

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

2007-08



families
australia

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
About Families Australia	3
Key Statements	5
Chair's Report	6
Governance and Board	7
Executive Officer's Report	8
List of Member Organisations	11 - 14
Goals and Performance	15 - 21
Financial and Auditor's Reports	22

INTRODUCTION

Families Australia is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2007-08. This is our seventh Annual Report.

The Report comprises: information about Families Australia; a report by the Chair; information about the Board; a report by the Executive Officer; a listing of Members as at 30 June 2008; a report on Families Australia's performance during 2007-08 in relation to the goals contained in the Strategic and Business Plans; and the financial and auditor's reports.

It is hoped that this Report will assist readers to understand and evaluate Families Australia's work and will stimulate feedback about ways in which our work can further be improved.

ABOUT FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

Established in 2001, Families Australia is the national independent, peak, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting the needs and interests of families. Families Australia is funded in part by members and in part by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Families Australia strives to represent the interests of families in Australia, working from a network of services, organisations, carers, consumers and communities, which takes in a rich diversity of families and communities.

Families Australia envisions a society that recognises the central role of families in our community and embraces its responsibilities for the development, nurturing and wellbeing of all families in Australia.

Specifically, Families Australia:

- provides policy advice to government on behalf of families;
- informs its members and the community about directions in national family policy, services and research; and
- actively promotes and celebrates the importance of families, including through National Families Week.

Families Australia has:

- a diverse membership base of 385 family and community sector organisations across Australia (with a combined estimated 150,000 workers), including 31 General Members, many of which are peak organisations in their own right. As well as national bodies, Families Australia also represents many local and regional community service organisations such as child care centres and youth services;
- been a leader in advocating for the establishment of a national child protection strategy;
- raised national awareness of family issues, such as child abuse and neglect, work and family, grandparenting, family wellbeing and the impact of substance abuse on families, through direct representations to Parliamentary Committees, Ministers and other Members of Parliament;
- mobilised tens of thousands of people across Australia in May each year since 2003 to celebrate the vital importance of families during National Families Week;
- hosted national conferences such as the 2007 National Family Wellbeing Symposium, the 2006 Work, Family and Wellbeing Forum, the 2004 Globalisation, Work and Family Conference and the 2004 National Child Abuse and Neglect Summit;
- assisted the Alliance for Forgotten Australians to establish itself as a national coalition of active organisations and individuals working together to promote the interests of survivors of abuse in childhood institutional care

- advanced the views of families and family sector organisations to a wide range of Federal government agencies such as the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Taxation Office, Centrelink, the Child Support Agency and Medicare;
- provided information to family and community sector organisations about latest developments in national family policy, practice and research through the Families Australia magazine *Family*, *National Family News* and the Families Australia website (www.familiesaustralia.org.au); and
- informed government and the family and community sector about the issues facing families, by running focus groups for members of the public across Australia.

The Board comprises up to 13 members, who bring expertise in family policy, practice and research as well as extensive networks within the community, private and public sectors and society more broadly. Families Australia is served by a Secretariat based in Canberra.

KEY STATEMENTS ABOUT FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

Mission

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.

Values

Families Australia is: an independent advocate for the cultural diversity and the value of families; reflective of Australia's diversity; proactive in support of justice and equity for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; broad and inclusive; practical, constructive and collaborative; highly strategic and targeted; politically astute; and well managed and governed.

Goals

Families Australia:

1. Informs and influences national policies in relation to families.
2. Promotes the importance and needs of families.
3. Acts as a two-way conduit for information to and from the family sector.
4. Seeks to strengthen and expand itself as an organisation.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The work of Families Australia sits within a wider context. In 2007-08, there were a number of significant changes, including: a new Federal Government; the Prime Minister's Apology to the Stolen Generation; increased economic uncertainty; growing numbers of Australians without affordable housing; and greater awareness of the impact of climate change.

In our 7th year, Families Australia has extended its reach and tackled more issues impacting on families. These are highlighted in this Report.

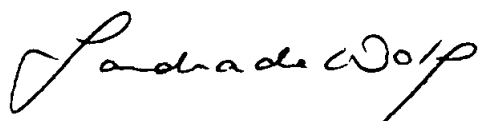
The strength of Families Australia lies in:

- A commitment to advocate for the interests of all families in their wonderful diversity.
- The collective commitment and knowledge of our members and the work they do every day to support families and children.
- The relationships that have been created, which enable Families Australia to leverage far more influence than could be expected.
- The expertise, wisdom and contribution of our Board.
- The extraordinary capacity and commitment of our very small three EFT Secretariat team – Jennifer Horsfield, Eris Harrison, Jean Gifford, Cassandra Inkley and Grace Concannon – so capably led by our CEO, Brian Babington. In particular, Brian's leadership has been a key factor in the credibility with which Families Australia is viewed today.

I want to thank retiring Board members, Adam Blakester and Mary Mertin-Ryan, for their contribution.

I also want to acknowledge the support of the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and our colleagues in the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

I commend the 2007-08 Annual Report to you.



Sandie de Wolf
Chair – Families Australia

GOVERNANCE AND BOARD

The Families Australia Board of Management in 2007-08 comprised:

Name	Position	Nominating Organisation
Ms Sandie de Wolf	Chair	Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia
Ms Bev Orr	Deputy Chair Public Officer	Australian Foster Care Association
Ms Anne McLeish	Secretary	Grandparents Australia
Mr Mark Brooke	Member	Playgroup Australia Inc. (elected 13 November 2007)
Ms Jennie Hannan	Member	Family Relationship Services Australia
Mr Bob Nicholson	Member	YMCA Australia
Mr Simon Schrapel	Member	Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia (elected 13 November 2007)
Mr Tony Stevenson	Member	Mission Australia (elected 13 November 2007)
Ms Prue Warrilow	Member	National Association of Community Based Children's Services
Ms Sharron Williams	Member	Secretariat National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)
Mr Paul Rajan	Member	Co-opted (from 14 December 2007)
Dr Marie Leech	Member	Co-opted (from 14 December 2007)
Mr Adam Blakester	Member	NAPCAN Foundation (resigned 13 November 2007)
Ms Mary Mertin-Ryan	Member	Relationships Australia National (resigned 13 November 2007)

Board Meetings 2007-08

Date	Meeting type	Location
31 August 2007	Teleconference	
12-13 November 2007	Face-to-face	Sydney
14 December 2007	Teleconference	
26-27 February 2008	Face-to-face	Adelaide
24 April 2008	Teleconference	

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The past year has seen Families Australia grow strongly in its role as an advocate for the needs and interest of families at the national level. We enhanced our position as an influential, independent policy voice in political and public arenas. Our media profile grew substantially, and we added to our reputation among politicians for independence.

I wish to thank all our members and supporters most sincerely for their continued support – it is greatly appreciated, and we would welcome your feedback about ways we can further enhance our work at the national level as an independent family policy advocacy body.

One of our most important activities in the past year has been our work with the Rudd Government to develop the National Child Protection Framework. Families Australia facilitated the establishment of a coalition of major NGOs working in the area of child protection. This work may well prove to be one of Families Australia's greatest contributions in its first decade of operation.

Families Australia paid particular attention to the issues faced by marginalised and vulnerable families and individuals. The policies we advanced on grandparenting, substance abuse, the needs of carers and violence against women and children were well received across stakeholder groups. Media attention was high. The Senate carried a resolution in 2007 urging Government to do more on grandparenting and commending Families Australia's work. In relation to substance abuse, we were, for the first time ever, invited to give evidence before a Parliamentary Committee.

Families Australia welcomed the Australian Government's apology to the Stolen Generation and the consultation that preceded it. While there is still much to be done, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, to reduce Indigenous disadvantage, this was a landmark event in our history and the beginning of a genuine healing process.

Our '100 Policy Ideas' for the 2007 Federal Election were widely read across the political spectrum, and some of the suggestions that we and others advanced were adopted – principally, for a National Child Protection Strategy, a 'State of the Family' Report and the creation of an office for work and family. Thank you to the Families Australia members who provided input in the development of these policy positions.

Our work on the independent Carer Payment (Child) Taskforce helped to influence the direction of a major report to Government on the needs of carers of children with profound or severe disability who receive this payment and an overhaul of the way in which Centrelink handles these supremely difficult cases. In the May 2008 Budget, the Rudd Government adopted the key recommendations in the Taskforce's report, which will see up to an additional 19,000 carers being able to access the payment.

Families Australia successfully stimulated thinking about issues that are visionary and long-term in nature. Our National Family Wellbeing Symposium in June 2007 was the first gathering of its type in Australia to bring together people from various countries to consider the more precise meaning and measurement of family wellbeing. This ground-breaking event signified that Families Australia had the capacity, networks and high level influence to advance this important topic.

Our leadership in assisting the Forgotten Australians may also prove to be another of the most defining achievements in Families Australia's first decade. The Forgotten Australians are the estimated 500,000 people who experienced institutional or other out-of-home care as children in the last century. Many of these people suffered physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse. Because of our independence and proficiency in understanding the workings of government, the Forgotten Australians entrusted to Families Australia their faith that we would assist them.

In just one year, with our assistance, the Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) achieved remarkable results: it was publicly launched at Parliament House, Canberra; it established a website; and it has well-functioning steering and advisory groups. The resource booklet for health and welfare professionals is a wonderful accomplishment, with the first edition of 100,000 copies being distributed through Centrelink, Medicare, The Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners, rural doctors, mental health services, counselling and support organisations and many others.

Families Australia's connection to the lives of families further deepened through National Families Week. In May 2008, a record number of over 120,000 people participated in community events. The media coverage has grown exponentially over the five years we have run the Week. The Week is now an established part of the national calendar. More than ever, it is a vehicle for providing people with practical tips for building stronger families.

Our often behind-the-scenes committee work with organisations such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Taxation Office, Medicare and Centrelink has also enabled us to contribute practical ideas to help these organisations deliver better services. We have strong relationships with the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and have intensified our links with universities. Another signifier that Families Australia's advice is valued has been our inclusion on the Australian Council for Children and Parenting and the Australian Families and Children Council.

Families Australia continues to be financially viable, due in large part to the ongoing support of the Australian Government as well as the Families Australia members. Our membership numbers remain strong and are on a gentle upward incline – climbing toward 400 across Australia. The membership base continues to be diverse in terms of areas of activity and geography. The feedback we get is strongly positive about our member services, especially in the areas of information dissemination (*National Family*

News, Family magazine and email updates). Our increased effort to consult members about policy has paid dividends in terms of the quality of our policies and our relationships with members.

The year ahead will be very challenging and demanding as we continue to engage with the Rudd Government on a wide range of policy fronts, in particular, on the National Child Protection Framework, as well as on issues such as further support for carers and the challenges facing community organisations in delivering services in remote and rural areas.

None of Families Australia's achievements would be possible without the unstinting support and assistance of the Chair, Board and staff as well as the input of members – thank you to everyone.

Once again, your feedback on our activities is most welcome. We will be trying to increase further our engagement with members in the coming year, especially in formulating policy positions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Babington". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Babington

LIST OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

As at 30 June 2008, there were 31 General and 354 Associate Members of Families Australia. They are listed below.

Foundation Members

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

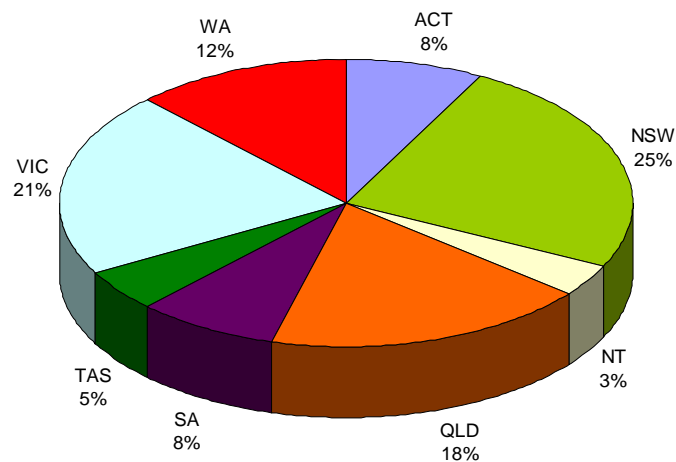
Advocates for Survivors of Child Abuse
Australian Association of Social Workers
Australian Breastfeeding Association
Australian Council for Adoption Inc.
Australian Council of the Ageing
Australian Red Cross
Australian Scholarships Group
Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
Barnardos
CREATE Foundation
DepressioNet
Family Day Care Australia
Family Relationship Services Australia
Good Beginnings Australia
Grandparents Australia Inc.
Lifeline Australia Inc
Lone Fathers Association (Australia)
Mission Australia
NAPCAN Foundation
National Association of Community Based Children's Services
National Ethnic Disability Alliance Inc
Parenting & Family Support Centre
Playgroup Australia Inc.
Relationships Australia National
The Salvation Army Eastern Territory
The Smith Family
Volunteering Australia
YMCA Australia

Associate Member Organisations

Aboriginal Family Support Services
Abused Child Trust
Aequus Partners
Agencies for South West Accommodation (ASWA) Inc
AGL
Albert Hall Preschool
Alice Springs Family Day Care
Anglican Counselling Service
Anglicare (Migrant Services)
Anglicare Canberra & Goulburn
Anglicare Diocese of Sydney
Anglicare South Australia
Anglicare South Australia (Alternative Care)
Anglicare Tasmania
Anglicare Victoria
Anglicare WA
Association for Children with Disability
ASTERIA Services Inc.
Atherton Neighbourhood Centre
Aunties & Uncles Co-operative Family Project Ltd.
Australian Family & Marriage Education (OZFAME)
Australian Family Association WA
Australian Institute of Family Studies
Australian Institute of Health & Welfare
Australian Nursing Federation
Australian Society for Intercountry Aid for Children - NSW
Australian Vietnamese Women's Welfare Association
Ballarat Community Health Centre
Bankstown Family Day Care Co-op Ltd
Banyule City Council
Baulkham Hills Shire Council (Group Manager Community Development)
Bayside City Council Children's Services Co-ordinator
Belconnen Community Service
Berry Street Victoria
Betania Christian Centre
Bethany Community Support Inc
Blue Care Brisbane Central Region (Unicare)
Boundary Lane Children's Centre
Brisbane Youth Service
Brotherhood of St Laurence
Building Blocks
Bundaberg Child & Family Centre
Caboolture Area Youth Service Inc
Camcare
Camden Council
Canberra Men's Centre
Canberra One Parent Family Support
CAPACT Inc
Cape/Gulf Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care (RAATSICC)
Advisory Association
Carers Australia
Caroline Chisholm Society
Centacare Adelaide
Centacare Catholic Family Services
Centacare Newcastle
Centacare Tasmania
Central Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency Inc
Centre for Community Child Health
Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
Centre for Work Leisure and Community Research
Cerebral Palsy Support Network
Child and Family Care Network
Child and Family Services Ballarat
Child Care NSW
Children's Services Support Program (Central Australia)
Children's Services Support Unit (Western Australia) Inc
Chrysalis Support Services
Churches of Christ Care
City of Kingston
CLAN WA
Colony 47
Communicare Inc
Communities @ Work
Community Activities Lake Macquarie
Community Life, Fairfield City Council
Community Link & Network Midland Inc
Community Living Association
Community Programs Inc
Community Vision
Connect Child & Family Services Inc
ConnectGroups - Support Groups Association WA
Craigieburn and Districts Family Day Care CRC
Darwin Skills Development Scheme
Department for Child Protection
Department of Child Safety
Department of Communities
Devonport City Council
Dianella Community Health
Djerriwarrh Health Services
Doncaster Community Care and Counselling Centre
Drummond Street Relationship Centre
Early Childhood Management Services
Edith Cowan University
Eltham East OSHC
ESCARE Inc
Expect A Star Education Services
FaHCSIA - South Australia State Office
FACT Inc
Families at Work
Family Action Centre
Family Advocacy Inc
Family Based Care Association North West Inc
Family Day Care Association Queensland
Family Relationship Centre
Family Services City of Greater Geelong
Fleurieu Families - Alexandrina Council
Fleurieu Regional Community Services
Advisory Committee
Foundation Christian College
Foundation Housing Ltd
Fremantle Multicultural Centre
FSG Australia
Galilee Inc

Gap Community Child Care Centre
 George St Neighbourhood Centre
 Geraldton Family and Youth Support Service
 Glastonbury Child and Family Services
 Glenhaven Family Care Inc
 Glenorchy Action Interagency Network
 GM Southern Services
 Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service
 Gosford City Family Support Service
 Goulburn Family Support Service
 Goulburn Valley Family Care Inc
 Grandparents for Grandchildren
 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Tasmania
 Griffith Law School
 Hanover Welfare Services
 Holdsworth Street Community Centre
 Holroyd City Council
 Homestart National Inc
 Hornsby Shire Council
 IFSU
 Illawarra Children's Services
 Inala Youth and Family Support
 Institute for Family Advocacy
 Integrated Family & Youth Service Inc
 International Social Service Australian Branch
 International Social Services Australia
 John Paul Centre for Family and Life
 Joondalup Early Learning Centre
 Kids Help Line
 Kids Under Cover
 Kildonan UnitingCare
 Kingston East Neighbourhood Group Inc
 Kogarah Community Services Inc.
 KU Children's Services Resource Centre
 Kyabra Community Association Inc
 Kyabram Community and Learning Centre
 Lady Gowrie Caboolture Family Day Care Scheme
 Lady Gowrie Child Centre
 Lady Gowrie Tasmania
 Learning Centre Link
 Lifeline Cairns Region
 Lifeline Community Care - Families Plus
 Lifeline Family Support Programme
 Lifeline Northern Beaches Inc
 Lisa Lodge
 Lismore District Family Day Care Inc
 Local Information Network Karratha Inc.
 Lorikeet Child Care Centre St George Hospital
 Lower Mountains Family Support Service
 Lutheran Community Care
 Mackay Children's Support Programs Inc
 MacKillop Family Services
 Mai Wel Ltd
 Mallee Family Care Inc
 Mareeba Information and Support Centre
 Marian Centre
 Marie Lewis Consulting
 Maroochy Family Day Care
 Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre, Family Support Program
 Martin Street Community Child Care Centre
 Marymead Child & Family Centre
 McCarthy Mentoring
 Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation
 Melbourne Citymission
 Men's Advisory Network
 Mens Information & Support Association
 Mensheds Pty Ltd
 MercyCare
 Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre
 Migrant Resource Centre North East
 Miller Community Preschool & Early Intervention Service
 Mirabel Foundation Inc
 Miriam High Special Needs Centre
 Mission Australia
 Monaro Family Support Service
 Montessori House of Learning
 Mookai Rosie-Bi-Bayan
 Nambour Good Beginnings
 Napier Street Children and Family Resource Centre
 National Rural Health Alliance
 Nerang Neighbourhood Centre Inc
 NetAlert
 Network of Community Activities
 Newcastle Family Support Services
 Newtrain Inc
 Noah's Ark - Learning and Development
 North Queensland Combined Womens Services Inc
 North West Advocacy Organisation Inc
 Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission
 NuSkills Learning and Development
 Office For Children, Youth and Family Support
 Out of Home Care Policy - DoCS
 Ovens and King Community Health Service
 Paddington Childrens Centre
 Paediatrics & Child Health Division - RACP
 Parenting Australia
 ParentLine
 Parkerville Children & Youth Care
 Parkes/Forbes Family Day Care Parkes Shire Council
 People with Disability Australia
 Personal Advocacy Service
 Petrie Community After School Care
 Pine Rivers Neighbourhood Association Inc
 Playgroup Western Australia
 Port Mission Family Centre
 Positive Solutions
 Possum Place Child Care Centre
 Public Health Association
 QLD Childcare Services
 Qld Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association
 QLD Working Women's Service Inc.
 Quantum Support Services
 Queen Elizabeth II Family Centre
 Queensland Children's Activities Network (QCAN) Inc
 Ranges Youth Centre
 Regional Social Development Group Inc.
 Royal College of Nursing Australia
 RUCSN
 SA Career Consultants
 Salvation Army Counselling Service
 Samaritans Foundation
 Save the Children Australia - Queensland Division
 School of Early Childhood QUT
 School of Social Work and Community Welfare
 Scots Child Care Centre
 SDN Children's Services Inc

- Siblings Australia
- Somerville Community Service
- South East Region Migrant Resource Centre
- Southside Community Services Inc
- Spiritus Care Services
- St Luke's Anglicare
- Starick Services Inc
- Stepfamily Association of Victoria Inc
- Stockton School Kids Fun Club
- Sydney Children's Hospital
- Tandem
- Tangentyre Council
- The Benevolent Society
- The Salvation Army Community Services
- The Salvation Army Crossroads West
- The Salvation Army Southern Territory
- Toowoomba Youthservice
- Towards Independence - Top End
- Travellers Aid Society of Victoria
- Trinity Family Support Network
- Tweddle Child & Family Health Service
- Uniting Care Wesley - Homelink SA
- UnitingCare Connections
- UnitingCare Wesley Port Pirie
- University of Newcastle, School of Health Sciences
- University of SA - School of Communication
- Upper Hume Community Health Service Inc
- Wanslea Family Services
- Warlga Ngurra Womans and Childrens Refuge
- Warwick Farm Children's Centre
- Whyalla Counselling Service
- Windemere Child & Family Services
- Woden Community Service Inc
- Wollondilly Shire Community and Children's Services
- Women's Centre for Health Matters Inc
- Women's Health Works
- Wyndarra Centre Inc
- Wynnum Family Day Care
- Wyong Neighbourhood Centre Inc
- Wyong Shire Family Day Care
- Yaandina Family Centre Inc
- YMCA Ararat
- YMCA Bendigo
- YMCA Eastern Goldfields
- YMCA Echuca
- YMCA Geelong
- YMCA Manningham
- YMCA Moorabool
- YMCA of Ballarat
- YMCA of Brisbane
- YMCA of Broken Hill
- YMCA of Bundaberg
- YMCA of Cairns
- YMCA of Camira/Springfield
- YMCA of Canberra
- YMCA of Central Australia
- YMCA of City of Lake Macquarie
- YMCA of Darwin
- YMCA of Gayndah
- YMCA of Great Lakes
- YMCA of Hobart
- YMCA of Inner North East of Adelaide
- YMCA of Katherine
- YMCA of Launceston
- YMCA of Newcastle
- YMCA of Newman
- YMCA of Perth
- YMCA of Port Augusta
- YMCA of Port Pirie
- YMCA of Queanbeyan
- YMCA of South Australia
- YMCA of Stanthorpe
- YMCA of Sydney
- YMCA of Victoria
- YMCA Portland
- YMCA Wangaratta
- YMCA Whittlesea
- Yorganop Child Care Aboriginal Corporation
- Youth Involvement Council
- Youth off the Streets Ltd.
- YWCA NSW



Families Australia
Membership by State/Territory as at 30 June 2008

GOALS AND PERFORMANCE

Families Australia's Strategic Plan (2005-07) contains four goals:

1. Informing and influencing national policies in relation to families.
2. Promoting the importance and needs of families.
3. Acting as a two-way conduit for information to and from the family sector.
4. Strengthening and expanding the organisation.

The 2007-08 Business Plan lists activities undertaken to achieve these goals. The following report provides information on Families Australia's performance in relation to the four goals and the associated Business Plan activities.

1. Informing and influencing national family policies

Families Australia advanced this objective by:

- Promoting the development of the National Child Protection Framework. We did this in several ways. In the lead-up to the 2007 Federal Election, Families Australia advocated to all major political parties that they adopt a policy of supporting the introduction of a National Child Protection Strategy. The Australian Labor Party agreed and announced that it would devise a National Child Protection Framework should it win office.

Families Australia also convened a gathering in Canberra prior to the November 2007 Election of a number of major non-Government, community sector organisations with a view to establishing a group which would seek to work with the Federal Government on a national child protection plan. This group became known as the Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children, which comprised 60 members as at 30 June 2008. Families Australia is the facilitator and secretariat of the Coalition.

Soon after the November 2007 election, the Rudd Government and this Coalition commenced discussions on the development of the National Child Protection Framework. In May 2008, the Australian Government Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Jenny Macklin MP, released her discussion paper, *Australia's children: safe and well. A national framework for protecting Australia's children.*

On several occasions, Families Australia met with Minister Macklin and her advisers to discuss the proposed Framework. Also, in our roles as facilitator of the Coalition and as a member of the Australian Families and Children Council, Families Australia was closely involved in public consultations concerning the Minister's discussion paper. These consultations included meetings with State and Territory Government representatives, leaders of national peak and many Indigenous-run

community organisations and foster and relative carers. A Families Australia staff member was seconded to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to assist with the consultation process.

Families Australia and the Coalition were mentioned in positive terms in statements in Parliament by Senator Evans (Leader of the Government in the Senate) and Senator Kirk (ALP, SA) on 26 June 2008 in the context of efforts to tackle child abuse and neglect.

In anticipation of the announcement of the National Child Protection Framework in 2008-2009, Families Australia commenced a joint project with the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia on a symposium entitled 'Meeting the needs of vulnerable children and families: dreaming the extraordinary, doing the extraordinary'. The symposium, to be held in October 2008, will explore ways in which policy and service delivery levels can create more effective partnerships.

In relation to child protection in general, Families Australia provided a submission to the NSW independent Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services, headed by Justice James Wood AO. We also provided the Australian Government with written advice, based on Families Australia member consultations, about the Australian Government's July 2007 Northern Territory child protection intervention.

- Advocating at the national political level for improved family policies. In the lead-up to the November 2007 Federal Election, Families Australia distributed to all Federal Parliamentarians and other key stakeholders seven policy statements containing recommendations on family wellbeing, child protection, Indigenous people, work and family, grandparenting, substance abuse, and the Forgotten Australians, based on consultations with Families Australia members.

Other key family policy initiatives were as follows:

- Disability, ageing and caring. In conjunction with the Taskforce on Care Costs, we ran focus groups and an expert roundtable and contributed to a major report on the issues of workforce participation and elder/disability care. The report, *The hidden face of care: combining work and caring responsibilities for the aged and people with a disability*, was launched in Melbourne in November 2007.
- Stolen Generations Apology. Families Australia added its voice to those calling for an apology by the Australian Government to the Stolen Generation, and we publicly welcomed that apology, the consultation that preceded it and the Government's commitment to increase services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Paid parental leave. Families Australia publicly supported calls for an inquiry into paid maternity/paternity leave in the lead-up to the November 2007 Federal Election and subsequently provided a

- submission to the Productivity Commission Inquiry on this matter (June 2008).
- Substance abuse. Families Australia highlighted issues relating to the impact of illicit drug abuse on families through the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Human Services' report *The impact of illicit drug use on families* (September 2007). The report drew heavily upon Families Australia's comments in numerous areas, such as grandparenting, foster care, family support in the context of treatment programs, the costs of drug use for families, the need for public awareness campaigns and the importance of expanding support and respite services.
 - Disability: Carer Payments. We provided advice as a member of the Australian Government Carer Payment (Child) Taskforce on the issues facing carers of children with severe or profound disability. The Taskforce's major recommendations were accepted by the Rudd Government and included in the 2008-09 Federal Budget which will see, *inter alia*, an additional 19,000 carers become eligible for the payment.
 - Budget recommendations. Families Australia provided a submission for the May 2008 Federal Budget based on Families Australia member consultations. The submission included recommendations for funding in the areas of child protection, Indigenous health and wellbeing, the Forgotten Australians, grandparenting and work and family.
 - National Access Card. We undertook direct consultations with Senator the Hon. Chris Ellison, then Minister for Human Services, regarding the proposed National Access Card (August 2007) and provided a formal submission, following consultation with Families Australia members, to the Department of Human Services.
 - Community sector issues and challenges. We provided the Australian Government, Families Australia members and other stakeholders with the Families Australia Working Paper report, *Challenges Facing the Not-for-Profit Sector* (October 2007).

2. Promoting the importance and needs of families

Families Australia advanced this objective by:

- Obtaining a record level of participation in National Families Week 2008. Over 120,000 people participated in over 800 events which were run by 600 organisations and their subsidiaries. In 2007, 110,000 people participated in community-level events. Extensive media coverage was obtained, and feedback from participating organisations was very positive. 36 high profile National Families Week Ambassadors, including former top Australian cricketer Michael Bevan, promoted the theme of 'Work and Family – Getting the Balance Right'.
- Significantly increasing Families Australia's level of public communication through the media, speeches and the Internet. The amount of media coverage of Families Australia's comments on family policy issues, such as child protection, family tax incentives and work-family balance, is

estimated to be double the amount gained during the previous year. We gave speeches in Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide, including on where the Australian Government is taking families and on future directions for the community sector in the context of the social inclusion agenda. Our website underwent a major overhaul to give it a strong pro-advocacy feel.

- Continuing to auspice the Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA), a group drawn from the estimated 500,000 persons who were in institutional or out-of-home care in Australia between the 1930s-1970s and who were the subject of a 2004 Australian Senate report. Families Australia assisted in launching the Alliance on 16 October 2007 at Parliament House, Canberra (officiated by AFA Patron Senator Andrew Murray and attended by Senators Humphries and Moore), in producing a resource publication for health and welfare professionals (published April 2008) and designing an informative website. We were particularly gratified that, due in large part to Families Australia's advocacy, the Australian Government committed a further \$100,000 in additional funding to support the Alliance. We were also delighted that renowned Australian actor, Jack Thompson, agreed to be an AFA Patron.

3. Acting as a two-way conduit for information to and from the family sector

Families Australia advanced this objective by:

- Seeking Families Australia members' views in relation to proposed policies on family wellbeing, grandparenting, substance abuse, work and family, Indigenous people, Forgotten Australians, child protection, the proposed national access card and the Families Australia Federal Budget submission through numerous meetings, conferences and Families Australia members' and prospective members' Forums held in Perth, Sydney and Adelaide.
- Providing advice to individual Families Australia members about developing and enhancing relationships with the Australian Government.
- Participating in Australian Government forums, such as the Medicare Consumer Forum and the Centrelink Consultation Forum, and providing advice to the Australian Government through membership of the Australian Families and Children Council.
- Publishing and disseminating to Families Australia members and other key stakeholders, including Federal politicians and public servants, Families Australia's magazine *Family* and the monthly *National Family News*, which contains latest information about national family policy, practice and research.

4. Strengthening and expanding the organisation

Families Australia advanced this objective by:

- Ensuring that governance and management oversight remained at the highest possible professional standard through mechanisms such as detailed reports to every Board meeting on performance in relation to annual business plan and budget targets, monthly performance reports to the Board and the provision to the Board of a detailed annual risk assessment.
- Obtaining an unqualified external financial audit report in relation to the 2007-08 accounts and taking action on all recommendations for minor enhancements arising from the 2006-07 audit.
- Providing the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs with audited acquittals and other required progress reports on time for National Families Week, Forgotten Australians and National Secretariat Program contracts for 2007-08.
- Further strengthening management systems, including through upgrading of information and communication systems and security and staff training and development, including in the areas of accounting and website maintenance.
- Undertaking a review of current membership policies and practices and possible future directions for membership growth.
- Completing a research project to identify potential sources of public and private sector funding.
- Further expanding Families Australia's overseas relationships, including by visiting the New Zealand Families Commission and continuing contacts with representatives of agencies which attended Families Australia's June 2007 National Family Wellbeing Symposium, namely, UNICEF (Florence, Italy), OECD (Paris, France) and Child Trends (Washington, USA).

Families Australia public communication: major activities and outcomes 2007-08

Print (articles which contained comment by Families Australia)

- Families to benefit from July 1 changes, Sydney Morning Herald, 30 June 2008
- Working families 'better off in new financial year', World News Australia, 30 June 2008
- July 1 changes targeted at 'working families', CCH News, 27 June 2008
- Senate *Hansard*, re child protection, 26 June 2008
- SA case exposes 'worrying' child neglect trend, ABC News, 25 June 2008
- PM gets tough to protect children, 26 April 2008, European Network for Indigenous Australian Rights: news
- At last, an acknowledgment of child-abuse crisis, The Canberra Times, 27 May 2008
- Federal input urged to tackle rise in abuse, SMH, 26 May 2008
- Women 'still doing the lion's share of housework', Daily India, 12 May 2008
- ABS reveals snapshot of work and family life, The West Australian, 12 May 2008
- Mums still work harder than dads, The Australian, 12 May 2008
- Cricket great makes a pitch for the importance of families, The Canberra Times, 11 May 2008
- Budget 'to assist working families' Rudd targets three flashpoints, The Canberra Times, 29 April 2008
- PM gets tough to protect children, Indigenous Community News Network, 27 April 2008
- Mums' tax breaks must be 'far-reaching', The Sydney Morning Herald, 26 April 2008
- Govt Zeroing In On Cost-Cutting For Working Mums, Epoch Times, 26 April 2008
- PM gets tough to protect children, The Australian, 26 April 2008
- Mums' tax breaks must be 'far-reaching', nineMSN, 26 April 2008
- Almost 25% of families don't share meals, Sydney Morning Herald, 31 March 2008
- When children are left alone and in limbo, Fiji Times Online, 8 February 2008
- Alone and in limbo, The Australian, 7 February 2008
- Welfare joins war on abuse, The Australian, 1 February 2008
- Kids fleeing abuse 'doubled in last decade', The Australian, 23 January 2008
- Child protection, Sydney Daily Telegraph, 24 October 2007

Radio (segments which contained comment by Families Australia)

- ABC Radio National AM program, re child protection, 24 June 2008
- ABC tropical NQ, 13 May 2008, re National Families Week
- 2BS Bathurst, re National Families Week, 13 May 2008
- ABC Bundaberg, re National Families Week, 12 May 2008
- Radio South, Melbourne, re National Families Week, 9 May 2008
- ABC Launceston, re National Families Week, 9 May 2008
- 2GB, re baby bonus, 2 May 2008
- Radio 2GB Sydney interview re child protection, 26 April 2008
- Radio 2SM interview re family meal times, April 2008
- Radio 2SM re child protection, 18 February 2008
- Radio Unewarra interview (national), 12 February 2008, re National Families Week
- Radio 2SCR interview, re Alliance for Forgotten Australians, 16 October 2007
- Triple M radio Sydney, re child adoption and substance abuse, 23 July 2007
- ABC Radio Bega, re family wellbeing, 19 July 2007

TV (segments which featured Families Australia or highlighted our activities)

- ABC National TV and Channels 7 and 10, on child protection, 30 May 2008
- Kerri-Anne Morning Show, Channel 9 national, with Michael Bevan, National Families Week Ambassador, 16 May 2008
- ABC TV national, on tax breaks for families in 2008 Budget, 2 May 2008
- ABC National TV News, interview with Families Australia Chief Executive Officer on child protection, 26 April 2008

Policy statements and major reports

- 'Carer Payment (child): A New Approach', Report of the Carer Payment (child) Review Taskforce, November 2007 (Families Australia Chief Executive Officer was a taskforce member)
- 'The hidden face of care: Combining work and caring responsibilities for the aged and people with a disability', Taskforce on Care Costs (TOCC) report, November 2007 (Families Australia was a main contributor)
- 100 Policy Ideas for Enhancing Family Wellbeing, September 2007
- Families Australia policy statement on Family wellbeing, August 2007
- Families Australia policy statement on Child protection, August 2007
- Families Australia policy statement on Indigenous people, August 2007
- Families Australia policy statement on Work and family, August 2007
- Families Australia policy statement on Grandparenting, August 2007
- Families Australia policy statement on Substance abuse, August 2007
- Families Australia policy statement on The 'Forgotten Australians', August 2007

Speeches

- 'The community sector more vital than ever', May 2008
- 'Families are at the centre of a successful nation', May 2008
- 'People with disability and their carers need greater recognition and assistance', May 2008
- 'Make a new resolution for better work-family balance', May 2008
- 'Carers need our support', November 2007

Published articles/opinion pieces

- Article: 'At last, an acknowledgement of child-abuse crisis', Canberra Times, May 2008
- Article: 'Child protection', Gowrie Australia's Reflections magazine, April 2008
- Article: Centrelink 'Rural News', April 2008, on grandparents
- Comment for Ipsos-Eureka Social Research Institute's study of 'Family Meal Times', January 2008
- Comment on the Alliance for Forgotten Australians for the Mental Health Council of Australia, Jan-February 2008 Newsletter
- Article: 'The impact of illicit drugs on families', September 2007
- Article: 'My Family' magazine, grandparenting, Spring 2007

Submissions

- Submission: to Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on National Child Protection Framework, June 2008
- Submission: to Australian Government on 2008-09 Budget, January 2008
- Submission: to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Paid maternity, paternity and parental leave, May 2008
- Submission: to Australian Government on the proposed National Access Card, August 2007

Media releases (selection only)

- 'Welcome move by Rudd Government on National Child Protection Plan', 25 May 2008
- 'Federal Budget: Good news for families and children...but question marks over impact of cuts', 14 May 2008
- 'Champion cricketer Michael Bevan bats for families in ACT National Families Week celebration (10 May)', 7 May 2008
- 'Tens of thousands in NSW to celebrate family in National Families Week 2008 (11-17 May)', 7 May 2008
- 'Families Australia welcomes the Apology to the Stolen Generation', 11 February 2008
- 'Australian Government Moves on National Child Protection Plan', 1 February 2008
- 'Launch of the Alliance for Forgotten Australians', 16 October 2007

**FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225**

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2008**

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Committee's Report	24
Financial Statements	
Income Statement	25
Balance Sheet	26
Statement of changes in Equity	27
Cash Flow statement	28
Notes to the financial statements	29
Statement by Members of the Committee	42
Independent Audit Report	43
Additional Information	45

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Families Australia Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.

Committee Members:

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

Sandie de Wolf (Chair)	Sharron Williams
Bev Orr (Deputy Chair)	Jennie Hannan
Anne McLeish (Secretary)	Mary Mertin-Ryan (Resigned 13 November 2007)
Adam Blakester (Resigned 13 November 2007)	Bob Nicholson
Marie Leech (Resigned 13 November 2007) (Appointed 14 December 2007)	Mark Brooke (Appointed 13 November 2007)
Paul Rajan (Resigned 13 November 2007) (Appointed 14 December 2007)	Simon Schrapel (Appointed 13 November 2007)
Prue Warrilow	Tony Stevenson (Appointed 13 November 2007)

Committee members have been in office since the start of the period to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Operating Result

The profit of the association for the period amounted to a deficit of \$10,698 (2007 Surplus of \$20,545).

Significant Changes

No significant changes in the state of affairs of the association occurred during the period.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the period were to represent the interest of Families in Australia.

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



Sandie de Wolf



Anne McLeish

Dated this 3rd day of October 2008

Dated this 3rd day of October 2008

INCOME STATEMENT

	Note	2008	2007
		\$	\$
Revenue	2	532,546	475,119
Employee benefits expense		(243,360)	(212,678)
Finance costs	3	(6,749)	(4,713)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	3	(10,096)	(8,545)
Publication costs		(109,934)	(61,501)
Other expenses		(173,105)	(167,137)
Profit before income tax		(10,698)	20,545
Income tax expense		-	-
Profit from operations		(10,698)	20,545

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET

	<i>Note</i>	2008	2007
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	136,700	189,075
Trade and other receivables	6	10,878	39,003
Other current assets	7	9,415	8,988
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		156,993	237,066
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	26,138	35,681
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		26,138	35,681
TOTAL ASSETS		183,131	272,747
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	34,303	115,071
Provisions	10	13,827	13,532
Short term financial liabilities	11	1,601	1,030
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		49,731	129,633
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	10	2,585	-
Long term financial liabilities	11	12,813	14,414
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		15,398	14,414
TOTAL LIABILITIES		65,129	144,047
NET ASSETS		118,002	128,700
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		118,002	128,700
TOTAL EQUITY		118,002	128,700

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Reserves	Retained Earnings	Total Equity
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2006	-	108,155	108,155
Profit attributable to members	-	20,545	20,545
Balance at 30 June 2007	-	128,700	128,700
Profit attributable to members	-	(10,698)	(10,698)
Balance at 30 June 2008	-	118,002	118,002

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from customers and Operating grants		598,317	532,699
Payment to suppliers and employees		(611,480)	(447,569)
Interest received		7,880	5,622
GST Recovered/(Paid)		(45,509)	(18,919)
Net cash provided by operating activities	16	(50,792)	71,833
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Proceeds from sale of other non current assets		-	12,727
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(553)	(31,899)
Net cash used in investing activities		(553)	(19,172)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Proceeds from borrowings		(1,030)	15,444
Net cash used in financing activities		(1,030)	15,444
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(52,375)	68,105
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		189,075	120,970
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	5	136,700	189,075

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225**

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

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

The financial report of Families Australia Incorporated as an individual entity complies with all Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) in their entirety.

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.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

Accounting Policies

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 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 the association to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those 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.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including building and capitalised lease assets, is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Association commencing from the time the asset was held ready for use.

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

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate	Depreciation Basis
Office Equipment	20%	Straight Line
Computer Equipment	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. Financial Instruments

Recognition

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below:

Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short-term or if so designated by management. Derivatives are also categorised as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of these assets are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise.

Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets include any financial assets not included in the above categories. Available-for-sale financial assets are reflected at fair value. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken directly to equity.

Financial liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities are recognised at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Impairment

At each reporting date, the association assess 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 impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

d. 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.

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 that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

f. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

g. Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised upon the delivery of goods to customers.

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

Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

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

h. Government Grants

Income 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.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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 Australian 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 component 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. 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.

l. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

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

Key Estimates — Impairment

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

Key Judgments — Doubtful Debts Provision

The committee members believe that no amounts due from memberships from associate and general members will not be recoverable as at 30 June 2008.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 2: REVENUE	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Operating activities		
— Subsidies and Grant	454,051	380,421
— Member subscriptions	14,755	20,058
— Other Operating Revenue	55,860	56,291
— Gain on Disposal of Non Current Asset	-	12,727
— Interest received	7,880	5,622
	<u>532,546</u>	<u>475,119</u>

An amount of \$18,820 was included in the amount reported as Other Operating Revenue, which originated from an overstated GST liability in prior years. The reconciliation of the prior year's overstated GST liability and understated revenues is now rectified.

NOTE 3: PROFIT

Expenses

a. Depreciation of non current assets:		
- Computer Equipment	4,269	3,540
- Motor Vehicles	5,375	4,270
- Office Equipment	452	735
Total depreciation	<u>10,096</u>	<u>8,545</u>
b. Finance Costs:		
- Hire Purchase Charges	6,749	4,713

NOTE 4: AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

Auditing or reviewing financial reports	8,000	6,400
---	-------	-------

NOTE 5: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash at bank	136,617	188,943
Cash on hand	83	132
	<u>136,700</u>	<u>189,075</u>

The effective interest rate on short-term bank deposits was 2.35% (2007: 5.90%).

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to items in the balance sheet as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents	<u>136,700</u>	<u>189,075</u>
	<u>136,700</u>	<u>189,075</u>

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 6: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

CURRENT

Trade debtors	5,734	39,003
Provision for doubtful debts	-	-
Sundry Debtors	5,144	-
	<u>10,878</u>	<u>39,003</u>

NOTE 7: OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

Prepayments	3,131	2,704
Others	6,284	6,284
	<u>9,415</u>	<u>8,988</u>

NOTE 8: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Computer Equipment

At cost	30,169	30,169
Accumulated depreciation	(23,921)	(19,652)
	<u>6,248</u>	<u>10,517</u>

Motor Vehicles

At cost	28,160	28,160
Accumulated depreciation	(9,645)	(4,270)
	<u>18,515</u>	<u>23,890</u>

Office equipment

At cost	8,722	8,169
Accumulated depreciation	(7,347)	(6,895)
	<u>1,375</u>	<u>1,274</u>

Total Property, Plant and Equipment

	<u>26,138</u>	<u>35,681</u>
--	---------------	---------------

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 8: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

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
	\$	\$	\$	\$
2007				
Balance at the beginning of year	10,318	-	2,009	12,327
Additions	3,739	28,160	-	31,899
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(3,540)	(4,270)	(735)	(8,545)
Carrying amount at the end of year	<u>10,517</u>	<u>23,890</u>	<u>1,274</u>	<u>35,681</u>

2008

Balance at the beginning of year	10,517	23,890	1,274	35,681
Additions	-	-	553	553
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(4,269)	(5,375)	(452)	(10,096)
Carrying amount at the end of year	<u>6,248</u>	<u>18,515</u>	<u>1,375</u>	<u>26,138</u>

NOTE 9: TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade payables	2,784	15,453
Sundry accruals and payables	31,519	31,899
Grant Funding in Advance	-	67,719
	<u>34,303</u>	<u>115,071</u>

NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

CURRENT

Employee benefits	13,827	13,532
-------------------	--------	--------

NON CURRENT

Employee benefits	2,585	-
-------------------	-------	---

Aggregate employee benefits	<u>16,412</u>	<u>13,532</u>
-----------------------------	---------------	---------------

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 11: FINANCIAL LIABILITIES	Note	2008	2007
		\$	\$
CURRENT			
Lease liability	12	1,601	1,030
		1,601	1,030
NON CURRENT			
Lease liability	12	12,813	14,414
		12,813	14,414

NOTE 12: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS

a. **Finance Lease Commitments**

Payable — minimum lease payments

— not later than 12 months

7,779

7,779

— between 12 months and 5 years

14,695

22,473

— greater than 5 years

-

-

Minimum lease payments

22,474

30,252

Less future finance charges

(8,060)

(14,808)

Present value of minimum lease payments

11

14,414

15,444

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

NOTE 13: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

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

NOTE 14: 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 15: 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 includes five (5) directors from the founding members of the organisation. These members have prescribed membership fees that are paid in full for each financial year

Related party transactions during the year amounted to:

	248	605
--	-----	-----

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 16: CASH FLOW INFORMATION	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit from Ordinary Activities after Income Tax		
Profit after income tax	(10,698)	20,541
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities:		
Non-cash flows in profit		
— Depreciation	10,096	8,545
— Movement in provision for doubtful debts	-	(1,650)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
— (Increase)/decrease in trade and term debtors	28,125	(37,353)
— Net (gain)/ loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	(12,727)
— (Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(427)	108
— Increase/(decrease) in payables	(12,669)	13,503
— Increase/(decrease) in unearned income	(67,719)	67,719
— Increase/(decrease) in other creditors & accruals	28,293	3,386
— Increase/(decrease) in provisions	2,880	1,872
— Increase/(decrease) in GST	(28,673)	7,889
	<u>(50,792)</u>	<u>71,833</u>

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 17: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a. **Financial Risk Management**

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

The association does not have any derivative instruments at 30 June 2008.

i. **Treasury Risk Management**

A finance committee consisting of senior members meet on a regular basis to analyse currency and interest rate exposure and to evaluate treasury management strategies in the context of the most recent economic conditions and forecasts.

ii. **Financial Risks**

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

Interest rate risk

The association is not exposed to any material interest rate risk.

Foreign currency risk

The association is not exposed to fluctuations in foreign currencies.

Liquidity risk

The association manages liquidity risk by monitoring forecast cash flows and ensuring that adequate unutilised borrowing facilities are maintained.

Credit risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date to recognised financial assets, is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements.

The association does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single receivable or group of receivables under financial instruments entered into by the association.

Price risk

The association is not exposed to any material commodity price risk.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 17: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)

b. 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 those financial assets and financial liabilities, is as follows:

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate		Floating Interest Rate		Non Interest Bearing		Total	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	%	%	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets:								
Cash and cash equivalents	2.35	5.90	136,617	188,943	83	132	136,700	189,075
Receivables			-	-	6,284	6,284	6,284	6,284
Total Financial Assets			136,617	188,943	6,367	6,416	142,984	195,359
Financial Liabilities:								
Trade and sundry creditors			-	-	2,784	15,453	2,784	15,453
Lease liabilities			-	-	14,414	15,444	14,414	15,444
Total Financial Liabilities			-	-	17,198	30,897	17,198	30,897

Fixed Interest Rate Maturing

	Within 1 Year		1 to 5 Years	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
	%	%	\$	\$
Financial Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-	-	-
Receivables	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Assets	-	-	-	-
Financial Liabilities:				
Trade and sundry creditors	-	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	-	-	-	-
Total Financial Liabilities	-	-	-	-

c. Net Fair Values

For other assets and other liabilities the net fair value approximates their carrying value. No financial assets and financial liabilities are readily traded on organised markets in standardised form other than listed investments. Financial assets where the carrying amount exceeds net fair values have not been written down as the economic entity intends to hold these assets to maturity.

The aggregate net fair values and carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities are disclosed in the statement of financial position and in the notes to the financial statements.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 18: ACCOUNTING POLICY AMENDMENTS

The following Australian Accounting Standards issued or amended and are applicable to the association but not yet effective and have not been adopted in preparation of the financial statements at reporting date.

AASB Amendment	Standards Affected	Outline of Amendment	Application Date of Standard	Application Date for Group
AASB 2007–3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards	AASB 5: Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations AASB 6: Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral AASB 102: Inventories AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements AASB 119: Employee Benefits AASB 127: Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements AASB 134: Interim Financial Reporting AASB 136: Impairment of Assets AASB 1023: General Insurance Contracts AASB 1038: Life Insurance Contracts	The disclosure requirements of AASB 114: Segment Reporting have been replaced due to the issuing of AASB 8: Segment Reporting in February 2007. These amendments will involve changes to segment reporting disclosures. However, it is anticipated there will be no direct impact on recognition and measurement criteria amounts included in the financial report, as the association does not fall within the scope of AASB 8.	1.1.2009	1.7.2009
AASB 8 Operating Segments	AASB 114: Segment Reporting	As above	1.1.2009	1.7.2009
AASB 2007–6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards	AASB 1: First time adoption of AIFRS AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements AASB 111: Construction Contracts AASB 116: Property, Plant and Equipment AASB 138: Intangible Assets	The revised AASB 123: Borrowing Costs issued in June 2007 has removed the option to expense all borrowing costs. This amendment will require the capitalisation of all borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset. However, there will be no direct impact to the amounts included in the association as it already capitalise borrowing costs related to qualifying assets.	1.1.2009	1.7.2009
AASB 123 Borrowing Costs	AASB 123: Borrowing Costs	As above	1.1.2009	1.7.2009
AASB 2007–8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards	AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements	The revised AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements issued in September 2007 requires the presentation of a statement of comprehensive income and makes changes to the statement of changes in recognised income and expenditure.	1.1.2009	1.7.2009
AASB 101	AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements	As above	1.1.2009	1.7.2009

**FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225**

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 dependant upon the supply of Government funding.

**FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225**

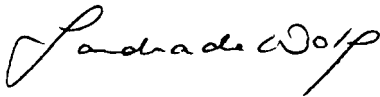
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 3 to 19

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Families Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2008 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, 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 Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Sandie de Wolf

Dated this 3rd day of October 2008



Anne McLeish

Dated this 3rd day of October 2008

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

ABN 21 830 960 225

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO
THE MEMBERS OF FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED**

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Families Australia Incorporated (the association) which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2008 and the income statement, statement of recognised income and expenditure and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Report

This auditors report relates to the financial report of Families Australia Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2008 included on the association's website. The association's committee members are responsible for the integrity of the association's website. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the association's website. The auditors report refers only to the statements named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information, which may have been hyperlinked to/from these statements.

If users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on this website.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991.

This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

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.

These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, 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 committee, 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 Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

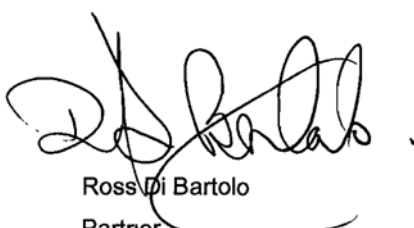
Audit Opinion

In our opinion:

The financial report of Families Australia Incorporate is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991 including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2008 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991.

PKF – Di Bartolo Diamond & Mihailaros
Level 7, 28 University Avenue
Canberra City ACT 2601



Ross Di Bartolo
Partner
Dated: 3.10.2006.

Di Bartolo Diamond & Mihailaros

An Australian Capital Territory Partnership

PKF

Chartered Accountants
And Business Advisers

Level 7, 28 University Ave
GPO Box 588
Canberra City, ACT 2608

Tel: (02) 6257 7500
Fax: (02) 6257 7599
Email: canberra@pkf.com.au

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

DISCLAIMER TO THE MEMBERS OF FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

The additional financial data presented on pages 46 and 47 are in with the book 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 30 June 2008. 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 Incorporated) in respect of such data, including any errors of omissions therein however caused.

PKF – Di Bartolo Diamond & Mihailaros
Level 7, 28 University Avenue
Canberra City ACT 2601



Ross Di Bartolo

Partner

Dated: 3.10.2008.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Interest	7,880	5,622
Gain on disposal of non current asset	-	12,727
Membership subscriptions	14,755	20,058
Other operating revenue	55,860	56,291
Subsidies and grants	454,051	380,421
TOTAL INCOME	532,546	475,119
 LESS EXPENSES		
Accounting fees	-	73
Administration costs	62,581	35,212
Advertising	75,870	43,439
Annual leave	295	1,872
Audit fees	8,000	6,400
Bank Charges	834	1,489
Cleaning	1,472	1,533
Conference and seminar costs	23,654	52,796
Consultancy fees	-	6,456
Depreciation	10,096	8,545
Doubtful debts/bad debts expense	-	(1,439)
Electricity	1,176	912
Fringe Benefit Tax	3,668	-
Hire purchase charges	6,749	4,713
Insurance	5,251	5,417
Long Service Leave	2,585	-
Magazines, journals and periodicals	3,317	4,235
Motor vehicles expenses	6,063	7,773
Office expenses	1,235	3,404
Operating expenses	4,987	3,168
Postage	16,080	12,443

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Printing and stationery	30,748	13,661
Rent	28,542	27,758
Repairs and maintenance	849	1,969
Salaries and wages	221,122	190,004
Staff training and welfare	751	760
Sundry expenses	-	401
Superannuation	18,607	16,219
Telephone	2,608	3,586
Travelling expenses	6,103	1,775
TOTAL EXPENSES	543,244	454,574
OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(10,698)	20,545

NOTES

Families Australia
Suite 3 7 National Cct
Barton ACT 2600

p: 02 6273 4885
e: admin@familiesaustralia.org.au
w: familiesaustralia.org.au