



# CHILDREN BY CHOICE

ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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ANNUAL REPORT 18/19



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 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**President**

Bonney Corbin BSc, MA

**Vice President**

Dr Caroline Harvey MBBS

**Treasurer**

Vanessa Wells Bsc(Hons) CPA, FGIA, FCIS

**Secretary**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Katherine Kerr BA BSocWk LLB GDLP

Paula Nixon BA, Dip TESOL, Dip Accounting

Carmen Seaby BA/BJ

**OUR STAFF**

**Manager**

Daile Kelleher CertTAA, DipSustain, DipRM

**COUNSELLING TEAM**

Stephanie Chen BA, M(SocWk)

Michelle Reynolds BA, M(Couns)

Sian Tooker BPsySc(Hons), GDAppLaw

Liz Price BA, BSocWk(Hons)

**CASUAL COUNSELLORS**

Rosalie Robinson

Shannah London

Luka Janes - Doherty

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION TEAM**

Pamela Doherty BA, MA(ComDev)

Sinead Canning BA (Hon)

Molly Howes BComm

Rachael Smith (BlntDev, DipRM, GCPubHealth)

**FINANCE OFFICER**

Sarah Rogers BBus/BCI, MProfAcc

**OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Lynn, Saskia (Admin)

Leah, Nat (Data and events)

Meg (Project work)

**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.





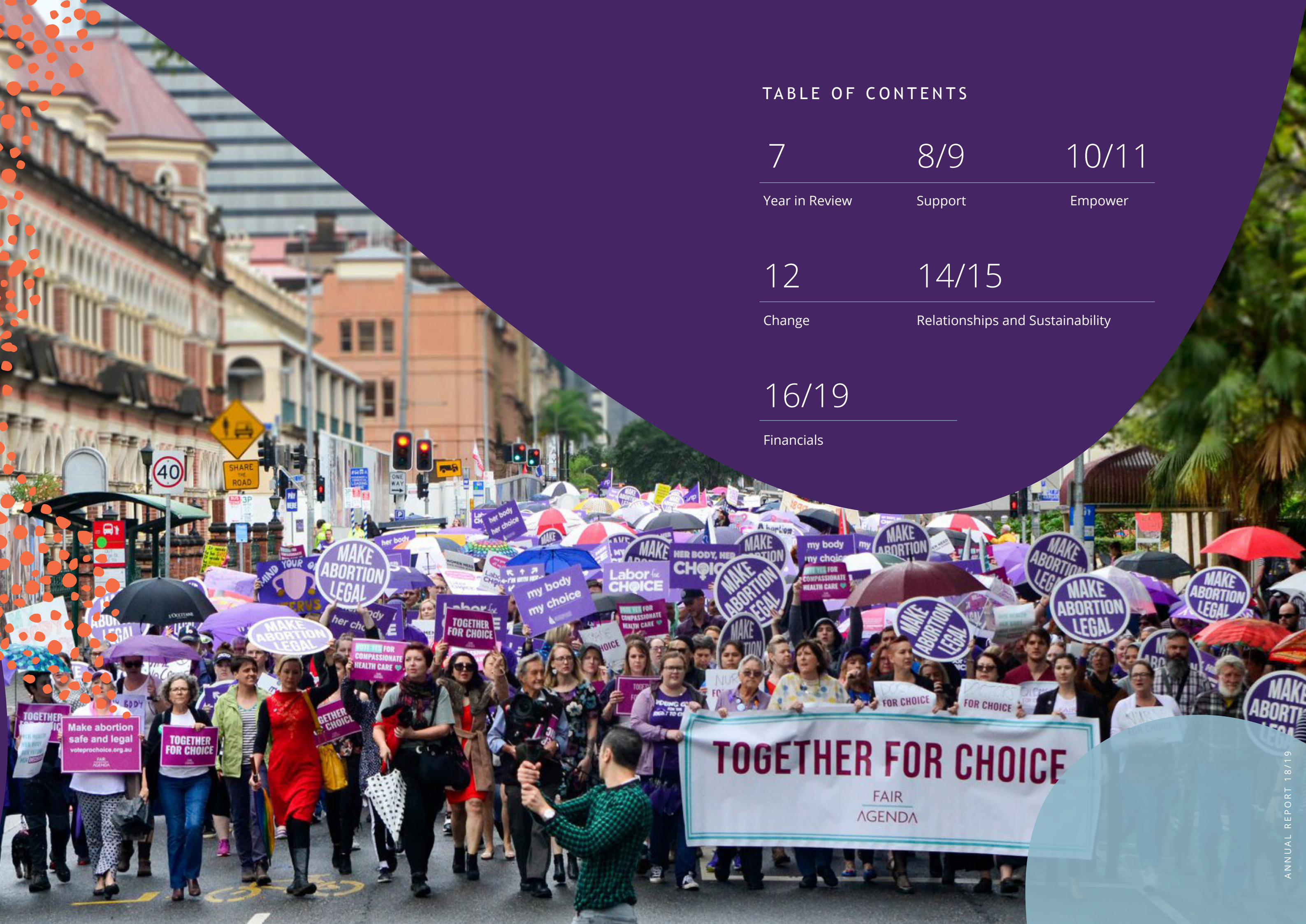


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## Brisbane 1990

Rally calling on the Goss Government to decriminalise abortion



Brisbane 1976

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

For 47 years Children by Choice has been providing unplanned pregnancy counselling and education to Queenslanders. For 47 years we have also been advocating for the decriminalisation of abortion, to treat termination of pregnancy as health care and not a criminal issue and raise awareness of abortion as a safe and common medical procedure.

On October 17 2018 the Termination of Pregnancy Bill was passed in Queensland Parliament, with the new legislation coming in to effect on 3 December 2018.

The role played by advocates cannot be underestimated in the historic passing of this law. We recognise and thank each and every person for their time, effort and continued efforts to see this happen. We did it. We all did.

We are proud of the past year and have taken time to reflect and celebrate the incredible contributions of everyone involved.

Like every year, our work is not done. It is always challenging, we are always busy. We look forward to navigating the changed landscape and ensuring the best health outcomes for people with unplanned pregnancies and continuing to be the leading voice supporting reproductive health and pregnancy choices in Queensland.

**Bonney Corbin**  
President

**Daile Kelleher**  
Manager



## SUPPORT

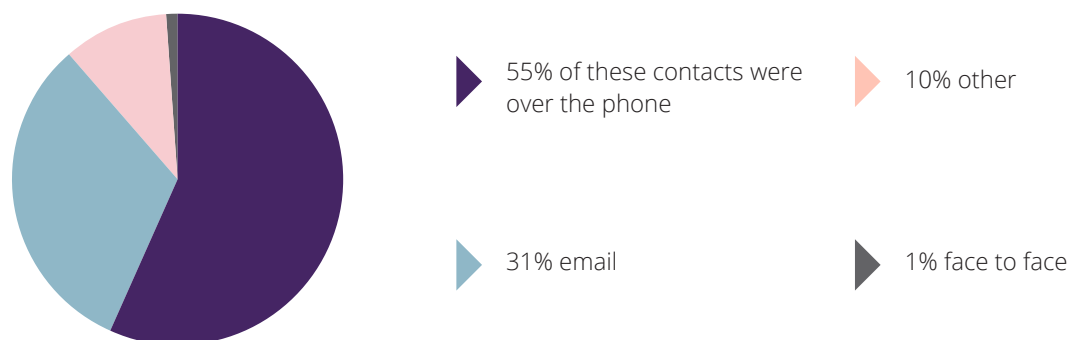
WE PROVIDE ALL OPTIONS PREGNANCY COUNSELLING, INFORMATION, REFERRAL AND ADVOCACY

### 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 2018 - 19 FINANCIAL YEAR WE HAD 5970 CONTACTS WITH 1580 CLIENTS

People who contact our service are often facing severe disadvantage and their complex cases may take multiple conversations to resolve. This explains why our number of contacts is more than three times greater than our client number.



### 27% OF OUR FIRST CONTACTS ARE FOR COUNSELLING



88% decision making



11% post abortion

### WHEN CLIENTS CONTACT OUR SERVICE THE MOST COMMONLY REQUESTED INFORMATION CONCERNS



#### Financial

"How much does an abortion cost?"



#### Loans for abortion or contraception access

"After I pay my bills I have no money left over, can you help me access a procedure?"



#### Surgical Abortion

"Where is my nearest clinic?"



#### Contraception

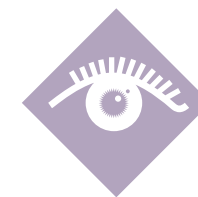
"What contraception is there, how much is it, what are the side effects?"

## PRESENTATION OF VIOLENCE IN OUR CLIENT DATA

Almost a third of our work is with clients who have experienced domestic and family violence, sexual assault and/or reproductive coercion.



DFV - 18%



Reproductive Coercion - 10%



Sexual Assault - 3.4%

Reproductive coercion is used to describe a range of perpetrator pregnancy controlling behaviours, which can range from contraceptive sabotage, to emotional manipulation or blackmail around ending or continuing a pregnancy against the pregnant person's will, to forced sex and rape.

This year we were able to capture more detailed information around reproductive coercion. Our data found that our clients are more likely to experience coercion towards continuing the pregnancy than towards termination (58% v 41%).

Our data also suggests that clients who are pregnant from sexual assault are over three times more likely to be experiencing reproductive coercion towards continuing the pregnancy.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For almost 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. This year our financial assistance program enabled us to fund \$136 158 to support 342 women and pregnant people to access abortion care and long acting reversible contraception.

The 2018/19 financial year was a transitional phase for abortion care in Queensland. New legislation removed abortion from the criminal code and a directive was given that all Hospital and Health Services must have a pathway for termination of pregnancy in place by December 3 2019. During this time Children by Choice continued to support women and pregnant people to access termination of pregnancy procedures financially.

### WHO ARE OUR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CLIENTS

25% of our financial assistance clients identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and 17% are culturally and linguistically diverse.

Of all our financial assistance clients almost 30% disclose domestic and/or family violence and 45% disclose mental health issues including suicidality and severe financial stress.



# EMPOWER

WE EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS TO EXERCISE THEIR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CHOICES

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. This financial year we organised our third Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion Conference, which was held on August 1 and 2 2019.

## SNAPSHOT OF TRAINING DATA

Trained 750+ professionals	Engaged with over 800 delegates at 4 information stalls
2 presentations at an International Conference	15 Professional development training sessions
Hosted 2 Webinars	Presented 4 video conferences



Beryl and John 2016  
Make abortion legal



Jackie Trad MP, Larissa Waters MP, Steven Miles MP 2019

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



Over 120 000 visits to our website



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



Connected to a following of over 5 000 across Facebook and Twitter



Reached over 800 000 people on social media

In November 2018 the Regional Rural and Remote Abortion Access Project (RRRAAP) commenced with a Project Officer on-board. The three year project funded by The Lionel & Yvonne Spencer Trust aims to address abortion access inequity in Queensland.

People experiencing an unplanned pregnancy in regional rural and remote Queensland, when compared with those in the South East Corner, require more contact with our counsellors, need greater financial support, are more likely to report domestic violence (38% vs 32%) and sexual assault (17% vs 13%), and travel more than five times the distance (205km vs 41km each way) to access abortion services.

The RRRAAP aims to address some of these inequities and assist in improving service provision for women and pregnant people in regional, rural and remote Queensland.

The project aims to improve referral pathways through capacity building among professionals, organisations and communities, to improve access for the most vulnerable women and pregnant people and to establish an abortion doula initiative to improve support for individuals experiencing an unplanned pregnancy in Queensland.



## 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

On October 17 2018 the Termination of Pregnancy Bill was passed in Parliament, decriminalising abortion. The Bill came into effect on 3 December 2018. This allows women and pregnant people to make an informed decision about the termination of a pregnancy in consultation with their healthcare provider. It also enables healthcare providers to deliver these services without fear of criminal proceedings.

The key points of the bill are:

- Abortion is now removed from the criminal code and is available on request as a health service up until 22 weeks gestation. Thereafter the involved medical practitioner must consult another medical practitioner who also considers that, in all the circumstances, the termination should be performed.
- A registered health practitioner with conscientious objection must disclose the objection to the person and refer on to a practitioner or service who, in the first belief, can provide the requested service and does not also have a conscientious objection.
- 150m safe access zones have been enacted around termination services.

While modernising an archaic law was an important part of the Children by Choice's year, our core work does not stop because of a legislative change. There are still people in Queensland with unplanned pregnancies needing decision making counselling and support, as well as professionals and students requiring our services for education and training.

Since law reform was achieved Children by Choice have been working solidly on supporting access reform across Queensland.



Front page of a Queensland newspaper following raids on abortion clinics in Brisbane and Rockhampton: 1985.



Pam and Beryl post law reform holding photographs of themselves campaigning over 40 years ago.



## RELATIONSHIPS AND SUSTAINABILITY

WE DEVELOP AND UTILISE STRONG RELATIONSHIPS.  
WE SUPPORT OUR PEOPLE AND MANAGE OUR  
RESOURCES SUSTAINABLY INTO THE FUTURE

### Our Patrons

Senator Claire Moore (Labor Senator, Queensland)

Sue Boyce (Former Liberal Senator, Queensland)

Larissa Waters (Greens Senator, Queensland)

### Our Funders



### Our Supporters



### Our Event Partners

The offices of Stirling Hinchcliffe MP, Meaghan Scanlon MP, Joan Pease MP and Senator Claire Moore.

### Our Committees

Culturally Responsive Health Advisory Group

Data Committee – University of Queensland and Griffith University

Equality Rights Alliance

End Violence Against Women Queensland

National Alliance of Abortion and Pregnancy Options Counsellors

Practitioner Engagement Group – ANROWS

Pro Choice Queensland

Queensland Women's Health Network

Termination of Pregnancy Steering Committee – Clinical Excellence Division

### Our Publications

Experiences of Reproductive Coercion in Queensland Women.

Elizabeth Price, Leah S. Sharman, Heather A. Douglas, PhD,

Nicola Sheeran, PhD, Genevieve A. Dingle, PhD.

First Published May 5, 2019.

Journal of Interpersonal Violence.

Associations Between Unintended Pregnancy, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault in a Population of Queensland Women.

Leah S. Sharman, Heather Douglas, PhD, Elizabeth Price, Nicola Sheeran, PhD & Genevieve A. Dingle, PhD.

First Published Oct 24, 2018.

Journal of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law.

**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.**



FINANCIAL AUDIT

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 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019

CHILDREN BY CHOICE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED  
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER  
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

Revenue	2	884,034.53	1,106,854.03
Other Income	2	11,416.05	7,872.84
Employee benefits expense		(715,223.39)	(583,380.48)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(10,401.00)	(8,510.00)
Insurance		(8,827.27)	(8,427.27)
Motor vehicle and travel expenses		(10,246.23)	(3,263.51)
Property Expenses		(20,667.19)	(17,957.86)
Staff training and development expenses		(5,537.86)	(5,582.96)
Audit, legal and consultancy fees		(9,646.66)	(4,000.00)
Client support services expense		(88,278.09)	(123,526.49)
Other operating costs		(58,957.24)	(58,270.19)
Current year surplus before income tax		(32,334.35)	301,808.11
Income tax expense			
Net current year surplus		(32,334.35)	301,808.11
Other comprehensive income			
Total comprehensive income for the year		(32,334.35)	301,808.11
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity		\$(32,334.35)	\$301,808.11



CHILDREN BY CHOICE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

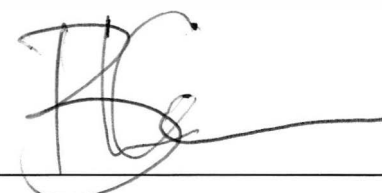
	<u>Note</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3	914,090.29	830,615.74
Debtors & Prepayments		46,418.73	27,927.72
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		960,509.02	858,543.46
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
	4	436,180.79	446,581.79
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		436,180.79	446,581.79
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		\$1,396,689.81	\$1,305,125.25
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors & Accruals		66,419.04	65,938.96
Employee Provisions		79,567.06	62,690.11
Income Received & Unexpended		425,722.80	319,180.92
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		571,708.90	447,809.99
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		571,708.90	447,809.99
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		\$824,980.91	\$857,315.26
<b>MEMBERS FUNDS</b>			
Retained Surplus		824,980.91	857,315.26
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>		\$824,980.91	\$857,315.26

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.

- 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:
  - Comply with the Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the entity; and
  - Give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
- 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

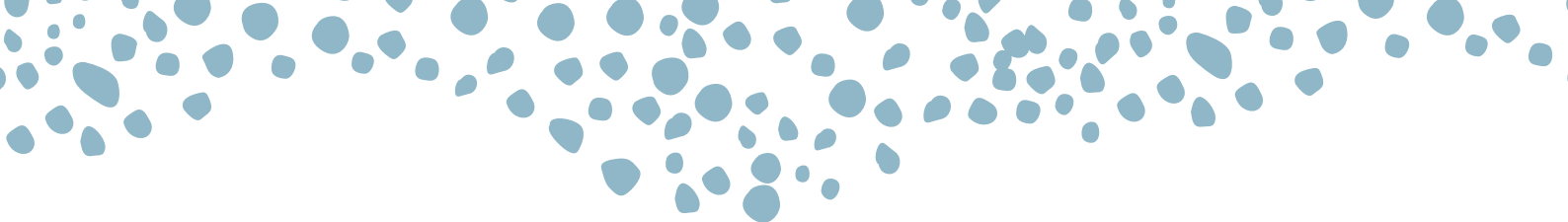


Treasurer

26-9-19

Date





*"This service was amazing.. they helped me with everything I asked and also provided more assistance then I knew about...this service honestly saved my life.. in the literal sense... I am in an extremely physical and financially abusive relationship."*

*"Children by Choice was so wonderful to speak with, they made me feel a little more at ease and cleared the air about the decisions I have to make. Such kind, beautiful souls I cannot thank them enough for their time on the phone this morning."*

*"From the first moment I spoke to the Children by Choice Team I felt truly supported. They listened and provided all the information that I needed to make the right decision."*

[childrenbychoice.org.au](http://childrenbychoice.org.au)

