

CHILDREN BY CHOICE
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ANNUAL REPORT 19/20



Children by Choice acknowledge the traditional owners of country throughout Queensland and their continued connection to land and community. We recognise the two separate cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Children by Choice recognises the dispossession of land and its ongoing effects on Aboriginal peoples today. We acknowledge the sorrow of the Stolen Generations and apologise for the removal of children by white Australians.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

OUR VISION

That all women can freely make their own reproductive and sexual health choices.

OUR MISSION

To be the leading voice for women's reproductive choices in Queensland.

OUR STAFF

CEO

Daile Kelleher CertTAA, DipSustain, DipRM
Holly Brennan OAM

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

Sarah Rogers BBus/BCI, MPropfAcy

COUNSELLING TEAM

SENIOR COUNSELLORS

Liz Price BA, BSocWk(Hons)
Michelle Reynolds BA, M(Couns)
Shannah Lundon BHuServ MSocWk
Sian Tooker BPsySc(Hons), GDApplLaw

CASUAL COUNSELLORS

Belinda Kimson, BBus, MSocWk
Rosalie Robinson, Dip App S.S
Maureen O'Regan B(SocWk), BA (Vis Arts)
Luka Janes - Doherty BA, M(SocWk)
Stephanie Chen BA, M(SocWk)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION TEAM

Dr Bec Jenkinson (PhD, B.Ed (Hons))
Molly Howes BComm
Pamela Doherty BA, MA(ComDev)
Rachael Smith BIntDev, DipRM, GCPubHealth
Stephanie Chen BA, M(SocWk)

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Isabella (Communications)
Lynn (Admin)
Meg (Project work)

OUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Dr Nicola Sheeran BPsych(Hons), PHD(Clinical Psychology)

TREASURER

Vanessa Wells Bsc(Hons) CPA, FGIA, FCIS

SECRETARY

Carmen Seaby BA/BJ

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bonney Corbin BSc, MA
Dr Caroline Harvey MBBS
Carly Hanson LLB, B.Jus, GradDipLegPrac
Dr Claire Mohr MSSB, FRACGP
Katherine Kerr BA BSocWk, LLB, GDLP
Michelle Howe LLB,LLM (Applied Law)

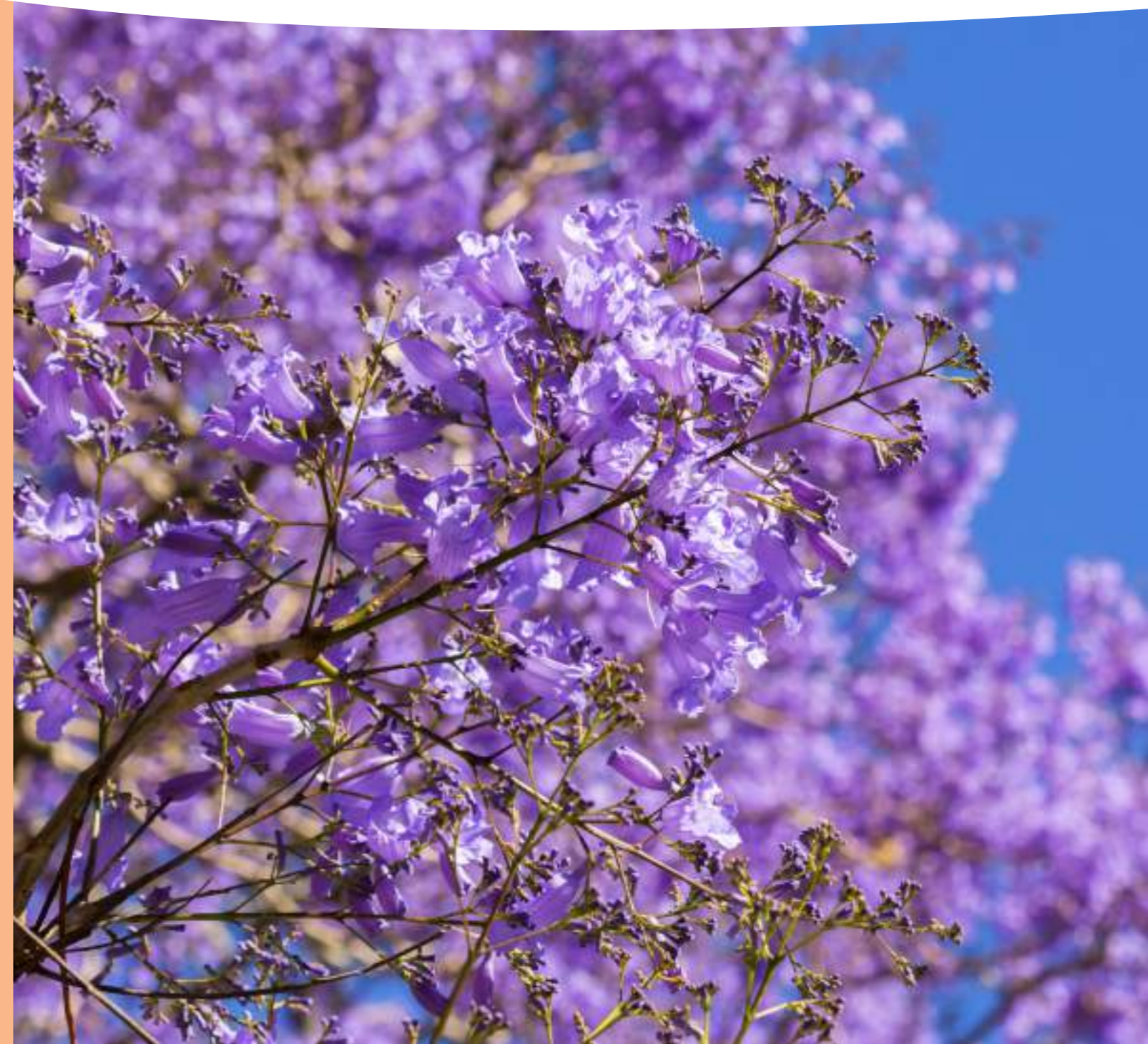


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A YEAR IN REVIEW

Children by Choice has been providing unplanned pregnancy counselling, information, advocacy and education to Queenslanders for 48 years. This is the first year our service has been working in an environment where abortion is no longer considered a crime.

Access across the state has shifted significantly in 2019/20. Increasingly, clients can access publicly funded abortion care in their communities. Our counselling team are doing less financial assistance work with clients creating space for more decision making counselling.

This financial year we held our biennial Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion conference, the event was our most attended yet with international speakers and attendees. Once again the feedback from the two day event was overwhelmingly positive, reconfirming the value of the conference to the women's health and wellbeing sector.

In response to COVID-19, we quickly moved all our education and training sessions online. We now offer virtual delivery of each training package which has been well received and a great success.

The effect the pandemic has had on our clients will be felt for years to come, it may not be represented in our current data but the trend of complex cases and people facing extreme hardship is one we expect to continue.

This year has been challenging but Children by Choice will continue to support and advocate for the sexual and reproductive health rights of Queenslanders.



Daile Kelleher
CEO

SUPPORT

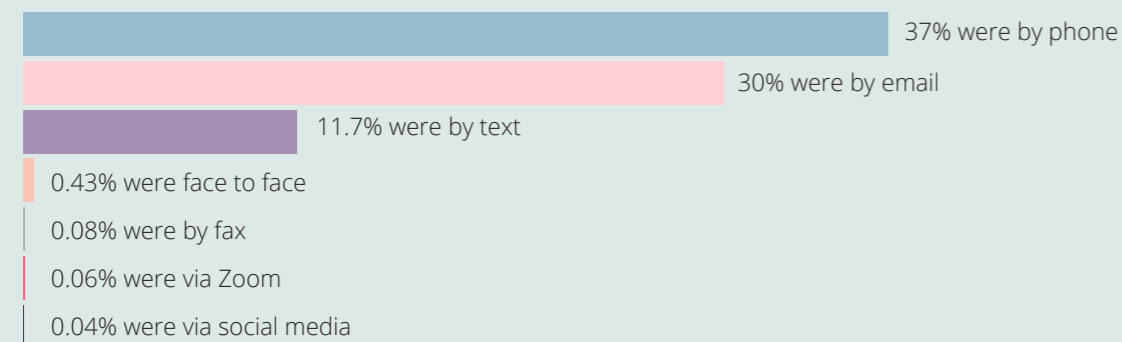
WE PROVIDE ALL OPTIONS PREGNANCY COUNSELLING, INFORMATION, REFERRAL AND ADVOCACY

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY COUNSELLING

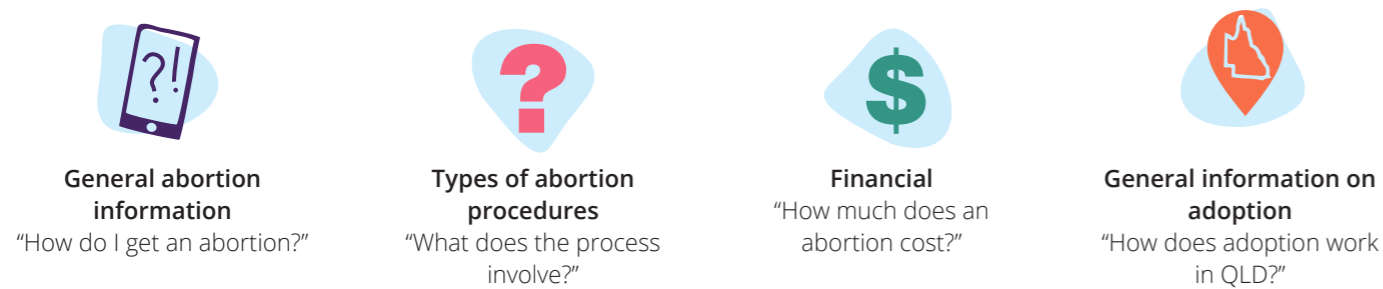
We provide decision making counselling, information and education services on all unplanned pregnancy options - abortion, adoption and parenting. We also provide referrals, financial assistance and post abortion support.

IN THE 2019 - 20 FINANCIAL YEAR WE HAD 8520 INTERACTIONS WITH 1377 CLIENTS

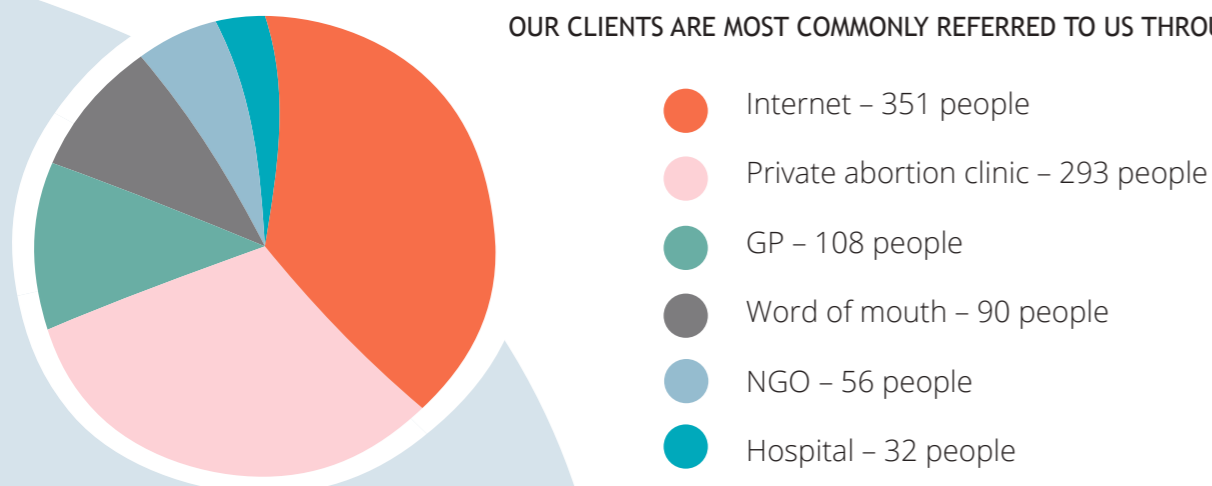
People who contact our service are often facing severe disadvantage and their complex cases take on average 6 interactions to resolve. This explains why our number of interactions is more than six times greater than our client number.



WHEN CLIENTS CONTACT OUR SERVICE THE MOST COMMONLY REQUESTED INFORMATION IS

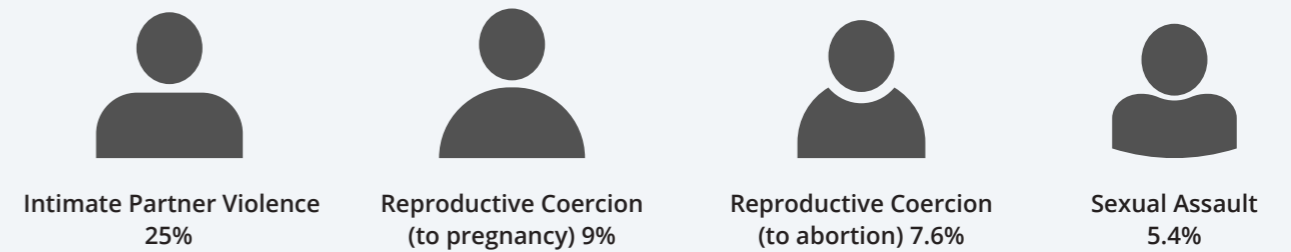


OUR CLIENTS ARE MOST COMMONLY REFERRED TO US THROUGH



PRESENTATION OF VIOLENCE IN OUR CLIENT DATA

Generally over a fiscal year a third of our work is with clients who have experienced intimate partner violence, sexual assault and/or reproductive coercion.



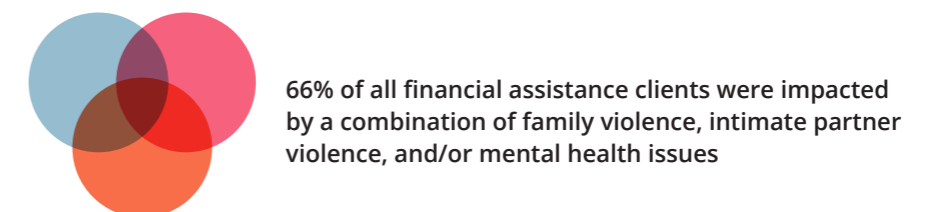
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For 20 years Children by Choice has been running a financial assistance program for disadvantaged women and pregnant people seeking abortion or long acting reversible contraception. This program includes grants that clients do not have to repay, no interest loans (NILS), negotiated discounts from abortion providers (hardship grants), support from other organisations and case specific donations from our social media community.

The 2019/20 financial year was a transitional phase for abortion care in Queensland. Since the removal of abortion from the criminal code in 2018 there has been a significant increase in abortion access across the state, most notably in the public system. The increase in publicly funded abortion care has resulted in a welcome 53% decrease in the number of clients needing financial assistance and an 18% decrease in the amount of money provided to clients for abortion and contraception by our service.

This year our financial assistance program funded \$112 113 to support 160 women and pregnant people to access abortion care and long acting reversible contraception.

WHO ARE OUR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CLIENTS




EMPOWER

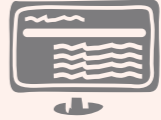
WE EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS TO EXERCISE THEIR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CHOICES



EDUCATION AND TRAINING


Our Education Team deliver relationships and sexuality education for young people in schools and youth services. We also provide training and information to professionals and tertiary students across Queensland through workshops, University guest lectures, conference presentations, video conferencing and information stalls.

CHILDREN BY CHOICE UNDERTAKES BROADER COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORK ONLINE THROUGH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS AND WEBSITE

 **539 585**
visits to our website

 Most popular web page
'how much does an abortion cost'

Connected to a following
of over **5000** across  

Reached over **900 000** 

SNAPSHOT OF TRAINING DATA

19

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
TRAINING SESSIONS

7

WEBINAR
PRESENTATIONS

5

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

10

EDUCATION
SESSIONS

420

YOUNG PEOPLE
EDUCATED

617

PROFESSIONALS
TRAINED



THE REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE ABORTION ACCESS PROJECT

The Regional, Rural and Remote Abortion Access Project (RRRAAP) is a three year project funded by The Lionel & Yvonne Spencer Trust which Children by Choice commenced in August 2018, aiming to address abortion access inequity in Queensland.

This year the project has provided financial support to 41 women and pregnant people from regional, rural and remote Queensland to access abortion care (including cost of procedure, transport and accommodation costs).

Training and information sessions were delivered to 197 regional, rural and remote health and community workers. RRRAAP also facilitated the donation of two handheld portable ultrasound devices to rural health services to support the provision of medical termination of pregnancy.

In 2019/20, 65 professional development scholarships have been provided to regional, rural or remote health workers to improve their skills in supporting unplanned pregnancy and abortion care, with more opportunities remaining.

Through the RRRAAP Children by Choice are incredibly proud to have delivered a pilot abortion doula training program to 9 doulas in March 2020, in partnership with the Australian Doula College. Abortion doulas provide emotional, informational and physical support to a person accessing abortion care.

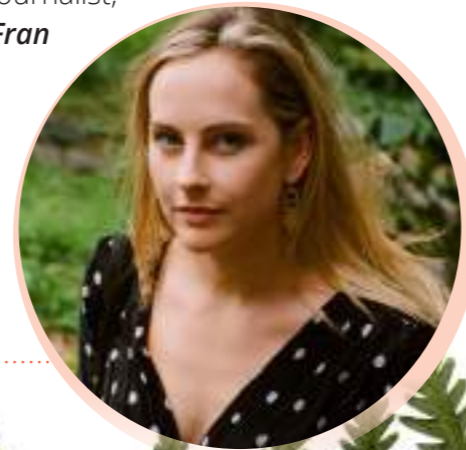
We have already begun linking doulas and clients.



UNPLANNED PREGNANCY AND ABORTION CONFERENCE 2019

Children by Choice held the biennial Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion Conference in August 2019.

The two day event was opened by Journalist, Broadcaster and TV Presenter **Jan Fran**



The conference was closed by Journalist, RANZCOG Media Award of Excellence winner and Australian Human Rights Commission Media Award finalist **Gina Rushton**

The conference included over 58 presentations from national and international speakers with backgrounds in the;

- legal
- clinical
- academic
- and community sector.

257 delegates attended including;

- doctors and health practitioners
- providers of abortion services
- allied health and education professionals
- youth, community and domestic violence workers
- academics and students
- journalists, activists, politicians and policymakers.

The conference had a significant digital footprint with 95 000 impressions on social media and **#ChildrenXChoice2019** trending on twitter.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, affirming the conference is value for money, well organised, provides quality professional development and is a worthwhile conference to attend.

Many attendees commented on the sense of community and collegial support that the conference generates.

CHANGE

WE WORK TO REDUCE THE DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL, LEGAL, CLINICAL AND POLICY BARRIERS FACED WHEN SEEKING ACCESS TO ACCURATE INFORMATION, SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES

TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY STEERING COMMITTEE

After the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 passed a Termination of Pregnancy Steering Committee was assembled by the Queensland Health Clinical Excellence Division (now Clinical Excellence Queensland). Children by Choice was invited to be a member of the committee alongside Hospital and Health Services, consumer groups, private hospitals, peak bodies and clinical networks.

The purpose of the Termination of Pregnancy Steering Committee was to undertake project governance, formulation and oversight, as well as assist with the coordination and implementation of the Queensland termination of pregnancy legislation.

After the implementation phase, the committee has since reviewed its terms of reference and will continue as an evaluation committee, to provide strategic advice, guidance and oversight regarding the implementation of government policy on termination of pregnancy.

SYMPOSIUM: ONE YEAR ON... CELEBRATING DECRIMINALISATION OF ABORTION IN QUEENSLAND

On Dec 3 2019 Children by Choice held a Symposium at Parliament House, the event was hosted by The Honourable Di Farmer, Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

This event marked one year since the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 was enacted and all Hospital and Health Services in the state were given a directive to provide abortion care or have in place an effective pathway for the provision of abortion. Speakers at the event reflected on the year from legal, social, practical and community experiences. Attendees included Members of Parliament who voted on the Bill along with frontline workers in the healthcare and community sector.

Children by Choice will continue to work with its stakeholders to ensure all Queenslanders have equitable access to abortion care no matter their postcode, financial situation or visa status. The service will continue to deliver education and training to those who require it across the state and the counselling team will continue to offer decision making counselling and support to the thousands of women and pregnant people who contact our service each year.

RELATIONSHIPS AND SUSTAINABILITY

WE DEVELOP AND UTILISE STRONG RELATIONSHIPS.

WE SUPPORT OUR PEOPLE AND MANAGE OUR RESOURCES SUSTAINABLE INTO THE FUTURE

OUR PATRONS

Claire Moore (Former Labor Senator, Queensland)

Sue Boyce (Former Liberal Senator, Queensland)

Senator Larissa Waters (Greens Senator, Queensland)

OUR FUNDERS



OUR COMMITTEES

Culturally Responsive Health Advisory Group

Data Committee – University of Queensland and Griffith University

Equality Rights Alliance

Ending Violence Against Women Queensland

National Alliance of Abortion and Pregnancy Options Counsellors

Practitioner Engagement Group – ANROWS (Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety)

WorkUP Queensland Reference Group

Termination of Pregnancy Steering Committee – Clinical Excellence Queensland

Queensland Women’s Health Services Alliance

OUR COLLABORATION PARTNERS



OUR PUBLICATIONS

The Children by Choice HHS Data Report – A Compilation of Termination of Pregnancy Request Data. First Published September 2019.

The Children by Choice HHS Data Report – Accessing a Termination of Pregnancy in Queensland: Service Delivery Since Decriminalisation. First Published April 2020.

OUR EVENT PARTNERS

The Office of the Hon. Di Farmer MP Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

We would like to recognise all our members, individual donors and supporting organisations whom without we would not be able to carry out the work we do. Their generosity enables us to support disadvantaged women and pregnant people to access abortion and contraception across Queensland.



CHILDREN BY CHOICE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

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

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



PETER GESCH
 HAYWARDS CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
 Level 1 / 488 Lutwyche Road
 LUTWYCHE QLD 4030

Dated this 22nd day of September 2020

	Note	2020	2019
Revenue	2	1,174,032.21	884,034.53
Other Income	2	64,200.58	11,416.05
Employee benefits expense		(774,186.75)	(715,223.39)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(9,508.11)	(10,401.00)
Insurance		(9,654.55)	(8,827.27)
Motor vehicle and travel expenses		(12,798.02)	(10,246.23)
Property Expenses		(46,310.14)	(20,667.19)
Staff training and development expenses		(6,601.51)	(5,537.86)
Audit, legal and consultancy fees		(17,840.35)	(9,646.66)
Client support services expense		(86,668.85)	(88,278.09)
Other operating costs		(105,108.24)	(58,957.24)
Current year surplus before income tax		169,556.27	(32,334.35)
Income tax expense		-	-
Net current year surplus		169,556.27	(32,334.35)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		169,556.27	(32,334.35)
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity		\$169,556.27	\$(32,334.35)

CHILDREN BY CHOICE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3	1,062,559.38	914,090.29
Debtors & Prepayments		16,761.80	46,418.73
Total Current Assets		<u>1,079,321.18</u>	<u>960,509.02</u>
Fixed Assets			
	4	425,054.50	436,180.79
Total Fixed Assets		<u>425,054.50</u>	<u>436,180.79</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$1,504,375.68</u>	<u>\$1,396,689.81</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors & Accruals		61,447.78	66,419.04
Employee Provisions		55,574.15	49,858.70
Income Received & Unexpended		-	425,722.80
Contract Liability		373,984.35	-
Total Current Liabilities		<u>491,006.28</u>	<u>542,000.54</u>
Non Current Liabilities			
Employee Provisions		18,832.22	29,708.36
Total Non Current Liabilities		<u>18,832.22</u>	<u>29,708.36</u>
TOTAL LIABILITES		<u>509,838.50</u>	<u>571,708.90</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>\$994,537.18</u>	<u>\$824,980.91</u>
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Retained Surplus		994,537.18	824,980.91
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS		<u>\$994,537.18</u>	<u>\$824,980.91</u>

CHILDREN BY CHOICE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial Statements.

1. In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 10 are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and:
 - (i) Comply with the Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the entity; and
 - (ii) Give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Children by Choice Association Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This Declaration is signed in accordance with Subs 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulation 2013.



 President



 Treasurer

30-10-2020

 Date

childrenbychoice.org.au