



Disabled Children's Foundation – Presidents Annual Report 2016

Our Mission Statement is “Dedicated to enhancing the lives of children with disabilities”

Since our inception in 1997 the Foundation has raised and allocated \$2,533,769 to those who required our financial assistance. We are extremely proud of the support we have been able to give to those organisations who provide vital services and expertise to their members and families of disabled children.

The last two years has seen a growth in the diversity of various organisations supported by the Disabled Children's Foundation. Their programmes provide learning daily living skills, specialised equipment, specialised therapy, modified recreational activities, social inclusion, and respite care.

Feedback from our evaluation protocols and discussions with our program partners show the Foundation funds directly affect approx. 4000 disabled children per week. Even though we connect to many children and special groups through our financial assistance our work and efforts still cannot meet the demands.

The raising of funds to meet the wide range of requests for help has been a challenge to the Board and our staff. The continual effort that is required to meet the demands of our financial assistance stretches the stamina and resolve of the organisation.

Disabled Children's Foundation has forged links with a number of service orientated groups working together to create a stronger voice within the community. This includes the Indigenous young people's program for isolated disabled children run by the Red Dust Healers, WADSA the Western Australian Disabled Sports Association, RDAWA the Riding for the Disabled Association of Western Australia and Parents of Children with Special Needs Inc – T/as Kalparrin.

The Disabled Children's Foundation is also incorporated in New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia. Funds raised in these States are allocated to projects within that State. Our funding has been varied but includes organisations such as, The Disability Trust's Kids Fund, Life Education NSW, Amputee Association of Sydney Inc, NSW Wheelchair Sports (Junior Wheelies), Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association Queensland and the Riding for the Disabled Associations.

Fundraising is very difficult in the current climate. As an organisation we have to be innovative and relevant to our stakeholders and donors to raise the monies we need to meet our commitments to the disabled community. Feedback from the community shows there is a great deal of confusion and uncertainty regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme and its impact in the short and long term. We have been working towards our future planning for the fundraising landscape over the next 10 to 15 years. There are regular updates to our Website and our involvement in social media with Face Book has heightened our awareness in the general community.



Whilst it is not possible for Disabled Children's Foundation to meet all the requests for financial support, during the past two years from July 2014 to July 2016 we have funded various organisations allocating \$404,486. This is not just the provision of grants but is a collaborative program and alliance. It is our goal to work with the entity on their bigger picture needs and requirements. This can vary from providing a bus for use by Special Education Support Schools to the Foundation offering to write Grant Submissions (for various RDA Centres and Woolkabunning Kiaka Inc.) and teach volunteers the requirements to do so. The Foundation is working with WADSA to promote growth in rural areas to enhance programs of inclusion for disabled children.

As an organisation we raise money in the public arena to meet the growing needs of children with disabilities. In doing so the Board recognise the need to keep costs as low as possible. The Foundation engages in an annual audit, along with complying with the requirements of the Department of Racing and Gaming, and pass scrutiny from our stakeholders and donors alike that monies raised are used in a responsible manner. One of the ways we achieve this outcome is the paradigm and commitment from the Board and our staff. The staff of the Foundation have been our backbone and the essence of who we are. I cannot thank them enough for their hard work, effort and dedication.

Our future is the alliances fostered over many years with our stakeholders and donors, working together as the catalyst for a range of synergies with other organisations catering to the welfare of disabled children. We share information, we combine efforts to help each other not only in the quest to raise much needed funds but also to provide the necessary services in this sector.

Clifford J Rickard JP
President
Disabled Children's Foundation Inc.