

Kids+
WHEN EXPERTISE MATTERS



Annual Report 2022

Annual Report 2022



Message from the Chair and CEO

The focus at Kids+ is increasingly less on what we do and more on why we do it. While the ‘what,’ the broad range of physical therapy services, the business operations, the balance sheet, policies, procedures, and so on remain fundamentally necessary, they are not at Kids+’s core. The essence of Kids+ is to be found in the families and young people we support, the members of the team that present each day with care, commitment, and skill, and the broader community who engage in our work.

The shift underway as we evolve organisationally is a greater focus on the participation and inclusion-based goals and aspirations we hope to achieve for the young people attending Kids+, and how we can best achieve them through our allied health-based skills and supports and organisational strengths.

Physical therapy should be a means to an end. There must be a goal in mind, and ideally, one which families and young people create. Improving pronunciation or increasing vocabulary may be redundant if few opportunities exist to communicate with others. The importance of enhancing mobility may be reduced if there is nowhere or no one to play with. A focus on increasing function for function’s sake may be misguided if it is not geared towards increasing opportunities for fun, fitness, friends, and family engagement.



Kids+ has four pillars of engagement:

- **Therapy** – *be your best*
- **Training** – *share the best*
- **Research** – *find the best*
- **Community** – *it's for the best*

To this end, we can reduce Kids+ strategic direction to 13 words! We are convinced, though, that we are heading in the right direction. In the year that passed, we expanded our capacity to provide therapy support to an increasing number of participants spanning individual, group, tele, home, community, and centre-based appointments. We delivered a range of professional development training programs for external allied health professionals aimed at informing and influencing their work-based practices. We appointed our inaugural research fellow, a joint appointment with Deakin University, and began building the foundations for our long-term participant led research agenda. And increasingly, we are looking outwards rather than inwards to see where Kids+ can make additional gains. To shift and shape community attitudes, greater engagement in the broader community is becoming increasingly important to us. We know that when we all work together, it will be for the best.

An example of this was the 2022 Kite Festival. A joyous day, with no barriers to participation or spotlights on difference. A day of simply being. Kids+, together for better.

Paul Hulett
Chair

Shaun Cannon
Chief Executive

Annual Report 2022



KIDS+ STORIES

Kids+ Family Reflection 'The Anderson Family'

Since Elias was born prematurely, weighing 498grams and with complex medical needs, our family has learned some important lessons in life planning. Firstly, expect the unexpected. Be nimble and responsive as situations can change in a moment. Listen to your gut while surrounding yourself with experts you trust. Secondly, as you juggle the choices of the moment, plan the long game. Learn to go slowly and persevere. Steps forward will be gradual but even more rewarding. Don't give up on your dreams and again, surround yourself with experts you trust.

Our move to the Bellarine falls into the second category. It's taken several years to create Elias' dream home. We needed to develop new support systems, find fun and meaningful activities for Elias, build the Taj Mahal of accessible bathrooms, and skill him up for life as a young adult. The team at Kids+ have been instrumental in helping us to achieve these goals.

For Elias to be as independent as possible he needs a robust communication system. It delights us beyond measure to see him now using his AAC device to indicate his needs and tell his favourite knock-knock jokes. We are focussing on building his physical strength and maintaining abilities such as standing transfers. These are skills which sometimes diminish into adulthood and it's a good reminder that not going backwards is actually a big leap forward. If you've seen Elias at frame-running or seated ball sports you'll know how well he is building his capabilities. As for fun and meaningful, look no further than the smile on his face during the January surf intensive. It was matched only by the beams of his adult siblings who are just as excited to see him truly finding his place in the world.

It would be fair to say we had approached Elias' post-specialist school transition with some dread. Moving into the unknown is scary. Fortunately the reality has been anything but. Elias is strong, happy, surrounded by people who are genuine in their care for him. Our whole family is enjoying a new stage in life, a new community, new reasons to celebrate. And our new bathroom is AWESOME (thanks, Miranda).

Annual Report 2022



KIDS+ STORIES

Kids+ Family Reflection 'McNamara Family'

Archie is five years old and has been receiving supports including physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy from Kids+ since he was about 6 months. With open arms Archie was provided with therapy services well before accessing his NDIS plan. Kids+ helped us navigate the whole NDIS application process.

Kids+ have been an integral part of our lives and have helped us through various stages of progress and regression over the years. They have been there to support Archie physically and our family emotionally through the ups and downs of diagnosis, feeding, seizures, plan reviews, equipment trials, Kinder and School transition and LOTS of reports. Although his team excel in their roles as therapists, they offer so much more personally offering extra programs for siblings and parents outside of therapy. We would be lost without the support and care they have shown Archie and our family.

Annual Report 2022



KIDS+ STORIES

Kids+ Staff Reflection Lisa Clarke

Practice Manager

Throughout my 35 years in the workforce, I have held many different roles, such as a registered nurse, construction company general manager, and disability support worker. However, none have been as rewarding as my role as practice manager at Kids+, a position I started six months ago.

I have the great pleasure of meeting our Kids+ families either in person at the front desk or liaising over the phone. I have heard the worry in a parent/carer voice as they try to navigate their new normal – self-referring searching for help and answers with the hope that someone can assist. Hoping there isn't a waitlist and that soon their child can access services.

At Kid+, from the get-go, the team at Kids+ and the family feel on the same page. We work together to get the best outcome so that each young person we support can work towards any possible outcome they might hope to achieve. The sky is the limit. Every journey is unique, and we celebrate every single step. Integration with schools, kindergartens, and the broader community is fundamental to the approach I see Kids+ taking.

Families have often expressed wanting to do things together to give their child the best opportunity to thrive. The dedicated team at Kids+ does more than that; I am so proud to work alongside them.

Annual Report 2022



KIDS+ STORIES

Kids+ Staff Reflection Becky Glover

Occupational Therapist

Having worked at Kids+ for several years, I feel like an ‘old girl on the block’.

I joined Kids Plus in 2015. My journey to Kids+ has been an interesting one. I emigrated to Australia in 2011 from the UK. I worked for the Victorian Education Department in the early intervention service “Specialist Children Services”. I first encountered Sarah Foley and the small team at Kids+, providing therapy services and support to a range of children who also received early intervention through the Victorian-funded service. Sarah, at this time, was providing additional therapy services to children with neurological conditions with philanthropic funding on top of their fortnightly therapy session that I could provide as part of the education block funding.

I joined Sarah’s sessions with a couple of families I was working with to liaise and link in to ensure I supported this work and that we were all singing from the same page. My initial impression at the time was how fortunate some of these families were to receive these additional but essential therapy supports. I decided I wanted to work for Kids+ and would see what openings were available. At this time, Kids+ looked very different, with a small team I considered experts in their field. I wondered how I was going to get in the door!

In 2012 the NDIS came into being, and I spent some time working as a NDIS planner. I soon realised, though, that the pull of working directly with families was more my thing, and I returned to my work as an occupational therapist. In 2014 I had a phone call from Sarah encouraging me to consider undertaking Bobath training and a role at Kids+. I jumped at the chance and haven’t looked back. The additional training stretched my thinking and learning. Sometimes I felt like I was back to being a new graduate 30 years ago! That training provided me with a new therapy lens, supported my clinical reasoning, and influenced my practice.

Reflecting on how things have changed at Kids+ since I started has been interesting. Kid+ continues to evolve and adapt. My highlights over the last year include involvement with the “wheely fun” program, which encourages early adoption of powered mobility for infants and young children, and the first Kids+ ski camp at Falls Creek. The ski camp was a wonderful experience for families, encouraging participation, partnerships, overcoming challenges, and fun.

Kids+ continues to push the boundaries so children can be their best. There are challenges along the way, but together as a community, we can work through these. I have loved being able to play a small part in this. Supporting staff to challenge their thinking, grow their clinical skills, and build our multidisciplinary team has also been a privilege. I would never have imagined the small team I encountered at Kids+ 12 years ago could have made such significant changes. I hope that in the years that follow Kids+ will continue to push the boundaries of what is possible together.

Annual Report 2022

KIDS PLUS FOUNDATION

ABN 83 105 087 518

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Revenue	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Events and Sales		145,618	129,680
Funding		3,051,036	3,101,199
Gifts and Donation Revenue		776,864	456,480
Other Revenues		(29,023)	192,184
Services		38	1,174
Training		63,659	41,945
Total Revenue From Operating Activities		4,008,192	3,922,662
Expenses			
Administration Expenses		(1,352,401)	(1,187,998)
Depreciation Expense		(25,656)	(26,957)
Employee Leave Expense		(123,705)	(19,999)
Marketing and Fundraising Expenses		(32,728)	(70,299)
Therapy Projects Expense		(2,570,438)	(2,152,734)
Other Expenses From Continuing Operations		(21,088)	(43,812)
Total Expenses		(4,126,016)	(3,501,799)
Net Result For The Year		(117,824)	420,863
Income Tax Expense	1a	-	-
Comprehensive result for the Year		(117,824)	420,863

Annual Report 2022

KIDS PLUS FOUNDATION

ABN 83 105 087 518

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	1,186,927	1,997,985
Receivables	3	132,540	120,085
Financial Instruments	4	2,094,645	1,241,645
Total Current Assets		3,414,112	2,913,461
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	5	2,866,000	2,879,863
Total Non-Current Assets		2,866,000	2,879,863
Total Assets		6,280,112	6,239,578
Current Liabilities			
Accrued Wages		119,918	-
Annual Leave Accrual		268,067	182,265
Long Service Leave Accrual		49,174	48,195
Other Payables	6	146,382	189,481
Total Current Liabilities		583,541	419,941
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Service Leave Accrual		41,802	47,043
Total Non-Current Liabilities		41,802	47,043
Total Liabilities		625,342	466,984
Net Assets		5,654,770	5,772,594
Equity			
Retained Profits		5,654,770	5,772,594
Total Equity		5,654,770	5,772,594