



*A bigger voice for kids*



# ANNUAL REPORT 2011





**Children with Disability Australia (CDA) is the national peak body that represents children and young people with disability and their families. The organisation is primarily funded through the Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and is a not for profit, community based organisation. CDA has a national membership of 5000 with the majority being families.**

## VISION

CDA's vision is that children and young people with disability living in Australia are afforded every opportunity to thrive, achieve their potential and that their rights and interests as individuals, members of a family and their community are met.

## CDA'S ROLE

CDA has the mandate to advocate for children and young people with disability living in Australia and undertakes the following to achieve its purpose:

- 1. Education** of national public policy-makers and the broader community about the needs of children and young people with disability
- 2. Advocacy** on behalf of children and young people with disability to ensure the best possible support and services are available from government and the community.
- 3. Inform** children and young people with disability, families and care givers about their rights and entitlements to services and support.
- 4. Celebrate** the successes and achievements of children and young people with disability.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Children the priority** the rights and interests of children and young people with disability are CDA's highest priority consistent with Australia's obligations under the UN Conventions, Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Right to childhood** children and young people with disability are children first and foremost and have a right to all aspects of childhood that children without disability are afforded.

**Right to participation** children and young people with disability have the right to participate, in whatever capacity, in the decisions that impact on their lives.

**Inclusion** children and young people with all types of disability, from all cultural and religious backgrounds and all geographic locations are supported by the work of CDA.

**Recognition** for the contributions made by families and care givers to support the rights and interests of children and young people with disability.

**Partnerships** CDA works collaboratively with relevant government, non-government and private sector agencies to promote the rights and interests of children and young people with disability.

**Transparency** CDA is accountable, effective and ethical as the national peak body charged with the mandate of advocating for children and young people with disability.

**Celebrate** the successes and achievements of children and young people with disability.

## Melinda Ewin (QLD) Chair

Melinda has two children, Angus and Declan. Her son Angus who is 18 years old has autism. Through Angus and his experiences, Melinda is a strong believer in the effectiveness of good advocacy.

Melinda has been involved with CDA since the early days when it was known as the Australian Association for Families of Children with a Disability (AAFCD). She has been Chair of the CDA board since 2009. She also holds a position on the board of a disability service provider for people with high support needs in Queensland. Professionally, Melinda works as a Senior Adviser for the Endeavour Foundation, one of Australia's largest service providers for people with impaired capacity. She has over 10 years experience in systemic advocacy.

## Heike Fabig (NSW) Public Officer

Heike Fabig has three young children. Two of her children have a physical disability and learning difficulties. When she realised how little information parents of children with disability receive, Heike created an e-mail support group for parents of children with disability which now has over 250 Australian members. This group inspired Heike's interest in advocating for systemic change for children and young people with disability.

Heike is the President of the NSW Association for Children with a Disability. She also currently works as a volunteer wildlife carer in Sydney. Prior to that she worked as a human rights activist with indigenous people worldwide, and as a university tutor. Heike blogs about her experiences as a mother on [www.rollercoasterparenting.blogspot.com](http://www.rollercoasterparenting.blogspot.com).

## Cheryl Pattrick (ACT)

Cheryl is the mother of three sons. The eldest Ben, who is 24 years old, was born with cerebral palsy. Ben currently works part time at the Canberra hospital. Cheryl is passionate about supporting the role of CDA as a national voice for children and young people with disability across Australia. She has been involved with CDA since its inception.

Cheryl previously held the role of Deputy Chair on the ACT Disability Advisory Council. She has also been a board member of a disability advocacy organisation in the ACT and has significant experience in systemic and individual advocacy. Currently Cheryl is a member of BLITS (Business Leaders, Innovative Thoughts and Solutions) — ACT. BLITS promotes initiatives that value and engage people with disabilities as customers, suppliers, employees and employers in business, the arts and sport. She is also a member of a family governed group — "Getting a Life" — with two other families, who have sons with disability.

## Tom Byrne (SA)

Tom has two children. His son Laurence who is 20 years old has cerebral palsy. Tom has played an active role in Laurence's education and as an advocate for Laurence. He has also served on committees and as a member of a number of disability organisations and is actively involved in extra-curricular activities for people with disability.

Tom is a partner in a legal practice in Adelaide specialising in personal injuries and family law. Prior to that Tom worked in Legal Aid. He has been a lawyer for over 30 years.

## Liz Kelly (VIC)

Liz has two children. Her 9 year old son Connor has cerebral palsy. Liz is the President of the Association for Children with a Disability (Vic), a member of the Disability Services Board and the Victorian Disability Advisory Council.

Liz works on the CDA Board to assist the only national organisation that represents all children with disability to create systemic change. She believes in the child centred approach of CDA that challenges all to think beyond the comforts of policy rhetoric and to focus on the way families live.

## Bruce Young-Smith (NT)

Bruce is a strong and passionate advocate for rights and equality for children and young people with disability. Bruce has a daughter Wendy, who has cerebral palsy with spastic quadriplegia. Wendy's strength of character and determination has been an inspiration to Bruce.

Bruce is constantly amazed by the courage of children with a disability to undertake the simple things most of us take for granted. Bruce is involved in various community organisations in which he is a strong advocate for children and young people with disability.

## Cale Dalton (SA) — Until November 2010

# CDA BOARD

## BOARD MEETINGS ATTENDANCE

DIRECTOR	TOTAL NO OF MEETINGS	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Tom Byrne (commenced Nov 2010)	9	5
Cale Dalton (resigned Nov 2010)	9	4
Melinda Ewin	9	9
Heike Fabig	9	5
Cheryl Patrick	9	6
Bruce Young-Smith	9	8

## CDA STAFF

Stephanie Gotlib	Executive Officer
Jane Appleton	Administration Manager — Until January 2011
Winnie Bridie	Administration Officer — Commenced January 2011
Anne Murphy	Information & Policy Support Officer — Commenced February 2011
Darrell Harding	Financial Manager
Julia Thomson	Project Worker — October to December 2010
Volunteers	Anne Murphy Leonie McCoy
Student	Chetan Chadha



# CHAIR'S REPORT

This year the Board developed CDA's new 3 year strategic plan which commenced in July 2011. The plan places Children with Disability Australia as a leader in the sector to ensure the voices of children and young people with disability and the experiences of families are heard through effective advocacy that directly influences government policy and community attitudes.

We are proud of the strategies contained in the plan. They reflect a commitment to children and young people with disability by making sure CDA is positioned in the sector to influence government policy and planning and to form collaborative partnerships and alliances with other organisations to progress CDA's aims.

I believe that the vigorous efforts and passionate enthusiasm of our Executive Officer, Stephanie Gotlib, will achieve the aims of this strategy with significant outcomes, and in probably less than the three year time frame.

It is with regret that Cale Dalton, the Board representative from South Australia, retired from the CDA Board to pursue other distant pastures in his caravan. Cale has been a long time member and supporter of CDA from its early beginnings. I would like to formally acknowledge Cale's contributions. We will miss his studious deliberations.

I congratulate Tom Byrne as the new Board representative from South Australia. Tom brings to CDA a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm spiced with his legal background.

I would also like to thank Heike Fabig, Bruce Young-Smith and Cheryl Patrick for their continued support and dedication in a voluntary role with their busy personal lives.

The year ahead brings many systemic challenges, education reform, National Disability Insurance Scheme, addressing transport issues, countering vilification of children and young people with disability. CDA is charged with an enormous responsibility to address these issues. I am confident that our strategic plan will position CDA as a strong advocate in the sector and will provide the systemic change that will promote the opportunities for children and young people with disability to live happy, safe and fulfilling lives.

**MELINDA EWIN**  
**Chair**





# EO'S REPORT

Reflecting on where CDA was a year ago, it seems like a lifetime ago. We have literally grown from being a rented desk space in another like minded organisation, to a strong disability peak with its own office, albeit small, who I believe has a reputation as a force to be reckoned with.

Prior to 2010, CDA received a lower level of funding to facilitate its establishment as a peak body, so in its first year as a fully established peak body we have been able to provide stronger advocacy through increased staffing, resources and being relentless in educating the Australian society of the real experiences of children and young people with disability and how this must inform policy and practice.

Disability has a much stronger place on the political agenda and in the wider community. The last year has seen some very significant government initiatives which have a profound impact on how disability is recognised and positioned in Australia. These include the National Disability Strategy, the commitment to establish a National Disability Insurance Scheme, the National Carer Strategy, the Better Start Program and the announcement in this year's federal budget of additional funding of \$200 million for students with disabilities.



A significant focus of the work of CDA has been the progression of a National Disability Insurance Scheme. Detailed submissions were provided to the national inquiry into Disability Care and Support by the Productivity Commission. These were informed by extensive consultations with our members.

The Productivity Commission (PC) found that the current disability support arrangements are “inequitable, underfunded, fragmented and inefficient and give people with disability little choice”. The report recommended a National Disability Insurance Scheme to provide all Australians with insurance for the costs of support if they or a family member acquire a disability. It also recommended a National Injury Insurance Scheme to provide no fault insurance for anyone who suffers a catastrophic injury. A National Disability Insurance Scheme will transform the experience of disability in Australia.

The Government supports the vision of the PC for reform of disability services that provides people with the support they need over the course of their lifetime. Work on the establishment of the scheme has commenced with the delivery of an immediate, additional \$10 million, consistent with the PC recommendations, to support this technical policy work and the appointment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Advisory Group. The Advisory Group will help steer the development of a National Disability Insurance Scheme by providing advice on progress with the foundation reforms required to improve the system of care and support for Australians with disability and their carers.

Education continues to be an extremely significant concern for children and young people with disability. It is still common place for students with disability to be subjected to low expectations, bullying, discrimination, inadequate funding for resources and additional educational support, assault and breaches of human rights. The past year has seen a much needed focus on ‘students with disability’ as reflected in the work on the establishment of a national definition of students with disability, review of the disability education standards and the Gonski review of funding for schooling. CDA has provided comprehensive submissions and consultation regarding these initiatives. In addition we have advocated very strongly to Minister Garrett directly and also to DEEWR that the current education system is not adequately meeting the needs of students with disability.

Education continues to be an extremely significant concern for children and young people with disability.

Previously discussions about education and students with disability focused on ‘what is the problem?’ Advocacy certainly is now about “how to address the complex

# EO'S REPORT

issues of concern". I think this shift is due to a greater willingness of all stakeholders to listen. CDA continues to demand that the direct experiences of students with disability and their families must be appropriately represented in these discussions.

I would like to mention the celebration held for International Day of People with Disability. The event involved the community of Clifton Hill in Melbourne and involved a local primary school, residents, businesses and retailers. The day was a huge success and received national media coverage. The day demonstrated how education and one day of community participation has the power to greatly promote positive attitudes towards children with disability.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of CDA for their ongoing support and commitment to Children with Disability Australia. Our Chair, Melinda Ewin, is a constant support to me personally and is a true champion of CDA. I would particularly like to thank the operational team of CDA who all go above and beyond in their work. They are all passionate advocates for the rights of children and young people with disability.

I had a 'moment' recently when I felt somewhat despondent about how difficult it is to really shift community attitudes about disability. I had been told by a radio network executive that their latest demeaning and ridiculing of people with disability on prime time radio 'didn't warrant a public apology and that he really was a very busy person and that he had taken the time out to return my call.' It is still difficult to understand what these comments actually meant?

My son Danny had dropped into the office on the way home from school. He asked me why I was upset and I said "I sometimes wonder what we are really achieving?" He replied "You know what Mum. I'm proud of having a disability. It's a pretty important part of being me. I don't think I would have felt that way without CDA." My 'moment' passed pretty quickly. It does feel like a battle at times but we are making significant gains and we shouldn't lose sight of that and why we do it.

## STEPHANIE GOTLIB Executive Officer



# CDA ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2010/11

## AN OVERVIEW

The Board of Children with Disability Australia (CDA) has pleasure in presenting this report on our achievements over the past twelve months. The financial year ending June 2011 was the first year in which CDA received full funding as a national peak disability program.

CDA is the only national peak disability body which specifically represents children and young people with disability. It is highly regarded by families, government and other key stakeholders.

The organisation has a substantial and growing membership of approximately 5000 from all states and territories in Australia. The major activities by CDA during the 2010 – 2011 year included:

## ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

AREA	ISSUE	ACTIVITY
Continence Assistance	Issues regarding transitioning to the new continence aids payment scheme (CAPS)	Advocacy to office of the Parliamentary Secretary for Disability and Children's Services  Raised concerns and liaison with Department of Health & Ageing
Education	Early childhood care	Consultation on issues paper being prepared by Minister's office
	Range of issues facing students with disability	Meeting with Minister Garrett  Extensive consultation and advocacy to DEEWR  Hosted joint forum with National Council of Intellectual Disability in Perth
	Transport of students with disability to special schools	Advocacy to Federal Attorney General's office
	Funding for schools — national review of education funding (Gonski review)	Representation on Education Funding Review Panel  Written submissions to Consultation  Ongoing advocacy and consultation regarding issues pertinent to children and young people with disability
National Disability Policy	National Disability Strategy	Attended launch
	National Carer Strategy	Conducted national consultation with CDA members on issues relevant to children and young people with disability   Provided consultation report to FaHCSIA



# CDA ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2010/11

## AN OVERVIEW

AREA	ISSUE	ACTIVITY
Children's Safety & Wellbeing	Coalition of organisations committed to the safety and well being of Australia's children	Participated in coalition meetings
	Establishment of Children's Commissioner	Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Commissioner for Children and Young People Bill 2010
Human Rights	Non-government organisations report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child	Ongoing consultations with People With Disability Australia regarding content and preparation of report.
	Education	Provision of submission to review of disability standards for education & extensive advocacy to DEEWR
National Disability Insurance Scheme	Productivity Commission Inquiry regarding feasibility of national disability care and support scheme	Conducted 2 national consultations with CDA members
		Provision of 2 submissions to the national consultation
		Provision of information to CDA members through Family Voices, e-bulletins, CDA website and postal mailouts
		Membership of Victorian taskforce of Every Australian Counts Campaign
Early Intervention	Implementation of Better Start Program	Key presentation at day forum for Deaf Children Australia
		Extensive advocacy to office of Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities & Carers
		Consultation with FaHCSIA
		Consultation with Carers Victoria
Siblings		Presentation at National Conference
Community attitudes regarding people with disability	Disability Vilification in media	Complaints lodged regarding all complaints which come to the attention of CDA
	Community Service Announcement	Commenced work with Austereo on establishment of a national community service announcement to encourage people to 'rethink' attitudes to disability

# CDA ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2010/11

## AN OVERVIEW

**Participated in meetings and collaborative work with national disability sector organisations and key State and Territory organisations or stakeholders including:**

- Association for Children with a Disability — Victoria
- Australian Education Union
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
- Blind Citizens Australia
- Brain Injury Australia
- Carers Australia
- Disability Discrimination Legal Service — Victoria
- Families Australia
- First Persons Disability Network
- People with Disability Australia
- Play Australia
- Playgroup Australia
- MS Australia
- National Disability Services
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance
- National Council on Intellectual Disability
- Young Person in Nursing Homes
- Women With Disabilities Australia

## INFORMATION

### ACTIVITY

### DETAILS

Telephone information service	990 calls were received by CDA
National publication 'Family Voices'	Estimated readership of 15000
CDA website	Significant work on development of new website to be launched in September 2011
E-bulletins	Provided information to members regarding significant issues regarding children and young people with disability

## CELEBRATION

### EVENT

### ROLE

National Disability Awards	Attended
30 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Association for Children with Disability — Victoria	Attended
An Inclusive Community — Celebrating Children with Disability on International Day of People with Disability	Organised community celebration. The event involved a primary school, local businesses and the wider community. Community assembly held with Minister Bill Shorten, the Hon Richard Wynne (State Member for Richmond) and IDoPWD Ambassador in attendance.

# CDA ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2010/11

## AN OVERVIEW

### **Representation to government departments and relevant Ministers including:**

- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
- The Hon Bill Shorten in previous capacity as Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services
- Senator Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers
- Meetings with office of Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Minister Jenny Macklin
- Meeting with office of Minister for Social Inclusion, Minister Tania Plyberseck
- The Hon Peter Garrett, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth

### **Written submissions including:**

- The Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Commissioner for Children and Young People Bill 2010
- Review of National Disability Advocacy Framework
- Funding for Schools — National review of education funding
- Review of National Disability Coordination Office
- Review of Disability Standards for Education
- Productivity Commission's Inquiry into national disability care and support
- Consultation on National Carer's Strategy

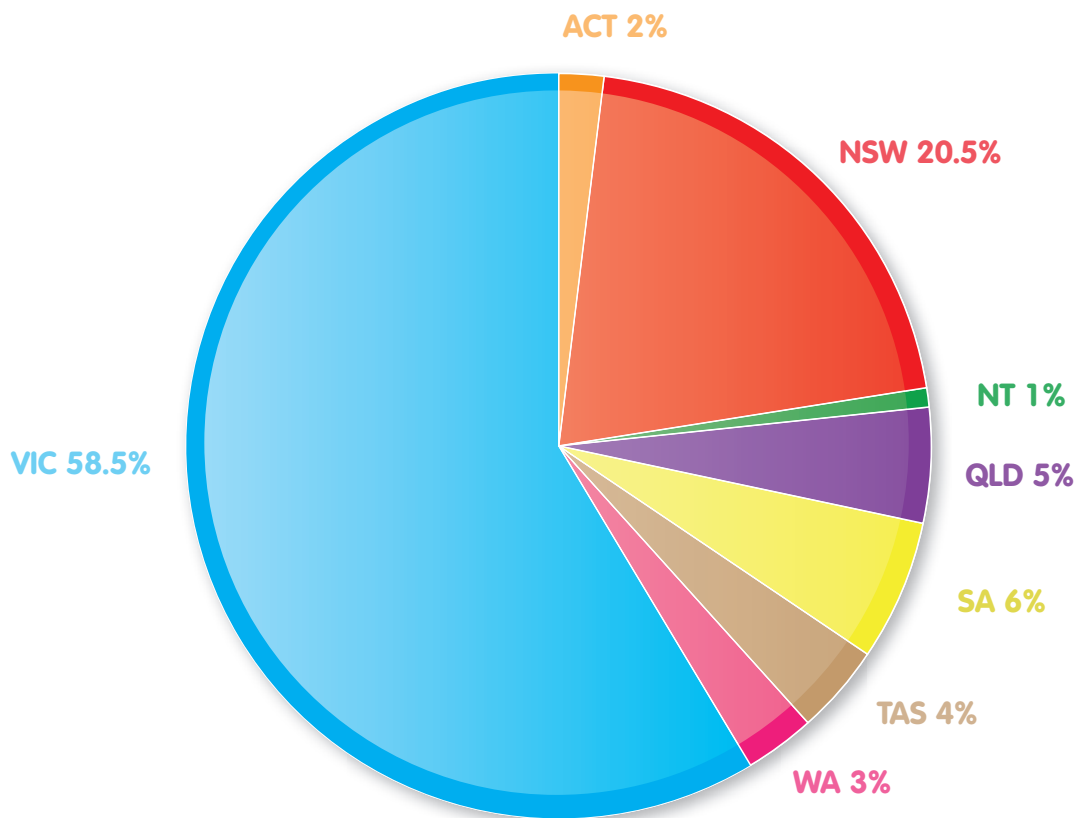
### **CDA has participated in advisory committees and national forums on key issues of relevance to children and young people with disability including:**

- **Carer Service Delivery Reference Group** — Centrelink
- **National Aids and Equipment Resource Alliance (NAERA)**
- **National Disability Strategy** — Consultation
- **National Disability Services** — Children Young Persons & their Families Committee
- **National Definition for Students with Disability** — DEEWR Expert Advisory Group
- **Play Connect Advisory Panel**
- **Australia's Child Protection Framework** — Member of Coalition
- **Every Australian Counts** — Victorian Taskforce



# CDA MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

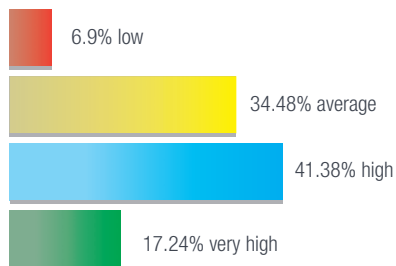
## MEMBERSHIP BY STATE



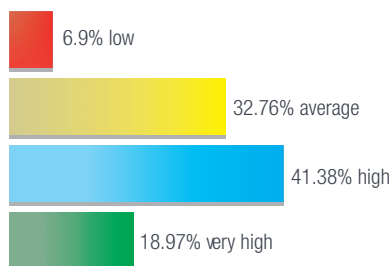
## MEMBER FEEDBACK

CDA members were surveyed regarding their level of satisfaction regarding the work of CDA.

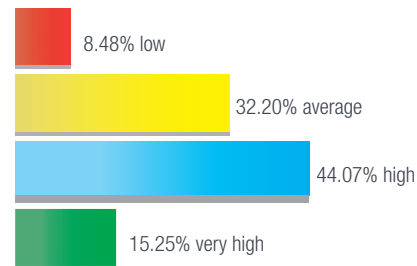
### Consultation on key issues



### Representation to government of your key issues



### Information provided by CDA





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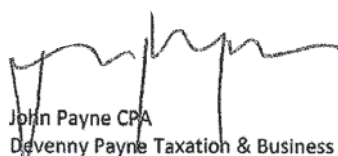
## AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have audited the financial statements for Children With Disability Australia as set out in the Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Cash Flows and notes there to for the year ended 30th June, 2011.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements. My procedures Included examination, on a test basis, of the 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 in accordance with accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

## Audit Opinion

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly in accordance with applicable accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. the financial position of Children With Disability Australia as at 30th June 2011 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.



John Payne CPA  
Devenny Payne Taxation & Business Servi

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## Children With Disability Australia Trading, Profit and Loss Statement For the Year ended 30 June 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Commonwealth Grants - Recurrence	162,547	5,500
Commonwealth Grants - Non Recurrence	55,000	-
Donations Received	7,833	10,865
Fundraising Contributions - Members	11,250	50
Sundry Income	3,750	2,173
	<u>240,380</u>	<u>18,588</u>
<b>Gross Profit from Trading</b>	240,380	18,588
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Accountancy Fees	3,502	-
Graphic Design	5,697	-
Assets <\$5,000	5,405	-
Bank Charges	647	52
Business Planning	6,074	-
Board/Governance Expenses	10,754	-
Computer Expenses	13,248	-
Insurance	3,655	-
Annual Leave Expense	3,842	-
Long Service Leave Expense	1,513	-
Meeting & Conference Expenses	908	-
Membership Fees Paid	1,401	-
Postage	12,809	-
Printing & Stationery	25,922	-
Rent	11,738	-
Recruitment Expense	52	-
Salary Sacrifice Paid	28,548	-
Sundry Expenses	1,645	-
Superannuation Contributions - Employees	9,695	-
Telephone	3,154	-
Travelling & Entertainment	6,854	-
Wages	80,192	-
Workers Compensation	973	-
	<u>238,228</u>	<u>52</u>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Interest Received	2,384	53
	<u>2,384</u>	<u>53</u>
<b>Profit before Income Tax</b>	<u>4,536</u>	<u>18,589</u>



## Children With Disability Australia Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Profits	23,125	18,589
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>23,125</u>	<u>18,589</u>
Represented by:		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash Management Account	20,382	77,131
Gift Fund	<u>16,452</u>	<u>-</u>
	36,834	77,131
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>36,834</u>	<u>77,131</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Grants Received in Advance	-	55,000
Trade Creditors	63	-
Provision for Long Service Leave	2,351	838
Provision for Sick Leave	6,546	2,704
Provision for GST	<u>4,749</u>	<u>-</u>
	13,709	58,542
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>13,709</u>	<u>58,542</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>23,125</u>	<u>18,589</u>



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