



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017 - 2018

Deafness Forum of Australia is the peak national body representing the interests of the 3.5 million Australians who are concerned with the quality of their hearing and the effects it has on their lives and the people around them.

Deafness Forum aims to provide balanced and realistic advice to government to inform public policy to build a fairer and more inclusive nation.

Our membership includes people living with hearing loss, ear and balance disorders, people who communicate by choice in Auslan, and their families. Membership also includes organisations that represent these people; and individuals and associations which provide services that promote hearing health and wellbeing.

### **Deafness Forum Ltd national office**

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ABN 49 008 587 611

## FROM THE CHAIR OF DEAFNESS FORUM OF AUSTRALIA

In March 2012 I was elected to the office of chairperson of Deafness Forum of Australia, the 7<sup>th</sup> since the founding chair Libby Harricks AM in 1993.

We remain as committed to ensuring the voices of 3.5 million Australians living with hearing loss, ear and balance disorders, people who communicate by choice in Auslan, and their families are heard.

We continue to aim to provide balanced and realistic advice to government to inform public policy to build a fairer and more inclusive nation.



David Brady, chair of Deafness Forum (at right) with Rob de Luca, CEO National Disability Insurance Agency

Let me share with you the state of hearing health and wellbeing in Australia.

3.5 million Australians are currently affected, growing to an estimated 7.8 million by 2060, with a current estimated economic impact of \$33.3b in costs to the health and disability systems, and in lost taxes.

Approximately 5 percent of people who are deaf or hearing impaired will be eligible to enter the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Hearing health needs an integrated national plan to provide the high level policy platform for addressing the personal and social costs of hearing health in this country.

We all know the issues and challenges across our sector: they affect every age, every walk of life.

I am pleased to report the Break the Sound Barrier campaign we all are part of resulted in creation of a Hearing Health Sector Roadmap Committee. The federal Aged Care Minister Ken Wyatt, who has responsibility for hearing, is leading the design of a national Roadmap that we hope will highlight the important areas and necessary steps to improve the hearing health and wellbeing of Australia. Deafness Forum is a member of the Roadmap committee.

But a roadmap is an interim stage and we must think beyond to a National Action Plan with real and measurable actions.

### *Hearing assistance in aged care*

Deafness Forum's long-running campaign to have hearing loss management included in the Commonwealth Government guidelines for aged care service providers finally paid off.

There has been a scarcity of hearing assistance training for aged care staff, from registered nurses to direct carers and the teams of auditors employed by the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency to monitor aged care services. Deafness Forum had successfully lobbied for inclusion of hearing assistance in the relevant VET qualifications. But it was obvious that proper enforcement by the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency was crucial.

The Australian Aged Care Quality Agency recently released its 'Guidance and Resources for Providers' to support the new Aged Care Quality Standards which will come fully into effect in July 2019. The guidance materials are the practical guidelines for aged care service providers and a reference for those that audit the providers. For the first time, hearing loss has been clearly addressed in the Guidance and Resources for Providers materials. It is not the complete solution – auditors will need to dig deep in their assessments - but every party will know that how a service provider deals with hearing and communication issues will be examined in the process of Government certification.

I want to particularly acknowledge the efforts of volunteers Basil Turner and Emma Scanlan who worked with our CEO on this important project.

#### *National Disability Insurance Scheme*

We continue to advise the Scheme's senior executive on the views and experiences of our members. We were pleased when the Scheme accepted our advice on creating a hearing disability pathway – this work will continue into 2019.

#### *National Relay Service*

We are concerned that services may be downgraded by budget capping in 2019 onwards? We are very concerned that an:

- Absence of information about the current NRS tender process, particularly as it has been some months now since the tender closed.
- Existing NRS services may be reduced or limited in some way given the funding cap written into the tender document (RFT).
- How will potential future users learn about and learn how to use the NRS? There was no mention of an outreach component in the tender document.

I wish to thank my vice chairs Jordanna Smith and Beatrice Tarnawski, and Finance Committee members Alex Phillips and Tony Whelan; and other board members.

I am proud to have Steve Williamson as our CEO. His tireless work behind the scenes in the corridors of Parliament in Canberra, in the meeting rooms of Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, bringing together and working with people from across our membership to bring to government and the NDIS the advice and input from a diverse sector into one message to effect steps towards real change.

Finally, to our volunteers and members, without your input, involvement, and support there would be no Deafness Forum of Australia. Thank you.

David Brady  
Chair

## PEOPLE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Deafness Forum sets the policy on key issues, based on the consensus of our members. It ensures the organisation is focused on its purpose and strategic objectives, and manages its resources efficiently and effectively for the future.

The composition of the Board reflects the broad nature of the deafness sector. The various life experiences and interests of directors, coupled with the Deafness Forum's activities and consultative processes, ensure the organisation is consumer-driven and with the authority to represent the interests and concerns of the entire deafness sector.

The Board Executive comprising the chairperson and the two vice-chairs meets via teleconference on an *as needs* basis.

The Board has a permanent Audit and Finance Committee, and Grievance and Governance committees.

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Deafness Forum of Australia is managed by its chief executive Steve Williamson JP. He represents the organisation and its members on the Ministerial Hearing Health Sector Committee, National Disability Insurance Scheme CEO Forum, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations member group and other groups involved in accessibility and communications.

### GOVERNANCE

Deafness Forum's governance arrangements are reviewed annually.

- Board Code of Conduct and Ethics
- Governance & Ethics Committee with authority to appoint external advisers
- Policy & procedures to deal with potential conflicts of interest
- Regular reporting on Board meetings performance
- Risk management strategy

In addition to the specific governance documents, the organisation has established policies and procedures in the following areas:

- Communications
- Electronic ballots
- Grievances
- Persons holding external representative positions
- Sponsorship
- Travel

## **EXECUTIVE IN 2017-18**

- David Brady, chairperson
- Jordanna Smith
- Beatrice Tarnawski, vice chair
- Michelle Courts
- Alexander Phillips
- Anthony Whelan

## **CHAIRPERSONS SINCE INCEPTION**

- Libby Harricks AM
- Dereck Ward
- Cath Bonnes AM
- Stan Batson
- Margaret Roberston
- Alex Jones
- David Brady

## **INDIVIDUALS AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

- John Bartlett
- Stan Batson
- Victor Bear AM
- Dr Harry Blackmore AM
- Cath Bonnes AM
- Ruth Fotheringham
- Diana Hodgetts
- Hon Peter Howson, CMG
- Alex Jones
- Peter Lindley
- Dr Leo Murphy, OBE
- Robert Quail AM
- Harry Powell
- Margaret Robertson
- Brian Rope OAM
- Dr Jenny Rosen AM
- Andrew Stewart
- Kenneth W Tribe

## STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Address impediments in education, training, assistance (accommodations) and negative attitudes that limit full and equitable inclusion in the Australian workforce.
2. Optimise the number of Australians who are hearing impaired, have a chronic ear or balance disorder, are Deaf or deafblind who have access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
3. Improve communications access in transport, the workplace, media, public venues and residential care facilities.
4. Raise awareness in the community of hearing, chronic ear and balance disorders to enhance prevention, early intervention and treatment.
5. Advocate informed personal choice for individuals in their decision-making on hearing health options.
6. Encourage national consistency in universal newborn hearing screening.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Deafness Forum seeks financial support from various sources to supplement its government grant, such as sponsorships, project funding, donations and bequests.

Deafness Forum maintains its financial records in accordance with the recommendations of its Auditor; and lodged all required advice and reports required by law.

The Board of Directors, via its Finance Committee, is provided with comprehensive monthly reports.

## DONATIONS

We acknowledge the generosity of donors, whose contributions enable us to attain our goals.

|                     |                                  |                 |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Lisa Baron          | Sarah Livingstone                | Hugh Ralston    |
| Lynden Beaumont     | Reserve Bank of Australia        | Linnett Sanchez |
| Andrew D' A.E. Bush | Reserve Bank NSW Benevolent Fund | Basil Turner    |
| Susan Daw           | Man-Yau Leung                    |                 |
| Peter Lowe          |                                  |                 |

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING

We thank the Department of Social Services and National Disability Insurance Agency.

# Balance Sheet

## DEAFNESS FORUM LIMITED As at 30 June 2018

30 Jun 2018      30 Jun 2017

### Assets

|                                 | 30 Jun 2018    | 30 Jun 2017    |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Bank</b>                     |                |                |
| ANHSC                           | -              | 91,848         |
| National Health Priority        | -              | 2,327          |
| St G #337046717 Term Deposit    | 88,129         | 86,313         |
| StG #04063-4745 Main A/c        | 47,472         | 74,257         |
| <b>Total Bank</b>               | <b>135,601</b> | <b>254,746</b> |
| <b>Current Assets</b>           |                |                |
| Accruals                        | 327            | -              |
| Trade Debtors (Receivable)      | 1,803          | 1,738          |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>     | <b>2,129</b>   | <b>1,738</b>   |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>             |                |                |
| Less: Office Equip Accum Depn   | (4,834)        | (34,812)       |
| Office Equipment at Cost        | 5,216          | 34,812         |
| <b>Total Fixed Assets</b>       | <b>382</b>     | <b>-</b>       |
| <b>Non-current Assets</b>       |                |                |
| Prepayments                     | 5,172          | 5,482          |
| <b>Total Non-current Assets</b> | <b>5,172</b>   | <b>5,482</b>   |
| <b>Total Assets</b>             | <b>143,285</b> | <b>261,966</b> |

### Liabilities

|                                      |               |                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>           |               |                |
| Deafness Forum Ltd - Visa Card       | 1,577         | 656            |
| GST                                  | 1,724         | (446)          |
| Trade Creditors (Payables)           | 8,088         | 11,777         |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>     | <b>11,389</b> | <b>11,986</b>  |
| <b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>       |               |                |
| * PAYG Withholding Payable           | 5,532         | -              |
| Accrued Expenses                     | 5,183         | 5,333          |
| ANHSC Funds                          | -             | 91,804         |
| Income in Advance                    | -             | 60,000         |
| Provision - Annual Leave             | 17,343        | 16,417         |
| Provision - Long Service Leave       | 12,082        | 10,211         |
| <b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b> | <b>40,140</b> | <b>183,765</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>             | <b>51,529</b> | <b>195,751</b> |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                    | <b>91,756</b> | <b>66,215</b>  |

### Equity

|                       |               |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Current Year Earnings | 25,541        | (48,744)      |
| Retained Earnings     | 66,215        | 114,958       |
| <b>Total Equity</b>   | <b>91,756</b> | <b>66,215</b> |

# Profit & Loss

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## DEAFNESS FORUM LIMITED 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

30 Jun 18

### Income

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Gift Fund Income                           | 43,024         |
| Grants Received - governments and agencies | 123,386        |
| Interest                                   | 2,143          |
| Misc Income                                | 7,318          |
| M'ship Fees-Consumer Orgs                  | 2,383          |
| M'ship Fees-Individual consumers           | 3,503          |
| M'ship Fees-Services Providers             | 582            |
| M'ship Fees-SP Organisations               | 12,089         |
| Sponsorship Income                         | 4,258          |
| Subscriptions Income                       | 105            |
| <b>Total Income</b>                        | <b>198,792</b> |

### Gross Profit

**198,792**

### Less Operating Expenses

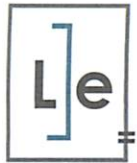
|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| * Wages-Staff (Gross)              | 110,000 |
| *Leave Accruals                    | 2,798   |
| Accounting/Audit Fees              | 350     |
| Advertising & Promotion            | 396     |
| Bank Charges                       | 651     |
| Captioning                         | 350     |
| Cleaning & Waste Removal           | 150     |
| Computer Expenses                  | 1,517   |
| Contractors                        | 10,075  |
| Depreciation-Plant & Equipment     | 163     |
| Hire Venue & Equipment             | 979     |
| Insurance - Associations insurance | 1,675   |
| Insurance - Commercial             | 1,173   |
| Insurance - Directors/Officers     | 450     |
| Insurance - Workers Comp           | 1,031   |
| Interest Paid                      | 1       |
| Interpreters                       | 438     |
| Membership Fees                    | 1,068   |
| Merchant Fees                      | -       |
| Misc Expenditure                   | 23      |
| Office Supplies                    | 294     |
| Postage/Freight/Courier            | 36      |
| Rent (Office) & Car Parking        | 13,896  |
| Superannuation Exps                | 10,450  |
| Telephone/Fax/Internet             | 2,828   |
| Travel-Accommodation & Meals       | 3,847   |
| Travel-Airfares                    | 5,387   |
| Travel-Park/Hire/Tolls/Taxi        | 3,224   |



# Profit & Loss

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|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
|                                 | <b>30 Jun 18</b> |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b> | <b>173,251</b>   |
| <b>Net Profit</b>               | <b>25,541</b>    |



## Independent Audit Report to The Members Of Deafness Forum Ltd Association

We have audited the special purpose financial statements of Deafness Forum Ltd for the year ended 30 June, 2018. The association's directors are responsible for the financial statements. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the association.

Our audit has been conducted to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly, satisfy statutory requirements, present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### Qualification

It is not practical to establish control over receipts until their initial entry into the accounting records. Our audit was therefore restricted to the amounts recorded as received.

### Audit Opinion

Subject to the foregoing reservations, in our opinion, the financial statements of Deafness Forum Ltd Incorporated are properly drawn up:

- I. so as to give a true and fair view of:
  - A. the association's financial position as at 30 June 2018, and income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2018;
- II. to satisfy the requirements of subsection 72(2) of the Associations Incorporation Act to be dealt with in financial statements.

Les Ellis & Associates Pty

Les Ellis FIPA  
27 August 2018