



Autism
QUEENSLAND Inc.

45TH ANNUAL REPORT

of the Board of Management
and Financial Statements for 2009



In Memoriam – Professor John Rendle-Short

Born in England on 29 June 1919, Professor Rendle-Short moved from his home in Sheffield to Australia in 1961. During that same year he was appointed Head of Child Health at the University of Queensland, a position he held for the following 24 years.

Professor Rendle-Short was instrumental in the establishment of what is now Autism Queensland. He was both a founding member and a life member. During the 1970's, he published two text books on children's diseases and several journal articles on Autism. His pioneering research into the importance of early childhood Autism diagnosis was praised around the world. He is credited with improving the lives of thousands of families by enhancing the community's understanding of the condition.

Professor Rendle-Short retired to Buderim in the late 80s. He past away peacefully on 21 January in Toowoomba at the Salem Lutheran Rest Home aged 90.

Autism Queensland Inc is a lead Queensland agency in the provision of targeted services to people with Autism and their families

Vision

A life of choice and opportunity for people living with Autism

Mission

To be a highly effective facilitator of quality outcomes that significantly enhance the lives of people with Autism

Key Drivers



Patron:	Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO Governor of Queensland
President:	Dr Robert van Barneveld
1st Vice President:	Mrs Helen Steinhardt
2nd Vice President:	Dr Roslyn Dick
Honorary Secretary:	Mr Peter Marer
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr Gordon Dickson
Board Members:	Mrs Lesley Palmer Mr John Kenny Mr Lindsay McNeill
Chief Executive Officer:	Mrs Penny Beeston
Honorary Life Members:	Mr Ian Anderson Miss Margaret Outridge Mr John Lee Ms Helen McBride Mr Bruce Fay AM Emeritus Professor John Rendle-Short AM, MA, MD, (Cantab), FRCP, DCH (Deceased)
Life Member:	Mr Paul Burton
Auditors:	Hacketts Chartered Accountants
Solicitors:	Clayton Utz



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Dr Robert van Barneveld
President, Board of Management



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A CULTURE OF INNOVATION

From a Board of Management perspective, I would say Autism Queensland is thriving, expanding and delivering. In her review of 2009, our CEO, Penny Beeston, summarises many of the activities and achievements of the organisation over the past 5 years. Our annual budget has almost doubled in that period, approaching nearly \$13 million in 2010, we have new Centres in Rockhampton and Cairns, and the profile of the organisation has grown exponentially. Most notably, Autism Queensland is the named charity for the 2010 Sunday Mail Suncorp Bridge to Brisbane fun run. The services we offer have never been greater and there are always plans for further development.

Using Member surveys as a guide, parents of past and present students at our schools and recipients of any combination of respite or therapy services are very satisfied with the assistance they receive from Autism Queensland. Further to that, regional Centres now have improved access to Autism Queensland's services and for the first time there seems to be some genuine satisfaction that there is access to assistance in areas outside Brisbane.

Our staff are testament to the fact that it is difficult to do more. Penny and her team are some of the most dedicated individuals in the workforce today, are passionate about their cause and operate well above the remit of their employment. We are very fortunate to have so many caring people working on behalf of individuals and families living with ASD.

From the above perspectives, we could sit back and say that Autism Queensland is doing enough, but there are many others for whom the answer would be; more services are desperately needed.

Despite our growth and investment in service delivery, we can only accommodate 140 students in our schools at any one time – this addresses only a fraction of the need if Autism affects one in every 160 children. For parents who are just embarking on their journey with Autism, the lack of immediate access to early intervention programs or school placements is frustrating and discouraging, and there are still many who live beyond the reach of Brisbane, Rockhampton and Cairns.

In a changing environment, Government resources are under increasing demand and organisations like Autism Queensland need to secure funds from a wider variety of sources if they are to maintain and grow their service delivery. One of my biggest errors of judgement was assuming that the fundraising market in Australia was exhausted and that Autism Queensland would be better



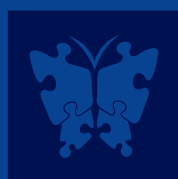
placed directing its attention elsewhere to source funds – I am happy to say I have been overwhelmed with the partnerships Autism Queensland has developed with the community in recent years and the generosity of some individuals and companies that now fund many of our new initiatives. Maintenance of these partnerships and relationships will be critical to our success going forward. There is also the fact that the cost of doing business continues to increase and Australia has an aging population. This means there will be even greater pressure on the younger generations to support a larger number of dependents, and individuals with a disability will potentially become even more of a minority despite increasing in number. This will further increase competition for resources.

Because Autism Queensland is a dynamic organisation with an eye to the future, a culture of innovation and a willingness to cooperate if it means getting the job done, we will continue to deliver and make a positive difference to the lives of people living with ASD.

Dr Robert van Barneveld
President, Board of Management



Penny Beeston
Chief Executive Officer



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Reflection of 2009

2009 was a challenge for organisations, small and large across the globe as we each navigated through the global financial crisis.

Autism Queensland shared the trepidation of all not-for-profit organisations about the impact such a crisis would have on the capacity of individuals, businesses and Governments to provide vital funds that underpin our service delivery.

At the outset the Board of Management and Senior Management team at Autism Queensland identified ways in which the organisation would navigate through this challenge.

Good governance, good management and committed staff ensured we were able to navigate 2009 without a reduction in Services, and in fact our support base grew in spite of the financial crisis.

As our economy emerges from the challenges of 2009, our supporters indicate a renewed energy and commitment to Autism Queensland, and the tangible outcomes we deliver on a daily basis throughout Queensland.

Support in a challenging year

We are particularly grateful in 2009 to all of our supporters, and I want to take the opportunity to thank a number of key supporters in 2009:

The **John Villiers Trust Fund** whose financial support of the past few years came to fruition when we opened the newly refurbished John Villiers Centre of Excellence in

Rockhampton. We deliver EarlyAQtion Early Intervention Programs from this Centre.

McMurtrie Consulting provided pro bono professional services throughout this project. **North Rockhampton Rotary Club and South Rockhampton Rotarians** were front and centre in supporting this project with enormous amounts of tangible support provided in club members own time.

Network 10 provided us with significant support throughout 2009 and having the backing of a major media provider helped us to raise community awareness about Autism and to promote our Services. Channel 10 continues to support us in 2010 and we are very appreciative of their ongoing relationship with Autism Queensland.

In 2009 **Clayton Utz** continued to support Autism Queensland with pro bono support in relation to issues around changes in Legislation and areas of Governance.

The **Sunnybank Community and Sports Club** committed significant funding towards our Kidstart programs for three years and we are thrilled to develop a closer relationship with this community organisation. The club also partnered with **Variety Queensland** to deliver our Respite service with a people mover to enable access to community activities for those who are having a break with us in one of our Respite houses.

Our Centre of Excellence in Far North Queensland commenced delivering EarlyAQtion programs in 2009 but was immediately at capacity due to the restricted size of a refurbished preschool centre.

Karl and Felicity Maxa, whose son, Ben attends our program in Cairns, own a construction company, **Maxa Constructions**. Karl and Felicity engaged the support of the construction industry and community in Cairns and built a second building on site so that we could provide more programs to children with Autism.

The **Stamford Plaza** also came on board as a supporter of Autism Queensland and hosted our highly successful Riverfire Gala Dinner in September 2009.

Strategic Outcomes 2005 – 2010 Report on the five year cycle

2010 marks the final year in a five year Strategic Plan and the platform for the next five years.

Before I speak about the Strategic Planning strategy for 2011 – 2014 I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the journey this organisation has been on over the past five years.

- Regional growth through new Centres of Excellence in Central and Far North Queensland.
- Growing commitment to Regional Outreach in spite of an annual funding deficit in this critical area because of the supplementary nature of the funding from Government.
- New and flexible programs in our two schools, the only schools in Queensland to deliver Autism-specific programs to children with a diagnosis.
- Early Intervention programs, offered by this organisation for over 40 years, have evolved into our EarlyAQtion programs which are delivered in our schools as well as in our Regional Centres of Excellence.
- Clinic and Kidstart programs for young children with Autism and these services continue to develop.
- Training services are in more demand than ever by professionals and parents, and their training calendar reflects this rate of growth.
- The Helping Children with Autism initiative saw the roll-out of teacher and parent training by the consortium that won the national tender for this program. Autism Queensland's training team has delivered these training programs throughout Queensland in addition to delivering its own training events.
- Autism Queensland moved to become a Registered Training Organisation and this has engaged the organisation in an area of current and future focus – adolescents and young adults with Autism.
- In 2008 Research at Autism Queensland was formalised with the introduction of a Research position, filled by Dr Jill Ashburner. The past two years have seen the beginnings of extensive research frameworks to support the ongoing professional development of our Teachers and Therapists.
- Fundraising has undergone significant development in the past year and it is gearing up for major growth with a view to providing much needed funding for Services.
- Our collaborative practice has kept pace with our growth and the organisation is engaged with local providers across Queensland as well as nationally.
- The Helping Children with Autism funding initiative of the Federal Government in late 2008 saw Autism Queensland identified as the Queensland provider of the National Autism Advisor Program. This program is the gateway for all parents of newly diagnosed children with Autism to access information about Services and Supports available to them in their communities.

Autism Queensland has Autism Advisors located in Cairns, Rockhampton, Brighton and Sunnybank and they provide State-wide coverage.

In 2008 in its annual review of the strategic plan, Autism Queensland identified three key drivers that underpin our Vision and Mission. These are:



These drivers will continue to guide the organisation as it develops its plan for the next five year period.

Preparing for Strategic Plan 2011 – 2014

Throughout 2010 Autism Queensland will be laying the groundwork for a new five year plan to commence in 2011. We will be rolling out a stakeholder engagement program throughout the year to obtain wide input into the direction the organisation takes moving forward.

Members will participate in a Member Survey which we anticipate will occur midway through 2010.

The organisation has doubled in the previous five years and the next five years will be even more important in ensuring we are delivering quality services to Queenslanders living with Autism.

We could not achieve these outcomes without the support and guidance of our Board of Management who volunteer their time and energy to Autism Queensland.

We rely on the generosity of a broad range of supporters including individuals, small and large business, community, corporations, Trusts and Foundations. And we acknowledge and thank Local, State and Federal Governments for their belief in our programs and for the funds to deliver these across the state.

Our team at Autism Queensland is committed, energetic and professional and without them we would not be the remarkable organisation we are – providing the highest quality education, therapy, support, accommodation and training services to improve the lives of individuals living with Autism.

Penny Beeston
Chief Executive Officer



SERVICES OVERVIEW



Autism Queensland provides education, therapy, support and training services to people with Autism, their families and those working with them.

Services currently provided by Autism Queensland include:

Family Support Services

Family Support Services provides individual support to families and adult clients through advocacy, referral, liaison, information and general support. The team also arranges support groups (for families of people with Autism), sibling programs and camps, parenting courses, mothers' camps and an adult recreation group.

Outreach Services

Teachers and therapists from the Outreach Services Team visit schools (or other education settings such as kindergartens) throughout most of Queensland to provide information, advice, support and individualised strategies to parents, staff and other key professionals.

Accredited, Independent Autism Specific Schools

Autism Queensland's schools provide a range of group placement options for school age children. Our students are grouped according to age, ability and needs with a maximum of six students per group. Students are supported throughout their placement utilising a multi-disciplinary team including teachers, teacher aides, social workers, psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists. Attendance is part-time, for up to two years. Currently our schools have options for one, two and three day per week placements. These placements cater for students between the ages of Prep and 18 years.

Our schools are located at Brighton, on Brisbane's northside, and at Sunnybank Hills on the southside.

Home AQtion Programs

This is a short term program offered by Autism Queensland to assist families with issues at home which impact participation at school. Programs are facilitated by a teacher from one of our schools. These programs are individually tailored to suit each family's needs and may occur either in the home or in one of our Centres.

EarlyAQtion Early Intervention Services

Autism Queensland provides a range of Early Intervention services for young children with Autism through EarlyAQtion Central Queensland and EarlyAQtion Far North Queensland. The Central Queensland service operates from a base in Rockhampton and the Far North Queensland service operates from a base in Cairns. Services include Group Placement programs, Play and Learn programs and Outreach programs.

Autism Queensland's schools also provide Early Intervention group placement options for children below school age.

Individual Programs

Individual Programs tailored to the needs of the person with Autism, the person's family, the educational setting and/or other support services are provided. These programs are available to children throughout most of Queensland.

These programs are unsubsidised, however some children may be eligible for Helping Children with Autism Early Intervention Funding to cover all or part of the cost of the program.

Autism Advisor Program

Autism Advisors assess the eligibility for the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) Early Intervention Funding Package. They provide advice and information to families about Early Intervention services and other related community and support services for young children with Autism and their families.

Autism Spectrum Disorder Therapy Clinic

Autism Queensland operates a clinic providing speech pathology and occupational therapy. The clinic is staffed by speech pathologists and occupational therapists who have experience working with children with Autism. The clinic is located in Brisbane.

Respite Services

Autism Queensland provides two Centre based respite services for overnight and weekend respite. Autism Queensland also provides school holiday programs on both the north and south sides of Brisbane. These school holiday programs are offered during the Christmas holidays and one other holiday period throughout the year.

Support Groups

Autism Queensland facilitates 25 support groups in the local community across the state. These groups provide vital support for parents and families with individuals with Autism. These groups meet on a monthly basis and are a great source of local information for families. These groups provide a vital link to Autism Queensland and the services that are offered.

Accommodation Services

Through our Adult Accommodation Services, Autism Queensland provides support for people to live in the community. Currently there are eight houses across the Brisbane region. Autism Queensland also provides Community Access programs which are tailored to suit individuals.

Professional Learning and Development Services

The Professional Learning and Development Team provides a range of seminars, practical workshops and courses across Queensland. Autism Queensland is also able to offer fully customised workshops and seminars to suit your specific needs as well as extended consultation sessions and individualised programs if requested.



Registered Training Organisation

Autism Queensland is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) through the Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts delivering nationally accredited training programs to professionals working with people with Autism and directly to people with Autism.

Research and Development

Autism Queensland has established a number of research programs in collaboration with local universities investigating a range of issues pertaining to therapy and education programs for children and youth with Autism. The Research and Development Team is also responsible for the collation and critical review of the evidence that underpins our service delivery and assists with the supervision of Autism research projects of PhD and Masters Students from local universities. Autism Queensland also supports Autism research by informing our clients of research projects requiring participants.

Fundraising

Autism Queensland is a not-for-profit organisation. Autism Queensland relies on donations to assist in the delivery of services and supports to people with Autism and their families. The support from the community makes a vital contribution to the cost of specialist staff and equipment and the provision of services to people with Autism.

SCHOOLS REPORT

BRIGHTON AND SUNNYBANK



Brighton School – Principal: Amra Bazdar
Sunnybank School – Principal: Jandee Laidlaw

Early Intervention Programs – Centre Based



Changing perceptions

Further development of discipline specific mentoring groups within the schools, and across the wider organisation for professional sharing and development, has led to work beginning on the next step for this internal research program. Foundations are set for the establishment of a Professional Practice Panel to be facilitated by Autism Queensland's Principal Research and Development Officer, Dr Jill Ashburner.

Advocacy continued to be a priority and area of strength for teachers and group therapists, with results from data collected by staff indicating that at least 80% of hours dedicated to outreach support from the schools being centred on the provision of expert advice on the ASD related needs and issues affecting students, their families and mainstream teachers. The school based psychologist and social worker further develops this area of expertise to improve case management for students and or families where needed.

Throughout 2009, the schools continued their working relationships with local and overseas tertiary institutions. The schools hosted Occupational Therapy and Psychology

students from the University of Queensland, four students through the QUT Service Learning Program, two international students through the Bachelor Programme in Social Education from the VIA University College in Denmark, two work experience students, one from St Thomas More College and the other San Sisto College .

The schools continued to offer Field Based Practicum's for professional education related staff to attend between 1-5 days at either of the School's. Requests for programs were continual throughout the year with professional visitors from Brisbane and across regional Queensland.

For a second year, funding through Independent Schools Queensland's Literacy Numeracy & Special Learning Needs (LNSLN) Programme has supported the assessment of all school age students' literacy levels upon entry to either school. This information is used to enhance the planning and implementation of appropriate teaching and therapy programs and set specific literacy based Individual Education Plan (IEP) goals. Assessment upon conclusion of placements is demonstrating that the schools' focus on literacy development across the Autism Queensland curriculum is directly improving student outcomes.

Brighton School was involved in Independent Schools Queensland's 'Working Together Project'. The project investigated effective behaviour strategies to enhance the learning environment for all students. The project was a chance to identify and highlight the strategies used in Autism Queensland Schools which could be shared with other independent schools and provided staff involved, a valuable opportunity to share stories which ultimately lead back to supporting learning and positive outcomes.

Staff attended the Australia Pacific Autism Conference (APAC) held in Sydney. Of particular interest was the use of video modelling for skills development, involvement in the 'Secret Agent Society' research into a multi-component (software) social skills intervention for students with Aspergers, and ICT initiatives including student accessible blogs, wiki's and websites for interactive forums. The Sunnybank School is currently designing invitation only private websites which include a blog, work galleries and a wiki facility for students, Autism Queensland and 'home school' staff to access. It is envisaged that such tools will enhance endeavours to regularly and purposefully communicate with parents, external professionals, and home schools for program development, progress and curriculum sharing across sites.

Enhancing Choice

The schools renegotiated their service agreement with Education Queensland for the coming 3 years. This process is lengthy and detailed but ensures that the schools' services remain current and valued by its stakeholders.

Autism Queensland's schools operate as accredited independent schools. In 2009 the Schools were successful in their application for the inclusion of Prep programs. 2010 will see the Schools moving towards the provision of Prep group placements.

The response for early intervention services (Centre based) continues to grow. The additional groups at both Schools were well supported throughout 2009 and have continued into 2010. These programs are approved panel provider services and therefore families have been able to use the federal funding through the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) initiative to access early intervention (Centre based) placements as well as early school aged group placement options.

Autism Queensland's pilot program known as Tech Ed will continue into 2010, with students enrolled for 2009 having submitted their portfolios for assessment for a Certificate 1 in Information Technology.

Reporting formats and procedures for school aged services were reviewed and amended to follow national reporting guidelines using the A-E codes. Individual Education Plan (IEP) formats were also reviewed to better inform stakeholders of the Autism specific methodologies used for programming and teaching. Work has also begun and will continue into 2010, with regard to clearer processes for the sharing of the curriculum (key learning areas) across student's home schools and Autism Queensland's program.

The school's internal staff exchange program continued across the year, with three of the School's teachers accompanying Autism Queensland's Outreach and Training Regional Consultancy teams on four trips.

HomeAQtion continued to be a popular option for families struggling with home based educational issues which may not necessarily need the longer term commitment and support of a group placement at either of the schools.



Creating Opportunities

Both schools were recipients of varying government funding in 2009. The major grants received included: 'School Pride' funding; Building Education Revolution (BER) funding; Secondary School Computer funding; and Brisbane City Council Community Grant.

These funds have seen both schools make significant improvements in their physical environment. Brighton was painted internally and externally, as well as some of the classrooms floors were replaced. Sunnybank had their classroom floors replaced, new shade structures installed, and new fencing and painting.

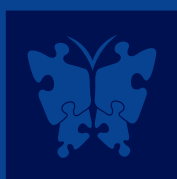
Both schools will be using the Building Education Revolution funding for additional special needs classrooms and related facilities to provide much needed space for specialised programs. The works have commenced at each site and are expected to be finalised by July 2010.

Schools continue close collaboration with student's alternative educational placements, known as 'home schools'. Annual feedback surveys are provided to all 'home schools' and parents for the cohort of students enrolled and encourage honest anonymous feedback. Every year these results provide an invaluable source of information and ideas for further improvements, strengthening of relationships, and opportunities to provide more effective and targeted services.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

INCLUDING:

Outreach Services, Training Services, Kidstart Programs, Autism Spectrum Disorder Therapy Clinic and Autism Advisor Program



Manager: Frances Scodellaro

Outreach Services

2534 parent, teacher, other professional and support staff contacts were made through the Information and Support Line

411 schools were visited at the following locations:

Greater Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Roma and region, St George and region, Goondiwindi and region, Townsville and region, Warwick/ Stanthorpe and region, Cairns/Tablelands/Johnstone and region, Gladstone/Biloela and region, Rockhampton and region, Gympie and region, Mackay/Bowen/Proserpine and region, Maryborough/Hervey Bay and region, Bundaberg and region, Chinchilla/Tara/Dalby and region, Kingaroy and region, Emerald and region, Longreach and region, Barcaldine and region

Training Services

Special Events:

- Beyond Behaviour Regional Symposium on Autism Spectrum Disorders in Townsville
- Managing Challenging Behaviour in Brisbane

Locations visited for Autism Queensland 2009

Workshops:

Brisbane, Gold Coast, Gladstone, Caboolture, Mackay, Townsville, Rockhampton, Gympie, Toowoomba



Changing perceptions

Training

- Autism Queensland continues to be committed to delivering a major professional development and information event in regional Queensland each year. In November 2009 the Regional Symposium on Autism Spectrum Disorder: Beyond Behaviour was held in Townsville. The symposium provided a forum to raise awareness, improve networking and encourage collaboration across support agencies, families and individuals to improve outcomes for people with Autism and their families. A range of topics were covered including managing anxiety and stress, creating positive learning environments, transitioning to high school, social skills and employment. Key note speakers Professor Tony Attwood (Clinical Psychologist and Professor, Griffith University) and Dr Kate Sofronoff (Clinical Psychologist, School of Psychology, University of Queensland), delivered highly informative and engaging presentations together with a wide array of presentations from Queensland based services providers, parents and people with ASD.
- A second major training event, Managing Challenging Behaviour, was held in Brisbane on 11 September. This event brought together keynote speaker Dr Kim Meyer, Director of Research for the Centre of Excellence for Behaviour Support, University of Queensland and a range of speakers from education and disability backgrounds to discuss, explore and challenge our understanding of challenging behaviour. Speakers proposed a range of strategies and solutions to address the issue of challenging behaviour and most importantly support a better quality of life for individuals displaying challenging behaviour and those around them.

Advocacy

- Autism Queensland's multidisciplinary Outreach Team visited over 800 students with Autism in kindergartens and schools across Queensland in the State, Catholic and Independent sectors to provide information and support. One of the aims of the Outreach Service is to improve understanding of Autism and the impact it may have on the student in the education setting. Through this understanding schools are able to develop strategies to facilitate the best possible educational and personal outcomes for the student.

- During 2009 Autism Queensland's Outreach, Training and Autism Advisor Teams participated in a wide range of Professional Network Meetings, Forums and other events to raise awareness of autism and build capacity within the community to support people with Autism.



Enhancing Choice

Services Responses

- Autism Queensland has continued to develop and expand the range of Early Intervention Service Delivery Models offered in response to demand for flexible options and choice. In addition to Centre-based Early Intervention Programs available through Autism Queensland's Sunnybank Hills, Brighton, Rockhampton and Cairns Centres, Autism Queensland also provided Kidstart Programs on an outreach basis and therapy programs through the ASD Therapy Clinic. These programs have continued to develop and evolve to meet the many and varied needs of children with Autism and their families. Kidstart Programs have been particularly popular options for families seeking home-based support including some families in regional areas and families of very young children. They have also been popular with parents/carers seeking transition support for their child on entry to a range of early childhood settings and schools.
- After a very busy start late in 2008, the Queensland Autism Advisor Program (AAP) completed its first full year of operation during 2009. There are now 5 Autism Advisors and an Autism Advisor Team Leader located across Queensland. It is the role of the Autism Advisor to provide information to the families of children with Autism about their options for Early Intervention programs and other support.
- The Autism Queensland training team continued to look at new and innovative models of providing information and education. During 2009 a new series of practical, hands-on workshops were trialed including Picture Perfect – Make and Take Visual Supports and Changing Grooves – Designing, Making and Using Sensory Supports. The student course, It's All About Me – Understanding Me and My Asperger's is a group program for adolescents with Asperger Syndrome to assist the adolescent to develop an understanding of their diagnosis. In response to feedback this course was initially trialled at Autism Queensland in 2008, however in 2009 the course was made available to schools and delivered in the school setting.

Regional Responses

- During 2009 Autism Queensland's multidisciplinary Outreach Team visited 20 regions outside Brisbane at least once and in many regions more than one trip was made to that region. The Outreach team liaised regularly with local advisory groups in these regions and while in the regions attended Parent Support Group meetings and initiated Professional Network Meetings. In maintaining these close links with regions the team has been aware of issues, new initiatives, services and supports specific to each region.
- A comprehensive calendar of workshops, seminars and special events for 2009 was inclusive of a range of major regional centres and smaller regional centres such as Gympie.
- In addition to the delivery of outreach Early Intervention support through Autism Queensland's EarlyAQtion Centres in Rockhampton and Cairns, Autism Queensland delivered Kidstart Outreach programs to other regional areas through 2009.
- During 2009 Autism Queensland's Training Team developed 70 Individualised Training Models and facilitated 19 Individual Programs in regions across Queensland including Hervey Bay, Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, Toowoomba, Roma, Laidley, Warwick, Mt Isa, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Cairns.



Creating Opportunities

Service Responses

- The Outreach, Training and Kidstart Teams utilised a range of alternative service delivery options in regional areas to increase opportunities to access a service including teleconferencing, forums, parent education programs, etc.

Collaboration

- During 2009 collaboration with government and non-government agencies and parent groups was integral to the planning and delivery of the Outreach, Training and Advisor Services. Throughout the year teams established communication networks and processes to support this collaborative process through initiatives such as Local Regional Advisory Groups, Professional Network Groups and Working Parties. Networking and collaboration at a National level has been facilitated by the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) initiative.

THE JOHN VILLIERS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

The EarlyAQtion Team in Central Queensland have been very patient, working out of a leased premises in Gracemere for over 18 months whilst the community hall purchased with funds from The John Villiers Trust Fund was refurbished.

The building was officially opened in October by Darvell Hutchinson from The John Villiers Trust Fund and the Hon. Robert Swarten, Minister for Public Works, Information and Communication Technology and State Member for Rockhampton.

The event was a celebration of the new service and of the rebirth of a much loved community hall.



Changing perceptions

The community came to the opening of the new Centre and learned more about children with Autism and their

needs. In a regional community it is essential to engage with the community and the support received throughout the refurbishment project from the North Rockhampton Rotarians and South Rockhampton Rotarians was wonderful.



Enhancing Choice

Commencement of the Helping Children with Autism package, enables families to access federal funding to make up shortfall between state funding received and the actual cost of the program, plus access to a range of workshops, and assistance via Medicare.

As part of this package, an Autism Advisor for the Central Queensland area was appointed, which improves families' ability to be aware of and access relevant support services.



Creating Opportunities

Two classes are now underway in the beautiful new building, as well as Play and Learn playgroups on a regular basis.

In addition the team undertakes outreach programs throughout Central Queensland.

Successful Community Benefit Fund application, will provide shade sails over all areas of the playground. This will mean that the playground can be used throughout the year at any time of day, rather than limiting its usage due to extreme heat and sun exposure.

Thanks goes to the team members in Rockhampton who have continued to deliver the highest quality Education and Therapy to children with Autism and their families in Central Queensland.





THE CENTRE
WAS OFFICIALLY
OPENED IN
OCTOBER 2009

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND



The EarlyAQtion Team in Far North Queensland had a very successful 2009 with Outreach and Centre based programs being delivered to young children with Autism.

Teachers and therapists participated in outreach visits throughout the Region.



Changing perceptions

The EarlyAQtion group held a number of awareness raising and fundraising events throughout 2009 to engage with the community. All of these were well supported and enjoyed by participants.

Media coverage of the commencement of a second building on site, through the generosity of Karl and Felicity Maxa of

Maxa Constructions, brought a great deal of publicity and awareness to the EarlyAQtion program in November and December. The new building will be opening in 2010.



Enhancing Choice

Commencement of the Helping Children with Autism package, which allows families to access federal funding to make up shortfall between state funding received and the actual cost of the program, plus access to a range of workshops, and assistance via Medicare

As part of this package, an Autism Advisor for the Far North Queensland area was appointed, which improves families' ability to be aware of and access relevant support services



Creating Opportunities

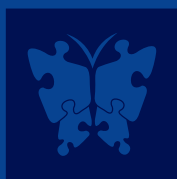
In 2009 the EarlyAQtion Team in Far North Queensland moved into a refurbished preschool at Edmonton in Cairns. This provided them with the facilities to deliver Centre based programs, while continuing to deliver Outreach programs to areas throughout Far North Queensland.



CAIRNS HELPS KIDS WITH AUTISM



DISABILITY SERVICES



Manager: Glenda Watkins



Enhancing Choice

2009 was a busy year for the clients and staff in Disability Services. The new Restrictive Practices Legislation brought about by the Carter Report is reshaping Queensland's Disability Services Sector and is having a significant impact on the cost of service provision.

Autism Queensland has been working collaboratively with the Department of Communities (Disability Services) and the Centre of Excellence at the University of Queensland Ipswich Campus. We are working to build best practice models of care that support people with a cognitive disability and challenging behaviours and to ensure that these quality practises are implemented in our services. The focus of the project across all Service Providers is on implementing Positive Behaviour Support Plans with input from clients, family, staff and health professionals to bring about a reduction in any restrictive practices and enhance the positive aspects of a person's life by providing them with control over their physical and social environment. This body of work is undertaken throughout the state by all disability service providers.

Autism Queensland's Adult Accommodation Services has six houses supporting fifteen adults. Lifestyle Support Workers assist individuals to develop their skills, abilities,

interests and passions and support them to participate in their local community. On most weekends you will find clients attending BBQs, going to the movies and markets, swimming, bush walking and everyone's favourite, coffee and cake, at the local café.

Autism Queensland has two respite services:

- Birralee at Sunnybank, which is open on weekends for children with Autism. This service supports 40 families on a roster basis. The children make great use of the pool and playground at the Sunnybank School and sometimes visit local attractions.
- The house at Oxley provides support for people with a disability, with challenging behaviours and complex needs. This service is open seven days a week. Although it can be very demanding, the staff are committed to creating an environment at respite that is enjoyable so families of our clients can have the break they need to recharge their batteries. At Oxley we support 48 individuals.

Autism Queensland was extremely lucky this year in securing funds from Variety Queensland and the Sunnybank Community and Sports Club to purchase a much needed new vehicle to provide transport for our respite clients. We are now the very proud and grateful owners of a new Toyota Tarago Van.

The Holiday Program in 2009 was again well supported at Brighton and Sunnybank. In the June holidays there were 60 children attending both sites and at Christmas there were 70 children. As always there was a waiting list for cancellations. The September program (for the older children) was a week long camping trip to Tallebudgera Creek on the Gold Coast, which was attended by eleven teenagers. This proved to be a very successful camp.

During 2009 the Family Support team travelled throughout the state visiting Regional Support Groups and attending their meetings. The Google Group for parents of children with Autism is again going strong. This group now has 208 members and is a good support network for families. It is also proving to be a useful tool for families of newly diagnosed children for information as to "where to from here". The Family Support Team also facilitates local support groups, Care for Caring Parents, Mums camps, Dads days, Siblings groups and Siblings outings and the MyTime playgroup as well as face to face meetings and phone counselling.



Creating Opportunities

During 2009 Autism Queensland actively sought funding to provide accommodation, respite and day services. Autism Queensland has a strong commitment to provide these services to people in metropolitan and regional areas and we will continue to seek Government funding to develop these services. Autism Queensland's Computer Club had another successful year. The club runs to capacity every week for adolescents and young adults. This year was a combination of computer and movie club. The members of this group brought about this change as they recognised they had another common interest which fits with the aims of the computer club:

- To socialise and act independently
- Improve communication skills
- Increase independent access to the community
- Encourage members to increase independence and develop relationships outside the family unit
- Participate in appropriate group discussions
- Provide opportunities to access public transport independently
- Explore and expand other interests and facilitate greater choice of activities

The Adult Rec Group was again well attended this year. The group met every second Friday night at a variety of places throughout Brisbane, including clubs, restaurants, karaoke, movies and markets. The members of this group are well skilled at negotiating their way around Brisbane independently, accessing different community venues

and enhancing their social life and social skills in a semi-structured environment. A major goal of the group is to socialise and meet independently in the community.



Changing perceptions

Disability Services staff attended training opportunities throughout 2009. Support workers attended Autism specific workshops relevant to their roles including workshops with Professor Tony Attwood and Restrictive Practice Training at the Centre of Excellence Ipswich.

Disability Services has forged ongoing partnerships with a variety of organisations and government departments. These partnerships enable Autism Queensland to support clients to then link into the community enhancing their options to live a life of choice and opportunity.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Principal Research and Development

Officer: Dr Jill Ashburner

Autism Queensland aims to develop and support research that will enhance the potential of individuals with ASD to achieve valued life outcomes and improve the quality of life of people with Autism and their families.

Current Autism Queensland Research Programs

The following Autism Queensland research programs will add to our understanding of ASD and the effectiveness of current interventions:

- The study *'Auditory processing and classroom educational, behavioural and emotional outcomes in children with autism spectrum disorder'* is progressing. This study will explore the associations between the auditory processing (the way that sounds are interpreted) of children with ASD and their academic performance, attention and social skills in the classroom. We have now finalised the research design, gained ethical clearance and approval to conduct the research in some schools and will be working on data collection for this study during 2010. This research is being conducted in collaboration with a team of academics from the University of Queensland including Dr Wayne Wilson from the Division of Audiology, Associate Professor Jenny Ziviani from the Division of Occupational Therapy, Dr Kate Sofronoff from the School of Psychology and Dr. Wendy Arnott from the Division of Speech Pathology.
- During 2009, the Research and Development team commenced a study on *'Current Practices, Training and Professional Development Needs of Occupational Therapists who Provide Services to People with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Queensland'* which was funded by the Occupational Therapists Board of Queensland. A series of focus groups comprising occupational therapy practitioners, supervisors of occupational therapists and academics provided information about current issues with regard to services for people with Autism and their families. A survey has been distributed to all registrants of the Occupational Therapy Board of Queensland in order to determine current approaches, levels of confidence and training needs in this area. The results of this survey are currently being analysed. The findings will inform training institutions and service organisations about the training and professional development required to support the delivery of high quality occupational therapy services to people with ASD and their families. This research is being conducted in collaboration with Professor Sylvia Rodger (Head of the Occupational Therapy Division) and Associate Professor Jenny Ziviani from the University of Queensland School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.
- In late 2009, we were successful in gaining a second research grant from the Occupational Therapists Board of Queensland for an action research project on *'Developing an Integrated Professional Development Program: Evidence-based Occupational Therapy for People with Autism Spectrum Disorders'*. The professional development course will be based on the findings of our state-wide survey of the training needs of Queensland occupational therapists with regard to Autism. This study will also be conducted in collaboration with Professor Sylvia Rodger (Head of the Occupational Therapy Division) and Associate Professor Jenny Ziviani from the University of Queensland School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. It is anticipated that this project will lead to the development of high-quality professional development programs for occupational therapists and the subsequent enhancement of occupational therapy services provided to people with Autism and their families in Queensland.

Strengthening links with the broader Autism research community and local universities

- **Supporting Autism research:** The Research and Development team regularly supports research that promises to inform future directions of services for individuals with Autism by advertising their projects to potential participants. All projects are screened to ensure that they have appropriate ethical clearance and that they are consistent with Autism Queensland's goals and principles. People with ASD or their families who are interested in participating in this research should consult the Autism Queensland website for details.
- **Support to undergraduate and post-graduate education regarding services for people with Autism:** The Principal Research and Development Officer is currently co-supervising three higher degree research students (PhD, Masters and Honours students) in collaboration with the University of Queensland on a range of topics including: (a) the experiences of adolescents with ASD and their families of exclusion from mainstream education; (b) the post-school transitioning for young people with ASD, and (c) the sensory experiences of adolescents with ASD. The Principal Research and Development Officer also presented a lecture and tutorial on occupational therapy for children with autism spectrum disorders to University of Queensland occupational therapy students in August.
- **Publications and conference presentations:** During 2009, the Principal Research and Development Officer presented current research findings at a range of state and national conferences, including presentations on sensory processing in people with ASD at: (a) the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care Conference in September, and (b) Zi Mei seminar on OT Practice for School-Aged Children: A Real World Approach on November, and presentations on the introduction of keyboarding to children with ASD who have difficulty handwriting at: (a) the Asia Pacific Autism Conference in August; (b) the OT Australia Queensland State Conference in November; (c) the Department of Training and Development Seminar for teachers, therapists, and nurses in September, and (d) a Queensland Health state-wide video-conference in November. In late 2009, the Principal Research and Development Officer was commissioned by OT Australia to write a section on sensory processing in children with ASD for the OT Australia online modules on children with autism, which will go online early 2010. The Principal

Research and Development Officer was the first author for an article published in the journal *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*, titled *Surviving in the mainstream: Capacity of children with autism spectrum disorders to perform academically and regulate their emotions and behaviour at school* (Ashburner, Ziviani & Rodger, 2010).

- **Support for Proposed National Autism Spectrum Disorders Register:** During 2009, the Principle Research and Development Officer attended two workshops consultations organised by Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in Canberra to discuss a proposal for a National Autism Spectrum Disorders Register and searched for and provided literature to the project officer involved in preparing the proposal. She was also responsible for initial consultations and collation of feedback from Queensland stakeholders including Queensland Health paediatricians, private paediatricians, the Department of Communities and the Department of Education and Training for the National Autism Register Steering Committee. Additionally, she provided feedback on the draft proposal for a National Autism Spectrum Disorders Register on behalf of Autism Queensland.

Promotion of evidence-based practice at Autism Queensland

During 2009, the Research and Development team conducted literature searches on over 200 different topics to support Autism Queensland programs and the discipline-specific professional mentoring groups at Autism Queensland.

In enhancing the evidence-based practice skills of Autism Queensland's staff, latest information on evidence-based practice principles was presented to Autism Queensland's professional staff. In addition, the Principal Research and Development Officer prepared and presented a review of literature underpinning (a) Autism Queensland's current approaches; (b) contemporary influences on services for people with disabilities, and (c) outcome measures to evaluate program effectiveness to Autism Queensland's professional staff.

REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATION



Restructured RTO

Autism Queensland trading as Autism Australia is the trading name for Autism Queensland's Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

2009 was a steep learning curve for the RTO. The completion of the funded Skilling Queenslanders for Work Program has provided enormous amounts of information with which we have undertaken an extensive review of all aspects of the RTO's operations.

Outcomes for participants have been consistently very good, however, observations from final outcomes indicated the need for the development of a new structure and delivery model.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work was delivered by Autism Australia in Brisbane and Cairns.

Thomas Collett was one of Autism Queensland's first graduates of our Work for Life Program, a program which



enables him to further develop his administration and IT skills. For the past 18 years, Autism Queensland has assisted Thomas and his family. Thomas is now part of the Autism Queensland family currently completing a traineeship which he started in 2009. This program will prepare Tom for entry into open employment with a Statutory Authority.

"Autism Queensland will continue to be an invaluable part of Thomas's life and well being. As a family our heartfelt gratitude goes to Autism Queensland for the continuing support we have received."

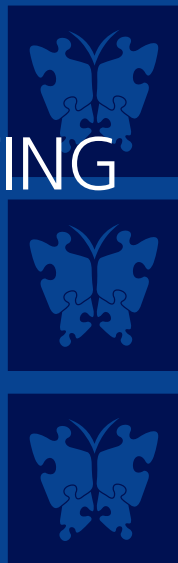
Wayne & Josephine Collett, parents of Thomas (20)





DELIVERING THE WORK FOR LIFE PROGRAM

FUNDRAISING AND MARKETING



Manager: Paula Davidson

In 2009, Autism Queensland took measures to recruit a new Manager, Fundraising and Marketing, to implement a sustainable structure and strategy in order to increase profile and revenue throughout Queensland. The underlying vision of the ever growing Fundraising and Marketing team is to develop a commitment to internal and external philanthropy that results in community impact gifts that make an overall impact on Autism Queensland's community and business operation's services.

In 2009 Autism Queensland received donations and sponsorships from individuals, trust and foundations, corporations and community groups. This income has allowed for the expansion of quality services across the state.

With an emphasis on marketing and community awareness, 2009 saw the creative redesign of various aspects of our website, now more interactive and engaging for both

clients and sponsors, online applications were designed to be user friendly such as become a volunteer and register for an event. As a result, our active volunteer database grew giving us more hands and personnel which in turn allowed us to plan larger scale events.

The 2009 special events calendar introduced a new program of events, ranging from community and family days to extravagant gala dinners. All events were well attended and sponsors have re-signed partnerships for the 2010 events program. We thank all our donors and the community for taking part in our new events.

With the establishment of many strong and fruitful corporate partnerships, Autism Queensland took our largest annual state-wide fundraising and marketing campaign to a new level, running community service announcements on television and radio with the help of media partners, Network 10, encouraging not only schools but corporate businesses to Dress Differently on Dress Differently Day. As a result 2009 saw an increase of participating schools and more corporates challenging their employees to Dress Differently for the cause.

After delivering services to children with Autism in Queensland for over forty years, Autism Queensland launched it's first legacy program surrounding bequests and deferred gifts. The new program provides many donors with the opportunity to make a contribution to this highly respected organisation that continues to serve people living with Autism throughout Queensland..

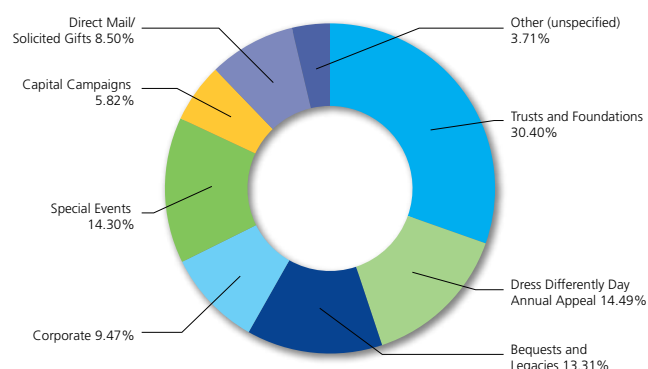
2009 saw an increase in income from trusts and foundations to expand services and upgrade therapy equipment across Queensland.

With the hit of the global financial crisis in 2009 Autism Queensland felt the GFC impact on fundraising income; however we were pleased to see an increase in volunteers. When surveyed it became evident that future donors wanted to explore opportunities and get to know our





Fundraising in 2009



organisation first hand through volunteering. We would like to acknowledge and thank the 120 new volunteers who became active in 2009.

2009 was a busy year for capital campaigns. Not only did we have an existing capital campaign in Rockhampton but October saw the creation of a second capital campaign in Cairns as our existing Far North Queensland Centre of Excellence doubled its size in just eight weeks. We thank the Cairns Community and in particular Maxa Constructions and the Cairns building community for getting behind this project and allowing us to expand our services in this area of need.

The Fundraising and Marketing team believe that irrespective of financial fluctuations donors have become more loyal and dedicated to the outcomes Autism Queensland delivers on a daily basis and with a full fundraising and marketing program for 2010 we will see another year of successes. On behalf of all of us who work at Autism Queensland, we thank all our supporters for their generosity.



2009 SUPPORTERS



thanks  seriously CLAYTON UTZ

The Hart Family
Perpetual Trust

Kevin Seymour



Australian Government
Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Estate of the late
James Sharkey



JUPITERS CASINO COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND



Gambling
Community Benefit Fund
Queensland Government



ansvar
insurance



Rockhampton
Rotary North



Funded by



*Autism Queensland appreciates the support of all donors, contributors and sponsors.
The above listed contributors gave more than \$10,000 throughout 2009.*



IMAGINE THE
DIFFERENCE YOU
ARE MAKING

HUMAN RESOURCES



Manager: Alison Geale

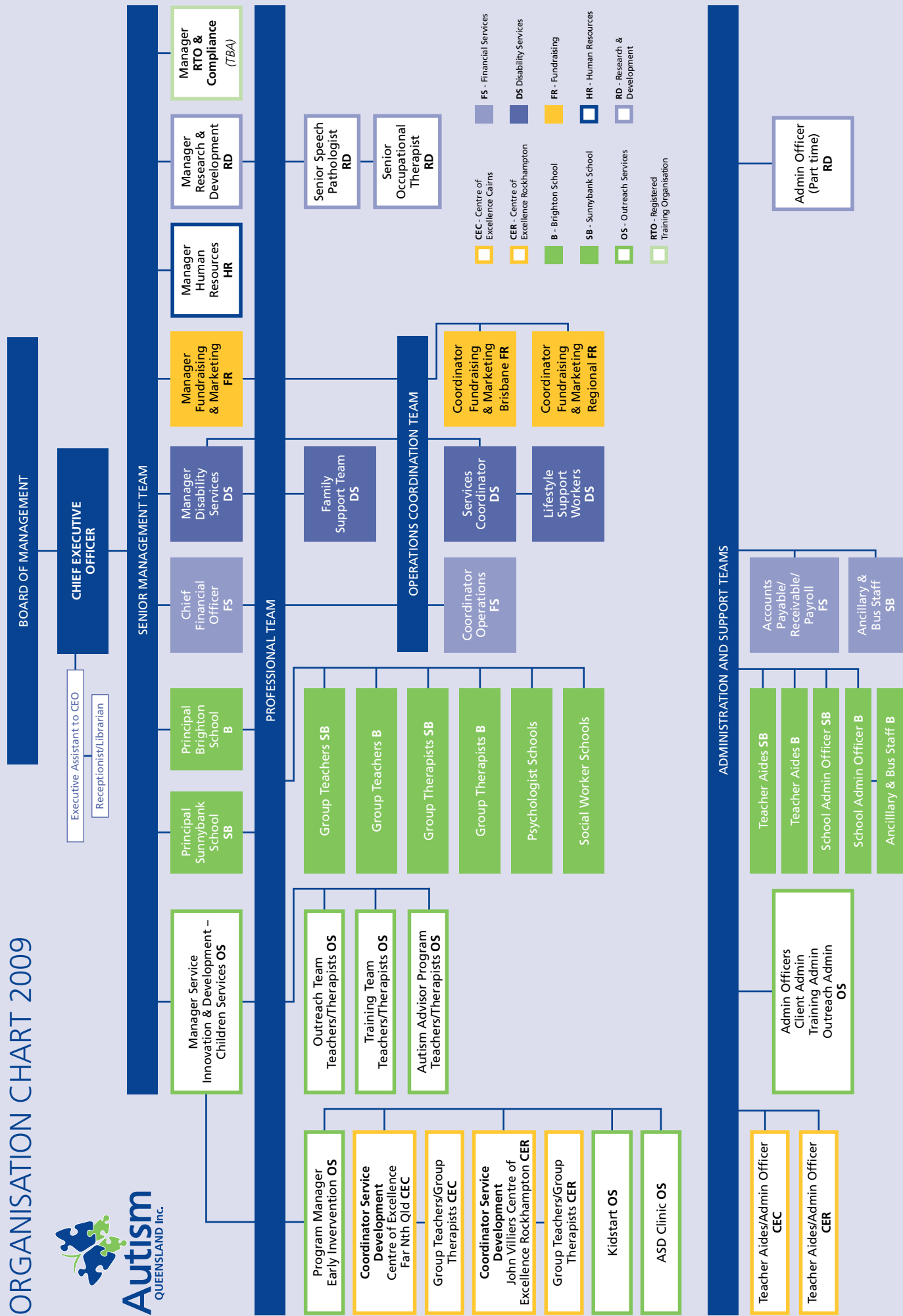
In our Mission to be a highly effective facilitator of quality outcomes that significantly enhance the lives of people with Autism, Autism Queensland's employees are one of our greatest assets. Every day, the dedication, skill and professionalism of our workforce is applied to a variety of tasks with the end goal to achieve a life of choice and opportunity for people living with Autism. We are now a team of one hundred and ninety, comprised of: teachers and teacher aides; allied health professionals and therapy assistants; lifestyle support workers; professional learning facilitators and trainers; financial services, fundraising and marketing professionals; administration and research and development assistants; bus drivers and escorts; cleaners and gardeners; coordinators and managers. The work of our front line staff is challenging – even exhausting. But the rewards are great. The privilege of seeing individuals grow and achieve, and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of families and whole communities means the work we do is so much more than just a job.

As our client numbers and their needs grow and change, so too must our workforce and the way we organise and manage our teams. For the Human Resources office, this meant organisational planning and development, recruitment, selection and learning and development were high on the agenda in 2009. The annual Team Appreciation Day in January provided a wonderful opportunity for many new starters to join colleagues in celebrating their tenth, twentieth and twenty-fifth Autism Queensland anniversaries!



For a growing organisation in a highly competitive labour market, the task of Human Resources is to determine what it is that enables us to attract and retain the kind of wonderfully talented and committed but diverse range of people we so value. The answer is a variety of things, of course. At the heart though, must be the ability to offer something more than a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. To be a part of Autism Queensland is to be a part of something special. It's that "something special" which causes Outreach and Training teams to leave their homes and travel long and dusty roads across Queensland. It's that something special which keeps teachers enthusiastically recognising and encouraging incremental steps in the development of a child with Autism. It's that something special which sees Early Intervention teams, Autism Advisors and Family Support teams working with newly diagnosed children and their families and management and fundraising working creatively and doggedly sourcing and stretching resources to meet needs. It's something special that sees our lifestyle support workers spending their Christmas Day and other significant days supporting individuals with Autism to live valued lives in their community. It's something special that we see in all our teams across the organisation and what makes that something special even greater, is the opportunity to share and enjoy it with each other throughout the year. In 2009, Autism Queensland's Human Resources were - and indeed remain - one of our greatest assets.

ORGANISATION CHART 2009



SUPPORT GROUPS



Ayr ASD Support Group

Contact: Anita Julyan
Phone: 07 4782 1123
Email: anitajulyan@bigpond.com

Bowen ASD Support Group

Contact: Nadia Todd
Phone: 07 4786 5587 / 0406 409 148
Email: rantodd@hotmail.com

Brighton ASD Support Group

Contact: Caitlin Harrington
Phone: 07 3273 0000
Email: caitlin.harrington@autismqld.com.au

Bundaberg ASD Support Group

Contact: Norelle Kasberger
Phone: 07 4155 1683 / 0437 538 929
Email: bundabergsg@autismqld.com.au

Cairns ASD Support Group

Contact: Jenny / Brigitte / Natalie
Phone: 0488 578 735
Email: cairnsasg@gmail.com
Website: www.casg.org.au

Emerald ASD Support Group

Contact: Jenny Finlay
Phone: 4982 4734
Email: borillakindy@aapt.net.au

Gladstone ASD Support Group

Contact: Dorothy Lewis-Heselwood & Marieka Holmes
Phone: 07 4975 7208 / 0411 150 424 (Dorothy)
07 4979 2995 / 0409 149 981 (Marieka)
Email: nelcros@skymesh.com.au

Gold Coast ASD Support Group

Contact: Helen Steinhardt
Phone: 5559 1747 / 0417 700 190
Email: goldcoastsg@autismqld.com.au

Innisfail ASD Support Group

Contact: Joanne Ross & Julie French
Phone: 07 4061 6000
Email: Jross70@eq.edu.au / julie@csci.org.au

Mackay ASD Support Group

Contact: Debbie Brooker or Lois Reck
Phone: 07 4942 3458 / 07 4954 7900
Email: mackaysg@autismqld.com.au

Maryborough ASD Support Group

Contact: Tarah Munro
Phone: 0428 883 488
Email: maryboroughsg@autismqld.com.a

Moranbah ASD Support Group (Coalfields)

Contact: Deanne Catelan
Phone: 0418 715 257
Email: coalfieldssg@autismqld.com.au

North Qld ASD Support Group (Townsville)

Contact: Gwyneth Cutler
Phone: 07 4774 0637
Email: northqueenslandsg@autismqld.com.au

Redlands ASD Support Group (Cleveland)

Contact: Alice Corcoran
Phone: 07 3286 5053
Email: cacorcoran@bigpond.com



Rockhampton ASD Support Group

Contact: Laurene Carswell

Phone: 07 4921 1952

Email: rockhamptonsg@autismqld.com.au

Stanthorpe ASD Support Group

Contact: Jo Anderson

Phone: 07 4681 5111 / 0439 887 461

South Burnett ASD Support Group (Kingaroy)

Contact: Jenny Lutz

Phone: 041 641 002 / 0410 588 641

Email: jlutz@bne.catholic.edu.au

Sunnybank Hills ASD Support Group

Contact: Shannon O'Brien

Phone: 07 3273 0000

Email: Fst2@autismqld.com.au

Sunnybank Hills Parents of Adults with ASD Support Group

Contact: Shannon O'Brien

Phone: 07 3273 0000

Email: Fst2@autismqld.com.au

Sunshine Coast ASD Support Group

Contact: Robyn Lehmann-Rhodes

Phone: 07 5309 5077 / 0400 887 359

Email: Rob_ash@optusnet.com.au

(The Gap) ASD Carer's Support Group

Contact: Desley Green

Phone: 07 3300 3407

Email: Desley.green@internode.on.net

Toowoomba ASD Support Group

Contact: Janet Jarvis

Phone: 07 4632 8922 / 0408 873 203

Email: jjarvis@carersqld.asn.au

Tully ASD Support Group

Contact: Joanne Ross

Phone: 0438 688 693

Email: Jross70@eq.edu.au

Warwick ASD Support Group

Contact: Chris Allison

Phone: 07 4632 8922 / 0417 716 872

Email: callison@carersqld.asn.a

Yeppoon ASD Support Group

Contact: Terrie Reaney & Belinda Lindel

Phone: 0419 700 379 / 07 4921 4486 / 07 4939 8508

Email: Ga.jones@optusnet.com.au
yeppoonsg@autismqld.com.au

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TREASURER'S REPORT 2009



Prepared with the assistance of Chief Financial Officer, Kim Bell

The final deficit for the organisation as at 31 December 2009 was \$12,202, which was an excellent result considering the global financial crisis which was experienced in 2009.

Revenue

The total revenue for 2009 was \$10,831,608 which was an increase of \$576,449 compared to 2008.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was \$11,308,567 compared to \$10,304,956 for the previous year.

Assets

Total Assets increased by \$1,548,214 to \$10,173,892.

Liabilities

Total Liabilities increased by \$1,557,001 to \$4,312,708.

Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities

An amount of \$922,403 in cash was generated during the year ended 31st December 2009. It is important to note that during 2009, a total of \$1,859,925 was spent in acquisition of capital assets such as Rockhampton building, development and finalisation of Cairns building, and various furniture and equipment.

Summary

2009 marked a year of financial uncertainty; however, Autism Queensland still experienced a growth year with the number of employees reaching 200.

The organisation celebrated the official opening of The John Villiers Centre of Excellence in Rockhampton with funding from the John Villiers Trust Fund, Disability Services and a bank loan to complete the refurbishment which enabled delivery of service from the Centre.

Fundraising is an area of focus within the organisation and a new team was established in 2009 to raise the profile of Autism Queensland. To support the services of the organisation a major aim is to raise funds beyond those provided by Government.

Autism Queensland remains committed to delivering Outreach programs into all schools throughout Queensland however this program receives only supplementary funding and as a result incurs an annual operations deficit of several hundred thousand dollars which the organisation must raise through its fundraising activities and events.

The Association continues to grow and improve its operations through effective governance, risk management and improvement of its quality services. The Board of Management and staff are committed to continuing to provide high quality services and to identifying strategic revenue opportunities.

An audited financial report of Autism Queensland Inc. is attached.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all staff for their commitment and dedication in ensuring that high quality services continue to be provided to people with Autism and their families plus acknowledge their achievement of such a financial result in this past year of uncertainty.

Gordon Dickson
Treasurer

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
INCOME			
Subsidies received		8,585,598	8,524,638
Clinic services		179,750	–
Program fees		139,771	–
Interest received		12,635	34,799
Dividends received		1,125	2,120
Fundraising activities		351,465	258,935
Subsidies – capital items		260,962	280,047
Membership fees		44,058	25,333
Rent received		10,800	–
Levies		575,091	412,738
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		(2,348)	79,580
TEACCH		–	226,970
Professional workshops		527,745	266,882
Sundry income		144,956	143,117
		<u>10,831,608</u>	<u>10,255,159</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Adult services		2,992,596	3,020,138
Children's services		4,316,730	3,825,075
Fundraising - general		416,867	223,299
Fundraising – capital subsidies		30,546	–
Membership		29,046	14,765
Outreach services		1,879,203	1,422,790
Administration		1,027,318	1,048,648
TEACCH		–	186,703
Training		238,631	256,898
Depreciation and amortisation	2	308,232	256,279
Finance costs	2	69,398	50,361
		<u>11,308,567</u>	<u>10,304,956</u>
Profit/(Loss) before donation from John Villiers Trust		<u>(476,959)</u>	<u>(49,797)</u>
Donation for Regional Services – John Villiers Trust		464,757	28,250
PROFIT/(LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAX		<u>(12,202)</u>	<u>(21,547)</u>
Income tax expense		–	–
PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR		<u>(12,202)</u>	<u>(21,547)</u>
PROFIT/(LOSS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS		<u>(12,202)</u>	<u>(21,547)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Profit/(Loss) for the year		(12,202)	(21,547)
Other Comprehensive Income after income tax			
Net gain on revaluation of financial assets		<u>3,415</u>	<u>(26,987)</u>
Other Comprehensive Income for the year, net of tax		<u>3,415</u>	<u>(26,987)</u>
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		<u>(8,787)</u>	<u>(48,534)</u>
Total Comprehensive Income attributable to members of the association		<u>(8,787)</u>	<u>(48,534)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		132,798	124,586
Trade and Other Receivables	3	323,062	285,587
Inventory	4	68,156	7,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>524,016</u>	<u>417,173</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	5	9,551,894	8,114,367
Trade and Other Receivables	3	–	4,162
Financial assets	6	97,982	89,976
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>9,649,876</u>	<u>8,208,505</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>10,173,892</u>	<u>8,625,678</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	7	1,764,766	1,101,569
Financial liabilities	8	675,028	377,899
Provisions	9	337,839	636,912
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>2,777,633</u>	<u>2,116,380</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Financial liabilities	8	952,200	415,413
Provisions	9	582,875	223,913
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,535,075</u>	<u>639,326</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>4,312,708</u>	<u>2,755,707</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>5,861,184</u>	<u>5,869,971</u>
MEMBERS FUNDS	10		
Accumulated funds		1,360,920	1,373,122
Revaluation reserve		4,500,264	4,496,849
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>5,861,184</u>	<u>5,869,971</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Retained Earnings \$	Revaluation Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 January 2008	1,394,669	4,523,836	5,918,505
Profit/(Loss) attributed to members	(21,547)	–	(21,547)
Total Other Comprehensive Income for the year	–	(26,987)	(26,987)
Balance as at 31 December 2008	1,373,122	4,496,849	5,869,971
Profit/(Loss) attributable to members	(12,202)	–	(12,202)
Total Other Comprehensive Income for the year	–	3,415	3,415
Balance as at 31 December 2009	1,360,920	4,500,264	5,861,184

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Subsidies received		9,444,158	9,556,502
Payments to suppliers and employees		(10,333,174)	(10,963,172)
Received from fundraising		346,465	258,935
Other proceeds		1,056,960	1,077,160
Donation for regional services		464,757	28,250
Interest received		12,635	34,799
Interest paid		(69,398)	(50,361)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	13(b)	<u>922,403</u>	<u>(57,887)</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Payments for investments		–	–
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(1,859,925)	(823,748)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		111,818	340,000
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		<u>(1,748,107)</u>	<u>(483,748)</u>
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Proceeds from borrowings		640,000	–
Repayment of borrowings		(62,230)	(164,022)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		<u>577,770</u>	<u>(164,022)</u>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		<u>(247,934)</u>	<u>(705,657)</u>
Opening Cash Brought Forward		<u>(154,575)</u>	551,082
Closing Cash Carried Forward	13(a)	<u>(402,509)</u>	<u>(154,575)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations and the Associations Incorporation Act Queensland.

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

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

The following material accounting policies which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Income Tax

The Association is exempt from the payment of Income Tax under the provision of Division 50 of the Income Tax Act.

Government Subsidies

Subsidies are received from both the Commonwealth and State Government. Subsidies received for specific capital items are disclosed separately in the Income Statement. Other subsidies being for operating expenses are treated as revenue and included in the operating result for the year to which they relate.

Fixed Assets

Freehold land and buildings are measured on a fair value basis. At each reporting date, the value of each asset in these classes is reviewed to ensure that it does not differ materially from the asset's fair value at that date. Where necessary, the asset is re-valued to reflect its fair value. Any surplus on revaluation is credited direct to the asset revaluation reserve.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The assets are depreciated at the following rates:-

Buildings	40 years straight line basis
Motor vehicles	7 years straight line basis
Furniture and equipment	4–10 years straight line basis

Leased Assets

Leases are classified at their inception as either operating or finance leases based on the economic substance of the agreement so as to reflect the risks and benefits incidental to ownership

Operating Leases

The minimum lease payments of operating leases, where the lessor effectively retains substantially all of the risks and benefits of ownership of the leased item, are recognised as an expense on a straight line basis.

Finance Leases

Leases which effectively transfer substantially all of the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the leased item are capitalised at the present value of the minimum lease payments and disclosed as property, plant and equipment under lease.

NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

A lease liability of equal value is also recognised.

Capitalised leased assets are depreciated over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the assets and the lease term. Minimum lease payments are allocated between interest expense and reduction of the lease liability with the interest expense calculated using the interest rate implicit in the lease and charged directly to the balance sheet.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks, and term deposits which could be readily converted to cash.

Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for employee entitlement benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave.

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and other employee entitlements expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts. All other employee entitlements are measured at their present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Financial instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

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

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

Classification and subsequent measurement

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

Available-for-sale financial assets

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

Available-for-sale financial assets are included in non-current assets, except for those which are expected to be disposed of within 12 months after the end of the reporting period, which will be classified as current assets.

Fair value

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

Impairment

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

NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Adoption of New and Revised Accounting Standards

During the current year, the association has adopted all of the new and revised Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations applicable to its operations which became mandatory

The adoption of these Standards has impacted the recognition, measurement and disclosure of certain transactions. The following is an explanation of the impact the adoption of these Standards and Interpretations has had on the financial statements of Autism Queensland Inc.

AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements

In September 2007, the Australian Accounting Standards Board revised AASB 101, and as a result there have been changes to the presentation and disclosure of certain information within the financial statements. Below is an overview of the key changes and the impact on the association's financial statements.

Disclosure impact

Terminology changes — The revised version of AASB 101 contains a number of terminology changes, including the amendment of the names of the primary financial statements.

Reporting changes in equity — The revised AASB 101 requires all changes in equity arising from transactions with owners in their capacity as owners to be presented separately from non-owner changes in equity. Owner changes in equity are to be presented in the statement of changes in equity, with non-owner changes in equity presented in the statement of comprehensive income. The previous version of AASB 101 required that owner changes in equity and other comprehensive income be presented in the statement of changes in equity.

Statement of comprehensive income — The revised AASB 101 requires all income and expenses to be presented in either one statement — the statement of comprehensive income, or two statements — a separate income statement and a statement of comprehensive income. The previous version of AASB 101 required only the presentation of a single income statement.

The association's financial statements now contain a statement of comprehensive income.

Other comprehensive income — The revised version of AASB 101 introduces the concept of 'other comprehensive income' which comprises of income and expense that are not recognised in profit or loss as required by other Australian Accounting Standards. Items of other comprehensive income are to be disclosed in the statement of comprehensive income. Entities are required to disclose the income tax relating to each component of other comprehensive income. The previous version of AASB 101 did not contain an equivalent concept.

New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods

The AASB has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods and which the association has decided not to early adopt.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Board of Management believe that with the ongoing support of both State and Commonwealth funding the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due and payable, notwithstanding the association's deficiency of net current assets of \$2,253,617 (2008 – \$1,358,504) and the operating deficit of \$12,202 (2008 – Deficit \$21,547)

The nature of recurrent funding for the services delivered by Autism Queensland in receipt of Government funds, specifically the cyclic nature of the funding related to operating two schools results in a deficiency in funding, annually in December.

Included with current liabilities are unexpended grant funds of \$847,799 for which costs will be incurred in the next financial period. Further grant funds of over \$1 million were received in January 2010 together with an agreed bank overdraft limit facility of \$1 million. The Board of Management believe that such financial support will continue to be available.

	2009 \$	2008 \$
NOTE 2 OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS		
Finance costs		
Interest expense	69,398	50,361
Depreciation of non-current assets		
Buildings	117,256	100,529
Furniture and equipment	157,598	125,858
Motor vehicles	33,378	29,892
	<u>308,232</u>	<u>256,279</u>
Employee Benefits Expense		
Wages and salaries	7,940,945	7,197,864
Workers compensation	73,263	74,777
Superannuation costs	682,869	610,322
	<u>8,697,077</u>	<u>7,882,963</u>
<i>Employee benefits are allocated across the services provided as noted in the Income Statement</i>		
The number of employees of the association as at 31 December 2009	<u>191</u>	<u>162</u>
NOTE 3 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Trade debtors	207,847	26,813
Doubtful debts provision	(32,555)	–
	<u>175,292</u>	<u>26,813</u>
Prepayments and deposits held	143,538	152,704
Other debtors	4,232	106,070
	<u>323,062</u>	<u>285,587</u>
Non-Current		
Trade debtors	–	4,162
	<u>–</u>	<u>4,162</u>
NOTE 4 INVENTORY		
Current		
Merchandising stock	68,156	7,000
	<u>68,156</u>	<u>7,000</u>
NOTE 5 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Land at cost	<u>3,110,000</u>	<u>3,110,000</u>
Buildings at cost	5,131,142	3,930,763
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(391,532)	(280,048)
Total written down value of buildings	<u>4,739,610</u>	<u>3,650,715</u>
Property Improvements at cost	230,876	230,876
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(18,698)	(12,926)
Total written down value of property improvements	<u>212,178</u>	<u>217,950</u>

	2009 \$	2008 \$
NOTE 5 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (continued)		
Motor vehicles at cost	208,544	229,448
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(139,875)	(121,327)
Total written down value of motor vehicles	68,669	108,121
Furniture and equipment at cost	2,584,806	2,033,352
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,163,369)	(1,005,771)
Total written down value of furniture and equipment	1,421,437	1,027,581
Promotion film at cost	8,971	8,971
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(8,971)	(8,971)
Total written down value of promotion film	–	–
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	9,551,894	8,114,367
Movement in Non-Current Assets		
Land		
Balance at beginning of the year	3,110,000	3,265,000
Disposals	–	(155,000)
	3,110,000	3,110,000
Buildings		
Balance at beginning of the year	3,650,715	3,639,847
Additions/Reclassification	1,200,379	198,443
Disposals	–	(91,542)
Depreciation	(111,484)	(96,033)
	4,739,610	3,650,715
Property Improvements		
Balance at beginning of the year	217,950	160,170
Additions/Reclassification	–	62,276
Depreciation expense	(5,772)	(4,496)
	212,178	217,950
Motor Vehicles		
Balance at beginning of the year	108,121	76,341
Additions/Reclassification	108,092	61,672
Disposals	(114,166)	–
Depreciation expense	(33,378)	(29,892)
	68,669	108,121
Furniture and Equipment		
Balance at beginning of year	1,027,581	652,083
Additions/Reclassification	551,454	501,356
Depreciation expense	(157,598)	(125,858)
	1,421,437	1,027,581

	2009 \$	2008 \$
NOTE 6 FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Non-Current		
Available for sale financial assets	97,980	89,974
Investment in subsidiary company	2	2
	<u>97,982</u>	<u>89,976</u>

Autism Queensland Inc. controls 100% of the share capital of a company incorporated in Australia, being AQCOM Pty Ltd.

The company did not trade during the year and has not been consolidated into the Autism Queensland Inc. accounts due to the immaterial nature of its transactions.

NOTE 7 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Current		
Trade creditors	151,330	207,774
Other creditors and accruals	765,637	470,387
Subsidies in advance	847,799	423,408
	<u>1,764,766</u>	<u>1,101,569</u>

NOTE 8 FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

Current		
Within one year	<u>675,028</u>	<u>377,899</u>
Non-Current		
One year or later and no later than five years	<u>952,200</u>	<u>415,413</u>
<i>Included with the interest bearing liabilities at the reporting date is the bank overdraft facility with Westpac Banking Corporation.</i>		
WBC bank overdraft	<u>535,307</u>	<u>279,161</u>

In the previous audit period the average floating interest rate for the overdraft was 8.70%.

The bank loans are secured by Bill of Mortgages over the Association's freehold property as follows:

1st Mortgage:	Children's Crisis Care – 121 Jackson Road, Sunnybank Hills	(121 Jackson Road)
1st Mortgage:	Children Respite Residence – 331 Jackson Road, Sunnybank Hills	(Rockhampton)
1st Mortgage:	Therapy Centre – 136 North Road, Brighton	(136 North Road)
2nd Mortgage:	Therapy Centre – 437 Hellawell Road, Sunnybank Hills	(Rockhampton)

NOTE 9 PROVISIONS

Current		
Employee entitlements	<u>337,839</u>	<u>296,212</u>
	<u>337,839</u>	<u>296,212</u>
Non-Current		
Employee entitlements	482,875	464,614
Building provisions	100,000	100,000
	<u>582,875</u>	<u>564,614</u>

	2009 \$	2008 \$
NOTE 10 ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND RESERVES		
Accumulated Funds		
Brought forward at beginning of year	1,373,122	1,394,669
(Deficit)/Surplus for year	(12,202)	(21,547)
Prior year adjustments	–	–
Carried forward at end of the year	1,360,920	1,373,122
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Brought forward at beginning of year	4,496,849	4,496,849
Revaluation increments	–	–
Carried forward at end of the year	4,496,849	4,496,849
Unrealised Gain Reserve		
Brought forward at beginning of year	–	26,987
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	3,415	(26,987)
Carried forward at end of the year	3,415	–
Total Revaluation Reserve	4,500,264	4,496,849

The unrealised gain reserve records changes in the fair value of investments in listed securities held by the association.

NOTE 11 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Contingent Liability – Residual Financial Interest of the Commonwealth and State

Commonwealth

Commonwealth of Australia has made grants to fund a number of the Association's capital expenditure projects. The Commonwealth retains, for 20 years, a right to repayment of a proportion of the grants (reducing by 5% per annum) if the Association should sell or otherwise dispose of or cease to use facilities principally for the purpose approved by the Commonwealth

The residual interest of the Commonwealth amount is: 2009: \$868,267 (2008: \$913,965)

State

State of Queensland has made a grant to fund the Association's capital expenditure project. The State retains, for 20 years, the right to repayment of the grant if the Association should sell or otherwise dispose of or cease to use the facilities principally for the purpose approved by the State.

The residual interest of the State amount is: 2009: \$544,780 (2008: \$573,453)

Operating lease commitments

Operating lease commitments are payable:

Within one year	136,271	117,290
One year or later but no later than five years	277,703	118,750
Commitments not recognised in the financial statements	413,974	236,040

2009
\$

2008
\$

NOTE 12 SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Association operated predominantly in the Educational and welfare support of those with ASD within Australia.

NOTE 13 CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash Balance comprises of:

Cash at Bank and on Hand

Bank Overdraft

132,798

124,586

(535,307)

(279,161)

(402,509)

(154,575)

(b) Reconciliation of surplus for the year to funds from operation

Profit/(Loss) for the Year

(12,202)

(21,547)

Unrealised (gain)/loss on investment

(4,591)

5,239

Depreciation

308,232

256,279

Provisions and bad debts

92,443

(31,506)

Profit on sale of non-current assets

2,348

(93,458)

Changes in assets and liabilities

Receivables

(75,034)

(80,584)

Inventory

(61,156)

(7,000)

Creditors and accruals

672,363

(85,310)

Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities

922,403

(57,887)

NOTE 14 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No members of the management committee have entered into a material contract since the end of the financial year and there were no material contracts involving management committees' interests existing at year end.

NOTE 15 EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

During 2009 Autism Queensland received funding notification from Australian Government for the amount of \$850,000 to build two new buildings one at Brighton school and one at Sunnybank school in the next financial year. This funding was part of the Government's "Building an Education Revolution" initiative.

Also, Management is pleased to announce that due to the generous donations of Karl Maxa from Maxa Constructions and the Construction community in Cairns, a new building has been built at Autism Queensland's Cairns Centre to provide more classrooms for education and therapy programs. The building is valued at around \$300,000 and the official opening of this building will be held on 12th March 2010.

No other events have occurred up until the date of this report which have not been previously brought to account in the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2009.

2009
\$

2008
\$

NOTE 16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a. Financial Risk Management Policies

The Association's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, accounts receivable and payable.

The Association does not have any derivative instruments at 31 December 2009.

The totals for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 139 are as follows:

Financial assets

Cash and cash equivalents	132,798	124,586
Trade and other receivables	179,524	132,883
Available for sale financial assets		
– equity investments	97,979	89,974
Total financial assets	410,301	347,443

Financial liabilities

Trade and other payables	1,764,766	1,101,569
Borrowings	1,627,228	793,312
Total financial liabilities	3,391,994	1,894,481

Financial Risk Management Policies

The association's Board, Chief Executive Office and Chief Financial Officer (Management) monitor and manage financial risk exposures of the association. By way of regular assessment of the association's transactions and reviews of the effectiveness of controls relating to credit risk, financial risk and interest rate risk.

The organisation's overall risk management strategy seeks to ensure that the association meets its financial targets, while managing the cyclic nature of its cash flow.

Specific Financial Risk Exposures and Management

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

(a) Liquidity Risk

The association manages liquidity risk through the following mechanisms:

- preparing forward-looking cash flow analysis in relation to its operational, investing and financing activities ;and
- monitoring, reporting and acquitting on all Services to relevant funding agencies against Service Agreements to ensure funding is ongoing and recurrent

(b) Interest Rate Risk

Exposure to interest rate risks arises on financial assets and financial liabilities recognised at the end of the financial period whereby a future change in interest rates will affect future cash flows.

At 31 December 2009, approximately 84% of the association's debt is fixed. This represents \$1,091,921.

Net Fair Values

Fair value estimation

The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities are presented in the following table and can be compared to their carrying values as presented in the statement of financial position. Fair values are those amounts at which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction

Fair values derived may be based on information that is estimated or subject to judgment, where changes in assumptions may have a material impact on the amounts estimated. Areas of judgment and the assumptions have been detailed below. Where possible, valuation information used to calculate fair value is extracted from the market, with more reliable information available from markets that are actively traded. In this regard, fair values for listed securities are obtained from quoted market bid prices.

NOTE 16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

	Footnote	Net Carrying Value 2009 \$	Net Fair Value 2009 \$	Net Carrying Value 2008 \$	Net Fair Value 2008 \$
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	(i)	132,798	132,798	124,586	124,586
Trade and other receivables	(i)	179,524	179,524	132,883	132,883
		312,322	312,322	257,469	257,469
Available-for-sale financial assets:					
– investments	(ii)	97,979	97,979	89,974	89,974
Total financial assets		410,301	410,301	347,443	347,443
Financial liabilities					
Trade and other payables	(i)	1,764,766	1,764,766	1,101,569	1,101,569
Borrowings	(iii)	1,627,228	1,627,228	793,312	793,312
Total financial liabilities		3,391,994	3,391,994	1,894,481	1,894,481

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

- (i) Cash and cash equivalents, trade and other receivables and trade and other payables are short-term instruments in nature whose carrying value is equivalent to fair value. Trade and other payables exclude amounts provided for relating to annual leave, which is not considered a financial instrument.
- (ii) For listed available-for-sale and held-for-trading financial assets, closing quoted bid prices at the end of the reporting period are used.
- (iii) These liabilities are fixed interest liabilities carried at amortised cost. Differences between carrying value and net fair value represent decreases in market interest rates.

Financial Instruments Measured at Fair Value

The financial instruments recognised at fair value in the statement of financial position have been analysed and classified using a fair value hierarchy reflecting the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy consists of the following levels:

- quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1);
- inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (as prices) or indirectly (derived from prices) (Level 2); and
- inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs) (Level 3).

	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
2009				
Financial assets				
Available-for-sale financial assets	97,980	–	–	97,980
	97,980	–	–	97,980
2008				
Financial assets				
Available-for-sale financial assets	89,974	–	–	89,974
	89,974	–	–	89,974

Included within Level 1 of the hierarchy are listed investments. The fair value of these financial assets has been based on the closing quoted bid prices at the end of the reporting period, excluding transaction costs.

NOTE 17 CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Board, Chief Executive Office and Chief Financial Officer (Management) control the capital of the entity to ensure that adequate cash flows are generated to fund its operations and that returns from investments are maximised. The Management ensures that the overall risk management strategy is in line with this objective.

Management operates under policies approved by the Board. Risk management policies are approved and reviewed by the Board on a regular basis. These include credit risk policies and future cash flow requirements.

The association's capital consists of total equity.

Management effectively manages the entity's capital by assessing the entity's financial risks and responding to changes in these risks and in the market. These responses may include consideration of debt levels.

There have been no changes to the strategy adopted by Management to control the capital of the association since the previous year.

STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF AUTISM QUEENSLAND INC

The Board of Management has determined that the association is a reporting entity and that this general purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards.

In the opinion of the Board of Management the financial report:

- a. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Autism Queensland Inc. as at 31 December 2009 and its performance for the year then ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
- b. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Autism Queensland Inc. 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 of the Management Committee and is signed for and on their behalf by:



President
Dr Robert van Barneveld



Treasurer
Gordon Dickson

Dated this 18th Day of March 2010

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AUTISM QUEENSLAND INC

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Autism Queensland Inc. (the association) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2009 and income statement, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

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 Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act Qld. This responsibility includes designing, implementing 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.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion:

The financial report of Autism Queensland Inc. is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act Qld including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2009 and of its performance and its cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Act Qld.

Hacketts DFK



Liam Murphy
Partner

Dated at Brisbane, this 18th day of March 2010



WE CONTINUE
TO GROW AND
IMPROVE



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