



# **AUTISM TASMANIA Inc.**

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*Offering life long support to people with  
Autism and related disorders.*

Patron:

Post: PO Box 1552,  
Launceston,  
Tasmania, 7250.

Phone and Fax: 003 432308

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## **ANNUAL REPORT 1995/'96**

**4th Annual Report**

17th August 1996

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## AGENDA

A.

**MORNING TEA**  
Commencing at 10:30am

B.

**PRESENTATION FROM INVITED GUEST**

*Commencing at 11:00am*

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Mr Peter Wheatley, Manager - Disability Services (Northern Region) will speak about Disability Services and the generic services currently available for people with autism. X

C.

**3rd. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,**  
Saturday 17th August 1996,  
Walker House, Walker Ave, Newnham

1. Opening.
2. Apologies.
3. Correspondence.
  - 3.1 Inwards.
  - 3.2 Outwards.
4. Minutes.
  - 4.1 Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.
  - 4.2 Confirmation of minutes.
5. Annual Report.
  - 5.1 Summary of the Annual Report.
  - 5.2 Motion for adoption of the Annual Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
  - 6.1 Statement and Balance Sheet.
  - 6.2 Motion for adoption of the Treasurer's Report.
7. Election of Office Bearers.
  - 7.1 Nominations.
  - 7.2 President.
  - 7.3 Vice President.
  - 7.4 Vice President.
  - 7.5 Secretary.
  - 7.6 Treasurer.
  - 7.7 Committee persons (3).
8. Vote of thanks to outgoing executive.
9. Appointment of an Auditor.
  - 9.1 Nominations / recommendations.
  - 9.2 Motion to appoint the Auditor.
10. Other business.
11. Close.

## PUBLIC OFFICER'S REPORT

I, Mark Jonathan Ward being the Public Officer of Autism Tasmania Inc. do solemnly and sincerely declare that the accompanying Statements of Assets and Liabilities (Balance Sheet) and Income and Expenditure as at 30 June 1996 exhibit a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation as at that date and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information therein is correct.

Signed:  
M. Ward  
PUBLIC OFFICER.

Signed before me

at .....

on ..... August 1996 .....

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

## REPORT TO MEMBERS

We hereby certify that the accompanying Statement of Income and Expenditure and Statements of Assets and Liabilities (Balance Sheet) of Autism Tasmania Inc. for the year ended 30 June, 1996 shows the true financial position of Autism Tasmania Inc. as at the date and reflects the true results of the financial operations of Autism Tasmania Inc. for that period.

DATED this                      day of August 1996.

Signed:  
M. Ward,  
PRESIDENT.

Signed:  
R. Ward,  
Secretary

Signed:  
R Barnes,  
TREASURER.

## LIST OF MEMBERS

We hereby certify that the accompanying List of Financial Members of Autism Tasmania for the year ended 30 June, 1996 shows the complete list of ..... financial members of Autism Tasmania Inc. as at the date.

Dated this                      day of August 1996.

Signed:  
M. Ward,  
PRESIDENT.

Signed:  
R. Ward,  
Secretary

JA

## LISTING OF OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Name	Position	Address	Occupation
From 3rd Annual Meeting 19th August 1995			
Mark Jonathan WARD	President	3 Grand View Place, Norwood, 7250	Professional Engineer
Rosemary Jocelyn CLARK	V President	4 Hiller Street, Devonport, 7310	Tutor
Rachel Louise EVANS	V President	5 Maxwell St Bridport, 7262	Speech and Language Pathologist
Roslyn Rae WARD	Secretary	3 Grand View Place, Norwood, 7250	Mother
Ronald Edward BARNES	Treasurer	RSD 1920 Myrtle Crk Rd Liffey 7304	Manager
Elisabeth Geraldine MARSHALL	Committee	60 William Street, Devonport, 7310	Mother
Michael John FREEMAN	Committee	143 Inglis Street Wynyard, 7325	Company Director
Paula Margaret BARNES	Committee		Teachers Aide
Dulcie Helen MONTGOMERIE	Committee	4/34 Bayfield Street Bellerive, 7018	Mother
Jenny Lynn VINCE	Committee	169 Bathurst St Hobart, 7000	Teacher

We hereby certify that this list of Office Bearers and Committee of Autism Tasmania Inc. is a true and accurate list of the Office Bearers and Committee members of Autism Tasmania Inc. as at 30 June 1996.

Dated this                      day of August 1996.

Signed:  
M. Ward,  
PUBLIC OFFICER.

Signed:  
R. Ward,  
SECRETARY

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

The committee of Autism Tasmania - Mark Ward, Rose Clark, Rachel Evans, Ros Ward, Ron Barnes, Michael Freeman, Elisabeth Marshall, Paula Barnes, Dulcie Montomerie and Jenny Vince would like to thank those people and organisations who have supported us over the past year.

### **In 1994 and 1995**

We have continued to work towards raising awareness of autism, both amongst health and education professionals and within the community. We strive towards achieving an effective assessment and diagnostic process throughout the state.

### **National Autism Week**

Our activities for the past year began with National Autism Week in September 1995. A family BBQ in Hobart was well attended by several families from throughout Southern Tasmania who enjoyed a very pleasant day. Also held during Autism Week was a concert in Devonport organised by Liz Marshall, featuring a number of local choirs and individual performances. This was an excellent public relations exercise as well as raising valuable funds.

Our major publicity focus was a short television commercial shown on Southern Cross TV and WIN television throughout Autism Week. We were delighted with the support we received from Ray Martin in providing his face and commentary for the announcement on WIN television. His high profile drew considerable attention to autism in Tasmania.

### **National Autism Association**

During National Autism Week, the Annual General Meeting of the National Autistic Association was held in Launceston and attended by Mark Ward and Rose Clark from Tasmania. Approximately 15 delegates representing all associations throughout Australia came together for two days with a particular view to discussing the role and future direction of the National Association. Each autism association functions independently and at present there is no national publicity focus for autism.

### **Commonwealth Health Grant**

With a grant received from the Commonwealth Respite for Carers Program we organised the first of our parent workshops for the year to coincide with the conclusion of National Autism Week. Dr Lawrie Bartak and Ms Amanda Golding kindly agreed to stay over following the National

Association AGM and provided professional input into these workshops. Held at St Georges School in Launceston, parents were given the opportunity to meet with other parents in an informal atmosphere and ask questions of the professionals in attendance. Care was provided at the venue for children or alternatively Autism Tasmania funded a private carer. Many parents took the opportunity of having their children cared for at the venue, particularly those who travelled from other parts of the state. We thank Ruth Armstrong from Pilgrim Services for her assistance in organising carers for the workshop. Two of the carers from this day are now shadows at Giant Steps! Lawrie and Amanda were extremely obliging and led small group discussions, concentrating on the practical difficulties involved in living with autism and Asperger syndrome.

A second parent workshop was organised in May this year with Ms Vicki Bitsika, Ms Verity Botroff and Mr Mark Page as our guests. Vicki is well known to many parents, having visited the state on several occasions. Verity is a lecturer in special education at Flinders University in Adelaide and Mark is an adult with Asperger syndrome who has worked closely with Verity. Verity and Mark gave a presentation at the National Autism conference in Brisbane earlier this year. Workshops were held in Hobart and Burnie and many "new" parents took the opportunity to attend who have subsequently joined the association.

We are fortunate that the professionals who agree to visit Tasmania are extremely obliging in giving of themselves. Verity and Mark led a workshop for professionals in Hobart who are currently working with children with autism, organised by Jenny Vince. In Burnie, they spent time at Miranbeena School and at West Park School where they gave a presentation for professionals from along the north west coast. They finally managed a trip to Lactos to purchase Tasmanian cheese !!!

### **Commonwealth Education Grants**

With a grant from the National Equity Program for Schools (Non-schools component), Autism Tasmania was able to provide professional development to health and education professionals in conjunction with the Department of Education and the Arts. Dr Lawrie Bartak returned to Tasmania with Dr Philip Graves, a paediatrician from Victoria, who also has a strong interest in autism. They spent a week in the state and ran workshops at the assessment centres in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart on the assessment and diagnosis of autism. They also led presentations for teachers, guidance officers and speech pathologists in Hobart and Launceston, and addressed a group of doctors at Latrobe hospital.

A second grant from the NEPS program partly funded four delegates from Autism Tasmania to attend the National Autism Conference in Brisbane in February. Liz Marshall, Rose Clark, Pat Eastwood and Ros Ward were part

of a large group from Tasmania who attended the conference and are endeavouring to impart some of the knowledge gained over the three days.

### **Giant Steps**

The Minister for Education and the Arts made a commitment to funding a centre for children with autism late last year. Giant Steps Tasmania (steering committee) and Autism Tasmania were invited to form a company limited by guarantee to establish and operate a centre for children with autism. The Minister agreed to provide \$15,000 a child for up to fifteen children for a three year period. A company was formed and a Board of Directors appointed. Autism Tasmania has two representatives on the board. The centre operates as a non-government private special school, the first of its kind in Tasmania.

In June 1995, the Giant Steps centre at Deloraine commenced operation and fifteen children are now enrolled. A converted drill hall provides occupational therapy, speech therapy, play and communication activities, academic skills and daily living skills. Music therapy and computer and vision skills are currently housed in a nearby building. The children have individual and small group sessions of all therapies each week. Each child has a shadow who attends all activities with the child.

The children range in ages from three to eleven and with varying degrees of severity. To be eligible for funding from the Department of Education and the Arts, the children must be eligible for placement on the Category A register on the basis of autism. This means the children need a diagnosis of autism according to DSM IV criteria.

We are proud to have been involved in the establishment of the centre, the beginning of autism specific services and a recognition of the needs of children with autism.

### **Education Department Autism Consultant**

The Department of Education and the Arts has also appointed Mrs Jenny Vince as an Autism Consultant to work with children with autism spectrum disorders attending government schools. We are endeavouring to work closely with Jenny who commenced work in this position in May. Jenny will elaborate on her role within the department as our guest speaker at this years Annual General Meeting.

### **Support Activities**

Support group activities have developed over the past year in all regions, although to varying degrees. Active groups in Launceston and on the coast meet regularly for a variety of activities. These include; going out to dinner,

family BBQ's, informal meetings in members homes, some with guest speakers, and family activities - eg ten pin bowling etc. Extended family and professionals are welcome on these occasions. A smaller group of interested people in Hobart have got together on a few occasions.

### **Fundraising**

On the fundraising side, we have had sock drives, a chocolate drive and are about to begin a major raffle with all prizes having been donated. We would like to thank the Tasmanian Gas Corporation for donating the major prize.

### **Involvement of professionals**

We welcome the involvement of health and education professionals with Autism Tasmania. Rachel Evans, a speech pathologist, joined the committee earlier this year to fill the vacancy created by Susan Bortignon's resignation. Dr Alfhild Larson, Paediatric Medical Director at Rehabilitation Tasmania has accepted the position of Tasmania's representative on the Professional Advisory Committee to the National Autistic Association. The committee comprises some well known Australians in the field of autism including Dr Lawrie Bartak (Chairman), Dr Tony Attwood and Ms Verity Botroff.

### **Membership**

Our membership continues to grow which is encouraging and the future is both exciting and daunting. There are many more children being identified with autism and Asperger syndrome but specific services for adolescents and adults are non-existent. We will be working towards achieving improvements in this area.

### **Public speaking**

Public speaking is certainly an area where we have taken all opportunities presented to us. We continue to take our message to the community.



## **In the coming year**

### **Committee**

In the remainder of 1995 we are looking to develop sub-committees in each region headed by a co-ordinator from the executive. The main committee will meet less frequently and communicate as required. We particularly welcome representation from the south of the state. As this report is produced there have been no nominations from the south for committee positions.

### **National Autism Week**

National Autism Week 1995 is to be held from the 10th - 16th September and we were delighted when the Minister for Health, Hon. Roger Groom accepted our invitation to launch National Autism Week. The launch will occur at a Family Day in Devonport on Sunday 10th. A family BBQ will again be held in Hobart. Keep a lookout for the flyer.

A poster competition is also being held amongst some schools (thanks to Jenny Vince for her co-operation here) and displays of the posters will be held at shopping centres, arcades and in the Launceston Mall.

### **Commonwealth Health Grants**

We have been most fortunate that our grant from the Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health for the coming years has been allocated as a recurrent grant.

We will now be able to run two (or three) respite functions each year with the recurrent grant going towards respite either in home or at the function.

I would like to close by again saying a special thank you to the other members of the committee, the helpers who have put in many hours of work during the year and Paula and Ron Barnes who have recently been co-opted to assist with various functions. Without their support Autism Tasmania would not be in the positive position we now find ourselves.

I look forward to receiving feedback from the members in the coming year as a guide to how the committee and the organisation are working.

Mark Ward  
PRESIDENT  
August 1996

## NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

No.	Position	Nomination
1.	President	
2.	Vice President	
3.	Vice President	
4.	Secretary	
5.	Treasurer	
6.	Committee	A.
7.	Committee	B.
8.	Committee	C.
9.	Committee	D.
10.	Committee	E.

**AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED  
ANALYSIS OF FUNDS**

**NON COMMITTED FUNDS**

Balance at 1/7/95	3626.59	Expenditure for Year	7654.82
Income for Year	7026.64	Balance at 30/6/96	2998.41
	10653.23		10653.23

**COMMITTED FUNDS "LIBRARY"**

Balance at 1/7/95	3080.00	Book & Video Purch.	875.56
Book & Video Sales	258.75	Setting up Library exp.	181.12
	3338.75	Balance at 30/6/96	2282.07
			3338.75

**COMMITTED FUNDS "NEPS 1995 ii"  
ASSESSMENT & DIAGNOSIS WORKSHOP**

Balance at 1/7/95	2000.00	Air Fares	310.00
Government Grant	2000.00	Tas. Education Cons.	578.00
Apportion Interest rec.	90.00	Unitas	366.70
		Expenses	64.00
		Apportion Admin., Post	190.00
		Balance at 30/6/96	2581.30
	4090.00		4090.00

**COMMITTED FUNDS "CRC 1995/96"**

**(a) = A FOCUS ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS SEMINAR**

**(b) = FEEDING & TOILETING SEMINAR**

Balance at 1/7/95	163.16	(a) Air Fares & Taxis	914.30
Govt. Grant 6/9/95	4064.00	Expenses	207.00
Seminar Regn. (a)	4055.00	Carers	2498.05
Govt. Grant 3/4/96	4065.00	Venue & Catering	2462.60
Seminar Regn. (b)	970.00	Speakers	1000.00
Apportion Interest rec.	90.00	Accommodation	899.00
		Apportion Admin., Post	456.00
		(b) Air Fares	284.00
		Expenses	317.82
		Carers	959.50
		Catering	590.00
		Speakers	1000.00
		Accommodation	153.00
		Apportion Admin., Post	308.00
		Balance at 30/6/96	1357.89
	13407.16		13407.16

**BALANCES AT 30/6/96**

Non Committed Funds	2998.41
Committed Funds - "LIBRARY"	2282.07
Committed Funds - "NEPS 1995 ii"	2581.30
Committed Funds - "CRC 1995/96"	1357.89

9219.67