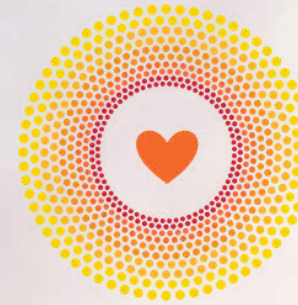


# Annual Report

for the financial year  
ended **30 June 2020**



**Australian  
Childhood  
Foundation**



[childhood.org.au](http://childhood.org.au)

ACN: 057 044 514

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Australian Childhood Foundation  
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Richmond VIC 3121  
Phone: 1300 381 581  
Email: [info@childhood.org.au](mailto:info@childhood.org.au)

The Australian Childhood Foundation acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians and owners of this land. We pay our respects to their elders past and present and to the children who are their leaders of tomorrow. We acknowledge their history and living culture and the many thousands of years in which they have raised their children to be safe and strong.



# Take Action

## Be a Force for Childhood

The Australian Childhood Foundation relies on the support of the community to enable us to help children heal from the devastating impact of violence and abuse.

You can help transform the lives of children who have suffered severe trauma. You can enable the Foundation to continue to grow our reach and the number of children we can support across Australia. Your gift and support can ensure we can help to stop the violence against children, before it happens, by donating today at [www.childhood.org.au](http://www.childhood.org.au) or by calling **1300 381 581**.

The Foundation is continuously seeking to establish strategic partnerships to contribute in meaningful ways and support the recovery of children traumatised by violence and abuse. Partnering with us can motivate and inspire staff; build brand awareness for organisations and engage the community.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

**Australian Childhood Foundation**  
PO Box 3335  
Richmond VIC 3121  
Phone: 1300 381 581

Our donors are passionate people, committed to supporting us in changing the lives of vulnerable children.

**Dr. Joe Tucci, CEO**



# A Message from our CEO



In a year dominated by COVID-19, we cannot lose sight of the reality that violence against children is continuing.

It involves so many different crimes and inflicts so much pain on them. It includes children who are sexually abused by adults in their own family, by those who work or volunteer in institutions and by strangers who prey on children online;

children beaten with fists, belts and sticks; young people sexually exploited by adults offering cash, drugs or access to pornography; children whose parents are addicted to drugs and alcohol who leave them unsupervised or unfed or in terrible conditions that jeopardise their health; children who are forced to live with dangerous threats from one adult to another in families; children who are often confronted with the fear and unpredictability of violence towards their mothers; children who are berated and verbally abused, told that they will not amount to anything, that they are stupid and unlovable; and it includes young people forced on to the streets because they are rejected by their families.

Often, children suffer different forms of abuse all at the same time. Last year, 1 in 33 children were actively involved in statutory child protection services in Australia. That equates to 170,200 children being reported, investigated or removed from their family (AIHW, 2020).

More than 71,400 of these children are now on care and protection orders - up almost 4000 on the year prior. In June 2019, 44,900 children were living away from their family because it was not safe for them to return home.

Just imagine Marvel Stadium at full capacity and that's how many children live in out-of-home care. Even more alarming is that 68% of children involved in the child protection system in 2018-19 had been identified as being at risk by someone in their network at least once before.

2 out of every 5 children put on a care and protection order for the first time in 2018-19 were under the age of four. Think about that - these are children who go to childcare and preschool. According to a 2018 Productivity Commission Report, approximately \$5.2 billion in 2016-17 was spent on child protection and related services by governments - almost \$1000 per child under the age of 17 years of age in Australia.

In our own research with Access Economics, the lifetime costs for the population of children reportedly abused for the first time in 2007 are \$6 billion, with the burden of disease representing (a measure of lifetime costs of fear, mental anguish and pain relating to child abuse and neglect) a further \$7.7 billion.

The trauma experienced as a result of abuse and neglect contributes to so many downstream consequences for young people and it often leads to problems with mental health, such as anxiety and depression.

Youth suicide is on the agenda of the community as it should be - especially now during the pandemic. But, we need to also acknowledge that child abuse and neglect can be a significant factor in a young person taking their own life.

In addition, abuse-related trauma also leads to many young people engaging in crime, taking drugs and alcohol, and difficulty finishing school. We know it. The research has been clear for decades.

We need to not be distracted away from the severity of the harm experienced every day by children and young people. Our own research shows Australians already put child abuse last on a list of community problems - after problems with roads and footpaths. They prefer to believe that child abuse happens somewhere else in someone else's family in a neighbourhood far away - never their own.

It is time to recognise that we need to stay committed to acting together to protect children. That is what we, as a Foundation have focussed on last year. And it will be what we continue to work at in this coming year as well.

**Dr. Joe Tucci CEO**

**Australian Childhood Foundation**



# Our Impact

**1000 children & young people supported each day across Australia.**

Throughout the past year, children and young people remained at the heart of everything we did.

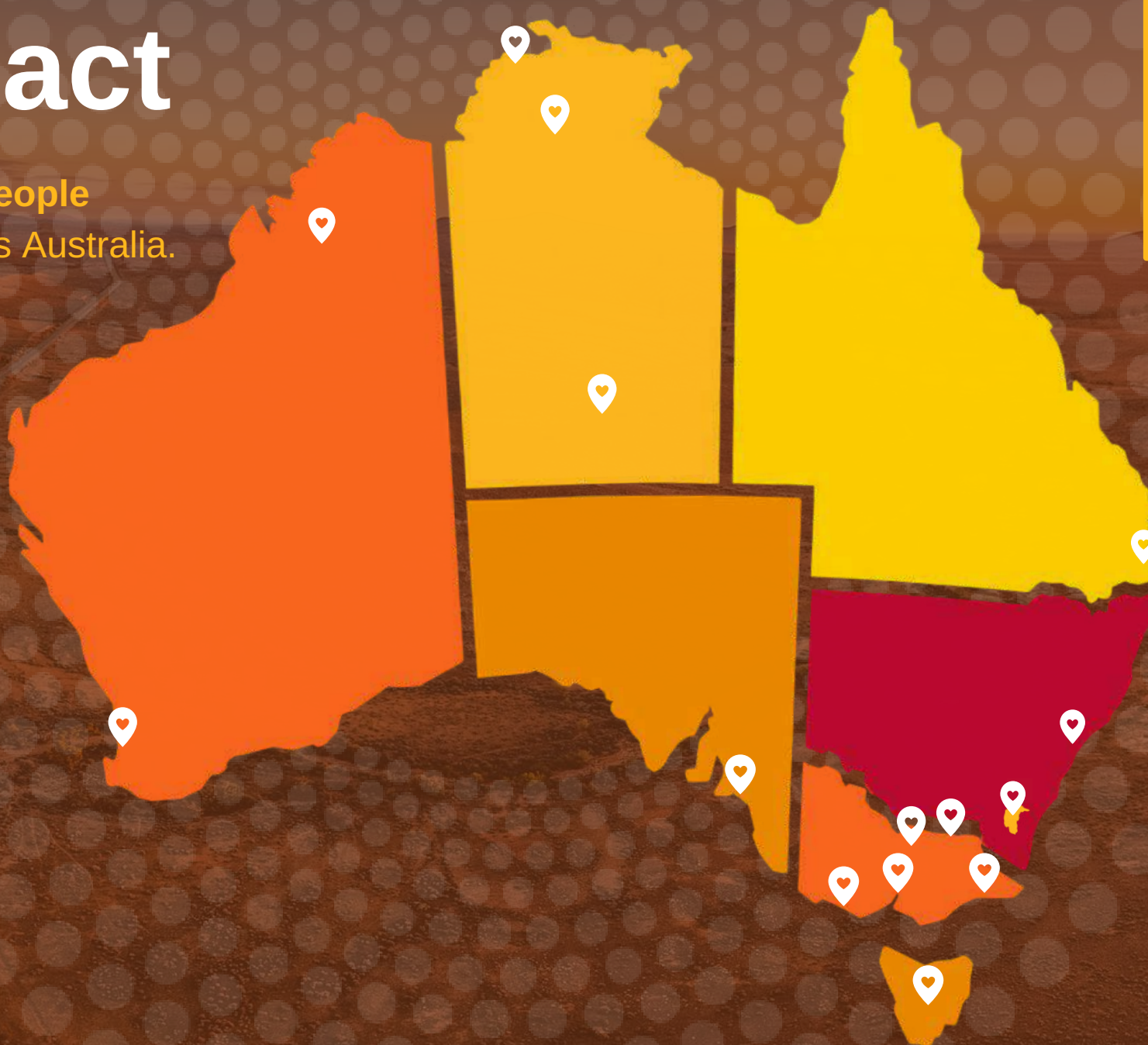
COVID-19 turned the world of children and families upside down in a very short period of time. We were present for traumatised children and young people, and expanded our therapeutic support to reach children wherever they are; we ensured that they were safe whether at home or in a placement.

Where needed, we moved our work to the online space to make it easier for children and young people and their families and carers to access our services.

Most importantly, we thought deeply about the way that COVID-19 challenged the relationships surrounding children.

Developing a series of unique resources for parents and carers, we enabled children space to explore the meaning of their experiences during this global pandemic.

These resources have thus far been accessed over 100,000 times in Australia and internationally.



# A Lasting Legacy

As COVID-19 crisis moves into different phases, children will feel the legacy of their experiences linger. They will have been through a collective trauma – the likes of which had not been part of their life to date. They have lost a lot and found little in return.

**Dr. Joe Tucci, CEO**

The Australian Childhood Foundation, in partnership with Lewers Research, undertook an online survey of a nationally representative sample of parents in June, releasing the report in September 2020. Entitled *A Lasting Legacy*, the report revealed the immediate impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on children and parents across Australia, with many parents fearing the residual harm that will continue beyond the spread of virus.

Conducted before Victorians entered the tough stage four restrictions, the national report shows that one in four parents felt they were already failing their children and more than a third stated they had lost confidence in their parenting abilities.



Dr Joe Tucci, the Chief Executive Office of the Australian Childhood Foundation and lead author of the report said "the Lasting Legacy research, has highlighted the need for a renewed focus on addressing parental wellbeing and supporting families as they navigate their way through the pandemic".

The everyday lives of children, families and communities have been significantly affected by COVID-19. Our sense of normality is most often associated with predictability, routine and a rhythm to how we live our lives. Changes to the way we live, the way we learn and the way we work bring inevitable stressors, concerns and threats to our health and wellbeing.

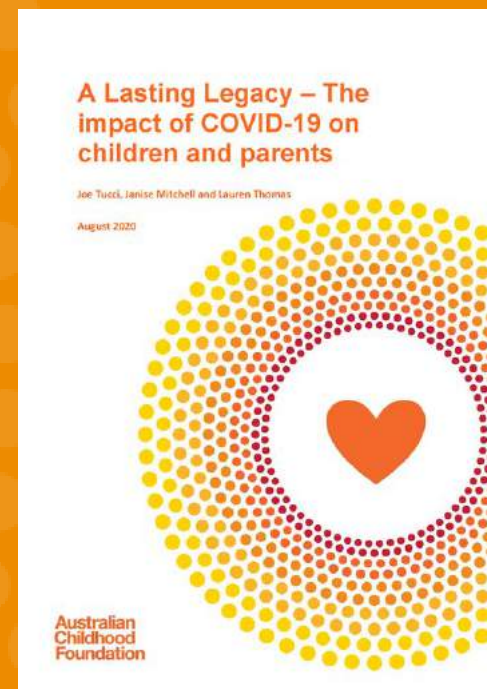
Family life has been impacted significantly. Social distancing restrictions measures have resulted in a significant number of children experiencing a range of disruptions in their daily routines. The absence of their ability to play with friends during lock down was acutely experienced by eight out of 10 children. More than two-thirds of children missed their grandparents and extended family. The loss of face-to-face school and sporting activities was also significant for many children.

However, even through hardship, we found that resilience could be fostered. Most parents emerged from the first experience of lock down with an increased appreciation for their family and time with their children. The results reveal families enjoying extra time together, facing unique challenges with love and using the comfort of each other to face adversity.

The insights garnered from the research illuminate a critical need for ongoing support for children, young people, and their carers. As the reality of the pandemic is fully realised, optimistic notions of economic bounce-backs are replaced by forecasts of economic hardship for years to come, suppression strategies require us all to live with ever present vigilance and uncertainty.

In response to COVID-19, the Australian Childhood Foundation has extended the delivery of our specialist therapeutic support and intervention using digital modalities to include video conferencing, emails, phone calls and texting. The Foundation has also created a range of parenting resources and tools to assist parents and carers as they face the challenges of parenting in a pandemic.

# Research Findings



“Parents have a role in caregiving. They are family and household leaders. In this pandemic, parents are also on the front-line of their children’s daily experiences. They interpret the signs of danger that children and young people see around them. They help answer children’s questions.

**Dr. Joe Tucci, CEO**

**35%**

of parents felt isolated & left without adequate support

**41%**

of parents worried that their own stress & mental health adversely affected their child's wellbeing

**25%**

of parents fear COVID will have lasting mental health impacts for children

**22%**

parents are concerned about their children's social development & self-confidence

**83%**

of children were acutely effected by missing their friends during lockdown

**68%**

of children missed their extended family including grandparents



Almost half of the parents believed that the experiences of COVID-19 will lead them to change their long-term approach to parenting & family life

Almost 8 in 10 parents believed that COVID-19 would result in the experience of a stronger and more cohesive sense of family in the future

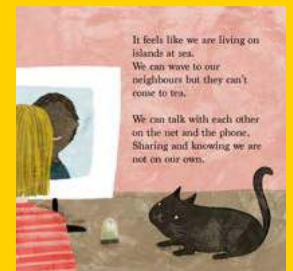
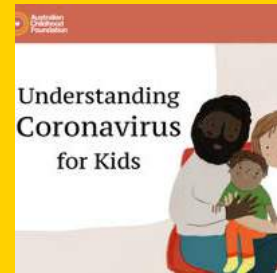
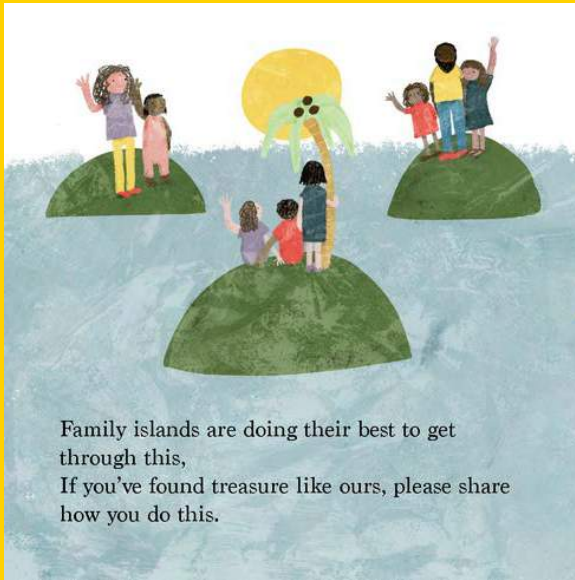




# Resources

During the COVID-19 pandemic, children have remained at the heart of everything we do.

For over 30 years we have supported children and families through times of uncertainty and crisis. To support children and young people during this unprecedented time, we created free, downloadable resources to help children reduce stress and anxiety.



We say the things that kids need us to say. We say the fearless things that children need said; to change attitudes in the community around traumatised children.

- Dr Joe Tucci, CEO

The best thing to tell your kids is the truth

OUR children were really scared during the holidays. They saw nature burning, they felt the smoke in their eyes and snort it in the air.



JOE TUCCI

It was tangible and real. But COVID-19 brings a different kind of fear. At the bush burn, they saw adults come together to fight the fires. They saw firefighters in trucks. They saw planes dropping water. They saw the army and many saw families like their own. People stopped their cars to pick up heart knives and rescue them. And people gave a moment to come from around the world to help.

Tell them that, yes, some people were fighting in the bush. But there are many people who care about the world and each other, too. Maybe they can give some ideas to help.

Show them how to make pancakes with eggs and flour and you can show them how pancakes were made when you were their age.

Reassure them that there is still life of food in the supermarket. There are apples. There are tins of food. There are even tins of rice.

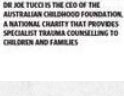
Kids need to be sure we won't run out of food. Tell them there have been sicknesses like this before and they should know that parents get concerned too, just like children. That they'll be better if they know that you're all right.

And tell them that you love them — and that something that will never change. Find things to do with them that are fun and answer any question they have. If you don't know the answer, find out and then tell them.

And reassure them that your pets will be fine. Tell them that even if school stops, it will start again. And this sickness will end one day.

Those are the kind of conversations that will help children to cope. They need to know that they have been reassured many times as we can find it ourselves to repeat it to them.

Children will believe us. Now, all we have to do is believe it ourselves.



JOE TUCCI

DR JOE TUCCI IS THE CEO OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION, A NATIONAL CHARITY THAT PROVIDES SPECIALIST TRAINING CONSULTING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

# In the media

Driven by advocacy

## Forgotten week little help for children living in pain

HAVE a problem with National Child Protection Week. It is important. Absolutely. It is vital. It has been running since 1991 and I have been involved in more than 20 of them as CEO of the Australian Childhood Foundation.



JOE TUCCI

There are many good organisations that collaborate to maximise its impact and it's been run valiantly by the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect for all that time. But ask the average Australian when or what child protection week is and the vast majority would look at you blankly. Let me help — it was this month. It's come and gone. That's my problem. Sadly, it's become a set-and-forget strategy for the Morrison Government. And it's just not attention that it's paid little attention to — it's been all

in their own family, by those who work as volunteers in institutions and by strangers who prey on children online, children beaten with fists, both and sticky young people sexually exploited by adults offering cash, drugs or access to pornography, children whose parents are addicted to drugs and alcohol who leave their unresponsive or used as a terrible condition that jeopardise the health, children who live with violent threats from one adult to another in families, children who are verbally abused, told that they will not amount to anything, that they are stupid and unlovable, and it includes young people forced into the streets because they are rejected by their families.

The trauma experienced as a result of abuse and neglect contributes to so many downstream consequences for young people and it often leads to problems with mental health, such as anxiety, depression and suicide. Youth suicide is on the agenda for the Prime Minister but child abuse and neglect is not, even though it can be a significant factor in a young person taking their own life. And abuse-related trauma also leads to many young people engaging in crime, drugs and alcohol and difficulty leaving school. We know it. The research has been clear for decades. One week devoted to child protection is just not enough for a national emergency. One week with very little resources from government is the best single of hand trick I have ever seen — designed to distract us from the enormity of the issue. And we don't need further distraction. All of our research shows Australians already put child abuse last on a list of community problems — after roads and footpaths. They prefer to believe that child abuse happens somewhere else in someone else's family in a neighbourhood far away — never their own. One week is not enough. Especially when for the most part we don't even know it happened. So there it was. National Child Protection Week 2020. It came and went — with little community attention. We all have to do better. We need to wake up to the fact that it isn't working. And we need the federal government to lead and stand up for all children, especially the thousands who are afraid and lost. I have a problem with National Child Protection Week. A real problem. And so should you.

DR JOE TUCCI IS THE CEO OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION, A NATIONAL CHARITY THAT PROVIDES SPECIALIST TRAINING CONSULTING TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES



WORDS fail children. For many abused children, words destroy their lives. Over the last 30 years, thousands of words have been written following official inquiries into the Victorian child protection system — with at least 10 major reports and two royal commissions.

And each time, words filled pages with stories of a child's violation, pain and ultimate betrayal by the very adults with the power to protect them. Each time, similar recommendations were repeated. And each time, the government of the day said the right words and made all the right promises. But, the system remains broken.

The latest report by Victorian Commissioner for Children and Young People highlights the lack of progress made from the years of attempted reform.

The report described the tragic lives of 10 children who had committed suicide and had been known to child protection services over the past 12 years. The commissioner's words must not be forgotten and should make us all cry.

Many of the children suffered for years. Two-thirds of them had been known to authorities before they were eight years old. Twelve had first come into contact by the age of three.

All of them had been forced to live with severe family violence. One child witnessed a father punching a mother and leaving her for dead. Another saw a father strangling a mother to the point of unconsciousness and a mother being violently raped by a partner.

Some children saw their parents on drugs. Two needed to call an ambulance. And one watched their mother inject the family dog with heroin.

Many experienced serious neglect. One child was described as "hungry, filthy and had flea bites all over their body". One child slept in a barn for two months and another lived and slept on the floor of a caravan.

Children had school lunches that contained rancid meat or mouldy sandwiches. One child was living in squalor with electrical wires hanging from the room, dangerous power points, and no gas for showers, cooking or heating. The lounge window was smashed and a blanket had been taped to the roof to stop the wind. One child and their family



JOE TUCCI

relocated to 12 different schools during the course of 18 months. In another case, a child and their mother had moved 11 times in two years.

Half of the children who committed suicide were alleged to have been sexually abused by a family member or person known by the family. Yet follow-up was not always assured.

Concern was raised of one child being sexually abused by a number of adult males, including a stepfather. There were six separate reports detailing sexual abuse but only one face-to-face contact with Child Protection.

Child Protection received a total of 229 reports for those children — that about seven reports per cent of these reports, 69 per cent were closed with no further action. Eventually, Child Protection removed 12 of those children from their families. But it took an average of six years and four months from the first report. That's a mere years of more abuse and hurt. By then the damage had been done.

The commissioner identified system failures that could be lifted straight off the pages of previous reports. There is an over-reliance on

voluntary family support, drug and alcohol and mental health services that are designed to work only if the adults make a choice to engage in them. And often they do not. Children have no such choice. The threshold of seriousness to determine whether child protection authorities will investigate and take action is still far too high. Meanwhile, these children live in danger.

This is not a criticism of the workers in the system. They are courageous and genuinely invested in changing the lives of the children they serve. But they are stretched to breaking point.

The system will not change until there is recognition that the very principles that it's built on are flawed. Services that try to prevent problems from occurring do not

work after the problem has become entrenched. Voluntary support services are only effective with parents who recognise they need help. And of those who do, the government needs to resource them effectively.

But the system is dealing more and more with dangerous families in which children are living with repeated violence, sexual abuse, psychological terror and near fatal forms of neglect.

They need immediate and ongoing protection from the system. Parents must be compelled to participate in services. And we must be prepared to remove children earlier to avoid years of trauma.

We need a system of care that is not just the minimum we are offered. We need to be the best that we can

offer. Stability, love and ongoing therapeutic support are needed for these children to make sense of what has happened to them. And to help them not believe any of this was their fault.

Over the past 30 years, Victoria has had 12 ministers responsible for child protection, three ministers for family violence prevention, 11 ministers for health, three ministers for mental health, 11 ministers for police and seven pensioners. All of them promised to improve the lives of children.

We've all heard the words. But as we head into 2020, vulnerable children more than ever do not need more words. They need things to be different.

It's time to stop talking about child protection and start doing it. It's time to stop talking about child protection and start doing it.

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If children come first, prove it

IMAGINE Marvel Stadium at full capacity. That's how many children live in out-of-home care.

In June 2019, 44,000 children were forced to live away from their family because it was so dangerous for them to stay there.

This week is National Child Protection Week and it's the 30th year it's a real thing. Last year, one in 31 children were actively involved in statutory child protection services across the country. That's 19,000 children removed from their family. More than 7,400 children are now on care and protection orders — up almost 4000 on the year before.

Even more alarming is 68 per cent of children involved in the child protection system in 2018-19 had already been identified and reported at least once before.

Two out of every five children put on a care and protection order for the first time in 2018-19 were under the age of five. This means that — these are children who go to childcare and preschool.

The trauma experienced as a result of abuse and neglect contributes to many downstream consequences and often leads to problems with mental health, including anxiety and depression. Abuse-related trauma can also lead to many young people engaging in crime, taking drugs and alcohol, and experiencing difficulty finding school.

Sadly, our own research shows Australians put child abuse last on a list of community problems — after concerns with roads and footpaths. Our children need more than that — much more.

The Morrison government is committed to tackling child sexual abuse in response to the recent royal commission.

It is also investing in fighting online child sexual abuse and exploitation, which is occurring at a level that is already overwhelming law enforcement resources internationally.

But it could do more. The government should request a national child protection council to rally all of us to take action to stop violence against children and young people. And surely, it is time for children to have their own minister for children in federal cabinet — a position that has not existed since Larry Anthony left parliament in 2014.

The government should change would communicate a powerful message to the whole community that children do not need to be the focus of our attention at all times. Not for just a week, but for every week.

DR JOE TUCCI IS THE CEO OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION, A NATIONAL CHARITY THAT PROVIDES SPECIALIST TRAINING CONSULTING TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES



# Specialist Trauma Therapeutic Services

Children hear  
voices of people  
who have hurt  
them.

You are stupid.

You are unlovable.

It was your fault.

I wish you had  
never been born.

These are the  
stories that  
change when  
children and  
young people  
engage in  
counselling and  
therapeutic  
support.

Our therapeutic work extends to over 1000 children and young people on any given day across all therapeutic services nationally. Our services are available throughout Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, Northern Territory, Western Australia and the ACT.

Throughout this report, we have highlighted examples of the impact we have in our support of children and young people across different parts of the country.



# Outcome Driven

From our own research, these are the outcomes that we are helping to deliver to children and young people.



**77% of children** catch up to their age-appropriate academic level as a result of their involvement with the Foundation



**88% of children** do not experience further foster care placement breakdowns after coming to the Foundation



**72% of children** experience a reduction in their trauma symptoms as a result of their involvement with the Foundation



**82% of foster carers** report an increase in confidence as a result of the support and training they received from the Foundation



# OurSPACE NSW

## Stacey Team Leader Therapeutic Services

OurSPACE is a new program in the New South Wales landscape. It is a specialist trauma therapeutic service that works to specifically achieve stability with some of the most vulnerable children and young people in state care. It recognises that placement and relationship stability are the most significant factors that lead to positive developmental, education and health outcomes for children and young people in care.

“In the OurSPACE program it's so encouraging that we get to walk alongside the children and young people knowing that we can assist to create positive change and be that one consistent adult in their lives understanding them with the knowledge that their trauma doesn't need to define them.”

**Stacey Dellow**, Team Leader  
Therapeutic Services

OurSPACE is the new state-wide program supporting children and young people in out of home care who have experienced trauma.



OurSPACE draws from the extensive experience of the Australian Childhood Foundation in the delivery of therapeutic foster care and kinship care programs over the past eighteen years.

The OurSPACE Program directly addresses placement instability. Our specialist team understand that children and young people's trauma-based behaviour reduces the coping capacity of carers. We acknowledge that therapeutic intervention that reduces the impact of trauma on children and young people also alleviates carer stress and improves the likelihood of placement continuing. It recognises that placement disruption occurs as a result of some or all of the following factors:

- ♥ Carer knowledge and confidence in knowing how to respond to children and young peoples' behaviour may be low;
- ♥ Carers' personal history of trauma and relationship disruption may serve to interrupt their ability to respond to the needs of children and young people in their care;
- ♥ There are current unidentified problems occurring in the carer family that may be exacerbating children and young peoples' sense of safety amplifying challenging behaviours;
- ♥ The network of relationships around children and young people (school, friends, family) are not able to understand their needs and how to respond to them; this leads to additional stress on the carer family and reduces their capacity to look after the children and young people;
- ♥ The professional service system has disagreements about case direction and is not able to effectively plan for children and young people through their development, making them more reactive;
- ♥ The decision making of child protection and/or the court system contributes to experiences of heightened uncertainty and stress for carers and children/young people.

The Foundation has been instrumental in developing evidence informed Australian models of therapeutic foster care and kinship care.

The evaluations of these programs has contributed to the development of a local evidence base for therapeutic approaches to foster and kinship care. It has also improved the likelihood of achieving stability, connection and healthy functioning for children and young people over a range of social and emotional wellbeing domains.

OurSPACE integrates a culturally strong framework through the employment of Aboriginal therapeutic specialists and leaders and operationalises approaches through assertive outreach supports, providing intervention directly to children and carers.

Through our own research this year, we found that the children who were referred to the OurSPACE program had experienced a range of disruptions & trauma throughout their lives.



97% of children & young people first experienced abuse in the first twelve months of life

54% of children & young people were failing to meet expected educational milestones

Most children were exposed to high levels of family violence in the home including adult to adult physical assault violence (80%), verbal abuse (79%) and police involvement (51%)

30%

experienced physical violence in utero



of children & young people had experienced physical abuse ranging from being kicked, punched, hit with an object

Most children experienced significant neglect in their early years including

85%

inadequate supervision

63%

inadequate home environment

72%

unsafe home environment

30%

of children were placed into care within the first twelve months of their lives with a majority being removed from home by the time they reached five years of age (69%)

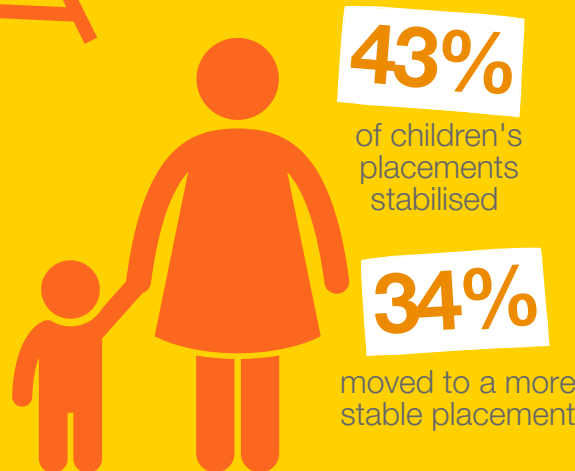
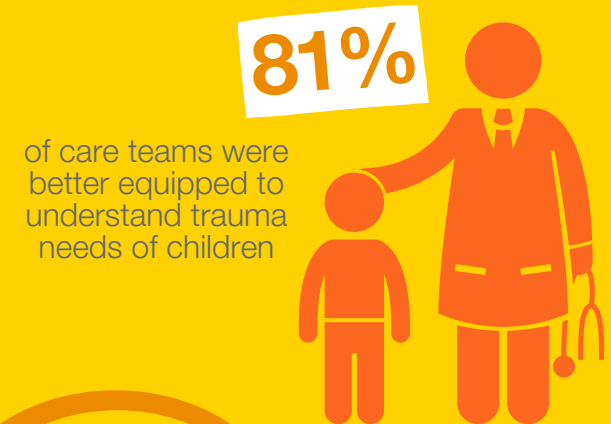


72%

of children have had 3 or more placements; 15% having had more than 12 placements



# The resulting positive impact from engagement with the OurSPACE program for children & young people was identified across several key measures



# Wodonga

## Rise Program & Junction Support Services

“Junction is excited that we have been able to expand our partnership with the Foundation. This long standing partnership is highly valued and provides therapeutic support for our local community with a focus on healing and recovery.”

**Michelle Fell**, Junction Support Services

**A new partnership with Junction Support Services in Wodonga, Victoria, helping children to recover from family violence.**

Overwhelming evidence exists regarding the severe trauma caused by family violence for children, young people, adults, parents and familial relationships, regardless of age, gender or ethnicity. Family violence has a profound impact on children and young people's experiences of themselves, their relationships and their world. Everyone experiences it differently. Every story is heart-breaking.

There are also incredible stories of survival and resilience. In the last year, we have started new family violence programs for children and young people in four different locations around Victoria. One such program is the RISE program, which is delivered in the Ovens Murray region in partnership with long time collaborators of our agency, Junction Support Services. RISE an acronym that means *Recovery, Individual Safety and Empowerment*. RISE has been operational since late 2019 with an integral focus on providing healing, hope and recovery in the aftermath of family violence.

Michelle from Junction Support Services shared with us the significant impact of working with the Foundation to deliver supports to families in Wodonga and surrounds.

**Michelle**  
Client Services  
Manager

# Warrnambool

Extending our reach

“Five years ago, Australian Childhood Foundation & Brophy Family & Youth Services created a partnership. Over this time, a beautiful complimentary connection between both organisations has evolved. Australian Childhood Foundation staff have become part of our family whilst inspiring and challenging our own work practice & thinking.

**Donna Wynters**, Executive Manager of Child & Family Services, Brophy

We have been working in the Wimmera South West Region of Victoria for some years now and have developed a strong partnership with Brophy in Warrnambool.

Most recently the Foundation has also partnered with Emma House Domestic Violence Services to support the development of the capacity of the Emma House Team to work from a trauma informed, child-centered lens. Whilst many of the practitioners work primarily with women who have experienced domestic and family violence, there are a large number of families that come to the service seeking support.

We have worked collaboratively with the team to enhance their knowledge of the impacts of family violence on children and their relationship with their mothers. Our work has also led the development of introspective processes of unpacking impact for practitioners working at the acute end of family violence. The agency has seen significant change, growth and development in the past twelve months, and has improved outcomes for the many children, young people and their families impacted by violence across the South West Region of Victoria.



**Victoria**  
Senior  
Clinician

As specialists in field of therapeutic intervention for children, therapists at the Australian Childhood Foundation provide specialised, trauma-focussed support to children across the country. Victoria is part of the recently established Specialist Trauma Team operating in the Northern Territory.

The focus of the team is on individual work with children as well as family and inter-agency support. The team also provides cross-sector connection and collaboration, assisting schools, youth programs and youth justice services to better understand and support young people in their care. The impact for young people accessing the Specialist Trauma Team has included demonstrated personal growth in emotional self-regulation amongst other improvements. Through a model focused on re-establishing safety, identifying triggers and developing healthy coping skills, the team aims to build the capacity of the young people, as well as those in their support network.

# Northern Territory

## Specialist Trauma Services & Strong Ways

Although the Specialist Trauma Team is new, the impact on the wider community is already evident.

**Victoria Gottliebsen**, Australian Childhood Foundation Senior Clinician

We have experienced a significant period of growth for the Foundation in the Northern Territory over the past twelve months with the tripling of team members from five to fourteen. Predominantly, we attribute our growth to the development of two new program areas, Strong Ways and the Specialist Trauma Team.

## NT Specialist Trauma Team

Our new **Specialist Trauma Team** was established after becoming one of three approved therapeutic providers for Territory Families including Child Protection and Youth Justice.

Currently we have three positions in the team and are expecting further growth. The Clinical Team provide a range of assessments and counselling to children, young people and their families across the Northern Territory.

The work has predominantly been focused in Darwin, however, over the next 12 months significant growth is predicted across our other sites in the Territory. We currently have offices in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs and a new office in Tennant Creek.



## Strong Ways

**Strong Ways** is part of a new initiative in the Northern Territory designed to provide alternative pathways to youth justice and detention for young people. Young people who engage with the program are aged between 8 and 17 years and are considered at significant risk.

Our Strong Ways Program provides culturally strong assessment, case management and therapeutic intervention to identified young people. We provide this service across four sites, **Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy** and **Tennant Creek**. At time of publication, we are currently intensively supporting 55 young people through the Strong Ways Program.

## NT Partnerships

Outside of this work, we continue working in partnerships with other agencies to support their ongoing journey to provide trauma informed practice. Our current partnerships in the Northern Territory include **Anglicare NT, CatholicCare NT, NPY Women's Council** and **Aboriginal Hostels**. The last twelve months has also seen an increase in our support to the community of **Yuendumu**.

We provide training and external supervision to **WYDAC** and ongoing workshops with a group of aboriginal women who are part of the Early Childhood Reference Group.

# Tasmania

## Bringing Up Great Kids: Parenting After Family Violence

“The program can be incredibly meaningful for participants whether face-to-face or by distance.”

**Aimee Bound & Anabel Hudson,**  
Australian Childhood Foundation  
Therapeutic Specialists

A new approach to group work support parents affected by family violence in Tasmania during COVID-19.



**Anabel &  
Aimee**

Anabel and Aimee are two of our Therapeutic Specialists working with children and families across Tasmania on the program Bringing Up Great Kids: Parenting After Family Violence. The program, which received pilot funding in Tasmania as part of the Family Violence Action Plan, provides a group work approach to supporting children and parents before they are able to be allocated a therapist within the Australian Childhood Foundation.

Anabel and Aimee spoke highly of the program, noting their appreciation in being involved in its delivery and in being able to provide support to children and families in need.

"We are so grateful to have been able to adapt the Bringing Up Great Kids – Parenting After Family Violence program in a way that enabled us to reach people in their homes during the period of isolation created by COVID-19 lockdown."

"The program has the capacity to connect deeply with parents, and it was wonderful to have all the program materials available to us to adapt for delivering the program in a new and novel way. We were delighted at how well the videos were received by participants, and this really supported the individual consults and weekly Cuppa Time to be able to focus on relational safety and the sharing of wisdom among participants."

"It was a great learning experience for us that this program, as long as it is delivered relationally, can be incredibly meaningful for participants whether face-to-face or by distance."



## Tasmanian Therapeutic Group Work

In January 2020, the Australian Childhood Foundation received funding for a nine-month pilot program in Tasmania, trialling group counselling as part of the Tasmanian governments Family Violence Action Plan in the South and North West regions of Tasmania.

The proposed pilot included the development of an integrated and streamlined referral process for new enquiries. This allowed for a warm and comprehensive engagement at point of contact, and seamless transition through to group work programs.

Having capacity to offer the group work programs as part of the pilot was an instrumental factor in responding to a growing wait-list and providing support to children and parents before a therapist could be allocated. The intention behind this strategy was to ensure families were better prepared to begin their therapeutic journey once allocated a counsellor. The delivery of parent-focused group programs for families on a wait-list offered psychoeducation and reflective practice for parents and improved their capacity to provide trauma-informed care for their children impacted by family violence; an important extension of our existing services to families.

The first wave of group work was **Bringing Up Great Kids: Parenting After Family Violence** which was run once successfully in person prior to the pandemic. In recognition of the context and the pressures on parents during this time, the once-weekly, 6-week program was adapted to contain three components for each week, in order to ensure the highest level of accessibility and engagement for participants.

The weekly program consisted of; a short webinar delivered by a counsellor facilitator, providing education on a core topic, an individual consultation session for each participant with one of the facilitators and a group catch-up via video-conference with all participants and both facilitators together; affectionately known as 'Cuppa Time'.

This model of service delivery allowed the pilot program to continue and in many cases it became the only service in regular contact with these families during the peak of the pandemic in Tasmania.

The provision of a dyadic group work program for children and parents impacted by family violence, **Popping Bubbles**, focused on rebuilding attachment relationships between children and parents impacted by family violence, while assisting parents to develop attunement to their child's needs following trauma. The pilot was considered a success and likely to be incorporated into our ongoing programs.



# Professional Education Services



# Professional Education Services

To accommodate the changing nature of delivering support during the pandemic, the team developed & delivered a specialist workshop *Therapeutic Work with Children and Young People in the Online Space*.

This workshop has attracted more than 200 professionals from across the country and built capacity to switch therapeutic services from face-to-face into the online environment.

The session focused on key therapeutic principles of connection, relationships and how to maintain principles of practice through screen-based interactions.



As COVID-19 shaped the environments of so many practitioners, we quickly shifted delivery of the majority of our training programs online. In doing so, we were supporting an increased number of professionals working with children and young people who had become isolated in their practice. We now have an increased proportion of students attending from countries outside of Australia, including New Zealand, USA and Canada.

**Since March 2020, Professional Education Services has:**

- ♥ Commenced six *Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma* courses using virtual classroom for over 110 professionals, including our first international students;
- ♥ Delivered 33 real-time, online calendar workshops attended by over 550 professionals from across Australia via Zoom (an average of 17 in each workshop);
- ♥ Launched a new self-paced online learning program, *Trauma Responsive Practice in Education*, which has been accessed by over 1000 education and other professionals since its launch on 11th May;
- ♥ Continued to provide consultation and developmental processes to schools across Australia within the context of our partnerships with government and Catholic Education departments.

# Professional Education Services

I found throughout the modules so far I have had little 'light bulb' moments where I have been able to make more sense of behaviours and interactions I am seeing in children that I work with.

**Trauma Responsive Practice in Education Attendee**

I wanted to thank you. I love learning that can help me to have a better understanding of what families are facing and the impact it has on their capacity to care for their children. It is so relevant to my role and enhances my practice and the support I am able to give to families.

**Theresa Todd**, DHS Child Wellbeing Practitioner: Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma

Understanding Trauma is not just about acquiring knowledge. Australian Childhood Foundation and Catholic Education South Australia have come together to support Catholic schools to appreciate the impact childhood trauma has on learning. We are working with educators to develop strategies to cultivate a healthy, well-regulated brain in our students. It is important for educators working with traumatised children to understand the key developmental pathways that may be affected by childhood trauma, and how to support resilience through these pathways. The partnership with is supporting educators understand how trauma effects brain development.

**Catia Frasca**, St Patrick's Catholic School Teacher





# Parenting & Early Years Program



# Parenting & Early Years Program

I found the online training to be really effective, particularly for those that are already familiar with BUGK and its theoretical background. It's so exciting to be able to offer a program to prospective and new parents – it's been a real gap in the parenting support field.

Parenting Programs Coordinator, Bunbury WA

In 2019-2020, we continued to provide training to more professionals who are working with parents across Australia. We increased the number of facilitators of our *Bringing Up Great Kids Program* (BUGK) to 5,000 nationally; our group programs have been run with 50,000 parents across Australia.

We worked with the Department of Social Services to develop information used in a new text messaging service for parents of young children. The BUGK Program has been now funded by the Commonwealth Government to extend specifically to parents with infants during their first 1000 days of life.

With the support of the Myer Community Fund, a new version of the BUGK Program aimed at supporting parents who have been affected by family violence has been developed, trialed and rolled out across Australia.

We have also finalised a new BUGK Program for kinship carers which is now being introduced nationally as an adjunct to the core program.

# Parenting & Early Years Program

Knowing about the brain's development, particularly the limbic system, and realising that young children look at the world from an emotional lens has changed my whole relationship with my son.

**Hossein**, father & group attendee

It was the third time I attended BUGK parent group. Every time I attend it transforms the parent I used to be.

**Hamideh**, mother & group attendee

All couples who have attended the group together talk to me about changes in their family. Also, partners of those parents who joined individually say that they can see big changes in their partner.

**Endieh**, Organiser of the online BUGK parent group in Quebec, Canada





# Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care



Australian Childhood Foundation

Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care

# CETC

## Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care

The collaborative work between Australian Childhood Foundation, the Department of Communities and Justice and our service provider partners has meant that the CETC is providing expert advice and consultancy services to the sector, maintaining an online knowledge bank of evidence-based therapeutic care, development of a tailored package for all new staff and promoting knowledge sharing across the sector.

**Daniel Barakate**, Director Design and Stewardship,  
NSW Department of Communities and Justice

In 2018, we were awarded a contract by NSW Government to establish and run an Australian first Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care in NSW. The Centre's website ([cetc.org.au](http://cetc.org.au)) is largely visited from Australian and international professionals.

The function of CETC is to support the evolution of the newly reformed Intensive Therapeutic Care system being introduced into NSW. As a partnership between the Australian Childhood Foundation and Southern Cross University, CETC integrates contemporary research evidence with cultural knowledge, practice wisdom and the voices of young people in care to produce research reports, practice resources and training to support the provision of high quality, evidence-informed therapeutic care.

**Daniel**  
Professional

# CETC

## Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care



I have found the sessions to be highly engaging, informative and formative in many ways. It offers space to unpack theory within the context of shared discussions and the input of knowledge is of high quality. I feel personally enriched by the group. Likewise, I have gained new insights into trauma informed work as a Therapeutic Specialist.

**Dominic Savio, Therapeutic Specialist, Marist 180**

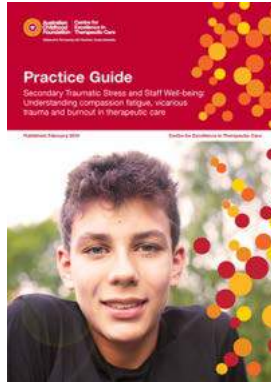
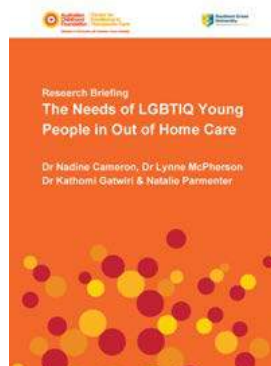
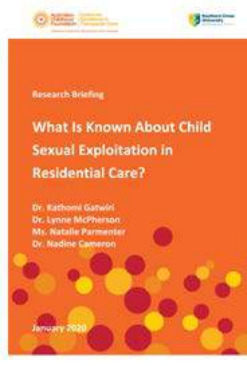
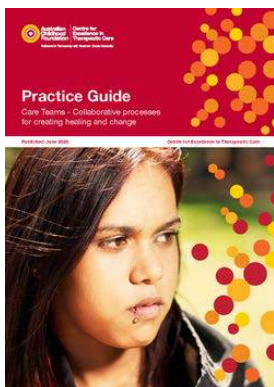
The Centre works in collaboration with the Intensive Therapeutic Care Agencies, the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), Education, Youth Justice, Peak Bodies and other important stakeholders throughout NSW.

A number of resources have been published for professionals working with young people living in therapeutic forms of out of home care. These resources may also be relevant to other organisations and systems of care in Australia and internationally.



# Resources

The Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care has produced several research pieces & practice guides throughout the past year





# Safeguarding Children Services

# Safeguarding Children Services



We thank the Foundation for their support, which has seen us become the first of all police legacies across the country to achieve the certification requirements.

**Lex de Man AFSM**, Chief Executive Officer,  
Victoria Police Legacy

Our Safeguarding Children Team continues to work with 80 existing organisation, supporting 13 of these to achieve Safeguarding Children Accreditation, and a further 15 working towards this outcome throughout the year.

This year saw **Victoria Police Legacy** achieve Safeguarding Children Certification for the first time. Whilst the organisation carries out great work in supporting families after the loss of a loved one, they can do so confidently knowing that their policies and procedures meet the Victorian Child Safe Standards.

Despite COVID-19, we have commenced work with a number of new organisations to help strengthen their capacity to keep children and young people safe from violence and abuse.

We welcomed **Lifestyle Solutions, Brisbane Grammar School, Launceston Church Grammar School, Christian Schools Tasmania, Bayside City Council** and **Good Shepherd Australia**. We have also confirmed the continuation of our long-standing partnership with **YMCA Australia** and its Member Associations across the country. After a decade of working with the YMCA in achieving strengthened safeguarding children outcomes, we recognise that the YMCA has evolved to enable more effective responses to a range of external pressures and internal needs. As such, Safeguarding Children Services will strengthen the future partnership model with YMCA to collaboratively identify and develop tailored strategies which support the YMCA to embed and further extend its safeguarding children vision across its services.

## Kennerley Brighter Futures Award

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our valued staff, we present this award to you in acknowledgement of your ongoing commitment to building a brighter future for our children.

A wise proverb says that it takes a village to raise a child, thank you for working in partnership with us and being a participating member of our village.

Well Done

One of the organisations to achieve first time accreditation this year is **Kennerley Children's Home in Hobart**. As part of the organisation's approach to empower children and young people, Kennerley has appointed a Young Ambassador to represent its children and young people and underlining the importance of this position. The Young Ambassador periodically reports through to the organisation's Board, a role which compliments the broader children's rights based approach of the organisation. There has been a drive, not just to build organisational awareness of children's rights, but also a community awareness. This has included initiatives such as the Children's Festival held in 2019 with videos developed to help communicate children's rights. Kennerley's renewed focus on valuing the rights and voices of children and young people is helping to keep children and young people in the organisation safe. The Foundation was this year awarded the Kennerley Brighter Futures Award for our work in supporting the organisation to gain accreditation.

Following the extensive re-development of our online training in early 2019, we are pleased to have provided the training to over 100 organisations this year, seeing a total of 90,598 individuals having now successfully completed the training. The re-development has been aided by feedback from professionals regarding their own positive experience and learning outcomes.

To end 2019, Safeguarding Children Services presented at the National Capital Education Tourism Conference in Canberra, where over 100 education and tourism providers gathered to learn more about how as a network they can further integrate child safety into the activities and programs they offer to over 160,000 students visiting the Capitals attractions each year.



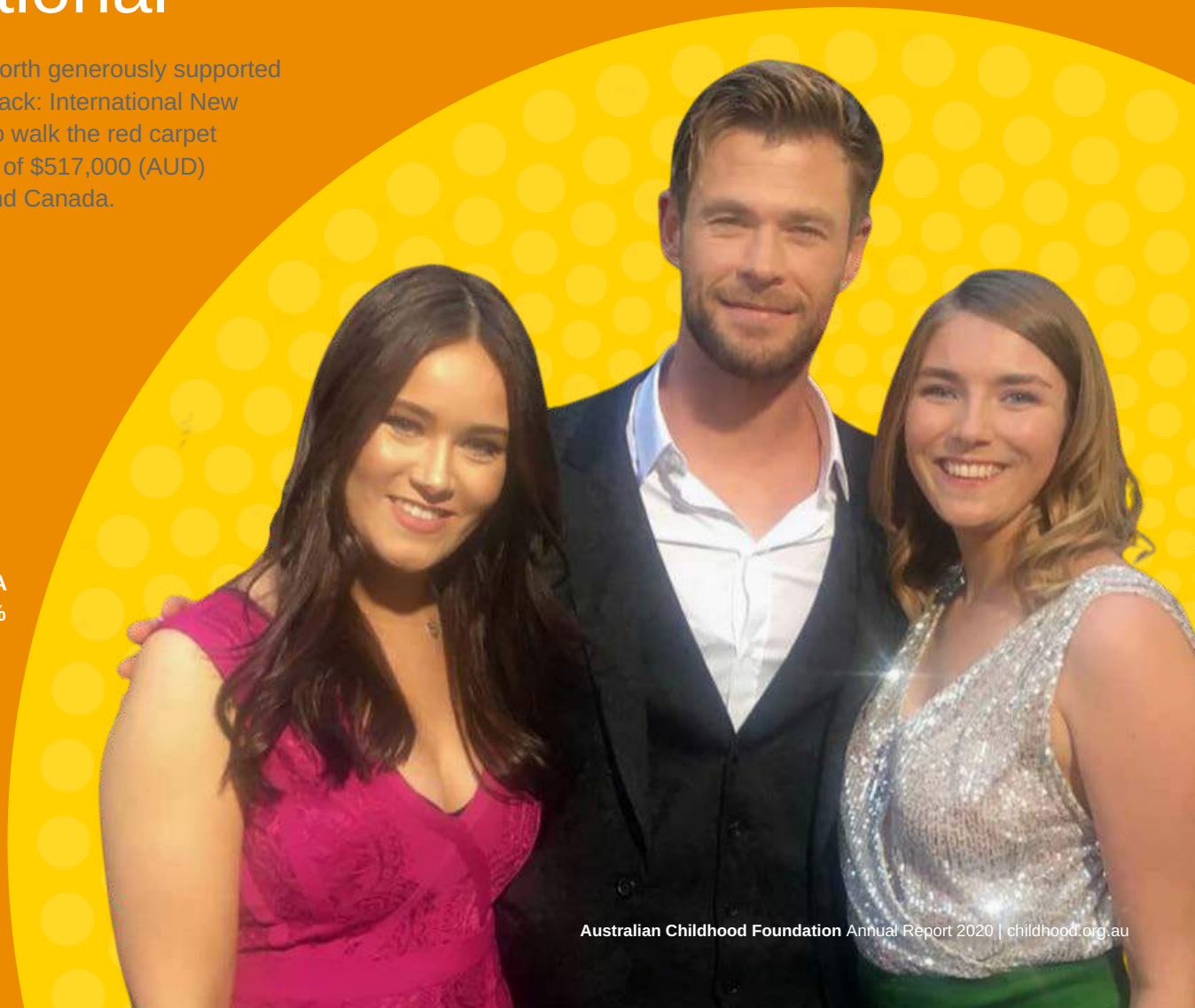
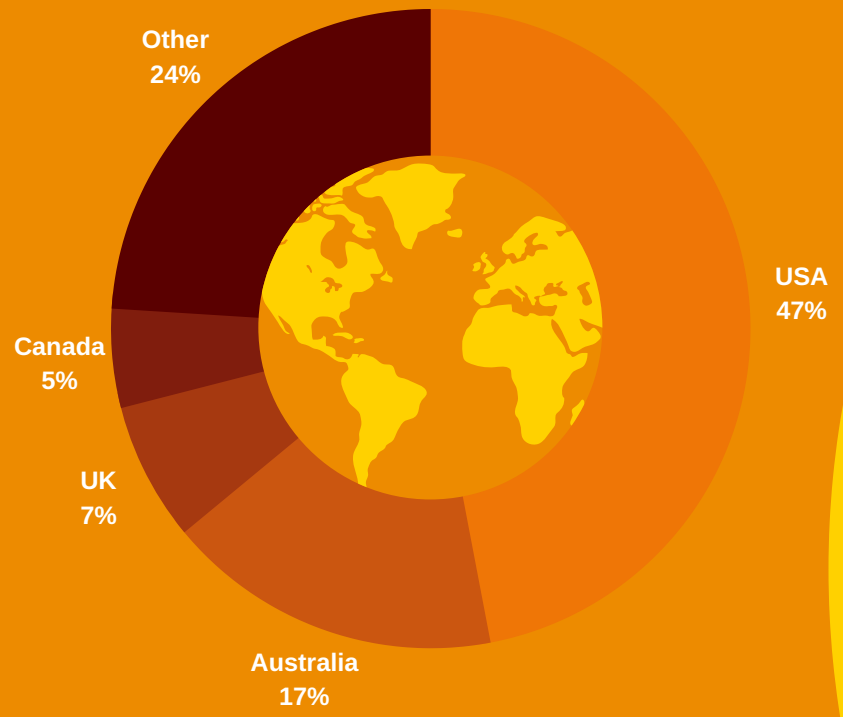
# Partnerships, Fundraising & Marketing

# Chris Hemsworth

## Men in Black: International

In 2019, alongside other integral activities, Patron, Chris Hemsworth generously supported fundraising efforts through during promotion of his film Men in Black: International New York premier. This promotion saw one lucky donor was invited to walk the red carpet alongside Chris at the film premier. The efforts saw a gross total of \$517,000 (AUD) donated across 76 countries including the USA, Australia, UK and Canada.

### Donor Demographics



“We’re privileged to raise awareness around the importance of childhood and preventing family violence through the Big Love Light Walk.

Jaclyn Rowan, GPT Foundation

On Thursday 10th of October 2019, the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF), GPT Foundation and Melbourne Central inspired all to stride across Melbourne holding love lights, in a powerful pursuit to defend children from violence and abuse.

In a beautiful movement, our organisations joined forces to drive the Big Love Light Walk - a major, public event for the community to come together to protect children from family violence. In 2019, children, families and organisers fluttered along the Melbourne CBD with people holding sparkling love lights, in a twilight walk, ending at an after-party celebration at Melbourne Central's Shot Tower.



# GPT Corporate Partners

Initiated in 2017, the Big Love Light Walk was an event held in collaboration with GPT Foundation, utilising the spaces in Melbourne Central, a usual hub of activity for Melbournians and tourists alike. In 2020, this event was cancelled due to the state of the pandemic in Australia. Big Love Light was a uniting a force for good driven by this partnership which helped draw attention to the rights of children to a happy and safe childhood.



# Myer Community Fund

## Corporate Partners

“One of my clients who attended to the Myer event said it was amazing. They felt really cared for by Myer and just enjoyed it so much.

Senior Child & Family Counsellor, ACF

Other key partnership accomplishments:

- ♥ \$212,000 raised at Myer Precious Metal Ball
- ♥ National Children’s Week donation
- ♥ Kids Day Out Christmas family celebration event
- ♥ Launched of Jimmy Barnes’ film Working Class Boy
- ♥ Key focus of Christmas charity shop in 2018



Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Myer Community Fund, the Foundation developed and implemented a very important family violence parenting program, adapting the successful Bringing Up Great Kids into a program to support vulnerable women & children.



of children experience a reduction in symptoms



of mothers feel more confident about staying attuned to their children's needs



of mothers & children report their relationship improving





# Accor Corporate Partners

“We truly value our partnership and appreciate the work you do in continuing to create real, impactful outcomes with our community.”

**Marc Bennie**, General Manager Accor

At a time of extreme confusion and devastation in the lives of the children we support, the financial support provided by Accor became an agent for change. This funding allowed the Foundation to continue to be there for children, to change their fear and threat to safety, and their despair to hope. Children can begin to find comfort and healing in new loving relationships that would otherwise simply not be available to them.



## Accor Corporate Partner

Proudly partnering with the Australian Childhood Foundation

throughout 2020, Accor have provided continued support, ensuring the work of the Foundation.

As a partner this year, Accor has helped to increase the impact the Foundation has on the lives of countless young Australians.

Through the determination and passion of their 15,000 team members in Australia and their **Race to Survive** fundraising campaign in 2019, Accor raised over \$850,000 for their Community Fund.

This takes their total amount raised since the launch in 2016 to over \$2 million and pays testament to the work we have done together. Along with these generous fundraising activities, Accor also donated \$60,000 to fund the Trauma Counselling Program this year.



# Community Fundraising

**Communities coming together to support vulnerable children.**

Schools, community groups and workplaces; anyone can get involved to run an event, fundraise and contribute directly to the work of the foundation. Here are some of our fantastic fundraisers this year.

Student leaders from **Dun Craig Primary School, WA** organised a **Mismatch Day** asking for gold coin donations from families and the community.

To celebrate the day all students came together and created a heart on the school oval - inspired by the Foundation's logo.

They raised an incredible **\$1096**. Well done!



Dun Craig Primary School

“  
We wanted to choose a charity that helped children like us -  
**kids helping kids.**  
- Grace, year 6

“  
**We don't want children to feel unsafe**  
in their own home  
- Jazzy, year 6

“  
Raising money for ACF was important to me because  
**my little brother**  
has counselling for anxiety and it really helps him.  
- Emi, year 6

**\$1096**  
raised

“  
No one deserves to experience trauma  
**especially children.**  
- Una, year 6

# Community Fundraising



Services Australia  
**\$31,128**  
 raised



For me personally, choosing to support the ACF was an easy decision. I really respect and admire their invaluable and tireless work to protect children and help them heal and feel safe and loved again after the pain of abuse and neglect

Luke Smith, Services Australia

Every year since the late 1970's, Services Australia has hosted *The Games*. An entire year of fundraising culminates with a sporting event held in a different location each year. In 2019, Australian Childhood Foundation was chosen as the supported charity, with *The Games* event held in Tweed Heads. Last November, 320 Services Australia staff competed over the three days across all different events including beach volleyball, beach cricket, netball, lawn bowls, darts, poker, ten-pin bowling and a 5km run. In the lead up to *The Games* in November, 20,000 staff across the National organisation were actively involved in fundraising, by holding casual dress days, decorate your desk day, online raffles and other novel fundraising activities. One hundred per cent of the astounding \$31,128.98 was raised by staff across Services Australia.

**We are so grateful for their fantastic fundraising efforts!**

# Regular Giving

“Children are so precious. They need all the best care that we can provide.”

We are incredibly grateful to long-term regular givers like Joy whose support ensures we can continue to provide therapeutic care and resources to children and families who need us.

To find out more information about making regular contributions visit [childhood.org.au/donate](https://childhood.org.au/donate)



## Joy Regular Giver

Joy grew up on a farm in regional South Australia where her parents farmed grain and sheep. Joy went onto to marry a farmer, have three beautiful daughters and eight wonderful grandchildren. Joy has been a generous regular giver, supporting the Australian Childhood Foundation since 2011.

Recognising the love and support she received from her parents, Joy knows that her experience growing up shaped the happy and safe home she provided to her children.

“My children and grandchildren are loved and provided for. They are safe and happy. All children should grow up feeling that. And if I have the means to help other children and families in any way, I will. That’s why I started donating.”

Regular support helps us allocate funding for the year ahead. It allows us to create consistency and stability for children in need of recovery.

# Purple Teddy Club

I can't think of anything better than helping children who cannot speak for themselves.

Being part of the Purple Teddy Club means contributing a lasting legacy to the Australian Childhood Foundation and helping vulnerable children recover from the trauma of abuse and neglect.



## Marian Bequest Supporter

Marian's heartfelt choice to help those without a voice culminated in her decision to remember the Australian Childhood Foundation in her Will. As a very special supporter of the Foundation, Marian explained her decision to leave a lasting gift:

"When I was thinking about what to put in my Will, I looked back at my own childhood. I have a deep understanding of what abused children have to face, and I wouldn't want anyone to go through what I did.

I have also experienced first-hand how counselling can heal the scars of abuse. When a child has encountered violence, I believe that early intervention is key. I know that the Foundation works with young children early, to stop the cycle of abuse from snowballing. That's why, after making provisions for my family, I decided to leave a gift to the Foundation in my Will. It is very important to me that my money is used to support something I am passionate about".

Donor support is crucial in the Foundation providing specialised therapeutic services that help to **improve the lives of children and young people across Australia.**

**Six-year-old Ainsley experienced heart-breaking trauma.**

Her dad died suddenly, and her mum was overwhelmed with grief—hardly speaking a word or even leaving her room. Ainsley was left all alone. But she had a friend in her Purple Teddy.

This cuddly bear was Ainsley's everything. They went everywhere together—her little hand clasp his furry paw. He told her, "Don't be sad," as she cried herself to sleep. He said, "I still love you", when she felt like the world has turned its back on her.

And Purple Teddy promised, "I will keep you safe," when Ainsley's mum got a new boyfriend. But one horrific night, the boyfriend attacked Ainsley's mum and ripped Purple Teddy to pieces. Ainsley felt like her world had been torn apart. Without therapy, the trauma could have devastated her future as well as her childhood.

In sessions with our specialist counsellor, Ainsley was encouraged to show what had happened to her using Purple Teddy. She wrote him a heartfelt letter and lovingly helped to stitch him back together. In the process, Ainsley stopped feeling like it was all her fault. And she started to understand that she too, with love and care, would feel better too.

Ainsley and her Purple Teddy demonstrate the healing power of our specialised therapy. But funding innovative and effective therapy for traumatised children takes the commitment of some very special supporters—the ones who kindly remember the Foundation in their Will. These special people form The Purple Teddy Club. And today, we hope you will consider joining.

For more information visit [childhood.org.au/take-action/bequests/](http://childhood.org.au/take-action/bequests/)

Australian Childhood Foundation Annual Report 2020 | [childhood.org.au](http://childhood.org.au)



I will keep you safe

Dear Purple Teddy,

I am taking you to see Angela with me, so we can help put you back together again. You always looked after me, so now it is my turn to look after you.

It must have hurt a lot when he ripped you apart. I am sorry I wasn't there to protect you. You protected me and gave me cuddles when I needed, and I feel like I let you down. ☹️

I am so sorry. I hope that with some good sewing, a new vest and a lot of love you will feel much better. I know that you will never be the same, but I don't mind.

Being a bit different is okay, and you will always be special to me. I will always love you however you look. I am proud of how brave you were that night and every day after. 😊

Love Ainsley xxx

Ainsley brought her damaged Purple Teddy and her fragile, broken heart to our counselling sessions. She sat there in a warm blanket and wrapped Purple Teddy in one too, holding all the tiny furry pieces together.

During one of the sessions, Ainsley wrote him this note—her version of a 'Get Well' note. **You can see that Purple Teddy's pain is reflected in her own.** He was torn apart, and she felt the same. **His body was broken into pieces, just like her heart.**

From the note, you can also see that Ainsley believes both she and Purple Teddy are brave—and they can both be healed. But giving a child the tools to rewrite their story takes a lot of time and specialist care. And that's where you come in—with your kind gifts to the Australian Childhood Foundation.

**Your donations help children come to terms with their trauma,** preventing a myriad of social consequences and giving children the chance to feel as worthy and deserving as they are.

You piece their lives back together (and mend their purple teddies). So I really hope you can give another gift today. **Thank you.**

—Angela

# Matters of the Heart

## Supporter Survey



**67%**

of respondents were shocked to learn that close to 50,000 children are forced to sleep away from home each night because the risk to their safety is so great

In March 2020, the Australian Childhood Foundation sent a survey to help learning more about the important people who support us. From the close to 150 responses we received, we learned the following about our wonderful donors.



**25%**

of respondents claim to have seen firsthand the devastating impact of child abuse and neglect in their community



**75%**

of respondents believe there isn't enough understanding in the community around long-term impacts of childhood trauma



**94%**

of respondents think the Australian Childhood Foundation is doing a fantastic job in helping children and their families

**10%**

of respondents identified themselves as having been a victim of family violence at some time in their life



# Matters of the Heart

## Supporter Survey



**81%**

of respondents described their own childhood as being on the whole, positive



**No child should live in fear.**

Too many do.



**I worked as a foster carer for almost 15 years,**

the training the ACF gave me was invaluable. Thank-you for helping me support children who most need it.

**69%**

of respondents pledged their continued financial support to the Australian Childhood Foundation



**93**

is the age of our oldest respondent with 90% of all respondents being over the age of 50



**I see a lot of hurt & anger**

in the community, and children really feel it & suffer from it.



**Children are a gift,**

all children should feel loved. Children should be safe and be celebrated for the special joy they bring to the world.



# Our People



# Our Patrons and Ambassadors belong to our passionate community of **Childhood Defenders.**



Chris Hemsworth, Patron

I am very appreciative of the work the ACF does to prevent abuse before it has a chance to occur. Knowledge, information and connectedness are such powerful weapons in the fight against abuse, and the more we make ourselves aware of the issue of child abuse, the better we can support vulnerable children and their families within our community and keep them safe from harm.

*Chris Hemsworth*



Rosie Batty, Patron

The Australian Childhood Foundation has always held a strong resonance. The Foundation has a very clear focus on children impacted by family violence and abuse, and over the years we have talked about how we might together ensure that children's voices are heard in the midst of this maddening violence.

*Rosie Batty*

**This year, together, they spread awareness, influence policy, drive reform and directly impact the lives of children & young people.**



Matthew Johnson, Ambassador

The older I get, the more I appreciate the impact my happy and healthy childhood has had on my life so far. Every child deserves that. Every child deserves to feel safe, loved and have adults in their lives they can trust. The Australian Childhood Foundation has been at the forefront of defending children in Australia for years and it is a privilege to do what I can to further their cause

*Matthew Johnson*



Casey Burgess, Ambassador

Today there is so much worry, so many things that we have to organise, be responsible for and do when we grow up, that childhood should be the time in our lives when we are free of that, when we are free to imagine, to create stories for ourselves, to have fun and go to bed looking forward to getting up in the morning and playing.

*Casey Burgess*



Danial & Luke Paulino, Ambassadors

We are honoured and ecstatic to be working with the Australian Childhood Foundation and provide that sense of community everyone deserves. To us, having a sense of community around you is the foundation of growing up with a kind heart and a healthy and strong mindset. It's what has helped us with accepting and moving forward through the trauma and aching heart of losing our beautiful mother to domestic violence.

*Daniel & Luke Paulino*



Clint Newton, Ambassador

Our responsibility as parents and as a society is to not only look after our own children but all children and keep them safe from abuse, violence and neglect.

*Clint Newton*



Nadine Garner, Ambassador

If we cannot protect our children behind closed doors then we as a society are failing. I want to be proud of how we look after our children and keep them safe. I feel very driven to helping the Australian Childhood Foundation raise awareness of the impact of child abuse and, importantly, helping the community to face up to it and understand how we can put a stop to it.

*Nadine Garner*



Stefan Dennis, Ambassador

It is every child's right to go to school and gain an education without carrying the burden of abuse or neglect. Often, their suffering is secret. They are unnoticed and unprotected. I am proud and delighted to contribute in any way I can, to help protect our children.

*Stefan Dennis*

# Thank-you to the wonderful people who were involved with us this year



## Our Board

### President

**Mr David Stephenson**  
Advertising

### Honorary Treasurer

**Mr Rod Naismith**  
Accounting

### Directors

**Mr Mark Thomas**  
Communications

**Mr Justin Smith**  
Media

**Mr Nick Pelham**  
Infrastructure

**Dr Ciara Earley**  
Paediatrics

**Mr Rod Lamplugh**  
Law

**Mr Cliff Weeks**  
Aboriginal Affairs

**Ms Claire Boussioutas**  
Consultancy

## Our Life Governors

**Mr Jamie Perrott**  
Communications

**Ms Susan Halliday**  
Business

**Mr David Rosback, AM**  
Retail and former Rotary  
District Governor

**Mr Laurie Wilson**  
Commerce

**Dr Anne Small**  
Medicine

**Mr Ted Garland**  
Accounting

## Our Patrons

**Mr Chris Hemsworth**  
Actor

**Ms Rosie Batty, AO**  
Domestic Violence Advocate &  
Australian of the Year (2015)

**Dr Robert Birrell AO, OAM**  
Retired Paediatrician, Actor

## Our Ambassadors

**Liam Hemsworth**  
Actor

**Nadine Garner**  
Actor

**Stefan Dennis**  
Actor

**Matt Johnson**  
Radio & Television  
Personality

**Casey Burgess**  
Entertainer

**David Boon**  
International Cricket Council  
Match Referee

**Robyn Moore**  
Actor and Public Speaker

**Lindsay Field**  
Musician

**Melanie Milburne**  
Author

**Clint Newton**  
Rugby League Players'  
Association President

**John X**  
Actor & Entertainer

# Thank-you to the wonderful people who were involved with us this year

## Our Senior Management Team

**Dr Joe Tucci**  
CEO

**Janise Mitchell**  
Deputy CEO

**Craig McMillan**  
Executive Manager,  
Partnerships, Fundraising  
and Marketing

**Marina Dickson**  
Executive Manager,  
Professional Education  
Services

**Noel Macnamara**  
Executive Manager,  
Research and Policy

**Jenny Wing**  
General Manager,  
Therapeutic Services

**Rhiannon Wright**  
General Manager,  
Safeguarding Children  
Services

**Deb Holmes**  
Manager, Safeguarding  
Children Services

**Cynan Kim-Blackmore**  
Manager, Safeguarding  
Children Services

**Angela Weller**  
Manager, Therapeutic  
Services

**Cyra Fernandes**  
Manager, Therapeutic  
Services

**Mary-ann Delaney**  
Manager, Therapeutic  
Services (VIC)

**Monica Robertson**  
Manager, Therapeutic  
Services (VIC)

**Tim Henry**  
Manager, Therapeutic  
Services (TAS)

**Jana Sarnovski**  
Manager, Therapeutic  
Services (ACT)

**Blythe McAuley**  
Manager, Therapeutic  
Services (NT)

**Sue Buratti**  
Manager, Therapeutic  
Services (NSW)

**Shaun Chandran**  
Manager, Therapeutic  
Services (WA)

**Pauline Lodge**  
Manager, Professional  
Education Services

**Lauren Thomas**  
Manager, Professional  
Community Engagement

**Lydia Kali**  
Manager, Quality Unit

**Pat Jewell**  
Manager, Parenting and  
Early Years Services

**Felicity O'Meara**  
Manager, Corporate  
Partnerships

**Catherine Robertson**  
Manager, Fundraising

**Georgia Pattison**  
Manager, People and  
Culture

**Liliana Inguanti**  
Manager, Support Services

**Narelle Lowe**  
Manager, Finance

## Our Key Supporters & Committee Members

Andrew Newbold

Julie Reilly

Judi Lay

Marilyn Kraner

Adam Tomison

Chris Goddard

Nigel Gaunt

Tony Forrest

Katie Finney

Kelly Black

Tom Chambers

## Our Safeguarding Children Accreditation Panel

**Susan Halliday**  
Former Chair of the  
Victorian Institute of  
Teachers

**Superintendent  
Andrew Allen**  
Victoria Police (Retired)

**Merrilee Barnes**  
Australian Sports  
Commission



# Our heartfelt thanks

The Australian Childhood Foundation is deeply appreciative of the following individuals and organisations for their support of our work throughout 2019-2020. We cannot thank them enough for their commitment to the safety and protection of children in Australia.

## Our Supporters - Major Partners



## Government Departments

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (ACT)

Department for Education (South Australia)

Department of Education and Training (Victoria)

Department of Health and Human Services (Tasmania)

Department of Health and Human Services (Victoria)

Department of Communities and Justice (NSW)

Department of Communities, Child Protection and Family Support (Western Australia)

Territory Families (Northern Territory)  
Commonwealth Department of Social Services





# Get involved today

The Australian Childhood Foundation relies on the support of the community to continue to provide counselling services for children to help them heal from the devastating impact of violence and abuse.

You can help transform the lives of children, and assist the Foundation in running prevention programs that help stop violence and abuse before it happens, by making a donation at

[www.childhood.org.au](http://www.childhood.org.au)

**Contact us today to talk about how you can support vulnerable children**

Australian Childhood Foundation

PO Box 3335

Richmond VIC 3121

Phone: 1300 381 581

Email: [support@childhood.org.au](mailto:support@childhood.org.au)

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

# Summary Financial Statements



## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

The Summarised Statement of Profit or Loss or other Comprehensive Income and the Statement of Financial Position are summarised from the audited financial statements. Complete copies of the audited financial statements are available on the website.

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Fundraising and Donations	3,131,367	3,081,448
Government assistance	1,301,000	-
Interest income	21,649	16,170
Other Income	178,360	139,257
Professional education services	1,377,884	2,930,354
Research	100,000	55,945
Safeguarding children services	1,138,397	1,287,057
Therapeutic Services	16,588,546	14,350,757
	<b>23,837,203</b>	<b>21,860,988</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Amortisation of right-of-use assets	(1,357,709)	-
Depreciation	(542,445)	(472,652)
Employee benefits expense	(15,313,230)	(14,319,023)
Finance costs	(24,870)	(41,472)
Foreign exchange loss	(6,124)	(26,987)
Fringe benefits tax	-	(5,148)
IT expenses	(552,996)	-
Lease interest	(30,988)	-
Motor vehicle expenses	(282,990)	(881,697)
Offices and Facilities	(785,166)	(1,685,041)
Organisational expenses	(791,959)	(784,934)
Program expenses	(2,235,914)	(2,071,090)
Telecommunications	(213,771)	(569,348)
Travel expenses	(894,787)	(980,648)
	<b>(23,032,949)</b>	<b>(21,838,040)</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) before income tax</b>	<b>804,254</b>	<b>22,948</b>

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) before income tax</b>	<b>804,254</b>	<b>22,948</b>
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>804,254</b>	<b>22,948</b>
<b>Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</b>		
Gain/(Loss) arising from revaluation of financial assets at fair value	(10,030)	8,151
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>794,224</b>	<b>31,099</b>

# Summary Financial Statements



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,924,254	3,686,306
Trade and other receivables	964,184	688,728
Inventories	59,797	60,835
Financial assets	57,227	67,257
Other assets	529,856	513,599
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>3,535,318</b>	<b>5,016,725</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	3,537,994	3,547,589
Right of use assets	2,588,671	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>6,126,665</b>	<b>3,547,589</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>9,661,983</b>	<b>8,564,314</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	1,001,312	1,261,641
Borrowings	59,112	59,112
Employee benefits	1,162,370	1,211,612
Lease liability	1,310,192	-
Other liabilities	921,900	2,839,116
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,454,886</b>	<b>5,371,481</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Borrowings	200,887	240,172
Employee benefits	177,774	196,929
Lease liabilities	1,643,166	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,021,827</b>	<b>437,101</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>6,476,713</b>	<b>5,808,582</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,185,270</b>	<b>2,755,732</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	1,926,910	1,936,941
Retained earnings	1,258,360	818,791
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>3,185,270</b>	<b>2,755,732</b>



## Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summarised Financial Statements to the Members of Australian Childhood Foundation

### Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020 and the summary statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial report of Australian Childhood Foundation for the year ended 30 June 2020.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with (or a fair summary of) the audited financial report, on the basis described in Note 1 to the audited financial report of Australian Childhood Foundation for the year ended 30 June 2020.

### Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary financial statements and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

### The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 2 October 2020.

### Board of Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the summary financial statements.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with (or are a fair summary of) the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Nexia Melbourne Audit Pty Ltd  
Melbourne

Dated: this 8 day of October 2020

Geoff S. Parker  
Director

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**Australian  
Childhood  
Foundation**

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