

# Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) Annual Report

for the year ending December 2015





*Our Patron, John Doyle AM*

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional custodians of the many lands and cultures of the places in which we live and work.

In preparing the annual report for the year ending December 2015, we have reduced our impact on the environment by retaining it on our website and producing only a limited number of copies in print.

Aspect is a company limited by guarantee, duly registered under the Corporations Act 2001.

Aspect is a public benevolent institution with deductible gift recipient status (DGR6966) as endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office.

In addition, Aspect holds NSW Charitable Fundraising Authority Number 10991, ACT Charitable Collection Authority Number 19000299, Victorian Fundraising Registration Number 10688, QLD Certificate of Registration as a Charity Number CH2466, WA Charitable Collections Licence CC21640 and SA Collections for Charitable Purposes Licence Number CCP2016. Aspect is also authorised to fundraise in Northern Territory and Tasmania.

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is Australia's largest not-for-profit provider of services and supports working with people on the autism spectrum and their families.

Knowledge about autism has come a long way since 1966 when six families founded Aspect as the Autistic Children's Association of NSW to provide schooling and support. Now, 50 years on, Aspect operates one of the world's largest network of schools and satellite classes for students on the spectrum and is approved to provide a range of therapy, intervention and lifestyle options under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

We offer evidence-informed services and supports across all life stages and share this evidence-informed Aspect practice and applied research internationally.

At Aspect, we believe that people on the autism spectrum are **a different brilliant** and this shines through in our work with more than 14,000 Australians on the spectrum and their families each year by our nearly 1,000 staff.

### Our Vision

The best opportunities for people on the autism spectrum.

### Our Mission

We develop person-centred solutions, which are flexible, responsive and evidence-informed, with people of all ages on the autism spectrum and their families.

### Our Values

We are passionate about people, about being positive and about what's possible.

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Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the State Library of NSW, Sydney, Australia on 25 May 2016 at 2.30 pm.



# Message from the Chair & CEO

**Back in 2013, Aspect made the significant decision to become a national organisation with the launch of its national program of workshops and consultancies known as Aspect Practice. 2014 was the year when Aspect began to implement its national strategy.**

**Last year in 2015, while Aspect continued to build its national presence, Aspect focused on becoming a truly person-centred, family-focused, customer-driven organisation in readiness for the implementation of this once in a generation change to disability services - the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) - which will commence its rollout in NSW and Victoria in July 2016.**

As a result Aspect refined its vision and mission (see page 3) to clearly identify that it is focused on being an autism-specific provider - the very reason for its existence - and that it sees people on the spectrum as its partners with strengths and capabilities to be valued.

Financially it was an excellent result in 2015 with the Total Comprehensive Income for the year of \$0.67 million. This was nearly entirely related to the operating surplus for the period. The financial result was based on the continuing strong budget management across the organisation with a budget turnover of \$78m and nearly 1000 staff.

A highlight for 2015, confirming Aspect's national provider status, was when Aspect was contracted by direct source by the Commonwealth Department of Education & Training to provide the third phase of the Positive Partnerships contract. This \$18m contract from 2015 - 2019 continues the outstanding work done by the Positive Partnerships team, many of whom have been employed by Aspect over the past eight years. With the new contract all staff and the program as a whole is managed by Aspect.

On 5 May Aspect announced that it would open the Aspect Treetop School in Adelaide in July 2016 - the first Aspect service to be based in South Australia and the first school to be established by Aspect outside of New South Wales. The South Australian Government agreed

to lease the former Ashford House site near central Adelaide to Aspect for 30 years at a peppercorn rent. The school will be part of Aspect's network of schools using the Aspect Comprehensive Approach for Education (ACAE) which involves building the skills children need to transition into a non-autism specific environment. Initially, the school will accommodate 25 children. By 2018, the aim is to have 80 students enrolled in the school.

Aspect signed an agreement with Autism Initiatives, the UK's second largest national autism-specific service provider for the exclusive use of Autism Initiatives' Five Point Star framework in Australia. This unique person-centred autism-specific framework was developed by Autism Initiatives over a period of ten years and its application has brought outstanding results to many individuals on the spectrum. The framework which focuses on understanding the person on the spectrum from their own perspective is now being piloted by Aspect Choose & Connect Victoria as the first step in its Aspect-wide implementation.

Aspect and Sunshine, one of New South Wales' most significant disability providers for people with an intellectual disability, signed a strategic alliance on 27 July to develop new programs and initiatives as the NDIS is rolled out in NSW. This is Aspect's first ever formal strategic alliance with another organisation underpinned by a deed with commitments at both Board and management levels. It is focused on opportunities that will arise with the rollout of the NDIS in NSW and the transfer of NSW government services to the non-government sector.

For the first time ever, Aspect passed the 1000 student places mark across its eight schools in 2015 with the result that by December there were 1,024 student places, making it one of the largest autism-specific education networks in the world. New satellite classes attached to Aspect schools were opened in Sydney at Trinity Catholic Primary School and Emmaus College, Kemps Creek, and Gilroy Catholic College, Castle Hill, in Wollongong at Cedars Christian College - the first independent Christian school to host a satellite class in the state - and in Port Macquarie at St Paul's Catholic High School - our first secondary satellite in that part of NSW.

While Aspect Education passed this significant milestone, all of Aspect's therapists - its speech pathologists, psychologists and occupational therapists - formed into one team now simply known as Aspect Therapy. This major re-organisation of its more than 150 therapy staff was in readiness for the rollout of the NDIS. During the year there was continuing significant growth in this team in response to the many requests for this specialist support from families across NSW, Victoria and the ACT. In fact, during 2015 Aspect became a very significant therapy provider in the ACT as that territory fully transitioned across to the NDIS.

Aspect continued to receive strong corporate support during 2015 with \$320,000 from the Greater Foundation to continue and expand its Early Intervention Readiness Program in the Hunter and Port Macquarie over the next two years bringing the total donation from the Greater to \$750,000. Aspect also received \$148,000 from Sargent's Pies as the major contribution towards establishing

satellite class units at Coffs Harbour in 2016.

The Asia Pacific Autism Conference 2015, held at the Brisbane Convention Centre and hosted by Autism Queensland, was a very successful event for Aspect. Aspect staff presented a total of 19 presentations and posters - the largest number by any one provider. There was strong international interest in our work. Aspect will be hosting the next Asia Pacific Autism Conference on 7 - 9 September, 2017 at the new International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Sadly, Mark Schlosser who had served Aspect for eight years and most recently as National Director, Aspect Family & Individual Options had to retire in October due to ill health. His contribution to Aspect had been significant at many levels both in developing its corporate organisation and in leading service provision. His unexpected departure was deeply felt across the organisation.



Aspect achieved or exceeded in 10 of its 14 Key Performance Indicators for 2015. These were:

- Aspect was in contact with 14,937 people on the spectrum in 2015, far exceeding its target of 12,500 people.
- School places grew to 1,024 in 2015 (target: 1,029) - 36 more than in 2014. Aspect was within the target range of 1,029 by less than 1%.
- Aspect far exceeded its target for people receiving individualised funding of 1,385 by seeing 2,102 people, the majority of whom received therapy services.
- Aspect offered services to people living in 205 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in NSW, Victoria and the ACT which was above the target of 200.
- Aspect offered services to people living in 32 LGAs elsewhere in Australia which was 12 above the target.
- Aspect's Net Promoter Score of 72% was within 1% of the target of 73%. This was a very pleasing result. The Net Promoter Score, an internationally recognised benchmark, measures feedback from the people we support about how they found the service they had received from Aspect and whether they would recommend Aspect to other consumers of disability services.
- Aspect met its target of receiving \$66m from government, which included Fee for Service income from families who had chosen to use the government funding they had received with Aspect.
- Aspect exceeded the target for its surplus in its operating budget of \$150,000 by generating \$663,000 in 2015.
- The expenditure on capital was \$460,000.
- Aspect had 36,115 active donors in 2015 exceeding its target of 32,200.

Of the four targets not met, two were very close to the mid-year re-forecast (the annual revenue received and the net contribution by fundraising). Of the remaining

two, staff turnover of 12.09% was within half a percentage point of its target and the lost day rate due to staff injuries at work was higher than expected because of a small number of long term claims.

A very special thank you to the more than 36,000 people and organisations who supported Aspect by making donations in 2015. The contributions from donors totalled more than \$2.676m. Without these generous supporters, Aspect would not be able to provide the vital range of services and supports to those on the spectrum and their families.

We wish to thank the members of the Board and its committees for their total commitment to Aspect, its governance and the people Aspect serves. We particularly want to thank Jenny Young for her excellent leadership of the Board over the past three years and appreciate her continued commitment to the Board as the deputy chair in her role known as the Immediate Past Chair.

We also offer our appreciation and thanks to all of the incredible staff of Aspect. They continue to work hard to improve the lives of those on the spectrum and their families. Together every member of staff, the Management Network and the Executive contribute to the continuing growth of Aspect.

In conclusion, during this time of significant change in the disability sector, we are confident that Aspect will continue to thrive and assist more people on the spectrum across Australia.

It is an honour to share our message with you and we look forward to continuing to serve the organisation in its important work.



Julie Hamblin  
Chair of the Aspect Board



Adrian Ford  
Chief Executive Officer

# Treasurer's report

## Overview

Aspect had another strong year in 2015 as it continued to transition into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The strong surplus achieved in the 2015 financial year positions Aspect to continue to grow its service coverage whilst working towards the full implementation of the NDIS.

Aspect continued to develop its service offering during 2015. We increased the total number of students in our schools by 36. At the end of the year Aspect had 1,024 students registered in its schools. The number of satellite classed increased by 5 during the year and supported the growth in our education services. There remains the potential for us to accept a small number of additional students into our existing classes. Aspect was successful in gaining the contract for the third Positive Partnerships program of \$18 million through a direct source negotiation with the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. This program will run until June 2019 and enables Aspect to continue to build on the existing autism related support and skills for professionals and carers during the school years.

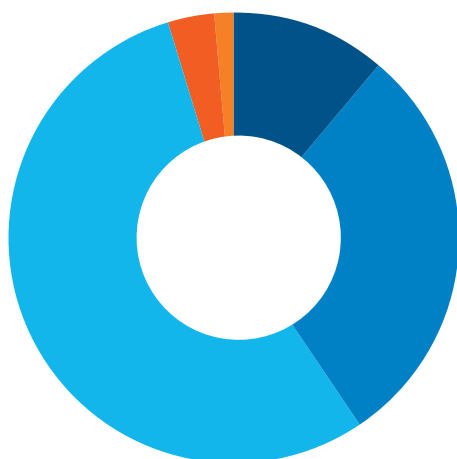
Total Comprehensive Income for the year of \$0.67 million is an excellent result and is nearly entirely related to the operating surplus for the period. The "Other Comprehensive Income" for the year, which is attributed to gains on and the revaluation of investments was negligible in 2015. In comparing the 2015 result to that of 2014 it should also be noted that the 2014 result benefitted considerably from the contribution of \$0.95 million on acquisition attributable to the Alpha Autism integration. There was no similar transaction in 2015.

The strong result reflects the operating efficiency of our services and the continued tight management of our resources. This surplus provides us with some of the necessary funds to further invest in and expand our services in future years, including the development of the Aspect Treetop School in Adelaide.

## Income

Total income for 2015 was \$78.29 million (Graph 1). After adjusting for the bargain purchase gain from the Alpha Autism integration in the 2014 figure, Aspect achieved a revenue increase in 2015 of \$8.9 million which was an

**Graph 1:  
Source of funds**



- Fee for Service \$8.82m
- Federal Govt \$22.88m
- State Govts \$42.76m
- Fundraising \$2.68m
- Other \$0.89m

**Graph 2:  
Source of Government funding**



- NSW Department of Education
- NSW Department of Family & Community Services
- VIC Department of Health & Human Services
- Commonwealth Department of Education & Training
- Commonwealth Department of Social Services

increase of 12.8%. Government funding continued to be the major source of income for Aspect representing 83 per cent of total income which is consistent with 2014.

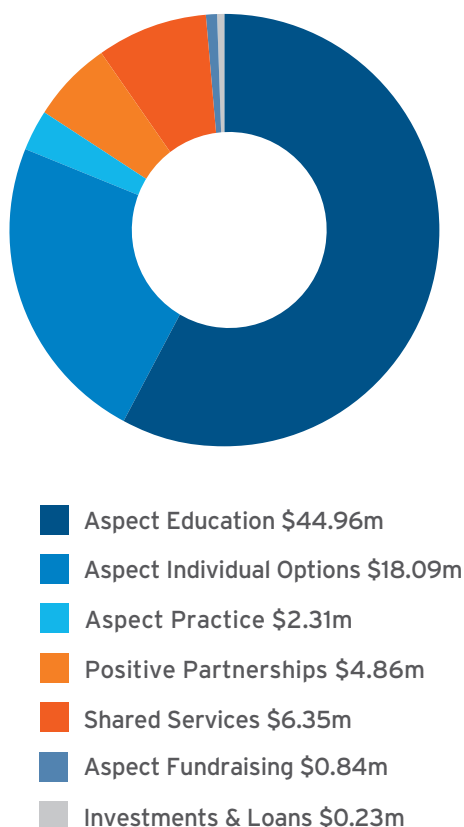
Government grant income increased by \$7.7 million to \$65.6 million (Graph 2) which reflected a higher level of teacher subsidy due to the increase in student numbers, the number of teachers across the school network and the expected increases in salary levels.

Total fees for services provided was \$8.82 million (\$7.94 million in 2014) which accounted for 11.3 per cent (11.4 per cent in 2014) of total income. This reflects a continuing focus on providing additional services, particularly through Aspect Individual Options.

## Expenses

Expenses increased by 14 per cent over the prior year to \$77.6 million in 2015 (Graph 3). Each business unit was focused on its cost base and managed expenses closely to take account of revenue variations.

**Graph 3:**  
**Where the money was spent**



By group, Aspect Education accounted for 58 per cent of total expenses which was consistent with 2014 (62 per cent). The Shared Services administrative costs increased from 6.3 per cent to 8.1 per cent of the total expense base, which remains significantly lower than the sector average. There was an ongoing focus on administrative cost management during 2015 together with the recognition that some additional capacity was required in respect of customer service, communications and quality management.

By expense type, salary costs were \$62.4 million which represented 80 per cent of total expenditure, which was consistent with 2014. All units managed their staffing levels to take account of the demand for services.

Overall total other expenses excluding employee expenses increased from \$13.7 million in 2014 to \$15.2 million in 2015. Within this total consultants represented the highest non-salary expense item at \$2.2 million which was down from \$2.4 million in 2014. Consultant expenses relate to the engagement of facilitators and learning specialists for workshops in the Positive Partnerships program and the reduction reflects the finalisation of the second program during 2015 and the interval until the commencement of the current third program.

Capital expenditure in 2015 was \$0.45 million compared to \$0.65 million in 2014. The expenditure in 2015 was for a range of improvements in Aspect's schools and also the development of a new intranet to enhance knowledge sharing and processes between Aspect's staff.

## Assets & Reserves

Overall net assets of the organisation increased to \$22.98 million in 2015 from \$22.31 million in 2014.

Aspect's Long Term Investment Reserve increased from \$3.26 million as at December 2014 to \$3.42 million at 31 December 2015. The portfolio is actively managed in conjunction with Aspect's investment advisers and the performance of the portfolio is measured against defined benchmarks that are aligned with the long-term strategic objectives, liquidity considerations and risk profile. The Long Term Investment Reserve is intended to be used in the event Aspect needs to address a major adverse



financial event, or in order to fund a major long term Board approved capital investment that is consistent with Aspect's strategic plan.

Aspect also maintains a Tactical Investment Reserve to provide a funding base for medium term projects that require capital funding. The balance of this reserve at 31 December 2015 was \$4.13 million. The operating surplus for the 2015 year will be added to the Tactical Reserve when the financial statements have been formally adopted.

The cash position fluctuates throughout the year and is influenced by the timing of government grants and school fees which are invoiced in three instalments. Ending period cash and cash equivalent balances increased to \$19.7 million in 2015, up from \$16.9 million in 2014.

Management continually focuses on cash flow and the improvement of operating margins in order to position itself well for the future as it prepares for the full implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in 2018. In addition, Aspect has in place a bank overdraft facility and also maintains a level of liquidity in the investment portfolio to cover potential temporary shortfalls. The overdraft facility was not drawn upon during 2015.



The trade payables balance of \$9.69 million primarily reflects government grant income which has been received in advance and will be expended on programs during 2016. The provisions balance, which totals \$7.62 million, comprises the annual leave and long service leave liabilities accrued for staff members.

## Conclusion

The strong financial result for 2015 is an essential element in enabling Aspect to execute its strategic plan and enable it to increase the range of services and the geographical area in which it delivers its services. The continued phased implementation of a person centred funding model provides new challenges and opportunities that Aspect can best respond to from a sound financial base. The Board and management recognise the fine margins that apply to the services we provide and will continue to develop tools and processes to enhance Aspect's ability to proactively engage with the changing environment.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Finance team within Aspect who have an ongoing focus to improve effective financial reporting processes during 2015, and also to the Executive team as a whole for their continued focus on financial dimensions.

Finally, I offer my sincere thanks to my colleagues on the Board, particularly those on the Finance & Audit Committee for their support during the year.

**Henry Capra**  
*Honorary Treasurer*

Chelsea's family  
chose to swim,  
not sink







Chelsea took part in an individualised program with Aspect Early Intervention and Therapy in 2015. The program, now called Aspect Therapy, offers approved services with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package and Better Start. Aspect Therapy is available to people across the life stages.

When she was diagnosed, young Chelsea was frustrated in her attempts to communicate verbally and struggled with imaginary play, an important skill for toddlers and pre-schoolers to acquire.

Her Mum, Tammie, said "In this situation, I think parents can either sink or swim. Our family chose to swim!"

Chelsea and her family worked, in their own home, with a member of the Aspect Therapy team throughout 2015. Together they developed a range of evidence-informed strategies to help Chelsea progress with verbal communication and play skill goals. Instead of having a six word vocabulary, Chelsea now speaks in sentences and her outgoing personality and wonderful imagination is shining through.

Our Aspect Therapy services, like the one Chelsea and her family chose, are collaborative and are based on the principles of positive behaviour support to deliver individualised programs with people on the autism spectrum and those with other developmental concerns. Our highly qualified and trained therapists are itinerant, working with people in their homes, childcare/school or community settings to maximise the impact of their funding. We also work within our own centres and with people who want to develop tailored, privately-funded programs.



# Tom followed his dream

In 2015, Tom was a student at one of Aspect's eight schools for children on the autism spectrum. His dream was, and continues to be, to work at his local gaming store, a logical choice as Tom is passionate about everything electronic. He is into video games, Wii, Nintendo DS, has two tablets and has an incredible ability to multitask.

"Our dream for Tom is that he can follow his passion and be included in this great world of ours - not excluded," said Stephanie, Tom's Mum.

Like other young people on the spectrum in Aspect Schools, Tom's teachers and other staff work with him to identify and capitalise on his strengths so that his academic development can progress to support his life goals.

Tom is just one of the 1,697 school aged students on the autism spectrum who, along with all of their families, benefitted from being part of the Aspect Education program in 2015.

At the end of 2015, Aspect Education enrolments were at 1027 across eight schools with students from the age of three years and nine months. A further 670 students were supported, during the year, in their own school settings through Aspect Educational Outreach - a program designed to build capabilities with professionals working in other school communities.

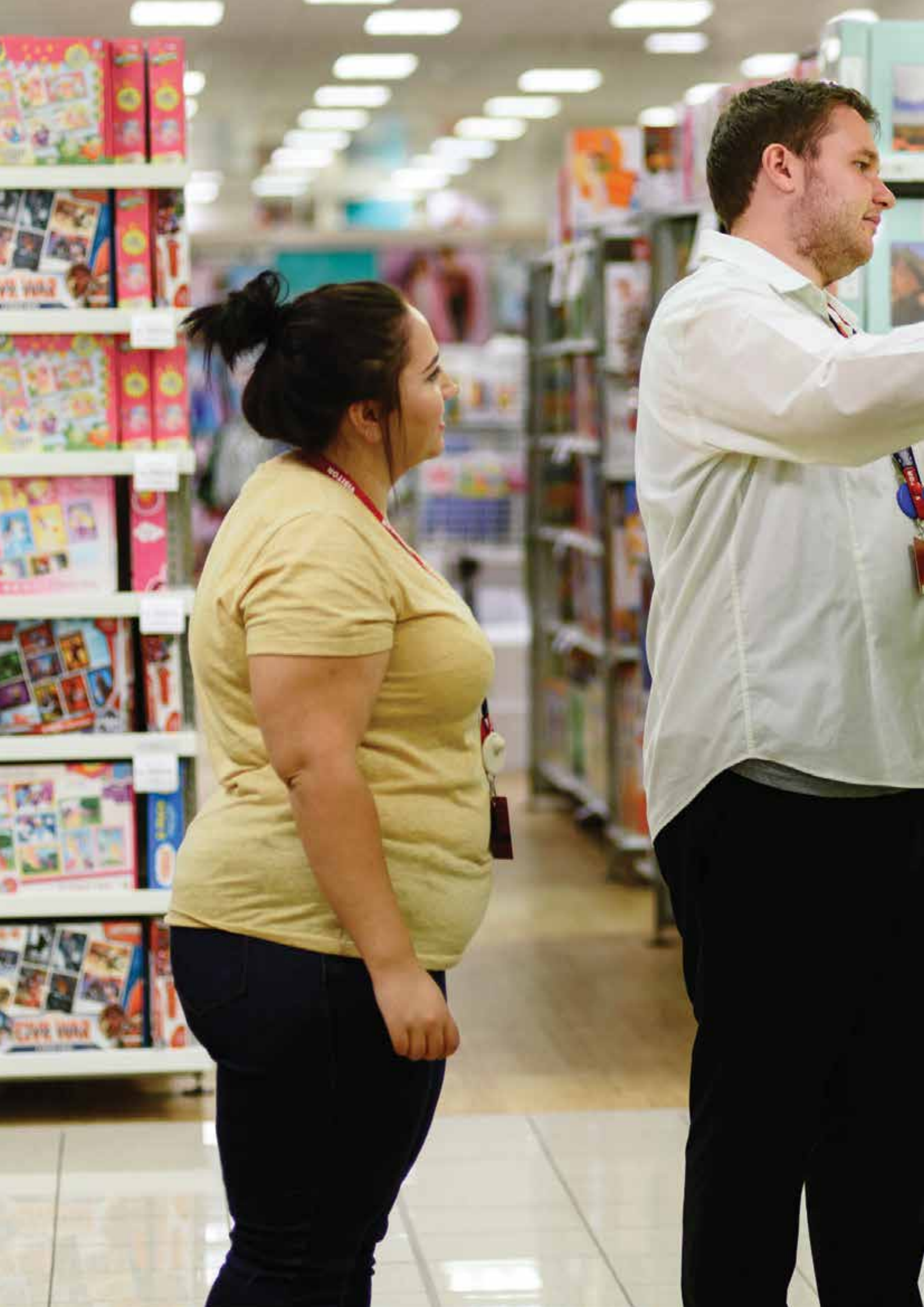
We have eight independent schools in NSW, and nearly 115 satellite classes (classes run by Aspect schools, held in mainstream schools). The Aspect Education program continues to grow and we are set to open the only autism-specific school in South Australia in 2016. We tailor our learning environments to the special needs of students with autism. Class sizes are small with a high teacher to student ratio. All classes include a teacher and a teacher's aide. Our goal is to help students develop the skills to become as independent as possible and to enable them to succeed in the wider community.













# Aspect Choose & Connect celebrated a different brilliant

In 2015, Aspect Choose & Connect worked in collaboration with Coles and Target to celebrate *a different brilliant* in individuals with whom we work.

Aspect Choose & Connect provides skill building and community inclusion opportunities for people on the autism spectrum in a pilot work placement program. The program focuses on recognising and identifying the strengths, interests and skills of people on the spectrum and applying them to the workplace. Participants engage in meaningful tasks such as packing shelves, labelling items, unpacking and sorting clothing which provide opportunities to increase communication, social and work readiness skills.

Many participants have personal goals to explore employment pathways or volunteering opportunities. Aspect Choose & Connect has developed a toolkit which provides guidelines and tools to support the employer and participants to work towards their goals and monitor their progress, develop the skills to become as independent as possible and to enable them to succeed in employment and in the wider community.

Here's just some of the feedback we have received:

**Target staff:**

*"It's going well, the volunteers follow instructions, are learning about working in a store and the most important thing, they are happy to be here!"*

**Participants:**

Hugh: *"I'm building at-work skills to help me get a job."*

Shannon: *"It's good to be stacking shelves quick and fast."*

**Parents:**

*"He takes pride in his appearance on Thursdays. He tells everyone he has a job which gives him a great deal of self esteem. I am very impressed that he has lasted this long in the program as taking orders is not his favourite occupation. So whatever the store and/or the carers are doing right, keep doing it!"*

*"He tells everyone he has a job which gives him a great deal of self esteem."*

# Our Supporters

**We are very grateful to all the people who supported Aspect during 2015. Without your support we could not provide many of the life changing services we offer to people on the autism spectrum and their families.**

In particular you provided resources and equipment for Aspect schools, Aspect Therapy and Aspect Choose & Connect, provided sponsored free school places for students to attend Aspect Schools, enabled Aspect Practice to undertake research programs and workshops, funded siblings and family camps as well as innovative projects like Aspect's Early Intervention Readiness Program to assist families access the right services after they have received a diagnosis of autism for their child.

- We received \$2.68m from our generous supporters
- 36,115 organisations and individuals made a donation in 2015
- More than 2,300 people made a regular commitment to give to Aspect fortnightly or monthly through a regular gift or through their payroll.
- 361 individuals and groups fundraised for Aspect taking on sponsored challenges or holding their own events
- 62 registered clubs and councils supported Aspect through Council & ClubGRANTs
- We were privileged to receive significant support from 37 trusts and foundations
- David Epper and the team at Accident & Health successfully ran the 16th annual celebrity golf day
- Peter & Andrea Werner helped us ensure our 14th annual Comedy Night was a success
- The Parents & Friends groups provided tremendous support to all our schools
- We are indebted to the people who supported Aspect via a bequest in their wills for the ongoing difference they make to people with autism.

## Platinum

Accident & Health International  
ASX Thomson Reuters Charity Foundation  
Commercial Club Albury Ltd  
Dee Why RSL Club Ltd  
David & Megan Epper  
Estate of Kathleen Breen  
Greater Charitable Foundation  
Greig Pickhaver AM  
John Doyle AM  
The Kenneth & Peter Gibbs Foundation managed by Perpetual  
Lend Lease Foundation  
More Comedy  
P & F Aspect South Coast School  
P & F Aspect South East Sydney School  
P & F Aspect Vern Barnett  
Sargents Pies Charitable Foundation  
Westfield Kotara

Western Suburbs (N'cle) Leagues Club Ltd  
Woodend Foundation managed by Perpetual

## Gold

2CH Massey Park Social Golf Club  
Aberdeen Asset Management  
Charitable Foundation  
Chelsea Albert  
Alfieri's Foundation  
AMP Foundation  
Steven R Anderson  
George Andrews  
AON Benfield  
Aster Group  
Donna Boughton  
Brimbank City Council  
Campsie RSL Sub-Branch Club Ltd  
Justin A Carter  
CGU Insurance  
Chatswood RSL Club Ltd

David J Cole  
Colette by Colette Hayman  
Collier Charitable Trust  
Commonwealth Bank Community Fund  
Michael C Coventry  
Geoffrey Cowell  
Barbara Cummins  
Garry J Duggan  
Rodney O Duncan  
Energy Australia  
Ernst & Young  
Shane & Michelle Finlay  
Finn Foster APB Pty Ltd  
Forestville RSL Club Ltd  
Jack K Fried  
Stuart J Gambrell  
Alex & Evi Giameos  
Givaudan Australia Pty Ltd  
L Glynn  
James Goldman  
Gary D Gould



Keith S Greenan  
 Mark Gregory  
 Jean Grierson  
 Bruce & Rachel Gunter  
 Guy Carpenter Pty Ltd  
 Rigel J Hammond  
 Harris Freidman Lawyers  
 Andrew W Hazelton  
 Patrick J Hickey  
 Martin J Hobbs  
 David P Holt  
 Rodney G Holzwart  
 Illawarra Catholic Club Ltd  
 Bryan S Inch  
 Inner Wheel Club of Wollongong Inc  
 Jardine Lloyd Thompson  
 JLDJS Foundation managed by  
 Perpetual  
 Judith A Johnson  
 Anthony G Johnstone  
 Patrick M Jones  
 George & Carla Kazzi  
 Grant E La Delle  
 Liangrove Foundation Pty Ltd  
 Harry C Loughnan  
 Brett MacNamara  
 Macquarie Group Foundation  
 Paul McCarthy  
 Donald J McGrath  
 Robert W Meek  
 Michael and Mary Whelan Trust  
 Moorebank Sports Club Ltd  
 Mosman Public School  
 Peter J Mugford  
 Rebecca Nevin  
 David A Nye  
 Oasis Australasia  
 Optus Pty Ltd  
 P & F Aspect Central Coast School  
 P & F Aspect Hunter School  
 P & F Aspect Riverina School  
 P & F Aspect Western Sydney  
 School  
 Armando J Papallo  
 Edward J Parker

Parramatta Leagues Club  
 Peter J Pierce  
 Pittwater RSL Club Ltd  
 Pont3  
 QBE Insurance Group Ltd  
 Ramm Botanicals Pty Ltd  
 Timothy J Savage  
 Scentsy, Inc  
 Scott & Broad Pty Ltd  
 Peter L Skinner  
 John W Smith  
 Martin P Smith  
 Graham J Spoor  
 Guy D Standen  
 Peter J Sterling  
 Royce L Symons  
 Alastair J Taylor  
 The Bluesand Foundation  
 The Good Guys Bankstown  
 The Marian and E.H. Flack Trust  
 The R A Gale Foundation  
 The Steadfast Foundation  
 The Westport Club  
 Peter J Thorpe  
 Simone Van den Berg  
 Piers J Walker  
 Walter Campbell Memorial Trust  
 Peter J Watherston  
 Graham R Weir  
 Peter J Weir  
 Westfield Community Program  
 Wests Ashfield Leagues Club Ltd  
 Terence L Williams  
 Neil R Windle  
 Woonona Womens Bowling Club  
 Yum Brands Foundation

### Silver

Robert Albert  
 Rob Anderson  
 ANZ Staff Foundation  
 Rodney Apps  
 Aristocrat Technologies Australia  
 Pty Ltd  
 Simone Arnott

Artarmon Masonic Hall Company  
 Pty Ltd  
 Anne Athanasi  
 Auburn RSL Club Ltd  
 Aurizon  
 Australian Order of Old Bastards  
 Ballina RSL Club Ltd  
 Diane Beers  
 Bendigo Bank  
 Sonia Bianco  
 Ralph Bierbaum  
 Phyllis Breen  
 Michael & Rhonda Brighton Hall  
 Brookvale Mazda  
 Diane Brown  
 Robert J Brown  
 Marc Buman  
 Burwood RSL Club Ltd  
 John Cambridge  
 Verne Caradus  
 Noel Carroll  
 Castle Hill RSL Club Ltd  
 Central Coast Leagues Club Ltd  
 Cessnock Rugby League Supporters  
 Club Ltd  
 CFMEU  
 Timothy Chambers  
 Wai Fong Jacqueline Chan  
 Tim Chandler  
 Church & Grace  
 City of Boroondara  
 Trevor Clark  
 Timothy Cohen  
 Brian Connor  
 Cotton On Foundation  
 Credit Union Australia Ltd  
 Dalwood-Wylie Charitable  
 Foundation  
 Sonja Daly  
 P & M Devlin  
 Vince Dore  
 David Down  
 Bruce Downie  
 East Maitland Bowling Club Ltd  
 Emirates

Enrizen Financial Group  
 Ettalong Beach War Memorial Club Ltd  
 Adrian Ford  
 Catherine Forster  
 Gallagher Australia  
 Gateway City Church  
 Gold Cup Charity  
 Group Lending Services  
 Scott Grove  
 GSA Insurance Brokers  
 Julie C Hamblin  
 Jim Harding  
 John Heathers  
 Anthony Herrera  
 Hornsby RSL Club Ltd  
 Pauline Hunter-Knight  
 Linda Hutchison  
 Brian Johnson  
 Coral Kolmann  
 KPMG  
 Ku-ring-gai Council  
 Brenton Lawrence  
 Christopher Lee  
 Lions Club of Woonona  
 Catherine Liston  
 Christopher Liu  
 Beau Loughhead  
 Meryll Macarthur  
 Grant Maguire  
 Claudia Maher  
 Maroochy RSL  
 Marsh Pty Ltd  
 M Martin  
 Therese McGee  
 Lyndall McNally  
 Media Money Management  
 Michael & Rania Megally  
 Bret Merriman  
 Anita Millard  
 Milton Corporation Foundation  
 Mingara Recreation Club Ltd  
 Rob Moerman  
 Pam Morris

Mount Thorley Warkworth Lodge  
 NAB Ltd  
 John Nevin  
 Glenn Newell  
 Cornelis Nieuwendyk  
 North Ryde RSL Community Club Ltd  
 Northern Rivers Community Foundation  
 Novion Property Group Pty Ltd  
 Jenny O'Brien  
 Omni Wealth  
 Melanie Osmotherly  
 Mary O'Sullivan  
 Penrith Rugby League Club Ltd  
 G Brooke Hutchings Bequest managed by Perpetual  
 Hilmer Family Endowment managed by Perpetual  
 Petersham RSL Club Ltd  
 Pharmacy Express  
 Pierce Armstrong Foundation Pty Ltd  
 Kerrie-Ann Powell  
 Timothy Powell  
 Professional Advantage Pty Ltd  
 Propertylink  
 Quigley Graphics  
 Quota International of the Leisure Coast Inc  
 Greg & Annabel Rector  
 Steve Redman  
 Ritchies Stores Pty Ltd  
 Robert Colin Ford Perpetual Trust  
 Peter & Katie Robinson  
 Rockend  
 James Rolfe  
 Annie Rose  
 Rotary Club of Albury Inc.  
 Rotary Club of Terrigal  
 Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club Ltd  
 Frank Scarrabelotti  
 Norman Seckold  
 Seven Hills-Toongabbie RSL Club Ltd  
 Shadforth Financial Group

Fiona Siderides  
 George Siderides  
 Jennifer Smith  
 David Starte  
 Surf Life Saving NSW  
 Terrigal Trotters Incorporated  
 Anastasia Terzis  
 The Entrance Leagues Club Ltd  
 Thiess Pty Ltd  
 Thomson Geer  
 Adam Toms  
 Town Tavern  
 Michael & Michelle Travers & Lomas-Travers  
 Trinity Catholic College  
 Maria Tsoukalas  
 Allen Tulich  
 James Turner  
 University of Wollongong  
 Dean Utian  
 Rene Vandervaere  
 Wentworthville Leagues Club  
 West Pennant Hills Sports Club Ltd  
 Western Suburbs Soccer, Sports & Community Club Ltd  
 Westpac Community Involvement  
 Wetherill Park Rotary Club  
 Beverley Whitehouse  
 Peter Williams  
 Wollongong City Motors  
 Chris Wong  
 David Wright  
 Jenny Young

## Legacies

Estate of Arnold Theil  
 Estate of George Alistair Roberts  
 Estate of Hugh Edward Bignold  
 Estate of Ronald Leslie Armour

# Our Patron, Life Governors & Life Members

## Our Patron

John Doyle AM is an award-winning Australian actor, writer, radio presenter and comedian. He has continued to support Aspect in raising awareness and much needed funds to help people on the autism spectrum and their families. John has a sister on the spectrum, and brings his warmth and personal connection to everything he does for Aspect.

## Life Governors

Ian Barnett	Betty Hatch
Rick Damelian	Larry A Rawstorne
John Doyle AM	Ray Seager
David Epper OAM	Peter Werner
David Foster	A G Whelan
Hilton Grugeon AM	
Gerry Harvey	

## Life Members

Roger Q Allen AM	Marie Goodare	A H Polyblank
George Andrews	Sybil Joel	Jacqueline Roberts
Julie Anthony AM OBE	Judith A Johnson	Weston Ryan
Mark Bowen	Errol Larbalestier	Basil Sellers
Judy Brewer AO	P Mayne	John Shand
Geraldine Bryant	Michael McColm	Jean Slaughter
John Crow	Jill McGrath	Paul C J Smith
Barbara Cummins	Tony McGrath AM	David Starte
Peter Dodd	Shirley McIntosh	Margaret Stead
Peter Drayton	Cath Mount	Andrea Werner
H Emanuel	Claire O'Keefe	Aspect Life Members Joyce Kennedy, Marion Kingston and Ron Mulock AO sadly passed away during 2014 and 2015.
Tim Fischer AC	Richard Owens AM	They are remembered for their unwavering commitment to supporting people on the autism spectrum and their families.
Mark Fogarty	Keith E Perkin	
John Gerahty	Robert Pesavento	
Patricia Gibbs	Kathleen Pigram	
	Ostilio Pisanu	
	Gretchen Poiner	

# Strategic Plan 2016 – 2018

The strategic plan charts the course for Aspect over the coming three years. Aspect's strategic plan also has been designed to be flexible in order to cope with any future changes in the sector. Aspect is committed to monitoring its plan at its Board meetings, Executive meetings and Management Network meetings to check that the plan is being implemented. Any changes which impact on the plan will be progressively factored into the plan.

The plan as a whole is reviewed every year and stepped out one more year so there is always a current three year window. Aspect's strategic plan is built on a system which ensures that:

- Strategies produce competitive advantage;
- Strategies are linked to quantifiable objectives; and
- Strategies are implemented.

The strategy development in the plan takes place within a scope defined by the following guidelines:

- Always plan 3 years ahead;
- Have a Business Plan for the immediate year ahead;
- Have measurable key performance indicators; and
- Be financially sustainable.

In order to have a rolling three year plan, Aspect reviews its current three year strategic plan every year and then takes it out one more year to create its new three year strategic plan.

The annual planning cycle incorporates:

- » A strategic audit of Aspect's external and internal environments.
- » Management's vision for the organisation three years ahead.
- » The development by the Board and the Executive of Aspect's Core Strategies for the next three years. These form the foundations of the next Strategic Plan
- » The Strategic Plan is developed around Aspect's Key Stakeholders.
- » From this the Business Plan for the coming year is developed which then drives the Budget.
- » Finally, a set of Key Performance Indicators are approved by the Board which defines the success of the Business Plan for the coming year and in the longer term, the Strategic Plan.

Integral to Aspect's success and the development of winning strategies is its focus on its Key Stakeholders. These are organisations and individuals with whom Aspect interacts and on whom it depends for success. To put it another they are our most important customers in this new market driven economy.

Therefore, Aspect actively engages with its Key Stakeholders to build and maintain strong ongoing relationships. These relationships allow Aspect to

Aspect's Performance	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of people on the autism spectrum and their families in contact with Aspect	8,053	7,380	8,460	10,004	10,793	11,067	14,937
Number of student places in Aspect's schools	612	732	814	879	968	982	1,024
Number of people receiving individualised funding or choosing to use their funding with Aspect	N/A	N/A	N/A	627	1,003	1,155	2,102
\$m turnover	42.47	47.04	47.31	54.39	61.18	70.33	78.3
\$m received from government including capital income.	38.65	43.71	39.90	43.08	51.37	57.9	66.1
Net \$m received by fundraising including capital	0.62	1.12	3.35	4.28	1.72	1.93	1.84
\$m Total Comprehensive Income	1.22	4.86	2.46	4.05	1.50	2.59	0.66



identify those strategic factors and actions that will ensure Aspect meets the expectations of each of its Key Stakeholders. By succeeding in this task, Aspect gains competitive advantage and succeeds as an organisation. As well, Aspect has its own objectives and associated actions for each key stakeholder which in turn identifies what Aspect wants from them.

### **Aspect's Key Stakeholders: 2016 - 2018**

Integral to Aspect's success and the development of winning strategies is its focus on its Key Stakeholders. These are organisations and individuals with whom Aspect interacts and on whom it depends for success.

1. People on the autism spectrum and their families
2. Governments
3. Donors & supporters
4. Strategic alliance partners
5. Aspect's staff

### **The Vision for Aspect in 2018**

- Be a mission-based, market-driven organisation focusing on national service growth so that by December 2018 its annual turnover is approaching \$100m.
- Be recognised as the premium national provider of

autism services with regular services in five states and territories.

- Be recognised as the national knowledge leader for autism services and activities that make a difference for people with autism through Aspect Practice's workshops, consultancies and research.
- Be known by its brand essence - *a different brilliant*.
- Have successfully established three strategic alliance partners that assist in significantly growing Aspect's capability.
- Expect Aspect Fundraising will continue to play a critically important role in the development of Aspect by generating circa \$4m net in fundraising.
- Have Aspect's National Office tailored externally to individual service users and internally as a customer-focused internal service provider.
- Increase Aspect's efficiency and effectiveness and so reduce the per capita costs of Aspect's National Office by having successfully implemented an enterprise-wide solution for its IT systems

### **Aspect's Core Strategies: 2016 - 2018**

1. Be person-centred, family-focused and customer-driven.
2. Be the national autism-specific service provider and knowledge leader for people of all ages on the autism spectrum, and
3. Enter in strategic alliances with other organisations to build capability and reach

# Directors' report

## Julie Hamblin, Chair of the Board

Julie Hamblin B.A., LL.B (Hons) (Syd), LL.M (McGill), GAICD, has worked for more than 25 years as a lawyer and policy consultant in health law, clinical risk, disability and international development. A former partner of HWL Ebsworth, she has served on numerous government and non-government advisory bodies in the areas of health, medical research and clinical risk, including international work with United Nations agencies on HIV policy. Julie is Deputy Chair of Plan International Australia and a member of the Australian Research Integrity Committee. She joined the Board in April 2010 and is a Member of the Finance & Audit Committee, the the Nominations & Remuneration Committee and the Strategy Group. Julie is a Member-elected Director.



## Jenny Young, Immediate Past Chair

Jenny Young B.Bus., FAICD, is Lead Partner in Ernst and Young's Customer Advisory practice. She was formerly Executive Director, NBN Transition at Telstra Corporation Limited. Jenny has held senior marketing positions for Unilever, Lion Nathan, Pepsi and Telstra, and has worked in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Australia. Jenny has a son on the autism spectrum. She joined the Board in March 2010 and is a member of the Strategy Group, the Nomination & Remuneration Committee and was a member of the Finance and Audit Committee until December 2015. Jenny is a Member-elected Director.



## Henry Capra, Honorary Treasurer

Henry Capra B.Ec., ACA, has more than 27 years of senior management and finance experience in the financial services industry. He is currently a non-executive director of Suncorp Portfolio Services Limited and Millinium Capital Managers Limited. He is also Chairman of the Investment Committee for Ignition Wealth Pty Limited and a member of their Advisory Board. He has held senior positions at JP Morgan, Blackrock, AMP Capital, Colonial First State Investments, BNP Paribas Asset Management and Barclays Global Investors after commencing his career with chartered accountants KPMG. Henry joined the Aspect Board in December 2010 and chairs the Finance & Audit Committee. Henry is a Member-elected Director.



## Robert J. Brown, Director

Robert J. Brown B.Sc., M.A., Grad. Dip. Applied Finance, and is the founder of Alford Brown and Associates. Robert has previously held senior executive roles with HSBC, Westpac, the Commonwealth Bank and State Street Bank and Trust. He is experienced in the governance of not-for-profit organisations, and has a personal interest in special education and the needs of children with learning difficulties. Robert joined the Board in June 2008, formerly held the position of Honorary Treasurer, and remains a member of the Finance & Audit Committee. Robert is a Member-elected Director.



## Annette Gallard, Director

Annette Gallard PSM, B. Soc. Stud., M. Comm, has more than 20 years' experience as a senior executive in the NSW Public Service in both the Housing and Community Services Portfolios. She retired from the position of Chief Executive of the NSW Department of Community Services in 2011 and has since focused on assisting the not-for-profit sector as a Board Member. She was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2012 for services to disadvantaged communities particularly Aboriginal people. Annette joined the Board in March, 2014 and is a member of the Strategy Group. Annette is a Member-elected Director.





### **Laurie Horin, Director**

Laurie Horin B.Bus., FCA, F Fin, has more than 25 years' experience in professional accounting, corporate and investment management, and investment banking. Laurie has worked extensively in Australia, the USA and South East Asia. He was an executive director of Carlisle Partners, a corporate advisory firm specialising in mergers and acquisitions, debt and equity funding for mid-market companies. He was also a board member of a number of client companies. Laurie joined the Board in September 2012, is a member of the Finance & Audit Committee and co-chairs the Strategy Group. Laurie is a Member-elected Director.

### **Ian Joseph, Director**

Ian Joseph B.Bus., Grad Dip Ed, FAMI, AFAIM, is a private banking and finance industry consultant and a former Chair of the Agribusiness Council of Australia. He was formerly Head of Strategy - Service and Sales with Regional and Agribusiness Banking at the Commonwealth Bank. Ian and his family care for his sister who is on the spectrum. Ian joined the Board in March 2011, is a member of the Strategy Group and represents the Board on Corporate Risk Management Committee. Ian is a Member-elected Director.



### **Malcolm McEwen, Director**

Malcolm McEwen B.Bus., M.Bus., is an executive search and selection consultant with Carmichael Fisher. Malcolm is the father of a child who is on the spectrum. He joined the Board in 2004 and is a member of the Nominations & Remuneration Committee. Malcolm is a Member-elected Director.

### **Keith Perkin, Director (resigned 27 May 2015)**

Keith Perkin B.Bus., CPA, is a consultant. Keith has an extensive commercial background primarily in the fields of management and marketing, having held senior positions at BP, Dymocks and Retravision as well as having held senior positions in the not-for-profit sector at Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia and the Starlight Foundation. He joined the Board in 2004 and was a member of the Finance & Audit Committee and the Nominations & Remuneration Committee. Keith is a Life Member of Aspect, a former Chair of the Board and was a Member-elected Director.



### **Karyn Sobels, Director (appointed 3 June 2015)**

Karyn Sobels MComLaw, BA, GAICD, is a Director of Simply Business, a business advisory firm based in Melbourne. Previously a senior executive in banking and retail, she is also a non-executive director of several other companies, including the Telstra Licensee Association, and serves on the Risk and Audit Committee of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Karyn was the former Chair of the Board of Alpha Autism Inc. and has a personal interest in the development of support services for adults and children with autism. Karyn joined the Aspect Board in June 2015 and is a member of the Finance & Audit Committee. Karyn is a Member-elected Director.

### **Peter Werner, Director**

Peter Werner B.Comm., is a Director of PW Executive. He has previously worked in the banking industry with BT Australia and Citibank. Peter is the father of a young man who is on the spectrum. He joined the Board in 2001 and chairs the Nominations & Remuneration Committee. Peter is a Life Governor of Aspect, a former Chair of the Board and is a Member-elected Director.



## Meetings of Directors

	Directors' Meetings		Finance & Audit Committee		Strategy Group		Nominations & Remuneration Committee	
	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held	No. of meetings attended	No. of meetings held
Ms J Hamblin	8	8	9	10	3	5	2	2
Ms J Young	8	8	10	10	4	5	1	2
Mr H Capra	6	8	10	10				
Mr R Brown	5	8	8	10				
Ms A Gallard	7	8			5	5		
Mr L Horin	6	8	8	10	5	5		
Mr I Joseph	8	8			4	5		
Mr M McEwen	4	8					2	2
Mr K Perkin	1	2	2	3				
Ms K Sobels	6	6	1	1				
Mr P Werner	7	8					2	2
Dr D Starte	2	3						

## Company Secretary

Adrian Ford, who is also the Chief Executive Officer, held the position of Company Secretary at the end of the financial year:

### Name & Qualifications:

Mr Adrian Ford FAICD, B. Soc.Stud

### Appointment date:

2000

## Principal activities

The principal activities of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) are to provide a range of flexible, responsive and evidence-informed services to children, young people and adults on the autism spectrum. These include customer engagement services, diagnostic and assessment services, therapy services (speech pathology, occupational therapy and psychology) including behaviour support programs, educational services for school-aged children to prepare them for transition to environments that are not autism-specific, individually-funded and block-funded programs for adults in response to their individual needs, strengths and capabilities. A range of support services are provided to

families of people on the spectrum. As well the provision of workshops, training and consultation to other professionals and parents in ways of working with people on the spectrum continues as does Aspect's research program. There were no significant changes in the nature of its activities during the year.

## Short- and long-term objectives

Aspect's long-term objective or vision is the best opportunities for people on the autism spectrum. It does this through its mission by developing person-centred solutions, which are flexible, responsive and evidence-informed, with people of all ages on the autism spectrum and their families.

Its short-term objectives for the next three years are:

1. Be person-centred, family-focused and customer-driven.
2. Be the national autism-specific service provider and knowledge leader for people of all ages on the autism spectrum, and
3. Enter in strategic alliances with other organisations to build capability and reach.

## Strategies for achieving those objectives

Aspect's strategies for achieving these objectives include:

- continuing to grow the number of people on the autism spectrum and their families who use and recommend Aspect's services;
- increasing the level of funding available from government for services and supports;
- encouraging donors and supporters to continue to increase their giving to Aspect;
- having strategic alliances that increase Aspect's services, service options, capability and market edge, and
- attracting the best people to work at Aspect, ensuring high levels of engagement and staff retention.

The Board continuously reviews the entity's performance against these strategic objectives using a set of key performance indicators which include indicators on service performance, funding from government and fundraising, media awareness, human resource management and financial performance.

## Operating results

The operating result for 2015 was a surplus of \$663,748 (2014: surplus \$2,536,232).

## Review of operations

Government grants continued to provide the major operational income for Aspect, supported by fundraising and a contribution by clients' families for some of the services through a fee for service charge. Income from these three sources increased in 2015 to \$77,131,934 compared with \$68,490,254 in 2014. In 2014 government grants of \$124,000 for capital purposes were included in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. No similar amounts were received in 2015.

## Contribution on winding up

The company is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* and is a company limited by guarantee. If

the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$20 towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 31 December 2015, the total amount that members of the company would have been liable to contribute if the company were wound up is \$4,600 (2014: \$4,980).

## Significant changes in state of affairs

In the opinion of the directors, there were no significant changes in the state of affairs of Aspect that occurred during the financial year under review not otherwise disclosed in the report or the financial statements.

## Events after the reporting date

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the directors of Aspect to affect significantly the operations of Aspect, the results of the operations, or the state of affairs of Aspect, in subsequent financial years.

## Auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* for the year ended 31 December 2015 has been received and can be found on page 26 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



Julie Hamblin  
Chair of the Board

Dated this 7th day of April 2016 at Sydney



# Auditor's Independence Declaration



**Grant Thornton**

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## **Auditor's Independence Declaration To the Directors of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)**

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as lead auditor for the audit of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) for the year ended 31 December 2015, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- b no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD  
Chartered Accountants

C F Farley  
Partner - Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 7 April 2016

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# Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

## For the year ended 31 December 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue from rendering of services		8,817,607	7,935,111
Federal/state grants and salary subsidies		65,638,558	57,925,751
Fundraising		2,675,769	2,629,392
Other revenue		1,159,590	893,587
<b>Total revenue</b>	3	78,291,524	69,383,841
Contribution on acquisition	14	-	945,196
<b>Total income</b>		78,291,524	70,329,037
Employee expenses		(62,881,876)	(54,457,697)
Transportation costs		(2,192,717)	(2,098,407)
Insurance expense		(1,224,834)	(686,055)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	4	(1,155,290)	(1,179,178)
Finance costs	4	(66,749)	(75,362)
Services		(3,131,227)	(3,660,197)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(6,975,083)	(5,635,909)
<b>Total expenses</b>		(77,627,776)	(67,792,805)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		663,748	2,536,232
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Net gain on revaluation of investments		3,017	8,795
Net gain on sale of investments		(1,592)	49,770
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>		1,425	58,565
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		665,173	2,594,797

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# Statement of financial position

**As at 31 December 2015**

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	19,498,522	16,644,964
Trade and other receivables	7	302,147	1,759,639
Other financial assets	8	229,917	225,301
Other assets	9	684,840	825,608
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>20,715,426</b>	<b>19,455,512</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Other financial assets	8	3,415,283	3,263,066
Property, plant and equipment	10	17,422,988	18,288,557
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>20,838,271</b>	<b>21,551,623</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>41,553,697</b>	<b>41,007,135</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	11	9,689,841	11,281,466
Short term borrowings	12	77,027	72,346
Short term provisions	13	5,853,647	5,008,917
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>15,620,515</b>	<b>16,362,729</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Long term borrowings	12	1,188,091	1,267,825
Long term provisions	13	1,767,396	1,064,059
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>2,955,487</b>	<b>2,331,884</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>18,576,002</b>	<b>18,694,613</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>22,977,695</b>	<b>22,312,522</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Asset revaluation reserve	15	1,176	(1,841)
Asset realisation reserve	15	(931,640)	(930,048)
Accumulated surplus		23,908,159	23,244,411
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>22,977,695</b>	<b>22,312,522</b>

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# Statement of changes in equity

## For the year ended 31 December 2015

	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Asset Realisation Reserve \$	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2014	(10,636)	(979,818)	20,708,179	19,717,725
Surplus for the year	-	-	2,536,232	2,536,232
Total other comprehensive income for the year	8,795	49,770	-	58,565
Balance at 31 December 2014	(1,841)	(930,048)	23,244,411	22,312,522
Surplus for the year	-	-	663,748	663,748
Total other comprehensive income for the year	3,017	(1,592)	-	1,425
Balance at 31 December 2015	1,176	(931,640)	23,908,159	22,977,695

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# Statement of cash flows

## For the year ended 31 December 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers and grants		78,718,910	71,597,749
Payments to suppliers and employees		(76,079,166)	(65,356,833)
Interest received		872,538	449,602
Dividend received		94,691	159,217
Interest paid		(66,749)	(75,362)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<b>3,540,224</b>	<b>6,774,373</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Proceeds on disposal of investments		423,347	775,421
Payments for investments		(574,139)	(469,076)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(456,203)	(653,195)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(606,995)</b>	<b>(346,850)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Repayment of borrowings		(75,054)	(69,038)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		<b>(75,054)</b>	<b>(69,038)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held</b>		<b>2,858,175</b>	<b>6,358,485</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		16,870,264	10,511,780
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	6	<u>19,728,439</u>	<u>16,870,265</u>

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



# Notes to the financial statements

## For the year ended 31 December 2015

### 1 General information and statement of compliance

The financial report includes the financial statements and notes of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 (including comparatives) were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors (who are Aspect's Responsible Entities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*) on 24 March 2016.

### 2 Statement of significant accounting policies

#### Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes to the accounting policies applied by the company during the reporting period.

#### New and revised accounting standards that are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015

A number of new and revised standards became effective for the first time for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015. There was no material impact on the financial statements as the changes are largely clarifications of existing requirements.

#### Summary of accounting policies

The significant accounting policies that have been used in the preparation of these financial statements are summarised below.

The financial statements have been prepared using the measurement bases specified by Australian Accounting Standards for each type of asset, liability, income and expense. The measurement bases are more fully described in the accounting policies below.

All amounts are presented in Australian dollars which is Aspect's functional and presentation currency, unless otherwise noted.

#### a. Income tax

Under Section 50-1 and 50-5 of the Income Tax

Assessment Act 1997, the income of Aspect is exempt from income tax.

#### b. Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

##### Property

Freehold land and buildings purchased are recorded at cost.

Freehold land and buildings that have been donated, are valued at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired, in accordance with the requirements of AASB 1004: Contributions.

##### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

Property and equipment are reviewed each year for impairment or whenever events or changes in business circumstances indicate that the carrying value of the assets may not be recoverable. Impairment losses are recognised if expected future cash flows from the assets are less than their carrying values.

Plant and equipment that have been donated are valued at the fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired, in accordance with the requirements of AASB 1004: Contributions.

##### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the useful life to Aspect commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvement.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rate
Buildings	2.5%
Building with demountable classrooms	10%
Leasehold improvements	10%
Plant and equipment	20-33%
Library	10%

Residual values and useful lives of assets are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date. The carrying amount of an asset is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the carrying amount is greater than the estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

### **c. Leases**

#### **Operating leases**

Where the company is a lessee, payments on operating lease agreements are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Associated costs, such as maintenance and insurance, are expensed as incurred.

### **d. Financial assets**

#### **Initial recognition and measurement**

Financial instruments, incorporating financial assets and financial liabilities, are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial instruments are classified and measured as set out below.

#### **Classification and subsequent measurement**

##### *Financial assets measured at amortised cost*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

##### *Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income*

Aspect early adopted AASB 9 Financial Instruments in 2010 and therefore all investments form part of Aspect's investment portfolio and have been classified as available for sale financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income.

Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken directly to equity (into the asset revaluation reserve).

Realised gains or losses on the sale of investments are transferred from the asset revaluation reserve into the asset realisation reserve.

#### *Financial liabilities*

Non-derivative financial liabilities (excluding financial guarantees) are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

#### **Fair value**

Fair value is determined based on current last sale prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

#### **Impairment of financial assets**

At each reporting date, Aspect assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. Impairment losses on financial assets other than those held at fair value through other comprehensive income are recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

#### **Derecognition**

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expire or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the entity no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are either discharged, cancelled or expire. The difference between the carrying value of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

### **e. Impairment of non-financial assets**

At each reporting date, Aspect reviews the carrying values of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell or value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. Where it is not possible to estimate

the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

#### **f. Employee benefits**

Provision is made for Aspect's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees up to the reporting date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs.

Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits plus related on-costs using the government bond rate that represents the period to the expected payment.

Aspect contributes to several contribution superannuation plans. Contributions are charged against income in the period to which they relate.

#### **g. Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when Aspect has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

#### **h. Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

#### **i. Revenue and other income**

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when goods are provided to entities outside Aspect.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the stakeholders.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Grant monies and donations are recognised upon receipt

of the monies. Where conditions are attached to the receipt of these monies, revenue is only recognised once these conditions have been fulfilled and the company is assured of control of the funds.

#### **j. Goods and services tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense of an item. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST components of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

#### **k. Borrowing costs**

Borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to prepare for their intended use or sale, are added to the cost of those assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale.

All other borrowing costs are expensed in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in the period in which they are incurred.

#### **l. Government grants**

A number of the company's programs are supported by grants received from the federal and state governments.

If conditions are attached to a grant which must be satisfied before the company is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue is deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

Where a grant is received on the condition that specified services are delivered to the grantor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction. Revenue is recognised as services are performed during the year.

Revenue from a non-reciprocal grant that is not subject to conditions is recognised when the company obtains control of the funds, economic benefits are probable



and the amount can be measured reliably. Where a grant may be required to be repaid if certain conditions are not satisfied, a liability is recognised at the year end to the extent that such conditions remain unsatisfied.

#### **m. Business combination**

The company applies the acquisition method in accounting for business combinations. The consideration transferred by the company to obtain control of another entity or its net assets and operations is calculated as the sum of the acquisition-date fair values of assets transferred and liabilities incurred by the company, which includes the fair value of any asset or liability arising from a contingent consideration arrangement. Acquisition costs are expensed as incurred.

The company recognises identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination regardless of whether they have been previously recognised in the acquiree's financial statements prior to the acquisition. Assets acquired and liabilities assumed are generally measured at their acquisition-date fair values.

Goodwill is stated after separate recognition of identifiable intangible assets. It is calculated as the excess of the sum of: (a) fair value of consideration transferred; (b) the recognised amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquiree; and (c) acquisition-date fair value of any existing equity interest in the acquiree, over the acquisition-date fair values of identifiable net assets. If the fair values of identifiable net assets exceed the sum calculated above, the excess amount (i.e. gain on a bargain purchase) is recognised in profit or loss immediately as a contribution on acquisition.

#### **n. Comparative figures**

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

#### **o. Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates are based on a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within Aspect.

#### **Key estimates – Impairment**

Aspect assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the company that may lead to the impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

An impairment review performed in 2015 resulted in an impairment write down of plant and equipment of \$27,804.

#### **Key estimates - Long service leave**

Management continue to review the probability factors used to accurately reflect the liability for long service leave for all staff.

The Directors believe that there are no other key estimates or judgements.

### **3 Revenue from ordinary activities**

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
School fees	4,893,545	4,460,122
Other fee for service	3,924,061	3,474,989
Federal grants	22,880,606	22,341,039
Government capital grants	-	124,000
State grants and subsidies	42,757,952	35,460,712
Donations and bequests	2,675,769	2,629,392
Other revenue	1,159,591	893,587
Total revenue from ordinary activities	78,291,524	69,383,841

### **4 Operating surplus from operating activities**

Operating surplus from operating activities has been arrived at after charging the following items.

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>Depreciation of:</b>		
- Freehold land and buildings	88,277	88,278
- Leasehold buildings	261,531	259,993

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
- Office machines and equipment	372,270	442,031
- School library	2,785	2,991
<b>Amortisation of:</b>		
- Lease improvements	430,427	385,885
Total depreciation and amortisation	1,155,290	1,179,178
<b>Finance costs</b>		
Bank loans and overdraft	66,749	75,362
Net bad and doubtful debts expenses including movements in provision for doubtful debts	171,857	13,241
Net expenses from movements in provision for employee benefits	3,719,892	2,521,915
Operating lease and other rental payments during the year	1,333,655	1,192,834
Net loss/(gain) on disposal of non-current assets	166,483	27,804

## 5 Taxation

Aspect is a charitable institution and meets the necessary conditions for its income to be exempted from income tax under Sections 50-1 and 50-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

## 6 Cash and cash equivalents

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	19,486,487	16,637,878
Cash on hand	12,035	7,086
Cash and cash equivalents	19,498,522	16,644,964

### Reconciliation of Cash

For the purposes of the statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents and short-term deposits at call, net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand	19,498,522	16,644,964
Bank term deposits	8 229,917	225,301
	19,728,439	16,870,265

## 7 Trade and other receivables

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Fees and government subsidies	564,413	1,892,909
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(373,492)	(278,961)
	190,921	1,613,948
Other receivables	111,226	145,691
	302,147	1,759,639

The company does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single receivable or group of receivables.

At 31 December 2015, the ageing analysis of trade receivables was as follows:

	Total	0-30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	+91 days
2015	564,413	117,712	24,574	60,813	361,314
2014	1,892,909	1,574,229	19,222	4,591	294,867

Trade receivables are non-interest bearing loans and generally on 30-day terms. A provision for impairment loss is recognised when there is objective evidence that an individual trade receivable is impaired. A net expense of \$171,857 was recognised in 2015 (2014: expense of \$13,242).

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Balance 1 January 2015	278,961	349,738
Charge for the year	171,857	13,241
Amounts written off	(77,326)	(84,018)
Balance 31 December 2015	373,492	278,961

Receivables past due but not considered impaired are:

31-60 days	\$24,574	(2014: \$19,222)
61-90 days	\$48,635	(2014: \$4,591)
91 days and over	\$nil	(2014: \$15,906)

These receivables relate to fee for service charges for school fees, other fee for service charges and contracted government grants. These receivables are not considered impaired as, based on historic recovery patterns, they are recovered before ageing beyond 120 days.

## 8 Other financial assets

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Bank term deposits	229,917	225,301
<b>Non-current</b>		
Available for sale financial assets	3,415,283	3,263,066

The available for sale financial assets are Aspect's investment portfolio. They are measured at fair value on a recurring basis.

## 9 Other assets

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Accrued income	512,018	468,689
Prepayments	172,822	356,919
	684,840	825,608

## 10 Property and equipment

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Freehold land and buildings - at deemed cost	7,043,461	7,043,461
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(324,607)	(236,330)
	6,718,854	6,807,131
Leasehold buildings - at cost	10,481,010	10,459,460
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2,212,750)	(1,951,219)
	8,268,260	8,508,241
Leasehold improvements - at cost	4,054,472	4,027,109
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2,390,907)	(2,050,715)
	1,663,565	1,976,394
Office machines and equipment - at cost	3,864,502	3,925,784
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,095,785)	(2,935,370)
	768,717	990,414
School library - at cost	27,874	27,874
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(24,282)	(21,497)
	3,592	6,377
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>17,422,988</b>	<b>18,288,557</b>

	Freehold land and buildings (a)	Leasehold buildings	Leasehold improvements	Office machines and equipment	School library	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Asset gross carrying amount</b>						
Balance at 1 Jan 2015	7,043,461	10,459,460	4,027,109	3,925,784	27,874	25,483,688
Additions	-	21,550	190,316	244,337	-	456,203
Disposals	-	-	(162,953)	(305,619)	-	(468,572)
Balance at 31 Dec 2014	7,043,461	10,481,010	4,054,472	3,864,502	27,874	25,471,319
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>						
Balance at 1 Jan 2015	(236,330)	(1,951,219)	(2,050,715)	(2,935,370)	(21,497)	(7,195,131)
Depreciation	(88,277)	(261,531)	(430,427)	(372,270)	(2,785)	(1,155,290)
Disposals	-	-	90,235	211,855	-	302,089
Balance at 31 Dec 2015	(324,607)	(2,212,750)	(2,390,907)	(3,095,785)	(24,282)	(8,048,331)
<b>Carrying amount 31 December 2015</b>	<b>6,718,854</b>	<b>8,268,260</b>	<b>1,663,565</b>	<b>768,717</b>	<b>3,592</b>	<b>17,422,988</b>

(a) The estimated fair value of land and buildings at 31 December 2015 is \$20,938,000. These estimates include Aspect South Coast School (\$1,900,000), Aspect Central Coast School (\$3,010,000), Aspect Western Sydney School (\$3,580,000), Aspect Vern Barnett School at Forestville (\$6,068,000), Aspect Hunter School (\$5,405,000) and a property in Altona, VIC (\$975,000) which are reflected in our insurance coverage.



## 11 Trade and other payables

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Trade creditors	320,927	1,136,175
Other creditors and accruals	3,515,574	4,296,285
Goods and services tax payable	129,506	27,124
Government subsidies in advance	5,723,834	5,821,882
	<u>9,689,841</u>	<u>11,281,466</u>

## 12 Borrowings

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Bank loan - secured	<u>77,027</u>	<u>72,346</u>
<b>Non-current</b>		
Bank loan - secured	<u>1,188,091</u>	<u>1,267,825</u>

There is one bank loan denominated in Australian dollars. The amount in current liabilities comprises the portion of the bank loan payable within one year. The non-current balance represents the portion of the bank loan not due within one year.

The bank loan with Westpac is secured by first mortgage over Aspect's land at Thornton and Corrimal, as well as the lease at Terrigal and a fixed/floating charge over Aspect's assets. The business loan bears interest at 4.98% (2014: 5.545%) per annum, payable monthly and is expected to be repaid by 2029. The purpose of the loan was to finance the upgrade project of Vern Barnett School.

In addition, interest on the above mentioned loan is partly subsidised by the Department of Education NSW. The rate varies and is currently reimbursed at about 4.1% per annum.

### Financing arrangements

Aspect has access to the following financial facilities:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Total facilities available:		
Bank overdraft	150,000	150,000
Bank loan	<u>1,265,117</u>	<u>1,340,171</u>
Facilities utilised at balance date:		
Bank loan	<u>1,265,117</u>	<u>1,340,171</u>

## 13 Provisions

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Provision for remediation of leasehold properties	80,000	211,953
Provision for long service leave	4,544,513	3,723,819
Provision for annual leave	<u>1,229,134</u>	<u>1,073,145</u>
	<u>5,853,647</u>	<u>5,008,917</u>
<b>Non-current</b>		
Provision for remediation of leasehold properties	685,000	-
Provision for long service leave	<u>1,082,396</u>	<u>1,064,059</u>
	<u>1,767,396</u>	<u>1,064,059</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>7,621,043</u>	<u>6,072,976</u>

## 14 Alpha Autism Incorporated Acquisition

In the prior year, on 30 November 2014, Aspect acquired the operations and net assets of Alpha Autism Incorporated (Alpha). No consideration was paid for the acquisition.

The amounts recognised at the acquisition date are as follows:

	2014
	\$
<b>Current assets</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	449,071
Trade and other receivables	<u>147,205</u>
	<u>596,276</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>	
Property plant and equipment	<u>982,492</u>
	<u>982,492</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>	
Trade and other payables	476,993
Provisions	<u>156,579</u>
	<u>633,572</u>
Fair value of net identifiable assets and liabilities	<u>945,196</u>
<b>Contribution on acquisition of the business</b>	<u>945,196</u>

The transaction was provisionally accounted for as at 31 December 2014. No changes have been made to the fair values of identifiable assets or liabilities since that date.

### Contribution to group results

The acquisition of Alpha was made as part of the Company's overall strategy of increasing Aspect's client base. The loss before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation for the acquired business between the date of acquisition and 31 December 2014 was \$2,677.

### Deferred settlement payments

The agreement between Aspect and Alpha doesn't contain any deferred settlement payments or earn-out clauses.

### 15 Reserves

The asset revaluation reserve records revaluations in available for sale financial assets. The asset realisation reserve records the gain or loss on disposal of financial assets.

### 16 Commitments

#### Non-cancellable operating lease expense commitments

Future operating lease rentals not provided for in the financial statements and payable:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Within one year	1,099,546	1,160,073
Greater than 5 years	1,141,808	1,062,342
	<u>2,241,355</u>	<u>2,222,415</u>

Aspect leases property and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases expiring from 1 to 73 years. Leases generally provide Aspect with a right of renewal at which time all terms are renegotiated.

The company has no contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment.

### 17 Fundraising Appeals conducted during the year

Fundraising appeals conducted during the financial period included mail and telephone appeals, payroll giving, raffles, Comedy Night, Celebrity Golf Day, active challenges, merchandise sales, applications to trusts, foundations and registered clubs, donations provided by corporate, community group and club fundraising events and the general receiving of directly and indirectly solicited donations and bequests.

This money helped to supplement the income received from governments and fees. As a result Aspect was able to expand the range and level of the services provided for people with autism and their families.

In particular this income was used to fund part of the redevelopment of Aspect's schools, resources for Aspect schools, Aspect therapy services, some services for adults with autism and some of the work of the Aspect Research team.

The cost of raising these funds was 31% (2014: 26%) of the gross revenue received. This included the costs of events, all promotional activity and the payment for all administrative services including salaries for Aspect Fundraising staff.

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>Results of fundraising appeals</b>		
Gross proceeds from fundraising appeals recognised in current year	2,675,769	2,319,478
Less: Total costs of fundraising appeals	(839,114)	(695,007)
Net surplus	<u>1,836,655</u>	<u>1,934,385</u>

### 18 Related party transactions

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

### 19 Transactions with key management personnel

Key management within the Company are the members of Aspect's Executive. During the year one member of the Executive resigned and his responsibilities were transferred to an existing member of the Executive, while late in the year two new members were added to the Executive, one being on a fixed-term, four year contract to manage a new federal government contract and the other to take responsibility for fundraising and communications, which were previously carried by the CEO. At the year end there was one vacant position, which has subsequently been filled.

Key management personnel remuneration includes the following expenses:	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Total key management personnel remuneration	<u>1,570,442</u>	<u>1,610,209</u>

The Board Directors of Aspect receive no remuneration.

### 20 Events subsequent to reporting date

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the directors of Aspect to affect significantly the operations of Aspect, the results of the operations, or the state of affairs of Aspect, in subsequent financial years.

# Responsible Entities' Declaration

In the opinion of the Responsible Entities of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect):

- a The financial statements and notes of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
  - i giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 31 December 2015 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
  - ii complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2014*, and
- b There are reasonable grounds to believe that Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

The Responsible Entities are the members of the Board of Directors. This declaration is signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



Chair of the Board  
Julie Hamblin

Dated this 7th day of April 2016



# Declaration by Chief Executive Officer

## Declaration by Chief Executive Officer in respect of fundraising appeals

### Opinion

I, Adrian Ford, Chief Executive Officer of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) declare, in my opinion:

- a. the financial statements give a true and fair view of all income and expenditure of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) with respect to fundraising appeal activities for the financial year ended 31 December 2015;
- b. the statement of financial position gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs with respect to fundraising appeal activities as at 31 December 2015;
- c. the provisions of the Charitable Fundraising Acts and the Regulations under the Acts and the conditions attached to the authorities have been complied with during the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015; and
- d. the internal controls exercised by Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied from any fundraising appeals.



Adrian Ford  
Chief Executive Officer

Dated this 7th day of April 2016

# Independent Auditor's report



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## **Independent Auditor's Report To the Members of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)**

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) (the "Company"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, the directors' declaration of the company and the declaration by the Chief Executive Officer in respect of fundraising appeals.

### **Directors' responsibility for the financial report**

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991. The Directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's

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judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error.

In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Electronic presentation of audited financial report**

This auditor's report relates to the financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) for the year ended 31 December 2015 included on Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)'s web site. The Company's Directors are responsible for the integrity of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)'s web site. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)'s web site. The auditor's report refers only to the statements named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these statements. If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on this web site.

#### **Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

#### **Auditor's opinion**

In our opinion the financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2015 and of its performance for the year ended on that date;
- b complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013;
- c the financial report shows a true and fair view of the financial results of fundraising appeals conducted during the year;
- d the financial report and associated records have been properly kept during the year in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the regulations;





- e monies received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year has been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and its regulations; and
- f there are reasonable grounds to believe Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

*Grant Thornton*

GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD  
Chartered Accountants

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C P Farley", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

C P Farley  
Partner - Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 7 April 2016



Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)  
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