



PRESIDENTS REPORT 2025 - 2026

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Presidents Report ~ AGM 2026

Over the past month, we have been revisiting and refining our Strategic Plan for 2026–2027. When this document was first developed and adopted in late 2024 and early 2025, it set out a clear vision for where we wanted to go as an organisation. It is a living tool and practical guide that shapes our business planning, helps build strong sector relationships, and directly supports our grant applications. What has been particularly encouraging is that, in updating this plan, we have not needed to change direction — rather, we have been able to reflect on just how much has already been achieved.

What were once future ambitions have now become part of our reality. We have expanded our presence across regional Queensland, strengthened our engagement with hearing health professionals, and established initiatives such as our Hearing Solutions Summits, Living with Hearing Loss seminars and of course our foundational meetups, which continue to bring together members, clinicians, and industry in meaningful ways. Our role within the broader hearing health landscape has also grown, with CICADA Queensland now contributing more actively to conversations that extend beyond our state for the purpose of lobbying into areas that make national change in the hearing loss space as well as here in Queensland..

Strategic plans, Business plans, Policies and Procedures play a key role in supporting our grant applications and strengthening our partnerships with government, industry, and professional bodies. These relationships allow us to remain aligned, collaborative, and focused on improving awareness, access, and outcomes for people with hearing loss. Our progress over the past year highlights what we set out to do versus what we have delivered:

- **Membership Growth & Community Engagement:** We aimed to expand local outreach and update member communications. We achieved this by engaging a temporary Facebook manager, creating a tailored presentation for retirement villages, printing localized "Living with Hearing Loss?" brochures, and consistently delivering our *Cicada Chorus* magazine and website updates.
- **Fundraising & Sector Leadership:** We sought dedicated grant support and stronger industry integration. We appointed a Grants Officer, established stronger partnerships with Deafness Forum, the University of Queensland, Macquarie University, Audiology Australia, and ACAud Inc HAASA. culminating in a major collaborative grant submission.
- **Events & Regional Support:** We set out to connect with regional members and train our team. We successfully hosted Hearing Solutions Summits in Townsville and Bundaberg, delivered committee training on the Sunshine Coast, and maintained monthly regional meetings.



- **Technology & Service Expansion:** We aimed to introduce practical tools for members. We distributed live captioning equipment to requesting branches, launched our Hearing Bank initiative to provide donated devices.

Our continued growth and operational stability are made possible by the ongoing support we receive from Queensland Health.

As we reflect on this progress, it is also important to acknowledge the people who have helped make it possible.

Thank you to our Committee and coordinators across the state. Each of you contribute in your own way, and together you form the structure that supports everything we do — from local meet-ups through to state-wide initiatives, without you we would not be where we are today.

Sincere thanks to Deb Bordin for her service as Treasurer over the past five years as she now steps aside from the role. Her steady leadership, attention to detail, and commitment behind the scenes have been pivotal in ensuring CICADA Queensland operates with strength and integrity. The position carries significant responsibility, often without visibility, and her contribution has played a central role in allowing the organisation to grow with confidence. Deb, thank you for the time, care, and dedication you have given to CICADA Queensland.

As we move into the next phase of our journey, there is a strong sense that the foundations are now in place for continued growth. The year ahead presents further opportunity — to expand our reach, deepen our partnerships, and continue supporting those navigating their own hearing journey.

To our members, thank you for being part of that journey with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ross", with a large, stylized initial "J" and "R".

John Ross
President – CICADA Queensland