



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

- To empower families raising a child with hearing loss through online support, information and systemic advocacy.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Parent-to-parent support
Provide online parent-to-parent support groups – a safe space for families to share information, seek answers to their questions, and find support
- Balanced and relevant information
Support parents to make informed decisions through providing information that meets their changing needs
- Communication with government and policy makers
Communicate with government to promote the rights of deaf and hard of hearing children and their families to receive the services and support they need to achieve their potential

Snapshot of 2018-2019



INFORM

Balanced
parent-friendly
information on our
website

SUPPORT

Parent-to-parent
support groups
through our
Facebook groups

COLLABORATE

Collaborating with
parent &
consumer groups

PARTICIPATE

Participating in
working groups and
committees *



- * Roadmap for Hearing Health
- * NDIS Community of Practice
- * Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee
- * Queensland Early Intervention Working Group (Healthy Hearing)
- * Deafness and Mental Health Advisory Groups (CYMHS Queensland)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



STEPHEN PASCOE

Chair



MICHAEL ALLEN



JILL DUNCAN



ANN PORTER AM

CEO



BRUCE PORTER



ROSLYN WYBURN

CHAIR'S REPORT

I am privileged to submit the annual Chair's Report on behalf of the board of Aussie Deaf Kids.

It has been an exciting year for ADK. We started the year off at our annual board retreat evaluating our direction, succession planning and the organisation's sustainability. One major concern was our ability to attract funds, which continued to prove elusive. I am pleased to report that early this year ADK was successful in securing a government grant to build its individual and organisational capacity. This grant allowed us to commence two projects. The first project - developing a course for parents on decision making - and the second focused on improving the organisation's ability to communicate effectively and manage its membership. ADK was able to engage two short-term contractors to help with these projects. Both projects are well underway and scheduled for completion before the middle of next year.

I recently had an opportunity to be involved in an audiological training course for New Zealand. As part of the course's development, we interviewed a parent advocate. These advocates are funded to support parents/caregivers of deaf and hearing-impaired children. They provide one-on-one support for new parents, guiding them through the often challenging decisions for their child's education, medical and emotional needs. I thought it is a great initiative. Here in Australia, we have organisations like Aussie Deaf Kids who can help parents to make informed decisions for their kids too.

Our CEO, Ann Porter continues to advocate for parents of deaf and hearing-impaired children and will represent us at the upcoming World Health Organisation conference in Geneva, on behalf of GPODHH (Global Coalition of Parents who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing). I congratulate Ann on writing the successful grant application for our recent funding. On behalf of the board, I thank Ann for her leadership and dedication throughout the year.

I would personally like to thank our CEO, staff and board members for their time, skills, leadership and guidance. I would also like to thank our Auditors, StewartBrown, Chartered Accountants for their generosity in providing auditing services to ADK in 2019.

I look forward to continuing to work with our Board, CEO, staff and volunteers in the year ahead.



Stephen Pascoe
Chair

It has been a year of re-evaluation for Aussie Deaf Kids as we look at future directions and the sustainability of the organisation. Two events have changed our traditional focus of online support and information – receiving a grant from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and the inclusion of GPODHH in the World Hearing Forum.

Aussie Deaf Kids has prided itself on delivering balanced and reliable information for parents whose child is deaf or hard of hearing since we registered as a not-for-profit organisation in 2007. The reason for this is, so families are better able to make informed decisions about different aspects of their child's life. We were, therefore, delighted to receive a grant from the NDIA to develop an online course for parents about making informed decisions. Flora Chan, who has a son with hearing loss, is managing the project for us. We are excited at how things are coming together and look forward to making it available to parents by mid-2020.

The same grant included a component for organisational capacity building, and Rachel Freeman has taken on that role for us. The miracle of the Internet – Rachel is in Tasmania, Flora in Melbourne, our web developer in Cairns, and me in Brunswick Heads. Bec White, our social media coordinator, lives in country Victoria and our board are scattered around Victoria and NSW. We have been able to collaborate and communicate seamlessly using a variety of methods and online platforms. This significantly reduces our costs and allows us to engage the right people working from the convenience of their own homes.

A large amount of my time this past year has been spent on activities related to my position as Vice-Chair of the Global Coalition of Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (GPODHH). Aussie Deaf Kids is a founding member of GPODHH - a coalition of parent-led groups from around the world committed to the principles of family-centred practice, parent-to-parent support, and the inclusion of parents as partners in services and system development, design and improvement. Each group volunteers their time to deal with GPODHH business, but the organisation itself does not have independent funding.

GPODHH has been invited to attend the World Hearing Forum (WHF) in Geneva and Aussie Deaf Kids will assist two parent leaders from low-income countries in attending the meetings and providing the parent voice when decisions about hearing health throughout the world are made at the World Health Organisation. The World Hearing Report will be published in March 2020. This is a crucial document for families with deaf and hard of hearing children, particularly in developing nations, and we want to ensure that formal and informal supports for families are included. We also hope to highlight the issue of abuse of neglect of deaf children and the importance of implementing measures to protect their safety, wellbeing and human rights to live free from abuse, harm and neglect. It has been a privilege and an inspiration to work with so many parent leaders making a difference for families in their home countries and communities.

The challenges faced by families in other parts of the world when their child is identified with hearing loss, illustrates how fortunate children and their families in Australia have been over decades. Babies are identified early and receive timely, expert and free audiology and early intervention through the National Disability Insurance Scheme. But for most families, the diagnosis of their baby's hearing loss remains a difficult period of adjusting to the new reality of a different life than they had anticipated. It can be a huge learning curve and an emotional rollercoaster. Our online parent-to-parent groups provide some of the information and emotional support that parents need through different stages of their child's life – informal support that is so important for child and family wellbeing.

I want to thank the board. Each contributes their time and expertise to assist me. Steve Pascoe – our computer expert – is pivotal to our online operation. Michael Allen and Bruce Porter – both economists who keep an eagle eye on our scarce financial resources, Jill Duncan and Ros Wyburn with their extensive knowledge and lived experience who help with submission and grant writing and provide a listening ear and sage advice. I would not be able to manage without their support. Thank you all!

Ann Porter AM
November 2019

OUR SUPPORTERS

Your support helps us
support families of children who are deaf and hard of hearing
around Australia

OUR DONORS

- R Abbott
- J Duncan
- N Etheridge
- J Forsythe
- B Foster
- K Gressey
- Mickelham Road Early Learning Centre
- Norburn Family
- K Parker
- J Platt
- D Sampson
- St Brigid's Primary School

OUR AUDITORS

- StewartBrown
Chartered Accountants



IN LIEU OF WEDDING GIFTS

- Dominic & Allyson O'Kelly

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 2019, 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 2019 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

28 October 2019

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**AS AT 30 JUNE 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	179,792	73,879
Trade and other receivables	-	1,573
Financial assets	1	1
<i>Total current assets</i>	<u>179,793</u>	<u>75,453</u>
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	-	-
<i>Total non-current assets</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>179,793</u>	<u>75,453</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	107,043	-
Borrowings	-	-
<i>Total current liabilities</i>	<u>107,043</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>107,043</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>72,750</u>	<u>75,453</u>
FUNDS		
Accumulated funds	<u>72,750</u>	<u>75,453</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>72,750</u>	<u>75,453</u>

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue	4	40,821	30,150
		<u>40,821</u>	<u>30,150</u>
Expenses			
Administration and other expenses		(24,651)	(14,020)
Consultancy expenses		(18,873)	(24,697)
		<u>(43,524)</u>	<u>(38,717)</u>
Surplus (deficit) before income tax		(2,703)	(8,567)
Income tax expense		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Surplus (deficit) for the year		<u>(2,703)</u>	<u>(8,567)</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year		<u><u>(2,703)</u></u>	<u><u>(8,567)</u></u>



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