

**ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019**

FamiliesAustralia

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We thank all our supporters, in particular, our Members and the Commonwealth Government, for their ongoing support.

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About Families Australia

Established in 2001, Families Australia is a national, peak, not-for-profit organisation that advises the Commonwealth Government on family policy issues, especially on ways to increase the wellbeing of families who experience vulnerability.

Our *vision* is that Australian families, in all their diversity, enjoy the greatest possible wellbeing. Our *mission* is to improve the wellbeing of all Australian families, especially those experiencing the greatest marginalisation and vulnerability.

We have over 800 member organisations located around Australia who work to advance family wellbeing. An apolitical, non-sectarian organisation, our approach is to partner with government, service delivery organisations and researchers to suggest practical and innovative solutions to problems facing families.

We convene the National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing, a grouping of over 200 non-government organisations and researchers, to assist in designing and implementing the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020.

We host the biennial Child Aware Conference which brings together government policy advisers, child and family workers and researchers to discuss child and family issues.

Families Australia manages National Families Week which, in 2019 alone, involved over 127,000 people in community-level events around Australia.

We focus attention on policy areas that support workforce participation whilst maintaining healthy family dynamics through the Building Stronger Australian Families policy seminar series.

We measure performance by reporting to the Board on key performance indicators as set out in the annual business plan which is aligned to the Board-approved, rolling, three-year Strategic Plan.

We report to our Members and other stakeholders on our achievements in the Annual Report, our websites and in reporting to our principal funding body.

The Board and staff

At 30 June 2019, the Families Australia Board comprised the following 10 members:

- Prue Warrilow, Chair, and nominee of Australian Community Children’s Services
- Tricia Murray, Deputy Chair, and nominee of the Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia
- Naomi Nicholson, Secretary, and nominee of the Australian Foster Care Association
- Melinda Crole, nominee of YMCA Australia
- Professor Morag McArthur, nominee of the Australian Foster Care Association
- Anne McLeish OAM, nominee of Grandparents Australia
- Annette Michaux, Co-opted Member
- Dr Sue Packer AM, Public Officer, and nominee of the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Simon Schrapel AM, nominee of UnitingCare Australia
- Richard Weston, nominee of The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

The secretariat comprised:

- Dr Brian Babington, Chief Executive Officer
- Stella Conroy, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- Jennifer Horsfield, Office Manager and Manager of National Families Week
- Dr Marian Esler, Senior Policy Officer
- Margaret Fisher, Conference, Events and Communications Officer
- Elizabeth Hunter, Events and Communications Officer
- Eileen O’Brien, Policy Officer
- Fiona Langford, Accounts Manager

Abbreviations

National Coalition
National Forum
National Framework

National Coalition for Child Safety and Wellbeing
National Forum for Protecting Australia’s Children
National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009-2020

Message from the Chair

Prue Warrilow

In 2019 I am starting my last report as Chair in the same way that I have commenced many previous reports - 2019 was another highly successful year for Families Australia.

National Families Week continued to break records in 2019 with more than 127,000 people registered to participate in activities celebrating *Stronger Families, Stronger Communities*. Activities took place across Australia from small stand-alone children's services in regional areas to corporate events celebrating family diversity. I would like to acknowledge and thank Jennifer Horsfield for her enthusiasm and dedication leading and coordinating all of the work around National Families Week.



In 2019 we held another Child Aware Conference that attracted 400 delegates including 43 students from social work and related disciplines. There were 90 different presentations over the two days and feedback from delegates was overwhelmingly positive. I would like to acknowledge and thank Stella Conroy who led and coordinated the very hard work in developing the conference. At the conference I challenged delegates to consider:

- What should be our vision for children?
- What are the main barriers to making Australia a nation where all children grow up safe and well?
- What initiatives are showing promise in overcoming these barriers?
- What should be the key elements of national policy for child and family wellbeing and safety beyond 2020?

These challenges reflect the conversations that we have been having within and outside of Families Australia. Our work around the national policy on child safety and wellbeing has shifted into a robust series of conversations and consultations around what child and family wellbeing should look like post 2020 when the current Framework finishes.

Reinforcing Brian's CEO message this year, our emphasis on protecting and valuing children and celebrating families in all their diversity helps focus our energy and attention on those families who may be most vulnerable, and continuing our strong emphasis on the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

There are many things that I am proud of in my time as a Board member and Chair of Families Australia; however what I am most proud of was some years ago initiating a Board conversation around Reconciliation and what Families Australia should consider in this space. Over time and in partnership with our Aboriginal controlled member organisations we developed a Plan for Reconciliation that is now a living, breathing document that actively informs our strategic and operational work at all levels of the organisation.

In 2019 examples of our Plan for Reconciliation in practice included continuing to create the Child Aware Conference as a place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices participate and are heard. One of the key themes at the Conference was *Improving Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children* with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates presenting on this and other key themes.

Richard Weston, delivering the Oration *Dreaming our children's future*, challenged us to acknowledge and understand the impact of intergenerational trauma on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, and to focus on their strengths to enhance the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to flourish in culture, country and kin.

Coming to the end of a period of significant contribution and leadership has encouraged me to reflect on my time as a Board member and Chair. I have led the Board through important constitutional and governance changes resulting in more contemporary practices around Board tenure and a robust Code of Conduct. However, a disappointing outcome of this review was not gathering enough support from General Members to enable these changes to extend to contemporary Board membership practices as well.

A critical gap for me has always been how we could include the legitimate voices of young people in the work of Families Australia. I was absolutely thrilled that this year's Child Aware Conference included a young people's panel that was controlled and led by young people. These young people told us what they wanted us to hear, not what they thought we should hear. A powerful message came out of this presentation for me - that amazingly, young people may actually know what problems they may be experiencing and have also thought about some of the solutions - so why not just ask them and do with them, not to them. Families Australia will continue to build on this work, considering ways that we can include young people's voices in our strategic work around the board table.

Our current exploration on how the changing nature of work will impact on families will continue into the future; another area of personal interest and influence for me. How will the changing nature of work impact on families, especially those who may be experiencing disadvantage or vulnerability? What policies do we need in place now and into the future to ensure that children and families continue to flourish as the world of work changes?

As Chair of Families Australia, I have been privileged to be supported and encouraged by my fellow Board members and Families Australia staff team who have always considered the best interests of families, regardless of their form, in our strategic and operational work. It has been a wonderful learning experience as I have helped guide, and then lead, the strategic direction of an organisation that actively works towards improving outcomes for children and families in Australia, so that these children and families can flourish and thrive in the best possible life they can have.

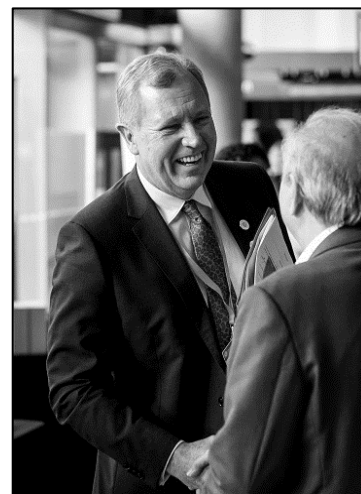
An essential linchpin in my Chairing role has been the insightful advice and support provided to me by Brian Babington as CEO of Families Australia. Brian has been able to inform and translate the Board's strategic vision into coherent and impactful operations that have, and continue to, directly influence the policies that impact on children and families. I want to thank Brian for his generosity, friendship and support as we have worked together to guide Families Australia over the past nine years. Brian's expertise has always made me look good.

Finally, and importantly, I wish to thank the Commonwealth Government Department of Social Services for its continued support of Families Australia.

I commend the Families Australia 2019 Annual Report to you.

Message from the CEO

Families Australia works to build a nation in which all families, irrespective of their form, enjoy the greatest possible wellbeing. We believe that this objective is advanced by better protecting and valuing children, by celebrating families and supporting the most vulnerable amongst them, and by making genuine and lasting improvements to the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Focus on children and young people

Families Australia continued to play a major role in advancing the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 (the 'National Framework'), Australia's first-ever plan to be endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments to enhance child safety and wellbeing.

We led consultations involving government, non-government and research stakeholders to inform the design of the Fourth (and final) Action Plan (2018-2020) under the National Framework.

The Fourth Action Plan was announced by the Commonwealth Assistant Minister for Children and Families, the Hon. Michelle Landry MP, in December 2018. Implementation commenced under the auspices of the National Forum for Protecting Australia's Children (the 'National Forum'), an inter-sectoral body which is co-chaired by Families Australia.

Importantly, too, Families Australia led the way in promoting discussions about directions for national child and family policy at the conclusion of the National Framework. In an initiative entitled 'Beyond 2020', Families Australia commenced a round of national workshops about the shape of future policy, as well as advanced ideas to political parties in the context of the 2019 Federal Election.

Families Australia will continue its strong leadership on child safety and wellbeing and will actively explore, with others, how to expand the national agenda in this area. We will continue to be the facilitator of the voices of leaders, new and established, who strive for a fairer society and stronger families.

A major highlight of the year was the Child Aware Conference, which Families Australia convened in Brisbane in May 2019. Attended by a record number of delegates, the conference showcased latest policy, practice and research around child and family wellbeing. A special feature was the involvement of young people, including through a deeply inspiring plenary panel session. Feedback from conference participants was glowing.

Informing social policy

Our connections with relevant Ministers and their Departments remained strong, collaborative and constant. We participated in a growing number of Government advisory committees convened by agencies such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the National Office for Child Safety, and the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare.

We convened numerous social policy forums that involved government, non-government and research representatives. A particular focus was how the changing nature of work is impacting upon families and children. We provided submissions to Parliamentary and other inquiries and supported many initiatives, such as eChildhood, the Valuing Children Initiative and NAPCAN's National Child Protection Week. Our fortnightly e-bulletin, *National Family News*, reported on latest developments in policy, practice and research and reached many thousands of people involved with child and family support activities.

Advancing Reconciliation

The Child Aware Conference was also the setting for the 6th Families Australia National Oration. Continuing the theme of recent years of drawing attention to issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities, the 2019 Oration was delivered by Richard Weston, then CEO of the Healing Foundation and

Families Australia Board member. Richard presented us with a deeply moving and insightful presentation entitled *Dreaming our children's future*.

Reconciliation activities continued to be at the centre of Families Australia's work. The Board's Reconciliation Working Group oversaw the implementation of a wide range of initiatives, including our commitment to ensuring that the Family Matters campaign led by SNAICC – National Voice for our Children was actively promoted through the National Forum.

Promoting the importance of families

National Families Week in May 2019 saw a record number of people—127,000—registered to participate in community-level events aimed at celebrating the vital role of families. Families Australia is proud that the Week has grown significantly in public recognition over the past 17 years. I thank the hundreds of organisations who, once again, made the Week such a success.

Management

Financially, Families Australia continued to grow steadily. Our office systems were upgraded and kept current. We maintained a strong focus on business risk identification and mitigation. We continued to put priority on staff wellbeing, especially by providing flexible work conditions.

On leadership

During the year I had the privilege of interviewing a number of inspiring not-for-profit sector leaders. The 'Leadership Project' interviews are published on the Families Australia website.

Two main themes emerged from the interviews. First, more needs to be done to encourage the next generation of not-for-profit leaders. Second, true leadership is a collective activity; one of the most important tasks for leaders is to empower and support others to spread their wings and grow.

Supporting my interest in this area, I was honoured to participate in an executive leadership program at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government entitled 'Moral leadership in an imperfect world'.

My thanks

All of Families Australia's achievements arise from a great team effort. I wish to thank our Members and supporters, in particular, the Commonwealth Government Department of Social Services. I appreciated greatly the support, guidance and collegiality of the Board.

I am fortunate to work with wonderful staff colleagues—Stella Conroy, Jennifer Horsfield, Elizabeth Hunter, Margaret Fisher, Dr Marian Esler, Eileen O'Brien and Fiona Langford—and thank them all most sincerely for their excellent work. I should also like to express my gratitude to Professor Lyndall Strazdins and Andrew McCallum AM for their counsel and support in a variety of ways. RSM Australia has been the Families Australia auditor for the past seven years and I wish to thank them for their excellent work.

The 2019 Annual General Meeting will mark the conclusion of 15 years of Board service by both our Chair, Prue Warrilow, and Anne McLeish OAM. In late 2018, we also said farewell to Paul Rajan, who ended his 15th and final year as a Co-opted Board member.

It has been an immense personal and professional pleasure and privilege to serve alongside Prue, Anne and Paul over all these years. I wish, particularly, to record my deep gratitude to Prue for her leadership, friendship and support in her role as Chair over the past nine years. I have great respect and admiration for her commitment and her many outstanding contributions to Families Australia and, more broadly, to the promotion of child and family wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

Dr Brian Babington

Advancing Reconciliation

Our vision for Reconciliation	
<p>Advance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation</p>	<p>Families Australia is committed to Reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p> <p>We activate this commitment by advocating for improvements, such as increased health spending, and universal provision of high quality, culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families, including child welfare and family support programs.</p> <p>We aim to ensure that the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities, are supported, valued and taken into account when devising strategy and policy positions.</p>
Achievements	
<p>Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders at the national level</p>	<p>Families Australia is proud of its Reconciliation journey. In 2018-19, we undertook a wide range of activities in support of the agreed Reconciliation objectives.</p> <p>We actively supported deep engagement in, and participation by, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander member and stakeholder organisations in our national policy development processes across all policy platforms and activities, including the National Framework, the National Coalition on Child Safety and Wellbeing (the 'National Coalition'), the National Forum, and Child Aware initiatives.</p> <p>With 2019 being a Child Aware Conference year, Families Australia staff planned for, and were successful in, gaining a greater level of participation in the conference program by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and strategists, compared with previous conferences.</p> <p>This was evidenced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation as keynote speakers who addressed each of the the four key conference themes that related to the Fourth Action Plan of the National Framework.</p> <p>Aunty Vanessa Fisher of the Turrbul People delivered the <i>Welcome to Country</i> at the Child Aware Conference in May 2019. She highlighted concerns about the impact of inter-generational trauma. She said 'the system destroys people, it divides people.' She called on delegates to think about outcomes and that '...these children need your support, no matter where you come...' More detail is available on the Child Aware website.</p> <p>The 2019 Child Aware Conference showcased the translation into action of many years of Families Australia's policy advocacy in helping to address the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, families and communities. The conference demonstrated the depths of partnerships achieved with our key Aboriginal Controlled Organisations.</p>

**Partnering with
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander leaders
at the national level**

Our policy submissions acknowledged the potential impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities and the need to elevate their voices in decisions that effect them.

We prioritised the inclusion of cultural resources, research and articles to inform organisational policy and practice in all our e-publications.

We continued to provide an acknowledgment of Country at all our meetings.

A formal *Welcome to Country* ceremony continued to be our tradition at key national events.

We continued to aspire to, and meet, high-level obligations with regard to Reconciliation and, this year, we included the Reconciliation Australia cultural awareness tool in Board and staff orientation kits.

Richard Weston, then CEO of The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation, briefed the Board on the *2019 Closing the Gap* report.

Families Australia staff continued to participate in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local and national days of significance, such as the Anniversary of the National Apology, Aboriginal and Islander Children’s Day, and NAIDOC Week.

**Under our Plan for
Reconciliation, we work to:**

- build on existing relationships
- deepen our partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members and stakeholders
- consult with, and support, the engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and leaders, and
- advocate strongly for national responses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues in the successive three-year Action Plans of the National Framework.

Informing and influencing national policy

Our aims were to further embed the Commonwealth Government’s commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and to expand understandings amongst political leaders and officials about issues facing families that required policy attention.

We worked to achieve these aims by leading efforts to advance the National Framework, convening the Child Aware Conference, and informing policy thinking on a range of family-related issues.

1. National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009-2020



Aims	
<p>Advance national child safety and wellbeing efforts</p>	<p>We sought to advance the implementation of the National Framework and encourage discussions across government, non-government and research sectors on building a new national policy on child and family wellbeing when the National Framework concludes in 2020.</p>
Achievements	
<p>Informing national child safety and wellbeing policy</p>	<p>The National Framework is Australia’s first-ever national plan to be endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children.</p> <p>During the year, Families Australia worked in close collaboration with the Commonwealth Government Department of Social Services to help design the Fourth (and final) Action Plan 2018-2020 under the National Framework. To do this, Families Australia drew upon the expertise of members of the National Coalition, which comprises over 200 of Australia’s leading child and family non-government and research organisations.</p> <p>Families Australia facilitated several meetings of the Steering Group of the National Coalition throughout the year and represented the National Coalition at meetings of the National Forum, a standing committee comprising senior Commonwealth, State and Territory officials, non-government and research representatives and a range of statutory office-holders, such as the National Children’s Commissioner.</p> <p>Dr Babington continued to co-chair the National Forum as that body monitored the implementation of key projects under the National Framework. He also represented the National Coalition on the National Child Safe Organisations Working Group, which was convened by the National Office for Child Safety within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.</p> <p>Families Australia held numerous discussions on child safety and wellbeing with the relevant Commonwealth Ministers and senior officials. Dr Babington</p>

<p>Promoting policy thinking ‘Beyond 2020’</p>	<p>represented the National Coalition at the launch in Darwin of the Fourth Action Plan of the National Framework, in December 2018.</p> <p>Families Australia played a key role in promoting discussions about directions for national child and family policy when the National Framework ends. Through a campaign entitled ‘Beyond 2020’, Families Australia initiated discussions with Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments through the National Forum. We also showcased the issue at the Child Aware Conference and at a workshop for government, non-government and research representatives in Hobart in March 2019. Consultations will continue in 2019-2020.</p>
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2. Child Aware Conference



Aim	
<p>Promote family and child policy and practice discussions</p>	<p>Our aim was to convene the national Child Aware Conference to showcase the National Framework and promote conversations about national policy on child and family wellbeing when the National Framework concludes in 2020.</p>
Achievements	
<p>Record attendance</p>	<p>Families Australia convened the highly successful 6th Child Aware Conference in Brisbane on 16 and 17 May 2019. The conference format was designed to highlight the key themes of the Fourth Action Plan of the National Framework and to promote thinking about the post-2020 national child and family policy agenda.</p> <p>The conference was vibrant and stimulating: it encouraged delegates to pitch policy ideas and emphasised the voices of young people. 400 registrations were received, the highest number of any Child Aware Conference (compared with 350 in 2017). There were 40 sponsors, research partners and supporters (compared with 17 in 2017).</p>
<p>Stimulating speakers</p>	<p>There were over 160 Keynote, XPRESS Podium and concurrent session speakers, five resource display tables and 12 poster displays. Delegates represented over 25 different sectors with multiple organisational roles.</p> <p>Five plenary/keynote addresses were delivered, including from Maree Brown, Director of the Child Wellbeing Unit within the New Zealand Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Family Law sector was represented for the first time in a plenary presentation.</p> <p>Child Aware 2019 continued the strong focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities. One keynote address (the Families</p>

Focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues

Australia National Oration), five concurrent sessions and one XPRESS Podium presentation were delivered under Key Theme 1: *Improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.*

Four of the five plenary sessions included Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presenters and content. Policy, research and practice issues relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families were also included in a number of concurrent sessions in the context of the broader Key Themes.

The Families Australia Oration entitled *Dreaming our children's future* was delivered by Richard Weston, then CEO of the Healing Foundation. Comments provided by respondents to the conference survey highlighted the impact of the Oration as a key learning. For example:

I gained valuable insights into the interrelation between child voice, trauma principles and cultural self-determination and the importance of prevention and early intervention in bringing about generational change.

The range of initiatives implemented by the Healing Foundation inspire hope that we can work together to achieve poverty reduction and wellbeing for our nation's First Peoples and their children.



Above: Richard Weston delivering the Families Australia National Oration, May 2019

Emphasising participation by young people

Highlights of the conference included a Young Person's Plenary Panel entitled *For Young People By Young People: Young People speaking out about safety* and young person's video presentations. Eleven videos were submitted under the 'It's My Future' format and are available on the Child Aware website. The panel comprised seven young people aged 15-24. They were supported by the Healing Foundation, the Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network, the ACT Office of the Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner, Canberra PCYC and YMCA QLD. Ninety-three per cent of respondents to the post-conference survey rated the session as excellent.

As well as participation by staff and students from Griffith University, a new partnership was formed with the Australian Catholic University School of Social Work, Banyo Campus, as Student Engagement Partner. The participation of staff and students from both universities led to inclusion of the National Framework in their curricula.

Responses to the post-conference survey agreed/strongly agreed that the conference met or exceeded expectations for informative policy discussions, networking, interesting keynote speakers, the quality of concurrent sessions, providing useful evidence, and informative exhibition booths, resources and posters. For example:

There are many more people out there likeminded to me, in passion, creativity and innovation, wanting to make a difference. In knowing this, it inspires me to keep fighting the good fight and to know there are other ways to impact and join together to make a difference.

3. Family-related policy advice

Aim	
<p>Inform national policy on key family issues</p>	<p>Our aim was to inform national policy thinking on a range of other family-related issues, including how families may be impacted by changes to the nature of work.</p>
Achievements	
<p>Promoting policy discussions on work and family</p>	<p>Under the Building Stronger Australian Families initiative, we opened a dialogue with Commonwealth officials about how changes to the nature of work are likely to impact family and child wellbeing. In October 2018, we convened a policy forum on family and work at the Department of Social Services led by Professor Lyndall Strazdins, Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University.</p> <p>In April 2019, we facilitated an executive workshop on issues including labour market, family dynamics and health, and policy implications arising from changes to work. The workshop involved Professor Phil Lewis, Professor of Economics at Canberra University, Professor Shelley Mallett, Director of the Research and Policy Centre at the University of Melbourne, and Dr Liana Leech from the Australian National University's National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health.</p>
<p>Advising government on family-related policy and programs</p>	<p>To support this work, we completed an in-house research paper on family and work and convened several meetings of the Family and Work Reference Group comprising a range of Government Departments and the Australian National University.</p> <p>Families Australia provided advice to a range of Commonwealth Government policy development processes. Our Annual Policy Survey was shared with the Department of Social Services and highlighted, <i>inter alia</i>, the importance of improving the integration of service delivery across child and family portfolios, enhancing support for child/parent voice in decision making, and increasing resources that promote effective parenting strategies.</p> <p>We also contributed to the Department of Social Services' review of its family support programs, a Productivity Commission's examination of public health approaches for protecting children, and a Department of Health inquiry into a national plan for the health of children and young people.</p>

Promoting the importance of families



Aim	
Build community support for families	Our aim was to increase community appreciation of, and support for, the central role played by families in our society.
Achievements	
Record public participation	<p>We advanced this aim by convening National Families Week between 15 May and 21 May 2019. A record was set in terms of public participation, with 127,000 people participating in over 700 registered events (compared with 125,000 people in 2018). The theme for National Families Week was <i>Stronger families, stronger communities</i>.</p> <p>Families Australia has hosted National Families Week for each of the past 17 years. National Families Week enables the participation of hundreds of thousands of Australians in hundreds of community-led events to celebrate the vital role played by families. As in past years, Families Australia managed National Families Week on behalf of the Commonwealth Government Department of Social Services.</p>
Enthusiastic community events across Australia	<p>Community-level events were held around Australia: from the Torres Strait Islands to Tasmania, from Port Macquarie to Perth. Schools and other community organisations held a wide array of events, such as fun days, BBQs, photo and poetry competitions, morning teas and seminars, to highlight the importance of families.</p> <p>National Families Week participants posted photos of their events and promoted the importance of families on the National Families Week Facebook page. Many wonderful events were promoted on the page which allowed everyone to see what organisations were doing during the Week.</p>
High level support	<p>National Families Week was formally launched at the Child Aware Conference in Brisbane on 16 May 2019. On 14 May, Dr Sue Packer AM, the 2019 Senior Australian of the Year, Kathryn Campbell AO CSC, Secretary of the Department of Social Services, and Dr Babington addressed a National Families Week staff event at the Department of Social Services in Canberra.</p> <p>Nineteen prominent Australians were appointed National Families Week Champions and were active in promoting the Week.</p>

Respondents to the evaluation survey continued to show a high degree of satisfaction with National Families Week with a host satisfaction rate of 89 per cent. Some participant feedback is as follows:

Please continue to organise and guide services to join in with this important celebration that crosses diversity and provides inclusion in our community.

Connecting with families, and supporting families to support their children to improve outcomes is one of our strategic directions.

It's a chance to celebrate with families and acknowledge their achievements.

A great opportunity for services who outreach to our community as well as the local services to meet and greet and inform our community families and provide information about how they can support families.

Really wonderful day here in the park, sunshine, and we included local Community Radio broadcasts and free BBQ and drinks, and also a baby animal zoo which was very popular with the young families.



Supporting Members and the sector

Aim	
Support the community sector and Members	Our aims were to help build community sector capacities and to support others working to achieve goals aligned with those of Families Australia.
Achievements	
Supporting Members	<p>We continued to strengthen links with our Members and key stakeholders. We provided information and advice to our Members through speeches, policy commentaries and publications, and supported policy-related initiatives aligned to Families Australia’s work, especially in the area of child safety and wellbeing.</p>
Sharing latest information on policy, practice and research	<p>Our e-bulletin, <i>National Family News</i>, was issued fortnightly, providing Members and other stakeholders with latest news about policy, practice and research. <i>National Family News</i> regularly reached more than 1,500 organisations and individuals across Australia and internationally, including government officials, service providers and academics. We issued five e-bulletins to members of the National Coalition about progress in implementing the National Framework. Our three websites continued to attract strong visitor usage.</p> <p>Dr Babington authored 12 policy commentaries on issues such as work and family, gender inequality, issues facing young parents, child protection, valuing children, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, welfare reform, family and domestic violence, and child safe communities. He delivered four major speeches on topics including child safety and wellbeing, the role of the community sector, and building stronger families.</p> <p>We responded to numerous requests for information from Members and members of the public, for example, about sources of assistance with family issues and connections with Commonwealth Departments and agencies.</p>
Reflecting Member views to government	<p>Our Annual Policy Survey (also referenced above) identified issues requiring policy attention, such as the family law system, the income support system, and the impact on families arising from changes to labour market conditions. Increasing inequality and levels of poverty in Australia and their impact on families were again identified as issues that required urgent government attention.</p> <p>Following-up from the previous survey, we sought feedback about service delivery issues in rural and remote areas. The short-term and perceived inflexible nature of some government funding arrangements continued to be a persistent obstacle for agencies in providing effective support to children and families in rural and remote Australia. It was also clear from the survey findings that the community sector values and supports efforts towards developing evidence-informed and outcomes-based funding practice and models.</p>

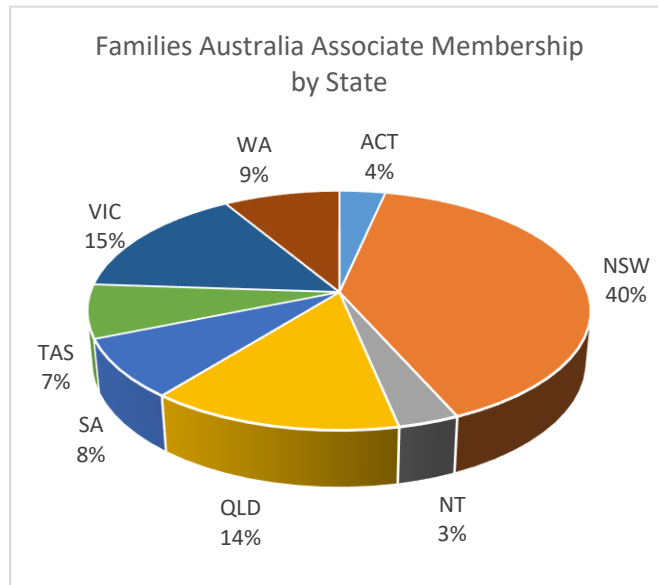
As in past years, the results of the Annual Policy Survey were provided to, and discussed with, the Department of Social Services to help inform future policy development.

805 Members

At 30 June 2019, Families Australia had 805 Members, comprising three Founding Members, 23 General Members and 779 Associate Members.

Our Associate Members comprise a diverse range of organisations. Every State and Territory of Australia is represented by Associate Members as set out in the following graphic.

Annex A contains further information about Families Australia’s membership, including the list of Founding and General Members.



Strengthening governance and management

Aim	
Attain the highest possible governance and management performance	Our aim was to ensure that Families Australia is governed and managed to the highest possible standards.
Achievements	
Board oversight	<p>To achieve this aim, we ensured that all Board, Board Sub-committee and Reconciliation Working Group meetings, as well as the Annual General Meeting, were well supported. All legal, financial and contractual requirements and responsibilities were met.</p> <p>The Board met four times during 2018-19. At each meeting the Board received and discussed financial and performance reports from the secretariat and was kept apprised of the Association's compliance with legal and other requirements.</p>
Unqualified financial audit	<p>The Board's Finance and Financial Audit Sub-committee met four times. The Corporate Governance Sub-committee met twice. The Reconciliation Working Group met once. Annex B contains further information about Board meetings and Sub-committees.</p> <p>Families Australia received an unqualified report from the external auditor, RSM Australia, on its 2018-19 financial statements.</p>
Sound financial performance	<p>Families Australia again performed well in terms of income and cash reserves. Please see the accompanying financial statements.</p> <p>All contractual obligations to the Department of Social Services and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission were met.</p>
Flexible working arrangements	<p>Families Australia continued to build a workplace that supported and rewarded excellent performance and maximised family-friendliness for all staff. We maintained a close watch on work health and safety responsibilities and ensured that time was taken to acknowledge achievements as well as assess areas for improvement.</p>

Financial Report

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2019**

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

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FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

BOARD REPORT

Your Board members submit the financial report of Families Australia Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

Board Members

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

Prue Warrilow (Chair)	Anne McLeish OAM
Tricia Murray (Deputy Chair)	Annette Michaux (from 6 March 2019)
Naomi Nicholson (Secretary)	Dr Sue Packer AM
Melinda Crole	Paul Rajan (until 8 October 2018)
Natalie Lewis (from 13 February 2019 to 20 June 2019)	Simon Schrapel AM
Professor Morag McArthur	Richard Weston

Objectives

Short term objectives

Families Australia's strategic goals are to influence Commonwealth policies to improve:

- the safety and wellbeing of children;
- the situation of families at key transition points; and
- the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities, noting that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a fundamental right to practice their culture and to make decisions about their future.

In doing so, Families Australia focuses its policy attention on assisting families who experience vulnerability or marginalisation. Within that frame of reference, Families Australia focuses most attention on the safety and wellbeing of children.

In all its work, Families Australia advocates strongly on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family issues. Families Australia respects the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to preserve and practice their culture and to make decisions about their future.

Long term objective

Vision

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

Objective

Families Australia's objective is to work towards the recognition of, and support for, the social, economic, cultural, spiritual, and developmental needs of families, young people and children in Australian communities, in particular, by relieving the suffering, distress and helplessness of those who experience vulnerability and disadvantage, so as to enhance their physical, social and emotional wellbeing.

This objective will contribute to a united Australia that provides justice and equity for all, in particular, for those who experience vulnerability and disadvantage, and which recognises the fundamental importance of families and the heritage and culture of all Australians, including the original inhabitants, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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

BOARD REPORT (CONTINUED)

Strategy for Achieving the Objectives

To achieve these objectives, Families Australia:

- (a) leads national conversations about the importance and needs of families, and
- (b) works with governments and other stakeholders to identify and bring to fruition policy ideas that maximise family wellbeing, especially amongst families that experience the greatest degree of vulnerability or marginalisation.

Principal activities

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

Significant changes

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

Operating result

The surplus of the Association for the year amounted to \$37,504 (2018: \$37,206).

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



Prue Warrilow

Dated 16 October 2019



Tricia Murray

Dated 16 October 2019

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019	2018
		\$	\$
Revenue	3	995,684	749,241
Administration Costs		(74,106)	(78,816)
Conference and seminar costs		(135,832)	(1,730)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(9,316)	(8,493)
Employee benefits expense		(590,153)	(512,329)
Rent		(44,915)	(34,490)
Publication costs		(53,921)	(33,989)
Other expenses		(49,937)	(42,188)
Surplus before income tax		<u>37,504</u>	<u>37,206</u>
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus attributable to members of the entity		<u>37,504</u>	<u>37,206</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income		<u>37,504</u>	<u>37,206</u>
Total comprehensive income attributable to members		<u><u>37,504</u></u>	<u><u>37,206</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial statement

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	383,640	373,515
Investments	5	507,178	427,068
Trade and other receivables	6	13,922	1,538
Other current assets	7	3,567	8,403
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>908,307</u>	<u>810,524</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	28,905	37,674
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>28,905</u>	<u>37,674</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>937,212</u>	<u>848,198</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	156,685	134,989
Employee benefits	10	146,933	122,533
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>303,618</u>	<u>257,522</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	10	5,414	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>5,414</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>309,032</u>	<u>257,522</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>628,180</u>	<u>590,676</u>
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		628,180	590,676
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>628,180</u>	<u>590,676</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial statement

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Retained surplus	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2017	553,470	553,470
Surplus attributable to members	37,206	37,206
Balance at 30 June 2018	<u>590,676</u>	<u>590,676</u>
Surplus attributable to members	37,504	37,504
Balance at 30 June 2019	<u><u>628,180</u></u>	<u><u>628,180</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial statement

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from customers and operating grants		1,061,686	800,162
Payment to suppliers and employees		(989,195)	(751,920)
Interest received		18,291	19,068
Loss on sale of PPE		-	1,761
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>90,782</u>	<u>69,071</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Proceeds from property plant equipment		-	7,000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(547)	(32,954)
Purchase of investments		(80,110)	(11,331)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(80,657)</u>	<u>(37,285)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		10,125	31,786
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		<u>373,515</u>	<u>341,729</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	4	<u><u>383,640</u></u>	<u><u>373,515</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial statement

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The incorporated association has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

The adoption of these Accounting Standards and Interpretations did not have any significant impact on the financial performance or position of the incorporated association.

The following Accounting Standards and Interpretations are most relevant to the incorporated association:

AASB 9 Financial Instruments

The incorporated association has adopted AASB 9 from 1 July 2018. The standard introduced new classification and measurement models for financial assets. A financial asset shall be measured at amortised cost if it is held within a business model whose objective is to hold assets in order to collect contractual cash flows which arise on specified dates and that are solely principal and interest. A debt investment shall be measured at fair value through other comprehensive income if it is held within a business model whose objective is to both hold assets in order to collect contractual cash flows which arise on specified dates that are solely principal and interest as well as selling the asset on the basis of its fair value. All other financial assets are classified and measured at fair value through profit or loss unless the entity makes an irrevocable election on initial recognition to present gains and losses on equity instruments (that are not held-for-trading or contingent consideration recognised in a business combination) in other comprehensive income ('OCI'). Despite these requirements, a financial asset may be irrevocably designated as measured at fair value through profit or loss to reduce the effect of, or eliminate, an accounting mismatch. For financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss, the standard requires the portion of the change in fair value that relates to the entity's own credit risk to be presented in OCI (unless it would create an accounting mismatch). New simpler hedge accounting requirements are intended to more closely align the accounting treatment with the risk management activities of the entity. New impairment requirements use an 'expected credit loss' ('ECL') model to recognise an allowance. Impairment is measured using a 12-month ECL method unless the credit risk on a financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition in which case the lifetime ECL method is adopted. For receivables, a simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance is available.

Impact of adoption

AASB 9 was adopted using the modified retrospective approach and as such comparatives have not been restated. There was no impact on opening retained profits as at 1 July 2018.

Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB'), the Australian Capital Territory legislation the *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and associated regulations, as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the incorporated association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 2.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

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) Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the incorporated association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in the incorporated association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

c) Impairment of non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use. The value-in-use is the present value of the estimated future cash flows relating to the asset using a pre-tax discount rate specific to the asset or cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Assets that do not have independent cash flows are grouped together to form a cash-generating unit.

d) Fair value measurement

When an asset or liability, financial or non-financial, is measured at fair value for recognition or disclosure purposes, the fair value is based on the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date; and assumes that the transaction will take place either: in the principal market; or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

Fair value is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming they act in their economic best interests. For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement is based on its highest and best use. Valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, are used, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

e) Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and other similar taxes

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included in other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the ATO, are presented as operating cash flows.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

e) Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and other similar taxes (continued)

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority.

NOTE 2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Estimation of useful lives of assets

The incorporated association determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Impairment of non-financial assets other than goodwill and other indefinite life intangible assets

The incorporated association assesses impairment of non-financial assets other than goodwill and other indefinite life intangible assets at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the incorporated association and to the particular asset that may lead to impairment. If an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. This involves fair value less costs of disposal or value-in-use calculations, which incorporate a number of key estimates and assumptions.

Employee benefits provision

As discussed in note 1, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
NOTE 3: REVENUE		
Operating activities:		
Subsidies and Grant	722,667	714,583
Member subscriptions	10,628	15,201
Conference Registration/Sponsorship	238,060	-
Other Operating Revenue	6,038	389
Interest received	18,291	19,068
	995,684	749,241
	995,684	749,241

Accounting policy

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

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

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

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

Government Grant 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.

NOTE 4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash at bank	383,582	373,223
Cash on hand	58	292
	383,640	373,515
	383,640	373,515

Accounting policy

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.

NOTE 5. INVESTMENTS

Term deposits	507,178	427,068
	507,178	427,068

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
NOTE 6. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Trade debtors	10,771	100
Accrued interest	3,151	1,438
	13,922	1,538

Accounting policy

Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses.

NOTE 7. OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

Prepayments	3,567	8,403
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NOTE 8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Computer Equipment

At cost	10,985	11,883
Accumulated depreciation	(8,479)	(7,812)
	2,506	4,071

Motor Vehicles

At cost	26,128	26,128
Accumulated depreciation	(8,424)	(2,545)
	17,704	23,583

Office equipment

At cost	25,122	24,575
Accumulated depreciation	(16,427)	(14,555)
	8,695	10,020

Total Property, Plant and Equipment

	28,905	37,674
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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
	\$	\$	\$	\$
2018				
Balance at the beginning of year	2,802	10,029	9,143	21,974
Additions	2,951	26,128	3,875	32,954
Disposal	-	(8,761)	-	(8,761)
Depreciation expense	(1,682)	(3,813)	(2,998)	(8,493)
Carrying amount at the end of year	4,071	23,583	10,020	37,674
2019				
Balance at the beginning of year	4,071	23,583	10,020	37,674
Additions	-	-	547	547
Depreciation expense	(1,565)	(5,879)	(1,872)	(9,316)
Carrying amount at the end of year	2,506	17,704	8,695	28,905

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

NOTE 8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

Accounting policy

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

Plant and equipment

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

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

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

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

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and capitalised lease assets, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

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

<i>Class of fixed asset</i>	<i>Depreciation rate</i>	<i>Depreciation basis</i>
Office equipment	10 - 20%	Straight line
Computer equipment	25 - 33%	Diminishing value
Motor vehicles	22.5%	Diminishing value

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

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

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

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
NOTE 9. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Unsecured liabilities:		
Trade payables	30,955	2,586
Sundry accruals and payables	25,645	35,403
Grant funding in advance and unexpended grants	100,085	97,000
	<u>156,685</u>	<u>134,989</u>

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

NOTE 9. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES (CONTINUED)

Accounting policy

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the incorporated association prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
NOTE 10. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
CURRENT		
Annual leave Liability	55,572	35,486
Long Service leave liability	91,361	87,047
	<u>146,933</u>	<u>122,533</u>
NON-CURRENT		
Long service leave liability	<u>5,414</u>	<u>-</u>

Accounting policy

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. These cash flows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows.

NOTE 11. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL DISCLOSURE

Compensation

The aggregate compensation made to officers and other members of key management personnel of the incorporated association is set out below:

Aggregate compensation	<u>210,019</u>	<u>205,467</u>
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NOTE 12. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

Auditing or reviewing financial reports	<u>10,250</u>	<u>9,950</u>
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NOTE 13. COMMITMENTS

Operating Lease Commitments

Payable – minimum lease payments		
Not later than 12 months	39,919	38,476
Between 12 months and 5 years	6,693	46,612
	<u>46,612</u>	<u>85,088</u>

New lease was signed for the new premises for a three-year period with effect from 1 September 2017. The operating lease commitments shown relate to this lease. The property lease is a non-cancellable lease with a three-year term, with rent payable monthly in advance.

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

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

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

NOTE 13. COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

Accounting policy

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE 14. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The incorporated association had no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2018.

NOTE 15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Key management personnel

Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in note 11.

Transactions with related parties

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

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

Receivable from and payable to related parties

There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Loans to/from related parties

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

NOTE 16. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2019 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the incorporated association's operations, the results of those operations, or the incorporated association's state of affairs in future financial years.

NOTE 17. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

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

NOTE 18. ASSOCIATION DETAILS

Principal place of business is:

Families Australia Incorporated

Suite 2, Level 4

24 Brisbane Ave

Barton ACT 2600

FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
ABN 21 830 960 225

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

In the opinion of the Board the financial report as set out on pages 25 to 36:

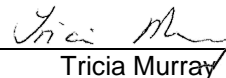
1. the attached financial statements and notes comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the Australian Capital Territory legislation the *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.
2. the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the incorporated association's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
3. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Families Australia Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



Prue Warrilow

Dated 16 October 2019



Tricia Murray

Dated 16 October 2019

RSM Australia Pty Ltd

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AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

As lead auditor for the audit of the financial report of the Families Australia Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2019, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

RSM Australia Pty Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ged Stenhouse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory
Dated: 16 October 2019

Ged Stenhouse
Director

RSM Australia Pty Ltd

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
FAMILIES AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Families Australia Incorporated (“the entity”), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the Board.

In our opinion, the financial report of Families Australia Incorporated has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity’s financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

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

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

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

The Management of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and *Associations Incorporation Act (ACT) 1991* for such internal control as the management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Management is responsible for assessing entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

RSM Australia Pty Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Stenhouse', written over a horizontal line.

Ged Stenhouse
Director

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory
Dated: 16 October 2019

Annex A: Members

At 30 June 2019 Families Australia had 805 Members, comprising three Founding Members, 23 General Members, and 779 Associate Members.

Founding Members

- Australian Foster Care Association
- Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia
- SNAICC – National Voice for our Children

General Members

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation
- Alliance for Forgotten Australians
- Anglicare Australia
- Australian Community Children's Services
- Australian Council on Children and the Media
- Barnardos
- Blue Knot Foundation
- CREATE Foundation
- Daniel Morcombe Foundation
- Family and Relationship Services Australia
- Family Inclusion Network Australia Inc
- Grandparents Australia Inc.
- Key Assets
- MYAN Australia
- NAPCAN
- Playgroup Australia
- Public Health Association of Australia
- Relationships Australia National
- School of Human Services and Social Work Griffith University
- The Alannah and Madeline Foundation
- The Benevolent Society
- UnitingCare Australia
- YMCA Australia

Annex B: Board meetings

In 2018-19 the Board held four face-to-face meetings. Board members provided feedback on Board meetings at the conclusion of each meeting. Meeting attendance is set out in the following table.

Board Member	Meetings of the Board		Meetings of Sub-committees					
	Held	Attended	Reconciliation Working Group		Finance & Financial Audit		Corporate Governance	
			Held	Attended	Held	Attended	Held	Attended
Prue Warrilow (Chair)	4	3	1	1			2	1
Tricia Murray (Deputy Chair)	4	4			4	4	2	2
Naomi Nicholson (Secretary)	4	3					2	1
Melinda Crole	4	3			2	2		
Natalie Lewis (from 13 February 2019 to 20 June 2019)	2	1	1	0				
Professor Morag McArthur	4	3						
Anne McLeish OAM	4	2						
Annette Michaux (from 6 March 2019)	1	1						
Dr Sue Packer AM (Public Officer)	4	3						
Paul Rajan (until 8 October 2018)	2	2			2	2		
Simon Schrapel AM	4	4					2	2
Richard Weston	4	4	1	1			2	1

*During 2018-19, the position on the Board allocated to SNAICC - National Voice for our Children under the Families Australia *Constitution* (Clause 11(3)(b)) remained vacant until 13 February 2019. A Co-opted Board member position (see Clause 11(3)(d)) also remained vacant.

The Board has established a Reconciliation Working Group, a Corporate Governance Sub-committee and a Finance and Financial Audit Sub-committee. In 2018-19, the members of the Reconciliation Working Group and Sub-committees were as follows:

Reconciliation Working Group

- Prue Warrilow (Convenor)
- Natalie Lewis (from 13 February 2019 to 20 June 2019)
- Richard Weston

Corporate Governance Sub-committee

- Prue Warrilow (Convenor)
- Tricia Murray
- Naomi Nicholson
- Simon Schrapel AM
- Richard Weston

Finance and Financial Audit Sub-committee

- Tricia Murray (Convenor)
- Melinda Crole (from 11 February 2019)
- Paul Rajan (until 8 October 2018)

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