

# annual report 2014/15

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consolidating our foundations



# compassion and action for every child

OzChild has been operating for over 165 years. We currently support over 6,000 children, young people and families every year with foster care and kinship care, family services, disability respite and educational and therapeutic support to help ensure the safety and future of some of our most vulnerable children and young people.



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## president's report

**2015 has been a year of consolidation and achievement for OzChild. Our Five Year Strategic Plan, the new Let's Stay Together model of care, joining the Act Together Consortium in the ACT and the receipt of many grants all demonstrate how much we have strengthened our position as a leading provider of care to vulnerable children and young people.**

We are led by an outstanding chief executive officer Lisa Sturzenegger and the executive leadership team, all of whom diligently facilitate the work of the staff, carers and volunteers who do so much of the day-to-day heavy lifting.

As the outgoing president, I want to thank each of our board members, our vice presidents, Helen Maxwell-Wright who has a wealth of experience in the not for profit sector and health sectors and David Impey from the community finance and banking sector, our expert treasurer Michael Wootten, philanthropic fund operator Michael Hayja, Angela Williams, a forensic medical practitioner and foster carer, Sally Leake, with experience in the emergency services sector and Steve Fontana, a commissioner of police who knows the true world of crime, abuse and family violence and Catherine Dunlop with her vast legal experience.

In my recent review of the OzChild board, I had the opportunity to hear how privileged each member feels to be able to contribute

to such an important organisation and how excited they were to be working with OzChild. This was clearly visible at the 2015 Gala Ball, a wonderful evening that was so excellently organised by the staff.

Two board members, Geoff Leeton and Jason Henham retired in 2015 and I want to thank them for their outstanding contribution.

Finally, I want to offer a very special thank you to the staff, carers and volunteers for all that they contribute.

As we look to the future, we know that there is much work to be done as children and families continue to need care, support and opportunity.

Collectively we are up to the task.

**erica frydenberg phd**  
**board president**



## chief executive officer's report

**When I look back at the past year I feel both humbled and privileged to be a part of such a wonderful organisation.**

We embarked on a very tough journey to turn around our financial position from several years of operating losses, to transfer our small community VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) program and to look closely at how we operated.

At the forefront of our minds was to continue providing the highest quality services to our children, young people and families while aiming for a break-even budget in 2016; so it is fantastic to report that our deficit has been significantly reduced and our operating budget was break-even by May 2015.

A strong financial position provides a solid foundation and that allows for an organisation like ours to quickly navigate changes in our sector. We have seen a few at both a federal and state level that can impact funding and create uncertainty.

Federally, we have re-applied for all of our funding, winning some but also seeing some losses in our family law and early intervention programs. At a state level we have seen positive changes with the incoming government, reminding us to be responsive to new opportunities. Meanwhile, we continue to keep our eye on the upcoming National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Importantly, OzChild has a new strategic direction that will grow our reach; strengthen our impact; integrate our business services; and develop and nurture our people, which will form the basis of our annual business plan over the next few years.

We have continued to make a difference to many children, young people and families with trauma-informed services and practice improved through research and evaluation. Our staff always want the best outcome for every client; I see this often and it makes me proud. I want to thank and acknowledge you all.

It's not unusual for our staff, volunteers and carers to go that extra mile. Some go many miles like our fundraisers who trekked Kokoda, our wonderful ambassadors, or our dedicated board who provide excellent support to the organisation, executive and myself.

In closing, I want to especially thank our outgoing President Erica Frydenberg who has led an incredible Board during this challenging year and supported me get through my first year and I look forward to many more.

**lisa sturzenegger**  
chief executive officer



## our stories

Rod and Karri build a solid foundation for Adam.

**Although children staying with their family members seems the easier choice, in many cases it can be even more problematic than staying with foster parents, especially when the repercussions of one person breaking down can ripple out to have serious impacts on the rest of the family.**

By the time Adam was nine, his mother's drug and alcohol abuse had become so serious that he could no longer safely live at home and like many children, went to live with his grandparents. After about a year, he was able to return to live with his mum, but it was soon obvious to the rest of the family from his school absences and poor diet that this was not a healthy nor a safe place for him to grow up.

This time, Adam moved in with his Aunt Vicky but with Adam's mum starting bitter fights with Vicky and creating tense disruptions every time she visited, Adam was unable to settle in peacefully, resulting in him having aggressive arguments with his Aunt. The emotional toll on Vicky was too severe and he once again moved back in with his grandparents.

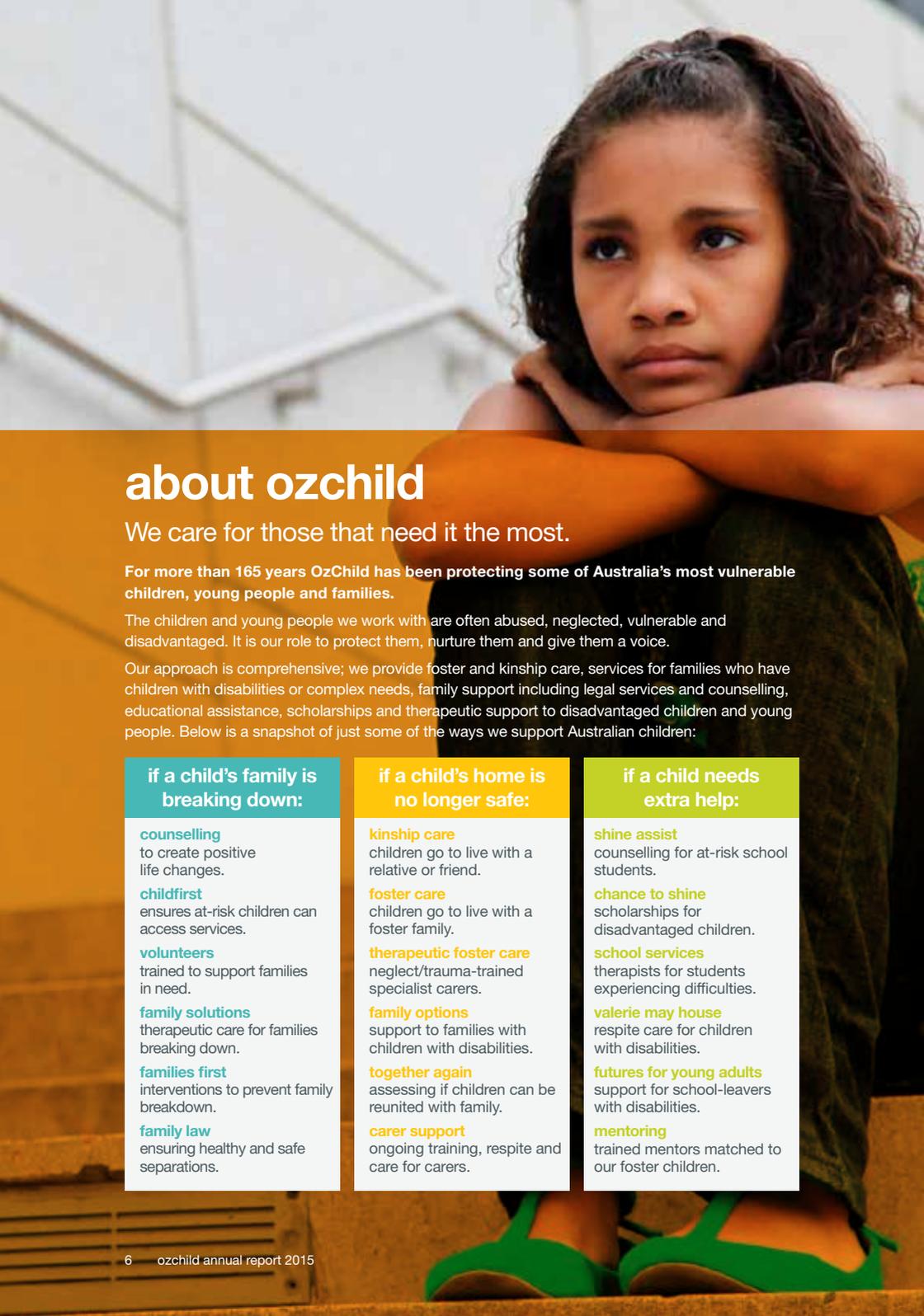
Adam's ageing grandparents were worried that they were too old to be good carers for a boy who was fast growing into a young man, so when Adam's uncle Rod and Rod's girlfriend Karri said they'd like to take care of Adam, the

family, together with OzChild supported this as a potential new home for Adam.

For about a year now, Adam has been living with Rod and Karri, and although he is still learning to control his frustration and anger, especially when he gets visits from his mum, he has become much more positive, aware and is learning how to make wiser choices.

OzChild has worked continuously with this family to make sure it's working for Adam and have been overjoyed to read some of his most recent feedback:

"My uncle Rod is just like a dad to me and Karri is the best. I have been introduced to something I love completely and that is dancing. I feel so alive when I am dancing. Starting high school and feeling at home in my school, I have made a heap of friends. I love my family. I love them just as much as my own so these are just some of the great things that have happened to me in the past 12 months."



# about ozchild

We care for those that need it the most.

For more than 165 years OzChild has been protecting some of Australia's most vulnerable children, young people and families.

The children and young people we work with are often abused, neglected, vulnerable and disadvantaged. It is our role to protect them, nurture them and give them a voice.

Our approach is comprehensive; we provide foster and kinship care, services for families who have children with disabilities or complex needs, family support including legal services and counselling, educational assistance, scholarships and therapeutic support to disadvantaged children and young people. Below is a snapshot of just some of the ways we support Australian children:

## if a child's family is breaking down:

### **counselling**

to create positive life changes.

### **childfirst**

ensures at-risk children can access services.

### **volunteers**

trained to support families in need.

### **family solutions**

therapeutic care for families breaking down.

### **families first**

interventions to prevent family breakdown.

### **family law**

ensuring healthy and safe separations.

## if a child's home is no longer safe:

### **kinship care**

children go to live with a relative or friend.

### **foster care**

children go to live with a foster family.

### **therapeutic foster care**

neglect/trauma-trained specialist carers.

### **family options**

support to families with children with disabilities.

### **together again**

assessing if children can be reunited with family.

### **carer support**

ongoing training, respite and care for carers.

## if a child needs extra help:

### **shine assist**

counselling for at-risk school students.

### **chance to shine**

scholarships for disadvantaged children.

### **school services**

therapists for students experiencing difficulties.

### **valerie may house**

respite care for children with disabilities.

### **futures for young adults**

support for school-leavers with disabilities.

### **mentoring**

trained mentors matched to our foster children.



## our stories

### Bernadette and her children get much needed support

**The Intensive Therapeutic Family Support Program (ITFSP) is one of the services OzChild provides to at-risk families and includes in-home therapeutic services, case management and prioritises children aged 0–12 years old.**

Bernadette needed and was seeking help with her children; four-year-old Michael (who was later diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder) and two-year-old Tracey, who was found to have a developmental delay. There had also been a significant history of family violence with the children's father and parental substance misuse.

Through OzChild's ITFSP, a care-team approach was used to coordinate support and address the complex issues Bernadette faced. Fortunately, Bernadette was open and fully engaged with the team of nurses, parenting workers and intervention and respite staff.

Bernadette attended regular care team meetings and common goals were set and reinforced by the complementing services, such as working toward a daily routine for the children and improving their sleeping habits.

The OzChild ITFSP worker facilitated psychological assessments for the children, during which it was revealed that both children had autism spectrum disorders.

These diagnoses recognised the complex needs of the children, ensuring they had greater access to vital, necessary support to address their ongoing needs.

Bernadette identified that establishing a routine for the children ensured they were getting regular sleep, which lessened their tantrums and difficult behaviour, making parenting much more manageable. This gave her greater confidence in her capacity to parent, set appropriate boundaries and assisted the children to reach their goals.

Developing a strong working partnership with Bernadette allowed the supporting services teams to empower her to take control of her situation and that of the children, which in turn allowed the program to undertake trauma-informed work with Bernadette to develop her insight to the children's needs. It also allowed the ITFSP to develop Bernadette's understanding of child development in the context of the children's diagnoses.

# our board of directors

Our board of voluntary directors are dedicated to the best possible outcomes for children and act in an honorary capacity.



## **Erica Frydenberg | President**

Associate Professor Erica Frydenberg joined the Board in 2011 was appointed President in June 2014 and is an educational, clinical and organisational psychologist. A Principal Fellow and Associate Professor in psychology in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, Erica is also a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society and has served as an elected member of its board.



## **David Impey | Vice President**

David joined the board in 2011 and is currently the Chief Executive Officer, Community Enterprise Foundation with Bendigo Bank. David has significant director experience in the Not for Profit and commercial sector having worked as the National General Manager for Multiple Sclerosis Australia between 2005 and 2007 and as Director of PowerKat Marketing.



## **Helen Maxwell-Wright | Vice President**

Helen Maxwell-Wright has worked in the non-profit, health and commercial sectors. Between 1993 and 2007, Helen was on the board of the International Diabetes Institute and was the Managing Director from 2002-2007. Helen is on the Panel of Chairs of the Monitoring Committee of Medicines Australia, and consultant to the Aus & NZ College of Anaesthetists and the College of Intensive Care Medicine.



## **Michael Wootten | Treasurer**

Michael joined the board in 2014 and is an experienced executive/director who has worked in emergency services and public authorities for over 20 years. Michael became the Director of Finance & Administration at the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in 2001. He became the Executive Director of Business Services in 2011 and is currently the Chief Executive Officer.



## **Stephen Fontana**

Stephen joined the board in 2014. His career with the Victorian Police Force began in 1975 and in his current role as Assistant Commissioner Crime Command he manages the Organised Crime, State Anti-Gangs, Finance & Cyber Crime, Serious Crime, Specialist Support and Operations Support portfolios across the state. Stephen won the Australian Police Medal in the 2002 Australia Day Honours.



### **Dr. Angela Williams**

Angela joined the board in 2013. With a background in forensic medicine, Dr Angela Williams has helped many women, children and families in crisis. Currently working as a Doctor with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, Angela is also a foster carer and interested in tangible programs that concentrate on the emotional and practical well-being of children.



### **Sally Leake**

Sally joined the board in 2014 and has previously served on the boards of Casterton Memorial Hospital, North East Housing Service and Women's Liberation Halfway House. She is on the Advisory Committee of the Australian Institute of Company Directors in Victoria, is the Director Alumni Engagement at Monash University and won the Centenary Medal, 2003 for her service to CFA.



### **Michael Hayja**

Michael joined the board in 2015 and is the Partnership Executive with Perpetual in Melbourne. He has a key role in helping the Not for Profit sector benefit from Perpetual's clients' philanthropic aspirations. Michael has worked in the financial services industry for over 20 years and is passionate about the well being and future aspirations of children.



### **Catherine Dunlop**

Catherine joined the board in 2015 is one of Australia's most respected lawyers in the field of Workplace Health and Safety and in Inquiries and Coronial Inquests. She is Partner at Maddocks where she acts for public and private sector clients, is the Deputy Chair of the Emergency Services Foundation and has been on the Best Lawyers in Australia List since 2013.



### **Geoffrey Leeton | Retired**

Geoffrey retired from the Board in 2015 and we thank him for his contribution in the form of legal advice to the welfare of children and the development of children's lives who have suffered trauma.



### **Jason Henham | Retired**

Jason retired from the Board in 2015 as treasurer, and we thank him for his contribution in the form of financial treasury support to benefit vulnerable children.

# treasurer's report

In financial terms, the past 12 months for OzChild have been focussed on building stability and a solid foundation, which will enable the organisation to grow into the future.

A significant amount of effort and energy have been dedicated to progressing our objective of a balanced budget, which will form the springboard of looking at sensible service delivery growth opportunities in future years.

The 2014-15 comprehensive operating result returned a surplus of \$101,410 (2013-14: \$172,495), although the underpinning operating deficit was \$378,730 (2013-14: \$668,041). This current financial year sees the start of the financial turnaround being led by the CEO and Executive Team to achieve a balanced budget in 2015-16. This turnaround comes after a number of successive years of operating deficits. Notwithstanding those deficits, the OzChild balance sheet continues to be strong with net assets of \$20.6M, a position very comparable to the previous financial year.

The commencement of our financial improvement journey started in the prior year where a number of difficult but necessary decisions were taken to ensure the financial sustainability of OzChild.

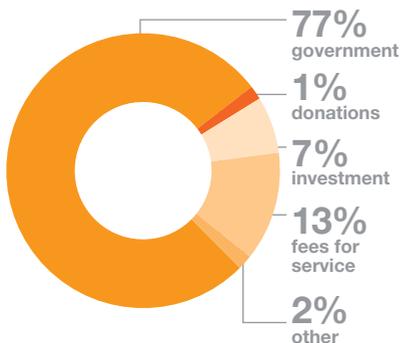
These included divesting of non-performing services, a much more rigorous and "organisation owned" financial management and budgeting regime, and significantly improved financial reporting processes. Together, these improvement initiatives place OzChild in good financial stead going forward.

Coupled with our financial improvement, 2014-15 saw a renewed approach to our longer-term strategy, which will require consolidated finances, and a strong foundation.

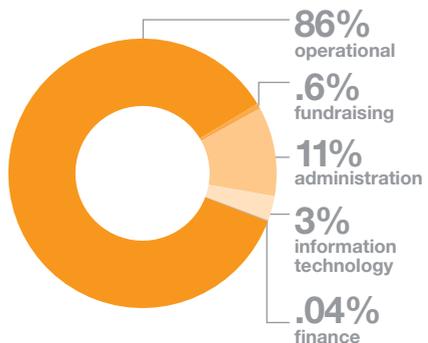
On behalf of the Finance Committee, and the Risk and Audit Committee, CEO Lisa Sturzenegger, the finance team led very capably by Mark Powell, and the entire Executive are to be congratulated on achieving many financial improvements during 2014-15. As Treasurer, I am confident that the team has the capability, technical competence, and strategic outlook to continue OzChild's financial improvement journey.

**michael wootten | treasurer**

## operating revenue



## operating expenses





## our stories

### Anna and Con connect their foster children to their heritage.

**About five years ago, Kaiya, Warrin and Marlee came to live with a compassionate couple, Anna and Con, who were completely committed to the children in their care.**

When these three children were brought into foster care, the two older siblings, Kaiya and Warrin displayed significant trauma, manifesting as aggression, dissociation, delayed growth, grunts and animal noises when they first arrived.

But with flexibility, patience, perseverance and love, Anna and Con ensured that all the children's needs were met and today that trauma from their past is unrecognisable.

As time progressed, the agencies involved tried searching for relatives of the children, but no birth family members could be found and so Anna and Con made the decision to permanently care for all three children. These foster carers were as dedicated to the children in the same way they would have been to any birth children of their own.

However, the process of permanent care was highly complex, due to the children being Aboriginal and the carers are Non-Aboriginal, which means the Department of Health and Human Services and OzChild were unable to assess permanent care without the approval of an Aboriginal agency, and rightly so given the history and context of the Stolen Generation.

Anna and Con consistently and vocally advocated for these children to be linked to their Aboriginal culture, family members, identities and land but found it difficult to assist, given there were so many gaps in knowledge of family members from the systems that were in place.

After a difficult court process and long waiting lists for assessments, the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) took on the permanent care assessment in mid-2014, identified over 20 family members that were unknown to the Department and OzChild and organised a trip for the carers and children to meet the family and connect them to their land of origin in January 2015.

It was during this reconnection that Anna and Con were able to gain the support of the family members and their approval for Kaiya, Warrin and Marlee to be permanently cared for by these carers.

In February 2015, VACCA submitted a report recommending permanent care order for these children. DHHS will now set a Court date in support of these carers becoming these children's permanent family.

# comprehensive income

## Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ending 30 June, 2015.

The income from endowment funds is available to be applied in accordance with the directions of each endowment towards the services provided by Children Australia Inc.

This statement also shows Other Comprehensive Income which includes unrealised gains and losses on market based investments and service providers.

	2015 (\$)	2014 (\$)
<b>operating revenue</b>		
Government grants and subsidies	14,070,457	13,206,292
Donations and fundraising activities	301,067	352,906
Investment income	1,223,265	1,425,510
Fees for service	2,349,855	2,598,468
Other income	315,854	1,061,177
<b>total operating revenue</b>	<b>18,260,498</b>	<b>18,644,353</b>
<b>operating expenses</b>		
Operational costs	15,969,132	16,058,255
Bad Debts	0	5,737
Fundraising costs	116,556	154,429
Administration costs	1,996,695	2,515,269
Finance costs	8,076	6,615
Information technology costs	543,459	544,516
Property costs	5,310	27,573
<b>total operating expenses</b>	<b>18,639,228</b>	<b>19,312,394</b>
<b>operating deficit for the year</b>	<b>(378,730)</b>	<b>(668,041)</b>
<b>endowment funds revenue</b>		
Investment income	1,639	1,560
Expenses related to sale of endowment properties	(75,898)	0
Fair value loss on endowment investment properties	(24,000)	(300,000)
<b>endowment deficit</b>	<b>(98,259)</b>	<b>(298,440)</b>
<b>operating &amp; endowment deficit for year</b>	<b>(476,989)</b>	<b>(966,481)</b>
<b>other comprehensive income</b>		
Fair value movements on available-for-sale financial assets - managed funds	448,399	881,488
Gain on revaluation of service properties	130,000	11,000
Net surplus of assets over liabilities on Wresacare Merger	-	246,489
<b>other comprehensive surplus</b>	<b>578,399</b>	<b>1,138,977</b>
<b>total comprehensive surplus for the year</b>	<b>101,410</b>	<b>172,495</b>

# financial position

## Statement of financial position as at 30 June, 2015

This report includes a summarised version of the audited financial statements. A full version of the financial statements are available on our website at [www.ozchild.org.au](http://www.ozchild.org.au).

	2015 (\$)	2014 (\$)
<b>current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,130,131	112,246
Receivables	519,488	921,106
Financial assets	1,082,901	3,634,013
Inventories	0	20,464
Other assets	67,640	416,050
Non current assets held for sale	0	970,000
<b>total current assets</b>	<b>4,800,160</b>	<b>6,073,879</b>
<b>non-current assets</b>		
Financial assets	18,414,672	16,118,320
Property, plant and equipment	2,689,670	2,707,796
Endowment property	695,000	1,825,000
<b>total non-current assets</b>	<b>21,799,342</b>	<b>20,651,116</b>
<b>total assets</b>	<b>26,599,502</b>	<b>26,724,995</b>
<b>current liabilities</b>		
Financial liabilities	-	7,266
Provisions	4,627,596	4,388,584
Payables	1,163,658	1,607,305
<b>total current liabilities</b>	<b>5,791,254</b>	<b>6,003,155</b>
<b>non-current liabilities</b>		
Provisions	226,892	241,894
<b>total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>226,892</b>	<b>241,894</b>
<b>total liabilities</b>	<b>6,018,146</b>	<b>6,245,049</b>
<b>net assets</b>	<b>20,581,356</b>	<b>20,479,946</b>
<b>equity</b>		
Endowment funds	17,650,022	17,748,281
Asset revaluation reserve	1,082,633	952,633
Financial asset valuation reserve	2,822,055	2,373,656
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	(973,354)	(594,624)
<b>total equity</b>	<b>20,581,356</b>	<b>20,479,946</b>

# thank you

The work we do would not be possible without the support of so many who have made financial contributions, helped with fundraising or donated products, knowledge or time, this financial year.

## our children and young people

OzChild acknowledges the very special children and young people whose care and well being we are entrusted with every day.

## our carers, mentors and volunteers

We'd like to say a special thank you to our carers and volunteers. Without their devotion, generosity and courage, our work would not be possible.

## our patron

His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov  
AO QC Governor of Victoria.

## ambassadors

- Frank Cetrola
- Greg Bate
- Jason McClintock
- Norm Davidson
- Peter Kharsas
- Steve Cadden
- Dr Gillian Sparkes

## government

- Australian Department of Social Services
- Cardinia Shire Council
- Casey Shire
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Victorian Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet
- Advancing Country Towns

## partner schools

- Elizabeth Murdoch Secondary College
- Fountain Gate Secondary College
- Oakwood School (Noble Park)
- Hallam Secondary College
- Alkira Secondary College
- Catholic Regional College – Caroline Springs

- Pakenham Secondary College
- Lyndhurst Secondary College
- Cranbourne Secondary College
- Cranbourne East Secondary College
- Koo Wee Rup Secondary College
- Berwick Secondary College

## our partners

- The Community Bank® branches of Bendigo Bank
- Jasco Network Solutions
- Alannah & Madeline Foundation
- Anglicare
- Australian Childhood Foundation
- Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
- Child Protection
- Communities for Children
- Community of Christ Church Frankston
- Communities that Care
- Create Foundation
- Foodbank Victoria
- Foster Care Victoria Association (FCAV)
- Frankston City Council, Family and Youth Services
- ACT Together Consortium
- Givit
- Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services
- Hanover Children's Resource Fund
- Kids Under Cover
- Kinship Carers Victoria
- Lighthouse Foundation
- Melbourne Street Art
- MOAT: Mental Health Services
- North of the Yarra Quilters Guild
- South West Koori Network (Gunditjmara and Framlingham (Kirrae Health Services) in Warrnambool, Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Services Inc in Portland, and Windamara in Heywood and Hamilton).
- The Pyjama Foundation
- Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)

### contributors

- Run Melbourne runners for OzChild
- Father's Day Bike Ride Cyclists
- Wishing Tree Christmas Gift Donors
- Anna Towan
- B1G1 Giving
- Booran Holden
- BUDU P/L
- Cetrola Legal
- Charities Aid Foundation
- BlackRock
- Brian M Davis Charitable Trust
- Cidec P/L
- Endeavor Hills Lioness
- Hall & Wilcox Lawyers
- HWA Insurance Brokers
- ForChildren Fundraising Committee
- Kokkin & Brown
- Make A Difference Office Supplies
- Meagan Browne
- Provincial Home Loans
- Emerald Patchaholics
- Rosemary Hardham & Associates
- Shannon Company
- STOPline
- The 59 Club Australia
- Morgans Financial Brighton
- Windsor Management Insurance Brokers
- Telstra
- Melbourne Sports Hub
- Melbourne Crusaders
- Minuteman Glen Waverley
- Cassandra Gantner Foundation
- Norma Foster Perpetual Gift
- Percy Baxter Charitable Trust
- Perpetual Trustee Company Limited
- Estate of Edward Davies
- Estate of Henry Brough Smith
- Estate of John Lambrick
- Estate of Paul Edward Dehnert
- Harvey Patterson Fund
- Joe White Bequest
- William & Bessie Lennox Trust

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how you can change a life.**

#### Head Office

PO Box 1312  
Level 3, 150 Albert Rd  
South Melbourne 3205  
(03) 9695 2200

#### Kinship Care

**Dandenong Central**  
Level 1, 47 Princes Hwy  
Dandenong 3175  
(03) 9212 5600

#### Foster Care

1536 Heatherton Road  
Dandenong 3175  
(03) 9212 3900

#### Disability Services

947 Nepean Hwy  
Mornington 3931  
T (03) 5975 7644

#### Western Region

19 Jamieson St  
Warrnambool, 3280  
T: 1300 361 680  
T: 1300 661 790

#### School Focused Youth Services

107 Princes Highway  
Trafalgar 3823  
T (03) 5633 2868  
M 0481 438 770

#### Family Support & Foster Care

Level 2, 454-472 Nepean Hwy  
Frankston 3199  
T (03) 8796 0000

[www.ozchild.org.au](http://www.ozchild.org.au)



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