FamiliesAustralia

Annual Report 2015

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About Families Australia

Our story

Established in 2001, Families Australia is a national, member-based, not-for-profit organisation that strives to improve the wellbeing of families and children.

With 848 organisational and individual members around Australia, Families Australia has a focus on seeking policy solutions to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised families and individuals.

In 2007, Families Australia established and continues to coordinate the National Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children, a grouping of 168 non-government organisations that provide services to children, young people and families on the ground across Australia, as well as key advocates and researchers in the areas of child protection and children's wellbeing.

Between 2006 and 2015, Families Australia assisted the Alliance for Forgotten Australians in its campaign to gain greater recognition and support for Forgotten Australians, a group of around 500,000 people who, as children, were placed in institutions in Australia in the twentieth century.

Every year since 2003, Families Australia has run National Families Week, Australia's main celebration of the vitally important role of families in all their diversity.

Families Australia's achievements to date have been made possible by the generous support of many individuals and organisations, including its member organisations and Australian Governments.

Our vision

Australian families, in all their diversity, enjoy the greatest possible wellbeing.

Our mission

Families Australia is a national, member-based, not-for-profit organisation that strives to improve the wellbeing of all Australian families by initiating, inspiring, informing and influencing national public policy debates.

Families Australia works to promote a national policy environment in which the needs and interests of families, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, are heard and addressed.

Our identity and values

Families Australia is an organisation that:

- is a national leader, highly respected for the quality and independence of its work
- strives to foster a national public policy environment in which family-related issues and the family sector can prosper
- informs and influences at the highest government levels
- works closely with its members in developing policy
- strongly advocates for the diversity and value of families
- proactively supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations
- takes a broad and inclusive approach and is practical, constructive and collaborative, and
- is governed and managed to the highest standards.

From the Chairperson

2014-15 marked another highly successful year for Families Australia as it worked to advance the needs and interests of families, especially those experiencing the greatest vulnerability. I wish, first, to thank our many supporters, in particular, our members and the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

The past year saw many important achievements for Families Australia. The Child Aware Approaches Conference was attended by 330 people and focussed attention on innovative ways to improve outcomes for families and children. We were honoured that the conference was opened by the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Minister for Social Services. The 2015 Families Australia Oration was delivered by Dr Aden Ridgeway, who spoke passionately about the 'power of high expectations'.

The 13th annual National Families Week was held between 15 and 21 May 2015. Once again, the Week proved to be an outstanding success, with over 1,000 events involving 123,000 people being held in communities across the country, all celebrating the vital role that families play in society.

Families Australia's leadership role with the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 was another main area of activity. Families Australia led in the development of ideas for inclusion in the Third Action Plan (2015-18) under the National Framework. Families Australia chaired numerous roundtables which brought together representatives from government, community and academic sectors to discuss ways in which the National Framework could be further developed to meet its primary goal of improving the safety and wellbeing of children.

In all its work, Families Australia placed particular emphasis on advancing the needs and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This took the form, for example, of supporting an increased number of presentations on Indigenous themes at the Child Aware Approaches Conference, and prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues in the development of the Third Action Plan under the National Framework.

After eight years, Families Australia completed its role as the auspicing body for the Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA). During the year, AFA became an incorporated association, established its inaugural Board, and continued to contribute to national debates about the needs of an estimated 500,000 people who were in institutions and other forms of out-of-home care in the 20th century. Families Australia wishes AFA well for the future.

I am also pleased to report that Families Australia continued to perform well in terms of governance and management. As you will see from the financial statement, the Association ended the year in good shape. We set a new record in terms of the number of members, with membership rising from 739 to 848 at 30 June 2015.

Assisted by an external consultant, the Board assessed the Families Australia *Constitution* in relation to best contemporary governance standards. Subsequently, a Special General Meeting of the Association was held in May 2015 at which several important amendments to the *Constitution* were agreed. The Board also decided to further review its own evaluation processes. A highly successful Board retreat was held in early 2015 to chart Families Australia's long-term directions and, specifically, to develop the 2015-18 Strategic Plan.

The coming year looks even more exciting and challenging. As well as continuing its lead roles with respect to the Child Aware initiative, the National Framework and National Families Week, we will embark on a major collaborative policy development initiative which will shape Families Australia's policy agenda for the coming 5-10 years.

Finally, I wish to thank the Families Australia Board and staff. Brian and his team do a fantastic job navigating national polices related to families and children, supported very ably by my fellow Board members who provide strategic direction. I thank them all for making my work as Families Australia Chair challenging and enjoyable. It was again a pleasure to work with such dedicated people who work so diligently for the advancement of Australian families in all their diversity.

Prue Warrilow

Prue Warrilow

From the Chief Executive Officer

In 2014-15, Families Australia further promoted the needs and interests of families, especially those experiencing the greatest vulnerability and marginalisation.

I wish to thank Families Australia's members, the Australian Government, and the Families Australia Chairperson, Board and staff for their unflagging support and encouragement.

A particular highlight was the 3rd annual Child Aware Approaches Conference which was held in Melbourne in May 2015. The conference was vibrant and inspiring. It showcased an extraordinary range of practices to assist children and families, and provided a wonderful meeting-ground for practitioners and policy-makers from across Australia. Thank you to Dr Aden Ridgeway for providing such a thought-provoking and moving Families Australia Oration.

Families Australia, working in conjunction with the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia, took forward the visionary Child Aware Local Initiative under which local communities in trial site areas are being assisted to develop plans of action to enhance child safety and wellbeing.

As convenor of the 168-member strong National Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children, Families Australia worked assiduously to strengthen national political support for the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020.

We also took a strong leadership role in developing plans for the Third Action Plan (2015-18) under the National Framework, including through chairing National Roundtables around Australia involving community, government and academic sector representatives.

Families Australia made a number of submissions to Parliamentary inquiries and governmental policy development processes during the year. These included submissions concerning the Third Action Plan under the National Framework and to Senate Inquiries into Out of Home Care and into Welfare Reform. It was gratifying to see the uptake of many Families Australia perspectives in committee reports.

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) became incorporated as an independent association and continued to advocate strongly at the national level for greater recognition of the needs of survivors of abuse in institutions and other types of out-of-home care in the 20th century. As part of its strong social justice agenda, Families Australia auspiced AFA since its inception in 2006 so that the voices of Forgotten Australians could be heard more strongly at the national policy level. Families Australia is proud of its support for this group. As the auspicing arrangement formally ended as planned in June 2015, we wish AFA all the very best for the future. Families Australia will continue to support the Forgotten Australian cause wherever possible.

National Families Week 2015 (15-21 May) was another huge success. Over 123,000 people participated in community-level events around the country, all celebrating the central role of families.

It was gratifying that the Families Australia's membership continued to grow, reaching a new record of 848 organisations and individuals.

We continued to strengthen links with our members, including through policy forums and publications, such as *National Family News*. Financially, Families Australia continued to attain strong levels of income and cash reserve. Another unqualified external audit report was received on our financial statements.

All of us at Families Australia look forward to the year ahead as we continue to pursue the goal of advancing family and child wellbeing.

Brian Babington

Our year at a glance

2014-15 was another busy, challenging and successful year for Families Australia as it worked, on behalf of its 848 members, to promote a national policy environment that responded to the needs and interests of families, especially those experiencing the greatest vulnerability and marginalisation.

During the year to 30 June 2015, Families Australia:

- Convened the third highly-successful **Child Aware Approaches Conference** which showcased innovative ways of working with children and families and increased public and civil society understanding about the wellbeing and safety of children. A record 330 people from around Australia participated in this two-day event which showcased best practice in terms of working with children and families.
- Celebrated the vital role of family through **National Families Week** in events around Australia. Over 123,000 people participated in hundreds of community events.
- Continued its leadership role in highlighting **protecting children issues** to the Federal Government and the community through the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020. The Federal Government's continued support for the National Framework was welcome and Families Australia worked with the 168-member National Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children and governments to ensure that the forthcoming Third Action Plan (2015-18) will help to substantially reduce rates of child abuse and neglect.
- Achieved significant progress with the innovative **Child Aware Local Initiative** under which trial sites around Australia are supported to develop and implement local child aware plans.
- Continued to promote issues facing **Forgotten Australians** by advising the Federal Government on services and by assisting the Alliance for Forgotten Australians. After eight years, Families Australia successfully completed its auspicing role with the Alliance and wishes them well for the future.
- Further deepened engagement with its **members** through policy forums, and incorporated member feedback into its national policy advising work.
- Grew its **membership** base by 15 per cent, from 739 to 848 members.

Above: Dr Aden Ridgeway, delivering the Families Australia Oration
18 May 2015, Melbourne

Our members and national network

As at 30 June 2015, Families Australia had 848 members, comprising: three Founding Members; 24 General Members; and 824 Associate Members. The Founding and General Members are listed below.

Founding Members:

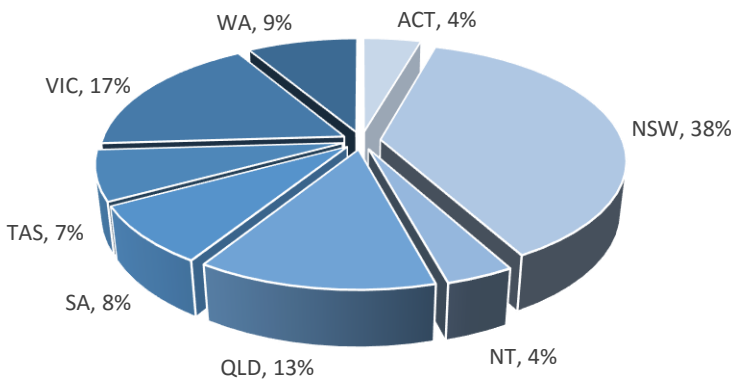
Australian Foster Care Association
Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia
The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

General Members:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation
Adults Surviving Child Abuse
Anglicare Australia
Australian Association of Social Workers
Australian Community Children's Services
Australian Council on Children and the Media
Barnardos
CREATE Foundation
Family Inclusion Network Australia Inc.
Foundation Care
Good Beginnings Australia
Grandparents Australia Inc.
NAPCAN
Our Watch
Parenting & Family Support Centre
Playgroup Australia
Public Health Association of Australia
Relationships Australia National
The Alannah and Madeline Foundation
The Benevolent Society
The Smith Family
UnitingCare Australia
WISE Employment
YMCA Australia

Families Australia's 824 Associate Members cover a diverse range of organisations from large State organisations to local family day care providers. Every State and Territory of Australia is represented by Families Australia Associate Members.

Associate Members by State and Territory



Our performance

Strategic settings

The Families Australia Board determined that the four key Strategic Plan objectives for 2012-15 would be to:

1. Improve the quality of national policies and programs relating to families through the promotion of innovative policy and practices.
2. Promote the importance and needs of families to the Australian community.
3. Further strengthen engagement with Members, potential Members, and other key stakeholders and support the NGO sector.
4. Further strengthen its governance, management and capacities to influence national policies.

In its 2012-15 Strategic Plan, Families Australia also aimed to:

- Focus most of its policy attention on families and individuals experiencing vulnerability or marginalisation and those under pressure. In particular, Families Australia will focus on the safety and wellbeing of children, adult survivors of institutional abuse, and the impact of mental health on families.
- Develop or strengthen its expertise in the areas of work and family, the situation of low income families (including mortgage and other stresses), ageing/elder protection, and substance abuse.
- Retain a watching brief on the situation for families of offenders, homelessness, and disability and, where the opportunity arises, contribute to the development of policies relevant to these groups.

In all its work, Families Australia continues to advocate strongly on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family issues and on the situation of families in remote and rural areas. As highlighted in Families Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), Families Australia respects the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to preserve and practise their culture and to make decisions about their future.

Families Australia acknowledges the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be treated with respect, heard on all issues that affect them and consulted fully on policy and service delivery issues. Families Australia's RAP was developed in consultation with a Board Sub-committee, including the Board nominee for the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care.

Key business goals 2014-15

To advance these Strategic Plan objectives, the Families Australia Board established the following key business goals for 2014-15:

1. Increase awareness amongst NGOs, academics and governments of existing effective and innovative and/or new approaches to working with children and families experiencing vulnerability through the Child Aware Approaches Conference.
2. Advance the Child Aware Local Initiative which aims to enhance community awareness of the range of issues negatively affecting the wellbeing of children and to support communities to foster safe and nurturing environments for their children.
3. Work to ensure that protecting children and young people, and supporting their carers, receive ongoing national political and official policy and program attention.
4. Work to enhance the responsiveness of the Federal Government on key issues facing Forgotten Australians.
5. Support Reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
6. Promote the role and importance of families through National Families Week.
7. Strengthen links with key stakeholders, including in rural and remote areas and strengthen links with existing, and gain new Families Australia members.
8. Further strengthen internal corporate governance and management capacities.

Following is a report on how Families Australia performed in 2014-15 in relation to these goals.

Business plan goal 1: Child Aware Approaches Conference

Our goal: to increase awareness amongst NGOs, academics and governments of existing effective and innovative and/or new approaches to working with children and families experiencing vulnerability through the Child Aware Approaches Conference.

Families Australia successfully convened the 3rd Child Aware Approaches Conference in Melbourne between 18 and 19 May 2015. With the theme of 'Innovations in early intervention, community collaboration and partnership beyond the child and family welfare sector', the conference provided a platform for sharing innovative practices and resources and contributed to the national campaign to make the wellbeing and safety of Australia's children everyone's business and shared responsibility.

The conference was opened by the Federal Minister for Social Services, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP (photograph, right) and was attended by 330 delegates from community, government and academic sectors across Australia. In all, there were 95 presentations, including nine symposia and 20 interactive workshops, where experts shared their thinking, knowledge and innovative practice.

During the conference, the inspiring Families Australia Oration was delivered by Dr Aden Ridgeway on *The Power of High Expectations*. Conference keynote presentations were delivered by Associate Professor Helen Buckley (Trinity College, Dublin), Bernadine Mackenzie and Paul Nixon (New Zealand Ministry of Child, Youth and Family). Panel discussions featured State and Territory Children's Commissioners/Guardians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and organisational representatives currently implementing Child Aware Local Initiatives.

Compared with 2014, there was an increase of 10 per cent in conference registrations. There was increased attendance of delegates from rural and remote areas. Feedback about the conference was excellent. Ninety-nine per cent of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the conference was well organised and 88 per cent considered that the conference provided information and ideas that would benefit their work and organisations.

Business plan goal 2: Child Aware Local Initiative

Our goal: to advance the Child Aware Local Initiative.

The Child Aware Local Initiative aims to enhance community awareness of issues that negatively affect the wellbeing of children and to support communities to foster safe and nurturing environments for their children.

In collaboration with the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia, Families Australia activated five additional Child Aware Local Initiative pilot sites during this year. At 30 June 2015, the initiative was being actively progressed in Huonville (Tasmania), Katherine (Northern Territory), Tuggeranong South (ACT), Lismore (NSW), Maryborough (Victoria), Seaford (SA), and Townsville (Queensland).

As a key element of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children Second Action Plan, each Child Aware Local Initiative joint lead agency worked alongside the trial site collaborators to develop a local plan of action to promote child safety and wellbeing.

In Tuggeranong South (ACT), for example, around 25 non-government organisations and Government agencies, led by the YWCA ACT, came together to improve education connections for children and their families. The group achieved a number of outcomes utilising existing resources in new ways. Highlights included: establishing supported playgroups within primary schools; creating a new service hub site for children, young people and their families; trialling the co-location of an ACT Smith Family *Learning for Life* worker in a primary school which was so successful that the practice is now embedded in the work of all *Learning for Life* activities; and commencing work on a communication strategy through the ACT Department of Education and Training Directorate's Student Engagement Team.

Business plan goal 3: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

Our goal: to work to ensure that protecting children and young people, and supporting their carers, receive ongoing national political and official policy and program attention.

Families Australia continued to play a lead role in designing, implementing and monitoring the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020, Australia's first-ever national policy to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children. It did this in several ways.

Families Australia chaired a series of National Roundtables in 2015 to develop the Third Action Plan (2015-18) under the National Framework. Involving more than 300 people across Australia, the Roundtables produced hundreds of recommendations for inclusion in the Third Action Plan. Families Australia took the lead in advancing ideas for the Third Action Plan through a major submission to the Australian Government, also on behalf of the Steering Group of the National Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children (the 'National NGO Coalition').

Families Australia also continued to grow the size and influence of the Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children as a key party to the National Framework.

In July 2014, Families Australia hosted the annual meeting of the National NGO Coalition, bringing together around 90 non-government representatives and researchers from around Australia. The meeting was addressed by the then Minister for Social Services, the Hon. Kevin Andrews MP, was briefed by Justice Jennifer Coate, Commissioner, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and by senior officials of the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

During the year, the Convenor of the National NGO Coalition (Brian Babington) met successive Ministers for Social Services, the Hon. Kevin Andrews MP and the Hon Scott Morrison MP, to discuss, and seek ongoing support for, the National Framework.

Families Australia coordinated and promoted engagement in, and contributions to, the 2013-14 Annual Report on the National Framework and the National Framework baseline evaluation working group and consultation processes.

Families Australia senior staff delivered several presentations through the year on the National Framework as well as including information about the National Framework in various Australian Senate and Government Inquiries. These included: Families Australia's member policy forums in Canberra, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney, which involved around 150 delegates across the NGO, research and Government sectors, and presentations at a number of national conferences.

Families Australia issued e-bulletins to all members of the National NGO Coalition and other stakeholders as well as maintained its website on National Framework matters, further helping to build awareness about the National Framework across Australia and internationally. The National NGO Coalition's membership grew from 155 to 168.

Business plan goal 4: Forgotten Australians

Our goal: to work to enhance the responsiveness of the Federal Government on key issues facing Forgotten Australians.

Families Australia continued to provide policy and other forms of auspicing support to the Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA), a group that is composed of survivors of abuse in institutions in the 20th century and others who support the Forgotten Australian cause.

Families Australia's assistance to AFA included: provision of secretariat support; managing two part-time staff, totalling 0.6 full-time equivalent staff; oversight by the CEO and the Families Australia Board of Families Australia's contractual responsibilities towards the Australian Government; regular liaison with Australian Government senior officials about issues relating to AFA; and, helping to manage relationships within the group and between AFA and other Forgotten Australians groups and individuals.

Families Australia supported AFA to finalise its journey toward becoming a separate legal entity. AFA gained incorporation in September 2014. As well as helping to further build the group's national profile within Parliament and across Governments, Families Australia supported AFA to deliver presentations to conferences and interest groups, contributed to other organisations' newsletters and publications, and updated the AFA website.

The AFA booklet, *Forgotten Australians: Supporting survivors of childhood institutional care in Australia*, continued to be widely distributed and well received.

Over 170,000 hard copies were distributed between 2008 and 2015. The fourth edition (2014) was made available in electronic and hard copy formats. AFA's submissions and resources continued to be accessible on www.forgottenaustralians.org.au.

Business plan goal 5: Reconciliation

Our goal: to support Reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Families Australia strengthened linkages across and between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled organisations through all its activities and communications, particularly through the National NGO Coalition.

Families Australia worked with Coalition members to promote and work towards achieving the National Framework Supporting Outcome 5 ('Indigenous children are supported and safe in their families and communities'), particularly through the development of the National Framework's Third Action Plan for 2015-18.

Families Australia promoted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in National Families Week, and at the annual Child Aware Approaches Conference, including through representation on reference groups, convening a conference panel discussion by Indigenous leaders, and the delivery of the Families Australia Oration by Dr Aden Ridgeway.

Families Australia organised sponsorship for a group of delegates from Winangay Resources to attend the Child Aware Approaches Conference and present on three occasions in the program. Eleven per cent of conference delegates identified themselves as working in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector.

Families Australia also supported the views and expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled services through its national policy forums and policy papers, and promoted Indigenous promising practices through electronic bulletins.

Business plan goal 6: 13th National Families Week

Our goal: to promote the role and importance of families through National Families Week.

For each of the past 13 years, Families Australia has run National Families Week which has enabled the participation of hundreds of thousands of Australians in thousands of community-led events, all aimed at celebrating the vital role of families.

Over 123,000 people participated in over 1,000 National Families Week events between 15 and 21 May 2015 to celebrate the vital role that family plays in our society. The theme for National Families Week 2015 was "Stronger families, stronger communities". The overwhelming majority of events were held within local communities.

As in past years, Families Australia managed National Families Week on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

'National Families Week Ambassadors' initiative continued. Ambassadors included Mr Finn Pratt PSM, Secretary of the Department of Social Services, Dr John Falzon, CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society National Council, Ms Kasy Chambers, CEO, Anglicare National, and 30 other prominent Australians.

Feedback from participating organisations continued to show a very high degree of satisfaction with arrangements for the Week, including the look and practicality of promotional materials and Families Australia's support.

Business plan goal 7: Members and other stakeholders

Our goal: to strengthen links with key stakeholders, including in rural and remote areas, strengthen links with existing members, and gain new Families Australia members.

Families Australia's membership reached a record level of 848 at the end of the year, a 15 per cent increase compared with the previous year.

Families Australia gave emphasis to strengthening links with all members, including through policy forums in capital cities, support for rural and remote participation in the Child Aware Approaches Conference, and more frequent and diverse electronic publications.

Families Australia convened policy forums for its members in Melbourne (July 2014), Hobart (September 2014), Canberra (November 2014), and Sydney (February 2015). The aim of the forums was to share strategies and solutions about family-related policies and practices, and to inform Families Australia's national policy advisory role. The forums were attended by more than 150 Families Australia members and members of the National NGO Coalition.

Families Australia's 2015 Annual Member survey again highlighted the increasing complexity of family life. Key recommendations from the Annual Member survey were that governments should: increase investment in the National Framework and the capacities of the community sector for collaboration, research and evaluation; further strengthen early intervention and prevention through the universal service system; and enhance funding arrangements that support flexible, locally responsive, service delivery. It was again gratifying that the majority of respondents indicated that Families Australia had been successful in working for better national policies for families and children.

Through the electronic bulletin, *National Family News*, which is published every fortnight, Families Australia shared current news, resources, research and publications directly with over 1500 organisations and individuals across the country and internationally.

Business plan goal 8: Governance and management

Our goal: to further strengthen internal corporate governance and management capacities.

Families Australia met all its financial and legal obligations. It received another unqualified external audit report. It completed all legally contracted activities to agreed standards of quality, quantity and timeliness.

Families Australia again performed strongly in terms of income and cash reserves – please see the accompanying financial statements.

The Families Australia Board held four face-to-face meetings and one teleconference. Four meetings of the Finance and Financial Audit Sub-committee and five meetings of the Corporate Governance Sub-committee were also held during the year.

The Board initiated a review of Families Australia's *Constitution*. An external consultant, Cinnabar International, undertook consultations leading to the development of a paper for the Board and membership on possible next steps. A Special General Meeting was held in Melbourne on 20 May 2015 at which several changes to the *Constitution* were adopted.

Our governance

Role and functions of the Board

The Families Australia Board is responsible for guiding the organisation, and is accountable for the actions and impacts of the organisation as a whole. In addition to appointing the Chief Executive Officer, the Board's main governance functions are to:

- define and review the organisation's mission and key strategic objectives and review programs, purposes, priorities and vision for the future
- approve and monitor an annual budget, and recommend to the Annual General Meeting the appointment of an independent auditor
- oversee and evaluate programs, ensure that Families Australia is aware and informed of changes in the external environment and be an advocate for the organisation in the community
- ensure that Families Australia conforms to its legal obligations under relevant Australian laws
- ensure that Families Australia conforms to its legal obligations under contracts with its funding bodies, such as the Australian Government
- establish and appoint Chairs and members of Sub-committees as appropriate to assist the Board in its deliberations
- ensure that audited financial statements are submitted annually, and
- ensure that the performance of the Board and staff meets the needs and strategic directions of the organisation.

Board structure

Under Families Australia's *Constitution*, the Board is comprised of up to 12 members. As at 30 June 2015, the Board comprised 11 members as follows:

Ms Prue Warrilow: Chairperson, and nominee of Australian Community Children's Services.

Ms Tricia Murray: Deputy Chair, and nominee of the Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia.

Ms Bev Orr OAM: Secretary, and nominee of the Australian Foster Care Association.

Ms Alison Brook: nominee of Relationships Australia.

Ms Anne McLeish OAM: nominee of Grandparents Australia.

Dr Sue Packer AM: nominee of the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Mr Paul Rajan: Co-opted Member (under the Families Australia *Constitution* Article 11(3)(d)).

Mr Simon Schrapel: nominee of UnitingCare Australia.

Mr David Templeman: nominee of The Public Health Association of Australia.

Mr Richard Weston: nominee of The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation.

Ms Sharron Williams: nominee of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care.

The following persons ended their terms on the Families Australia Board in 2014-15: Ms Jacqui Reed (nominee of the CREATE Foundation); and, Mr Michael Tizard (nominee of the Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia).

Meetings

The Families Australia *Constitution* specifies that the Board shall meet at least four times each year, which may occur in person or by telecommunications but at least two shall be face-to-face. In 2014-15, the Board held four face-to-face meetings and one teleconference.

Performance

Board members provided written feedback on the conduct of Board meetings at the conclusion of each Board meeting. In 2014-15, the Board continued to discuss ways to further enhance its performance assessment processes. The Chief Executive Officer's performance is reviewed by the Board at the end of every financial year.

The Board has established two Board Sub-committees: the Corporate Governance Sub-committee and the Finance and Financial Audit Sub-committee. In 2014-15, the members of the Sub-committees were as follows:

Corporate Governance Sub-committee:

Ms Prue Warrilow (Convenor)
Ms Alison Brook (from 8 December 2014)
Ms Anne McLeish OAM
Ms Tricia Murray (from 8 December 2014)
Ms Bev Orr OAM
Mr David Templeman
Mr Michael Tizard (until 10 November 2014)

Finance and Financial Audit Sub-committee:

Ms Tricia Murray (Convenor)
Ms Bev Orr OAM
Mr David Templeman
Mr Richard Weston (from 8 December 2014)

Above (left to right) at the Child Aware Approaches Conference, 18 May 2015: Mr Simon Schrapel; Mr Brian Babington (Chief Executive Officer); Ms Bev Orr OAM (Secretary, Families Australia); Ms Tricia Murray (Deputy Chair, Families Australia); Ms Anne McLeish OAM; Mr Richard Weston; Ms Stella Conroy (Deputy Chief Executive Officer); Dr Aden Ridgeway; Ms Prue Warrilow (Chairperson, Families Australia); Dr Sue Packer AM; Mr David Templeman; and, Ms Alison Brook. Absent: Mr Paul Rajan and Ms Sharron Williams.

Board members' meeting attendance 2014-15

	Full meetings of the Board		Meetings of Sub-committees			
			Corporate Governance		Finance and Financial Audit	
Board Member	**Held**	**Attended**	**Held**	**Attended**	**Held**	**Attended**
Ms Prue Warrilow	5	5	5	5		
Ms Tricia Murray	5	5	3	3	4	4
Ms Bev Orr OAM	5	5	5	4	4	4
Ms Alison Brook (from 10 November 2014)	4	3	3	2		
Ms Anne McLeish OAM	5	5	5	4		
Dr Sue Packer AM	5	5				
Mr Paul Rajan	5	3				
Mr Simon Schrapel	5	4				
Mr David Templeman	5	5	5	5	4	3
Mr Richard Weston (from 10 November 2014)	4	3			2	2
Ms Sharron Williams	5	4				
Ms Jacqui Reed (until 10 November 2014)	1	0				
Mr Michael Tizard (until 10 November 2014)	1	1	2	2		

Our staff and organisation

As at 30 June 2015, Families Australia staff had seven full-time and part-time staff members, as follows:

Mr Brian Babington: Chief Executive Officer. Mr Babington also served as the Co-Chair of the National Forum for Protecting Australia's Children, and Coordinator of the National Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children.
Ms Stella Conroy: Deputy Chief Executive Officer.
Ms Jennifer Horsfield: Office Manager and Manager of National Families Week.
Ms Elizabeth Hunter: Events and Communications Officer.
Ms Helen Bedford: Policy Officer.
Ms Eileen O'Brien: Policy Officer.
Ms Fiona Langford: Accounts Manager.

Families Australia continued to build a workplace that supported and rewarded excellent performance and maximised family-friendliness for all staff. The organisation maintained a close watch on its occupational health and safety responsibilities and ensured that time was taken to acknowledge achievements as well as critically assess performance. Interstate travel was arranged as much as possible to take into account family and personal obligations.

Our finances

Financial report

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2015

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

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BOARD'S REPORT

Your Board members submit the financial report of the Families Australia Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

Board Members:

The names of Board members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Prue Warrilow (Chairperson)	Simon Schrapel
Tricia Murray (Deputy Chair)	David Templeman
Bev Orr OAM (Secretary)	Richard Weston (from 10 November 2014)
Alison Brook (from 10 November 2014)	Sharron Williams
Anne McLeish OAM	Jacqui Reed (until 10 November 2014)
Sue Packer AM	Michael Tizard (until 10 November 2014)

Objectives

Short Term Objectives

Families Australia will work to:

- Improve national policies and programs relating to families. In particular, we will:
  - emphasise the wellbeing of families in all their diversity particularly those who experience the greatest vulnerability and marginalisation
  - promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and support for their carers
  - assist adult survivors of institutionalisation to gain greater recognition and support
  - highlight the needs of families facing mental health challenges
  - continue to advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family issues
  - give special emphasis to, and amplify, other important cross-cutting issues of disability, ageing and workforce participation.
- Promote the importance and needs of families to the broader community and national-level decision-makers, particularly through National Families Week.
- Act as a two-way conduit for information about national policies and programs to and from families, Families Australia members and Government.
- Build its organisational capacity to influence national policies.

Long Term Objectives

To promote the wellbeing of all Australian families by working from a network of services, organisations, carers, consumers and communities and developing policy and research which is informed by the rich diversity of families and communities.

Strategy for Achieving the Objectives

To achieve these goals, in the three years from 2013 to 2016, Families Australia will seek to: further build its policy base; intensify collaboration with its members; enhance its engagement with the public and its strategic relationships; and expand our income and organisational capacity.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the period were to represent the interests of families in Australia.

BOARD'S REPORT

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The surplus of the Association for the year amounted to $144,235 (2014: $82,590).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board.

Prue Warrilow	Tricia Murray
Dated 23·10·15	Dated 22/10/15

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015	2014
		$	$
Revenue	2	1,266,577	1,131,700
Administration Costs		(87,435)	(90,487)
Conference and seminar costs		(131,991)	(115,896)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	3	(13,755)	(13,253)
Employee benefits expense		(513,287)	(497,202)
Rent		(35,294)	(34,083)
Publication costs		(77,759)	(96,964)
Management fee		(106,915)	(88,166)
Other expenses		(155,906)	(113,059)
Surplus before income tax		144,235	82,590
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus attributable to members of the entity		**144,235**	**82,590**
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		**144,235**	**82,590**
Total comprehensive income attributable to members		**144,235**	**82,590**

The accompanying notes form part of this financial statement

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 $	2014 $
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	**6**	458,600	750,612
Investments	**7**	372,755	364,517
Trade and other receivables	**8**	230	1,785
Other current assets	**9**	7,005	14,756
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		838,590	1,131,670
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	**10**	60,449	72,495
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		60,449	72,495
TOTAL ASSETS		899,039	1,204,165
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	**11**	339,949	787,846
Borrowings	**12**	5,250	4,959
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		345,199	792,805
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	**11**	10,913	7,418
Borrowings	**12**	14,944	20,194
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		25,857	27,612
TOTAL LIABILITIES		371,056	820,417
NET ASSETS		527,983	383,748
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		527,983	383,748
TOTAL EQUITY		527,983	383,748

The accompanying notes form part of this financial statement

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Retained Earnings	Total
	$	$
Balance at 1 July 2013	301,158	301,158
Surplus attributable to members	82,590	82,590
Balance at 30 June 2014	383,748	383,748
Balance at 1 July 2014	383,748	383,748
Surplus attributable to members	144,235	144,235
Balance at 30 June 2015	527,983	527,983

The accompanying notes form part of this financial statement

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015	2014
		$	$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from customers and operating grants		966,083	1,360,134
Payment to suppliers and employees		(1,268,116)	(1,123,736)
Interest received		24,927	30,074
Net cash provided by operating activities	**17**	(277,106)	266,472
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Transfers from held-to-maturity investments		-	(204,538)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,709)	(41,157)
Payout of previous lease		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		1,663	(245,695)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Proceeds/ (Repayments) from borrowings		(13,197)	(6,894)
Net cash used in financing activities		(13,197)	(6,894)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(292,012)	13,883
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		750,612	736,729
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	**6**	458,600	750,612

The accompanying notes form part of this financial statement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report covers Families Australia Incorporated as an individual entity. Families Australia Incorporated is an association incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory under the *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991.*

Basis of Preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations and the *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991* of the Australian Capital Territory.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in a financial report containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions to which they apply. Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards ensures that the financial statements and notes also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of this financial report are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

a. **Income Tax**

No provision for income Tax has been raised, as the association is exempt from income Tax under Division 50 of the income Tax assessment ACT 1997.

b. **Property, Plant and Equipment**

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

Plant and equipment

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

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

The cost of fixed assets constructed within the association includes the cost of materials, direct labour, borrowing costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the association and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised lease assets, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life 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 lives of the improvements.

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

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate	Depreciation Basis
Office Equipment	10-20%	Straight Line
Computer Equipment	25-33%	Diminishing Value
Motor Vehicles	22.5%	Diminishing Value

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

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

c. Leases

Leases of fixed assets where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership, are transferred to the association are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amount equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the association will obtain ownership of the asset or ownership over the term of the lease.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Lease incentives under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

d. **Financial Instruments**

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the association commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted).

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs except where the instrument is classified 'at fair value through profit or loss' in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Finance instruments are subsequently measured at either fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest rate method or cost. *Fair value* represents the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Amortised cost is calculated as: (i) the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition; (ii) less principal repayments; (iii) plus or minus the cumulative amortisation of the difference, if any, between the amount initially recognised and the maturity amount calculated using the effective interest method; and (iv) less any reduction for impairment.

The *effective interest method* is used to allocate interest income or interest expense over the relevant period and is equivalent to the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts (including fees, transaction costs and other premiums or discounts) through the expected life (or when this cannot be reliably predicted, the contractual term) of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. Revisions to expected future net cash flows will necessitate an adjustment to the carrying value with a consequential recognition of an income or expense in profit or loss.

The group does not designate any interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint venture entities as being subject to the requirements of accounting standards specifically applicable to financial instruments.

(i) *Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss*

Financial assets are classified at 'fair value through profit or loss' when they are held for trading for the purpose of short-term profit taking. Such assets are subsequently measured at fair value with changes in carrying value being included in profit or loss. The association has not held any financial assets at fair value through profit or loss in the current or comparative financial year.

(ii) *Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

(iii) *Held-to-maturity investments*

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments, and it is the association's intention to hold these investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The association has not held any held-to-maturity investments in the current or comparative financial year.

(iv) *Available-for-sale financial assets*

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivative financial assets that are either not capable of being classified into other categories of financial assets due to their nature, or they are designated as such by management. They comprise investments in the equity of other entities where there is neither a fixed maturity nor fixed or determinable payments.

(v) *Financial liabilities*

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

Impairment

At each reporting date, the association assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether an impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual right to receipt of cash flows expires 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 profit or loss.

e. **Impairment of Assets**

At each reporting date, the association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible 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 and 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 income statement.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

f. **Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance 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. 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. These cash flows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows.

g. **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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 borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

h. **Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. Any consideration deferred is treated as the provision of finance and is discounted at a rate of interest that is generally accepted in the market for similar arrangements. The difference between the amount initially recognised and the amount ultimately received is interest revenue.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement in those goods.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which, for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Revenue from the provision of membership subscriptions is recognised on a straight-line basis over the financial year.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Government Grant i**ncome is recognised when the entity obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive the contribution. It is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the entity and the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.**

i. **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 Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

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

j. **Comparative Figures**

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

k. **Key Estimates**

(i) *Impairment*

The association assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluation of conditions and events specific to the group that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

l. **Key Judgments**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

l. *Provision for impairment of receivables (Con't)*

The Board has received undertakings from the debtors that such unpaid amounts will be paid and therefore no provision for impairment has been made.

m. **New standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective**

Reference	Title	Summary	Application date (financial years beginning)	Expected Impact
AASB 2015-3	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality*	The Standard completes the AASB's project to remove Australian guidance on materiality from Australian Accounting Standards.	1 July 2015	No expected impact
AASB 2014-4	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation*	This Standard amends AASB 116 and AASB 138 to establish the principle for the basis of depreciation and amortisation as being the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits of an asset, and to clarify that revenue is generally presumed to be an inappropriate basis for that purpose.	1 January 2016	Minimal impact
AASB 2015-1	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012-2014 Cycle*	The Standard makes amendments to various Australian Accounting Standards arising from the IASB's Annual Improvements process, and editorial corrections.	1 January 2016	Minimal impact
AASB 2015-2	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101*	The Standard makes amendments to AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements arising from the IASB's Disclosure Initiative project.	1 January 2016	Disclosures Only

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

m. **New standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective (Cont.)**

Reference	Title	Summary	Application date (financial years beginning)	Expected Impact
AASB 15	*Revenue from Contracts with Customers*	This Standard establishes principles (including disclosure requirements) for reporting useful information about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from an entity's contracts with customers.	1 January 2017	Estimate impact on client
AASB 2014-5	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15*	Consequential amendments arising from the issuance of AASB 15.	1 January 2017	Estimate impact on client
AASB 9	*Financial Instruments*	This Standard supersedes both AASB 9 (December 2010) and AASB 9 (December 2009) when applied. It introduces a "fair value through other comprehensive income" category for debt instruments, contains requirements for impairment of financial assets, etc.	1 January 2018	Estimate impact on client
AASB 2014-7	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014)*	Consequential amendments arising from the issuance of AASB 9	1 January 2018	Estimate impact on client

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 2: REVENUE	2015 $	2014 $
Operating activities		
— Subsidies and Grant	940,568	869,148
— Member subscriptions	14,205	12,918
— Conference Registration/Sponsorship	170,814	131,156
— Other Operating Revenue	116,063	88,404
— Interest received	24,927	30,074
	1,266,577	1,131,700

NOTE 3: SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		
Expenses		
Depreciation of non-current assets:		
- Computer Equipment	3,020	3,136
- Motor Vehicles	4,848	6,255
- Office Equipment	5,887	3,862
Total depreciation	13,755	13,253
Operating lease expense	35,294	34,083
Finance costs	2,090	341

NOTE 4: AUDITORS' REMUNERATION		
Auditing or reviewing financial reports	9,500	9,350

NOTE 5: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION	Short-term Benefit $	Long-term Benefit $	Post Retirement Benefit	Total $
2015				
Total compensation	152,574	6,178	16,965	175,717
2014				
Total compensation	157,401	(1,085)	16,662	172,978

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 6: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2015	2014
	$	$
Cash at bank	458,437	750,497
Cash on hand	163	115
	458,600	750,612

NOTE 7: INVESTMENTS		
Term Deposits	372,755	364,517
	372,755	364,517

NOTE 8: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
CURRENT		
Trade debtors	230	1,785
	230	1,785

Current trade receivables are non-interest bearing loans and are generally receivable within 30 days. A provision for impairment is recognised against subscriptions where there is objective evidence that an individual trade receivable is impaired. No impairment was required at 30 June 2015 (2014: Nil).

Credit Risk

The entity has no significant concentration of credit risk with respect to any single counterparty or group of counterparties.

The following table details the entity's subscriptions receivable exposed to credit risk with ageing analysis and impairment provided for thereon. Amounts are considered as 'past due' when the debt has not been settled within the terms and conditions agreed between the association and the member or counterparty to the transaction. Receivables that are past due are assessed for impairment by ascertaining their willingness to pay and are provided for where there are specific circumstances indicating that the debt may not be fully repaid to the entity.

The balances of receivables that remain within initial terms (as detailed in the table) are considered to be of high credit quality.

NOTE 8: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	Gross amount	Past due and impaired	Past due but not impaired				Within initial trade terms
	$	$	Days (overdue)				$
			< 30	31–60	61–90	> 90	
2015			$	$	$	$	
Trade & other receivables	230	-	230	-	-	-	-
Total	230	-	230	-	-	-	-

	Gross amount	Past due and impaired	Past due but not impaired				Within initial trade terms
	$	$	Days (overdue)				$
			< 30	31–60	61–90	> 90	
2014			$	$	$	$	
Trade & other receivables	1,785	-	1,785	-	-	-	-
Total	1,785	-	1,785	-	-	-	-

The entity does not hold any financial assets whose terms have been renegotiated, but which would otherwise be past due or impaired.

Collateral held as security

No collateral is held as security for any of the trade and other receivable balances.

NOTE 9: OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

Prepayments	721	7,300
Deposit Bond	6,284	6,283
Other	-	1,173
	7,005	14,756

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 10: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	2015	2014
	$	$
Computer Equipment		
At cost	23,858	22,149
Accumulated depreciation	(19,051)	(16,032)
	4,807	6,117
Motor Vehicles		
At cost	32,815	32,815
Accumulated depreciation	(16,118)	(11,271)
	16,697	21,544
Office equipment		
At cost	53,200	53,200
Accumulated depreciation	(14,255)	(8,366)
	38,945	44,834
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	60,449	72,495

Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year

	Computer Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Office Equipment	Total
2014	$	$	$	$
Balance at the beginning of year	7,150	27,799	10,582	45,531
Additions	2,103	-	39,051	41,154
Disposals	-	-	(937)	(937)
Depreciation expense	(3,136)	(6,255)	(3,862)	(13,253)
Carrying amount at the end of year	6,117	21,544	44,834	72,495
2015				
Balance at the beginning of year	6,117	21,544	44,834	72,495
Additions	1,709	-	-	1,709
Net disposals	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(3,019)	(4,847)	(5,889)	(13,755)
Carrying amount at the end of year	4,807	16,697	38,945	60,449

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 11: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	Note	2015	2014
		$	$
CURRENT			
Unsecured liabilities:			
Trade payables		6,201	2,722
Sundry accruals and payables		23,423	80,172
Grant funding in advance and unexpended grants		237,713	639,000
Annual leave Liability		29,903	31,741
Long Service leave liability		42,709	34,211
		339,949	787,846
NON CURRENT			
Long service leave liability		10,913	7,418
		10,913	7,418

NOTE 12: FINANCIAL LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Lease liability	5,250	4,959
NON CURRENT		
Lease liability	14,944	20,194
Financial liabilities at amortised cost classified as borrowings	20,194	25,153

NOTE 13: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

	Note	2015	2014
		$	$
13a. **Finance Lease Commitments**			
Payable — minimum lease payments			
— Not later than 12 months		6,266	6,266
— Between 12 months and 5 years		15,216	21,484
Minimum lease payments		21,482	27,750
Less future finance charges		(1,288)	(2,597)
Present value of minimum lease payments	12	20,194	25,153

The motor vehicle lease is a non-cancellable lease with a four-year term, with rent payable monthly in advance.

13b. **Operating Lease Commitments**

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements

Payable – minimum lease payments		
— Not later than 12 months	7,409	27,934
— Between 12 months and 5 years	-	8,247
	7,409	36,181

The property lease is a non-cancellable lease with a three year term, with rent payable monthly in advance.

Contingent rental provisions within the lease agreement require that the minimum lease payments shall be increased by CPI and/or market rates per annum.

An option exists to renew the lease at the end of the three year term for an additional term of two years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 14: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

There are no known contingent liabilities at the date of this report that should be brought to account.

NOTE 15: EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the period, which significantly affected or may affect the operations of the association, the results of those operations, or the stake of affairs of the association in future periods.

NOTE 16: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

The membership of Families Australia Incorporated includes directors from the founding members of the organisation. These members have prescribed membership fees that are paid in full for each financial year on normal commercial terms and conditions. No related party transactions during the year.

NOTE 17: CASH FLOW INFORMATION

Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Surplus		
Profit / (Loss) after income tax	144,235	82,590
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities:		
Non-cash flows in profit		
— Depreciation	13,755	13,253
— Loss on disposal of non-current assets	-	937
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
— (Increase)/decrease in trade and term debtors	1,555	(1,655)
— (Increase)/decrease in other current assets	7,751	3,229
— Increase/(decrease) in accruals and payables	(53,270)	13,422
— Increase/(decrease) in unearned income	(401,287)	150,000
— Increase/(decrease) in provisions	10,155	4,696
	(277,106)	266,472

NOTE 18: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The association's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, local money market instruments, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable, and leases.

The totals for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 139 as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

	Note	2015	2014
		$	$
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	**6**	**458,600**	**750,612**
Other receivables	**7**	**230**	**1,785**
		458,830	**752,397**
Financial liabilities			
Financial liabilities at amortised cost:			
- trade and other payables	**11a**	29,624	82,894
- borrowings	**12a**	**20,194**	**25,153**
		49,818	**108,047**

Financial Risk Management

The association's Board is responsible for, among other issues, monitoring and managing financial risk exposures of the association. The Finance and Financial Audit Committee monitors the association's transactions and reviews the effectiveness of controls relating to credit risk, financial risk, and interest rate risk. Discussions on monitoring and managing financial risk exposures are held quarterly and minuted by the Board.

The Finance and Financial Audit Committee's overall risk management strategy seeks to ensure that the association meets its financial targets, while minimising potential adverse effects of cash flow shortfalls.

Specific Financial Risk Exposures and Management

The main risks the association is exposed to through its financial instruments are interest rate risk, liquidity risk, credit risk and equity price risk.

a. **Interest rate risk**

The association is not exposed to any significant interest rate risk since cash balances are maintained at variable rates.

b. **Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk arises from the possibility that the association might encounter difficulty in settling its debts or otherwise meeting its obligations related to financial liabilities. The association manages this risk through the following mechanisms:

- preparing forward-looking cash flow analysis in relation to its operational, investing and financing activities;
- only investing surplus cash with major financial institutions; and
- proactively monitoring the recovery of unpaid subscriptions.

NOTE 18: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The tables below reflect an undiscounted contractual maturity analysis for financial liabilities.

Cash flows realised from financial assets reflect management's expectation as to the timing of realisation. Actual timing may therefore differ from that disclosed. The timing of cash flows presented in the table to settle finance leases reflect the earliest contractual settlement dates.

Financial liability and financial assets maturity analysis

	Within 1 Year		1 to 5 Years		Over 5 Years		Total	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Financial liabilities due for payment								
Trade and other payables (excluding est. annual leave and grants receivable in advance)	29,624	82,894	-	-	-	-	29,624	82,894
Finance lease liabilities	5,250	4,959	14,944	20,194	-	-	20,194	25,153
Total contractual outflows	34,874	87,853	14,944	20,194	-	-	**49,818**	**108,047**
Total expected outflows	34,874	87,853	14,944	20,194	-	-	**49,818**	**108,047**
Financial assets — cash flows realisable								
Cash and cash equivalents	**458,600**	**750,612**	-	-	-	-	**458,600**	**750,612**
Investments	372,755	364,517	-	-	-	-	372,755	364,517
Trade and other receivables	**230**	**1,785**	-	-	-	-	**230**	**1,785**
Total anticipated inflows	**831,585**	**1,116,914**	-	-	-	-	**831,585**	**1,116,914**
Net (outflow)/inflow on financial instruments	796,711	**1,029,061**	(14,944)	(20,194)	-	-	781,767	**1,008,867**

NOTE 18: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial assets pledged as collateral

No financial assets have been pledged as security for any financial liability. Refer to Note 12 for further details.

c. **Foreign exchange risk**

The association is not exposed to fluctuations in foreign currencies.

d. **Credit risk**

Exposure to credit risk relating to financial assets arises from the potential non-performance by counterparties of contract obligations that could lead to a financial loss to the association.

Credit risk is managed through maintaining procedures ensuring, to the extent possible, that members and counterparties to transactions are of sound credit worthiness. Subscriptions are expected to be paid prior to the commencement of the subscription period. All subscriptions receivable are past due.

Risk is also minimised through investing surplus funds in financial institutions that maintain a high credit rating or in entities that the Board has otherwise cleared as being financially sound.

Credit risk exposures

The maximum exposure to credit risk by class of recognised financial assets at balance date is equivalent to the carrying value and classification of those financial assets (net of any provisions) as presented in the balance sheet. The association is also exposed to any deficiency in net assets of trusts to which it is trustee. Further details are contained in Note 13.

There is no collateral held by the association securing trade and other receivables.

The association has no significant concentration of credit risk with any single counterparty or group of counterparties. Details with respect to credit risk of trade and other receivables are provided in Note 7.

Trade and other receivables that are neither past due or impaired are considered to be of high credit quality. Aggregates of such amounts are as detailed at Note 7.

e. **Price risk**

Price risk relates to the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices largely due to demand and supply factors for commodities. Currently the association does not hold available-for-sale investments where they may be exposed to securities price risk.

NOTE 18: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Net Fair Values

Fair value estimation

The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities are presented in the following table and can be compared to their carrying values as presented in the balance sheet. Fair values are those amounts at which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction. Areas of judgment and the assumptions used have been detailed below. Where possible, valuation information used to calculate fair value is extracted from the market, with more reliable information available from markets that are actively traded.

		2015		2014	
	Footnote	Net Carrying Value	Net Fair Value	Net Carrying Value	Net Fair Value
		$	$	$	$
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	(i)	**458,600**	**458,600**	**750,612**	**750,612**
Investments		**372,755**	**372,755**	364,517	364,517
Trade and other receivables	(i)	**230**	**230**	**1,785**	**1,785**
Total financial assets		**831,585**	**831,585**	**1,116,914**	**1,116,914**
Financial liabilities					
Trade and other payables	(i)	**29,624**	**29,624**	82,894	82,894
Lease liability	(ii)	**20,194**	**20,194**	**25,153**	**25,153**
Total financial liabilities		**49,818**	**49,818**	**108,047**	**108,047**

The fair values disclosed in the above table have been determined based on the following methodologies:

(i) Cash and cash equivalents, trade and other receivables and trade and other payables are short term instruments in nature whose carrying value is equivalent to fair value. Trade and other payables exclude amounts provided for relating to annual leave which is not considered a financial instrument.

(ii) These liabilities are fixed interest leases carried at amortised cost. Differences between carrying value and net fair value represent decreases in market interest rates.

NOTE 19: ASSOCIATION DETAILS

Principal place of business is:

Families Australia Incorporated

Suite 3, 7 National Circuit

Barton ACT 2600

NOTE 20: ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The continuance of Families Australia Incorporated is dependent upon the supply of Government funding.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 19 to 43*:*

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Families Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Families Australia Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

Prue Warrilow	Tricia Murray
Dated 23.10.15	Dated 22/10/15

RSM

RSM Australia Pty Ltd

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Families Australia Incorporated ("the entity"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and statement by Members of the Board.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991*, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

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RSM Australia Pty Ltd is a member of the RSM network and trades as RSM. RSM is the trading name used by the members of the RSM network. Each member of the RSM network is an independent accounting and consulting firm which practices in its own right. The RSM network is not itself a separate legal entity in any jurisdiction.

RSM Australia Pty Ltd ACN 009 321 377 atf Birdanco Practice Trust ABN 65 319 382 479 trading as RSM

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

RSM

Opinion

In our opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Families Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991*.

RSM Australia Pty Ltd

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory
Dated: 28/10/2015

RODNEY MILLER
Director

With thanks

Families Australia would like to thank all its supporters for their invaluable support. In particular, Families Australia gratefully acknowledges its Members and the Australian Government for their ongoing support.

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FamiliesAustralia