



autism family support assn

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2019

This report contains the details of the activities of the Autism Family Support Association Inc for the period 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019, and presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 18th August 2019.

AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

ABN 27 369 160 573
Inc. No. A0007531T



2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Sunday 18th August 2019 in the Willis Room, Whitehorse Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading commencing at 2:00 pm.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM held on 19th August 2018 (see pages 3-4 of this report)
4. Presentation of the 2019 Annual Report, including Financial Statements (see pages 7-9 of this report)
5. Acceptance of Annual Report – Mover & Secunder
6. Election of AFSA Office Bearers and Committee for the coming year.

MOTION - That the 2019-20 Committee comprise four Office Bearers and up to six ordinary committee members, as allowed for in the Rules of the Association.

MOVED Amanda Golding SECONDED Catrina Mulderry

Nominations called for and the Secretary will act as Returning Officer if an election is required

7. Confirmation of membership/joining fees for coming year – determined by the Committee that no fees to be charged for 2019-20.
8. Guest Speakers – Daryl and Daniel Giles - “From diagnosis to OAM – A Personal Autism Journey”.
9. Close of AGM

All in attendance are invited to stay for afternoon tea and a chat. Meeting to conclude no later than 4:00.

POSTAL ADDRESS	WEB	www.afsaconnect.org.au
33 Genista Road Cranbourne West VIC 3977	PHONE	0421 642 364
ABN 27 369 160 573	EMAIL	secretary@afsaconnect.org.au

MINUTES OF 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Sunday 19th August 2018 in the Willis Room, Whitehorse Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading commencing at 2:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE: Amanda Gregory, Budiarti (Vivi) Wiranata, Amanda Golding, Deb Johnson, Tracey Hayes, Stephanie Gotlib, Justin & Siew Cleeland, Michael Tucker, Carmel Vandersman, Catrina Mulderry, Simone Whaling, Kim Woo, Rebecca Cobb, Michael, Ann & Caroline Meehan, Phil Lipshut.

1. Welcome – the President, Michael Tucker welcomed guests and opened the meeting
2. Apologies were received from Liz Wilks, Meredith Ward, Rosalie Cotter, Richard Joseph and Carol Berger.
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM held on 29th October 2017 – MOVED Michael Meehan, SECONDED Tracey Hayes CARRIED
4. Presentation of the 2018 Annual Report, including Financial Statements. Michael Tucker spoke to his report and thanked the committee for their contributions to association activities in the past year. Amanda noted the corporate status of the association and Kim noted our financial reports.
5. Acceptance of Annual Report – Motion to accept the 2018 Annual Report was MOVED by Catrina Mulderry and SECONDED by Deb Johnson and CARRIED.
6. Election of AFSA Office Bearers and Committee for the coming year.

MOTION - That the 2018-19 Committee comprise four Office Bearers and up to six ordinary committee members, as allowed for in the Rules of the Association. MOVED Catrina Mulderry SECONDED Deborah Johnson CARRIED

All committee positions declared vacant and nominations called for - seven nominations were previously received from current committee members. No further nominations received so no election was required. Three committee positions remaining unfilled can be filled by appointment at a later date.

Returning President, Michael Tucker, noted several priorities for the new committee including continued focus on the NDIS rollout and operation, monitoring the Autism State Plan process with government, developing further relationships and connections with like organisations, pursue with DHHS the need for improved advocacy services for parents/carers and further increasing the AFSA membership base.

7. Confirmation of membership/joining fees for coming year – recommended by the Committee that no fees to be charged for 2018-19. MOVED Phil Lipshut SECONDED Deb Johnson CARRIED

8. Guest Speaker – Stephanie Gotlib CEO Children and Young People with Disability Australia.

Catrina introduced Stephanie who spoke of her role with the CYDA and the ever changing role of autism families in the 2018 disability environment. Stephanie gave a wide ranging address on a variety of current topics and issues in the disability arena. Some of the key messages she noted were:

- that the NDIS is only one small part of the broader reform of the disability environment involving the move towards a social model of disability, based on the International Convention on the rights for people with a disability.
- the importance of the National Disability Strategy which is setting the reform agenda at federal, state and local government levels. The essence of the Strategy is addressing the challenge of changing community attitudes to autism and disability in the context of the existing culture of disability – such as the charity model, deficit based language, pity poor me attitudes and the burden of carers.

Amanda thanked Stephanie for her thought provoking presentation.

9. Close of AGM – 3:30 pm.

REPORT FROM THE AFSA COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Purpose of the Autism Family Support Association Inc is to assist and support individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder by providing emotional and practical support for parents, carers and families.

In the furtherance of this purpose the AFSA Committee strives to be the voice of parents, carers and families by establishing relationships with like organizations and government offices in order to convey relevant experiences and information.

Committee members meet monthly for planning and review, to deal with association management matters and provide mutual support to each other.

During 2018-2019 some key activities by AFSA have included:

Conducting a major Forum in May 2019 -The NDIS, Autism and Families - bringing together parents, advocates and senior NDIA officers. We had more than 70 attendees. Our objective with the three forums we have conducted in recent years is to provide parents, carers and family members with relevant and useful information from the very best in the field.

AFSA has been part of the Victorian Autism Plan Advisory Group, along with other "autism" support organisations, working on the Victorian Government's response to the 2017 Parliamentary Report into Services for people with autism. At the time of writing, we are waiting on the Government to promulgate a Plan.

AFSA's key activities have centred around the operation of the NDIS. In June 2018 we sent a comprehensive letter with a range of issues and concerns about aspects of the NDIS. We held a number of meetings with senior NDIA officers in September and October 2018 and again in February 2019. While we got a better understanding of some issues we remain frustrated by the often slow responses by the NDIA to make sensible improvements to the operation of the scheme.

We continue to take a close interest in education issues affecting member families and we have met with Victorian Department of Health and Human Service officers on the need for better advocacy services. We made a submission to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services on major gaps in services for people with autism, particularly those with complex and high support needs.

The Committee engaged a professional web developer to redesign the AFSA website and revamp our branding – we hope you find the new site fresh, informative and easy to view on all devices. We continue to provide information and support to members and others as much as volunteers can through our website and posts on our Facebook page. Our formal membership numbers continue to increase steadily as we strive to be the voice of Victorian parents, carers and family members of those with autism.

Michael Tucker – PRESIDENT – president@afsaconnect.org.au

All persons interested in the role and activities undertaken by AFSA are invited to attend committee meetings – contact the Secretary for details of dates and venue.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Following are details of various administrative items relating to the running of the Autism Family Support Association.



Committee membership & meetings:

Committee Members at the end of the reporting period, 30th June 2019 were:

Michael Tucker, President
Catrina Mulderry, Vice President
Amanda Golding, Secretary/Public Officer
Kim Liong Woo, Treasurer
... and committee members Tracey Hayes, Michael Meehan and Deb Johnson.

Ten committee meetings were held during the reporting period. A new committee is formed at each AGM but interested persons can nominate for the AFSA committee at any time.

Following the adoption of the new set of Rules of Association at the 2014 AGM the committee reviewed AFSA's internal processes and where applicable updated these to ensure consistency with modern business practices, for example, the use of electronic communication. The new Rules ensure AFSA is compliant with all relevant state and federal legislation re Not for Profit organisations.

Corporate Details:

The Autism Family Support Association is Incorporated in Victoria (A0007531T), is tax exempt, has an ABN (27 369 160 573) and is not registered for GST. AFSA is a registered charity with the Australian Charities & Not for Profit Commission (ACNC). AFSA was previously an organisational member of Amaze (formerly Autism Victoria).

Committee members provide their time and expertise on an honorary basis and any expenses incurred are reimbursed. Committee meetings are held at the premises of Outside the Square Psychology in Burwood and we are very grateful for the facilities and welcome provided by the director Ms Kirsty Kerr.

Financial Details:

The Association banks with Westpac Glen Waverley and operates two bank accounts – a transaction account and an investment account. Banking transactions are managed electronically with two signatories required to effect a transaction. AFSA operates on a Financial Year basis. Our accounts are not required to be externally audited.

Membership:

At 30th June 2019 there were 168 registered members of AFSA, a mailing list of 200+ interested persons and over 450 followers on Facebook.

Privacy Policy:

As required by our Incorporated Association status and the legislated Australian Privacy Principles, AFSA maintains all personal information collected from activity participants and its member register in secure storage – electronic and hard copy. AFSA does not share this information with any other entity unless specifically requested by law or with the express consent of an individual.

Amanda Golding – SECRETARY – secretary@afsconnect.org.au

Schedule 1

Regulation 15

Form 1

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

Sections 94(2)(b), 97(2)(b) and 100(2)(b)

This form is required to be provided to the members at the AGM with the association's accounts.

Annual statements give true and fair view of financial position of incorporated association

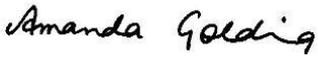
We, Kim Liong Woo and Amanda Golding, being members of the Committee of the Autism Family Support Association Inc., certify that—

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Autism Family Support Association Inc. during and at the of the financial year ended 30/6/2019.

Signed: 

Kim Liong Woo - Treasurer

Dated: 12/8/2019

Signed: 

Amanda Golding – Secretary/Public Officer

Dated: 12/8/2019

2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

During the financial year ended 30/6/2019, AFSA received income of \$5,723.00 comprising a Victorian Government Disability Self Help Group Grant (2019), a Department of Social Services Volunteer Grant (2018), registrations from one Forum (held in May 2019) and bank interest.

Expenditure for the period totalled \$6,090.79. Major expenditure items were insurances and operating costs – forum costs, meeting room hire, mobile phone, website and consumables. The AFSA Forum was partly funded from AFSA accumulated funds in order to keep the registration fee for attendees as low as possible.

Our total Funds stood at \$55,820.97 at 30 June 2019 made up of cash held in two bank accounts.

Kim Liong Woo, Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET	As at 30 June 2019
	\$
Accumulated Funds	
Opening Balance	54,371.27
Operating Surplus	<u>1,449.70</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>55,820.97</u>
Current Assets	
Cash at Bank	<u>55,820.97</u>
Total Current Assets	55,820.97
Fixed Assets	0.00
Total Assets	55,820.97
Total Liabilities	0.00
NET ASSETS	<u>55,820.97</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT	For 12 months from 1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019
Bank Balance at 1 July 2018	\$54,371.27
INCOME	
Grants	5,723.00
Bank Interest	230.61
Forum Registrations	<u>1,586.88</u>
TOTAL INCOME	7,540.49
LESS EXPENDITURE	
Fees, Insurances & Permits	1,328.88
Conferences	2,680.35
Venue Hire	841.00
Supplies	416.29
Phone	420.00
Printing & Stationery	144.27
Advertising & Promotion	260.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>6,090.79</u>
SURPLUS	<u>1,449.70</u>
Bank Balance at 30 June 2019	<u>\$55,820.97</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

Note 1: Accounting Matters

Income Tax

Autism Family Support Association is exempt from tax as per Section 23 (e) of the Income Assessment Act.

GST

Autism Family Support Association is not a registered GST entity.