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autism family support assn

ANNUAL  
REPORT

2023

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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 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting held at the Mulgrave Country Club on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

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# AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

ABN 27 369 160 573  
Inc. No. A0007531T



## 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023 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 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 (see pages 3-4 of this report)
4. Presentation of the 2023 Annual Report, including Financial Statements (see pages 9-11 of this report)
5. Acceptance of Annual Report – Mover & Seconder
6. Confirmation of membership/joining fees for coming year – recommended by the Committee that no fees to be charged for 2023-24
7. Election of AFSA Office Bearers and Committee for the coming year

MOTION - That the 2023-24 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 Deb Johnson

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

8. Questions and Comments from participants.
9. Close of AGM.

The AGM will be followed by a presentation by Ms Belinda Aitken, Summer Foundation Housing Outcomes Facilitator.

A light lunch will then be served.

## MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Minutes of 2022 AFSA Annual General Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Mulgrave Country Club.

Meeting commenced at 11.13 am.

Michael Tucker welcomed those in attendance.

**Attendees:** Ruth Cauchi; Lydia Cheong; Tracey Hayes; Carmen Jan; Deborah Johnson; Sue Macdonald; Catherine Madden; Ann Meehan; Michael Meehan; Catrina Mulderry; Michael Ogrodnik; Carmel Vandersman; Michael Tucker; Elizabeth Websdale; Sarah Weinstock; Kim Woo; Paul Mulderry; David Johnson; Anha Silvers.

Guests - Samantha Dooley NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission; Bree Oliver DFFH.

#### 1. Apologies:

Liz Wilks; Meredith Ward; Carla Cardosa; Jan De Witte; Heather McInerney; Carol Berger; Amanda Golding; Cate Edwards (Carers Vic); Phil Lipshut; Ani Arntinian

#### 2. Confirmation of Minutes of previous AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**MOVED:** Carmel Vandersman      **SECONDED:** Deb Johnson

#### 3. Presentation of the 2022 Annual Report including financial statements.

As per document circulated. Michael Tucker highlighted some of the Committee's work and Kim Woo reported on the financial statement and answered some questions.

#### 4. Acceptance of Annual Report

**MOVED:** Liz Websdale      **SECONDED:** Sarah Weinstock

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

Michael Tucker reported on written nominations received. It was noted that there were seven nominations received for the general committee and the Chairman proposed to the meeting that all should be accepted. The Chairman declared all of the following elected.

President – Michael Tucker

Vice President - Catrina Mulderry

Secretary – Amanda Golding

Treasurer – Kim Woo

Committee:

Deb Johnson

Liz Websdale

Sarah Weinstock

Heather McInerney  
Tracey Hayes  
Carmen Jan  
Catherine Madden

Some clarification was sought from the floor of the meeting on the election process. Michael Tucker stated that nominations had been open for the last four weeks. Most Nomination Forms had been submitted prior to the meeting. There were two signed nomination forms for general committee positions that were also submitted today, immediately prior to the meeting. Michael Tucker stated that no election was required.

6. Confirmation that no membership fee to be charged for 2022-2023.

**MOVED:** Deb Johnson **SECONDED:** Kim Woo.

7. The meeting closed at 11.32am

After a short break, Samantha Dooley Victorian Director of NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission spoke to the meeting.

# 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 a strong focus this year on advocacy.

AFSA continued to prepare and submit statements and submissions to government – state and federal and other stakeholders focussing especially on the NDIS and education issues.

AFSA has recently prepared and issued a statement on Housing options for people with autism especially those with profound autism.

AFSA has also sent a statement on the need for Disability Advocacy Reform, particularly relating to the need for improved and timely access to advocacy resources for individuals with autism and their families, to the Victorian Minister For Disability.

AFSA prepared a statement in 2022 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, the NDIA and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

AFSA had online meetings and wrote to a number of oversight bodies including the Ombudsman and the Auditor-General in Victoria about our concerns with what the Department of Education is **not** doing on restrictive practices, suspensions and expulsions. AFSA was seeking more information about the role of these bodies in overseeing the work of DET. AFSA sought to encourage appropriate scrutiny of DET in the area of restrictive practices, suspensions, expulsion and part-time attendance.

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.

AFSA is represented on a number of advisory committees and bodies including the Victorian Autism Advisory Group and the Autism Education Strategy Advisory Group. One of our committee members represented AFSA on the Victorian NDIS Community Advisory Council.

AFSA has provided a number of its statements to the various NDIS Reviews. AFSA has continued to fearlessly advocate to all levels of government and the NDIS 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 nominees.

A successful online session on Wills and Estate planning was held in June 2023.

AFSA Committee organised a family day in March 2023 at Myuna Farm. A small number of attendees enjoyed the day out.

AFSA has published a number of informative editions of *eContact* an electronic newsletter prepared by the AFSA Committee for AFSA members. *eContact* has generated a number of member stories that we have been able to share.

Thanks to Committee members for their work during the year and special acknowledgement to a number of members who are retiring from Committee positions.

A renewed AFSA Committee will face significant challenges in 2023/2024 as areas of Government spending and funding are tightened.

Best wishes to the new Committee and success in its endeavours.

**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.**



**2022-23 Committee** – Back L-R - Carmen Jan, Michael Tucker, Catherine Madden, Amanda Golding, Deb Johnson, Kim Woo, Heather McInerney. Front L-R – Tracey Hayes, Catrina Mulderry, Sarah Weinstock. Absent - Liz Websdale

## 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 2023 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, Carmen Jan, Liz Websdale, Catherine Madden and Sarah Weinstock.

Eight 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.

All AFSA committee meetings during the reporting period were held electronically via Zoom. An in person planning meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 and another on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023.

### 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 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 2023 there were 288 registered members of AFSA, a mailing list of 200+ interested persons and 607 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 2022-23*



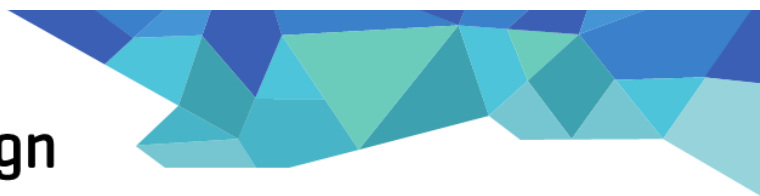
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**AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION**

ABN 27 369 160 573  
Inc. No. A0007531T



**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 30/6/2023.

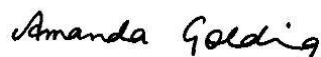
Signed:



Kim Liong Woo - Treasurer

Dated: 31/7/2023

Signed:



Amanda Golding – Secretary/Public Officer

Dated: 31/7/2023

# AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

ABN 27 369 160 573  
Inc. No. A0007531T



## 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

During the financial year ended 30/6/2023, AFSA received income of \$5,329.68 comprising a Victorian government Disability Self Help Group grant and bank interest.

Expenditure for the period totalled \$13,927.30. Major expenditure items were insurances, parent/carer activity costs, meeting costs, Zoom subscription (in lieu of meeting room hire), website costs, mobile phone and consumables.

Our total Funds stood at \$82,495.59 at 30 June 2023 made up of cash held in two bank accounts.

**Kim Liong Woo, Treasurer**

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>As at 30 June 2023</b>
	\$
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	
Opening Balance	91,093.21
Operating Deficit	(8,597.62)
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash at Bank	82,495.59
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	82,495.59
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	0.00
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>82,495.59</b>

# AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION

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<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT</b>	For 12 months from 1/7/2022 to 30/6/2023
<b>Bank Balance at 1 July 2022</b>	<b>\$91,093.21</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Grants	4,580.00
Bank Interest	749.68
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,329.68</b>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>	
Fees, Insurances & Permits	3,995.82
Annual General Meetings	2,860.00
Project Costs – Planning Session	400.00
Project Costs – Succession Planning	2,805.00
Project Costs – Myuna Farm Day	560.00
Seminar – Organisation Support	2,374.98
Supplies	55.30
Phone	588.00
License Fees	139.00
Postage, Printing & Stationery	149.20
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>13,927.30</b>
<b>DEFICIT</b>	<b>(8,597.62)</b>
Business Cash Reserve Acct	82,067.47
Community Solutions Cash Acct	428.12
<b>Bank Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>82,495.59</b>

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

### 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.