

Annual Report 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Kids Plus Foundation Board I am pleased to report that our year to 31 December 2015 saw a very encouraging improvement both in financial sustainability and the number of families cared for.

At our 2014 Annual General Meeting we farewelled directors Bob Morgan and Jennifer Hocking, each of whom made a significant and lasting contribution to the Foundation. During the year we welcomed directors Dr Sharon Hakkennes, Mr John Bolitho and Mr Marcus Rodda who individually and collectively bring formidable skill and knowledge to the Foundation. At that Annual General Meeting, the Foundation's constitution was amended to enable us to treat young people up to the age of twenty five, which, together with the Baby Kids Plus Early Intervention program allows the Foundation to provide continuous and evolving treatment up to the point where adult requirements call for other more suitable programs and services. In the course of the 2015 year, the Board was keen to conduct a robust and thorough examination of our strategic imperatives with a view to developing a longer term picture of our direction and aspirations. That work continued throughout the year, culminating in an intensive session in late 2015, which enabled the Board to draw together the principal drivers of our future and to articulate a plan to achieve our goals. That plan has been agreed by the Board and is in effect at the time of this report.

As part of our strategic review, we took into account the rapidly changing environment in which the Foundation operates, with the National Disability Insurance Scheme about to extend its Victorian operation beyond the Barwon Region. Further, local service providers have experienced various pressures to enhance their own operations and contemplate mergers and partnerships to ensure that the demands of the new scheme on management and therapist time is optimised. Our strategic plan allows us to pursue those goals with clear clinical and business expectations. The Kids+ Board has been alert to opportunities to partner with suitable entities as a means of delivering our unique model of care to a larger group of families and eventually in more locations. Discussions were held during 2015 with various parties to explore options for collaboration and partnership, albeit with no specific arrangements in prospect.

In late 2014, we were able to secure the services of Shaun Cannon as Chief Executive Officer, under whose leadership and management the organisation has made excellent progress, not least by enhancing financial sustainability and improved practice management. A highlight of the year was achievement of certification as a DHS and ISO 9001 compliant organisation, for which the Board acknowledges our staff's considerable work in addition to normal operations. In conclusion, the outcomes of 2015 have shown an encouraging increase in the number of families we care for, enhancement of our delivery of care and a welcome and significant improvement in our ongoing financial position, with a surplus for the year of \$107,645. To all our staff and supporters, the Board expresses its appreciation of your commitment and continued service to our families as we set out to go further and do even better for the babies and children and their families who benefit from our collective effort.

B J Mithen
on behalf of
Kids Plus Foundation Board



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The families who access our programs are dedicated to ensuring that their children receive the best supports available. Our therapists and support staff are deeply committed and experts in their field. The local Geelong community, along with a number of philanthropic foundations, generously support our fundraising activities and initiatives. The National Disability Insurance Scheme provides community linking and individualised support for people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers. The NDIS is a transformative development for the disability sector and the broader community. There is now the possibility of delivering individualised services at the required level and duration. With such collective support behind us, it is not surprising that Kids Plus not only delivers a world-class therapy program, but in addition, is such an inspiring place to work.

Our uncompromising commitment to the individuals and families we work with is to respond to their ever changing needs according to the latest therapeutic, research, technological and funding practices and opportunities. In addition, we remain focussed on growing capacity and being a robust and financially secure organisation. Kids Plus made significant progress in each of these areas during the course of the year.

Kids Plus remains committed to providing specialist screening and intervention support programs to babies, children and young adults with cerebral palsy and complex neurological developmental conditions and movement disorders. However, we are increasingly seeing a broader range of babies and children presenting with symptoms related to prematurity, developmental co-ordination disorder, sensory processing disorder, foetal alcohol spectrum disorder and other impairments. Whilst historically these children have not been Kids Plus' primary client group, we have the required capabilities to provide much needed support and guidance to these children and their families. Thus, in circumstance whereby we believe we are best placed to provide support, we will endeavour to do so.

Kids Plus enjoyed a year in which we can be proud of our achievements. Through the skilled and enthusiastic efforts of the Board, our staff and volunteers, donors and community partners, Kids Plus continues to make a meaningful and positive impact in the lives of the babies, children and young adults who access our therapy program. And that, first and foremost, is what we are all about. The environment we operate within continues to evolve, more so now than in the past given the introduction and expansion of the NDIS. Opportunities will continue to emerge and be created. At Kids Plus, we are excited about the possibilities ahead.

Shaun Cannon
Chief Executive Officer



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MESSAGE FROM OUR FAMILIES

GRACE'S STORY: *Our beautiful Gracie Girl was eager to enter this world when I went in to early labour at 26 weeks, fortunately with the right medication and a few lights and sirens from the ambulance I was rushed to the Royal Women's Hospital where I leisurely (not) stayed on my back for 6 weeks before our precious girl would be delivered at 32 weeks. It was a no fuss labour, crying immediately and only requiring CPAP for 24 hours. Every day in hospital our girl was kicking goals and after four weeks was discharged with no medical problems.*

After a brilliant two weeks at home things started to unravel. Grace started to refuse my milk and was gagging, screaming day and night, and would go stiff as a board (Paul would call her his little planker). When she wasn't planking Gracie would be overly relaxed and seemed to have no control over her neck muscles causing her head to flop around. We initially put it down to being a premature baby.

Over the following four months we had several visits to our paediatrician which came to no avail until a new prescription formula was recommended. This eased her pain but now we as parents had forgotten how to settle our baby. Under the guidance of a sleep nanny we finally found a technique to soothe our girl.

At around six months of age Paul and I were watching a documentary on TV discussing cerebral palsy, and a beautiful little baby appeared on the screen and her mother describing her daughters' behaviour, at that point our hearts just sank, we just knew that was our girl.

After receiving the worst case scenarios we were completely devastated and our whole life as we knew it changed in an instant. Gracie has been diagnosed with severe spastic quadriplegia. Her MRI also showed that she has an undeveloped brain with little to no myelination. Only one percent of the population can function normally with this brain abnormality but at this point Gracie Girl is fitting into that small percentage.

Gracie has complex needs but through the remarkable help, empathy and knowledge, the team at kids plus are helping her (and us) beyond our wildest imaginations. Our girl came to Kids Plus as a rag doll and now has vastly improved her core strength and is able to sit for small portions of time unaided. Her ability to communicate has improved remarkable with her now saying words, pointing, and communicating through the use of eye communication book. She is also taking steps aided, up to 31 steps in a row recently.

Clearly with their outstanding experience the Kids Plus Team have provided vital equipment to help Gracie feel independent whilst working on her weaknesses. No doubt some of you have heard her screams throughout her sessions but we get through them and then she will do something amazing and gives us a cheeky but very knowing look!

We are truly blessed to have a foundation that has all the therapies under one roof, staff who have a true passion for what they do – from the CEO, therapists and administration staff, it is a one in a million place to attend who will continually guide us along this tough journey. We are forever grateful. Thank you Kids Plus.

Rebecca, Paul and family



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MESSAGE FROM OUR FAMILIES

TULLI'S STORY: *Tulli is a happy and cheeky four year old girl who was born with a number of complex medical conditions, some of which are yet to be diagnosed. These conditions affect Tulli and her ability to move, eat, speak and communicate.*

At 4 weeks of age we learnt that our gorgeous girl was going to face some big hurdles in life and a range of medical procedures confirmed this.

Tulli is living with a rare heart condition and parts of her brain are under developed. She also has epilepsy and receives all her nutrition through a peg that goes straight into her stomach.

When Tulli was 9 months old we started receiving weekly therapy sessions of Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Physiotherapy through Kids Plus. These sessions focused on supporting Tulli with her movement, strength and communication, along with a number of other daily activities.

Over the years we have celebrated some pretty amazing milestones for Tulli. These include rolling over, holding her head up, holding an object in her hand, taking a step in a supported walking frame and going for a ride on a supported trike with help from mummy and daddy. These special moments would not have been possible had it not been for The Kids Plus Foundation and their constant support and understanding.

One of the most proud moments in our 3 years of receiving therapy from Kids Plus was when Tulli started to communicate with the use of her communication book. Tulli was able to communicate "yes" and "no" to tell us what she wanted. This communication book is made up of a number of pictures that make it easier for us to understand what Tulli wants. With practice and persistence Tulli continues to improve, increasing her ability to communicate how she feels and what she would like to do.

We are in awe of Tulli's determination and she is constantly trying her hardest to learn skills that for others come a lot easier.

The team of therapists at Kids Plus have not only supported Tulli and her ongoing development, but have also supported Trav and me immensely. Their continuous support for Tulli and our family has not gone unnoticed and we appreciate everything they do to for our gorgeous girl and for us. They have taught us to embrace Tulli's differences and to understand that the range of equipment, including Tulli's new wheelchair, is there to assist Tulli, and to make our life easier to get our Tulli girl around and into the community, just like everyone else

We have formed a strong relationship with Kids Plus and we will be forever grateful for having such a loving and dedicated team of people to support Tulli and us as a family.

Thank you for all your hard work!

Rebecca, Travis and family



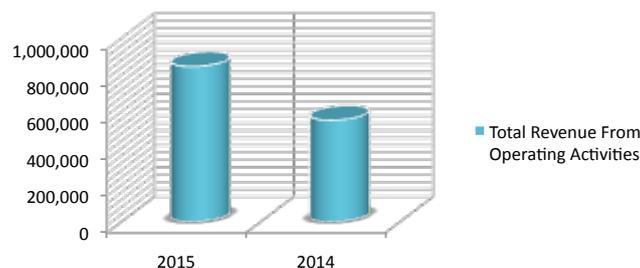
KIDS PLUS FOUNDATION

ABN 83 105 087 518

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

Revenue	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Events and Sales		44,653	23,262
Funding		406,587	163,688
Gifts and Donation Revenue		379,475	344,156
Other Revenues		8,139	23,049
Services		8,199	-
Total Revenue From Operating Activities		847,053	554,155
Expenses			
Administration Expenses		-300,389	-113,340
Depreciation Expense		-14,791	-12,527
Marketing and Fundraising Expenses		-35,639	-27,727
Therapy Projects Expense		-388,337	-491,331
Other Expenses From Continuing Operations		-252	-244
Net Result For The Year			
Income Tax Expense	1a	107,645	-91,014
Comprehensive result for the Year		107,645	-91,014

**Total Revenue From Operating
Activities 2014-15**



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KIDS PLUS FOUNDATION

ABN 83 105 087 518

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	444,075	368,247
Receivables	3	9,226	6,082
Total Current Assets		453,301	374,329
Non-Current Assets			
Plant & Equipment	4	68,274	68,274
Total Non-Current Assets		68,274	36,176
Total Assets		521,575	410,505
Current Liabilities			
Other Payables	5	24,912	21,487
Total Current Liabilities		24,912	21,487
Total Liabilities		24,912	21,487
Net Assets		496,663	389,018
Equity			
Retained Profits		496,663	389,018
Total Equity		496,663	389,018

