

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The logo for Aussie Deaf Kids is displayed within a white rectangular box with a purple border. The text "aussie deaf kids" is written in a playful, multi-colored font. The word "aussie" is in red, green, purple, and orange. The word "deaf" is in purple, blue, red, and green. The word "kids" is in blue, green, purple, and orange. Two yellow smiley faces are positioned above the 'i' in "aussie" and the 'i' in "kids".

aussie deaf kids

SNAPSHOT OF 2019-2020

Inform

- Administration of website providing information for parents
- Development of online course - "Making Informed Decisions"

Support

- Provision of parent-to-parent support through our Facebook groups

Participate

Participation in working groups, committees and consultations, including

- Australasian Newborn Hearing Screening Committee
- Stakeholder Workshop - Hearing Services (Department of Social services)
- Queensland Healthy Hearing Early Intervention Working Group
- Deafness and Mental Health Advisory Group (CYMHS Queensland)
- World Hearing Forum (WHO)
- Global Coalition of Parents of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (GPODHH)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



JILL DUNCAN

Chair



MICHAEL ALLEN

Treasurer



FLORA CHAN

Joined August 2020



FIONA GRANEY

Joined August 2020



BRUCE PORTER



ROSLYN WYBURN



ANN PORTER

CEO



STEPHEN PASCOE

Resigned June 2020

Chair's Report

Dr Jill Duncan

The past 12-months have been eventful for Aussie Deaf Kids (ADK) as we continue our crusade to support parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing in Australia and globally via its involvement with the Global Coalition of Parents of Children who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (GPODHH). Aussie Deaf Kids aims to empower parents raising a child with hearing loss through online support, information and advocacy. A priority for ADK this year has been ensuring parents have the opportunity to make informed decisions. It is common knowledge that parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing are required to make a barrage of decisions in quick succession upon diagnosis of their child's hearing loss. These decisions can have a lifetime influence on the child and family. If you have not done so, I encourage you to enrol in ADK's online course, "Making Informed Decisions".

Ann Porter, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of ADK, is a tireless advocate for all parents of deaf and hard of hearing children. Ann's contribution to ADK is beyond measure. It would be impossible to quantify the numerous emails, phone calls, meetings and hours of advocacy Ann dedicates to Aussie Deaf Kids in her role as CEO. Ann has an abiding commitment to ADK and parents of deaf children, a deep understanding of hearing loss, and high-level advocacy skills. The Board is grateful to Ann for all she does on behalf of ADK and parents of children with hearing loss more generally.

I acknowledge the outstanding contribution of ADK's Board. The Board has a strong governance oversight commitment, ensuring that it meets its Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission regulatory requirements in every aspect of its operation. Along with general Board duties, Bruce Porter and Mike Allen ensure ADK's financial reporting is accurate and timely. Roslyn Wyburn performs general Board duties with specific expertise in the National Disability Insurance Scheme. In addition to her CEO role, Ann Porter also serves as the Company Secretary.

This year ADK welcomed two new Board members, Fiona Graney and Flora Chan, and farewelled our Board Chair, Mr Steve Pascoe. ADK acknowledges Steve's faithful commitment to Australian deaf children. Steve joined the Board of ADK on 6 November 2013 and became Board Chair on 19 November 2014. The Board also recognises Steve's wife, Kirsty Gardner-Berry in her behind the scenes support. Thank you, Steve and Kirsty. Although no longer formally associated with ADK, we hope you will continue to be friends of ADK as we endeavour to fulfil our mission.

Bec White's contribution to ADK in her role as social media outreach is also valued. If you have not done so, please join ADK's Facebook pages. Bec will soon be taking on full responsibility for ADK's monthly newsletter. I also acknowledge Flora Chan's outstanding and highly professional contribution to ADK's course "Making Informed Decisions".

Finally, ADK is grateful to the National Disability Insurance Agency for its two Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Grants. These two grants are described in the CEO report. Both grants help to strengthen ADK's reach across Australia as we endeavour to empower parents raising a child with hearing loss through online support, information and advocacy.

CEO'S REPORT

Ann Porter AM

This time last year, some words were simply not in my lexicon but have pervaded the whole year – pandemic, coronavirus, COVID-19, lockdown, isolation, PPE, Zoom, Teams. We have all had an enormous learning curve this year. None more so than those new mums and dads who celebrated the birth of a baby and found themselves with another new reality and vocabulary – audiogram, deaf, auditory pathway, CMV, early intervention, Hearing Australia, NDIS. I can only imagine how daunting and difficult this was when the supports and friendships that normally surround a family at this time were only possible through their computers and phones. Parents with school-aged children also confronted a new reality – home-schooling over a medium that is often inaccessible to children with hearing loss. Parents became innovators and technical experts and teachers.

As George Burnham said:

*"I can't do it" never accomplished anything:
"I will try" has performed wonders.*

Congratulations one and all. You have performed wonders!

We were fortunate to receive two Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Grants (ILC) from the National Disability Insurance Agency over the past eighteen months which has enabled us to undertake projects that would not be possible otherwise.

Flora Chan joined our team to manage one of the projects – a course on Making Informed Decisions – designed for parents, people with disability and the professionals supporting them. I have had a long-term interest in parental decision-making. Research from around the world consistently indicates that parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing felt they did not have all the information they needed at the time they were making decisions about issues such as communication and education. The genesis of the Aussie Deaf Kids website was to provide parents with quality information within the Australian context to help them make more informed decisions. The funding provided through the ILC grant helped us develop a course that does not tell parents how to make specific decisions but signposts the steps along the decision-making pathway and explores each stage of the process. A logical and balanced decision-making process is more likely to lead to achieving the goals and dreams parents have for their children. Why don't you register and explore more about decision-making? You might find yourself on a whole new adventure.

We also received an ILC grant to place our online support groups on a more sustainable footing, and Bec White has taken on the additional responsibilities of a new and expanded role. Our groups did show the different concerns faced by parents this year and Facebook posts and our website traffic have been slightly down.

I spend much of my time in virtual meetings participating in working groups and committees. There is increasing recognition of the importance of the consumer voice when decisions are being made that will have a direct bearing on their lives, and I have been fortunate to participate in many consultations. The interaction with professional colleagues and fellow parents is an enriching and constructive experience, and I appreciate each opportunity.

CEO'S REPORT (CONT)

It was sad to say farewell to our past-Chair Steve Pascoe in June. He had been on the board for almost 7 years and I thoroughly appreciated the close working relationship with him as Chair. We plan to formally acknowledge his contribution at a dinner before our AGM.

I want to acknowledge the other Board members who all play a key role in our team. Each has their area of expertise and willingly give their time to support ADK. Thank you to my friend and mentor, Jill Duncan, who has taken over as Chair. I look forward to working with her and our two new board members over the coming years. Flora Chan and Fiona Graney both bring valuable professional skills and life experience to the board.

I love this quote from Leo Buscaglia

*'What does it matter that we've taught this girl to read and write and spell,
and to do all the things that we think are essential,
if no one along the line taught her the sacredness of being alive and
taught her the dignity and the wonder of her own personal self worth?'*

If ever there was a year to celebrate the sacredness of being alive and the wonder of our own self-worth, it has been this one.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our generous supporters who help Aussie Deaf Kids provide information and support to families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing across Australia.

OUR DONORS

R. Abbott
S. Annisa
Anon
Australia Post
P. Coates
J. Duncan
J. Olcayto & Friends
C. Palmer
PayPal Giving Fund
B. Porter

PRO BONO SUPPORT

OUR AUDITORS

StewartBrown
Chartered Accountants

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Flora Chan
The parents, friends and colleagues
who provided feedback on the course

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	108,844	179,792
Financial assets	6	1	1
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>108,845</u>	<u>179,793</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>108,845</u>	<u>179,793</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	50,282	107,043
<i>Total current liabilities</i>		<u>50,282</u>	<u>107,043</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>50,282</u>	<u>107,043</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>58,563</u>	<u>72,750</u>
FUNDS			
Accumulated funds		<u>58,563</u>	<u>72,750</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>58,563</u>	<u>72,750</u>

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue	4	117,602	40,821
		<u>117,602</u>	<u>40,821</u>
Expenses			
Administration and other expenses		(10,907)	(24,651)
Consultancy expenses		<u>(120,882)</u>	<u>(18,873)</u>
		<u>(131,789)</u>	<u>(43,524)</u>
Deficit before income tax		<u>(14,187)</u>	<u>(2,703)</u>
Income tax expense		-	-
Deficit for the year		<u>(14,187)</u>	<u>(2,703)</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year		<u>(14,187)</u>	<u>(2,703)</u>

AUSSIE DEAF KIDS LIMITED

ABN: 39 127 705 793

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 231 Brunswick Heads NSW 2483

EMAIL ADDRESS

info@aussiedeafkids.org.au

WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.aussiedeafkids.org.au

