



Annual Report
2016

2015-2016 Highlights



The 2015-2016
financial year saw our
online following
grow to over

80000



We hosted
12 events and campaigns
reaching thousands of
families and professionals
across the country



AUTISM
AWARENESS

Through our own
fundraising efforts, we raised

\$140000

and our generous sponsors
donated an additional

\$120000

to help us continue to promote
awareness and understanding
of autism and run
community events



We partnered with
many organisations
nationally and internationally
to deliver our events
and campaigns
to autism families



We featured in over

20

media outlets
globally

A Message From Our CEO

Autism Awareness Australia has had another phenomenally busy year. One of the highlights for me was when we once again partnered with Disney to host another autism friendly performance of the Lion King, this time at the iconic Regent Theatre in Melbourne. After the success of the Sydney performance, it was incredible to visit Melbourne and watch over 1500 children on the autism spectrum and their families get to experience a very special day at the theatre. There were smiles all around as children danced in the aisles and watched (and yelled) in amazement. It was a wonderful community event where parents were able to feel a part of supportive and welcoming environment. We also had an awesome team of AAA volunteers on hand to help us ensure everything ran smoothly and that a great day was had by all.

In October we continued our series of rural and regional parent workshops, this time in Tamworth NSW. Benison O'Reilly and Seana Smith, the authors of The Australian Autism Handbook, joined our team of clinicians to present on a range of topics, such as behaviour management, teaching new skills and NDIS guidance. Access to resources and informational workshops can be extremely limited in rural and regional locations, so we were really excited to be able to bring a great team with useful and practical information to families in these areas.



In April, to mark World Autism Awareness month, we launched our Ambassadors for Autism campaign. We collaborated with world-famous photographer, Tim Bauer, who took a stunning set of photographs of our first ever Autism Ambassadors. During the campaign, we encouraged individuals and families around the world to share their own #AmbassadorsforAutism photographs.

This gave them the opportunity to showcase the many skills and strengths of the autism community. It was a gorgeous campaign that saw thousands of people celebrated and praised for what makes them who they are.

On the 2nd of April we once again lit the sails of the Sydney Opera House blue to mark the United Nations World Autism Awareness Day. Overlooking the gorgeous Sydney Harbour, under the blue lights of the sails we also held our first ever fundraising event, 'Shine at the House'. Mental As Anything performed to an enthusiastic crowd of our supporters, which helped us raise money for a new project we look forward to rolling out next year.

Whilst it has been a busy year, it has been wonderful for us to have so many varied events and campaigns and the opportunity to reach as many Australian families as we can. Whether it be in rural and regional towns or in the cities, it is our ongoing commitment to improve the lives of all Australians with autism and the families who love them.

Nicole Rogerson
CEO, Autism Awareness Australia



About Autism Awareness Australia

**Information | Education,
Inclusion | Awareness**

Autism Awareness 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.

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.

We know that families are the best advocates for their children, and we are here to ensure they have access to the best quality information and supports to help them along the way.

Founded in 2007, Autism Awareness Australia is the nation's leading not-for-profit autism education and awareness organisation.





Autism: The Facts



Autism is the most **common developmental disorder in Australia**. Around 164,000 Australians have Autism Spectrum Disorder.



Autism is a **complex** developmental disorder that inhibits a person's ability to **communicate** and develop social **relationships**. There are often other behavioural challenges that come along with the disorder as well, but **not every diagnosis looks the same**.



Autism affects **every part** of a person's life, including the lives of the **families** who love them. We believe that with **earlier diagnosis**, access to effective **early intervention** and more **meaningful support**, people on the autism spectrum can reach their **full potential**.

Highlights of the Year

Events / Campaigns

AAA and Disney Present an Autism-friendly showing of The Lion King - August 2015

We believe all families should have the opportunity to experience theatre, so Autism Awareness was delighted to partner with Disney to bring the first ever autism-friendly performance of The Lion King to Australia. Following on from the success of our initial Sydney show, we held a second performance in Melbourne in August 2015. Our Melbourne show was incredibly popular as well, entertaining 1,200 people on the autism spectrum and their families.

These specially adapted performances included removal of strobe lighting, the reduction of any jarring sounds and lights focused on the audience, and the dimming of the house lights. We also offered the flexibility for families to bring their own snacks and set up dedicated 'quiet spaces' and activity areas. Trained staff were on hand and worked tirelessly to ensure our families could experience this award-winning production within a welcoming and supportive environment.



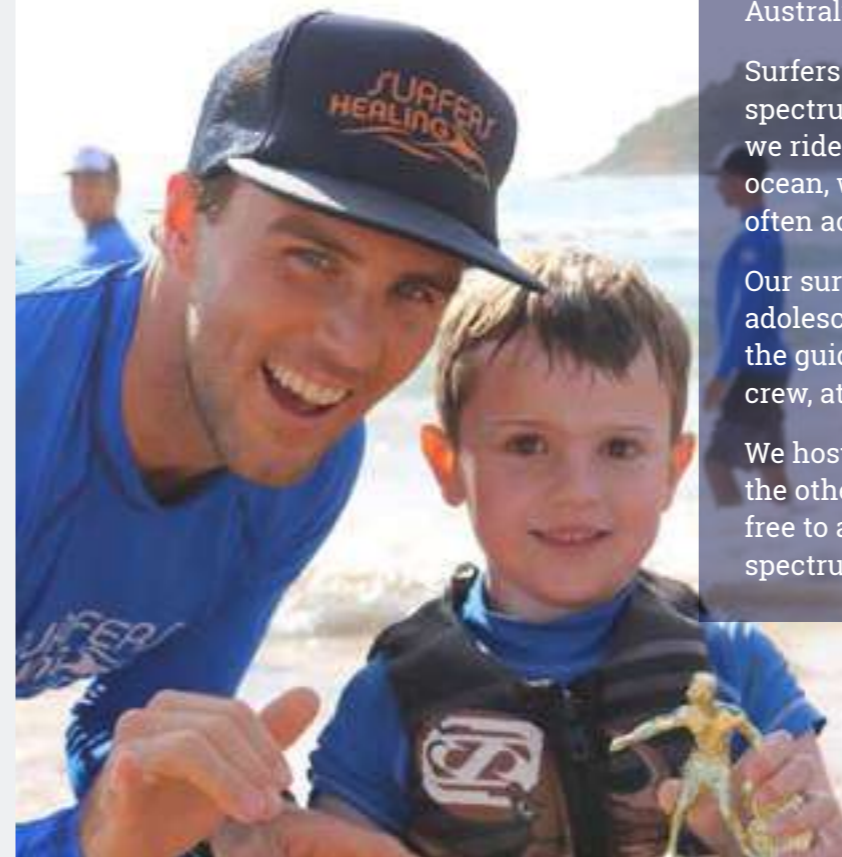
Surfers Healing Australia 13 and 19 March 2016

Teaming up once again, Autism Awareness Australia and Surfers Healing USA were thrilled to have the opportunity to bring this amazing experience to Australian families.

Surfers Healing Australia offers children on the autism spectrum an opportunity to experience surfing. Together we ride the waves and tap into the tranquillity of the ocean, which can help calm the sensory overload that often accompanies autism.

Our surf days provided over 500 children and adolescents with the opportunity to learn to surf under the guidance and experience of our professional surf crew, at no cost to their families.

We hosted two events, one at Trigg Beach in Perth and the other at Manly Beach in Sydney. Both events were free to attend and open to all individuals on the autism spectrum, regardless of their surfing ability.



Highlights of the Year

Events / Campaigns

Shine at the House 2 April 2016

Autism Awareness Australia held a fundraising event at the Sydney Opera House in celebration of the United Nations World Autism Awareness Day. To mark the occasion, we lit up the sails of the Opera House blue!

Each year the Sydney Opera House is the first building to turn blue, followed by other iconic landmarks such as the Empire State building, the Arc de Triumph and the Great Pyramid of Egypt.

Our fundraising gala dinner was hosted by James Valentine and featured one of Australia's most iconic bands – the Hoodoo Gurus. It was an evening of great food and wine from Aria Catering and included a talk by special guest speaker, Jacqueline Aidenbaum from the United Nations in New York.

We shined a light on autism and proudly marked this special global awareness day with a hugely successful event. Plus, we were able to raise some much needed funds which enables us to continue assisting Australian families with children on the spectrum.



Ambassadors for Autism April 2016

During April 2016 we celebrated and showcased our Australian #AmbassadorsForAutism with a national online campaign.

Each day in April we introduced our followers to an Australian on the autism spectrum. We loved sharing the profiles of each individual with a little bit about who they are, what they love, and what makes them who they are.

This campaign helped to raise further awareness of autism, while highlighting some of the many wonderful individuals on the spectrum and the incredible skills they have. We provided families with an unforgettable day out on the waves, surrounded by other families from within their community and supported by a group of passionate and experienced volunteers.



#AmbassadorsForAutism

Highlights of the Year

Educational Programs



Autism Information Day in Tamworth October 2015

We were excited to visit Tamworth in order to provide free training and support to parents, carers, educators and professionals living and working with children and adolescents on the autism spectrum.

Our panel of industry experts, experienced parents and published authors presented a one day seminar covering topics such as understanding autism, diagnosis and early intervention options, practical behaviour management strategies, funding entitlements and preparing for the NDIS and supporting adolescents on the spectrum.

GPCE Conference May 2016



We were delighted to be invited to present at the General Practice Conference & Exhibition (GPCE) in Sydney in May.

Our fabulous speakers, Benison O'Reilly and Charmaine Fraser, presented a session on Autism in General Practice, helping further educate GP's on the signs of autism, the path to diagnosis and how to support patients on the spectrum and their families.

Media Highlights

The Daily Telegraph

The Sydney Morning Herald

THE AGE
INDEPENDENT. ALWAYS.

THE AUSTRALIAN

ABC Radio

ABC
Australian
Broadcasting
Corporation



Community Support

Our wonderful supporters helped us raise money through the many community-based fundraisers throughout the year. These funds enable us to continue running free events and campaigns at no cost to families.

Some of these include:



Organisations we work with



Corporate & Government Support



Governance / Board

In 2016 we had some board members conclude their positions on the Autism Awareness Board. We took this opportunity to welcome some new faces to the team who bring with them some new ideas and insights.

The Autism Awareness Board as of 2016 is as follows:

Nicole Rogerson

Nicole Rogerson is the founding Director and CEO of Autism Awareness Australia 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, the production of a short film 'What are you doing?', and a number of television community service announcements.

Nicole is one of the most trusted and passionate voices for autism in Australia and is frequently invited to speak on autism matters. Nicole has hosted numerous seminars, advised the Federal Government and presented to the United Nations. She has appeared on 60 Minutes, 7.30 Report, Today Show, A Current Affair, Today Tonight and Australian Story, and has been quoted in The Australian, Fairfax newspapers and Australian Women's Weekly.

Stephanie Smith

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

In 2012, Stephanie began volunteering with Surfers Healing, a US based not-for-profit who offers children on the autism spectrum the chance to learn how to surf.

Stephanie has experienced first-hand how therapeutic surfing can be and how the ocean can instil both calmness and confidence in children with ASD. Stephanie has been instrumental in facilitating the partnership between Surfers Healing and Autism Awareness Australia and ensuring this experience was able to be brought 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 children with ASD and their families and is passionate about helping Autism Awareness Australia achieve their goals.

Stephanie was appointed as a Director on 01/03/2016

Sally Collins

Sally currently leads the business management team in the role of General Manager at NAB. With 22 years of experience in financial services she has led many large functions within NAB, CBA and AXA Australia.

Within her workplace, Sally has been a vocal advocate for gender diversity and inclusion, and workplace flexibility. She was recently recognised for her efforts as the 2016 recipient of the Financial Executive Women (FEW) Positive Progression of Women award. Sally is also an author and her first book, Stepmother Love, talks about the challenges faced by stepmothers when building a blended family and overcoming the "wicked stepmother" stereotype.

It's this combination of corporate skills and advocacy for tough parenting gigs that brought her to Autism Awareness Australia. Sally is looking forward to helping AAA address the many challenges faced by children on the autism spectrum and continue providing meaningful support to their families.

Sally was appointed as a Director on 27/05/2016.

Lyndell Droga ceased her director appointment on 16/09/2015.

Anne Masi ceased her director appointment on 29/02/2016.

Kristen Callow ceased her director appointment on 18/03/2016.

Sean Tobin ceased his director appointment on 10/04/2016.

Prof. Brian Owler

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

Prof. Owler is a former president of the Federal and NSW Australian Medical Associations. In these roles he has been a strong public health advocate. He has been involved in campaigns such as the RTA/ NSW AMA Road Safety 'Don't Rush' campaign and lobbying to prevent childhood injury.

Brian also has a daughter with autism. As a parent of a child with ASD, he is an enthusiastic supporter of Autism Awareness Australia and has worked closely with us in his previous role with the AMA. He is looking forward to contributing to our ongoing efforts to improve the lives of all Australians on the autism spectrum.

Prof. Owler was appointed as a Director on 11/07/2016.

Autism Awareness Australian Limited (Abn: 42 130 217 962)		
Statement Of Profit Or Loss And Other Comprehensive Income For The Year Ended 30 June 2016		
	2016	2015
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Revenue	359,709	283,735
Other Income		
Total Income	359,709	283,735
EXPENSES		
Wages and salaries	142,729	88,362
Event expenses	126,113	35,964
Event related travel expenses	53,389	65,070
Donation collection expenses	7,540	8,243
Postage and shipping	964	595
Administration expenses	58,253	31,261
Total Expenses	388,988	229,495
Profit / (Loss) before tax	(29,279)	54,240
Income tax expense	-	-
Profit / Loss for the year	(29,279)	54,240
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	(29,279)	54,240

Autism Awareness Australian Limited (Abn: 42 130 217 962)		
Statement Of Financial Position For The Year Ended 30 June 2016		
	2016	2015
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	28 170	71 348
Inventories	784	1 052
Total current assets	28 954	72 400
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2 577	620
Total non-current assets	2 577	620
TOTAL ASSETS	31 531	73 020
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1 501	-
Deferred revenue	-	20 000
Employee benefits	7 248	5 725
Loans and borrowings	-	-
Total current liabilities	8 749	25 725
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefits	8 422	3 655
Total non-current liabilities	8 422	3 655
TOTAL LIABILITIES	17 171	29 380
NET ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)	14 360	43 640
EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus / (deficit)	14 361	43 640
TOTAL EQUITY	14 361	43 640