

Kids+

KIDS PLUS FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2019

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

The opening of the new Kids Plus Centre was a highlight of 2019. In addition to enabling a higher number and increased range of therapy services and programs, the \$3million Centre will accelerate and expand Kids Plus' involvement in research, teaching, and training. The objectives of the Centre include:

- offering a comprehensive range of therapy services from physical therapy through to family support programs
- modelling optimal paediatric therapy services and supports in a variety of community settings, promoting inclusion and participation in the process
- influencing industry practices in a range of sectors including early childhood intervention and disability services
- delivering professional development training to those seeking specialist tuition
- collaborating in research across a variety of areas and disciplines

Nearly five years in the making, the Centre was possible through a combination of community, philanthropic, and Government support. Kids Plus particularly acknowledges major supporters, the Australian Federal Government, Deakin University, who provided the site at which the Centre is located, Anthony Costa Foundation, Give Where You Live Foundation, Geelong Community Foundation, Percy Baxter Foundation and the Howard Glover Trust.

With the aim of providing the best support possible for the families and young people accessing our services and programs, we are looking forward to making the most of Centre's great facilities and the opportunities it will create.

The year was also significant in that it marked the retirement from day to day duties of Kids Plus co-founder Sarah Foley. Kids Plus is what it is because of Sarah's vision, values and priority in always putting families first. She is a remarkable person and has created a remarkable legacy, one which we are all enormously grateful. A snapshot of Sarah's connection to Kids Plus, along with a few others from members of the therapy team and Kids Plus family members, is included within this report.

Another significant recent departure was that of Board Chair Bernie Mithen, who acted in the role for seven years. Bernie gave generously of his time and was a constant source of support, guidance, and encouragement. We acknowledge and thank him, along with the other members of the Board, for his and their significant contribution.

As always, the Kids Plus team went out about their work during the year with deep commitment, care, and skill. We are enormously proud of their efforts. They are a great team.

Kids Plus aims to enrich lives. We play a small but important part in helping create a world with more possibilities. We carry on with this ambition with much enthusiasm and intent.

Paul Hulett
Chair

Shaun Cannon
Chief Executive



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KIDS PLUS STORIES

Sarah Foley, Kids Plus Co-Founder

At the 2019 official opening of the new Kids Plus Centre, I was privileged to share some of my favourite “F” words to reflect on Kids Plus and what makes it such a special organisation.

“Families” is probably the most important “F” word. Families are front and centre of what we do, and organisationally, having a passion to work within a family centre framework in what defines us. We are invited into the lives of families who did not expect to have a therapy team around their child, and we are often in their lives for years. However, the privilege is ours as we revel in seeing babies and toddlers grow into young adults moving out into the world, and knowing that we have perhaps contributed to them leading the lives that they want to live. But families also sit on the Board, walk kilometres on the Surf Trek to fundraise, and support each other with their shared lived experiences. It was great to see so many families celebrating the opening night. I was reminded that while it was a (fabulous) new building we were celebrating that night, the families are the fabric that holds it together.

Function is another important ‘F’ word. It’s a word used all the time in therapy (like “what’s the functional goal we’re working on), but it really just means being able to do stuff that everyone else can and likes to do. Such as getting around in a wheelchair or walking, getting dressed in the mornings, being able to chat with friends, keeping up with school work, hanging out with friends, playing sport. That’s the brief the amazing physios, occupational therapists, speech and social work team do every hour of their working day at Kids Plus, led by clinical manager, Kelly Reynolds whose leadership and commitment to KPF is just amazing.

But a good therapist at Kids Plus becomes a GREAT therapist by one of the most important “F” words – FUN! A lot of deep thought goes into fun – how can blowing bubbles help a child to walk; how can playdough develop cutting skills. Play is serious stuff here; but if no-one is having fun here, then that’s definitely not on. With the fabulous new Centre, having fun became a whole lot easier, so when kids come here, we hope they can work hard and play hard!

This leads onto another F word – Friends. Everyone at the official opening was, in some way, a friend of Kids Plus. Geelong as a community have been generous to Kids Plus and the Centre was built because of transformational grants and partnerships. We do not take this generosity of our friends for granted. Generosity is not only money, but also is time and includes the large number of volunteers who give their time from marshalling events, making equipment for children or running fundraising events. Personally, I am also grateful to my friends and colleagues who have given behind the scenes support for Kids Plus through fundraising, walking the Surf Coast Trek every year, making links within the Geelong community, and Deakin university - all because I have been in their ears constantly for the past 15 years about Kids Plus and why we do what we do – so thanks for still being friends!

I was lucky to have all of my family present for the opening of the Centre and share that very significant event in my life. I would like to acknowledge my partner Paul Heenan for his amazing support for the fifth child in our lives – like all young adults this baby is ready to fly. I wish Kids Plus well on the next phase of its exciting journey in a new Centre, and with a broader purpose as its teaching and research arms expand.

The F- word that is sticking in my throat is Farewell as I wind back from clinical practice - I cannot really imagine yet not coming in the Centre to see staff and families who have all enriched my life so much....

Finally the Future. Kids Plus has a long tradition of thinking outside the box, of being innovative and flexible, of being open to new ideas. That’s why Kids Plus will continue to thrive and carry on doing what we have always done best.



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Kids Plus Family Member

Kirsten was born 31 October 2006 at 42 weeks gestation, in a country hospital she was the only baby there at the time. I had tested positive for CMV whilst pregnant but the diagnosis was down played by doctors as nothing to be concerned about. After 32 hours of labour she entered the world not breathing covered in meconium and very small they got her breathing and she seemed ok. Her APGAR scores were slow but still no one was concerned. We went home with just the usual checks. At 4 months we discovered she was deaf and fought really hard to get a diagnosis for other issues we could see. She eventually at 12 months old was diagnosed with Congenital CMV, Cerebral Palsy and being profoundly deaf. She had missed 12 months of early intervention already and area we lived in north of Melbourne had no regular paediatric therapists. We would occasionally (maybe every 6 months) would see someone. Just enough to get her a wheelchair and that's about it. Kirsten finally got consistent therapy when she started school in Glenroy we drive her there everyday over an hour one way.

Due to many reasons we decided to move to Torquay in 2018 and have never looked back. We were linked into Kids Plus and for the first time in 12/13 years we have felt like we are supported. Kirsten is receiving therapy and finally has or is getting much needed equipment. We have loved the care and thoroughness of the centre. All her therapists have worked above and beyond to get Kirsten the help and support she needs. They have also been great with helping our family navigate our path through therapy. Coming from doing everything ourselves, problem solving everything ourselves to having so much help was at first overwhelming but everyone's patience and guidance has been fantastic. Our only regret is we didn't move sooner and give our girl this opportunity to thrive with Kids Plus earlier

Kids Plus Family Member

After a "text-book" fraternal triplet pregnancy, our world was tipped upside down. Just after 31 weeks, we found out that baby #3 had suffered a "severe" ventricular brain haemorrhage. There was nothing they could do, except I had to try and hold on, for the sake of the other two babies. The babies were delivered at 32 + 4 weeks. We met our two baby girls, Mali and Grace. But number 3 remained a mystery. Doctors informed us that the baby had suffered a level 4 haemorrhage and would have cerebral palsy.

One week later, after numerous meetings with specialists and our amazing social-worker, we decided to meet baby # 3, our baby boy, Max. Later, Max was rushed to the RCH. His brain haemorrhage had resulted in hydrocephalus and his head was swelling at a rapid rate.

Following an MRI, news deteriorated rapidly. The hydrocephalus had damaged the rest of Max's "good" brain and we were introduced to the palliative care team. They told us that Max would not walk or talk, would not feed himself, would not even know who we were. It was likely he would pass away before he turned 1.

Max had 5 brain surgeries in 5 months, to insert, then revise a shunt, that kept failing. When we brought Max home, Kelly Reynolds arrived at our front door. I was naive and had no comprehension of what all this meant. I knew it was not what I had planned our life to be. We had a 2 year old and two newborns; how could we manage another newborn, who would grow up to have severe special needs? Kelly went above and beyond, to help set us up for the NDIS. Her expertise and kind nature, helped us through these early stages, when it all seemed like a blur.

3 years on, Max has hemiplegic cerebral palsy, but he is running, jumping, talking (a lot!), feeds himself, has started going to the toilet on his own and, basically, keeps up with his sisters! Max, Mali, Grace and Siena all LOVE Sara and Helen! I am forever grateful that the team at Kids Plus have always included Max's sisters in his therapy sessions.

Kids Plus have honestly changed our lives and we are so privileged to be involved with an amazing foundation in our Geelong community.



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Shanelle Biskup – Kids Plus Physiotherapist

As I reflect on my time at Kids Plus, I have mixed emotions. Currently, as a physiotherapist and member of a passionate and progressive therapy team, I'm proud to be a Kids Plus therapist. But I've also been on the other end, as a Kids Plus parent. As a parent, Kids Plus support meant so many things: a kindly ear to listen, a knowledgeable therapist with whom I could troubleshoot my son's difficulties and some fun and very creative ways to help uncover some language barriers. To have that level of local support, in amongst years of medical turmoil, was a blessing. I believe those experiences have helped me to bring care, kindness and passion to my own practice as a physio. But I also believe all staff at Kids Plus have an inherent element of empathy and dedication that drives our desire to do all that we can to brighten and enhance the lives of our clients and families.

I have had the good fortune to work alongside some wonderful physiotherapists in my 20 year career. But I admit, the opportunity to work closely with so many passionate and specialized paediatric therapists drew me to Kids Plus. The ability of this small organization to not only deliver exceptional therapy services to babies, children and young adults, but to generously support therapists' professional development and continuously find inspiring ways to integrate therapy services is remarkable!

I am very proud to be a Kids Plus physiotherapist and past Kids Plus parent. I look forward to many more years of working with and alongside many more families, staff and community members. And to complete many more Surf Coast Treks!

Mikayla MacManus – Kids Plus Speech Pathologist

I am a Speech Pathologist with over 10 years' experience and I have now had the privilege of working for Kids Plus Foundation for just over 12 months, coming from a long background of early intervention. I am so proud to come to work every day. To be motivated and inspired by some of the best therapists I have ever worked with. But the most important thing, the absolute best thing about our role, are the families and children we get to work with, to share the journey with. To celebrate the milestones, the wins, the skill development and to be there when things don't always go to plan.

No matter what happens, Kids Plus is always willing to support the children, young people and families we work with, wherever they are on their journey and however best they require that support. That is something of which to be very proud. So, to the families that I am so privileged to be a part of your journey, thank you so very much for letting me walk with you, in whatever capacity and way that I can.



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KIDS PLUS FOUNDATION

ABN 83 105 087 518

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Revenue	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Events and Sales		153,974	121,584
Funding		2,512,185	1,081,440
Gifts and Donation Revenue		768,942	1,507,744
Other Revenues		24,861	36,844
Services		16,794	7,499
Training		4,999	17,455
Total Revenue From Operating Activities		3,481,755	2,772,566
Expenses			
Administration Expenses		-679,122	-370,680
Depreciation Expense		-30,351	-29,611
Employee Leave Expense		-74,457	-106,653
Marketing and Fundraising Expenses		-37,746	-47,295
Therapy Projects Expense		-1,297,033	-917,583
Other Expenses From Continuing Operations		-1,682	-822
Total Expenses		-2,120,391	-1,472,644
Net Result For The Year		1,361,364	1,299,922
Income Tax Expense	1a	0	0
Comprehensive result for the Year		1,361,364	1,299,922



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BALANCE SHEET FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	1,005,262	2,352,509
Receivables	3	136,174	37,325
Total Current Assets		1,141,436	2,389,834
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	4	2,970,672	229,580
Total Non-Current Assets		2,970,672	229,580
Total Assets		4,112,108	2,619,414
Current Liabilities			
Annual Leave Accrual		79,953	31,140
Long Service Leave Accrual		54,335	47,546
Other Payables	5	107,353	50,480
Total Current Liabilities		241,641	129,166
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Service Leave Accrual		46,822	27,967
Total Non-Current Liabilities		46,822	27,967
Total Liabilities		288,463	157,133
Net Assets		3,823,645	2,462,281
Equity			
Retained Profits		3,823,645	2,462,281
Total Equity		3,823,645	2,462,281

