



2016 – 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Thank you to our generous donors

R Abbott
C Chan
J Duncan
H Germinario
J Oliver
S Pascoe
B Porter
P Rose
L Smith
A Stewart
M Thurecht
Usher Kids Australia
L Youl

Acknowledgements

StewartBrown – Chartered Accountants
Ms Annie Vu – Bookkeeper
For their pro bono time and expertise with our accounts

2016 – 2017
SNAPSHOT

WEBSITE
81K users
57.6% from Australia

FACEBOOK PAGE
3.4K likes

AUSSIE DEAF KIDS PLUS
± 1500 members

ADK UNILATERAL
HEARING LOSS
± 600 members

Board of Directors



Mr Stephen Pascoe – Chair
BSc (Computer Science)
Grad Cert Management



Mr Michael Allen
B Economics
Harvard Business School
Advanced Management Program



Dr Jill Duncan
PhD; M Educational Management;
M Education(D/HH)
BSc (Speech Pathology & Audiology)



Mrs Ann Porter AM
CEO
M eHealthcare;
BSc (Occupational Therapy)



Mr Bruce Porter
B Economics
Diploma of Business (Real Estate Valuation)



Mr Nicholas Watkins
Cert III Horticulture (Landscaping)

CHAIR'S REPORT

It's been another busy year for Aussie Deaf Kids (ADK). Our work of keeping parents and caregivers informed with the most relevant, and up to date information as they travel through their journey of caring and improving the lives of their kids, is one that we are extremely proud of.

ADK, works on the notion, that in this digital age, we can punch many steps above our weight, both financially and as an organisation. Through our digital initiatives, our website continues to grow and provide reliable, unbiased information that parents/caregivers can trust, while our social media, parent groups provide 'parent to parent' support and a chance to learn from each other's experience.

Technology helps us to reach out, but personal contact and relationship building is a key driver for ADK. It was pleasing to see this year, the Federal government, (in particular in relation to the NDIS), service providers, academics and other consumer organisations seek advice from ADK with many positive outcomes.

Of course, without funds ADK, could not exist. The CEO and Board are continually on the lookout for new ways of improving our financial position. We did miss out on some grant funding this year, but I am also very grateful to our generous donors, who have made a contribution to ensure ADK can continue with its work. Finances, will be an important topic at our next board retreat.

I am very grateful to our CEO, Ann Porter, who continues to lead ADK, and build on its yearly success. Words can't express how grateful the board is for Ann's leadership, dedication and hard work. Thank you, Ann.

We are fortunate to have a great spread of skills across our board members. From financial expertise, strategy, government process, skills in decision making, digital technology and life experience through their own journey with deafness. ADK's success has relied on this skill mix. This coming year we welcome a new board member, Ros Wyburn. Ros is a parent of a child with hearing loss and has much experience as a parent advocate. We are looking forward to working with Ros.

I would personally like to thank our CEO and board members for their time, skills, leadership and guidance. I look forward to continuing to work with our Board, CEO, staff and volunteers on the exciting opportunities ahead.

Stephen Pascoe
Chair, ADK

CEO'S REPORT

It is eight years since we registered Aussie Deaf Kids, which started as a grassroots online support group for parents, as a formal organisation, and to quote the Pretenders:

*"Some things change
Some stay the same."*

Some Things Change...

The most significant change has been the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Aussie Deaf Kids was an early supporter, and we have continued to advocate for children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families so that all children receive the services and support they need – irrespective of where they live, their socioeconomic status or their level of hearing loss. Our vision is for each child to thrive in a family that is knowledgeable and empowered to make informed decisions. There have been many in the sector who have worked tirelessly to ensure the NDIS meets the needs of our children and young people and the past year has seen significant progress on this front. I would like to acknowledge our principal collaborators in this regard – Parents of Deaf Children and Deafness Forum of Australia.

Some Stay The Same...

Families continue to need a community of other families who surround them and support them both emotionally and through information sharing. Our Facebook groups provide families across the country with this support. Thanks to all the parents who participate with empathy and understanding. Debates can be robust, but we attempt to maintain a supportive environment where families can learn from each other. Thank you to Bec White, who has coordinated our groups over the year, and the other parent moderators who continue to keep an eye on the groups. Their input is always much appreciated.

And families continue to need independent, balanced information to make decisions regarding many aspects of the life of their child who is deaf or hard of hearing – technology, early intervention, education and socio-emotional development. Many visitors to our website are new users but about 25 percent return again and again. We have some users who have visited the site over 100 times!

Aussie Deaf Kids continues its close association with parent groups around the world through the Global Coalition of Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (GPODHH). This year ADK provided funding for a website for this important collaboration – www.gpodhh.org. Having contact with parents around the world provides perspective of how fortunate we are in Australia.

The Future

We have commissioned some research into the needs of families regarding the NDIS and done a scoping study of the information on the Internet that is specific to children with hearing loss. In the new year, we will begin a project to provide families with information to effectively navigate the NDIS pathway and make sound decisions along the way.

Ann Porter AM
Founder and CEO

ACTIVITIES 2016-2017

Collaborations

Aussie Deaf Kids collaborates with other parent and consumer groups to represent the views of parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, including:

- Deafness Forum Australia
- Parents of Deaf Children
- Global Coalition of Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (GPODHH)

Conferences

Conference attendance and presentations to highlight the needs of families and reinforce the importance of family-centred service provision

- FCEI 2016 (Family-centred Early Intervention for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing) – Austria
- Healthy Hearing Symposium - Brisbane
- Independent Audiologist Australia Conference – Port Macquarie
- Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Conference – Melbourne
- DeafXpress - Perth

Working groups participation

- Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee
- Deafness Forum of Australia Advisory Group
- Early Childhood Intervention (Hearing Loss) Expert Reference Group (NDIA)
- “Educational Support for Students with Significant Hearing Loss: Policy, Practice and Outcomes” Research Advisory Panel
- Queensland Early Intervention Working Group (Healthy Hearing)
- Parent Focussed Research Group (National Acoustic Laboratories)

Government Submissions

- Submission to the Inquiry into Hearing Health and Wellbeing
- Submissions to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme on the Provision of Hearing Services under the NDIS

Parliamentary Inquiry attendances

- Inquiry into Hearing Health and Wellbeing
- Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Research

Scoping study – Children with Hearing Loss and the NDIS

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Revenue	<u>50,777</u>	<u>16,073</u>
	<u>50,777</u>	<u>16,073</u>
Expenses		
Administration and other expenses	(11,012)	(18,313)
Depreciation	(70)	(70)
Consultancy expenses	<u>(22,140)</u>	<u>(16,263)</u>
	<u>(33,222)</u>	<u>(34,646)</u>
Surplus (deficit) before income tax	17,555	(18,573)
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus (deficit) for the year	<u>17,555</u>	<u>(18,573)</u>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year	<u>17,555</u>	<u>(18,573)</u>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	65,346	70,770
Trade and other receivables	1,265	-
Financial assets	27,001	1
<i>Total current assets</i>	<u>93,612</u>	<u>70,771</u>
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	-	70
<i>Total non-current assets</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>70</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>93,612</u>	<u>70,841</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	-	4,375
Loan and borrowings	9,592	1
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	<u>9,592</u>	<u>4,376</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>9,592</u>	<u>4,376</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>84,020</u>	<u>66,465</u>
FUNDS		
Accumulated funds	<u>84,020</u>	<u>66,465</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>84,020</u>	<u>66,465</u>

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSSIE DEAF KIDS LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the Aussie Deaf Kids Limited which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Directors' Declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Aussie Deaf Kids Limited as at 30 June 2017 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to the Directors of the company, would be in the same terms if given to the Directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

StewartBrown

Chartered Accountants

31 October 2017



Aussie Deaf Kids aims to empower parents raising a child with hearing loss through online support, information and advocacy.

We are committed to improving the outcomes of deaf children by:

- Providing online parent-to-parent support. The support needs to be empathic, informative and supportive of the choices families make.
- Providing an independent information resource for families raising a deaf child in Australia through our website www.aussiedeafkids.org.au. The guiding principle is an intuitive website that provides comprehensive, yet parent-friendly, information from birth to the post-school period. The information should be relevant, meaningful and evidence-based to assist parents to make informed choices about raising their deaf child.
- Advocating for the rights of children who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families to receive the services and support they need to achieve their potential.
- Collaborating with parents, consumer organisations, service providers and academics to improve services and support for families.





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