



**Act for kids**  
Preventing and treating child abuse and neglect

Annual Review 2012-13

# second chance at childhood

making a difference to kids' lives, with your help

# Act for Kids annual review 2012–13

## Vision

All kids have a safe and happy childhood, free from abuse and neglect.

## Mission

To prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

## Values

We are a respectful, ethical team that is caring, courageous and collaborative.

### Board of Directors

<b>Chairman</b>	Mr Denis Looney OAM
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Ms Lesley-Anne Houghton
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ms Justine Best
<b>Secretary</b>	Ms Susan Davis
	Ms Madonna King
	Dr Stephen Stathis
	Ms Maria Rampa
	Mr Nigel Harris
	Mr Berkeley Cox
	Mr John Manning
<b>Retired during 2012–13</b>	Dr David Wood AM
	Mr Malcolm Middleton OAM
	Mr John Eales
	Mr David Bradford
	Mr Rob Kent

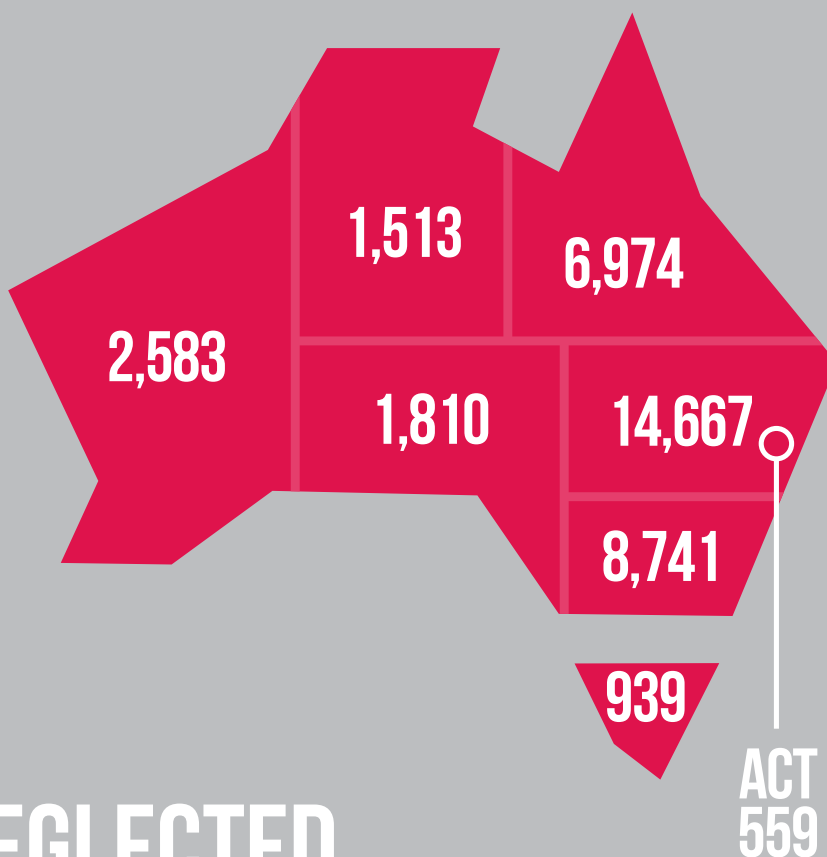
### Executive Team

<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Dr Neil Carrington
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	Ms Leanne Dreves
<b>Executive Director of Programs, Research and Education</b>	Dr Katrina Lines
<b>Executive Director of Marketing, Communication and Fundraising</b>	Mr Rob Williamson



IN **1**  
YEAR

**37,781**  
**CHILDREN**  
ABUSED OR NEGLECTED



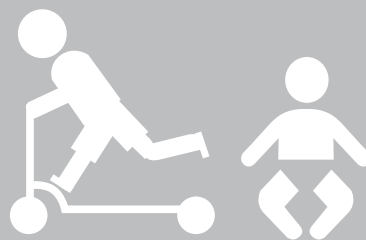
**36.4%**  
EMOTIONAL

**31.0%**  
NEGLECT

**20.5%** PHYSICAL

**12%** SEXUAL

**13,770**  
**UNDER THE**  
**AGE OF 5**



**39,621 KIDS** IN OUT OF  
HOME CARE

# Executive reporting



## Chairman

"We have achieved exceptional outcomes for thousands of children who have experienced abuse and neglect, and also assisted many families at risk."

This year has again been very strong for Act for Kids, but has also been a year of some reflection and celebration. Significantly, we celebrated our 25th birthday with 700 supporters at City Hall and recognised that we have indeed come a long way. In that time Act for Kids has grown from an inspirational idea into a highly respected and successful organisation. Most importantly, we have achieved exceptional outcomes for thousands of children who have experienced abuse and neglect, and also assisted many families at risk. Many lives have now been positively changed.

During the year we farewelled a number of very dedicated volunteer Board Directors, Mr David Bradford, Mr John Eales, Mr Rob Kent, Mr Malcolm Middleton OAM and Dr David Wood AM. In particular I want to acknowledge David Wood, John and Malcolm who each served over 20 years and Rob 13 years. Without their extraordinary commitment and capability, Act for Kids may not have succeeded at all. We owe them all an enormous debt of gratitude. Looking ahead though, we also welcomed new Directors who give us equally strong optimism for the future. These included Ms Justine Best, Mr Nigel Harris, Mr Berkeley Cox and Mr John Manning together with a number of very valuable Committee members.

In addition to the exceptional work contributed by our current team of Board, management and staff, we can now also look forward to the contributions of our subsidiary Boards, notably Act Enterprises chaired by Mr Darren Newell, Youthrive (our recently launched social enterprise) chaired by John Manning, and the soon to be re-launched Abused Child Foundation chaired by Dr David Wood. Each of these entities will undoubtedly be vital for generating future revenue for our important work.

Finally, next year I will retire as Chairman after a long journey. I have been very privileged to work with caring, dedicated and talented people in Act for Kids and I want to thank each of them for their contributions and support, both personally and organisationally. With the exceptional efforts of our management, staff, other volunteers, donors, sponsors and community partners we have managed to achieve a great deal. Like several other retired Directors, I hope to provide continued assistance in some form and hope for a future where all Australian children enjoy the happy, healthy childhood they deserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Loaney', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

**Denis Loaney OAM**  
Chairman

# Chief Executive Officer

"While we sometimes feel small in the face of a mammoth adversary, it is humbling to be reminded of how significant we are to the lives of the children and families we work with."



It is a rare privilege to lead an organisation like Act for Kids, one I relish and reflect on regularly. While it's easy to get overwhelmed by the size and seriousness of the issue of child abuse and neglect, it's grounding and inspiring to work with such a passionate and talented team to tackle it every day. I was proud to celebrate our 25 year milestone, and to learn more about the role the Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, played in the early days of our organisation when she visited our office to mark the occasion.

This year we have continued to grow our services, opening a new office on the Fraser Coast and starting construction on our first Act for Kids Child and Family Centre of Excellence in Townsville. We have strengthened our leadership team and taken opportunities to learn and share our expertise.

Looking forward, we will continue to expand our services to help more children and families in Queensland, and nationally. We will grow and strengthen our key resource; our people. Our financial focus is on increasing untied revenue to enable us to invest where we see great need, and to explore innovative and resourceful approaches to raising that revenue.

While we sometimes feel small in the face of a mammoth adversary, it is humbling to be reminded of how significant we are to the lives of the children and families we work with. We celebrate with them as they overcome significant challenges and trauma to regain a sense of family and a second chance at childhood. Every single one is a win, we will continue to work tirelessly towards our vision of a safe and happy childhood free from abuse and neglect, for all children.

I would like to say a special thank you to our long-term partners for their ongoing support: Channel Seven, Seven Queensland, Publicis Mojo and the Queensland Government. A special thank you also goes to Subway Restaurants and Auto & General Insurance. Subway, partners since 2010, have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars through coin collection boxes in outlets throughout Queensland, Auto & General Insurance have also been long-term supporters and enthusiastic fundraisers. I would also like to acknowledge all those who have assisted in-kind, listed on the back page.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Neil Carrington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'N' and 'C'.

**Dr Neil Carrington**  
CEO

# About Act for Kids



**Dr Katrina Lines**

Executive Director of  
Programs, Research  
and Education

Act for Kids is an Australian charity providing free professional therapy and support services to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect in Australia.

## Prevention

We have a range of family support programs:

- Referral for Active Intervention
- Helping Out Families – Family Support Alliance, and Intensive Family Support
- Fostering Families

We help families at risk of abuse and neglect to become stronger, safer and happier by providing:

- support for vulnerable families in times of stress, empowering them to address their challenges and develop new and better ways to cope
- assistance to address problems such as domestic violence, mental health issues, and substance abuse
- advice and practical in-home support around creating a safe home, setting routines, budgeting, hygiene, nutrition, stress management and healthy relationships
- parenting classes to help parents develop skills to properly care for their kids.

We also run safe houses in remote Indigenous communities to provide a safe, caring home for kids while authorities investigate concerns about their safety. This means kids can stay connected to their community, culture and country instead of being placed in care far from their family and familiar environment, which can be traumatic.

## Treatment

We help kids and young people who have experienced trauma from abuse and neglect by providing:

- intensive therapy with a team of psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists to

help them overcome their experiences

- sexual abuse counselling
- a special preschool to help kids with developmental delays from abuse and neglect to develop the skills they need for success at school
- a chance for young offenders to turn their lives around with mentoring and support to meet their bail conditions.

## Research

Our comprehensive program evaluations and research partnerships with universities ensure we achieve real outcomes for kids and families and continue to improve best practice. Act for Kids provides evidence-based services and is committed to evaluating the outcomes families experience after working with us. This year's internal evaluation showed that there was a 15% to 21% improvement in family functioning, child safety and wellbeing for all families, those most at risk of abuse and neglect showed 26% to 30% improvement.

## Education

We run an Indigenous cadetship program in Far North Queensland to support Indigenous people to study and gain work experience in community services. Our graduates significantly boost the talented pool of qualified Indigenous workers across the sector.

Our Learn to BE SAFE with Emmy™ protective behaviours workshops teach grade one kids how to identify when they feel safe and unsafe, and what they can do when they feel unsafe.

## Advocacy

We advocate for the rights of children in everything we do – within families, communities, and with all levels of government. Our public awareness campaigns bring child abuse and neglect out of the shadows and put it firmly on the public agenda.

# Highlights

## 25 years

We celebrated 25 years of dedicated service and support to thousands of children and families.

## 946 children

946 children received intensive support through our therapy programs, or stayed the night in one of our safe houses where they were safe and cared for.

## 1,086 families

1,086 families at risk of abuse and neglect received wrap-around support to grow stronger and overcome their challenges, a further 1,153 were engaged and referred to other support programs.

## Fraser Coast service

We opened a new Act for Kids centre in Maryborough supporting families at risk of abuse and neglect across the Fraser Coast Region through funding from Queensland Government's Fostering Families initiative.

## Rebrand

As below. A seemingly small change but through a tagline and logo redesign we've made it clear who we are and what we do – prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

After five years as:



This year we became



## Website

We launched our new website – it's brighter, more hopeful, and much more informative.

## Broke ground

With a crowd of supporters to cheer us on we broke ground for the Act for Kids Child and Family Centre of Excellence in Townsville. Construction has started on the centre which will accommodate therapy and support services, education and training that will lead the way in child protection best practice.

## Safe houses licensed

All five of our safe houses in West Cape York and Doomadgee were awarded a Licence for a Care Service. For his commitment to Indigenous children and pivotal role in the successful establishment of the SafeKIDS Program and safe houses, Kieran Smith, Director SafeKIDS Program, received a Queensland Child Protection Week Award.



*Kieran Smith accepts award and says "good things are happening in community"*

## Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry

We made three written submissions to the inquiry, attended several regional forums and were invited by the Commissioner to provide one-on-one briefings to help shape the future of Queensland's child protection system.



# Our work

## Gold Coast



**Dr Kaye Pickering**

Regional Director - Gold Coast

With two offices (north and south), the Gold Coast is a big and busy region for Act for Kids. In addition to the many children and families we worked with, this year we also secured \$30,000 in

funding to train childcare centre staff how to use the Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) assessment tool. It's used to assess a child's language, motor, self-help and early academic skills, behaviour and social-emotional health.

Childcare workers are well placed to assess and identify developmental delays and help families access support early. We are now also represented on the Gold Coast Medicare Local Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) advisory committee.

### Services for Families

Referral for Active Intervention	155 Families
Intensive Family Support	482 Families
Family Support Alliance	1153 Families referred to support services

### Services for Kids

Sexual Abuse Counselling	47 Children/young people
<i>Learn to BE SAFE with Emmy™</i>	550 Grade One Children (Jan - June)

Our *Learn to BE SAFE with Emmy™* protective behaviours program was evaluated through a pilot research project in partnership with Griffith University. Results showed that children who completed the program demonstrated increased knowledge of interpersonal safety and were more likely to choose a safe response option to hypothetical unsafe scenarios. In light of these outcomes we have secured a \$280,000 grant from the Australian Research Council to extend the project and conduct a longitudinal study working with Griffith University, James Cook University and Queensland University of Technology.

In the interests of sharing knowledge and improving practice across the sector, we again organised the Gold

Coast Infant Mental Health Conference. The thirteenth conference was well attended and attracted a high calibre of speakers.

We expanded our work with young people through our first Youth Adventure Programs. Over three days, groups of young men and women challenge themselves on high ropes courses, hiking and snorkelling. They also enjoy other social activities as they build friendships and self-esteem. The Gold Coast Suns provided \$2,500 towards the cost of the programs.

Work commenced on the expansion and refurbishment of our northern Gold Coast office, funded by a \$254,000 capital grant from the Non School Organisations Program, Department of Education, Training and Employment.

## Brisbane



**Debra Doherty**

Regional Director - Brisbane and Fraser Coast

Our team continues to take pride in the exceptional level of integrated support provided to children who have experienced significant trauma from

abuse and neglect. The outcomes and change achieved by these kids is inspiring. Our expertise in working with children who have experienced trauma and have developmental delays is recognised by government and non-government agencies working with children. This year we have provided training requested by Queensland Health, Education Queensland and a range of other organisations and we continued to provide placements for tertiary students seeking experience in our specialist area.

### Services for Families

Intensive Therapy Program (ITP)	167 Children/young people
Bryan Foundation Community Counselling	30 Children
Early Education Program (kindy)	8 Children (already participating in the ITP)

Our unique Early Education Program kindy was nominated for the state finals in the Education





Queensland Excellence in Education Awards. This program is intensive, but the outcomes are exceptional. Children in our Intensive Therapy Program receive ongoing therapeutic support combined with early education to ensure they are set up for a successful transition to prep.

## Fraser Coast

This year we opened our first office servicing the Fraser Coast Region. Funded through the Queensland Government Fostering Families initiative, our Family Support Service started working with the first referred families on 8 April. The local community has welcomed Act for Kids and is committed to supporting families to grow stronger and provide a safe and caring environment for children and young people.

### Services for Kids

Family Support Service	25 Families
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## North Queensland

### Renée McAllister

Regional Director - North Queensland



In addition to working with children and young people, our North Queensland team have been building – capacity, partnerships, infrastructure. In March we broke ground to start construction of the Act for Kids Child and Family Centre of Excellence. Accommodated

within James Cook University's Douglas Campus in Townsville, the centre will cost \$5 million to complete. In 2012 we were awarded \$3.4million from the Regional Development Australia Fund and Queensland Government's Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services committed \$600,000

to the project. The centre will be a flagship facility in northern Australia providing best-practice support to help thousands of children who have experienced abuse or neglect and early support to strengthen families at risk. We are now working with community and corporate supporters to raise funds for equipment and more specialist staff to expand our services within the region. We also received funding commitment from the Xstrata Community Program North Queensland to run the *Learn to BE SAFE with Emmy™* program for the next two years. The five-week protective behaviours program is delivered through weekly workshops, and will reach more than 1,400 grade one students over those two years.

### Services for Kids

Intensive Therapy Program	68 Children/young people
Sexual Abuse Counselling	64 Children/young people
Talbot Community Counselling	80 Children/young people
Education Queensland Support	29 Children/young people

Regional Director, Renée McAllister started delivering a series of training workshops for the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service, covering topics such as identifying and responding to harm, protective behaviours, and the impact of harm on children and young people. Other team members delivered community workshops on Problematic Sexual Behaviour and Neurobiology of Trauma, their specialist expertise is well respected across the community and sharing knowledge means we can expand our reach to help more children.



# Our work

## Far North Queensland



**Kieran Smith**

Regional Director - Far North Queensland

Our Far North Queensland region is one of the biggest by geography and number of staff. Programs vary from family support, young offender

mentoring through to the SafeKIDS Program with houses and support workers in five remote Indigenous communities. This year we were proud to announce that all five safe houses in our SafeKIDS Program were awarded a Licence for a Care Service. The licence is part of the government's quality assurance strategy and shows that the houses and staff have achieved all standards needed to provide out-of-home care for children.

This year we've also had a focus on learning. We received funding from the Healing Foundation to support SafeKIDS Program staff to participate in the Family Well Being Program through James Cook University. The program better equips staff to deal with their own trauma and loss, so that they have a better understanding and are better placed to work with and support families and children to deal with trauma, grief and loss associated with being enmeshed in the child protection system. Our SafeKIDS teams in Aurukun, Napranum and Doomadgee are also studying for a Certificate III in Community Service Work.

We also shared learning, presenting the outcomes from our research in partnership with SVA Consulting and Monash University at the 13th International Conference on Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations. The social return on investment research highlighted elements that were critical in our ability to successfully establish relationships and programs in five remote Indigenous communities.

We again celebrated the graduation of 12 Indigenous cadets from our Workforce and Education Initiatives for Indigenous People and Allan Slaight Scholarship program. All 12 graduated with a Certificate III and eight graduated with a Certificate IV in Community Services Work, marking the start of their careers and significantly boosting the talent pool of passionate, qualified Indigenous workers.

Our Youth Opportunity Program, working with young people who have been referred through the Youth Justice system, again showed excellent evaluation results. Those results included improvement for clients in a wide range of family, social, cultural and environmental domains that have the potential to negatively affect their criminal behaviour, safety and wellbeing. We were also able to consolidate our service in Mareeba with a dedicated local staff member. Unfortunately, Queensland Government funding for the Youth Opportunity Program will not be renewed, we will close the service on 30 September.

### Services for Families

Referral for Active Intervention	424 Families
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### Services for Kids

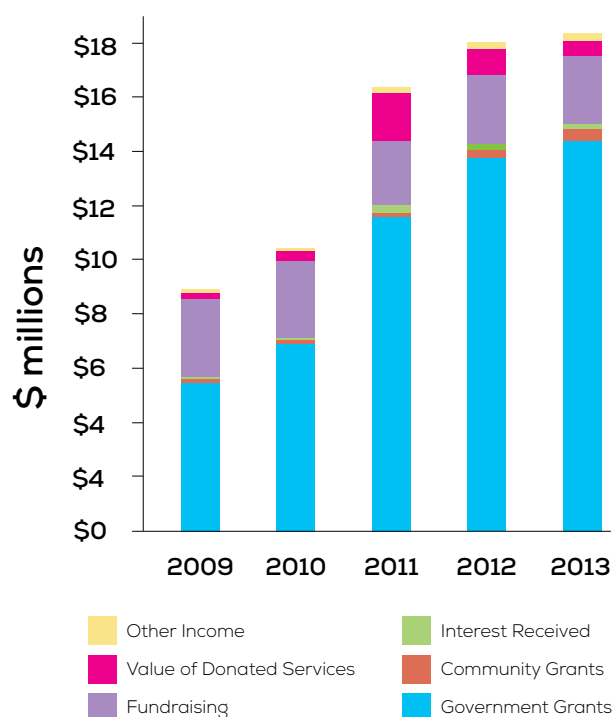
Doomadgee Safe House	1070 Placement Nights 35 Distinct Children (they're often placed more than once)
Kowanyama Safe House	1063 Placement Nights 23 Distinct Children (they're often placed more than once)
Pormpuraaw Safe House	1471 Placement Nights 45 Distinct Children (they're often placed more than once)
Aurukun Safe House	1909 Placement Nights 25 Distinct Children (they're often placed more than once)
Napranum Safe House	1264 Placement Nights 24 Distinct Children (they're often placed more than once)
Youth Opportunity Program	239 Young people
Yarrabah Community Counselling	70 Children/young people/adults

# Financial report



**Leanne Dreves**  
Chief Financial Officer

Financial sustainability is one of Act for Kids' four key strategic pillars, we strive to be financially strong, fiscally responsible and to grow and broaden our revenue base.



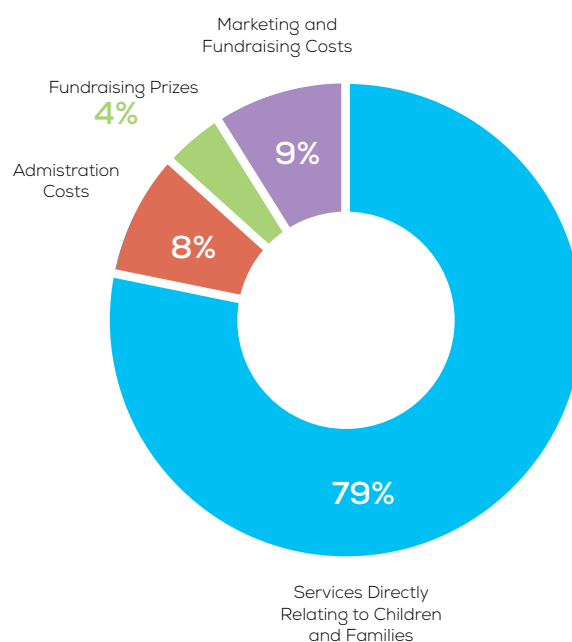
The financial result for 2012-13 exceeded expectations in a challenging economic environment. We achieved 2.1% growth in total revenue for the 2013 financial year, \$18.1 million.

Grant Income increased by just over \$750,000 (5.5%), a strong result considering the imposition of a 3.75% efficiency dividend on all Queensland Government funded programs from 1 January 2013. Fundraising income of \$2.5 million was slightly lower than the previous year; down by just over 2%. We were again

supported by generous business partners who donated \$600,000 worth of pro-bono services.

A number of new initiatives to fund service growth and provide financial sustainability have commenced over the last year. These resulted in 14% growth in other income this year, and will see a more substantial increase in years to come.

Reserves, cash and working capital balances remained solid during 2013. Four consecutive years of profitability have resulted in a much stronger financial base. Total assets were just under \$7 million as at 30 June 2013. Expenditure increases were contained to 2.6%, and the mix of expenditure was consistent with previous years. Expenses incurred directly on services to children and families of \$13.5 million accounted for 79% of total outlays (excluding the estimated value of donated services). It is important to note that the 8% identified as administration costs includes costs relating to back-office functions that directly support our frontline program and fundraising teams.





# Thanks to our volunteers



The contribution of volunteers in both economic and social terms can't be underestimated. We would like acknowledge or dedicate team of corporate, Board and individual volunteers who supported us this year.

Adam McGrath  
Alamelu(Alee) Venkatesh  
Alia Sukkarieh  
Alicia Odgers  
Alyshia Tanner  
Alyssa Charlick  
Amanda Millar  
Amelia Harris  
Amy Muller  
Angie Churchill  
Anna Hawkings  
Annie Sen  
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Brendan Agyekum  
Brendan Gibbs  
Brodi Newsome  
Bronte Feint  
Caitlin Russell-Ahern

Cameron Sampson  
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Cedric Pinto  
Celina Jacobsen  
Charmaine Foo  
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Christine Williamson  
Cooper Harris  
Cynthia Van Damme  
Darran Hapuarachchi  
Dave Stretton  
Debra Barnes  
Dee Van Terlin  
Del Legros  
Denise Ma

Di Van Boxtel  
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DJ Williamson  
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Fabrice Remy  
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Gemma Flanagan  
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Jill Cavanagh  
Jill Goodman  
Joanne Wilson  
Jocelyn Gay  
Joel Brown  
John Hooper  
Jordan Mulvey  
Judy Edmonds  
Julie Langeveld



# Thanks

Julie Smedts  
Julie Upkunova  
Justin White  
Karen Davey  
Kasey McBean  
Kate Applegarth  
Kate Brennan  
Kate Glover  
Kate Van Bennekorn  
Kathryn Harrison  
Kathy Biggs  
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Toni Schofield  
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Zoe Carrington

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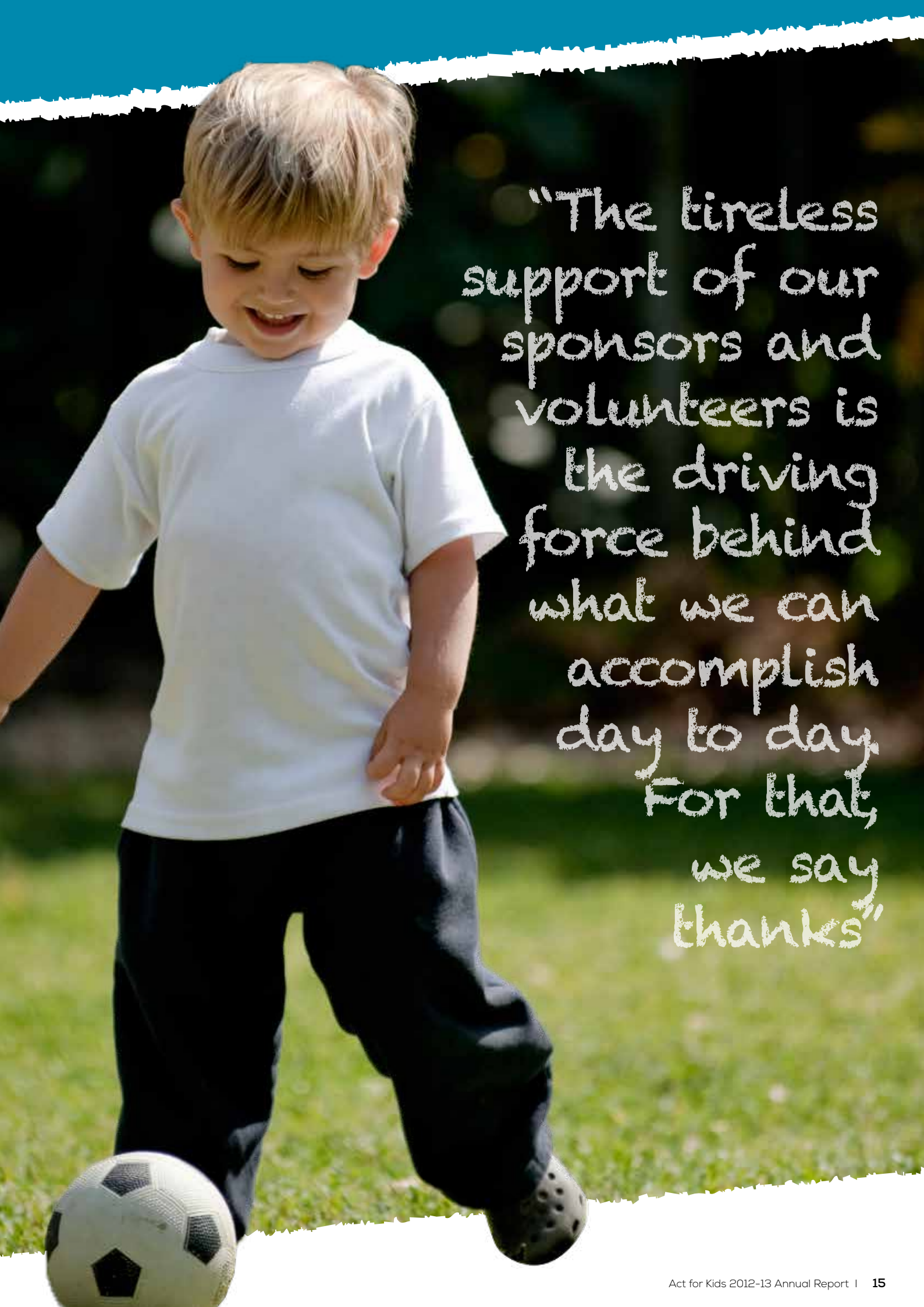
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"The tireless  
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sponsors and  
volunteers is  
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force behind  
what we can  
accomplish  
day to day.  
For that,  
we say  
thanks"



**For more information please call 1300 228 000  
or visit [www.actforkids.com.au](http://www.actforkids.com.au)**

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ABN 98 142 986 767

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call 1800 968 946 or  
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