



autism  
awareness  
AUSTRALIA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

# ABOUT AAA

**Autism Awareness Australia  
is Australia's leading voice for autism**

**Our goal is simple: to improve the lives of all Australians on the autism spectrum and the families who love them.**

Our campaigns and events have reached millions of Australians. We are proud to have delivered the majority of our programs free of charge across the country, including rural and regional communities.



We **empower** parents and carers with quality information and resources



We provide targeted **educational** programs to families, professionals and the broader community



We support **inclusion** for people on the autism spectrum



...and we have some **fun** along the way too!



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

**At Autism Awareness Australia, one thing we're particularly passionate about is providing quality information**



Thanks to the internet, humankind now has information in abundance...but that doesn't necessarily mean it is quality information or, in some cases, even factually correct. As a parent, from when your child is first diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and throughout their school years, you crave information. This year at AAA, we doubled our distribution efforts, ensuring quality information and resources are being delivered across the country to those who need it.

2018 also saw the return of our popular Surfers Healing 'surf days', as well as a range of fundraisers and events. My favourite project in this space was our AUSTism Speaker series in Sydney. We kicked off our first event at the iconic Sydney Opera House. It was a wonderful evening of storytelling, laughter and love. Through stories, we can improve our understanding and gain new perspectives. With so many more stories to share, we look forward to rolling this series out across Australia very soon.

# HIGHLIGHTS



Over the past year  
our community has continued  
to **grow**  
and we've seen a

**20%** INCREASE  
across the  
board

We're excited to continue providing support,  
quality information and holding events for our  
**community of 108,000...**and counting!







Through our  
**fundraisers & donors,**  
we have collectively  
raised over  
**\$200,000**  
to help us  
**continue supporting**  
autism families  
across the country



We provided  
**direct support**  
to over  
**4500**  
individuals  
& families



We launched a  
**hugely successful**  
NEW EVENT SERIES



The **AUStism**  
events brought together a range of both  
*international & local speakers*  
from the autism community to present  
a spectacular range of talks designed to  
**challenge, inform & inspire**

Our **website** had just over  
**200,000**  
UNIQUE VISITORS  
accessing  
**840,000**  
pageviews



# EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS

## AUStism at the House

Held at the iconic Sydney Opera House, AUStism at the House featured a line-up of speakers from both Australia and overseas who shared their personal stories and experiences of autism. Speakers included: Dr James Best and his son Sam Best, Judy and Tim Sharp, Chris Bonnelo, Caren Zucker and John Donovan. Our inaugural event was a huge success with these tales of adversity, persistence, resilience, triumph, success and inspiration told to a sold out crowd!





## AUStism with the Authors

An evening with Emmy-winning, US-based journalists, John Donovan and Caren Zucker. The duo has been collaborating together on autism stories for 18 years, however, it was their bestselling book, 'In a Different Key: The Story of Autism', that was honoured with a Pulitzer Prize Finalist nod last year.

'AUStism with the Authors' gave fans of Donovan and Zucker's brilliant work the opportunity to enjoy a longer, more intimate interview with them, in a relaxed environment where they could ask questions and join the conversation.



## AUStism at the Pub

Brits love a beer, so pairing a talk from a young British writer with a pub in the city centre seemed like a natural fit. This event saw a very special evening with autism self-advocate and writer, Chris Bonello, of 'Autistic Not Weird'. Chris took the audience on a journey from his childhood as the "weird kid" through to his Asperger's diagnosis at the age of 25, and how he eventually came to be Captain Quirk, the author of [autisticnotweird.com](http://autisticnotweird.com).





## Surfers Healing 2018

On the surface, it seems simple: our surf days give children with autism and their families a fun day out at the beach. But if you go deeper, you'll see it's so much more than that. Through the simple act of surfing, we're defying the status quo. When we help kids get up on a board, we're challenging preconceived notions of capability. When we encourage participants to dive in, we're supporting them to engage with the world. And when we go out and ride waves together, we're empowering families to believe their kids "can".

Autism Awareness Australia and Surfers Healing USA partnered again in 2018 to give this awesome experience to over 600 children across three events in Manly, NSW and the Gold Coast, QLD.





## Fun Runs – City2Surf and Run Melbourne

With a band of dedicated fundraisers, the 'AAA Runners' hit the pavement at both Run Melbourne in July and the City2Surf in August. Events like these provide us with the opportunity to raise both awareness and much needed funds. With over 30 runners across both events, we set a fundraising target of \$20,00 - which we are proud to say we surpassed!



## World Autism Awareness Day 2018

For the 8th consecutive year, we lit the sails of the Sydney Opera House blue to mark World Autism Awareness Day. This day is sanctioned by the United Nations to recognise all individuals on the spectrum and the families who love and support them.



# ADVOCACY



We spoke out across several media outlets following appalling comments around the inclusion of children with autism in mainstream schools.

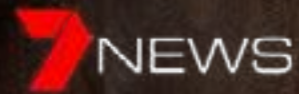
We were participants in the National Diagnostic Guidelines Advisory Board as part of our work to help streamline the diagnostic process and reduce wait times for families.

We publicly appealed to several politicians to apologise for the offensive comments made about people with autism.

We represented autism families in a number of meetings and one on one consultations with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). We advocated for improvements to the funding packages available for individuals on the spectrum, as well as reform around the pathways and entry requirements into the NDIS.



# MEDIA COVERAGE



The Sydney Morning Herald

theguardian



The Daily Telegraph

THE AUSTRALIAN





# OUR BOARD



## Nicole Rogerson CEO

Nicole Rogerson is the founding Director of Autism Awareness Australia. She volunteers her time as CEO and is one of the nation's leading advocates for the awareness and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Nicole has led many campaigns and events that have inspired, touched and educated Australians, including Light It Up Blue for World Autism Awareness Day, production of a short film 'What are you doing?' for school children, and three television community service announcements.

Nicole is one of the most passionate voices on the challenges of autism in Australia, having hosted numerous seminars, advised the Federal Government and presented to the United Nations. She is frequently asked to speak about autism, with appearances on 60 Minutes, the 7.30 Report, the Today Show, A Current Affair, Today Tonight and Australian Story as well as The Australian, Fairfax newspapers and The Australian Women's Weekly.

Nicole has two sons, the eldest of which is on the autism spectrum.



## Stephanie Smith Director

Stephanie is a partner at PwC, the leading global professional services firm, working with clients in the financial services industry for over 19 years.

In 2012, Stephanie volunteered with Surfers Healing, a US not-for-profit who introduces the unique experience of surfing to children on the autism spectrum. She was impacted by the challenging and positive experiences she witnessed, a therapeutic moment for the kids instilling calm and confidence, and a celebration for the families who see what their kids can do. Stephanie was instrumental in facilitating the partnership of Surfers Healing with Autism Awareness Australia and bringing these experiences to our Aussie kids on the spectrum.

Prior to her involvement with Surfers Healing, Stephanie was completely unaware of the challenges faced by kids on the spectrum and their families. She has now met hundreds of these special kids and families and is passionate about helping Autism Awareness Australia in their goals including educating the broader community and supporting increased understanding and inclusion.



## Sally Collins Director

Sally is the Chief Operating Officer at VFMC, Victorian Funds Management Corporation. With 22 years experience in financial services she has lead many large functions within VFMC, NAB, CBA and AXA Australia.

At work Sally has been a vocal advocate for gender diversity and inclusion and also workplace flexibility. She was recently recognised for this as the 2016 recipient of the Financial Executive Women (FEW) Positive Progression of Women award. She is also an author and her first book, Stepmother Love, is all about the challenges faced by stepmothers in finding their way and building loving families.

It's this combination of Sally's corporate skills and advocacy for tough parenting gigs that brought her to AAA. She's looking forward to learning more about the challenges faced by children on the autism spectrum, and their families, and can't wait to help AAA be as successful as possible in their great work.



## Melanie Carrier Director

An accomplished Director in Marketing and Advertising, Melanie set her career aside to care for her third child who was diagnosed with autism in 2003.

At the time, services were scarce and prognosis was grim. Melanie tirelessly researched best practices for her son.

Since moving to Australia in 2011, Melanie and her family have volunteered for events such as Light it up Blue, City2Surf, Surfers Healing and have even held their own fundraising boot camps. It was therefore a natural extension for Melanie to join the Board of Autism Awareness Australia and continue to advocate for families like hers, help increase awareness and build upon the many amazing programs and events.

Her passion has always been to support individuals on the spectrum to become independent, fulfilled, contributing members of society.



## Prof. Brian Owler Director

Prof. Brian Owler is a paediatric and adult neurosurgeon based in Sydney, and a Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Sydney.

Prof Owler is a Consultant Neurosurgeon at the Children's Hospital at Westmead, the Sydney Adventist Hospital, Norwest Private Hospital, Macquarie University Private Hospital and Westmead Private Hospital.

Prof. Owler is a past President of the Federal and NSW Australian Medical Associations. In these roles he has been a public health advocate. This includes the RTA/NSW AMA Road Safety 'Don't Rush' campaign and lobbying to prevent childhood injury. Brian has a daughter with autism. He is an enthusiastic supporter of Autism Awareness Australia having worked closely with us in his previous role with the AMA. He looks forward to contributing to our ongoing efforts to improve the lives of all Australians on the autism spectrum.

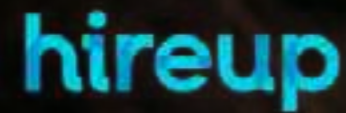


# OUR FUNDRAISING PARTNERS





# OUR SPONSORS





# FINANCIALS

## Autism Awareness Australian Limited

(ABN: 42 130 217 962)

### Statement Of Financial Position For The Year Ended 30 June 2018



ASSETS	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	283,143	27,400
Inventories	5,629	39
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>288,771</b>	<b>27,439</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	7,272	1,539
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>7,272</b>	<b>1,539</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>296,044</b>	<b>28,977</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2018 (\$)</b>	<b>2017 (\$)</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	8,785	2,871
Other liabilities	236,169	-
Employee benefits	6,414	7,063
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>251,368</b>	<b>9,934</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Employee benefits	11,009	9,735
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>11,009</b>	<b>9,735</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>262,377</b>	<b>262,377</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	<b>2018 (\$)</b>	<b>2017 (\$)</b>
Retained earnings	33,667	9,308
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>33,667</b>	<b>9,308</b>

# FINANCIALS

## Autism Awareness Australian Limited

(ABN: 42 130 217 962)

### Statement Of Profit Or Loss

### And Other Comprehensive Income

For The Year Ended 30 June 2018



	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Revenue	334,957	213,686
Advertising and marketing	9,732	13,348
Employee benefit expenses	75,661	100,396
Event expenses	139,005	39,437
Event related expenses	39,608	37,679
Donation collection expenses	5,410	3,051
Postage and Shipping	307	1,280
Administration expenses	40,873	23,547
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>310,598</b>	<b>218,738</b>
Profit / (Loss) before tax	24,359	(5,053)
Income tax expense	-	-
Profit / (Loss) for the year	24,359	(5,053)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>	<b>24,359</b>	<b>(29,279)</b>



# FINANCIALS

**Autism Awareness Australian Limited**

(ABN: 42 130 217 962)

**Statement Of Changes In Equity**

**For The Year Ended 30 June 2018**

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Retained earnings at the beginning of the year	9,308	14,361
Profit / (Loss) for the year	24,359	(5,053)
Retained earnings at the end of the year	33,667	9,308





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