

2019

Annual Report



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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.

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 Australia Taxation Office (ATO).

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.

Aspect promotes an awareness and understanding of the national and state-based Carers Recognition Acts.

In preparing the annual report for the year ending December 2019, we have reduced our impact on the environment by retaining it on our website and producing only a limited number of copies in print.

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Cover Image: 2019 Aspect Combined Schools Sport Carnival
Photographer: Adrian Koch

This Page: 2019 Aspect Combined Schools Sport Carnival
Photographer: Adrian Koch

Our Purpose.

a different brilliant[®]

understanding, engaging & celebrating the strengths, interests & aspirations of people on the autism spectrum



Participants in the Aspect float at the 2019 Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
Photographer: Adrian Koch

Message from the Chair



2019 Aspect Annual General Meeting
Photographer: Adrian Koch

It is with great pleasure that I present Autism Spectrum Australia's (Aspect) 2019 Annual Report.

2019 was an outstanding year for Aspect on many levels and saw the organisation further consolidate its position as a national knowledge leader for autism services and practices that make a difference for people on the autism spectrum.

At the start of 2019 the Aspect Board signed off Aspect's Business Plan, which had a vision to;

- put people on the autism spectrum at the centre of the organisation's advice and decision making,
- have an annual turnover approaching \$110mil,
- reinforce its position as the premium national provider of autism-specific services, and
- build a strong reputation as national and international leader in autism practice and research.

I am incredibly proud to say that Aspect has not only achieved this vision in 2019, but in many ways surpassed it.

Aspect's commitment to inclusion and consultation with people on the spectrum was significantly furthered in 2019 with the Aspect Advisory Council firmly cementing its status as an essential part of the governance of Aspect. Their independent advice to the Aspect Board and Executive is both extremely valuable to our strategic planning and vision, and beneficial to the organisation as

a whole. 2019 also saw Aspect establish the LGBTQIA+ Committee made up of Autistic adults, to help provide further advice and input into Aspect's inclusion planning.

Financially Aspect continues to grow, with a total income for 2019 of \$110mil, nearly \$5mil more than the previous year and meeting the strategic goal for the year. The Total Comprehensive Income for the year was \$9.9mil, an exceptional result for Aspect, underpinned by a strong operating surplus of \$9.3mil. I want to congratulate Aspect's management for this result, along with Aspect's many supporters who generously gave to Aspect so that we could continue to offer the best opportunities to people on the spectrum and their families.

The launch of the new Aspect Research Centre for Autism Practice (ARCAP) in Sydney was another huge milestone and will help to further bolster our evidence based practices, while establishing our reputation as a knowledge leader in the field of research into autism practices. Through ARCAP's extensive networks we will be able to share Aspect's knowledge and experience, and provide consultancies and supports in the Asia Pacific.

Importantly ARCAP are committed to our research being an inclusive 'co-production' that we undertake together with our most important research partners, individuals on the autism spectrum and their families and carers.

Aspect also participated in the 2019 Asia Pacific Autism Conference (APAC19) in Singapore. APAC19 was an exceptional conference where attendees learned about the latest in autism research and best practices.

The overarching theme was 'thriving with autism' with content focused on the progress being made in autism practice both in Australia and internationally.

Perhaps one of the most important things to happen in 2019 was the appointment of Aspect's new Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Borland. Jacqui took over as CEO in September 2019, replacing Adrian Ford, who had led Aspect for the previous 20 years.

Jacqui's exceptional leadership qualities, together with her vision for Aspect and her deep understanding of autism made her the clear candidate of choice for the position. She is a collaborative and thoughtful leader and a highly effective communicator with an in-depth knowledge of Aspect, autism, education and the disability sector.

Most importantly, she demonstrates a strong and sincere commitment to Aspect's purpose - **a different brilliant®** - Understanding, engaging and celebrating the strengths, interests and aspirations of people on the autism spectrum. Jacqui's appointment will ensure a continued strong strategic direction for Aspect, and I and the rest of the Aspect Board welcome the opportunity to work with her.

In welcoming Jacqui, it is also important to acknowledge once again the magnificent contribution of Adrian Ford during his long period as Aspect's CEO. As a result of his exceptional leadership through a period of extraordinary growth and transformation, he ensured that Jacqui has inherited a strong and flourishing organisation with huge potential for further growth and impact. We will always be grateful to Adrian for his pivotal role in Aspect's evolution.

I would also like to welcome three new Aspect Board Directors - Robert Dolk, Karen Orvad and Emily Russo. Together they bring valuable knowledge and experience to our Board and add to the already significant expertise of our existing Directors.

Finally, I want to thank our dedicated and innovative Executive team, who provide exceptional leadership to Aspect staff.

My sincere thanks also go to my fellow office bearers, committee chairs and members of the Board for their hard work, exceptional vision and strong direction.

2019 has been a year in which Aspect has firmly established its position at the forefront of autism-specific services. I am both excited and confident that the organisation will continue to grow, flourish and strengthen its role as Australia's leading autism-specific service provider.

Julie Hamblin
Chair of the Aspect Board

Message from the CEO

It was my great privilege to accept the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) following Adrian Ford's step down in September 2019. I would like to thank him for his remarkable 20 years of service and unwavering commitment to Aspect's purpose.

One of the priorities for me as the new CEO is to continue Aspect's commitment to inclusion and diversity in all that we do. Partnering with Autistic people brings enormous benefits to all levels of our governance, service delivery and practice, such as greater insight in to the needs of Autistic people, and a better understanding of the impacts of our practices.

The Aspect Advisory Council is now well established and its input has become integral to the advancement of our strategic direction. I would like to thank all Council members for their generosity and insight during 2019. Another significant marker of inclusion in 2019 was our first participation in the 2019 Sydney Mardi Gras Parade, as the Neurodiversity Rainbow. With great support from our LGBTQIA+ Committee, this initiative provided enormously positive benefits and a sense of belonging and pride for those participating. I invite you to read more about it in this annual report.

Aspect's strategic commitment to the Aspect Comprehensive Approach (ACA) continued to play a pivotal role in 2019, with the establishment of Practice Leader teams to support all of our staff in using the Five Point Star to develop strong relationships with the people we support based on an understanding of each person's unique strengths and characteristics.

The work of the ACA is underpinned by research and I am pleased to say that the new Aspect Research Centre for Autism Practice (ARCAP) was launched in May. This new centre highlights Aspect's commitment to advancing knowledge in autism practice through research and to undertaking research in partnership with individuals on the autism spectrum, their families and carers. ARCAP's work will help to identify new research opportunities, and translate future findings into programs and services that will create positive outcomes in the lives of the people we support. Proudly, ARCAP was also named as one of the first Research Co-production Partners of Australia's Co-operative Research Centre for Living with Autism (Autism CRC); a significant and important recognition!

Aspect also partnered with the Autism CRC to deliver the 2019 Future Leaders program. This exciting program develops the leadership capacities of Autistic adults, with Aspect committing \$100,000 to its development and delivery in 2019.

Nowhere is the benefit of our partnerships with Autistic adults more evident than in our Aspect Practice team, where staff, including Autistic adults, are working with external organisations to create a more autism-friendly Australia. Making changes to the physical environment or providing some additional resources can make the world of difference to someone on the autism spectrum, and in November 2019 the Gold Coast Airport, in partnership with Aspect, launched a comprehensive and best practice program to assist passengers with a hidden disability. It is one of most comprehensive airport hidden disability programs in Australia and will assist passengers with hidden disabilities to ensure their journey is as smooth as possible when travelling through the terminal.

Another 2019 highlight was the opening of the Aspect Hunter High School to new students at the beginning of Term 1. This addition to the Aspect Hunter School attracted significant positive media attention from both national and local media outlets and will look to expand to more students in the coming years. I want to personally thank Hilton Grugeon for his tireless work with the local community to help build the new school.

Marking an important milestone, Aspect passed the NDIS Commission Registration Audit in 2019 with flying colours. Positive feedback from auditors about Aspect's management of governance and risk, and the use of the Five Point Star, and from families and participants about the high quality services they receive.

On a more sombre note, in April 2019 the Federal Government established the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability (Disability Royal Commission) to help prevent, and better protect, people with a disability from experiencing violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Aspect fully supports the establishment of the Disability Royal Commission and is actively encouraging our communities to find out more about its importance to our sector and how they can make a submission. Our contribution to the Disability Royal Commission will continue into 2020 and beyond.

In 2019, Aspect also undertook its 9th biennial staff engagement survey, conducted by Voice Project. Over 80% of our staff responded to the 2019 survey, up from 74% in 2017. The survey results showed that Aspect continues to enjoy a high level of staff passion/engagement (85%), up 1% since the last survey, and 6% higher than the average for other not-for-profit organisations in Australia. I would like to thank all Aspect staff for their continued dedication and commitment to their work with people on the autism spectrum.

Overall, in 2019 Aspect provided services to 5,591 participants and their families across our schools and via our many services. The number of people receiving and using individualised funding with Aspect was 3,830.

Aspect reached its social media target of 120,000 followers across four social platforms in September 2019, an increase of more than 20 per cent in a year. This is a great achievement and a reflection of our community's engagement with our work.

Our fundraising events all experienced increased numbers in participation levels, with more than 16,750 dedicated walkers taking part in our signature fundraising event, Walk for Autism, and raising an impressive \$1.4mil, while generating a large social media footprint. Well done to all walkers!

Aspect's generous donors and supporters gave more than \$6mil to support new and innovative work not funded by governments. I would like to offer my genuine thanks to every person who gave to Aspect as these

financial contributions are crucial to the continuation of our services and the undertaking of important research projects.

Finally I would like to acknowledge Elizabeth Gadek, who stepped down as the National Director, Aspect Education after an incredible 35 years of service with Aspect! I would like to thank her for her outstanding work and wish her a wonderful and fulfilling retirement.

I would like to sincerely thank all of our staff for their contribution, passion and commitment. Our services are dependent on the people who deliver them and I am thrilled by the dedication I see firsthand in our team of staff. I would also like to recognise the Aspect Board of Directors who generously give their time and expertise. In addition, our Executive team and the Management network, who have provided unwavering leadership and guidance.

In closing, I want to acknowledge and thank all those who have accessed our services. I am humbled by the work we continue to do and the services we provide to those on the autism spectrum. We have continued to grow, expand and improve our services, support, and practices and we have established a trusted reputation that we strive to honour. What we do, we do for Autistic people of all ages and their families, and we do it proudly.

Jacqui Borland
Jacqui Borland
Chief Executive Officer



Jacqui Borland at Aspect Central Office
Photographer: Adrian Koch

Aspect Advisory Council

Introduction to the 2019 Annual Report



Krishna Sadhana speaking at the 2019 Aspect Annual General Meeting
Photographer: Adrian Koch



The Aspect Advisory Council is pleased to contribute to the 2019 Annual Report.

The past 12 months have seen the Aspect Advisory Council further expand our role in delivering an Autistic perspective on Aspect's work, and further strengthen our relationship with the Aspect Executive and Board.

The work of the Advisory Council took many forms in 2019, but always with one aim in mind – to ensure that the voice of the Autistic community is central to the governance and strategic development of Aspect's services.

This aim was clearly defined by Krishna Sadhana, representing the Advisory Council for the first time in May 2019 at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Here, Krishna outlined the role and importance of the Advisory Council to the Aspect Board and Members, and also gave an account of why the Council is so important from a personal perspective.

In June 2019, Advisory Council member Tori Haar and then CEO, Adrian Ford, jointly presented at the Asia Pacific Autism Conference (APAC) in Singapore. The presentation, which was an overview of the Advisory Council's role and its value for Aspect, was well received by delegates at the conference and further highlighted the importance of having Autistic voices central to autism services. In fact, following the conference, the Autism Resource Centre in Singapore signalled its intent to establish its own advisory council.

Also in mid-2019, the Advisory Council met with student representatives from Aspect's Hunter School to better understand their views on schooling. This meeting provided the Council with a unique perspective on Aspect's work, and we are now seeking ways to establish more formal contact with student representatives.

Members of the Advisory Council attended a number of Aspect Strategic Planning meetings in 2019 to discuss strategic actions. As a direct result of the Advisory Council's input, a much stronger core strategy - Working in Partnership with People on the Autism Spectrum - was approved by the Aspect Board. We believe that this core strategy better represents Aspect's commitment to the Autistic community and its values as an organisation.

One of the most significant contributions the Advisory Council made in 2019 was our role in the appointment of a new CEO. Members of the Aspect Board met with members of the Aspect Advisory Council in April to discuss the skills and personal attributes required of the new CEO. The Advisory Council helped to refine the assessment process, and had representatives present during the final selection stage. This is the first time anyone outside of the Aspect Board has been asked to participate in the CEO assessment process. We were very pleased to see Jacqui Borland appointed to the position of CEO in September 2019, and we look forward to working with her into the future.

Aspect plays an important role in providing much needed services to the Autistic and broader autism communities. Our aim is to ensure that the voices of Autistic people influence the governance and strategic planning of those services.

We look forward to continuing to positively represent our community next year and into the future.

We would like to recognise each member of the Aspect Advisory Council - Paul Micallef, Tori Haar, Jac den Houting, Ainslie Robinson, Krishna Sadhana, Spencer Thew and Harrison Fischer (appointed in September 2019) - and acknowledge the work of John Brawley who stepped down from the Council in February 2019.

Our Patron, Life Governors & Life Members

Our Patron

John Doyle AM is an award-winning Australian actor, writer, radio presenter and comedian and has been the Aspect patron for over 13 years. He supports Aspect in raising awareness and much needed funds to help people on the autism spectrum and their families. John brings his warmth and personal connection to everything he does for Aspect.

Life Governors

Dr Ian Barnett	Mr Gerry Harvey
Mr John Doyle AM	Mrs Betty Hatch
Mr David Epper OAM	Mr Larry A Rawstorne
Mr David Foster	Mr Peter Werner
Mr Hilton Grugeon AM	



Life Members

Mr Roger Q Allen OAM	Ms Judith Johnson	Mr Ostilio Pisanu
Mrs Clalina Andrews	Mr Errol Larbalestier	Dr Gretchen Poiner
Ms Julie Anthony AM OBE	Dr P Mayne	Dr A H Polyblank
Mr Mark Bowen	Mr Michael McColm	Dr Jacqueline Roberts
Ms Judy Brewer AO	Mr Malcolm McEwen	Mr Weston Ryan
Mrs Geraldine Bryant	Mr Tony McGrath AM & Mrs Jill McGrath	Mr Basil Sellers AM
Mr John Crow	Mrs Shirley McIntosh	Mr John Shand
Mrs Barbara Cummins	Mrs Cath Mount	Mrs Jean Slaughter
Professor Peter Dodd	Mrs Claire O'Keefe	Dr David R Starte OAM
Mr Peter Drayton	Mr Richard Owens AM	Mrs Margaret Stead
Mrs H Emanuel	Mr Keith Perkin	Mrs Andrea Werner
Mr Mark Fogarty	Mr Robert Pesavento	Ms Jenny Young
Mr John Gerahty	Mrs Kathleen Pigram	
Lady Sybil Joel		

Remembered

Aspect Life Governor Rick Damelian passed away in March 2019. He is remembered for his commitment to supporting people on the autism spectrum and their families.

Aspect Life Governor The Honourable Tim Fischer AC passed away in August 2019. We remember Tim as an inspirational Australian leader, a loved co-patron of Aspect (with Judy Brewer Fischer, 2000 - 2006) and a strong advocate for people on the autism spectrum and their families.

Our Impact



Thank you,
to all our
supporters!

We had **1167**
enrolments (students)
across all schools in 2019,

658 of which were
in satellite classes.



There were **50**
satellite classes
in NSW.



We provided services for **91**
participants in both paid and
unpaid employment/internships.



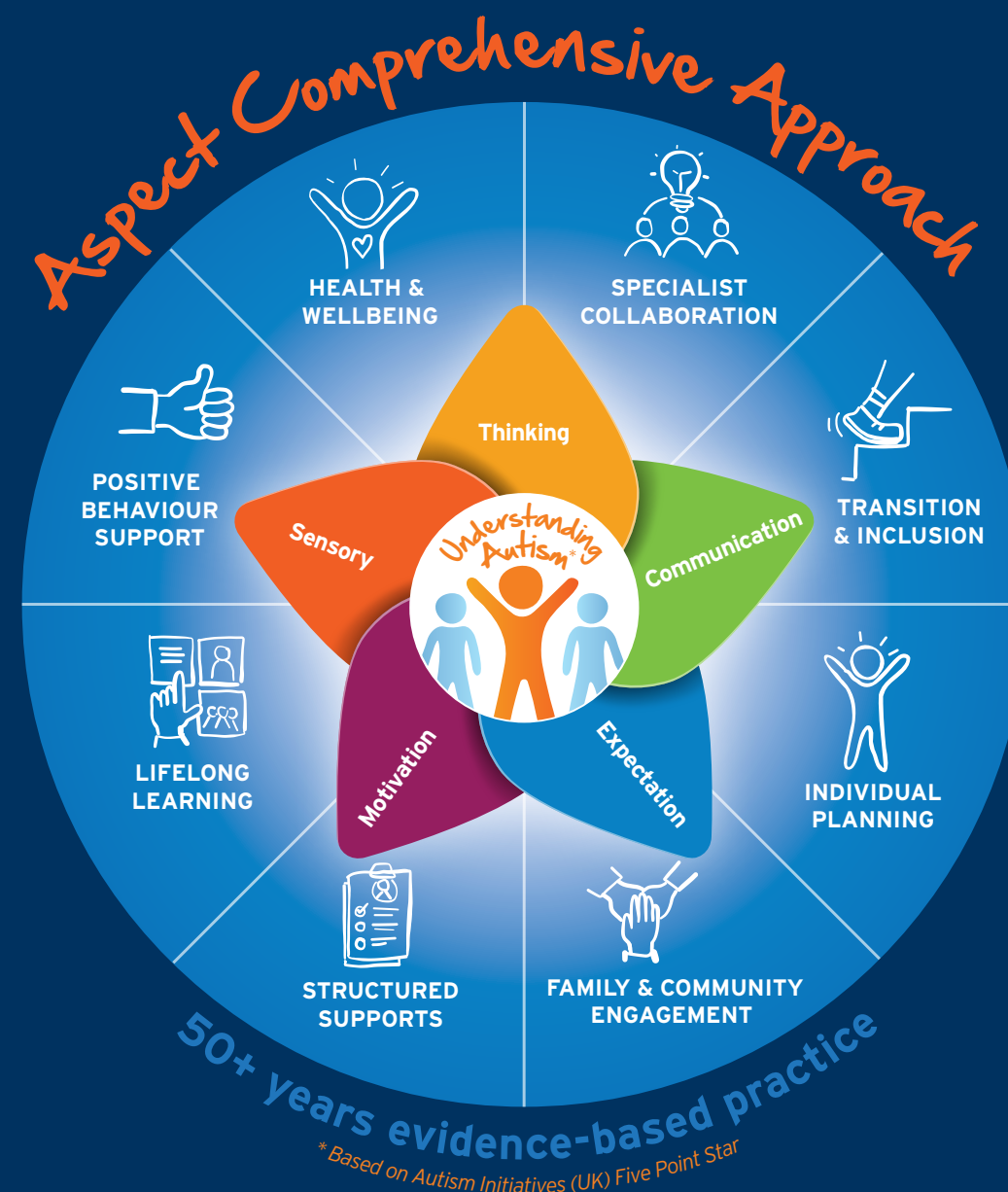
We have **9** main
school campuses
based in NSW
and SA.

In 2019 Aspect
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5,591 participants
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and via our many
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The number of
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Aspect reached its
social media target of
120,000 followers across
four social platforms
in September 2019, an
increase of more than
20 per cent in a year.

A total income for
2019 of **\$110mil**, with a
Total Comprehensive
Income for the year
of **\$9.9mil**.



Aspect's ACA

In 2019 Aspect redesigned the Aspect Comprehensive Approach diagram to ensure that it accurately reflects our commitment to consistent, individualised, evidence informed practice strongly linked, through the Autism Initiatives (UK) Five Point Star, to our understanding of autism from the perspective of the individual person we support, and our relationship with them.

Diversity and Inclusion

Aspect celebrates difference



Participants in the Aspect float at the 2019 Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
Photographer: Adrian Koch

Aspect values, respects and strives to promote diversity and inclusion in everything we do.

The Aspect 2019 - 2021 Strategic Plan anchors our partnership with people on the autism spectrum as a Core Strategy, and outlines our commitment to develop the following four inclusion plans.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)

In 2019, Aspect worked in partnership with the Autistic Self Advocacy Network Australia and New Zealand (ASAN AUNZ) to develop a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. This involved a review of the Aspect Policy Framework, consultation across the organisation and a report outlining a number of recommendations. The DAIP was then drafted as part of the Elizabeth Hoyles Fellowship co-production project.

Aspect continues to employ people on the autism spectrum whose direct lived experience enables continuous improvement and whose knowledge and skills ensure we are at the forefront of what we do.

Aspect plans to launch the DAIP in May 2020 along with a formal DAIP Evaluation Group who will lead, implement and evaluate the commitments.

Reconciliation Action Plan

In 2019, Aspect formalised our Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group including three Aboriginal employees. This group drafted the Aspect Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) with consultation taking place between Aspect and a number of First Nations stakeholders.

"As a proud First Nations Person on the Autism Spectrum, I was invited to consult Aspect on creating their Reconciliation Action Plan. I am passionate about making environments inclusive and accessible for my people. Through this respectful process, I was refreshed

by Aspect's openness to make amendments. Thank you Aspect for ensuring your RAP is written with the voices and insight of lived experience at the forefront." Elise Muller, RAP consultant.

Aspect plans to launch the Innovate RAP in March 2020 and the RAP Working Group will lead the continued review and update of related policies and recruitment strategies and recognising and celebrating National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.

Multicultural Engagement Plan

2019 also saw Aspect develop projects and approaches to help us engage diverse communities, including the provision of interpreting services and access to Easy English and multilingual support on our website. Within our teams, we celebrated Harmony Day on 21 March by co-ordinating staff to wear orange and hosting events across our network. Aspect co-produced a draft of a Multicultural Engagement Plan through the Elizabeth Hoyles Fellowship program ensuring the voice of Autistic people from diverse cultural backgrounds was front and centre. Aspect aims to launch and implement the Multicultural plan in 2020.

LGBTQIA+ Engagement Plan

2019 was Aspect's first year of participation in the Sydney Mardi Gras Parade, which saw Autistic, LGBTQIA+, family, friends and allies marched with pride to the theme 'Fearless'. Participation in the Mardi Gras was led by the Aspect LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee, who advise Aspect on approaches and insight into how to provide inclusive support for LGBTQIA+ Autistic people. The membership of the Advisory Committee is drawn from people with lived experience of autism and LGBTQIA+ identities.

Together these inclusion plans form an essential values base for Aspect and ensure we are held accountable to listening to and learning from people from diverse cultures, identities and life experiences.

ARCAP the coming of age for Aspect Research

Aspect Research Centre for Autism Practice

The launch of the Aspect Research Centre for Autism Practice (ARCAP) at last year's Annual General Meeting not only recognised the long history of research at Aspect but the significant contribution the research program is making to the advancement of worldwide knowledge of evidence-based autism services, programs and practices for people on the autism spectrum.

ARCAP - Aspect Research Coming of Age

Research is embedded in Aspect's purpose, mission and vision. From our inception in 1966, Aspect's founder and a pioneer in the establishment of autism services, Dr Andrew Vern-Barnett AM MBE, recognised the importance of research in the field of autism and the development of services.

Early Aspect research focussed primarily on pre-school and school-age children on the autism spectrum, namely in the areas of language development, transition into mainstream schools, use of technology, structured supports, identifying and supporting strengths and evaluating models of early intervention. These studies are still readily cited in the literature, testimony to their significance in autism practice research.

As an outcome of Aspect's research, many children on the autism spectrum and their families and carers are experiencing greater success in inclusive education and community settings. Aspect research has been translated into a number of autism-friendly programs that facilitate the participation of children in their local communities:

- The inclusive Nippers program is making it easier for children on the autism spectrum to enjoy, take part in and feel included at Nippers sessions
- Shoes & Socks national shoe retailer's program of training and in-store adaptations is making shoe shopping a more enjoyable and successful experience for Autistic children and their families and carers.

Several Aspect research studies have focused on improving the lives of Autistic adults. The landmark studies, We Belong and We Belong Too allowed Autistic

adults to voice their lived experiences to prompt discussions and influence the design and delivery of services that meet the needs of Autistic people.

ARCAP's driving principles

The establishment of ARCAP was in response to the burgeoning research portfolio and record of accomplishment of delivering evidence-informed approaches to autism practice. Aspect is one of few autism-specific service providers comprising a designated research centre and is uniquely placed to positively impact the lives of Autistic people and their families and carers.

The focus of all research at ARCAP is the improvement of long-term quality of life for Autistic people of all ages. A participatory approach to undertaking research at ARCAP means we draw upon the lived experience of Autistic people and their families and carers as well as the hands-on knowledge of practitioners, to shape and inform our research in autism practice. This ensures our research is relevant, respectful and translates into proven practices that support Autistic people to have the best possible opportunities throughout their life.

Furthermore, our staff includes two Autistic researchers who provide valuable insights and guidance around the design, delivery, implementation and reporting of research projects.

Aspect is proud to have been recognised in 2019 as one of the first official Autism CRC Research Co-production Partners. This endorsement requires an organisation to have demonstrated a sustained commitment to quality participatory or co-production research producing translatable outcomes relevant to the needs of the community.

"By listening to the lived experience of Autistic people, the hope is that we can understand gaps in services and supports, and improve the lives of people who often go unheard." Matthew Oastler, Research Priorities Advisory Group member

 **13**
conference presentations

9 autism practice-related studies 

5 autism practice reviews 

2 Autistic researchers 

Fundraising Facts and Figures

Aspect thanks all our donors and supporters for their generous gifts throughout the year - all of you are helping to ensure that no-one on the autism spectrum is left behind.

\$6,029,571
raised in 2019 across all fundraising programs




\$1,424,764
fundraised



Increase of approx.
13,326
(385%)
in participants
from 2018 to 2019



\$35,828
fundraised in the Ride for autism with
237 participants





Ava's journey

Aspect offers one of the world's largest autism-specific education programs for children and young people on the autism spectrum. As a registered independent school, with nine main campus schools, operating in New South Wales and South Australia, we work to each student's autism-related learning needs, individual strengths, interests and aspirations. In 2019, we had 1167 students across all schools, of which 658 were placed in our satellite classes in mainstream school settings.

One of those students is Ava.

Ava is a happy five-year-old who loves going to school. However, this hasn't always been the case. Her parents, Shannen and Jamie, say that as a very young child she didn't laugh or talk much and it was often hard for them to know if Ava was happy at all.

Ava didn't participate in activities and would often get so overwhelmed she would be inconsolable. Worried for their daughter, her parents sought answers and just before she turned three, Ava was diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum.

Today, Ava is a very different girl and her parents believe that Aspect has played a key role in her development.

Ava attends Aspect Central Coast School, and has grown from struggling to hold a pencil and being able to speak only a few words - often in her own, made up language - to being able to read, write and draw, initiate contact with other children, and engage in structured lessons.

"She has just changed so dramatically, and we can see her unique personality just shining through so brightly! All her friends and family are just amazed by the progression" - Shannen

At Aspect Schools, differences are not only accepted, they're valued. Aspect teachers know that every child is different in their own wonderful way.

Teachers take the time to understand their students, because schooling isn't just about academic study. It's a place for children to learn important life skills such as listening, communication and relationship building - skills which are essential to navigating the world around us.

Combining this understanding with one-on-one support in small classes and structured goals tailored to Ava's needs, she is continuing to build on her skills, learning strategies for regulating emotions and techniques to cope with sensory challenges.

This evidence-informed, autism-specific teaching framework provides children like Ava with the confidence they need to find their voice and reach their full potential.

"She has always been that amazing bubbly little girl but she just needed that extra help to express it and Aspect have given that to us." - Shannen



Aspect School's focus on a student's strengths, rather than on negative behaviours. By learning to value their own strengths and efforts, as well as those of others, we see students become much more adept at coping with stressful or unexpected situations, leading to greater confidence in themselves and the world around them.

Ava with dad, Jamie, and mum, Shannen
Photographer: Dave Thomapson

Directors' report

The names of the Directors in office at any time during the year or since the end of the year are:

The Directors present their report together with the financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) for the year ended 31 December 2019 and the auditors' report thereon.

As defined in section 205-30 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 the Directors referred to in these financial statements are Aspect's Responsible Entities for the purposes of that Act.

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 chairs the Strategy Committee and is a Member of the Finance, People & Audit Committee, the Governance Committee, and the Education Strategy Oversight Committee. Julie is a Member-elected Director.



Henry Capra, Deputy Chair of the Board & 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, People and Audit Committee. Henry is a Member-elected Director.



Robert J. Brown, Director

Robert J. Brown GAICD, B.Sc., M.A. (Applied Mathematics), Grad. Dip. Applied Finance, is the founder of management consultancy firm Alford Brown & Associates, and also executive officer of the Australian Custodial Services Association. Rob has previously held senior executive roles with HSBC, Westpac, the Commonwealth Bank and State Street Bank. 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. Rob joined the Board in June 2008, formerly held the position of Honorary Treasurer, and is a member of the Fundraising & Communications Committee. Robert resigned from the Board in July 2019.



Robert Dolk , Director

Robert Dolk BEC, ACA, GAICD worked as an auditor with PwC Sydney and then for some 25 years as a banking executive with HSBC, Deutsche Bank, and BNPParibas in Sydney, Hong Kong, Frankfurt, Singapore, Tokyo and Paris. Since returning to Sydney, Robert has been a Non-Executive Director with Zurich Insurance Australia, Lawcover, and Alinta and is currently an Asian Development Bank representative Commissioner for Indonesia Infrastructure Finance. He joined the Board in March 2019 to fill a casual vacancy. He joined the Board in March 2019 and chairs the Education Strategy Oversight Committee and is a Member of the Governance Committee, and the Fundraising and Communications 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 chairs the Governance Committee and is a member of the Education Strategy Oversight Committee . 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 Chair of the Strategy Committee and a member of the Finance, People & Audit Committee. Laurie is a Member-elected Director. Laurie resigned from the Board in December 2019.



Paul Khoury, Director

Paul Khoury B.Sc, GD Ed, MA, GD App Finance, SF Fin, GAICD has more than 25 years' experience in the Investment Management & Security Services industries across the US, UK and Asia-Pacific regions having held numerous senior positions at the Director, CEO and COO levels. Paul is currently CEO of Link Fund Solutions, a Board member of St Patrick's College Strathfield and consultant to the Financial Services industry specialising in business strategy, governance and operations transformation. Previously, he held senior roles in the areas of investment management, operations management and actuarial consulting for a number of domestic and international investment managers and industry service providers. These included State Street Corporation, Focus IM, Hambros Hopkins, GIO, MIRA Consultants and IFA Australia. Paul joined the Board in March 2018 and is a Member of the Finance, People and Audit Committee and the Strategy Committee. Paul is a Member-elected Director.

Marielle Latour, Director

Marielle Latour B.Ec, Exec MBA, GAICD, has over 30 years' experience within the financial services industry. She is currently a non-executive director of CBHS Health Fund Limited and CBHS Corporate Health Fund Pty Ltd. She Chairs the Audit and Risk Committee for CBHS Health Fund and is a member of CBHS Corporate Health's Audit & Risk Committee. Her previous board directorships include My Credit Union Limited and the Australian Handball Federation. Her professional experience is in consulting, marketing and distribution, stakeholder management and managing businesses. She has held senior executive positions at Colonial Group, Commonwealth Bank, TAL and a start-up business. She joined the Aspect Board in November 2018 and chairs the Fundraising and Communications Committee and is a Member of the Strategy Committee. Marielle is a Member-elected Director.



Karen Orvad , Director

Karen Orvad , MBA (Exec), CA, GAICD has over 20 years experience in Risk, Internal Audit, Governance, Board Advisory and Strategic Human Resources including executive coaching, culture assessment and change management. Karen is a former KPMG Partner and has worked with some of the worlds most recognised brands in the corporate, government, financial services and not-for-profit sectors. Karen is a specialist adviser in the areas of risk culture and behaviour and in assisting organisations identify and address both the human and structural elements needed for effective governance. She joined the Board in March 2019 and is a Member of the Finance, People and Audit Committee and the Strategy Committee. Karen is a Member-elected Director.

Pamela Rutledge, Director

Pamela (Pam) Rutledge BA Dip Social Work, MAICD, FIPAA, has over 40 years' experience managing and leading complex health, community services and mental health services. In her early career, Pam worked as a Social Worker in front-line mental health service delivery, and was the Executive Officer of the Richmond Inquiry, which significantly influenced the delivery of services for people with a mental illness and those with a developmental disability. Before joining the not-for-profit sector, Pam had extensive experience in senior roles in the NSW government, including experience in health, housing, and ageing and disability. Pam moved to the not for profit/community managed sector in 2009 to become CEO and Company Secretary of Richmond Fellowship of NSW and then CEO of the merged Flourish Australia (RichmondPRA Ltd), a role she retired from in 2017. She joined the Board in 2018 and is a Member of the Education Strategy Oversight Committee, the Fundraising and Communications Committee and the Strategy Committee. Pam is a Member-elected Director.



Paul Ververs, Director

Paul Ververs PSM, GAICD, BA (Hons), CQSW, Dip Management Studies is a Deputy Secretary at the Department of Family and Community Services where he manages three of the Department's Districts which provide child protection, out of home care and public housing services and coordinates the management of public housing tenancies across NSW. Paul worked for one year as a group parent in a Rudolph Steiner home in Switzerland before embarking on a career in child protection in London, UK. He subsequently worked for Fujitsu UK (ICL) for three years and then joined the UK Audit Commission. Since 2000, Paul has worked in various regional management roles in the then Housing NSW and now in the Department of Family and Community Services where he is responsible for services across Sydney, Western and Far West NSW and Southern NSW and the Illawarra. Paul was awarded the Public Service Medal for services to homeless people. Paul joined the Board in August 2018 and is a Member of the Education Strategy Oversight Committee and the Strategy Committee. Paul is a Member-elected Director.

Treasurer's report

Overview

I'm delighted to present another strong result for Aspect for the 2019 financial year. The Total Comprehensive Income for the year of \$9.99m was an outstanding achievement on the back of what was an impressive result in 2018 of \$6.10m. This continues to reinforce Aspect's capacity during these challenging and fast-moving times.

Aspect continued to invest in its quality and service offering in 2019, highlighted by the development of distance education and the capital works across several sites including Aspect Hunter School and Aspect South East Sydney School, Loftus Campus. Additionally, there was a significant investment in Aspect's Enterprise Resource Planning system to enhance the efficiency in resource deployment to better respond to the needs of participants as part of Aspect's commitment to quality and efficiency under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

During 2019, Aspect continued to extend its footprint. The total number of registered student places in its schools increased by 30 during the year to 1,166. Aspect's NDIS Services also continued its steady trajectory with 3,827 participants choosing Aspect as their preferred service provider.

In an increasingly competitive market and in the context of uncertainty and volatility in education funding for schools under the current economic conditions, Aspect's solid result reflects the operating efficiency of its services and continued effective management of resources. A number of consecutive years of surplus provide the necessary funds to allow Aspect to invest in areas that are pivotal to its future success, including potentially some of the following initiatives:

1. Expansion of the reach of Aspect Education through distance education and the search and possible establishment of new school campuses. We are fortunate to have commenced work on the new Loftus campus in Southern Sydney, part of the Aspect South East Sydney School;
2. Further investment into Aspect's research and training of all staff in the Aspect Comprehensive Approach to strengthen Aspect's points of difference;
3. Partnership with the Autism Cooperative Research Centre to deliver the Future Leaders Program, which is Australia's holistic leadership capacity building

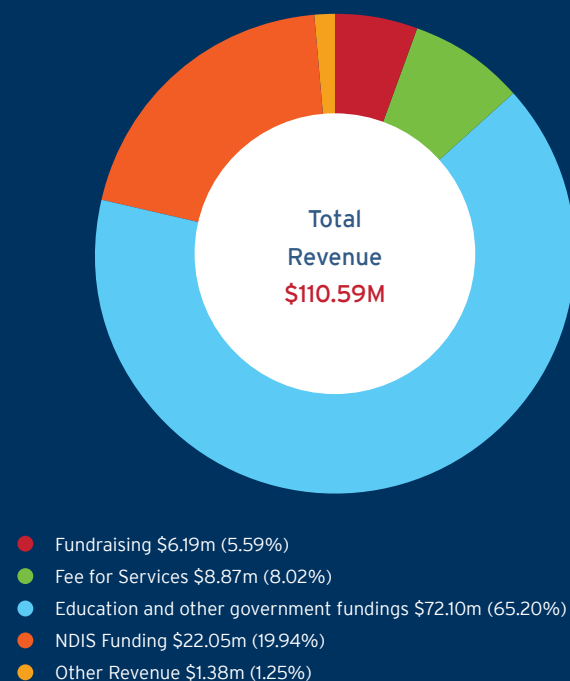
program for Autistic adults designed by and for Autistic people. This will enable participants to learn from, empower and encourage one another to pursue their goals and positively impact their communities;

4. Delivery of Autism Friendly and Inclusive Projects which provide opportunities for those on the autism spectrum to be included in communities and workplaces in a safe and meaningful way;
5. Investment in capital projects in existing Aspect schools such as Aspect Hunter School to meet the changing educational environment; and
6. Continued enhancement of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and our technology generally aiming to deliver superior customer service and better meet the needs of participants.

Income

Total income was \$110.59m (Graph 1), an increase of 5.44% or \$5.71m from 2018. Government funding (Education, NDIS and other Government grants) continued to be the primary source of income for Aspect representing 85.14% of total income, which is greater than 2018 highlighting the Commonwealth and State Governments' commitments to invest in education and the NDIS.

Graph 1: Source of Funds

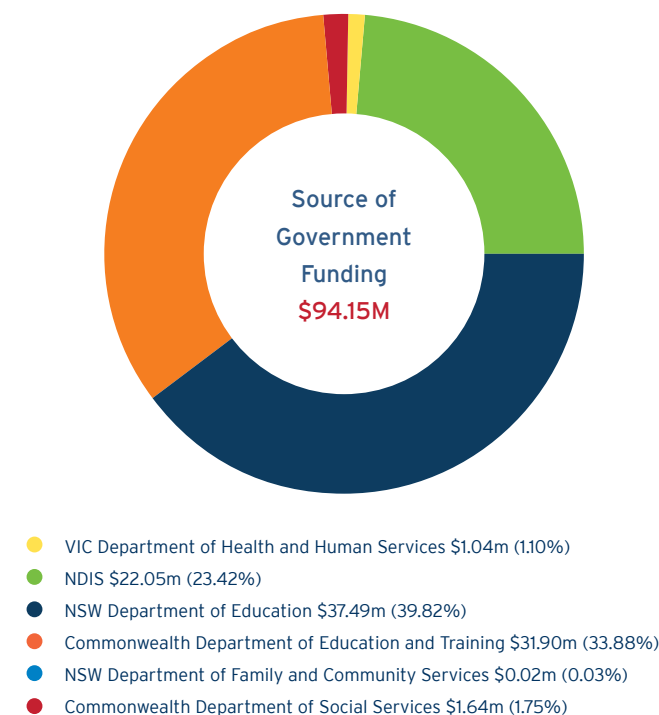


Total fees for services, including school fees, was \$8.87m (\$9.53m in 2018) which accounted for 8.02% (9.09% in 2018) of total income. The decrease in fee for services income was due to Aspect's commitment to supporting families via fee relief and sponsorship as well as participants transitioned to the NDIS as reflected in the increase in government grants.

Gross fundraising income for 2019 was \$6.19m, which was an increase of \$1.26m from 2018. Aspect appreciates the continuing support from donors during the year. Fundraising continues to represent a vitally important part of Aspect's income that allows Aspect to provide services that are either not funded by governments, or where the costs are not fully met.

Government funding increased by \$5.73m to \$94.15m (Graph 2), which reflected a higher level of government grants due to the increase in student numbers, NDIS participants and per capita funding.

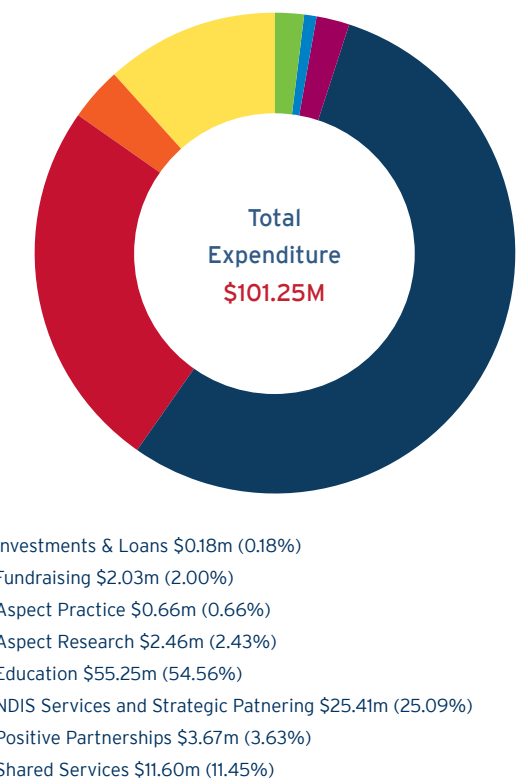
Graph 2: Source of Government Funds



Expenses

Total expenses for 2019 increased by 2.97% over the prior year to \$101.25m in 2019 (Graph 3). This is reflective of the staff and other costs associated with offering additional services compared to the prior year. Each business unit manager was responsible for their unit's expenditure and monitored expenses closely to ensure Aspect resources were being used efficiently. The Board is appreciative of Aspect's ability to manage such a large cost base whilst continuing to grow the business strongly.

Graph 3: Where the money was spent



By group, Aspect Education accounted for 54.56% of total expenses, which was slightly higher than in 2018 (52.59%). The Shared Services costs increased by 1.47% to 11.45% (2018: 9.98%) of the total expenditure. This was due to the compliance and management overheads resulting from the volume of transactions under the NDIS despite Aspect's ongoing focus on administrative cost management during 2019.

By expense type, salary costs were \$82.85m representing 81.83% of total expenditure, which was in line with our ongoing strategy to invest in service quality improvements (2018 80.44%).

The overall total of other expenses, excluding salary expenses decreased by \$0.83m, from \$19.23m in 2018 to \$18.40m in 2019. Within this, total consultant costs represented the highest non-salary expense item at \$2.52m, which was lower from 2018 (2018: \$3.73m). The majority of consultant expenses related to the engagement of facilitators and learning specialists to run seminars and workshops for the Positive Partnerships program.

Capital expenditure in 2019 was \$5.55m compared to \$3.06m in 2018, a considerable portion of which was related to the Loftus school project and the significant program of work on the school playground upgrades. The remainder related to a range of improvements in Aspect's

schools such as facilities' improvements, interactive smartboards and other technology upgrades across the whole organisation.

Assets & reserves

Overall net assets of the organisation increased by \$9.99m to \$43.99m in 2019 from \$34.00m in 2018, placing Aspect in a stronger financial position.

Aspect's Long Term Investment Reserve increased by \$0.58m from December 2018 to \$4.67m as at 31 December 2019. The portfolio is actively managed in conjunction with Aspect's investment advisers, JBWere, 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 Reserve is intended to be used in the event where Aspect needs to fund a major long term Board approved capital investment that is consistent with Aspect's strategic plan or to address a significant business event.

Aspect also maintains a Tactical Reserve to provide a funding base for medium-term projects that require capital funding. The balance of this reserve as at 31 December 2019 was \$4.85m, an increase of \$3.34m from 2018. The operating surplus for the 2019 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 (including the Tactical Reserve) increased to \$36.76m in 2019, up from \$25.90m in 2018.

As for the liabilities, the service contract liabilities of \$6.92m primarily reflects government grant income, which has been received in advance and will be

expended on programs during 2020. The provisions balance, which totals \$12.88m, mainly comprises annual leave and long service leave liabilities accrued for Aspect staff members.

Conclusion

A robust financial base for Aspect is an essential element of delivering sustainable, quality services. The financial result for 2019 enables Aspect to execute its strategic plan and increase the range of services and the geographical area in which it delivers its services. The NDIS and changes in education funding provide both ongoing challenges and opportunities that Aspect can best respond to from this sound financial base. The Board and Management 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 in Aspect who have continued to improve effective financial reporting processes during 2019, and the Executive team as a whole for their continued focus on Aspect's financial dimensions.

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

Henry Capra
Honorary Treasurer

27 March 2020



Staff and participant at our Marrickville Aspect Choose & Connect site
Photographer: Adrian Koch

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2019



	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue from NDIS and other services		24,417,003	18,100,550
Revenue from educational services		78,607,968	79,851,514
Fundraising		6,185,522	4,930,539
Other revenue		1,380,183	1,999,771
Total Income	3	110,590,676	104,882,374
Employee expenses	4	(84,329,849)	(80,213,464)
Transportation costs		(2,190,798)	(2,884,194)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	4	(3,063,943)	(1,340,474)
Finance costs	4	(247,398)	(43,015)
Services		(3,553,839)	(5,100,963)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(7,868,163)	(8,750,303)
Total expenses		(101,253,990)	(98,332,413)
Surplus for the year		9,336,686	6,549,961
Other comprehensive income			
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of investments		606,461	(403,795)
Net gain/(loss) on sale of investments		47,337	(46,115)
Other comprehensive income / loss for the year		653,798	(449,910)
Total comprehensive income for the year		9,990,484	6,100,051

Statement of financial position

As at 31 December 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	35,435,825	24,724,320
Trade and other receivables	6	1,655,563	745,103
Other financial assets	7	317,174	303,974
Other assets	8	1,549,612	1,765,210
Total current assets		38,958,174	27,538,607
Non-current assets			
Other financial assets	7	5,993,822	5,269,201
Property, plant and equipment	9	24,101,520	20,504,626
Right of use assets	10	3,345,432	-
Total non-current assets		33,440,774	25,773,827
Total assets		72,398,948	53,312,434
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	11	4,354,335	3,831,429
Service contract liabilities	12	6,915,913	3,202,166
Short term borrowings	13	113,280	108,915
Short term provisions	14	10,530,141	9,167,480
Lease liabilities		1,027,553	-
Total current liabilities		22,941,222	16,309,990
Non-current liabilities			
Long term borrowings	13	740,103	860,318
Long term provisions	14	2,354,550	2,140,481
Lease liabilities		2,370,944	-
Total non-current liabilities		5,465,597	3,000,799
Total liabilities		28,406,819	19,310,789
Net assets		43,992,129	34,001,645
Funds			
Fair value through OCI reserve		715,112	(242,715)
Asset realisation reserve		-	(835,335)
Accumulated funds		43,277,017	35,079,695
Total funds		43,992,129	34,001,645

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

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

Statement of changes in funds

For the year ended 31 December 2019



	Fair Value Through OCI Reserve \$	Asset Realisation Reserve \$	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2018	161,080	(789,220)	28,529,734	27,901,594
Surplus for the year	-	-	6,549,961	6,549,961
Other comprehensive loss for the year	(403,795)	(46,115)	-	(449,910)
Balance at 31 December 2018	(242,715)	(835,335)	35,079,695	34,001,645
Surplus for the year	-	-	9,336,686	9,336,686
Other comprehensive income for the year	606,461	47,337	-	653,798
Transfer	351,366	787,998	(1,139,364)	-
Balance at 31 December 2019	715,112	-	43,277,017	43,992,129

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2019



	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from customers and grants		111,834,140	99,055,360
Payments to suppliers and employees		(94,895,757)	(96,630,703)
Interest received		716,036	780,355
Dividends received		112,130	304,170
Interest paid		(243,533)	(43,015)
Net cash provided by operating activities		17,523,016	3,466,167
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds on disposal of investments		81,309	90,916
Payments for investments		(70,824)	(315,570)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(5,551,939)	(3,064,918)
Net cash used in investing activities		(5,541,454)	(3,289,572)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of borrowings		(1,256,857)	(109,649)
Net cash used in financing activities		(1,256,857)	(109,649)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held		10,724,705	66,946
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		25,028,294	24,961,348
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	5	35,752,999	25,028,294

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

1 Corporate information

Autism Spectrum Australia is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The Company is a not-for-profit entity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and under the *Charitable Fundraising Act (NSW) 1991*.

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 2019 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 27 March 2020.

Principal activities

The principal activities of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) are to provide a range of services to children, young people and adults on the autism spectrum that are person-centred, family-focused and customer-driven. 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, short term accommodation services, individually-funded and block-funded programs for children, young people and 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 as 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.

Members guarantee

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 2019, the total amount that members of the Company would have been liable to contribute if the Company was wound up was \$2,460 (2018: \$2,960).

Economic dependency

Government funding continues to provide the major operational income for Aspect, supported by fundraising and contribution by clients' families for some of the services through a fee for service charge. Income from these three sources increased in 2019 to \$109,210,493 compared with \$102,882,603 in 2018. This represents 98.8% of Aspect's total income.

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 other than as set out below regarding the new accounting standards applicable from 1 January 2019.

New and revised accounting standards that are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019

A number of new and revised standards became effective for the first time for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019, as described below.

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, AASB 1058 Income of NFP Entities

The Company has adopted AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of

Not for-Profit Entities for the first time in the current year with a date of initial application of years beginning 1 January 2019.

The Company has applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the modified retrospective (cumulative catch-up) method which means the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 111 Construction Contracts, AASB 118 Revenue, AASB 1004 Contributions and related interpretations.

The following practical expedients have been applied on transition to AASB 15 and AASB 1058: For contracts modified prior to 1 January 2019, the Company has elected not to restate the contract for the modifications and has instead reflected the aggregate effect of all the modifications that occur before the transition date on 1 January 2019.

There are no material changes to the Company's accounting policies and the impact on the financial report from applying AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

Changes in presentation

There are no material changes in the presentation of the Company's financial statements to align them with the requirements of AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

AASB 16 Leases

Aspect has elected to adopt AASB 16 Leases using the modified retrospective (cumulative catch-up) method from 1 January 2019 and therefore the comparative information for the year ended 31 December 2019 has not been restated and has been prepared in accordance with AASB 117 Leases and associated Accounting Interpretations. The impact of adopting AASB 16 is described below:

Under AASB 117, Aspect assessed whether leases were operating, or finance leases based on its assessment of whether the significant risks and rewards of ownership had been transferred to the lessee or remained with the lessor. Under AASB 16, there is no differentiation between finance and operating leases for the lessee and therefore all leases which meet the definition of a lease are recognised on the statement of financial position (except where an exemption election is used). The leases identified by the Company have been recognised as a right of use asset with a corresponding lease liability on the balance sheet.

Practical expedients used on transition

AASB 16 includes several practical expedients which can be used on transition, the Company has used the following

- expedients:
- contracts which had previously been assessed as not containing leases under AASB 117 and associated Accounting Interpretations were not re-assessed on transition to AASB 16;
 - lease liabilities have been discounted using the Company's incremental borrowing rate at 1 January 2019;
 - right of use assets at 1 January 2019 have been measured at an amount equal to the lease liability adjustment by the any prepaid or accrued lease payments;
 - a single discount rate was applied to all leases with similar characteristics;
 - leases with an expiry date prior to 31 December 2019 were excluded from the statement of financial position and the lease expenses for these leases have been recorded on a straight-line basis over the remaining term; and
 - hindsight was used when determining the lease term where the contract contains options to extend or terminate the lease.

Financial report impact of adoption of AASB 16

The Company has recognised right of use assets of \$4,535,640 and lease liabilities of \$4,449,759 at 1 January 2019 for leases previously classified as operating leases.

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.

Land and Buildings
Freehold land and buildings are recorded at cost or deemed cost.

Leasehold property
Leasehold property is recorded at cost and depreciated over the lesser of useful life or the lease period.

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.

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:

<i>Class of fixed asset</i>	<i>Depreciation rate</i>
Buildings	2.5%
Building with demountable classrooms	10%
Leasehold improvements	10%
Plant and equipment	20-33%
Software	20-33%
Land	Nil
Motor Vehicles	20%

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
The Company has leases over buildings, vehicles and office equipment.

Leases accounting policies
At inception of a contract, the Company assesses whether a lease exists – i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

This involves an assessment of whether:

The contract involves the use of an identified asset – this may be explicitly or implicitly identified within the agreement. If the supplier has a substantive substitution right, then there is no identified asset.

The Company has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from the use of the asset throughout the period of use.

The Company has the right to direct the use of the asset i.e. decision-making rights in relation to changing how and for what purpose the asset is used.

At the lease commencement, the Company recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where the Company believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises of the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration less any lease incentives.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of assets accounting policy. The right-of-use asset is assessed for impairment indicators at each reporting date.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease,

however where this cannot be readily determined then the Company’s incremental borrowing rate is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is remeasured whether there is a lease modification, change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI) or a change in the Company’s assessment of lease term.

Where the lease liability is remeasured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the remeasurement or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

The Company has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for leases of low-value assets. For these leases, the Company recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Make good provisions
Provisions Costs required to return certain leased premises to their original condition as set out in the lease agreements are recognised as a provision in the financial report. The provision has been calculated as an estimate of future costs and discounted to a present value and is revised on an annual basis.

Since these future costs are based on the Company’s past experience with similar premises and estimates of likely restoration costs determined by the Company’s management, these estimates may vary from the actual costs incurred as a result of conditions existing at the date the premises are vacated.

d. Financial assets
Initial recognition and measurement
The Company classifies its financial assets into the following categories:

1. financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVPL),
2. amortised cost,
3. financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and re-evaluates this designation at every reporting date.

Financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs unless they are carried at fair value through profit or loss in which case the transaction costs are recognised in the income statement.

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised on trade-date, the date on which the Company commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Company has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the balance date. The quoted market price used is the current bid price.

The categories of financial assets are:

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss
A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management. Assets in this category are classified as current assets if they are either held for trading or are expected to be realised within 12 months of the Statement of Financial Position date.

After initial recognition they are measured at their fair values. Gains or losses on re-measurement are recognised in the income statement.

Financial assets at amortised cost
Financial assets are measured at amortised cost if the assets meet the following conditions (and are not designated as FVPL or FVOCI): they are held within a business model whose objective is to hold the financial assets and collect its contractual cash flows, the contractual terms of the financial assets give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding. After initial recognition, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The Company’s cash and cash equivalents, trade and most other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments as well as long-term deposit that were previously classified as held-to-maturity under AASB 139.

Financial assets classified as fair value through other comprehensive income (previously Available-for-sale financial assets)

Investments in equity instruments that are not held for trading are eligible for an irrevocable election at inception to be measured at FVOCI. Under FVOCI, subsequent movements in fair value are recognised in other comprehensive income and are never reclassified to profit or loss. Dividend from these investments continue to be recorded as other income within the profit or loss unless the dividend clearly represents return of capital. This category was previously classified as ‘available-for-sale’.

The fair value of investments that are actively traded in organised financial markets is determined by reference to quoted market bid prices at the close of business on the reporting date.

Financial liabilities

The Company measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The financial liabilities of the Company comprise trade creditors, other payables, borrowings and lease liabilities.

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 balance date the Company assesses whether there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. Any impairment losses are recognised in the income statement. The Company considers a broader range of information when assessing credit risk and measuring expected credit losses, including past events, current conditions, reasonable and supportable forecasts that affect the expected collectability of the future cash flows of the instrument.

In applying this forward-looking approach, a distinction is made between: financial instruments that have not deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition or that have low credit risk (‘Stage 1’), and financial instruments that have deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition and whose credit risk is not low (‘Stage 2’). ‘Stage 3’ would cover financial assets that have objective evidence of impairment at the reporting date. ‘12-month expected credit losses’ are recognised for the first category while ‘lifetime expected

credit losses’ are recognised for the second category. Measurement of the expected credit losses is determined by a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of the financial instrument.

Trade and other receivables

Aspect makes use of a simplified approach in accounting for trade and other receivables and records the loss allowance at the amount equal to the expected lifetime credit losses. In using this practical expedient, Aspect uses its historical experience, external indicators and forward-looking information to calculate the expected credit losses using a provision matrix.

Aspect assesses impairment of trade receivables on a collective basis as they possess credit risk characteristics based on the days past due.

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.

Service contract liabilities

Service contract liabilities generally represent the unspent grants or other fees received on the condition that specified services are delivered or conditions are fulfilled. The services are usually provided, or the conditions usually fulfilled within 12 months of receipt of the grant or fees.

Where the amount received is in respect of services to be provided over a period that exceeds 12 months after the reporting date or the conditions will only be satisfied more than 12 months after the reporting date, the liability is presented as non-current.

Where the monies are received for the Company to acquire or construct an item of property, plant, and equipment which will be controlled by Autism Spectrum Australia then the funds are recognised as a contract liability and amortised to revenue as and when the obligation is satisfied.

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 a high quality corporate 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.

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

h. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include 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

The Company has adopted AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities for the first time in the current year with a date of initial application of 1 January 2019.

Revenue recognition policy for revenue from contracts with customers (AASB 15)

AASB 15 requires revenue to be recognised when control of a promised good or service is passed to the customer at an amount which reflects the expected consideration. The customer for these contracts is the fund provider.

Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

- 1. Identify the contract with the customer
- 2. Identify the performance obligations
- 3. Determine the transaction price
- 4. Allocate the transaction price
- 5. Recognise revenue

Revenue from the rendering of a service

Generally the timing of the payment for rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

Revenue from government funding/grant income

Government funding/grant income arising from an agreement which contains enforceable and sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised when control of each performance obligations is satisfied.

Within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract. Where control is transferred over time, generally the revenue is recognition based on either cost or time incurred which best reflects the transfer of control.

Revenue recognition policy for revenue streams which are either not enforceable or do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations (AASB 1058)

Grant income

Assets arising from grants in the scope of AASB 1058 are recognised at their fair value when the asset is received. These assets are generally cash but maybe property which has been donated or sold to the Company at significantly below its fair value.

Once the asset has been recognised, the Company recognises any related liability amounts (e.g. provisions, financial liabilities).

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any difference between the recorded asset and liability.

Capital grants

Capital grants received under an enforceable agreement to enable the Company to acquire or construct an item of property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be controlled by the Company (once complete) are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project as there is no profit margin.

For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Company.

Revenue from fundraising

Donations and bequests

Donations and bequests collected are recognised as revenue when the Company gains control of the asset.

In-kind donations

Services donated by volunteers, goods and facilities donated are included at the fair value to the Company where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost.

Significant estimates and judgements relating to revenue

For many of the grant agreements received, the determination of whether the contract includes sufficiently specific performance obligations was a significant judgement involving discussions with several parties at the Company, review of the proposal documents prepared during the grant application phase and consideration of the terms and conditions.

Grants received by the Company have been accounted for under both AASB 15 and AASB 1058 depending on the terms and conditions and decisions made.

If this determination was changed then the revenue

recognition pattern would be different from that recognised in this financial report.

j. Income tax

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.

k. 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.

l. Reserves

Fair value through other comprehensive income reserve
This reserve records fair value changes at each reporting date on investments classified at fair value through other comprehensive income. It represents the unrealised fair value excess over cost for investments held.

m. Comparative figures

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

n. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial information requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

3 Revenue from ordinary activities

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue from services subject to specific performance obligations			

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
School fees		6,503,743	6,458,960
Other fee for service		2,368,971	3,073,729
		8,872,714	9,532,689
Government funding			
NDIS funding		22,048,032	15,026,821
Education and other Federal fundings		33,545,871	30,387,106
Education and other State fundings		38,558,354	43,005,448
		94,152,257	88,419,375
Other Income			
Fundraising			
Donations and bequests	15	6,185,522	4,930,539
Other revenue			
Interest and investment income		828,165	1,084,525
Other revenue		552,018	915,246
		1,380,183	1,999,771
Total revenue from ordinary activities		110,590,676	104,882,374

4 Operating surplus from operating activities

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

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Depreciation (amortisation) of:			
- Freehold buildings		88,278	88,278
- Leasehold buildings		269,264	260,218
- Leasehold improvements		505,360	435,672
- Office machines and equipment		420,407	391,363
- School library		-	273
- Software		590,426	164,670
- Right of use assets	10	1,190,208	-
Total depreciation and amortisation		3,063,943	1,340,474
Finance costs			
- Bank loans, leases and overdraft interest and fees		243,533	43,015
- Finance costs (Make Good - Lease Provision)		3,865	-
Total finance costs		247,398	43,015
Net bad and doubtful debts ex-penses including movements in allowance for credit losses		135,941	19,949
Lease financing (rental payments previous year)		340,690	1,240,921
Net loss/(gain) on disposal of non-current assets		-	231,678
Employee benefits expense			
- Wages and salaries		72,048,436	69,082,406

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
- Defined contribution plan superannuation expense		6,545,294	6,181,141
- Workers' compensation insurance expense		1,478,287	1,111,319
- Employee leave benefits		4,257,832	3,838,598
Total employee benefits expense		84,329,849	80,213,464

5 Cash and cash equivalents

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash at bank		35,434,947	24,721,154
Cash on hand		878	3,166
		35,435,825	24,724,320

Reconciliation of Cash Flows

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, reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash at bank and on hand		35,435,825	24,724,320
Bank term deposits	7	317,174	303,974
		35,752,999	25,028,294

6 Receivables

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Fees and government subsidies		2,055,900	1,027,061
Less: allowance for credit losses		(426,568)	(298,596)
		1,629,332	728,465
Other receivables		26,231	16,638
		1,655,563	745,103

The Company does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single receivable or group of receivables. At 31 December 2019, the ageing analysis of trade receivables was as follows:

	Total	0-30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	91+ days
2019	2,055,900	1,034,222	258,801	209,376	553,501
2018	1,027,061	310,099	260,219	107,584	349,159

Trade receivables are non-interest bearing loans and generally on 30-day terms. An allowance for credit loss

is recognised when there is objective evidence that an individual trade receivable is impaired. A net expense of \$135,941 was recognised in 2019 (2018: \$19,949).

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Reconciliation of changes in the provision for impairment of receivables		
Balance at 1 January 2019	298,595	331,489
Charge for the year	135,941	19,949
Amounts written off	(7,968)	(52,843)
Balance at 31 December 2019	426,568	298,595

Receivables past due but not considered impaired are:

31-60 days	\$258,801	(2018: \$260,219)
61-90 days	\$209,376	(2018: \$107,584)
91 days and over	\$126,933	(2018: \$50,564)

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.

7 Other financial assets

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current		
Bank term deposits	317,174	303,974
Non-current		
Listed investments classified as FVOCI:		
The Company holds a mixed portfolio of investments in fixed interest securities, alternative assets, property trust, Australian and international equities.	5,993,822	5,269,201

Movements in property, plant and equipment are shown as follows:

	Freehold land and buildings (a) \$	Leasehold buildings \$	Leasehold improvements \$	Office machines and equipment \$	School library \$	Software \$	Total \$
Asset gross carrying amount							
Balance at 1 Jan 2019	6,193,461	10,734,921	7,367,956	4,931,840	26,288	2,240,115	31,494,581
Additions	-	1,782,652	1,810,682	529,599	-	1,429,006	5,551,939
Disposals	-	-	(12,909)	(3,073,576)	(26,288)	-	(3,112,773)
Balance at 31 Dec 2019	6,193,461	12,517,573	9,165,729	2,387,863	-	3,669,121	33,933,747
Accumulated depreciation							
Balance at 1 January 2019	(589,683)	(2,923,816)	(3,403,304)	(3,882,258)	(26,287)	(164,607)	(10,989,955)
Depreciation	(88,278)	(269,264)	(505,360)	(420,407)	-	(590,426)	(1,873,735)
Disposals	-	-	12,909	2,992,267	26,287	-	3,031,463
Balance at 31 Dec 2019	(677,961)	(3,193,080)	(3,895,755)	(1,310,398)	-	(755,033)	(9,832,227)
Carrying amount 31 December 2019	5,515,500	9,324,493	5,269,974	1,077,465	-	2,914,088	24,101,520

8 Other assets

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Accrued income	615,922	1,043,985
Prepayments	933,690	721,225
	1,549,612	1,765,210

9 Property and equipment

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Freehold land and buildings - at deemed cost	6,193,461	6,193,461
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(677,961)	(589,683)
	5,515,500	5,603,778
Leasehold buildings - at cost	12,517,573	10,734,921
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,193,080)	(2,923,816)
	9,324,493	7,811,105
Leasehold improvements - at cost	9,165,729	7,367,956
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,895,755)	(3,403,304)
	5,269,974	3,964,652
Office machines and equipment - at cost	2,387,863	4,931,840
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,310,398)	(3,882,258)
	1,077,465	1,049,582
School library - at cost	-	26,288
Less: Accumulated depreciation	-	(26,287)
	-	1
Software - at cost	3,669,121	2,240,115
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(755,033)	(164,607)
	2,914,088	2,075,508
Total property, plant and equipment	24,101,520	20,504,626

10 Right of use assets

	Buildings \$	Vehicles \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2019	4,109,277	426,363	4,535,640
Depreciation charge	(996,116)	(194,092)	(1,190,208)
Balance at 31 December 2019	3,113,161	232,271	3,345,432

11 Trade and other payables

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current		
Trade creditors	1,910,248	1,401,362
Other creditors and accruals	1,548,376	2,430,067
Goods and services tax payable	895,711	-
	4,354,335	3,831,429

12 Service contract liabilities

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current		
Capital grants received to acquire or construct an asset	256,835	-
Payments for future services and grants received in advance	6,659,078	3,202,166
	6,915,913	3,202,166

13 Borrowings

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current		
Bank loan - secured	113,280	108,915
Non-Current		
Bank loan - secured	740,103	860,318

The bank loan with Westpac is secured by first mortgage over land and buidings.

Financing arrangements

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Total facilities available:		
Bank overdraft facility	150,000	150,000
Bank loans	853,383	969,233
	1,003,383	1,119,233
Facilities utilised at the reporting date:		
Bank loan	853,383	969,233

14 Provisions

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current			
Make-good provision under leases	(i)	60,000	145,000
Long service leave		7,625,861	7,013,593
Annual leave		1,939,800	2,008,887
Workers compensation		904,480	-
		10,530,141	9,167,480
Non-current			
Make-good provision under leases	(i)	1,117,430	1,027,685
Long service leave		1,237,120	1,112,796
		2,354,550	2,140,481
		12,884,691	11,307,961

(i) Movements in provisions

	Make-good provision under lease \$
Balance at 31 December 2018	1,172,685
Charge for the year	89,745
Utilised during the year	(85,000)
Adjustments	-
Balance at 31 December 2019	1,177,430

15 Fundraising Appeals conducted during the year

Fundraising appeals conducted during the financial period included direct mail, telephone and digital appeals, regular giving program, corporate giving including payroll giving, applications to trusts, foundations & registered clubs, events including Walk for autism, other fundraising activities including community raffles and mechandise sales, other solicited and unsolicited donations including bequests.

This helps Aspect to create a world where no-one on the autism spectrum is left behind. Money raised supports programs and initiatives not covered by government grants or the NDIS. 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 on the spectrum, some of the work of the Aspect Research team and work to create an autism-friendly Australia.

Fundraising funds are incorporated into other operational income and applied as set out in the Financial Statements. All funds are applied for Aspect's Charitable purposes.

Results of fundraising appeals	2019 \$	2018 \$
Community fundraising	2,409,177	1,830,181
Individual giving	1,575,365	1,667,841
Philanthropy	2,080,147	1,262,850
Bequest	120,833	169,667
Income from fundraising	6,185,522	4,903,539
Less: Total costs of fundraising appeals	(2,025,607)	(1,906,689)
Net surplus	4,159,915	3,023,850
Add: Deferred income	281,167	-
Underlying surplus	4,441,082	3,023,850

16 Related party transactions

a) Key management personnel compensation

The directors act in an honorary capacity and receive no compensation for their services. Directors may receive reimbursement for direct expenses incurred by the directors in fulfilling their roles.

Key management personnel compensation consists of amounts paid to members of the Executive. Throughout the year, there were some changes in the Executive structure in line with the current business environment. This team continued to fulfill the Executive roles.

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Total key management personnel remuneration	2,147,491	1,800,748

b) Other related party transactions

The directors and other key management personnel may be donors to the Company.

Nil other related party transactions.

17 Contingent liabilities

Security deposit guarantees of \$34,450 secured against term deposits at Note 7.

18 Commitments

Nil.

19 Events subsequent to the reporting date

At the date of the completion of this Financial Report , the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is continuing to evolve and Aspect is closely monitoring the situation to keep up with the latest information coming from the Australia Federal Government and State/Territory based Governments.

Aspect’s response to COVID-19 is being guided by advice from the Australian Federal Government and/or the responsible state and local health authorities, and any decisions that we make are based on providing the best outcomes for the health and wellbeing of our community.

As this Financial Report indicates, the company is in a sound financial position with reserves as outlined in the Financial Statements. Therefore, whilst the impact of COVID-19 is likely to be material for our services, our community and the financial position of the company, the directors consider that the company remains well placed to manage these impacts and continue to support our community.

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 2019 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 2013*, 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 27th day of March 2020



Declaration by Chief Executive Officer in respect of fundraising appeals

Opinion

I, Jacqui Borland, 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 2019;
- 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 2019;
- c the provisions of the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*, the Regulations under that Act and the conditions attached to the authority have been complied with during the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019; 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.

Jacqui Borland

Jacqui Borland
Chief Executive Officer

Dated this 27th day of March 2020

Independent auditor's report



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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) (the "Registered Entity") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the Responsible Entities' declaration.

In our opinion:

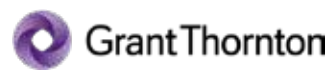
- the financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:
 - giving a true and fair view of the Registered Entity's financial position as at 31 December 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
 - complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
- the financial report of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) shows a true and fair view of the financial result of its fundraising appeals for the year ended 31 December 2019;
- the financial report and associated records of Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) have been properly kept during the year ended 31 December 2019 by the Registered Entity in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and Regulation 2015;
- money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year ended 31 December 2019 by Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) has been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and Regulation 2015; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Registered Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Responsibilities of the Responsible Entities for the financial report

The Responsible Entities of the Registered Entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2015, and for such internal control as the Responsible Entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Responsible Entities are responsible for assessing the Registered Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Responsible Entities either intend to liquidate the Registered Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

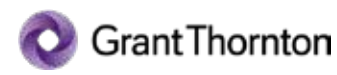
Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Registered Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Registered Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Responsible Entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Responsible Entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Registered Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence



obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Registered Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

James Winter
Partner – Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 27 March 2020



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