



*A bigger voice for kids*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2010

## CDA BOARD AND STAFF

**Melinda Ewin** (QLD) Chair  
**Heike Fabig** (NSW) Public Officer  
**Cheryl Pattrick** (ACT)  
**Cale Dalton** (SA)

**Lisa Thomas** (VIC)  
**Bruce Young-Smith** (NT)  
**Stephanie Gotlib** Executive Officer  
**Jane Appleton** Administration Manager

## A BIGGER VOICE FOR KIDS

Children with Disability Australia (CDA) is a not for profit national organisation representing children and young people with disability, aged 0-25 years, and their families.

A crucial part of our role is to provide a link between the direct experiences of children and young people with disability and their families to federal government and other key stakeholders. This link is essential for the creation of a true appreciation of the experiences and challenges that make up the lives of children and young people with disability and their families.

CDA believes that children and young people with disability should have the opportunity to live meaningful and fulfilling lives within safe, supportive and appropriate environments.

### CDA works to achieve these aims by;

**Educating** national public policy-makers and the broader community about the needs of children and young people with disability and their families.

**Advocating** on behalf of children and young people with disability and their families to ensure individual choices and the best possible support and services are available from government and the community.

**Informing** families about the rights and entitlements of their child with disability to services and support.

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

## CDA'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **CHILDREN THE PRIORITY** That the safety and well-being of children with disability is paramount and consistent with Australia's obligations under the international Convention on the Rights of the Child and the international Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- **RESPECT** For the views and interests of children with disability and their families.
- **RECOGNITION** For contributions made by families to ensure the safety and well-being of children with disability.
- **INCLUSION** To ensure that children with all types of disability, from all cultural and religious backgrounds and from different family structures are supported by the work of CDA.
- **RESPONSIVENESS** To ensure that full advantage is taken of strategic opportunities that arise from the political and social policy environment that benefit children with disability.
- **CONSOLIDATION** We will continue to strengthen our grass-roots membership base of families and community.
- **COLLABORATION** With relevant non-government and private sector partners to promote the interests of children with a disability.
- **TRANSPARENCY** Within CDA's governance structures, decision making processes, financial expenditure and reporting activities.

# CDA'S HISTORY

The initial drive to establish a national organisation to represent children and young people with disability came during the late 1990s. An active group of parents involved with the Victorian based Association for Children with a Disability consulted with parents from other states and territories. They committed to establish a national network that would focus on advocacy efforts to achieve better outcomes for families of children with disability from the Australian Government.

A meeting of parent representatives was held in Melbourne in March 2002. A decision was taken to proceed in establishing a national organisation under the formal auspice of the Association for Children with a Disability in Victoria. The Australian Association for Families of Children with a Disability (AAFCD) was thus formed. The first edition of the organisation's newsletter, National NoticeBoard, was published in May 2002.

AAFCD initially attracted small amounts of funding via one-off grants until 2008 when FaHCSIA provided \$80,000 to work towards becoming incorporated. The same level of funding was received in 2009 which allowed the organisation to complete its transition to an independent not for profit company limited by guarantee. Upon incorporation, AAFCD changed its name to Children with Disability Australia (CDA).

CDA was officially launched by Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disability and Children's services, on 18 May, 2010.





# CHAIRS REPORT

What an honour it is to be able to pen this for Children with Disability Australia's very first Annual Report.

Children with Disability Australia is funded as a peak body. This means we are responsible for hearing the voices of children with disability and their families and taking what you say to government. Our job is to give input into government policy agenda and influence community attitudes.

I am happy to report that our activities during the 2009-2010 year have been focussed on developing our name and recognition. I am proud of our new logo and new look Family Voices. These changes have given us considerable standing both in the community and with government. I believe this is due in no small measure to the vigorous efforts of our Executive Officer, Stephanie Gotlib, who has tirelessly gone over and above her role in the pursuit of this excellent reputation and recognition.

In this, our foundation year, a lot of Board time has been committed to developing policies to lay the ground work to establish a strong platform from which staff can engage with community and develop systemic advocacy strategies. Many thanks

to Jane Appleton who has, with great grace and humour, endured our discussion around policy and produced legible accounts of the process.

Next year, the Board and staff will be implementing a new strategic plan to ensure that the great efforts of this year continue and are built upon to secure greater opportunities for our children with disability. We are always mindful of the struggle many face in the education system, we understand the obstacles for employment, we believe in children and young people with disability. We care about families' ability and capacity to achieve what they want in their children's lives. On behalf of the Board of Children with Disability Australia, thank you for entrusting us with your voice and concerns over the past year.

The year ahead looks exciting. We have great opportunities to contribute and influence government policy and also raise community awareness. I am confident we have built a strong position this year, to provide effective and strategic advocacy to forge systemic change for children with disability across Australia.

**MELINDA EWIN**  
**Chair**



**Left-Right:** Cale Dalton, Lisa Thomas, Heike Fabig, Stephanie Gotlib, Melinda Ewin, Jane Appleton, Cheryl Patrick and Bruce Young-Smith.

# EO'S REPORT

The last twelve months has been a time of great change and growth for CDA. The organisation has undergone a name change and new look with our transition to an independent status as a not for profit company limited by guarantee. The aim of our name change was also to more clearly define our role as a national body which represents the views, interests and experiences of children and young people with disability.

The administrative requirements in this period have been considerable but it is imperative that the focus of our work remains on advocacy. CDA continues to receive constant feedback about the experiences of children and young people with disability. Sadly this reflects that children and young people with disability are too frequently denied opportunities, services and resources. It is still commonplace for children and young people with disability to be subjected to discrimination and rights violations.

CDA has provided strong advocacy in the areas of a national disability insurance scheme, education, the draft national disability strategy, disability parking, the real recognition of rights and social inclusion of children and young people with disability.

Education is one of the most significant concerns affecting children and young people with disability and their families. The recognition of the rights of students with disability to receive a quality education is a fundamental driver of our work. CDA aims to ensure that students with disability have equal access and opportunities to education. All students should be enriched and extended through their educational experiences.

Education is also viewed by CDA as a key opportunity to progress social inclusion of people with disability. The school community is viewed as an ideal opportunity to create and drive a whole new generation of views, attitudes, knowledge, familiarity and the progression of positive beliefs regarding people with disability. Significant work is also being undertaken by CDA to progress this community education.

Progress in the advocacy for children and young people is slow but I do firmly believe that significant gains are being made. Historically children and young people with disability have been seen as a

cost and burden to our society. Traditionally they have been seen as objects of pity that need help and charity. As a consequence the society has typically held low expectations for achievement, participation and contribution of children and young people with disability to our community.

The introduction and ratification of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, of which Australia is a signatory, has changed the way that policy is made in this area. Australia now must seriously tackle the environmental barriers which affect full and equal participation in society.

Consequently, the language being used by all sections of the community is changing. Language used around disability is now characterised by concepts of rights, social inclusion, access and participation. So yes, progress is admittedly slow but it is important to recognise that it is happening

The year ahead will see the outcome of the Productivity Commission inquiry into disability long term care and support, the implementation of the National Disability Strategy and National Carer Strategy. These are significant initiatives for progressing many of the challenges faced by children and young people with disability and their families.

I would like to thank the Board of CDA for their ongoing support and commitment to Children with Disability Australia. I would also like to thank Jane Appleton who is the other very important member of the operational team at CDA. Jane has devoted many additional hours and has been the consummate professional in all aspects of her work.

I have had contact with many families over the last 12 months who have shared their experiences with CDA. It is difficult, at times, not to feel overwhelmed by the challenges we face but families' fierce determination to advocate for a better deal for their kids is a constant source of motivation. Finally, I would like to thank the children and young people with disability in our society for your amazing contribution to our community. You make our world a better place. I remain constantly inspired by your determination and strength to achieve.

**STEPHANIE GOTLIB**  
**Executive Officer**

# CDA ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2009/10

## AN OVERVIEW

The Board of Children with Disability Australia (CDA) has pleasure in presenting this report on our achievements over the past twelve months. Within this time our funding allowed the employment of an operational team of Executive Officer (.5EFT) and Administration Manager (.2EFT).

CDA has now firmly established its independence. It has strong national recognition as the national peak body for children and young people with disability with a mandate of building respect, recognition and inclusion for kids with disability. CDA is well regarded for providing expertise regarding the lived experience of children and young people with disability and collating this knowledge to inform policy and practice.

CDA was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in November 2009. The organisation has a substantial and growing membership of approximately 5000 from all states and territories in Australia.

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 MAJOR ACTIVITIES BY CDA DURING THE 2009 – 2010 YEAR INCLUDED:

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)
- Department of Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth
- Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services
- Minister Julia Gillard, Education Minister, at Community Cabinet represented by Michele Brunige, Deputy Secretary of DEEWR.

Written submissions, including:

- Harmonization of disability parking
- Regulation Impact Statement for Early Childhood Education and Care Quality Reforms
- Draft Indigenous Education Action Plan 2010-14

Family Voices — CDA's national publication (estimated readership per issue 15,000)

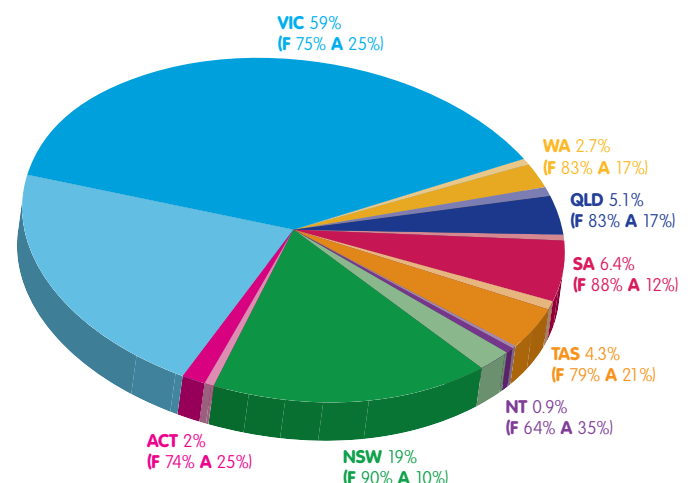
Participation in meetings and collaborative work with national disability sector organisations and key State and Territory organisations or stakeholders including;

- Aboriginal Disability Network
- Association for Children with a Disability — Victoria
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Brain Injury Australia
- Carers Australia
- Families Australia
- People with Disability Australia
- Playgroup Australia
- National Disability Services
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance

Participation in advisory committee and national forums on key issues of relevance to children and young people with disability, including;

- **Carer Service Delivery Reference Group** — Centrelink
- **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**

### CDA MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

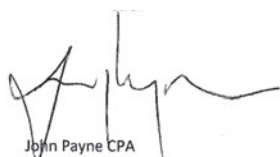
During the financial reporting year CDA did not commence independent trading. CDA remained under the financial auspice of the Association for Children with a Disability in Victoria during the financial reporting year ending 30 June 2010.

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have audited the financial statements of the Association for Children with a Disability Inc. as set out in the Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Cash Flows and notes thereto for the year ended 30th June, 2010. In addition, I have also conducted an independent audit of the Income and Expenditure Statements for the Australian Association for Families of Children with a Disability for the period ending June 30, 2010.

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.

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 (1) the financial position of Association for Children with a Disability Inc. as at 30th June, 2010 and the results of its operations for the year then ended and (2) Income and Expenditure as at 30th June, 2010 for the Australian Association for Families of Children with a Disability.



John Payne CPA  
Devenny Payne Taxation & Business Services

## Children with Disability Australia Acquital July 2009 through June 2010

	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
Income	
FaHCSIA	80,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>80,000.00</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	80,000.00
Expense	
Staffing Costs	
Accrued Annual Leave	2,704.31
Accrued Long Service Leave	837.87
Salaries	40,866.86
Superannuation	3,447.88
<b>Total Staffing Costs</b>	<u>47,856.92</u>
Administration	
Committee Meetings	5,447.59
Equipment	1,753.63
Insurance	3,206.84
Internet Charges	36.18
Legal Fees	660.00
Office Supplies	1,985.97
Postage	4,211.37
Printing & Photocopying	11,621.00
Staff/Committee Attend at Conf.	1,569.83
Subscriptions	797.73
Telephone	1,389.74
Travel	2,113.73
<b>Total Administration</b>	<u>34,793.61</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>82,650.53</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>-2,650.53</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-2,650.53</u></u>



Suite 2, 98 Morang Road, Hawthorn VIC 3122

**Phone** 03 9815 1094 or 1800 222 660 (Rural and Interstate callers)

**Fax** (03) 9818 1999

**Email** [info@cda.org.au](mailto:info@cda.org.au) **ABN** 42 140 529 273

**[www.cda.com.au](http://www.cda.com.au)**