



AUTISM TASMANIA Inc.

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

7th Annual Report

and

1998/99 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 18th September 1999

Agenda

7th Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 18 September 1999
Man O' Ross Hotel, Ross

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Correspondence**
 - 3.1 Inwards
 - 3.2 Outwards
- 4. Minutes**
 - 4.1 Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
 - 4.2 Motion for adoption of Minutes
- 5. Special Business**
 - 5.1 Discussion of Logo
- 6. Annual Report**
 - 6.1 Summary of Annual Report
 - 6.2 Motion for adoption of Annual Report
- 7. Treasurer's Report**
 - 7.1 Income & Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet
 - 7.2 Motion for adoption of Treasurer's Report
- 8. Election of Office Bearers**
 - 8.1 President
 - 8.2 Vice Presidents (2 positions)
 - 8.3 Secretary
 - 8.4 Treasurer
 - 8.5 Committee persons (5 positions)
 - 8.6 Vote of thanks to the outgoing Committee
 - 8.7 First Committee meeting date
- 9. Appointment of Auditor**
 - 9.1 Nominations/recommendations
 - 9.2 Motion to appoint the Auditor
- 10. Close**

Please join us for lunch after the meeting and an informal chat about matters of interest, future activities and the direction of Autism Tasmania.

Public Officer's Report

I, Lisa Louise Minchin 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 1999, 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:
L. Minchin
Public Officer



Signed before me

at

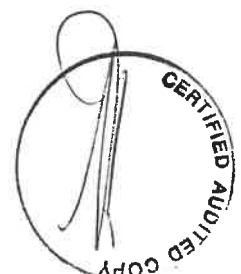
Sandy Bay.....

on

9 Feb.....1999

Alan A Glavin.....

Justice of the Peace



Report to Members

We hereby certify that the accompanying Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenditure of Autism Tasmania Inc. for the year ended 30 June 1999 shows the true financial position and reflects the true results of the financial operations of Autism Tasmania Inc. for that period.

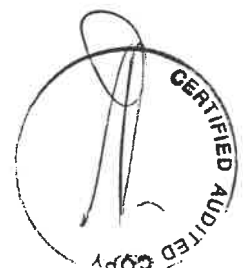
Dated this 5th day of September 1999.

Signed: *R. Clark*
R. Clark
President

Signed: *R. Lay*
R. Lay
Treasurer

Signed: *R. Hodge*
R. Hodge
Secretary

Signed: *Lisa Minchin*
L. Minchin
Public Officer



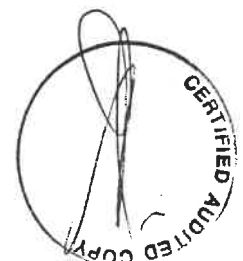
AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1999

Accumulated Income

Balance brought forward 1st July, 1998	21881.07
Plus Net Surplus for year	36906.89
	<u>58787.96</u>

Represented By:

Island State Credit Union S12	60651.73
Less unrepresented Cheques	1863.77
	<u>58787.96</u>



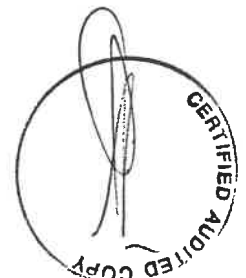
AUTISM TASMANIA INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1999

INCOME

Membership 98/99	1890.00
<u>Fundraising</u>	
Fudge	529.50
Pins	116.00
<u>Government Grants</u>	
Commonwealth Respite for Carers	4,527.00
Commonwealth Respite for Carers	4,527.00
Commonwealth Respite for Carers	755.00
Seminar Registrations (Attwood)	276.00
Seminar Registrations (Lawson)	980.00
Seminar Registrations (Bettison)	350.00
Conference	38,317.13
Autism Week	1,072.60
Professional Training	1,910.00
Autism Council of Australia's (contribution to sending delegates to AGI)	669.00
Donations (Sundry)	590.00
Sale of Books	20.00
Interest	688.02
	<u>57,217.25</u>

EXPENDITURE

Auditing	100.00
<u>Fundraising</u>	
Fudge	245.00
Pins	120.00
Seminar Expenses	4,497.19
	4,462.55
Conference	4,969.88
Government charges	67.90
Computer Expenses	305.62
Telephone, postage and stationery	1,503.07
Autism Week	225.00
Autism Council of Australia - AGM	1,960.40
Annual Levy to National Council	150.00
Library Books	316.00
Public Liability Insurance	970.00
Trust Catalogue	45.00
Advertising	372.75
Net Surplus	36,906.89
	<u>57,217.25</u>



AUTISM TASMANIA
BANK RECONCILIATION

1998/1999

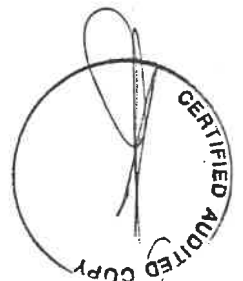
Receipts	\$ 57,217.25
Payments	\$ 20,310.36
	<u>\$ 36,906.89</u>

Bank Balance as at 30th June, 1998	\$ 21,881.07
	<u>\$ 58,787.96</u>

Balance as per Bank Statement 30th June, 1999	\$ 60,651.73
---	--------------

Less outstanding cheques:	868973	\$ 181.73
	986351	\$ 20.00
	986353	\$ 111.00
	986354	\$ 114.00
	986355	\$ 144.00
	986356	\$ 132.00
	986360	\$ 555.00
	986361	\$ 262.00
	986362	\$ 15.00
	986366	\$ 95.00
	986367	\$ 49.00
	868968	\$ 42.00
	868967	\$ 42.00
	868957	\$ 101.04
		<u>\$ 1,863.77</u>

\$ 58,787.96



AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the financial records and accounts of Autism Tasmania Incorporated, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards for the period ended 30th June 1999.

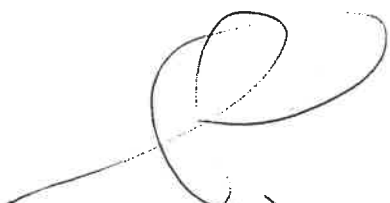
In my opinion:

- a) I have been given all information and explanations required by me.
- b) As shown in the Financial Statements, current assets exceeded its current liabilities by \$58,787.96. In my opinion this factor, along with other matters contained within the Financial Statements, suggests that Association is in a position to continue as a going concern and be able to meet any of its known financial commitments. The Financial Statements include all necessary adjustments relating to the recoverability and classification of recorded assets amounts or the amounts and classification of liabilities that are required to prove that the Association is able to continue as a going concern.

The Financial Statements are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the financial position of the Association, according to the information at my disposal and the explanations given to me and as shown by the books of the Association; and

- c) The rules relating to the Administration of the Association appear to have been observed in most instances, subject to the undermentioned qualifications:-
 - 1. That a physical check of the Inventory was not requested; therefore not performed.

10th September, 1999


P.S. Ryan J.P.
MAIWO, AFAIM, MNIA.
Reg. Com. Education Dept. Auditor
Reg. Assoc. Incorp Act 1964 Auditor.



Listing of Office Bearers & Committee Members

Name	Position	Address	Occupation
Rosemary Jocelyn CLARK	President	4 Hiller Street Devonport 7310	Teacher
Kathy Dawn GILL	Vice President	68 Bushy Creek Road New Town 7008	Autism Consultant
Rachel HODGE (casual vacancy 18 Oct 1999)	Secretary	5 Corinea Court Hadspen 7250	Teacher
Rosanne Louise LAY	Treasurer	54 Waverley Street Bellerive 7018	Teacher
Lisa Louise MINCHIN	Committee	4 Lassawade Avenue Sandy Bay 7005	Mother
Cheryl SCOTT	Committee	25 Essendon Street Launceston 7250	Speech & Language Pathologist


The following Office Bearers and Committee Members have resigned or left since the 1998 Annual General Meeting.

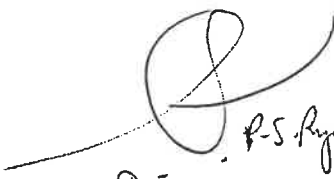
Rachel EVANS (resigned 18 Oct 1998)	Vice President	120 Joyce Street Hawley Beach 7307	Speech & Language Pathologist
Julie FYFE (left Tasmania Oct 1998)	Committee	136 Emu Bay Road Deloraine 7304	Mother
Sue THOROGOOD (resigned 28 Mar 1999)	Committee	21 Weston Street Deloraine 7304	Mother
Jennifer CARRIER (non-attendance 28 Mar 1999)	Committee	6 Murchison Street New Town 7008	Mother

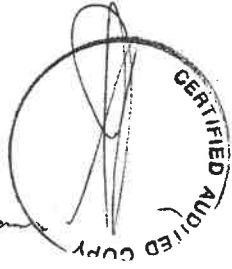
We hereby certify that this list of Office Bearers and Committee Members of Autism Tasmania Inc. is a true and accurate list of the Office Bearers and Committee Members of Autism Tasmania Inc. as at the 30 June 1999.

Dated this 5th day of September 1999

Signed: 
L. Minchin
Public Officer

Signed: 
R. Clark
President


P.S. Ryan
Auditor



List of Members

We hereby certify that the List of Financial Members of Autism Tasmania Inc. for the year ended 30 June 1999 shows the complete list of 84 financial members of Autism Tasmania Inc. as at that date.

Dated this 5th day of September 1999

Signed:
R. Clark
President

R. Clark.

Signed:
R. Hodge
Secretary

R. Hodge

President's Report

The past year has been a very busy and rewarding one. The centrepiece of our activities has unquestionably been the National Autism Conference into which so much effort and planning has been put. Although the Conference falls in the current year and the full financial effect will be reported to next year's AGM, it is important to comment on the tremendous success of the event and to put it into perspective in terms of Autism Tasmania's overall activities.

As a voluntary organisation and as Tasmanian's, we can feel very proud of hosting such a prestigious event. To attract almost 550 registered delegates is a wonderful achievement and far exceeds the most optimistic forecasts of everyone associated with it. Just over 120 Tasmanians attended – parents, educators, specialist service providers, health professionals and other people involved in the State's autism community. Far more people than would ever have the opportunity to attend a mainland conference. The quality and range of speakers was impressive; Tasmanian presenters made very positive contributions!

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. Lack of grandstanding by presenters, cooperative rather than adversarial presentation of material and a sense of common purpose were views conveyed by delegates. Many people commented that it was the best Conference they had attended, was refreshing in its approach and had rekindled their interest in attending similar events again.

Success has only come about because of the hard work of many people – the hard working team at Conference Design who were engaged to organise the event, the volunteer members of the Organising Committee who travelled many kilometers to and from Ross, the people who chaired sessions, chaperoned speakers, dealt with problems and ran messages, ensuring that all ran smoothly, the entertainers who all very generously donated their time. I want to formally record a thank you to all of you from Autism Tasmania. The success of the Conference is your success!

One important theme that came from participants is a timely warning for future conference organisers and has implications for Autism Tasmania and interstate counterparts. Both during the Conference and in the feedback sheets afterwards, people commented on the lack of focus and practical help for lower functioning people, especially children. Many felt that there was too much emphasis on the higher functioning range, where progress and perhaps the rewards, are more tangible. We have conveyed this information to the South Australian Committee who are organising the 2001 Conference, as well as discussing it at the national Autism Council of Australia meeting. I believe that this is just as important for Autism Tasmania to heed when developing our seminars and future directions. One of the challenges for any representative organisation is to try to address the full range of situations that members find themselves in, without being absolutely all things to all people.

Several activities over the past twelve months require specific comment.

- ❖ We took a multi-faceted approach to National Autism Awareness Week in 1999. A new focus involving schools in charitable collection and awareness, statewide public service announcements, media articles and a large family picnic were all very successful. Unfortunately, there was still not a concerted national approach to Autism Awareness Week – something which if done properly can add an enormous impact to awareness in the wider community.
- ❖ Membership continues to grow with an even balance between professional and parents. Many schools have joined as a result of the Autism Week promotion. The actual numbers of financial members reported in this Annual Report are accurate, however, since the 30 June a considerable number of people have renewed, while many others have indicated their intention to do so.
- ❖ We have continued the ongoing and reciprocal relationships with specific interest and support groups such as YAST and the three regional Asperger Support groups, whose growth over the past year has been quite strong. Our partnership with Giant Steps continues with two nominee directors sitting on the Board and joint training sessions throughout the State presenting Dr Sue Bettison's Toilet Training Workshops.
- ❖ Our association with Wendy Lawson has gone from strength to strength, with presentation of her seminars throughout the State, participation as a keynote speaker at the Conference and sound practical support by 'phone and e-mail.
- ❖ The comprehensive Parent Information Kit originally issued in 1996 has been updated and reprinted. It will soon be available to members and professionals for a minimal cost.

Two potentially significant developments for autism services have arisen since the election of the Bacon Government.

Firstly, the Department of Education, through the Office of Educational Review, has instigated a comprehensive review into "The Inclusion of Children with Special Needs in Regular Schools". An external consultant, Professor Luanna Meyer from New Zealand has been engaged to oversee the Review. Well over 300 formal submissions have been presented and information is still being gathered. Autism Tasmania was invited to prepare a submission; myself and Lisa Minchin (representing YAST) are both members of the Reference Group formed to support the Review Steering Committee.

It is anticipated that the Review findings will be presented in 2000. Given the huge amount of anecdotal evidence from parents, educators, schools, the AEU and representative organisations regarding the shortcomings of the existing inclusion arrangements, especially

for children who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder, the review process and outcomes have very significant implications. More parents are making themselves aware of their legal rights in an effort to win better support for their child, following the lead taken in other States. Changing the system to improve opportunities for all children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder remains the preferred goal at this time.

More recently, the Minister for Education announced that the Department of Education will convene a forum on autism services to enable parents and relevant organisations to help shape the future direction. Our latest advice is that the forum will be held in November. Autism Tasmania has called on the State Government to extend the forum to include the wider issues in health and community services. We believe that comprehensive solutions are not possible if only half the problem is looked at. How genuine these events are will be determined by their outcomes and the speed and purpose with which the Department of Education introduces reforms. Nevertheless, in both cases, they are tremendous opportunities to be involved in shaping autism service provision in Tasmania.

Both the Review and the forum have implications for all of us in the autism community in Tasmania. We come from a wide range of different backgrounds, circumstances and perspectives. However, we must try to properly capture the key issues regarding service provision and the on-going role of government for all our constituents. To date attempts to develop a set of common goals and agenda of issues have been less than successful. Finding a process that enables all the stakeholders to get together and achieve this is a key goal for Autism Tasmania, now that the event of the Conference is behind us.

This year, two Committee members are leaving their current roles – Lisa Minchin who is not standing again and Treasurer Rosanne Lay who has nominated as a Committee member only. To both of them and the other members of the 1998/99 Committee, my personal thanks for another year of hard work, high personal commitment and good friendship.

Rose Clark
President