



# Annual Report

## 2025

Chronic UTI Australia (Incorporated)

ABN: 63529067635

<https://www.chronicutiaustralia.org.au/>

## **Chairperson's statement**

*2025 has been a landmark year for Chronic UTI Australia. A defining achievement was the launch of our 'Take Action' campaign in July 2025. This is a community-led call for reform asking government to formally recognise chronic urinary tract infection (UTI) and address long-standing issues in diagnosis, treatment, research and prevention of the condition. As part of the campaign, the patient community supported Chronic UTI Australia's call to sign an open letter to the Federal Minister for Health, write to their Members of Parliament and share their personal stories. The collective voices of people with chronic UTI helped us to secure meetings with 17 MPs and advisors by the end of 2025, a huge step forward in getting chronic UTI on the national health agenda.*

*Alongside this public advocacy, we continued to represent patient perspectives in clinical guideline consultations, professional forums and research initiatives, while strengthening patient education through a refreshed website and updated information resources. These efforts reflect our commitment to ensuring that patients are not only heard but actively involved in shaping the systems that affect their care.*

*On behalf of our management committee, I thank our partners and supporters for their collaboration, and, most importantly, our patient community for their trust, courage and persistence. Your voices are the foundation of our advocacy and the driving force behind change.*

*As we move into 2026, we will build on the momentum we have achieved so far — amplifying patient voices, advancing reform and working towards better recognition, clinical care and outcomes for all Australians living with chronic UTI.*

### **Deirdre Pinto**

Chairperson / Co-founder  
Chronic UTI Australia

## 1. Introduction

2025 was a year of significant progress for Chronic UTI Australia. Our work focused on advocacy, patient education and building connections with clinicians, researchers, policymakers and the wider community. Through active participation in guideline consultations, national campaigns, professional events and educational initiatives, we continued to amplify the voices of people living with chronic UTI and push for recognition, improved diagnosis and better treatment options. These efforts reflect our commitment to supporting patients, influencing healthcare practice and driving change across Australia.

This annual report presents our operational and program achievements for the 2025 calendar year (1 January–31 December 2025). Our financial statements are reported for the 2024–25 financial year (1 July 2024–30 June 2025), in line with statutory requirements. Using these two reporting periods allows us to reflect both the full impact of our annual programs and our legally mandated financial reporting cycle.

## 2. Key Activities

### 2.1 Advocacy and clinical guideline engagement

In 2025, Chronic UTI Australia actively engaged with national and international professional bodies to advocate for formal recognition of chronic UTI, improved diagnostic practices and evidence-based management. This work aimed to ensure that chronic and embedded forms of UTI are acknowledged in clinical guidelines and that patient perspectives are included in guideline development.

#### 2.1.1 *Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)*

In March 2025 we submitted feedback to IDSA regarding its draft guidelines on the management and treatment of complicated UTI (<https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/complicated-urinary-tract-infections/>). Our key points included the need to recognise chronic/embedded UTI as a form of complicated UTI, the limitations of culture tests as a basis for antibiotic prescribing, concerns about recommending shortened antibiotic courses without robust evidence, and the need for ongoing patient and public involvement in UTI research and guideline development. In July 2025, a proposed reclassification of UTIs from “uncomplicated/complicated” to “localised/systemic” was announced, acknowledging that both categories may involve risk factors for more complex disease. Unfortunately, the absence of formal recognition of chronic UTI remains a concern.

<https://uroweb.org/news/new-classification-of-utis-from-uncomplicated-complicated-to-localised-systemic-utis>

## 2. Key Activities (continued)

### 2.1 Advocacy and clinical guideline engagement (continued)

#### 2.1.2 *Therapeutic Guidelines (TG)*

Following our consultation with Therapeutic Guidelines in 2023-24 on their draft acute UTI guidelines, we continued engagement with the organisation on the development of the guidelines. We submitted further feedback in May 2025, highlighting concerns that limitations of common UTI tests had not been addressed, and guidance on delaying antibiotics lacked clarity on long-term outcomes, risking the development of recurrent and chronic infections. Our feedback was acknowledged but no further changes were made to the guidelines.

#### 2.1.3 *Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ)*

Chronic UTI Australia was invited to review and provide feedback on the USANZ's position statement for chronic UTI:

<https://www.usanz.org.au/info-resources/position-statements-guidelines/chronic-urinary-tract-infections>, giving the opportunity for the patient perspective to be heard. We welcomed the position statement as an important milestone, noting it is the first Australian professional body to formally recognise UTI as a disease spectrum that includes chronic infection. The response commended USANZ's leadership while recommending the statement be strengthened with clearer, evidence-based guidance on diagnosing and treating chronic UTI, particularly considering known limitations of urine testing and frequent misdiagnosis. The letter also emphasised the importance of patient education, inclusion of current international developments, collaboration with patient representatives to develop formal definitions and clinical guidelines, and future research to improve care for people living with chronic UTI. You can read more [here](#).

### 2.2 Patient resources and education

This year we improved our patient support and education through a refreshed website and an updated information booklet—providing free, accessible, evidence-based information to help educate, connect and empower the chronic UTI community.

## 2. Key Activities (continued)

### 2.2 Patient resources and education (continued)

#### 2.2.1 *New Chronic UTI Australia website*

In April 2025, a refreshed website was launched at [www.chronicutiaustralia.org.au](http://www.chronicutiaustralia.org.au) to strengthen our digital presence and improve access to reliable information on chronic UTI. The new website features a modern design, clearer navigation and expanded content for patients, clinicians, researchers and policymakers. It provides updated educational resources, information on advocacy and research activities and pathways for community engagement and support.

#### 2.2.1 *New Chronic UTI Australia website (continued)*

The launch represents a key step in improving awareness, credibility and reach, and in supporting informed dialogue and collaboration around chronic UTI in Australia.

#### 2.2.2 *Updated information booklet*

The *Understanding Chronic UTI* information booklet was updated during the year and made freely available to email subscribers. The revised booklet provides clear, detailed and evidence-informed information to help people better understand chronic UTI, current diagnostic and treatment challenges and important research articles. Making the booklet available at no cost supports patient education and empowerment, while also strengthening ongoing connection and communication between Chronic UTI Australia and the patient community.

### 2.3 Public advocacy — Take Action campaign

In July 2025 we launched our community-driven *Take Action* campaign. The campaign is a national advocacy initiative calling on the Australian Federal Government to improve recognition, diagnosis, treatment, research and clinical care for chronic UTI. The campaign invites community members to sign an open letter to the Federal Minister for Health urging formal recognition of chronic UTI as a legitimate medical condition with a standardised definition, national review of outdated testing and treatment methods, updated clinical guidelines and education for health professionals, dedicated research funding, and the establishment of specialist multidisciplinary clinics. The campaign also encourages individuals to write to their MPs, share their stories, and participate in awareness activities via social media, such as the *Sentenced by UTI* photo challenge.

The campaign generated strong community and political engagement, with patient letters prompting Chronic UTI Australia to write to all 150 Federal Members of Parliament and all 75 Federal Senators. Since September 2025, meetings have been held with MPs, Senators and advisers from across all major parties and multiple states, with patient representatives sharing lived experience to highlight failures in current testing and treatment guidelines.

## 2. Key Activities (continued)

### 2.3 Public advocacy – Take Action campaign (continued)

Political responses to date have been positive and supportive, with several pathways for further action identified. Advocacy efforts will continue into 2026 to follow up on initial discussions and keep chronic UTI firmly on the national agenda.

More detail on our *Take Action campaign* is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChronicUTIAus/posts/pfbid0vkm7nbkWvmbA9iDdFy2GBAxCWNVDyhpBxSugSK3H1zbC8CqMg2MBMmJ9XoFtBrG5l>

### 2.4 Research and industry engagement

Chronic UTI Australia was invited to provide a representative on the *Consumer Advisory Group (CAG)* for *University of Technology Sydney (UTS)* research into an mRNA vaccine for chronic and recurrent UTI. This involved two in-person meetings in Sydney (April and October 2025), ensuring patient perspectives informed research design and communication. Further meetings are planned for 2026.

We participated in several professional and research events to strengthen our networks and raise awareness of chronic UTI, including the *2025 Bladder and Kidney Health Symposium* and the *Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) Victorian Committee Gala Dinner*.

These engagements are important advocacy opportunities, ensuring that the patient voice is represented in discussions around diagnosis, treatment and research priorities.

### 2.5 Clinician engagement and education

In May this year we attended the *HealthEd Women's and Children's Health Update 2025* in Melbourne. Following the success of our participation, we plan to continue our engagement by attending the Brisbane event in May 2026.

This year we continued to support the *Doctors Treating Chronic UTI* online group, involving Australian doctors with a shared interest in chronic UTI. The group meets quarterly for 60–90 minute online sessions, providing a forum to exchange chronic UTI knowledge, discuss clinical challenges and leading scientific evidence. The sessions offer Continuing Professional Development (CPD) certification for attendees. We plan to continue supporting the GP-led group in 2026.

## 2. Key Activities (continued)

### 2.6 Funding and support

As of June 2025, Chronic UTI Australia had funds of approximately \$24,000. We received two significant corporate donations and additional one-off contributions from the public, with most public donations received during the end-of-financial-year donation drive (April–June 2025). Funds raised covered core project costs, including the Take Action campaign, attendance at the HealthEd conference (including printed materials), media training, travel and the website rebuild. Regular operational expenses, such as insurance, subscriptions and website/administrative costs, were also covered. See the financial statements Note 3.

Fundraising remains a challenge and continues to be a priority to ensure we can offer ongoing advocacy, patient education and organisational sustainability. We rely on the generosity of our patient community and supporters. Every donation helps us maintain our programs, amplify patient voices and continue working for better recognition, treatment and research for chronic UTI.

### 2.7 Governance and organisational management

As a registered volunteer-run charity, Chronic UTI maintained strong governance and operational oversight throughout 2025. Key activities included:

- Re-election of the management committee and establishment of new volunteer roles.
- Ongoing distribution of UTI-related information via social media, email subscriptions and the website.
- Responding to patient and community enquiries and supporting newcomers.
- Day-to-day administration, including volunteer coordination, meetings, accounting, compliance and reporting.
- Specific volunteer leadership roles included a new Corporate Sponsorship Coordinator and Communications and Digital Reach Coordinator.

### 2.8 Looking ahead

Looking ahead, Chronic UTI Australia remains dedicated to advancing awareness, education, research and advocacy for the chronic UTI community. We are committed to strengthening our partnerships, supporting patients and clinicians and ensuring that chronic UTI is recognised in Australia. With continued engagement and community support, we look forward to building on these achievements in 2026, driving meaningful improvements in care, research and clinical guidance for Australians affected by chronic UTI.

## 2. Key Activities (continued)

### 2.9 Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated volunteers, whose time, expertise and passion make everything we do possible. We are also deeply grateful to our patient community for sharing their stories, participating in advocacy and helping us amplify the voices of those living with chronic UTI. Finally, we sincerely thank our business sponsor, Sarah Willmott at *Feel Better Box* and *Joode*, for her generous support, which helps us continue our vital work in patient education, advocacy and community engagement.

*Feel Better Box*

*Joode*

### 2.10 Support our work

Chronic UTI Australia relies on the strength and generosity of our community to keep driving change. You can make a real difference by offering moral support, volunteering your time, or making a financial contribution. Every action helps us raise awareness, advocate for better recognition and treatment, and provide education and support to those living with chronic UTI. Together, we can ensure patients are seen, heard and supported. Please consider joining us in this vital work.

<https://www.chronicutiaustralia.org.au/donate/>

### 3. Financial statements and notes

Our financial position remained adequate due to generous support from the patient community and our business sponsor, and a charity focused on supporting advocacy in women's health.

#### 3.1 Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2025

	<i>Notes</i>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Revenue from continuing operations</b>			
<b>Grants</b>			
Grants from donor organisations		17,800	7,000
Donations		7,390	8,615
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>25,190</b>	<b>15,615</b>
Bank interest		-	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>25,190</b>	<b>15,615</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
General and administrative		2,725	2,291
Digital media		678	1,010
Program services – digital media		5,545	-
Program services – graphics		1,573	1,836
Membership		125	367
Other expenses		1,215	699
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>11,861</b>	<b>6,203</b>

### 3. Financial statements and notes (continued)

#### 3.1 Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2025 (continued)

	<i>Notes</i>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
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Project expenses 2024-25:			
• Volunteer training		1,320	
• Clinician & researcher engagement, Nov 2024		523	
• Clinician & researcher engagement, May 2025		8,765	
• Advocacy campaign, 2025		1,411	-
		<hr/>	
		<b>12,019</b>	-
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Project expenses 2023-24:			
• Clinician & researcher engagement		-	4,500
• Data statistics		-	642
		<hr/>	
		-	<b>5,142</b>
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<b>Total operating and project expenses</b>		<b>23,880</b>	<b>11,345</b>
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<b>Surplus / (loss) before income tax</b>		<b>1,310</b>	<b>4,270</b>
Income tax revenue / (income tax expense)		-	-
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<b>Surplus / (loss) after income tax</b>		<b>1,310</b>	<b>4,270</b>
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### 3. Financial statements and notes (continued)

#### 3.2 Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents		24,727	23,417
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>24,727</b>	<b>23,417</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>24,727</b>	<b>23,417</b>
Payables		-	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>24,727</b>	<b>23,417</b>
Retained surplus		24,727	23,417
<b>Total member's funds</b>		<b>24,727</b>	<b>23,417</b>

### 3. Financial statements and notes (continued)

#### 3.3 Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		\$	\$
Receipts from sponsors		25,190	15,615
Payments to suppliers		(23,880)	(11,346)
<b>Net cash generated by operating activities</b>		<b>1,310</b>	<b>4,269</b>
<b>Net cash flow (utilised)/ generated investing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net cash flow (utilised)/ generated financing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Net increase in cash held		1,310	4,269
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		23,417	19,148
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year</b>		<b>24,727</b>	<b>23,417</b>

### 3. Financial statements and notes (continued)

#### 3.4 Notes to the financial statements

This financial report is a Special Purpose Financial Report prepared to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of **Australian Accounting Standards**, the **Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (South Australia)** and the **Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)**.

For the purposes of preparing the financial statements, Chronic UTI Australia (Incorporated) is a not-for-profit entity.

Chronic UTI Australia (Incorporated) is registered as a charity with the **ACNC** and is domiciled in Australia.

Chronic UTI Australia (Incorporated) also raises funds to fund advocacy work on behalf of patients and for funding purposes, holds a **South Australia Collections for Charitable Purposes (CCP) licence (CCP3935)**.

Chronic UTI Australia (Incorporated) is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the management committee it has determined that there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, the attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of **Australian Accounting Standards**, the **Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (South Australia)** and the **ACNC**.

These financial statements are submitted to the ACNC. The ACNC provides the financial statements to the Consumer and Business Affairs (SA) on behalf of Chronic UTI Australia (Incorporated).

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs. It does not consider changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets. The financial report has been prepared on the basis of the recognition and measurement requirements of all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations.

For the purpose of the financial statements, the results and financial position of the entity are expressed in Australian dollars ('\$'), unless otherwise noted, which is the functional currency of the entity and the presentation currency used in the financial statements. Amounts in these financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The management committee states: "There are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable."

The Financial Statements and Notes present fairly the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance and cashflow for the year ended 30 June 2025.