

South Australian  
Building Industry Redundancy Scheme Trust

**MEMBERS REPORT** 2022



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(Photo by Joshua Pathon)



## CEO's Report

I am pleased to present the 2022 Members Report for the South Australian Building Industry Redundancy Scheme Trust.

2021/22 saw higher levels of activity as the commercial construction industry recovered from the effects of COVID19. Contributions exceeded claims by \$2.4 million resulting in significant (6%) growth in the fund.

Unfortunately the volatility of financial markets continued and a significant drop in equity values in the final quarter affected our returns for the year. Fortunately, our relatively conservative strategy combined with positive returns in previous years means BIRST still has adequate capital reserves.

A significant amount of the surplus generated by BIRST is used to provide free journey cover for members and free emergency transport and funeral cover for members and their dependent families. The Trustees consider this money well spent as it provides added security to workers and their families by providing insurance cover they would not normally purchase as individuals.

BIRST is a major sponsor of Mates in Construction SA Ltd. an initiative that aims to reduce the very high rates of suicide in the construction industry. It also works to improve the mental health and well-being of workers through a range of different training programs and initiatives. Over the last 6 years the program has trained nearly 31,000 workers. They also assisted more than 1,200 workers who sought help for a variety of reasons. We envisage the mental health effects of the pandemic will be significant in the coming years and BIRST will continue to support Mates into 2023 as they support workers in our industry.

The Board also continues to fund the Construction & Other Industries Drug & Alcohol Program Inc. It is seen as an important health, wellbeing and safety initiative in our industry with the ever increasing abuse of drugs and alcohol in general society and the introduction of onsite drug testing.

I would also like to thank all the current and retiring Trustees and administration staff for their input and commitment to the fund over the last year and look forward to their continued support in 2021/2022.

**Alan Suridge**  
CEO

## BIRST Trustees

**John Adley**  
CEPU (Plumbing Division)

**Sam Condon**  
Master Builders Association

**Will Frogley**  
Master Builders Association

**Dave Kirner**  
CFMEU (Furnishing Trades)

**Fred Pascale**  
Pascale Constructions  
Pty Ltd

**David Siow**  
Master Builders Association

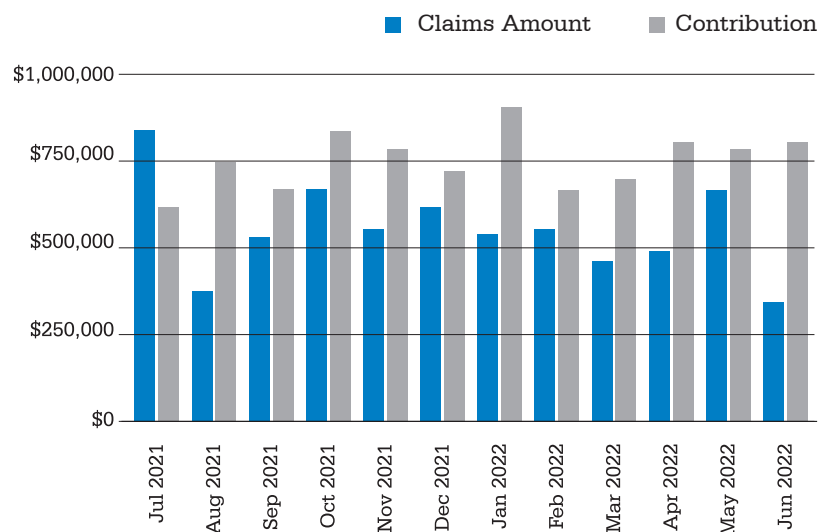
**Peter Russell**  
CFMEU (Construction  
& General)

**Andrew Sutherland**  
CFMEU (Construction  
& General)

# 2021/2022 in Summary

- In 2021/2022 employers contributed \$8.8 million on behalf of their workers.
- \$6.4 million was paid to workers whose employment had been terminated.
- Total funds held in trust on behalf of workers were \$42.7 million
- Since 1989 \$188 million has been paid to workers in the building industry.

## Contribution & Claims 2021/2022

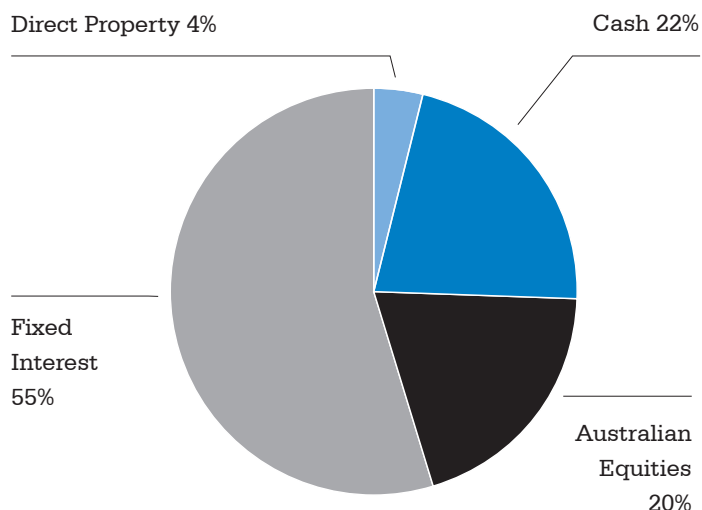


## Investments

The BIRST Board manages the capital of the fund to meet the following investment criteria:

- To protect and preserve the employees benefits
- To ensure that the Trust Fund is sufficiently liquid to meet the likely demand for payment of workers
- To provide sufficient income to meet the costs of administering the Trust
- To provide income for distribution for the benefit of the construction industry

At 30 June 2022 our investments were allocated 24% growth and 76% capital stable as follows:



## Key Financial Information as at 30 June 2022

	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
Total Assets	\$44,550,000	\$43,340,000
Total Liabilities (including Members Funds)	\$43,235,000	\$40,698,000
Trust Capital	\$1,315,000	\$2,642,000
Returns on Investments	-4.4%	3.3%
Employer Contributions	\$8,845,000	\$8,219,000
Payments to Workers	\$6,470,000	\$7,991,000
Contributing Employers	285	280
Active Members	4,107	3,669

## Drug & Alcohol Program

The Construction & Other Industries Drug & Alcohol Program Inc. (COIDAP) was established by employers and workers in the construction industry to address the issue of unsafe work practices related to drugs & alcohol (D&A) in the workplace.

At its core, the program aims for everyone in the industry to understand that health is intrinsically linked to safety, and therefore success from an operational perspective. Funding from BIRST allows COIDAP to be readily available to workplaces, resulting in benefits such as:

- Enhancing the capacity of the construction workforce to prevent and minimise D&A related harm by improving their knowledge and confidence to make healthy and safe choices
- Assisting workers in understanding the role and application of workplace D&A policies
- Improving workplace relationships through demonstrable health and safety leadership
- Encouraging general preparedness for work by creating a positive workplace health culture

Current, continual and consistent information, education and training is provided in collaboration with relevant stakeholders including workers, employers, unions, training organisations, D&A services, and other health and community services.

For more information about the program, local community referral options, or to arrange a talk on site or at your workplace, contact the Program Coordinator on 0418 847 180 or 08 8373 0122.

## Suicide Prevention Program

Mates in Construction South Australia was created by BIRST in January 2013. It is a registered charity funded by BIRST, the Federal Government, the Construction Industry Training Board, industry partners and other fundraising initiatives.

Mates' principal role is to facilitate education and support to workers within the SA construction industry to help reduce the high rates of suicide. This is achieved by raising awareness that suicide is a preventable problem and provides clear pathways for workers to get help and makes getting help easier. Mates educates workers through its program of suicide awareness and prevention/intervention training, which is a three tier program:

### General Awareness

**Training:** 1 hour education to raise the awareness of mental health and wellbeing in the construction industry, specifically what to look out for if someone has reached a tipping point in their lives and is considering suicide, and just as importantly, how to connect them to assistance when a need has been identified.

**Connector:** Raises the bar in understanding suicide detection and keeping identified people at risk safe and knowing how to connect them to help in a 4 hour training course.

**ASIST:** (Applied Suicide intervention Skills Training) Participants are trained to intervene and assist the early stages of dealing with someone's suicidal thoughts and then working closely with the appropriate professional to facilitate a positive outcome (2 day course).

Mates SA also provides a referral service for construction industry employees and their families who may be experiencing mental health concerns, financial difficulties, relationship issues, a family crisis or just feeling overwhelmed via our 24/7 crisis line 1300 642 111. This line connects workers and their immediate family to trained counsellors and psychologists who can work through issues on the phone and then they are referred onto the SA Case Manager for follow up and support.

To date, the following outcomes have been achieved:

- 27,622 workers have undertaken General Awareness Training
- 2,780 workers have undertaken Connector training
- 522 workers have undertaken Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- More than 1,200 workers have been referred to and been supported by our Case Managers

If you would like to know more about the Mates SA program, support to access services or to become a financial supporter, please visit the MIC website: [www.matesinconstruction.org.au](http://www.matesinconstruction.org.au) or contact Mates on 8373 0122 or at [enquiries@micsa.org.au](mailto:enquiries@micsa.org.au)

## Member Benefits

### Journey Personal Accident Cover

This cover protects a financial member's income for injuries sustained whilst travelling to or from their home, to or from their place of employment.\*

### Funeral Cover

Funeral Cover was established to assist the families of the deceased financial member with the financial burden of paying for the funeral costs. The cover can reimburse the actual cost incurred of the funeral of a member, their spouse or dependant offspring to a maximum of \$10,000.\*

### Emergency Transport

This cover reimburses a financial member for the cost of ambulance transport anywhere in Australia resulting from an accident or at the request of a qualified medical practitioner. The maximum cover for any one member is \$10,000 per year and covers the member, their spouse and dependant offspring.\*

\* For full details contact BIRST or visit [www.birst.com.au](http://www.birst.com.au)