

Kids+

KIDS PLUS FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2020

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

As with many organisations, and the community more broadly, the impact of the Coronavirus during 2020 had many implications for Kids Plus, our team, participants, and their families. As we emerge from a year of disruption, it is pleasing that Kids Plus remains a robust and resilient organisation, one which has indeed been strengthened by the experience.

In a year of change, we learned or were reminded of several things. It was evident that added complexities on family life, such as home-schooling, potential job losses, and associated financial pressures, or social isolation, significantly impact a family's ability to engage with service providers and service provision. To this end, social support for our families during the pandemic became as important as therapeutic support. We learned that workplace flexibility, including extended working from home provisions, can enhance work-life balance provided sufficient supports are in place. We introduced new methods of service delivery. Technology can, for the most part, be a great enabler, so long as it is underpinned with an appreciation that it is not a panacea. Adopting telehealth, we did so knowing that it would only be the best fit for some of our families for some of the time. Operationally, decisive decision-making, precise planning, good communication, and sound financial management became particularly important.

Above all, our actions throughout 2020 were most influenced by adhering to the relatively simple strategy of doing the best we could, with the resources we had available, within the limits of what was socially permissible, to maintain service delivery. It is a credit to the team and the families we work with and for, that Kids Plus can be proud of how we responded and our subsequent efforts.

It is also worth noting that 2020 marked the final year in our 2016-2020 strategic plan. The pace of change and development over the period was significant. We built capacity, added new programs, formed partnerships, created a new Centre from which to base our operations, and ensured Kids Plus has a strong and sustainable financial and operating model. A new strategic plan offers the opportunity to reset our priorities. Since its inception, Kids Plus' circle of influence has, for the most part, been limited to our local community. Ongoing organisational development and expansion provide the opportunity for us to lift our gaze and see where else we might make a mark. Over the coming five-year period, we intend to extend our reach and influence via an extended therapy program and greater involvement in research, professional development training, and broader community engagement. We are optimistic and energised about what's ahead.

Paul Hulett
Chair

Shaun Cannon
Chief Executive



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KIDS PLUS STORIES

Kids Plus Staff Reflection – Jenna O'Brien

Witnessing a young person tell his parents for the first time that he loves them with his new communication device, or seeing a young person communicating more confidently than they have before are what comes to mind when I reflect on nearly 4 years of work as a speech pathologist at Kids Plus. I get to be a part of our young people and their family's special moments; to play a role in informing and influencing a young person's social world, to change attitudes so that those around them can presume in their potential; to share these experiences and support our participants to achieve their goals and live a more self-determined life is an overwhelming privilege.

Our passionate and dynamic team at Kids Plus continues to evolve our therapeutic and training services based on evidence, experience, and participant needs. As a team member, this makes Kids Plus an exciting, innovative and dynamic environment to work in. 2020 was a great example of this, our team's ability to adapt to telehealth during the pandemic speaks to the shared desire and dedication for learning and commitment to our families, as does the development of our new AACConnect™ program that supports connection for our parents and siblings of our young people who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). At Kids Plus, these trainings speak to our big focus on developing our young people and their family's skills and abilities, but it is also about advocacy and enforcing wider movement for social change to empower individuals with disabilities, and that is an amazing thing to be a part of.



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KIDS PLUS STORIES

Kids Plus Staff Reflection – Aimee Moon

It surprised me to realise as I write this that I will soon be in my 4th year of working at the Kids Plus Foundation. It speaks for itself that my time here has seemed to pass so quickly - that is the power of having a varied and immersing work environment.

I love working at Kids Plus because of both our families and the incredible team that we have. There is such a vast range of experience and expertise across our team and speciality areas. Every member of the Kids Plus therapy team brings compassion and dedication to their work, and a willingness to share their knowledge with others. I enjoy that the therapists at Kids Plus works closely across disciplines to ensure that we've considered every aspect of how a child will move, communicate, and perform steps within any specific task. Whether that is a speechie jumping into a hydrotherapy session to support communication in a challenging environment; incorporating learning prepositions whilst working on jumping skills or a physio knowing the steps that a child is working on to take off their jumper, to be ready for a functional opportunity to practice midway through a physical session. The collaboration amongst all members of the team, alongside families, makes for functional, motivating and rewarding goals. Then there is the value of having an incredibly resourceful support coordination team onsite, whose contributions to our families capacity and engagement adds so much value to what Kids Plus can offer. The teamwork continues right through to admin staff helping a family sort out conflicting schedules and knowing which client needs a certain space. There is a true sense at Kids Plus of working as a team to support a family with achieving their goals.

But the most valuable component that makes the Kids Plus Foundation the community that it is are our incredible, resilient, and dedicated families. Our work is so rewarding because of how closely we work with our families and share in both their successes and their struggles. I love when I get in on a Monday and a family will have sent me a video of their child working hard on a home-made obstacle course over the weekend or to return from a holiday with the news that they rode their adaptive tricycle all the way around the base of Uluru. I feel that our families truly want to include us in celebrating their child's progress, and that is such an absolute privilege to be a part of.

I have immensely enjoyed working alongside our families and team over the past three years and having the opportunity to learn from them, both professionally and personally. I am looking forward to continuing to learn from, share in and celebrate with the Kids Plus community.



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KIDS PLUS STORIES

Kids Plus Family Reflection - Amelia Abouzeid (mum to Zeke)

Ezekiel's pregnancy was pretty straight forward. We were so excited! Our first BOY after three girls! Apart from having hyperemesis and gestational diabetes, everything was good! Zeke was born super fast, induced at 37 weeks due to decreased movement zeke was born in 1.5 hours. The birth itself was great, no trauma, and no intervention so all looked good apart from a very swollen and bruised head from being born so fast! And a funny hair tuft midline on his head. On day three of life the midwife noticed he was acting a bit funny, he was very stiff all of a sudden and then became super distressed. The doctor was called and we discussed that Zeke may have had a seizure. After some blood tests it was assumed that it wasn't and everything was okay.

When we got home we started noticing some things that Zeke was doing that his three older sisters never did. Why was our baby crying like that all the time? It was so high pitched. He was never happy. Ever. He was hard to feed, and one side of his body was spasming and trembling. I mentioned it to some of our healthcare professionals who proceeded to explain that it was probably anxiety and he was okay. But something didn't sit right with us. We knew something wasn't right. Then Zeke was admitted to hospital for a perianal abscess. It was during his post op appointment that the surgeon agreed something wasn't right with our sweet boy. So we went down stairs to emergency. Within the next few hours we had neurology, metabolics, genetics, ophthalmology, gen med and an MRI. I instantly knew something was actually wrong when the neurologist came in and asked if I would like a social worker to come in with them when they come to chat. As it was during lockdown, my husband wasn't allowed in the hospital. Later that night a group of neurologists walked in and told us that they were extremely concerned about Zeke and he has some serious neurological abnormalities. We were in shock. How was this happening? What did this mean? They listed off a bunch of things but I couldn't hear them. Not really. I was just looking at my amazingly imperfectly perfect baby. And all I could think was "he's got this. We've got this. Look at him. He's Zeke." And realised that moment changed everything. And nothing.

After that there was a lot of medical follow up, but that was it. No emotional support, and no guidance. Until Kids+. Once we were hooked in (and that happened fast!) And we were introduced to a whole new world. A world where everything was suddenly clear, calm, and where you could just concentrate on helping your child be the best they can be at their capacity. When the tough conversations happen, they happen with so much love and understanding that it takes the sting out. All of Zeke's amazing team at kids+ have gone above and beyond for him. And I can see the amazing benefits of early intervention, watching your child achieve a goal is so incredible. And having knowledgeable, kind, passionate people alongside these kids? Watch out! They are raising a whole new generation of people who will take the world by storm! We as a family feel so blessed, and so thankful to be apart of the kids+ family.



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Kids Plus Family Reflection - Juliette Kotarac

When our beautiful girl we call Juju was around 6 months old, she began to develop some repetitive, uncontrolled head nodding movements, along with other symptoms, that made us worried about her health and development.

She was soon diagnosed with West Syndrome, a condition characterised by frequent seizures and very often, intellectual disability and autism.

It was quickly apparent that Juliette was not meeting her developmental milestones and our Paediatrician referred us to Kids Plus. Sarah Foley visited our home soon afterwards and we knew that Juliette was quite literally in the best of hands. As a family, we felt so grateful that Geelong had a foundation that offered babies with neurodevelopmental disorders early intervention support with little to no wait time. Between caring for an unwell child with a harsh medication regime and many appointments, therapy was something we looked forward to each week, a chance for achievements to be celebrated and new ideas to be explored.

When I think about the support Kids Plus has provided Juliette and our family over the years, it is rather incredible. Everything from physiotherapy and speech therapy to specialised training for us as parents, not to mention equipment trials and helping us navigate many challenges along the way.

Juju, now 8 years old is currently focussing on learning how to use an AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) device with the support of her passionate Speech Pathologist Jenna O'Brien. Jenna has played a huge role in educating and engaging our family and Juju's broader support network in AAC.

It is pretty special when Juliette can indicate at times what she wants or how she's feeling. Behind her cheeky smile we know she has a lot to say. We are so thankful for the continued support of the Kids Plus team!



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KIDS PLUS FOUNDATION

ABN 83 105 087 518

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Revenue	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Events and Sales		77,080	153,974
Funding		3,402,138	2,512,185
Gifts and Donation Revenue		299,468	768,942
Other Revenues		491,879	24,861
Services		7	16,794
Training		-	4,999
Total Revenue From Operating Activities		4,270,572	3,481,755
Expenses			
Administration Expenses		-863,232	-679,122
Depreciation Expense		-102,884	-30,351
Employee Leave Expense		-76,394	-74,457
Marketing and Fundraising Expenses		-36,417	-37,746
Therapy Projects Expense		-1,661,769	-1,297,033
Other Expenses From Continuing Operations		-1,790	-1,682
Total Expenses		-2,742,486	-2,120,391
Net Result For The Year		1,528,086	1,361,364
Income Tax Expense	1a	-	-
Comprehensive result for the Year		1,528,086	1,361,364



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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	2,815,555	1,005,262
Receivables	3	97,906	136,174
Total Current Assets		2,913,461	1,141,436
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	4	2,901,871	2,970,672
Total Non-Current Assets		2,901,871	2,970,672
Total Assets		5,815,332	4,112,108
Current Liabilities			
Annual Leave Accrual		162,332	79,953
Long Service Leave Accrual		56,104	54,335
Other Payables	5	206,097	107,353
Total Current Liabilities		424,533	241,641
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Service Leave Accrual		39,068	46,822
Total Non-Current Liabilities		39,068	46,822
Total Liabilities		463,601	288,463
Net Assets		5,351,731	3,823,645
Equity			
Retained Profits		5,351,731	3,823,645
Total Equity		5,351,731	3,823,645

