



Annual Report: 2021

1. Administrative Details
1.1 - Name of National Committee: Blue Shield Australia
1.2 - Date Report Completed: February 2022
1.3 - Reporting period covered: January 2021 – December 2021
1.4 - Names, positions and emails of all those who were the governing body/ trustees / principal officers on the date the report was approved or who served during in the reporting period: Sue Hutley, Chair, Blue Shield Australia July 2019 – June 2021 Kathryn Dan, Chair June 2021– ; Deputy Chair July 2019 – June 2021 Catherine Robinson, Deputy Chair, Blue Shield Australia June 2021– Annette Mills, Secretary and Treasurer, Blue Shield Australia July 2019 – info@blueshieldaustralia.org.au
1.5 - Address of the main office: c/- Australian Library and Information Association, Deakin, ACT 2600
1.6 - Website and social media (if applicable): www.blueshieldaustralia.org.au
2. Income:
What is the total income of your committee? Total Annual Income 2021 = AUD \$5693.40 Member Associations pay a sliding scale of fees, depending on their representation and size and capacity to contribute funds. Fees were reduced for the 2021 year to acknowledge impacts of COVID-19. Two member associations donated funds in 2021 to support BSA activities. What are the primary sources? Membership fees, occasional donations, income from DRR Day event.
3. Report of Activities: Achievements & Performance
3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation: Submissions BSA provided input to the Office for the Arts (Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications) for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade <i>Periodical Report on the 1954 Hague Convention</i> submitted to UNESCO. As well as documenting positive BSA activity, BSA commented on gaps in heritage protection legislation, value of training for heritage professionals and emergency management personnel, and desirability of ratifying the Second Protocol. Preparatory work for advocacy with government about the Second Protocol commenced in 2021.
3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building: The scope of events was curtailed due to travel and COVID restrictions during 2021. However, the increase in use of online mechanisms has enabled delivery of webinars and meetings about heritage



protection and increased interaction of BSA with other Blue Shield committees thanks to the coordination of Blue Shield International.

UN International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction promotion and events

Blue Shield Australia uses 13 October Disaster Risk Reduction Day as a focus to raise awareness of preparedness at the start of the Australia Disaster Season (fires, floods, cyclones). Refreshed promotional collateral was used and social media postings around the day had good reach. <https://blueshieldaustralia.org.au/day-for-disaster-risk-reduction/>.

Workshop event

ALIA and BSA partnered with South Australian cultural heritage organisations to hold a disaster planning workshop on 20 October. The workshop provided practical exercises in assessing disaster risk and preparing preventative plans.

2022 Disaster Preparedness Calendar

The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material and their Disaster Preparedness Committee, with support from BSA, developed a poster-sized calendar to be used by cultural organisations and individuals in planning for annual disaster preparedness activities. The calendar was issued in digital version but has also had a limited hard copy distribution. Reminder stickers can be used with the calendar and have proved popular as a planning and reminder tool. The calendar was launched with an online event on 13 October and continues to be promoted.

<https://aiccm.org.au/disaster/disaster-preparedness-calendar/>

Symposiums / Events / Webinars

BSA members presented at conferences (such as the Australian Society of Archivists annual conference <https://www.archivists.org.au/conference/2021-archives-amplified>) to raise awareness of cultural heritage protections and focus events such as DRR Day.

Blue Shield Australia continuously promotes disaster preparedness and recovery and cultural property protection events conducted by Member Associations including Australia ICOMOS, AICCM and ICOM Australia via our website and social media. For example, in 2021 AICOMOS hosted a webinar on DRR Day *Caring for Country* highlighting indigenous fire practices in caring for natural heritage.

3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness:

Blue Shield Australia continually promotes various disaster risk preparedness resources to member associations and the general public during Australia natural disasters via <https://blueshieldaustralia.org.au/resources/>

3.4 - Emergency response in disaster, domestic emergencies, and armed conflict:

The 'Cultural Response Roundtable' formed by a group of senior cultural and heritage institution leaders in 2019/2020 to facilitate meetings and discussions to share experiences from bushfires and the impacts of Covid19 has not met during the past year. It is a network that can be activated as required when significant and widespread natural disasters occur again in Australia to provide easier sharing of information and collaborative activities.

Liaison with key contact point in the Australian Defence Force was limited due to overseas deployment.



3.5 - Stabilisation, post-disaster recovery, and long-term/ongoing support:

The BSA website continues to be a resource for recovery and support.

3.6 - Co-ordination (of Blue Shield and with other relevant organisations):

The Blue Shield Australia committee met six times during 2021 via videoconference. A 'Committee Member Responsibilities' Statement was revised to ensure clear guidance on expectations about participation in BSA. The document was circulated to all member associations in conjunction with correspondence confirming representatives for BSA committee during 2021. BSA prepared its Strategic Plan and is working on operationalising elements of the plan. BSA also completed the reaccreditation process with BSI. Documentation for the committee is maintained by the Secretary via a Dropbox.

BSA focusses external communication via the website and the BSA Facebook and Twitter social media accounts.

4. Main issues faced:

The Blue Shield Australia committee is a representative committee and committee members have continue to face pressure on availability of volunteer time due to COVID and related restrictions. The BSA committee is small and further discussions need to be held to widen the committee structure or capacity so that other interested volunteer representatives on our various Associations can more easily contribute their time and skills to the work of BSA.

As Member Associations found 2020 a difficult year financially due to the Covid19 pandemic, BSA charged ½ membership fees for 2021. While BSA has reserves from prior years' fees, it is unclear how sustainable these membership fees into the future will be.

5. Future goals

The Blue Shield Australia committee will continue to advocate to and work with relevant Australian Government agencies and other key national stakeholders with the aim for Australia to ratify the Second Protocol of the 1954 Hague Convention as soon as possible. It is expected that ratification through government treaty process will take some time and involve developing new networks.

Further work is needed to gain greater awareness of Blue Shield Australia throughout the Member Associations.

Greater connections with emergency services agencies is also a future goal.

6. Other

Blue Shield Australia has connections with a number of Australian universities and would be willing to progress joint research initiatives if volunteer time and expertise is available.

Report Submitted By:

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Chair, Blue Shield Australia



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Australia

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HERITAGE IN CRISIS

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As at 10 February 2022