



families
australia

ANNUAL REPORT

2002-2003

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA IS A NON-PROFIT NATIONAL PEAK ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO PROMOTING THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF FAMILIES.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA REPRESENTS AND MAINTAINS A STRONG POLICY VOICE ON BEHALF OF ALL AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES.

ADVICE FROM FAMILIES AUSTRALIA IS WIDELY SOUGHT BY A RANGE OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, POLITICIANS, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS.



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FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

Families Australia was launched in March 2002, and is the national peak body representing and promoting the needs and interests of Families. *Families Australia* does this through:

- advocacy and leadership with government and the community;
- information, communication and resource development;
- policy development and research; and
- community education.

Charter

Families Australia's mission is to improve policies and programs affecting families through advocacy and representation at all levels of government. We plan to achieve this by working from a network of services, organisations, carers, consumers and communities, and developing policy and research that is informed by the rich diversity of families and communities.

Objectives

The objectives of *Families Australia* are to:

- be a leading organisation in the field of family policy by working in collaboration with other stakeholders;
- work towards the recognition of, and support for, the needs of families, young people and children;
- provide a strong, national voice and advice to government on issues that impact upon families, as well as facilitate the voices of families when they speak about family policy;
- improve policy, programs and service delivery with a particular focus on the interface between Commonwealth and State/Territory responsibilities;
- advocate for adequate resources for and ensure that family policy reflects the diversity of family forms, addresses disadvantaged circumstances experienced by many families, and has a primary emphasis on the best interests of children and young people; and
- initiate or undertake research that contributes to improved knowledge, policy, programs and service delivery practice.

THE BOARD

	Position	Nominating Organisation.
Sue Ash		Association of Services Supporting Australia's Families
Ray Cleary		Anglicare Australia
Melinda Cilento (Resigned June 2003)	Co-opted Member	Business Council of Australia
Jo Comans		National Family Day Care Council
Sandie de Wolf	Chair	Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia
Teresa Findlay-Barnes (Resigned Nov 2002)		Association of Services Supporting Australia's Families
Robert Fitzgerald	Co-opted Member	National Roundtable of Nonprofit Organisations
Dianne Gibson	Secretary	Relationships Australia
Ian O'Reilly		Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
Bev Orr	Deputy Chair	Australian Foster Care Association
Julian Pocock		The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
Peter Richardson		Australian Association of Social Workers
Sue Tregeagle		Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia
Sharron Williams		The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
Frank Young (Resigned Nov 2002)		Australian Foster Care Association

CHAIR'S REPORT

I have great pleasure in presenting this second Annual Report of *Families Australia*. *Families Australia* was established in 2001 by the Commonwealth Government (through funding via the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services) as the national peak body representing the interests of families. It was officially launched in March 2002

I have said before that establishing a new national community organisation is hard work, challenging and exciting. In our second year, the challenges are still coming, particularly around resources. *Families Australia* is continuing to grow and evolve and I imagine this process will continue over the next couple of years! As you will see in the "Highlights of the Year" section of this report, we have made considerable progress in the last year and I feel we have laid a solid foundation for our future.

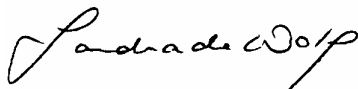
Preparation has begun for *Families Australia*'s inaugural conference. *Families Australia* has received funding from the Department of Family and Community Services to organise a conference '**Globalisation, Families and Work - Meeting the Policy Challenges of the next two decades**'. This international conference will take place in Brisbane on April 1-2 2004.

The *Families Australia* '**Our Children: Our Concern, Our Responsibility**' Campaign was successfully launched on Wednesday 3 September 2003. Media coverage was extensive and overwhelmingly positive. The Campaign documents were sent to all Federal politicians, relevant Federal bureaucrats, State Premiers, Chief Ministers and the relevant Ministers responsible for Community Services. *Families Australia* worked extensively with its member organisation and with peaks (both national and state) in the child welfare sector both prior to and during the campaign. This collaboration was a very positive model and one we plan to build on in future campaigns.

Our membership has continued to grow with over three hundred organisations joining as Associate Members and thirty-seven organisations becoming General Members. We are delighted by this response and the expertise and knowledge our members contribute.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank our Board members for their involvement and commitment and Anne-Marie Mioche, our Executive Officer, for her vision and contribution in establishing such a firm foundation for *Families Australia*.

We look forward to working with families, community organisations, peak bodies, State and Commonwealth Departments and all levels of Government to promote the interests of families.



Sandie de Wolf
Chairperson

Sandie is the CEO of Berry Street Victoria
She is also the recipient of Vida Goldstein Award 2001

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Foundation Members

Association of Services Supporting Australia's Families (ASSAF)
Australian Foster Care Association (AFCA)
Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia (CAFWAA)
The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)

General Member Organisations

Advocates for Survivors of Child Abuse
Anglicare Australia
Australian African Children's Aid & Support Association Inc.
Australian Association of Social Workers
Australian Red Cross
Australian Scholarships Group
Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
Barnardos
Carers Australia
Care Leavers Australia Network Inc. (CLAN)
COTA National Seniors
CREATE Foundation
Depressionet
Family Services Australia
Good Beginnings Australia
Lifeline Australia Inc
Lone Fathers Association (Australia)
Mission Australia
NAPCAN Australia
National Association of Community Based Children's Services
National Council for Adoption
National Council of YMCAs of Australia
National Ethnic Disability Alliance Inc
National Family Day Care Council
Playgroup Australia Inc.
Relationships Australia
The Salvation Army Eastern Territory
The Salvation Army Southern Territory
The Smith Family
UnitingCare Australia
Volunteering Australia

Associate Member Organisations

Aboriginal Children's Centre (TAS)
Aboriginal Family Support Services (SA)
Abused Child Trust (QLD)
Adoptions International of Western Australia (AIWA) Inc (WA)
Adoptive Families Association of the ACT (ACT)
Agencies for South West Accommodation (ASWA) Inc (WA)
Albert Hall Preschool (NSW)
Alice Springs Family Day Care (NT)
Alina Families Program (QLD)
Anglican Community Care (SA)
Anglican Counselling Service (NSW)
Anglicare (Migrant Services) (NSW)
Anglicare Diocese of Brisbane (QLD)
Anglicare Diocese of Sydney (NSW)
Anglicare South Australia (SA)
Anglicare South Australia (Alternative Care) (SA)
Anglicare Tasmania (TAS)
Anglicare Victoria (VIC)
Anglicare Youth and Family Services (NSW)
Atherton Neighbourhood Centre (QLD)
Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes (VIC)
Australian Institute of Family Studies (VIC)
Australian Nursing Federation (ACT)
Australian Red Cross, New South Wales (NSW)
Australian Society for Intercountry Aid for Children - NSW (NSW)

Ballarat Community Health Centre (VIC)
Bankstown Family Day Care Co-op Ltd (NSW)
Banyule City Council (VIC)
Barkley Bumble Beez Childcare (NT)
Baulkham Hills Shire Council (Human Services Manager) (NSW)
Bay Islands Community Services Inc (QLD)
Bayside City Council, Childcare Service (VIC)
Belconnen Community Service (ACT)
Berry Street Victoria (VIC)
Betania Christian Centre (SA)
Bethany Community Support Inc (VIC)
Blue Care Brisbane Central Region (Unicare) (QLD)
Boundary Lane Children's Centre (NSW)
Bowen Community Council (QLD)
Brain Injury Network of South Australia Inc (SA)
Brisbane Youth Service (QLD)
Broken Hill Family Support Inc (NSW)

Caboolture Area Youth Service Inc (QLD)
Caboolture Neighbourhood Centre (QLD)
Camcare (VIC)
Cape/Gulf Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care (RAATSICC) Advisory Association (QLD)
Care and Concern Ministries (NSW)
Care Leavers Australia Network Midland Inc (WA)
Careforce Community Service (VIC)
Caroline Chisholm Society (VIC)
Carpentaria Shire Council (QLD)
Centacare Newcastle (NSW)
Centacare Port Pirie Diocese (SA)

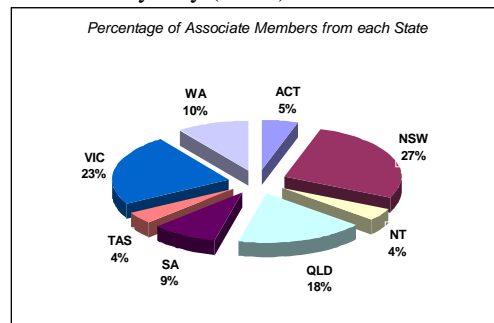
Centacare Tasmania (TAS)
Centacare Wollongong (NSW)
Central Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency Inc (QLD)
Centre for Community Child Health (VIC)
Centre for Developmental Disability Studies (NSW)
Cerebral Palsy Support Network (VIC)
Child and Family Care Network (VIC)
Child and Family Services Ballarat (VIC)
Child and Family Services, Dept of Community Services NSW (NSW)
Children's Services Resource and Advisory Program, ACT (ACT)
Children's Services Support Program (Central Australia) (NT)
Children's Services Support Unit (Western Australia) Inc (WA)
Children's Welfare Association of Victoria (VIC)
Churches of Christ Care (QLD)
Citizen Advocacy Northside Inc (NSW)
City of Kingston (VIC)
Cobaw Community Health Service (VIC)
Colony 47 (TAS)
Commonwealth Carer Respite Centre (NSW)
Communicare Inc (WA)
Community Accommodation and Respite Agency Inc (SA)
Community Activities Lake Macquarie (NSW)
Community Health Bendigo (VIC)
Community Link & Network Inc. (WA)
Community Link and Network Mirrabooka Inc. (WA)
Community Programs Inc (NSW)
Craigieburn and Districts Family Day Care (VIC)
CRC Justice Support (NSW)
Creative Times - Samaritans (NSW)
Cross Cultural Child Care Unit (QLD)

Daisy Hill Playschool Child Care Centre (QLD)
Darebin Family Services, Darebin City Council (VIC)
Department for Community Development (WA)
Department for Community Development, Family and Children's Services (WA)
Department of Health and Human Services (TAS)
Department of Human Services South Australia (SA)
Dianella Community Health (VIC)
Dingley Village CAB (VIC)
Disability Advocacy & Complaints Service of SA Inc. (SA)
Djerriwarrh Health Services (VIC)
Doncaster Community Care and Counselling Centre (VIC)
Drummond Street Relationship Centre (VIC)
Eatons Hill Outside School Hours Club (QLD)
Eltham East OSHC (VIC)
FaCS - South Australia State Office (SA)
Families First (SA)
Family Action Centre (NSW)
Family and Child Care Service (VIC)
Family Based Care Association (New South Wales) Inc (TAS)

Family Day Care Association Queensland (QLD)
 Family Day Care Schemes of WA Inc. (WA)
 Family Services, City of Greater Geelong (VIC)
 Family Support and Parenting Network (ACT)
 Family Support Service (NSW)
 Family Support Service, Cooma (NSW)
 Family Support Services Assoc Tasmania Inc (TAS)
 Fern Valley Child Care Centre (NSW)
 Financial Counsellors Resource Project (WA)
 Fredrick Street Child Care and Early Education Centre (QLD)
 Gap Community Child Care Centre (NT)
 Geraldton Family and Youth Support Service (WA)
 Glastonbury Child and Family Services (VIC)
 Glenhaven Family Care Inc (TAS)
 Gold Coast Family Support Group (QLD)
 Goulburn Family Support Service (NSW)
 Goulburn Valley Family Care Inc (VIC)
 Greenacres Association (NSW)
 Greensborough Campus Community Child Care Centre (VIC)
 Haemophilia Foundation Australia (VIC)
 Hanover Welfare Services (VIC)
 Harvey Early Learning Centre (WA)
 Holdsworth Street Community Centre (NSW)
 Holroyd Community Aid and Information Service (NSW)
 Holy Family School (NT)
 Homelink SA (SA)
 Hornsby Kuring-gai Lifeline (NSW)
 Humpty Doo Community and Child Care Centre (NT)
 Illawarra Children's Services (NSW)
 Ingle Farm East Primary School (SA)
 Inner Western Region Migrant Resource Centre (VIC)
 Institute for Family Advocacy (NSW)
 Integrated Family & Youth Service Inc (QLD)
 International Social Service, Australian Branch (VIC)
 Jobco Employment Services Inc (VIC)
 Johnson Street Out of School Hours Care Inc (NSW)
 Karu Aboriginal Child Care Agency (NT)
 Kaziw Asesered Le Association (QLD)
 Kemblawarra Child and Family Centre (NSW)
 Kids First Foundation (NSW)
 Kildonan Child and Family Services (VIC)
 Kindy Korner Pre-School (NSW)
 Kingston East Community Centre (QLD)
 Koolyangarra Kindergarten and Child Care Centre (NSW)
 KU Children's Services, Resource Centre (NSW)
 Kyabra Community Association Inc (QLD)
 Kyabram Community and Learning Centre (VIC)
 Lady Gowrie Caboolture Family Day Care Scheme (QLD)
 Lady Gowrie Child Centre (NSW)
 Lapstone Preschool Kindergarten Assoc Inc (NSW)
 Lavington Occasional Child Care Association (NSW)
 Learning Centre Link (WA)
 Lifeline Cairns Region (QLD)
 Lifeline Manly Warringah Pittwater Inc (NSW)
 Lisa Lodge (VIC)
 Lismore District Family Day Care Inc (NSW)
 Logan City Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre (QLD)
 Lorikeet Child Care Centre, St George Hospital (NSW)
 Lower Mountains Family Support Service (NSW)
 Lutheran Community Care (SA)
 Lysterfield Primary School Outside School Hours Program (VIC)
 Macarthur Legal Centre Inc (NSW)
 Mackay Children's Support Programs Inc (QLD)
 MacKillop Family Services (VIC)
 Mai Wel Ltd (NSW)
 Mallee Family Care Inc (VIC)
 Mareeba Information and Support Centre (QLD)
 Marian Centre (NSW)
 Maroochy Child Care Services (QLD)
 Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre, Family Support Program (QLD)
 Martin Street Community Child Care Centre (QLD)
 Marymead Child and Family Centre (ACT)
 Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation (WA)
 Melba Support Services Inc (VIC)
 Melbourne Citymission (VIC)
 Menzies Incorporated (VIC)
 MercyCare (WA)
 Micah Projects Inc (QLD)
 Migrant Resource Centre North East (MRCNE) (VIC)
 Miller Community Preschool & Early Intervention Service (NSW)
 Mirabel Foundation Inc (VIC)
 Miriam High Special Needs Centre (SA)
 Mission Australia (NSW)
 MOFFLYN (WA)
 Montessori Long Day Care Gordon (ACT)
 Mookai Rosie-Bi-Bayan (QLD)
 Mount Druitt Community Cottage (NSW)
 Mount Isa Skills Association Inc (QLD)
 Nambour Good Beginnings (QLD)
 National Alliance of Disability Resource and Training Agencies (NADRATA) (VIC)
 National Council of Single Mothers and their Children (SA)
 Nerang Neighbourhood Centre Inc (QLD)
 Network of Community Activities (NSW)
 New England Carer Respite Centre (NSW)
 New England Resource and Support Programme (NSW)
 New South Wales Indo-China Chinese Association Inc (NSW)
 Newcastle Family Support Services (NSW)
 Newtrain Inc (NSW)
 Noah's Ark Family Resource (VIC)
 North Belconnen Community Association Inc (ACT)
 North Queensland Combined Womens Services Inc (QLD)
 North West Advocacy Organisation Inc (QLD)
 Northside Community Service Inc (ACT)
 Ovens and King Community Health Service (VIC)
 Paddington Childrens Centre (NSW)
 Parent Advocacy Inc (SA)

Parent Support Service (ACT)
 Parenting Australia (VIC)
 Parentline Queensland (QLD)
 Parkerville Children's Home Inc (WA)
 Parkes/Forbes Family Day Care, Parkes Shire Council (NSW)
 PeakCare Queensland Inc (QLD)
 Pennell Child Care Centre (VIC)
 People with Disabilities (NSW) Inc (NSW)
 Personal Advocacy Service (WA)
 Petrie Community After School Care (QLD)
 Phoenix Consulting (NT)
 Pika Wiya Health Service Inc (SA)
 Planit Community Solutions P/L (NSW)
 Playgroup Western Australia (WA)
 Playtime Child Care Centre (QLD)
 Port Mission Family Centre (SA)
 Port Stephens Family Support Service Inc (NSW)
 Positive Solutions (TAS)
 Possum Children's Support Service Inc (NSW)
 Possum Place Child Care Centre (NSW)
 Pregnancy Counselling Link (QLD)
 Prison Transport Group Inc (QLD)
 Public Health Association (ACT)
 Quality Child Care Association of NSW (NSW)
 Quantum Support Services (VIC)
 Queen Elizabeth II Family Centre (ACT)
 Queensland Children's Activities Network (QCAN) Inc (QLD)
 Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association (QLD)
 Ranges Youth Centre (SA)
 Reach Recreation (SA)
 Redlynch Daycare Centre (QLD)
 Royal College of Nursing, Australia (ACT)
 SA Career Consultants (SA)
 Saltwater Child Care Centre (VIC)
 Save the Children Fund Queensland (QLD)
 School of Social Work and Community Welfare (QLD)
 Scots Child Care Centre (TAS)
 SDN Children's Services Inc (NSW)
 Signpost Volunteer Advisory Service (NSW)
 Snugglepot Day Care Centre Inc (NSW)
 Somerville Community Service (NT)
 Southside Community Services Inc (ACT)
 Spalding Family Centre (WA)
 Speak Out Association of Tas Inc (TAS)
 Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau (VIC)
 St Luke's Anglicare (VIC)
 Starick Services Inc (WA)
 Stepfamily Association of Victoria Inc (VIC)
 Sussex Street Community Law Service (WA)
 Sutherland Shire Family Support Service (NSW)
 Tableland Women's Centre (QLD)
 Tangentyre Council (NT)
 Technical Aid to the Disabled (NSW)
 Tennant Creek Domestic Violence Counselling Service (NT)
 The Benevolent Society (NSW)
 The Cerebral Palsy Association of Western Australia (WA)
 The Cottage-Centre for Families and Children (Brotherhood of St. Lawrence) (VIC)

The Parenting Puzzle (NT)
 The Salvation Army (South Australia) Property Trust (SA)
 The Salvation Army Crossroads West (WA)
 The Salvation Army Peninsula Youth and Family Services (VIC)
 The Salvation Army Southern Territory (VIC)
 Toowoomba City Church Inc (QLD)
 Toowoomba Youthservise (QLD)
 Travellers Aid Society of Victoria (VIC)
 Unicentre Children's Services, University of Wollongong (NSW)
 UnitingCare Connections (VIC)
 UnitingCare Port Pirie Central Mission (SA)
 University of Melbourne Children's Services (VIC)
 Upper Murray Family Care (VIC)
 Warlga Ngurra Womans and Childrens Refuge (NSW)
 Warwick Farm Children's Centre (NSW)
 Wattle Human Services Inc (VIC)
 Woden Community Service Inc (ACT)
 Wollondilly Shire Community and Children's Services (NSW)
 Wonthella House Inc (WA)
 Wyndarra Centre Inc (TAS)
 Wyong Neighbourhood Centre Inc (NSW)
 Wyong Shire Family Day Care (NSW)
 YMCA of Darwin Inc (NT)
 YMCA of Sydney (NSW)
 Yorganop Child Care Aboriginal Corporation (WA)
 Youth Involvement Council (WA)
 Youth off the Streets Ltd. (NSW)
 YWCA of Sydney (NSW)



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK

National Families Week 2003 took place from 11-17 May 2003. It was the first time this event has been organised nationally to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Families.

The event received very strong community support with over 500 events taking place, 316 of which were officially registered with *Families Australia*. It is clear that this event has very strong potential for growth, and with a good lead time, sponsorship.

The response to *National Families Week* was overwhelmingly positive. Even since the week ended, *Families Australia* has continued to receive queries about the event, questions about next year's date, and notes from organisations who were unable to get involved this year but want to be kept in the loop during the lead up to *National Families Week 2004*. Visitor numbers to our website remain more than three times higher than prior to the *Week*.

National Families Week was also very successful in raising the profile of *Families Australia* with grassroots organisations across Australia with 75% of organisations involved having never heard of us prior to the event.

CONFERENCE

Preparation has begun for *Families Australia's* inaugural conference. *Families Australia* has received funding from the Department of Family and Community Services to organise a conference '***Globalisation, Families and Work - Meeting the Policy Challenges of the next two decades***'. This international conference will take place in Brisbane on 1-2 April 2004. It will focus on long term social economic and political trends with a view to canvassing policy ideas and strategies. One of the aims of the conference is to challenge and stimulate discussion and thinking. Some of the topics that are likely to be covered as part of the conference include:

- Demographic Change: Ageing Populations and Declining Fertility
- The economics of caring and changing gender roles
- Globalisation and its continuing impact on families

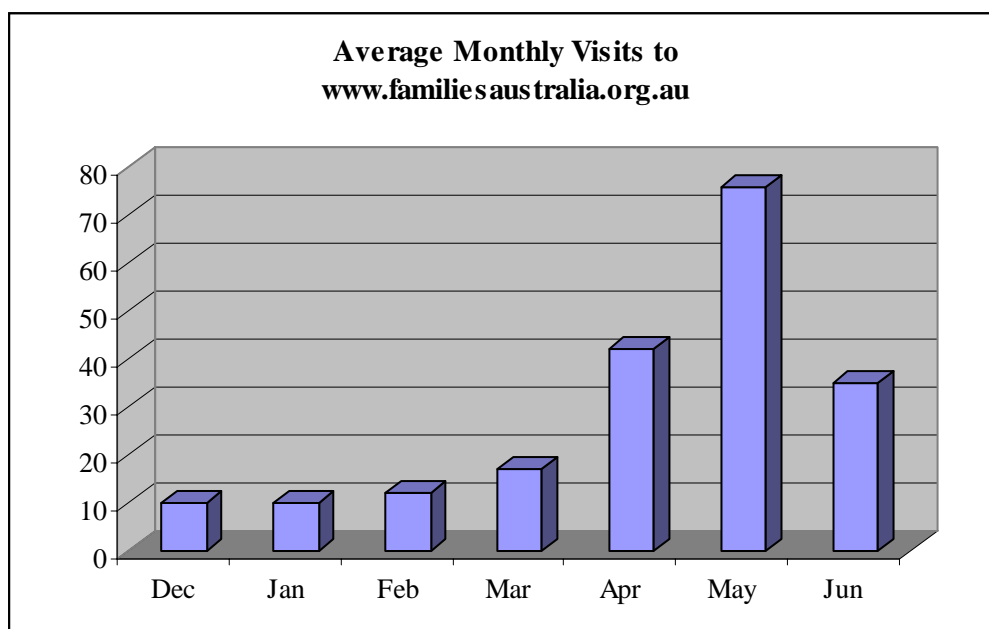
BULLETIN

Two issues of the Bulletin were published during this financial year. The Bulletin continues to be an important communication tool for *Families Australia*, letting organisations and individuals know what *Families Australia* is doing and seeking their input and comments.

WEBSITE

The *Families Australia* website, www.familiesaustralia.org.au, is a very successful tool used to communicate with *Families Australia* Members, potential Members and other interested parties. The website includes basic information about *Families Australia*, including the Constitution and Membership Forms, as well as links to *Families Australia* General Members' websites. Also included are both current archived versions of the *Families Australia* Bulletin. The Members section of the website, which is only accessible by password, also provides information specific to General Members of *Families Australia*.

The website was also a wonderful tool to assist in disseminating information about *National Families Week 2003*. As the graph below shows, the daily visits to the website peaked quite markedly during May 2003. It is important to note that while visits to the website did diminish after *National Families Week 2003* was complete, average Monthly Visits to www.familiesaustralia.org.au remain nearly 200% higher than prior to *National Families Week 2003*.



POLICY

Families Australia is committed to the development of broad-based and relevant policy. This objective is important given the diversity of family forms in Australia today, the significance of extended families to the health and well-being of families, and the complexities of the current split of responsibilities between Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments. The focus of the organisation will be on developing and contributing to public policy which impacts on families, young people and children nationally.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA ‘OUR CHILDREN: OUR CONCERN, OUR RESPONSIBILITY’ RESEARCH DOCUMENT AND CAMPAIGN

Families Australia sees the rising incidence of child abuse and neglect as an issue of national concern and the campaign is intended to seek solutions through the adoption of a national approach to the issue. *Families Australia* wants to see the Commonwealth take a leadership role on the issue of child abuse and neglect by initiating discussions between the Prime Minister, State Premiers and Chief Ministers with a view to establishing a National Strategy for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, similar to the National Drug Strategy.

The Campaign was informed by a research project on child welfare undertaken by *Families Australia* earlier in the year. The project aimed to develop a case for greater Commonwealth Government investment in the area of child welfare. The project pulled together the latest Australian research on prevention and early intervention services, families at risk of child abuse and neglect, out-of-home care and managing the transition from care to independent living. This research formed the basis of the Campaign document - *Our Children: Our Concern, Our Responsibility*.

Families Australia established a Reference Group, which included a number of individuals and 28 child and family welfare organisations with an interest and expertise in child abuse and neglect. This group provided input on the various aspects of the campaign.

A Campaign document and media kit were developed and distributed to all Commonwealth politicians, State Premiers, Chief Ministers and relevant State/Territory Community Services Ministers and relevant Commonwealth bureaucrats. All *Families Australia* General Members received the Campaign kit, which was also made available on the *Families Australia* website - www.familiesaustralia.org.au.

The Campaign launch received extensive national media coverage on radio, television and in newspapers. The coverage was overwhelmingly positive.

Families Australia will continue to lobby Federal politicians and State and Territory Ministers to gain support for the implementation of a national strategy for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. *Families Australia* has received encouraging responses to the call for a national approach from Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA CHILDCARE SUPPORT BROADBAND CONSULTATIONS

Families Australia undertook consultations with parents across Australia regarding the Child Care Support Broadband in anticipation of contributing additional information to the deliberative discussions of the Broadband Review. Parents had particular views relating to quality services, and drew a strong link between trained staff and quality. They also recognised and valued the accreditation and quality assurance requirements now in place for centre based and family day care services. Parents also recognised the need for supports for families with children with special needs. Supports needed to include the services currently provided as well as therapy services and supports to families including training for dealing with their child's special needs.

More than half of the parents preferred that services be provided by not for profit organisations. These views were based on a perception that the community-based community service organisations had additional commitments to the community and that government funds going to these organisations would all be used to support the service rather than some going to shareholders. Indigenous parents identified the importance of services providing a platform for providing child care in an environment that supports culture and language, as well as a base for identifying early intervention and family support services.

WELFARE REFORM CONSULTATIONS

The Federal Government released a consultation paper '*Building a simpler system to help jobless families and individuals*'. The paper was intended to promote discussion of the issues and asked for community feedback on the issues and proposals outlined within the paper. *Families Australia* decided to seek the views of families who are faced with significant difficulties in their personal lives. The final document '*Welfare reform: Listening to Disadvantaged Parents and Families*', reports on feedback received through consultation with seven small focus groups conducted in urban and rural locations in Sydney, Melbourne, Townsville and Cooma. The participants were all parents in receipt of various income support payments. In addition, individual interviews were conducted with workers from several non government organisations such as Family Support Services, Australian Foster Care Association, Torres Strait Islander agency, Lifeline, Women's Refuge. A literature review was also conducted.

COMMITTEES, REFERENCE GROUPS AND INQUIRIES

Our policy work is facilitated through our representation on a number of committees and reference groups. We are represented on the Centrelink *Australians Working Together* (AWT) reference group and were also represented at the Welfare Reform Round Table meeting in Canberra. This year we were also involved in the consultations and workshop for the *Redevelopment of the Childcare Support Broadband* and Childcare Workforce Issues Workgroup, and the Roundtable for the *Developing a National Agenda for Early Childhood* (FaCS). We were also represented on the Core Consultative Group –Age Discrimination Legislation, and the Family Laws Pathways national Forum *Out of the Maze: Steps Towards an Integrated Family Law System* (Attorney General and FaCS). Finally, we were part of the *Our Ageing Workforce – Are We Ready?* Consultation Workshop organised by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care

Families Australia submitted the Child Abuse and Neglect Campaign documents to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care.

MEMBERSHIP

A key priority for *Families Australia* in its first year of existence was to ensure *Families Australia* had a strong membership base and achieved its goal to be representative of the diversity of the sector. This year, *Families Australia* has been focusing on ways of working with its membership. This has been achieved in a number of ways and our strategies are still developing. In November 2002, *Families Australia* hosted its first national forum for General Members. The Forum was attended by over forty individuals representing General Member organisations and representatives of the Department of Family and Community Services. Feedback was very positive and *Families Australia* will be hosting a General Member Forum annually. In addition we have been working with our Member organisations through hosting information days (for example our seminar with the National Drug Strategy bureaucrats). We also worked very closely with our General Member organisations before and during the *Our Children: Our Concern, Our Responsibility* Campaign.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003**

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

BOARD REPORT

Your Board members submit the financial report of the *Families Australia* Inc for the financial year ended Monday, 30 June 2003.

Board Members

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

	Position	Nominating Organisation.
Sue Ash		Association of Services Supporting Australia's Families
Ray Cleary		Anglicare Australia
Melinda Cilento (Resigned June 2003)	Co-opted Member	Business Council of Australia
Jo Comans		National Family Day Care Council
Sandie de Wolf	Chair	Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia
Teresa Findlay-Barnes (Resigned Nov 2002)		Association of Services Supporting Australia's Families
Robert Fitzgerald	Co-opted Member	National Roundtable of Nonprofit Organisations
Dianne Gibson	Secretary	Relationships Australia
Ian O'Reilly		Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
Bev Orr	Deputy Chair	Australian Foster Care Association
Julian Pockock		The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
Peter Richardson		Australian Association of Social Workers
Sue Tregeagle		Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia
Sharron Williams		The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
Frank Young (Resigned Nov 2002)		Australian Foster Care Association

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was to represent the interest of Families in Australia. No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Significant Changes

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

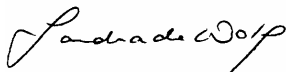
Operating Result

The profit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to \$56,556.

After Balance Date Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the association in future financial years.

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



Sandie de Wolf



Dianne Gibson

Dated this 13th day of October 2003

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

	Notes	2003 \$	2002 \$
Revenue from ordinary activities		400,481	250,654
Employee benefits expense		(158,445)	(82,190)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	2	(5,420)	(971)
Advertising		(657)	(15,146)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		<u>(196,477)</u>	<u>(140,939)</u>
Profit from ordinary activities		<u>39,482</u>	<u>11,408</u>
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners		<u><u>39,482</u></u>	<u><u>11,408</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2003

	Notes	2003 \$	2002 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash assets	3	200	39,299
Receivables	4	63,750	11,053
Other	5	<u>10,746</u>	<u>15,815</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>74,696</u>	<u>66,167</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	<u>21,699</u>	<u>12,258</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>21,699</u>	<u>12,258</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>96,395</u>	<u>78,425</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	7	18,926	31,866
Interest-bearing liabilities	8	9,968	-
Provisions	9	13,045	3,830
Other	10	<u>-</u>	<u>30,194</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>41,939</u>	<u>65,890</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	9	<u>3,566</u>	<u>1,127</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>3,566</u>	<u>1,127</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>45,505</u>	<u>67,017</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>50,890</u>	<u>11,408</u>
EQUITY			
Retained profits	11	<u>50,890</u>	11,408
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>50,890</u>	<u>11,408</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

	Notes	2003 \$	2002 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from members		(29,401)	(11,053)
Operating grant receipts		345,438	280,194
Payments to suppliers and employees		(351,796)	(217,267)
Interest received		<u>1,553</u>	<u>654</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	13 (b)	<u>(34,206)</u>	<u>52,528</u>
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		<u>(14,861)</u>	<u>(13,229)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(14,861)</u>	<u>(13,229)</u>
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from borrowings		<u>9,968</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities		<u>9,968</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(39,099)	39,299
Cash at beginning of financial year		<u>39,299</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash at end of financial year	13 (a)	<u><u>200</u></u>	<u><u>39,299</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act of the Australian Capital Territory.

The financial report is for the entity *Families Australia* Inc as an individual entity. *Families Australia* Inc is an association incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory under the Associations Incorporations Act 1991.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs. It does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(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 less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis.

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

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset was held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

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

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rates/useful lives	Depreciation basis
Office Equipment	20 %	Diminishing Value
Computer Equipment	33 %	Diminishing Value

(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, recording an asset and a liability equal to the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. 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 over the term of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease incentives received under operating leases are recognised as a liability. Lease payments received reduced the liability.

(d) Investments

Non-current investments are measured on the cost basis. The carrying amount of investments is reviewed annually by directors' to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount of these investments. The recoverable amount is assessed from the quoted market value for shares in listed companies or the underlying net assets for other non-listed corporations. The expected net cash flows from investments have not been discounted to their present value in determining the recoverable amounts.

(e) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year together with benefits arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled plus related on-costs. Other 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.

Contributions are made by the association to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

(f) Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand, at banks and on deposit.

(g) Revenue

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

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

(h) 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 an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003**

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
NOTE 2: PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Profit (losses) from ordinary activities has been determined after:			
(a) Expenses:			
Depreciation of non-current assets			
- Office Equipment		<u>5,420</u>	<u>971</u>
Remuneration of the auditors for:			
- audit or review services		<u>2,050</u>	<u>2,250</u>
NOTE 3: CASH ASSETS			
Cash on hand		200	200
Cash at bank		<u>-</u>	<u>39,099</u>
		<u><u>200</u></u>	<u><u>39,299</u></u>
NOTE 4: RECEIVABLES			
CURRENT			
Trade debtors		<u>55,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Other debtors		<u>8,750</u>	<u>11,053</u>
		<u><u>63,750</u></u>	<u><u>11,053</u></u>
NOTE 5: OTHER ASSETS			
CURRENT			
Prepayments		-	9,569
Other current assets		<u>10,746</u>	<u>6,246</u>
		<u><u>10,746</u></u>	<u><u>15,815</u></u>
NOTE 6: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT			
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT			
(a) Plant and equipment			
(b) Office equipment			
At cost		6,300	4,500
Less accumulated depreciation		<u>(1,313)</u>	<u>(134)</u>
		<u>4,987</u>	<u>4,366</u>
(c) Computer equipment			
At cost		21,790	8,729
Less accumulated depreciation		<u>(5,078)</u>	<u>(837)</u>
		<u>16,712</u>	<u>7,892</u>
Total plant and equipment		<u><u>21,699</u></u>	<u><u>12,258</u></u>
NOTE 7: PAYABLES			
CURRENT			
Unsecured liabilities			
Trade creditors		8,420	18,883

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003**

	Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
Sundry creditors and accruals		<u>10,506</u>	<u>12,983</u>
		<u>18,926</u>	<u>31,866</u>

NOTE 8: INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES

CURRENT

Secured liabilities

Bank overdrafts

		<u>9,968</u>	<u>-</u>
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NOTE 9: PROVISIONS

CURRENT

Employee benefits

	(a)	<u>13,045</u>	<u>3,830</u>
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NON-CURRENT

Employee benefits

	(a)	<u>3,566</u>	<u>1,127</u>
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(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability

		<u>16,611</u>	<u>4,957</u>
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NOTE 10: OTHER LIABILITIES

CURRENT

Grants received in advance

		<u>-</u>	<u>30,194</u>
		<u>-</u>	<u>30,194</u>

NOTE 11: RETAINED PROFITS

Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year

		11,408	-
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Net profit (loss) attributable to members of the entity

		<u>39,482</u>	<u>11,408</u>
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Retained profits at the end of the financial year

		<u>50,890</u>	<u>11,408</u>
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NOTE 12: SEGMENT REPORTING

Families Australia Incorporated resides and operates within the Australian Capital Territory.

NOTE 13: CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Cash on hand		200	200
Cash at bank		-	39,099
Bank overdrafts		<u>(9,968)</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>(9,768)</u>	<u>39,299</u>

(b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with profit from ordinary activities after income tax

Surplus from ordinary activities after income tax

		39,482	11,408
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Non-cash flows in profit from ordinary activities

Depreciation

		5,420	971
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Changes in assets and liabilities

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003**

	Note	2003	2002
		\$	\$
Increase in receivables		(52,697)	(11,053)
(Increase)/decrease in other assets		5,069	(15,815)
Increase/(decrease) in grants received in advance		(30,194)	30,194
increase/(decrease) in payables		(12,940)	31,866
Increase in provisions		11,654	4,957
Cash flows from operations		<u>(34,206)</u>	<u>52,528</u>

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003**

NOTE 14: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Interest Rate Risk

The association's exposure to interest rate risk, which is the risk that a financial instrument's value will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates and the effective weighted average interest rates on classes of financial assets and financial liabilities, is as follows:

	Weighted Average		Fixed Interest Rate Maturing					
	Effective Interest Rate		Floating Interest Rate		Within 1 Year		1 to 5 Years	
	2003 %	2002 %	2003 \$	2002 \$	2003 \$	2002 \$	2003 \$	2002 \$
Financial Assets:								
Cash	2.00	2.00	-	39,099	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Assets			-	39,099	-	-	-	-
Financial Liabilities:								
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	9,968	-	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Liabilities			9,968	-	-	-	-	-

	Fixed Interest Rate Maturing					
	Over 5 Years		Non-Interest Bearing		Total	
	2003 \$	2002 \$	2003 \$	2002 \$	2003 \$	2002 \$
Financial Assets:						
Cash	-	-	200	200	200	39,299
Receivables	-	-	63,750	11,053	63,750	11,053
Total Financial Assets	-	-	63,950	11,253	63,950	50,352
Financial Liabilities:						
Bank loans and overdrafts	-	-	-	-	9,968	-
Trade and sundry creditors	-	-	18,926	31,866	18,926	31,866
Total Financial Liabilities	-	-	18,926	31,866	28,894	31,866

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003**

Note	2003 \$	2002 \$
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NOTE 15: ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The principal place of business of the association is:

Families Australia Inc

Unit 3, 7 National Circuit BARTON ACT 2

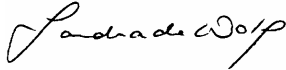
FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 17 to 26: [PLEASE CHECK PAGE NUMBERS]

1. Presents fairly the financial position of *Families Australia* Incorporated for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and its performance for the financial year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements 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:



Sandie de Wolf



Dianne Gibson

Dated this 13th day of October 2003

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC
INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

Scope

We have audited the financial report of *Families Australia* Inc for the financial year ended Monday, 30 June 2003 being the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, notes to the Financial Statements and the Statement by Members of the Board. The Board is responsible for the financial report. We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards, the Association Incorporation Act of the Australian Capital Territory, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of *Families Australia* Inc presents a true and fair view in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, the Association Incorporation Act of the Australian Capital Territory and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, the financial position of *Families Australia* Inc as at Monday, 30 June 2003 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the financial year then ended.

Canberra Assurance Specialist Pty Ltd
PO Box 4186
Manuka
ACT 2603

John Little
Director

October 2003
Canberra

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
DISCLAIMER TO THE MEMBERS OF
FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

The additional financial data presented on page 16 is in accordance with the books and records of the association which have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our statutory audit of the association for the financial year ended Monday, 30 June 2003. It will be appreciated that our statutory audit did not cover all details of the additional financial data. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on such financial data and we give no warranty of accuracy or reliability in respect of the data provided. Neither the firm nor any member or employee of the firm undertakes responsibility in any way whatsoever to any person (other than *Families Australia Inc*) in respect of such data, including any errors of omissions therein however caused.

Canberra Assurance Specialist Pty Ltd
PO Box 4186
Manuka
ACT 2603

John Little
Partner

Tuesday, 21 October 2003
Canberra

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC

PRIVATE INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT ON THE 2003 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003**

	2003 \$	2002 \$
INCOME		
Subsidies and grants	375,632	250,000
Membership subscriptions	23,296	-
Interest	<u>1,553</u>	<u>654</u>
TOTAL INCOME	400,481	250,654
LESS EXPENSES		
Salaries and wages	135,174	72,942
Printing and stationery	45,326	29,875
Administration costs	26,645	8,278
Rent	21,859	4,679
Travelling expenses	14,655	15,994
Publications and Bulletin	14,491	6,808
Policy work	13,722	31,000
Telephone	12,979	6,490
Postage	12,957	545
Leave expense	11,653	4,958
Superannuation	11,619	4,290
Sundry expenses	9,716	650
Insurance	7,841	3,729
Depreciation	5,420	971
Staff training and welfare	4,516	2,205
Audit fees	2,050	2,250
Motor vehicle expenses	1,996	-
Office equipment	1,788	16,422
Computer expenses	1,487	3,474
Cleaning	1,452	440
Bank charges	680	206
Repairs and maintenance	669	-
Advertising	657	15,146
Conference/Seminar costs	570	554
Hire of plant and equipment	568	-
Consumables	389	172
Subscriptions	120	-
Contract work	-	2,750
Accounting fees	<u>-</u>	<u>4,418</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>360,999</u>	<u>239,246</u>
OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS)	<u><u>39,482</u></u>	<u><u>11,408</u></u>

APPENDIX 1

**FAMILIES AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES**

**27 November 2002, 1.15 pm EST
Hobart**

Apologies from Sandie de Wolf, Chair, *Families Australia*

1. Welcome and apologies

Beverley Orr (Chair) opened the meeting welcoming everyone. She read a statement from Sandie de Wolf, Chair of *Families Australia* explaining her disappointment at her inability to attend the meeting due to family illness.

2. Presentation of Annual Report

Beverley Orr provided an overview of the contents of annual report, outlining *Families Australia's* activities in the previous year.

Motion: That the annual report be accepted

Moved: Frank Young

Seconded: Sue Tregeagle

Motion passed unanimously

3. Presentation of Auditor's Report

Motion: That the financial statements be accepted

Moved: Sharron Williams

Seconded: Di Gibson

Motion passed unanimously

4. Confirmation of appointment of Board members

The nominees to the *Families Australia* Board as per rule 11(3) (a) and 11(3) (b) of the Constitution are:

Ms Sandie de Wolf (Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia)

Ms Bev Orr (Australian Foster Care Association)

Ms Sue Ash (Association of Services Supporting Australian Families)

Mr Julian Pocock (The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care)

5. Election of Other Board members

Meagan Mitchell (Australian Council of Social Services) was appointed as the returning officer.

Eighteen individuals have been nominated for 7 positions.

Nominees elected to the Board of *Families Australia* are as follows:

Ray Cleary – Anglicare Australia

Peter Richardson – Australian Association of Social Workers

Sue Tregeagle – Barnados and Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia

Ian O'Reilly – Australian Youth Affairs Coalition

Jo Comans - National Family Day Care Association

Di Gibson – Relationships Australia

Sharron Williams – The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care

6. Appointment of Auditor

Motion: That MRI Auditors continue on as auditors for the next year

Moved: Simon Schrapel

Seconded: Di Gibson

Motion passed unanimously.

Special General Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 7 - Special Resolutions

Notice of Special Resolutions – Annual General Meeting, 27 November 2002

(a) Motion: **That the *Families Australia* constitution be amended as follows:**

Omit the current definition of “*An incorporated national body*” in rule 3 and replace with:

“*An incorporated national body*” is a body incorporated in any state or territory, or in the process of incorporating, including a body constituted by statute, whose Objectives are directed to national goals and which operates services in, or whose voting membership is composed of **organisations** from, at least three states and/or territories. An organisation includes a body corporate, association, trust, or other legal entity, either incorporated or unincorporated, but shall not include an individual person or a partnership of individual persons.

Moved: Frank Young

Seconded: Di Gibson

Motion passed unanimously

(b) Motion: **That the *Families Australia Constitution* be amended as follows:**

Omit current rule 12(3) and replace with:

“At least fourteen (14) days prior to the date fixed for the AGM marking the expiration of the term of an existing Board each Member referred to in rule 11(3) (a) and (b) shall notify the Secretary of Families Australia of the identity of that one nominee for the forthcoming Board and the appointment of those nominees shall be confirmed at the AGM and they shall take office immediately.”

Moved: Sue Tregeagle

Seconded: Sharron Williams

Motion passed unanimously

(c) Motion: **That the *Families Australia* constitution be amended as follows:**

Omit current rule 12(4) and replace with:

12(4) The election of the Board members in accordance with rule 11(3) (c) shall occur at the AGM preceding the term of the Board in question. All nominations for these positions shall be received in writing by the Secretary of *Families Australia* at least **28 days** prior to the date fixed for the AGM and the Secretary shall include details of the nominations in the agenda for the AGM to be distributed to members in accordance with rule 16(3).

Moved: Bob Nicholson

Seconded: Russell Rollason

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting closed at 2.15pm