda Negus & Amanda Hunt  
*Co-Chairs*



# Our Board

**SECCA's Board of Management comprises volunteers with decades of combined experience in the non-profit and disability sectors. Our Board plays a crucial role in the success and longevity of SECCA. It provides strategic direction, and representation to ensure SECCA continues to flourish and lead in the rapidly changing disability sector.**

## **Co-Chairpersons**

Amanda Negus & Amanda Hunt

## **Treasurer**

Terry Rodda

## **Secretary**

Jessica Bennett-Hullin

## **Board Members**

Caris Jalla

Davinia Lefroy

Mahesha De Silva

Christine Manungus

Jessica Vidoni

Shaun Mays

We also acknowledge outgoing Board members, Davinia Lefroy, Christine Manungas, and Jessica Bennett-Hullin, and thank them for their commitment, and contribution.



# Executive Director

## Message

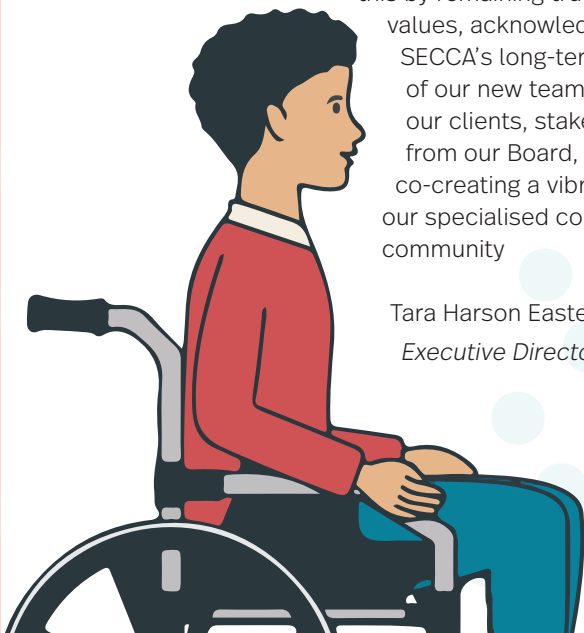
### **If SECCA's past financial year were ascribed a theme to mark its passing, 'change' would be the best descriptor.**

Change that has been necessary to ensure our organisation is positioned for long-term growth, and sustainability. As the disability sector continues to grapple with its own challenges related to the shift to NDIS model, and demand for services ever increasing, not-for-profit organisations are finding it necessary to rethink their traditional methods of management and increase their business acumen. To adapt to this shifting landscape SECCA has undertaken significant changes, most notably an organisational restructure, the transition into a larger, renovated office space, and an investment in the size of our team. Part of the restructure included the SECCA Board creating the position of Executive Director, which I was appointed to in mid-June.

Change is never easy and entering a new role amid so much transition provides its own unique challenges. However, I have a long history of embracing change and view it as an opportunity to spark innovation that allows for creativity and collaboration. My focus in the initial months has been our culture, quality, and financial viability. The objective being to lead SECCA through this transition and build a solid foundation for our future growth. While much of my time over the past few months has been spent preparing for our upcoming NDIS quality audit, as a team we are looking to the future, seeking to capitalise on SECCA's long standing reputation, internal strengths, and capabilities. There remains a significant opportunity for SECCA to play an integral role in educating, counselling, consulting, and advocating on behalf of our clients and their carers.

While last year's theme might have been all about change, it has set us up for a future where 'what ifs' can become real possibilities. We will achieve this by remaining true to our organisational purpose and values, acknowledging, and honouring the experience of SECCA's long-term staff, while harnessing the enthusiasm of our new team members. Together, with insights from our clients, stakeholders and continued strategic guidance from our Board, I look forward to the upcoming year co-creating a vibrant, viable organisation recognised for our specialised contribution to the disability sector in our community

Tara Harson Eastep  
*Executive Director*



# Financial Highlights

Where our money came from

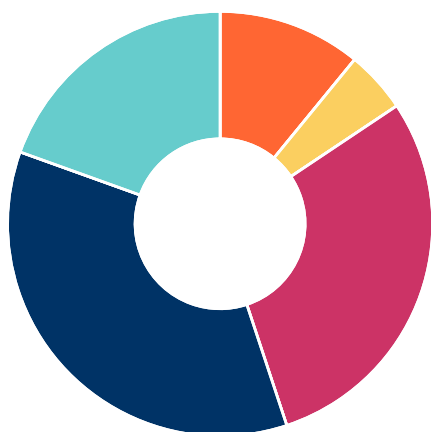
**NDIS**

**Other**

**Project Grants**

**WA Department  
of Communities**

**WA Department  
of Health**



- NDIS
- Other
- Project Grants
- WA Department of Communities
- WA Department of Health

Full financials available,  
please call SECCA on  
(08) 9420 7226.





# Resource

# Development

## **The resources development side of SECCA has continued to evolve this year.**

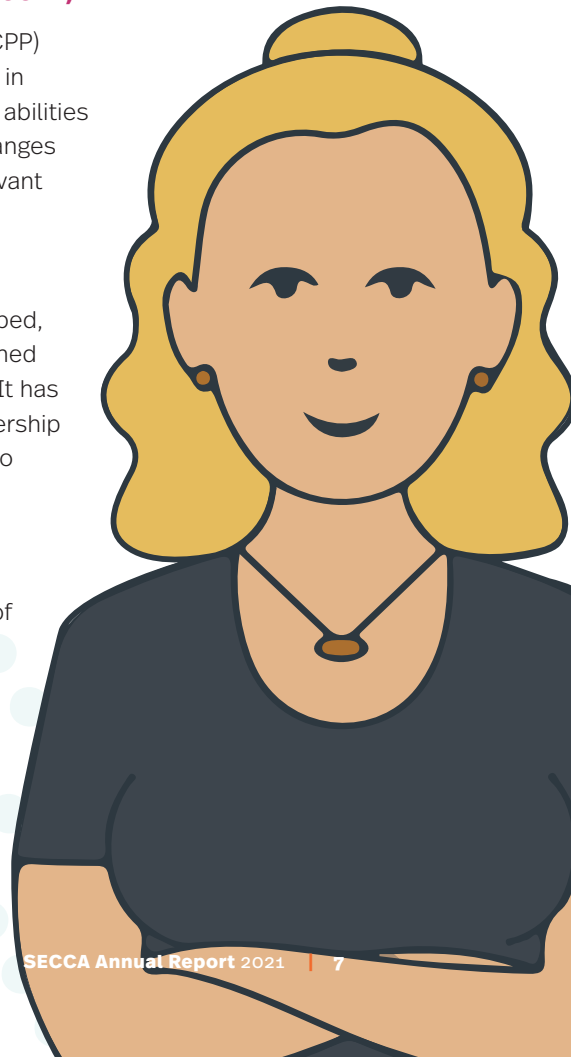
### **SECCA's Sexuality, Relationships and Your Rights**

SECCA's Sexuality, Relationships and Your Rights is a highly regarded and requested resource about sexuality, human rights, and the law. Originally created for Western Australia, national interest resulted in SECCA being awarded a 2020 NDIA Linkages and Capacity Building grant for development and distribution throughout Australia. SECCA has worked collaboratively with over 50 state based and national organisations associated with law, disability, and sexuality to create versions that recognise the specific laws and needs of each state and territory. In addition to the hard copy resource, an online web version and supporting animated videos are in development to offer the information via a range of platforms.

### **The Cervical Cancer Prevention Program (CCPP)**

The Cervical Cancer Prevention Program (CCPP) approached SECCA to request our expertise in developing a resource to teach people of all abilities about cervical screening, especially with changes to cervical testing. After consulting with relevant community stakeholders and women with disabilities, it was decided a main resource covering everything from A-Z regarding the cervical screening process would be developed, as well as a condensed version that is designed for people to take home for easy reference. It has been a very collaborative and positive partnership with CCPP, and we value their commitment to accessible health information.

SECCA continues to ensure resources and education are relevant to our society which has resulted in the development of a range of new resources covering sexting, safer sex, and gender diversity. In response to a need identified in our community workshops, we also created a menstrual product bin sign to indicate which bathrooms have an appropriate bin, to avoid causing distress and uncertainty for people.



# Office

## Relocation

**Supporting SECCA's growth ambitions and to meet ongoing demand for our services, SECCA was award a grant from Lotterywest to provision the move to a larger office space within City West Lottery House, including its refurbishment to ensure it was fit for purpose.**

Ready in February 2021, the larger facilities, as well as a Board led organisational restructure, allowed for the recruitment of additional staff to better serve SECCA's clients, including;

- **Project officers – Laura/Remus Short; Tiffany Bunter; Felicity Pheasant**
- **Education officer – Lexie Ashwell-Jones**
- **Counsellors – Tash Brockwell; Mim Kempson; Claire Wise**
- **Executive Director – Tara Eastep**

The investment in our team and our facilities has allowed SECCA to support even more clients. We acknowledge the high demand for our services and workshops and will continue to address client waiting periods with the ambition to provide support in a timely manner.



# 25<sup>th</sup> year

## Milestone

### **At SECCA we acknowledge that it is the expertise and dedication of our people that allows us to provide high level support and education to the WA community.**

One such member of our team is Maria Barnett, who joined SECCA in April 1996. Reflecting on what Maria enjoys about her role she said;

*“As a 22-year-old starting a full time job, I didn’t know much about the disability sector, my only experience was with having two blind brothers. I soon learnt the unique service that SECCA provided to people with disabilities and how it helped people through our therapy and education. I love being a part of our client’s journey and getting to know so many beautiful people and their stories. As the front person of our organisation, we have clients that need someone familiar and caring, and I love providing that role to them and their family. It’s always lovely when a client returns as an adult and still remembers you back from their childhood.”*

Maria has been with SECCA through its evolution that has included office moves, an ever-increasing demand for our support, the introduction of the NDIS and most recently our response to COVID-19. Throughout all this Maria continues to provide a warm welcome all our clients, carers, and staff.



As Maria put it;

*“My colleagues (past and present) are also what makes coming to work like being with my extended family. I really don’t see my role as a job as it’s a pleasure to be with SECCA.”*

We thank Maria for her ongoing enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment.



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**Sexuality Education Counselling & Consultancy Agency**



[secca.org.au](http://secca.org.au)