



## **SECOND CHANCE** at childhood

making a difference to kids' lives, with your help



# Act for Kids annual review 2014–15

## About Act for Kids

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

Through prevention, treatment, research, education and advocacy, we are committed to supporting thousands of children, young people and their families.

## Our purpose

To prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

## Vision

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

## Values

We are a professional, ethical team who is caring, courageous and collaborative.



### Board of Directors

<b>Chairman</b>	Ms Lesley-Anne Houghton
<b>Deputy Chairman</b>	Mr John Manning
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr Berkeley Cox
	Ms Leilani Pearce
	Ms Madonna King
	Ms Maria Rampa
	Mr Nigel Harris
	Mr Simon Harrison
	Ms Zoe Newbury
<b>Retired during 2014–15</b>	Ms Justine Best
	Dr Stephen Stathis
	Ms Susan Davis

### Executive Team

<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Dr Neil Carrington
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	Mrs Leanne Dreves
<b>Executive Director of Programs, Research and Education</b>	Dr Katrina Lines
<b>Executive Director of Marketing, Communications and Fundraising</b>	Mr Rob Williamson
<b>Executive Director of People, Culture and Infrastructure</b>	Ms Koni Hanlon

### Patrons and Ambassadors

<b>Patron</b>	His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland
<b>Ambassadors</b>	Ms Kay McGrath
	Councillor Paul Pisasale
	Ms Joanne Desmond
	Mr Andrew Griffiths
	Mr Greg Hamblin
	Mr Gene Farrelly

# CEO and Chairman report

During the last year Act for Kids has made significant achievements as we continue to work toward our vision of ensuring all children live free from abuse and neglect. Unfortunately, the families we work with have been through times of hardship and despair. It is satisfying to see at the conclusion of this financial year, how many children and families we have helped.

Tragically child abuse and neglect continues to be Australia's most misunderstood social problem. This past year 40,844 Australian children were the subject of substantiated abuse and neglect, with emotional abuse and neglect remaining the most common types of substantiated abuse nationally.

In our work we see the real benefits of early intervention and prevention programs to support and strengthen families. We were able to increase our capacity to deliver additional services from our Family and Child Connect and Intensive Family Support services as part of the Stronger Families initiative. Act for Kids' Family and Child Connect service assisted approximately 1,259 families and 708 families through the new Intensive Family Support services.

Through our growth and development this year, we identified a gap in therapeutic services. Thanks to support from our corporate sponsors we were able to open our doors for an Integrated Therapy Service in both Ipswich and Gympie. We also successfully tendered to deliver our *Learn to be safe with Emmy and friends* program to 2,100 school children. Thanks to support from the nib foundation we were able to modify the program content to be culturally appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, parents and communities.

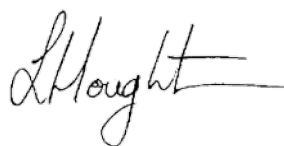
We are now working collaboratively with the Daniel Morcombe Foundation who generously fund the Walk Tall program. This enabled us to provide counselling and emotional support to children and adolescents on the Sunshine Coast who have experienced or are at risk of physical, emotional or sexual harm.

Thanks to our supporters who give their time through pro bono and monetary support. A special thanks to Queensland Government, Channel Seven, Seven Queensland, Publicis Mojo, Talbot Family Foundation, Bryan Foundation, Subway Australia, Mercedes-Benz Brisbane, Auto & General Insurance, Future Generation Investment Fund, Newell, United, Property Industry Foundation, our volunteers and the many other supporters who wish to remain anonymous.

In addition to our two major events, we hit the ground running this year in philanthropic support. Our first unforgettable Larapinta trek raised a staggering \$120,000, alongside our gala ball which raised over \$130,000.

Our stance as a successful 'for purpose' organisation, would not be put into practice without our committed and dedicated staff and Board. It is a blessing to have a team who works together and is dedicated in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

As a result we have grown again in the last 12 months and are now able to reach out and help more kids and families. This year's opportunities would not have been possible without your ongoing support.



**Ms Lesley-Anne Houghton**  
Chairman

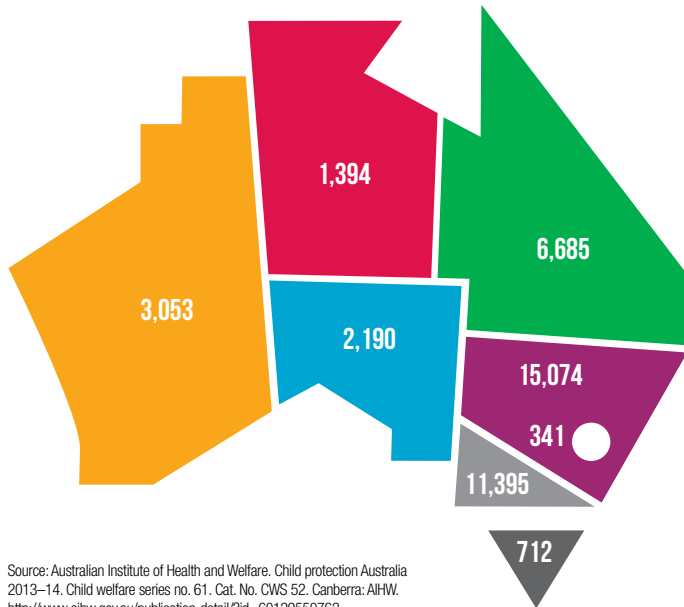


**Dr Neil Carrington**  
CEO



# FACT IN JUST 1YR

## 40,844 CHILDREN WERE ABUSED OR NEGLECTED

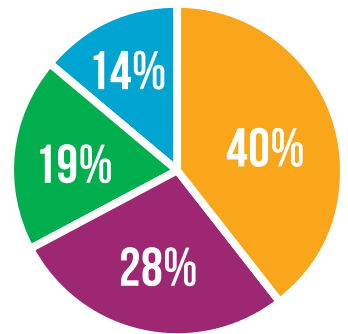
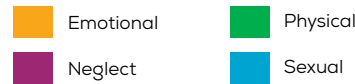


Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Child protection Australia 2013–14. Child welfare series no. 61. Cat. No. CWS 52. Canberra: AIHW. <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129550762>

## AUSTRALIA CHILD ABUSE STATS

### 43,009 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

#### TYPES OF ABUSE



IF A CHILD EXPERIENCES ABUSE OR NEGLECT AT A YOUNG AGE, OFTEN THEIR BRAIN MAY NOT DEVELOP PROPERLY. WITHOUT INTERVENTION, IMPAIRMENTS CAN BE PERMANENT.

## THIS YEAR WE HELPED

# 15,868 AUSTRALIANS

9% INCREASE FROM 2013-2014

SERVICING 16 COMMUNITIES AND ALMOST 240 STAFF

# 16

HOURS OF DIRECT SERVICES TO CHILDREN/FAMILIES

# 95,000

19% GROWTH FROM 2013-2014

CHILDREN RECEIVED THERAPY OR FAMILY INTERVENTION SERVICES

# 9,275

ADULTS RECEIVED SUPPORT RELATED TO THEIR CHILDREN

# 4,349

CHILDREN UNDER 12  
MONTHS OLD WERE THE  
MOST LIKELY TO SUFFER  
ABUSE OR NEGLECT

ONE CHILD EVERY  
13 MINUTES



**2,129 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN OUR PROTECTIVE  
BEHAVIOURS PROGRAM** (LEARN TO BE SAFE WITH EMMY AND FRIENDS™)

**1,250** | PEOPLE WERE PROVIDED  
WITH INFORMATION AND ADVICE

**115** | ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN STAYED AT  
OUR SAFE HOUSES OVER MORE THAN 6,000 PLACEMENT NIGHTS

**OPENED**

**TWO NEW Intensive Family Support Services in Toowoomba/Roma and  
Townsville.** More than 220 families including 850 people have worked with  
these teams since January.

**TWO NEW Family and Child Connect Services at the Sunshine Coast/Gympie  
and the Gold Coast.** More than 1,250 families have received information,  
advice, and supported referrals through these services since January.

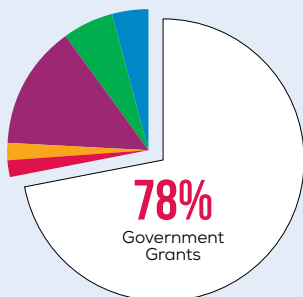
**A NEW Integrated Therapy Service in Ipswich.** Our two staff members have  
been working with more than 60 children and have a waiting list.



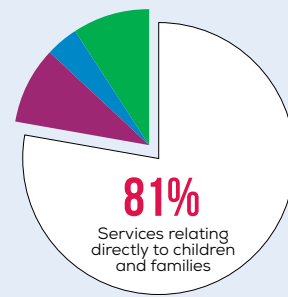
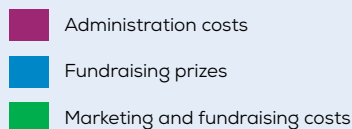
## HIGHLIGHTS - FINANCIAL STATS

• **81% SPENT DIRECTLY ON SERVICES RELATING TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES** • **OVER \$300,000 IN PRO-BONO SUPPORT**

### REVENUE 2015 - \$20,435,547



### EXPENDITURE 2015



# Case study

Kerry came to Act for Kids with her two children Nikkita, 10 years old and Bailey, 7 years old.



When Kerry was a child she experienced severe sexual and physical abuse. As an adult dependant on drugs and experiencing a series of abusive relationships she had limited knowledge on how to safely parent to her two children. Kerry's family had been referred to Child Safety Services multiple times. Act for Kids staff had serious concerns for Nikkita and Bailey as they had been placed in foster care on more than one occasion.

As a result, Nikkita and Bailey displayed signs of early trauma. The children showed us how upset and confused they were through difficult behaviours such as excessive crying, throwing tantrums and not understanding directions. Both kids showed severe speech and language delays, to the extent that Nikkita was operating at a grade two level.

Although Kerry loves her kids, she knew their day to day life was not safe and help was needed in order to turn her family's life around. Our multidisciplinary team at Act for Kids worked with Kerry, Nikkita and Bailey to strengthen their family unit, prevent statutory intervention and address their developmental and emotional needs.

Kerry, Nikkita and Bailey were introduced to our Referral for Active Intervention (RAI) program as well as external drug and alcohol services. Our RAI program helped Kerry to work through her challenges, develop a household routine, connect with Nikkita and Bailey's school and customise her

children's education to ensure they were getting the help they needed. These sessions helped build a therapeutic relationship with Kerry, Nikkita and Bailey. We also helped Kerry with parenting skills and emotional management techniques to help manage her own stress.

After several months of participating in our RAI program, Kerry completed the Methadone Program and is now drug and alcohol free. This is a huge achievement. Nikkita and Bailey are both working with a Psychologist, Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Pathologist.

**KERRY NOW USES POSITIVE PERSONAL AND PARENTING STRATEGIES TO ENSURE SHE HAS TIME TO HERSELF AND HAS A STRONG SUPPORT NETWORK FROM THE SCHOOL.**

As a result they are more settled in school and their behaviour has improved. Kerry now uses positive personal and parenting strategies to ensure she has time to herself and has a strong support network from the school. Kerry, Nikkita and Bailey's positive learning experiences at Act for Kids have helped Kerry's family transition into a regular household routine, prevent them from re-entering Child Safety Services and establish a safe home environment for Nikkita and Bailey.

# Our work

## Southern Queensland region: Gold Coast, Ipswich, Toowoomba and Roma

**6,878 Kids received services**

**2,773 Adults received services**

### Highlights:

- The Gold Coast region has expanded to include services in Ipswich, Toowoomba and Roma, and is now known as the Southern Queensland region.
- The Gold Coast established the state's new community-based intake and referral service known as Family and Child Connect, providing support and advice to hundreds of families.
- Opened a new Intensive Family Support service in Toowoomba and Roma. 17 trained professionals were employed to provide support and assistance to vulnerable families from Toowoomba to the South Australian border.
- With the help of funding support from corporate sponsors, Budget Direct and Subway® Restaurants, we opened an Integrated Therapy Service in Ipswich to address Ipswich's growing need for therapy and support services for vulnerable children.
- Building collaborative partnerships with key community organisations including Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul Society, Uniting Care Community and Kalwun Aboriginal Health Service.
- Employed domestic and family violence practitioners to provide specialist support and consultation to families affected by domestic and family violence.
- Employed a cultural advisor on the Gold Coast to provide guidance and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, and organisational cultural expertise.
- Continued to deliver *Learn to be safe with Emmy and friends* for the Australian Research Council Linkage grant research.

## Brisbane/Wide Bay-Burnett region: Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Maryborough

**1,771 Kids received services**

**785 Adults received services**

### Highlights:

- The former Brisbane/Fraser Coast region has expanded and been renamed Brisbane/Wide Bay-Burnett to encompass the extent of referrals into new services.
- The Early Education Program at Brisbane continues to provide therapeutic support and early learning to young children affected by abuse and neglect. This combination of therapy and early education continues to be a highly successful model based on outcomes and growing demand.
- The Early Education Program in Brisbane received an Excellence in Education award from the previous Minister for Education, Training and Employment, Hon. John-Paul Langbroek, which was supported by a cash prize.
- The Fostering Families program in Maryborough has been re-funded by the Queensland Government for a further three years, and will continue to deliver the Intensive Family Support service to the Fraser Coast region.
- Established Family and Child Connect on the Sunshine Coast and in Gympie, to meet demand and provide an effective pathway for families to access appropriate support services.
- The Walk Tall program in Nambour and Integrated Therapy Service in Gympie have seen significant growth, and continue to deliver vital support to many children and their families.



# Our work

## North Queensland: Townsville

1,435 Kids received services

182 Adults received services

### Highlights:

- Commenced the new Intensive Family Support service to increase capacity and early intervention services to children and families with multiple and complex needs.
- Maintained a high level of multidisciplinary student placement opportunities in collaboration with James Cook University.
- Continued to deliver *Learn to be safe with Emmy and friends* for the Australian Research Council Linkage grant research.
- Contributed to the development of a culturally appropriate protective behaviours program (*Learn to be safe with Emmy and friends*) for Indigenous children and their families.



## Far North Queensland: Cairns

1,278 Kids received services

597 Adults received services

### Highlights:

- The SafeKIDS Program (operating in Aurukun, Napranum, Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama, and Doomadgee) won the community category in the 2015 Queensland Reconciliation Award for advancing reconciliation in Queensland.
- The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services has partnered with Act for Kids to establish a family reunification house in Cairns, under our SafeKIDS Program. The family-centred service provides a safe and caring home to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from a single family until a safe reunification or long-term care placement can be arranged.
- The Department of Education and Training awarded funding to establish a new Intensive Early Childhood Development Support program in Cairns to support vulnerable children aged from birth to five years through early childhood education and learning.
- Contributed to the development and delivery of a culturally appropriate protective behaviours program (*Learn to be safe with Emmy and friends*) for Indigenous children and their families. The *Learn to be safe with Emmy and friends* protective behaviours program is now offered to families through our in-home support program and was delivered to 115 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in a Cairns school.

## South Australia: Adelaide

157 Kids received services

12 Adults received services

### Highlights:

- The *Learn to be safe with Emmy and friends* protective behaviours program has been successfully delivered to 139 students in 3 Adelaide schools.
- Community Benefit SA and Port Adelaide Enfield Council awarded grants to fund a part-time speech pathologist, therapy materials, allied health assessment and intervention tools.
- Three Masters of Clinical Psychologists have completed placements with the service.
- Participated in committee meetings and offering recommendations to ensure South Australia's child protection system achieves the best possible outcomes for children and families.
- Our expertise in working with children who have experienced trauma and development delays is recognised by the reciprocal relationships with other government and non-government agencies, schools and support services.
- Hosted the 2014 NAPCAN Child Protection Week Awards with Time for Kids.

# Thanks to our volunteers

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

Abigail Chen  
Adrienne Jones  
Alana Sverdlhoff  
Alexia Kimmich  
Allira Ibrahim  
Amber Linsket  
Amy Gablonski  
Amy-Lee Provost  
Andrew Parker  
Angela Binns  
Ann Kei Wong  
Annika Gapmilles  
Ashley Fox  
Barbara Harris  
Bec Care  
Berkeley Cox  
Brittany Bartz  
Camilla Tribe  
Carmel Ceh  
Carmen Joiner  
Carmen Nolan  
Caroline Anderson  
Charmaine Foo  
Cheryl Wilson  
Cheryl-Ann Mckay  
Daniel Watson  
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Deb Lister  
Debbi Tripp  
Di Bowerman  
Dominic Diep  
Drew Dixon  
Dymphna van der Leij

Eleanor Blackman  
Elizabeth Taylor  
Elsa Radman  
Emmanuel Pappas  
Faisal Khatib  
Felicity Frewin  
Fiona Harris  
Fredelle Briggs  
Georgia Armstrong  
Georgie Carrington  
Hannah Cantwell  
Hannah Dutton  
Hannah Lincoln  
Hannah Waters  
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Jeff Graham  
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Lesley-Anne Houghton  
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Roberta Van Heerden  
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Sarah Armstrong  
Sarah Tell  
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Sharon Chadwick  
Shelley Ann Dent  
Sherree Captain  
Simon Harrison  
Stacey Connor  
Stephen Stathis  
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Taryn Marr  
Teresa Milne  
Terry Harrison  
Tina Chase  
Tina McKenna  
Todd Cope  
Trisha Hughes  
Troy Warhurst  
Wendy Rook  
Zoe Carrington  
Zoe Newbury



# Thanks to supporters

Our generous sponsors give us so much more than money; many also provide pro-bono services and help us spread our message far and wide. Many of their amazing staff also volunteer to help us when we need an extra set of hands.

## Official Partners



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## Silver Sponsors



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

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