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autism family support assn

ANNUAL  
REPORT

2022

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This report contains the details of the activities of the Autism Family Support Association Inc for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, and presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting held at the Mulgrave Country Club on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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# AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

ABN 27 369 160 573  
Inc. No. A0007531T



## 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at the Mulgrave Country Club commencing at 11:00 am.

### AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (see pages 3-4 of this report)
4. Presentation of the 2022 Annual Report, including Financial Statements (see pages 9-11 of this report)
5. Acceptance of Annual Report – Mover & Seconder
6. Election of AFSA Office Bearers and Committee for the coming year.

MOTION - That the 2022-23 Committee comprise four Office Bearers and up to six ordinary committee members, as allowed for in the Rules of the Association.

MOVED Deb Johnson    SECONDED Tracey Hayes

Nominations have previously been called for and the Secretary will act as Returning Officer to confirm nominations and conduct an election if required

7. Confirmation of membership/joining fees for coming year – recommended by the Committee that no fees to be charged for 2022-23
8. Questions and Comments from participants.
9. Close of AGM.

The AGM will be followed by a presentation by Ms Samantha Dooley, Victorian State Director, NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission.

A light lunch will then be served.

## MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 via Zoom commencing at 11:30 am.

ATTENDANCE: Michael Tucker, Catrina Mulderry, Michael Meehan, Amanda Golding, Carmel Vandersman, Tracey Hayes, Deb Johnson, Sarah Weinstock, Simone Whaling.

1. Welcome – the President, Michael Tucker opened the meeting and welcomed guests to our AGM held remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions.
2. Apologies – received from Kim Liong Woo, Liz Wilks, Jan de Witte, Phil Lipshut, Heather McInerney & Meredith Ward.
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
MOVED Catrina Mulderry      SECONDED Michael Meehan - CARRIED.
4. Presentation of the 2021 Annual Report, including Financial Statements by Michael Tucker and Amanda Golding.
  - a. The President outlined the work that was done during the past year.
    - i. Committee and external advocacy meetings were held electronically in view of COVID restrictions during the entire year.
    - ii. The committee commissioned Consulting by Design to carry out a Strategic Review of AFSA. This process enabled the committee to step back and critically review what we do and how we do it. The committee adopted nine strategies, including the rewriting of our Mission Statement (see our Annual Report, page 5). The committee are moving forward with the implementation of other recommended strategies in a COVID safe way.
    - iii. AFSA prepared and distributed two statements – Helping ASD families during health emergencies and our view of the proposed NDIS Independent Assessments process.
    - iv. During a break in COVID restrictions AFSA used Supporting Carers Locally grant funds to arrange several Cinema sessions and a lunch for members.
    - v. In June 2021 we were advised that we have been allocated further SCL funds for the 2021-22 period.
  - b. The 2020-21 Financial Statements were presented.
  - c. The Secretary noted the retirement during the year of committee members Liz Websdale and Deborah Frith.
5. Acceptance of Annual Report – MOVED Deb Johnson      SECONDED Sarah Weinstock  
CARRIED.

6. Election of AFSA Office Bearers and Committee for the coming year.

MOTION - That the 2021-22 Committee comprise four Office Bearers and up to six ordinary committee members, as allowed for in the Rules of the Association.

MOVED Deb Johnson SECONDED Tracey Hayes - CARRIED

All committee positions are declared vacant and nominations had previously been called for to be forwarded to the Secretary. Seven nominations were received with six current committee members returning and long serving committee member Michael Meehan retiring. A vote of sincere appreciation was given to Michael who has continuously represented parents on several committees for 40+ years. New committee member Heather McInerney was welcomed. Office Bearers were confirmed as per previous year:

**PRESIDENT** - Michael Tucker

**VICE PRESIDENT** - Catrina Mulderry

**SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER** - Amanda Golding

**TREASURER** - Kim Liong Woo

**GENERAL COMMITTEE** - Tracey Hayes, Deb Johnson, Sarah Weinstock & Heather McInerney.

7. Confirmation of membership/joining fees for coming year – it was recommended by the Committee that no fees be charged for 2021-22.

MOVED Deb Johnson SECONDED Catrina Mulderry - CARRIED.

8. Questions and General Discussion was invited:

- a. General concerns re adult services and service providers were raised in the context of experiences with the NDIS model and the impacts of COVID.
- b. Discussion revealed that there are a range of inconsistent experiences across families and service sectors, including the NDIS planning and review processes, health system including hospital care, service provision – day services, respite options and education supports, COVID responses.

Close of AGM – 12.20 pm.

## REPORT FROM THE AFSA COMMITTEE



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**The Autism Family Support Association (AFSA) is the collective voice for autistic people with complex and high support needs and their parents, carers, and families. We provide fellowship, peer support and information.**

**AFSA actively raises our community's concerns with state and federal government policy makers to achieve better services and outcomes for autistic people and their families.**

**Via our website, social media and meetings AFSA provides links to contemporary evidence-based information and resources, networks and support services.**

**AFSA is managed by a voluntary committee. We represent lived experience and speak on behalf of our autistic family members and their loved ones. We partner with like organisations to share our experiences and information.**

AFSA has had another challenging year. While navigating Covid along with the rest of the community AFSA has been able to prepare and submit statements and submissions to governments and others such as Parliamentary Inquiries on several critical issues. AFSA prepared a statement on what needs to be done to provide appropriate Disability Services For Adults. That statement has been followed up by meetings with various stakeholders including State Government Departmental officers, NDIA and NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. AFSA is also engaging with National Disability Services (NDS) the representative body for service providers.

AFSA had online meetings with Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFS) on the need to improve advocacy services and the Department of Education on restrictive practices, suspensions and expulsions. While the outcomes of these meetings have not always been what AFSA would want, we continue to persevere and seek for our voice to be better heard and our views acted upon.

Progress has been slow from AFSA's perspective on action to put into effect the Victorian Government's Autism Plan. A new consultation process has commenced and AFSA maintains representation on this Victorian Autism Plan Advisory Group and we will seek to advocate for more relevant action and support for those with complex and high support needs.

AFSA is represented on the Victorian NDIS Community Advisory Council where we will also seek to advocate for more support and action for those with complex and high support needs. A change of federal government has already led to a change of tone on the purpose and operations of the NDIS.

AFSA will continue to fearlessly advocate to all levels of government that the NDIS must be operated in a way that ensures those with the most profound and severe disabilities and with complex and high support needs get the level of support and case management they need, as well as their families and carers who are usually their advocates and nominees.

AFSA will also seek to clarify roles and responsibilities of different levels of government around the provision of support to those with autism and their families. Areas such as education, health, the justice system and housing remain substantially in the domain of state governments.

AFSA has used monies received from the Victorian Government under the Supporting Carers Locally Grant Scheme (SCLG) to provide special treats including grazing boxes and cinema vouchers to over 75 members in December 2021. A Carers Retreat for eight members was held in late May, conducted by Carers Victoria. A well-attended dinner for AFSA members and families was held on 4<sup>th</sup> June at the William Angliss Restaurant. An online series of sessions on planning for the future conducted by VALID provided important information to around a dozen members during May. AFSA aims to offer at least one more of these “planning for the future” sessions. An information session from NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will be held in August.

AFSA has updated and promulgated its Agenda of Issues documents setting out at a high-level key issues that AFSA believes need to be addressed.

AFSA has recently made contact with the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre (OTARC) which announced a major bequest earlier this year to fund autism research. AFSA will be meeting with senior OTARC representatives to suggest areas of research particularly relating to adults with autism.

AFSA has launched eContact an electronic newsletter prepared by the AFSA Committee for AFSA members. AFSA’s membership continues to grow.

Thanks to committee members for their work and dedication during the year.

AFSA Committee hopes we will have another positive year in 2022/2023.

**Michael Tucker – PRESIDENT – [president@afsaconnect.org.au](mailto: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, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were:

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

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.

Committee members provide their time and expertise on an honorary basis and any expenses incurred are reimbursed.

Face to face committee meetings have normally been held at the premises of Outside the Square Psychology in Burwood. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and out of care for our wellbeing, all AFSA committee meetings during the reporting period were held electronically via Zoom.

### **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 does not hold Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status so therefore cannot seek tax deductible donations from individuals, corporations or philanthropic organisations.

### **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 and are presented to members and interested persons each year via our annual report.

### **Operating Costs and Grants:**

AFSA has continued to be supported by an annual grant from the Victorian government Disability Self Help Group program which covers our administrative costs including facility hire, technology and insurances. This means that we do not have to charge membership fees to cover these necessary costs. Grants from government for specific projects or activities are sought from time to

time via a submission process. Activity reports and financial acquittals are lodged with the grant maker at the conclusion of each grant cycle which can stretch over two or three financial years.

### **Membership:**

At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 there were 265 registered members of AFSA, a mailing list of 200+ interested persons and 598 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](mailto:secretary@afsconnect.org.au)**

## *AFSA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE DURING 2021-22*



Families,  
Fairness  
and Housing



AN AUSTRALIA  
THAT VALUES AND  
SUPPORTS ALL  
CARERS



Specialist centre  
for foods, tourism,  
hospitality & events



**COOKING 4 KIDS**





## AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION Inc.

### 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.**

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### **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 30/6/2022.

Signed:

Kim Liong Woo - Treasurer

Dated: 18/7/2022

Signed:

Amanda Golding – Secretary/Public Officer

Dated: 18/7/2022

# AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

ABN 27 369 160 573  
Inc. No. A0007531T



## 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

During the financial year ended 30/6/2022, AFSA received income of \$4,460.15 comprising a Victorian government Disability Self Help Group grant (June 2022) and bank interest.

Expenditure for the period totalled \$36,155.21. Major expenditure items were insurances, parent/carer activity costs (Supporting Carer Locally Grants 1 & 2), Zoom subscription (in lieu of meeting room hire), website costs, mobile phone and consumables.

Our total Funds stood at \$91,093.21 at 30 June 2022 made up of cash held in two bank accounts.

**Kim Liong Woo, Treasurer**

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>As at 30 June 2022</b>
	\$
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	
Opening Balance	122,788.27
Operating Deficit	-31,695.06
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash at Bank	91,093.21
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>91,093.21</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>91,093.21</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	0.00
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>91,093.21</b>

# AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

ABN 27 369 160 573  
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<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT</b>	For 12 months from 1/7/2021 to 30/6/2022
<b>Bank Balance at 1 July 2021</b>	<b>\$122,788.27</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Grants	4,446.00
Bank Interest	14.15
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>4,460.15</b>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>	
Fees, Insurances & Permits	4,198.05
Projects – Carers Retreat	15,132.09
Projects – Movie Screening	8,072.50
Projects – Members Dinner	4,881.90
Projects – Cooking For Kids	2,800.00
Projects – Myuna Farm – Booking fee	33.00
Supplies	255.20
Phone	637.00
License Fees	46.95
Postage, Printing & Stationery	98.52
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>36,155.21</b>
<b>DEFICIT</b>	<b>-31,695.06</b>
<b>Bank Balance at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>91,093.21</b>

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

### 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.