



sharing happiness

making a difference to kids' lives, with your help

Our vision

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

Our mission

To prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

Our values

We are one team who genuinely cares about our clients and each other.

We are passionate and positive, giving our best every single day.

We are honest, consultative and transparent in all we do.

We are innovative, collaborative and proactive as we strive for results.

We are respectful of our supporters, our clients and each other.

We are ethical and professional in everything we do.

Our board

Chairman	Mr Denis Looney OAM
Vice-Chairperson	Mr Malcolm Middleton OAM
Treasurer	Mr John Eales
Secretary	Ms Susan Davis
	Mr David Bradford
	Mr Rob Kent
	Ms Lesley-Anne Houghton
	Ms Madonna King
	Dr Stephen Stathis
	Ms Maria Rampa Whaley
	Dr David Wood AM
	Hugh Scott-Mackenzie

About ACT for Kids

ACT for Kids is an Australian charity providing free professional therapy to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect. Established as the Abused Child Trust in 1988, we have been helping Australian families keep their children safe for almost 25 years.

More than 31,500 children were confirmed as abused or neglected in Australia in 2010-11. That's one child every 17 minutes suffering from neglect or physical, sexual or emotional abuse, often by people they know and should be able to trust. It happens in every neighbourhood across the country.

Our specialist teams support children and families across the whole spectrum of child protection.

Prevention

- We provide early intervention support for vulnerable families to help prevent abuse and neglect. Our family coaches work holistically with families to address a range of problems and improve communication and parenting skills, health and wellbeing, household budgeting and management and connect families to other support networks.

Treatment

- Our multidisciplinary teams provide intensive therapy to help children overcome the psychological, cognitive and developmental impacts and delays resulting from abuse and neglect.

- Our innovative Early Education Program kindy in Brisbane is an early learning support and intervention program that complements therapy to help children not yet able to cope with a normal school environment.

- We developed and run safe houses in five remote Indigenous communities to provide a safe and caring place for children to stay while the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services investigates concerns for their safety and wellbeing, or while they're reuniting with their family if they have been in care far from their community. We endeavour to keep kids safe and connected to family, culture, country and community.

- Our proven Youth Opportunity Program in Far North Queensland offers mentoring for young people in the youth justice system to help them re-engage with work, study and family.

Research and quality assurance

- We have a comprehensive research agenda including program evaluation and outcome measurement so we continually improve our programs and ensure the highest quality outcomes for our clients.

Advocacy and education

- We developed and run a protective behaviours program for young children, *Learn to BE SAFE with Emmy*, teaching them how to identify and trust their instincts, and to tell trusted adults when they feel unsafe.
- We developed the Workforce Education Initiatives for Indigenous People (formerly known as the Indigenous Workforce Strategy), now also supported by the Allan Slaight Scholarship, to build the pool of qualified Indigenous community service workers.
- We advocate for the rights of children and young people 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.

We would like to thank all of our supporters who see the need for our work and share our vision. While we receive some government funding we rely heavily on donations and fundraising to expand and develop our services, reach out to more children and families in need and remain independent and sustainable.



Highlights

100s of children

We helped hundreds of children and young people who have experienced child abuse and neglect: 167 through our Intensive Therapy Program, 128 through our Sexual Abuse Counselling Service, 115 through our Community Counselling, 210 stayed in our safe houses, and 16 of these young children in our Early Education Program.

794 families

We also worked with an additional 794 families through early support programs.

\$3.4 million

We were awarded \$3.4 million from the Regional Development Australia Fund to support the development of our ACT for Kids Child and Family Centre of Excellence on Townsville's James Cook University campus. Our Capital Appeal Committee has already started work to raise the remaining funds to ensure the purpose-built centre is a roaring success.

A larger space

In October our North Queensland team moved to a much bigger, better equipped space on the James Cook University Western Campus – generously provided rent free by our partner JCU – which means we can see more kids in a more private and comfortable space.

90 referrals p/mth

Our Helping Out Families Initiative, Family Support Alliance on the Gold Coast took its 1,500th referral (it only opened in January 2011), averaging 90 referrals a month.

136 new donors

Our second Child Protection Week Appeal expanded across the state with support from Publicis Mojo, Channel Seven Brisbane, Channel Seven Queensland, PRIME radio and 4BC/4BH. We welcomed 136 new donors to the ACT for Kids family during this appeal.

289 Kids' Crusaders

289 generous Kids' Crusaders – regular monthly donors – gave \$108,781. This consistent cash flow and support enables us to plan ahead and reach out to more children and families in need.

\$63,000 in donations

Small change collected in donation boxes in Subway Restaurants weighed in at more than \$63,000.

3,500 volunteer hours

A dedicated team of volunteers gave more than 3,500 hours of their time across Queensland.



Governor's foreword

Message from Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC

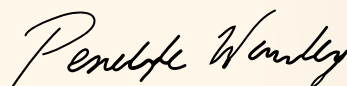
It has been my privilege to be Patron of ACT for Kids (formerly Abused Child Trust), for the past three years, since November, 2009. As Governor of this large State, I am patron of a large number of community and not-for-profit organisations. As I commented at the reception I hosted at Government House, in September, this year, to mark Child Protection Week and to recognise volunteers and supporters of ACT for Kids, all of these organisations are important and all of them are making an important contribution to Queensland society, but the ones that touch the heart most – that tug at our collective hearts and, perhaps, also, our collective conscience, more than any others – are those that deal with the most vulnerable in our community – our children. It is these children – these 'Kids' – that ACT for Kids works every day to protect and assist, to help them and their families overcome the pain and trauma of abuse, as it strives also to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The acronym 'ACT' in the title of this organisation is much more than the initials of the Abused Child Trust – it is a word which sums up the ethos and focus of every staff member, Board member, volunteer, donor and sponsor: passionate commitment to ongoing and unrelenting action to combat child abuse and neglect in this State and elsewhere in Australia.

This annual report brings that commitment into sharp focus, showing clearly the critical support role played by ACT for Kids' large and committed network of volunteers who collectively donated more than 3,500 hours of their time over the past year, as well as the vital contribution of government and the many partners, sponsors and grant organisations which, together, have enabled ACT for Kids to increase revenue by 10% over the previous financial year and to establish reserves of more than \$2 million for the first time, despite the difficult economic environment.

The issue of child abuse and neglect is one of the most confronting we face as a community, but on every measure – advocacy, education, prevention, treatment and research – ACT for Kids has continued to work with energy and vision to meet the challenge of reducing the unacceptably high number of Australian children who have been denied a happy, secure childhood and the opportunity to realise their full potential.

I congratulate ACT for Kids on another successful year's operation and, on behalf of all Queenslanders, thank everyone associated with this fine organisation for their dedication to making a positive difference to the lives of hundreds of Queensland children and families.



Penelope Wensley AC
Governor of Queensland
Patron, ACT for Kids



"The issue of child abuse and neglect is one of the most confronting we face as a community."



Chairman's report

This year's report shows a list of accomplishments that should provide inspiration for everyone both within and beyond ACT for Kids. Our Board, other volunteers, CEO, management, staff and our many supporters have once again done a remarkable job. Significantly, this has been achieved in very challenging economic and community circumstances. Our achievements now provide the promise of a positive future for many children severely affected by child abuse and neglect. Significantly too, it is clear that ACT for Kids is becoming an important and respected pioneer in its field. Thank you sincerely to all those who have turned big hopes and plans into this new reality.

The scope of our work is well detailed in this report, but from a Board perspective there have also been important steps behind the scenes to ensure that the governance, strategy and sustainability of ACT for Kids becomes even more professional and effective. A major review of the Board has resulted in improvements to many aspects of the Board's functions. These include new committee structures, more comprehensive reporting, stringent processes for integrity

and accountability and, the commencement of an ongoing Board succession plan.

In addition to these changes we have also revised the structure of the organisation to ensure each of our entities can operate effectively on a national scale. This will soon allow the re-launch of the Abused Child Foundation as a vehicle to build a long-term capital fund. In addition, we have established a new entity, ACT Enterprises. Its role will be to steadily pursue commercial opportunities to generate new revenue and also allow us to extend our services and expertise into important new areas.

During the year we farewelled Hugh Scott-McKenzie from the Board after 18 years of insightful, committed and capable service to the Board and several of its committees. We are very indebted to Hugh for his many contributions and sincerely thank him. In terms of incoming appointments there have also been major developments. In addition to a number of very valuable new committee members we also welcomed Maria Rampa Whaley, Madonna King and David Bradford to the ACT for Kids Board. Further, Darren

Newell, Mike O'Brien, Dominic Gallo and Michael Good joined the ACT Enterprises Board. Collectively we are now privileged to have a growing group of outstanding professionals who voluntarily commit their time and expertise to our cause. This continues to build our confidence in the future.

Finally, the nature, volume and implications of child abuse and neglect unfortunately make it a multi-generational issue for our society. Consequently, our future focus must be to also create a positive future for those children who we have yet to assist. While we should be proud of what we have achieved, we must also stay focussed on what remains to be done.



Denis Looney OAM
Chairman



"Our achievements now provide the promise of a positive future for many children severely affected by child abuse and neglect."

CEO's report

This year we have a lot to be proud of, we have again helped numerous children and families who have experienced or been at risk of child abuse and neglect. We have also made great strides in research and sharing our expert knowledge, and in May were awarded \$3.4 million from the Regional Development Australia Fund to support construction of our purpose-built ACT for Kids Child and Family Centre of Excellence on James Cook University Campus in Townsville. First of its kind, the centre will integrate therapeutic support for children and families, our unique Early Education Program kindly, extensive research and tertiary course development to improve best-practice across the sector. This combination of services, research and university education is unique and one we hope to replicate in other areas.

I visited each of our five safe houses, in Doomadgee, Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama, Aurukun and Napranum. I enjoyed meeting the SafeKIDS Program team in each community and seeing first hand their immense pride in the work they do keeping Indigenous children safe in community. Our local reference groups (voluntary advisers from a range of Traditional Owner groups who provide advice and counsel, and the community confidence that their interests

are genuinely considered) are more committed than ever and remain an integral part of the widely acknowledged success of the program.

We also strengthened our voice and took our message and cause into homes across the state during our second Child Protection Week Appeal and recent Tax Appeal. I am humbled by the pro-bono support of our corporate partners who work with us to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect.

I was also honoured to receive a Fellowship to attend Harvard Business School to attend a six day course focusing on Strategic Perspectives in Non-profit Management. It provides a conceptual approach to shape the direction, mission, policies, and major programs of non-profit organisations and was generously donated by the Ferris Family Foundation on behalf of the Harvard Club of Australia.

It is easy to overlook these milestones and achievements in the busyness of running an organisation and providing services in a field of such high demand. It is also easy to be overwhelmed by the size of our challenge; in 2010-11 more than 31,500 children were abused or neglected in Australia. With your support we reached out to hundreds of

children and families, and every regained smile and hug makes a dent on that shocking number.

I want to thank our staff, volunteers and donors for your significant contribution to ACT for Kids. Without you, we couldn't help the children and families who need us most. Looking ahead, our priority is to raise enough funds to expand our capacity across our existing services, and start offering help where we know gaps remain.



Dr Neil Carrington
CEO

"With your support we reached out to hundreds of children and families, and every regained smile and hug makes a dent on that shocking number."



Our cause, our work

The challenge

In Australia, in 2010–11 alone, 31,527 children were abused or neglected. That's one child every 17 minutes suffering neglect or physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

The number of children under care and protection orders and the number of children in out-of-home care continue to increase. In 2010–11 more than 37,500 children were in care because they were unable to live safely at home. Sadly, due to a range of complex social and historical issues including poverty, trauma and failed policies, the rate of Indigenous children in out-of-home care was 10 times the rate of non-Indigenous children.

While we help some of these children and families, there is much more to be done. As long as there is a need we will step up to these challenges to give all Australian children the happy, healthy childhoods they deserve.

How we helped, together

Our frontline team of 162 dedicated staff helped children and families across Queensland achieve some incredibly positive outcomes.

Prevention

We have advocated for more funding support for early intervention services to help vulnerable families before abuse or neglect occurs. We have provided effective services for many years, and ACT for Kids was selected as one of only three organisations to help design, implement and manage the **Helping Out Families Initiative (HOFI)** being trialled in South East Queensland, funded by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

The initiative has two programs:

- **Family Support Alliance (FSA)**
- **Intensive Family Support (IFS)**

This innovative approach is all about building positive relationships and strengthening families through counselling, parental education and referrals to other specialised services as needed. The FSA takes referrals from government, community organisations and self referrals from parents. The FSA connects the family with an appropriate support service, including the IFS program or Referral for Active Intervention Program.

The HOFI FSA has received 1,536 referrals since opening in January 2011 and in this year alone managed 1,085 referrals for families (4,549 people).

The IFS team works with the whole family to establish goals and helps strengthen families through counselling, sharing information and education. We use a case management model which means we can refer families to other organisations for specialised support when needed. Our team helps families access financial management services, domestic violence support, parenting programs and other expert counsellors as well as connecting families with local support networks like play groups and child care. This year the IFS team have worked with 407 families, with a waiting list of 26 families.

Our long-running **Referral for Active Intervention Program** is also funded by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and designed to strengthen families before abuse or neglect occurs, but operates under slightly different referral criteria and pathways. This year we worked with 387 families with more than 1,269 children.

We are making inroads – both programs have seen reductions in the number of notifications and substantiations to the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services in their regions.

Dean

Dean* was six years old when he was removed from his mother and placed in foster care. He had cigarette burns and bite marks on his body. He had experienced ongoing sexual abuse from adults who visited the house and physical abuse and neglect from his mother. When he entered foster care Dean didn't speak to grown-ups and had problematic sexual behaviours.

When Dean was eight years old he was referred to ACT for Kids by Child Safety Services. We worked with Dean continuously over two years to address a range of concerns. Initially he worked with us to address his developmental delays but when Dean's problematic sexual behaviours placed other children at risk of harm, we helped him work through this as well.

In the past 12 months, his teachers, carer and therapists have seen that Dean displays a greater range of emotions and talks more. He can ask questions and tell people how he's feeling. He shows less problematic sexual behaviours in times of stress and has less frequent nightmares.

Although he has come a long way, Dean continues to have difficulties in day to day functioning. He has complex needs across a range of areas which means his progress will be gradual and ongoing. Dean's story shows the lasting effect that abuse can have on a child.

*name changed to protect identity



While we help some of these children and families, there is much more to be done. As long as there is a need we will step up to these challenges to give all Australian children the happy, healthy childhoods they deserve.

It's not just little kids

Our **Youth Opportunity Program** assists young people aged 10-17 years who have been involved with the Youth Justice system. It includes two programs funded by Youth Justice; **Community Response Service** and **Bail Support**. It is a one of a kind service in Queensland and has undergone extensive evaluation which showed reduced re-offending rates for young people supported through our program.

Bail Support works with a young person to ensure they meet their bail conditions while the Community Response Service works with young people and their families to address the developmental needs that have led to the offending behaviour. We approach the program as a form of teen mentoring, our family coaches work holistically with the young person and their family/carers to address the real issues leading to their destructive behaviour. This year our team worked with more than 160 young people and their families.

Treatment

Our programs helping children and young people who have experienced trauma from abuse and neglect unfortunately continued to be in demand, with long waiting lists. The multidisciplinary teams in our **Intensive Therapy Program**, funded by the Queensland Government, helped 167 children overcome a range of psychological, cognitive and developmental issues and

delays. An additional 115 children who were referred through our newly established **community referral pathways**, generously funded in Brisbane by the Bryan Foundation and in Townsville by the Talbot Family Foundation, received the same high quality therapeutic support. Our priority is to raise enough funds to offer the same referral pathways in other regions and expand the capacity in Brisbane and Townsville.

The **Early Education Program** kindly in Brisbane supported 16 of these children. This unique program is a partnership with Education Queensland and combines therapy with early education and learning for children who cannot cope with a normal school environment. Our students have experienced severe trauma from abuse and neglect and have significant development delays – to address their high needs we work with very small classes so they receive the individual, specialist attention they require to successfully transition into prep. There is a desperate need across the state for this specialist support to help prepare severely abused and neglected children for the challenges of school to enable them to learn and reach their full potential. With funding support, our long term goal is to establish this program in all our regions.

Our **Sexual Abuse Counselling Service**, funded by the Queensland Government, supported 128 children and young people through individually tailored cognitive behavioural therapy programs. Our team also work with their families/carers to help them overcome their trauma.

Our **SafeKIDS Program** continued to go from strength to strength, in partnership with the Aboriginal Corporation of the West Cape York Peninsula Traditional Owners and respected Indigenous Elders and Traditional Owners in the Doomadgee community. Funded by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, we cared for 210 children while authorities investigated concerns about their safety and wellbeing, or while reuniting them with family if they have been in care outside of community.

Our **Family Intensive Support service** operates alongside the safe houses to provide support to families identified as experiencing or at risk of child abuse and neglect. We help families address issues of concern to ensure they provide a safe and caring home for children.

Our goal for the SafeKIDS Program is to develop community capacity to provide safe and nurturing care for children who are unable to live safely at home – we hope one day soon no Indigenous children will have to be removed to towns far from their family, culture, country and community.

There is a desperate need across the state for this intensive family support to help prevent child abuse and neglect.

Research and quality assurance

ACT for Kids aims to measure client outcomes, not just outputs. We evaluate our programs and practice, focused on client needs and outcomes, to ensure we **continually improve** our programs and share best-practice across the child protection sector.

This year we improved our program quality assurance processes by developing the ACT for Kids Practice Toolkit and program specific Practice Guidelines. We also extensively reviewed and improved our Practice Framework, Practice Standards and Competencies. All our frontline staff were involved in the process and have received **training** on the new standards.

As part of our annual review of programs, we found that in Townsville 85 parents and

carers whose children had been through the Intensive Therapy Program reported noticeable improvements in their children's behaviour, hyperactivity, emotions, coping and social skills. The evaluation total score reflects overall improvements in children's functioning, and showed an approximate 22-33% improvement across all scales, with a 22% improvement in the total score.

We had similar success for families the Helping Out Families Initiative Intensive Family Support team worked with this year. An evaluation showed that for 128 families with closed cases and completed goals, improvements were statistically significant. The scores on the scales should increase if improvements have been made. Figure 1 shows that after engagement with our program, families were better able to provide for the safety, material, health and social wellbeing of their children. Parents

reduced their risky behaviours, domestic and family violence and drug use. They also increased their skills in providing better financial management, a habitable house, family routines and positive parent/child interactions.



Our SafeKIDS Program safe house sandpit and play area.

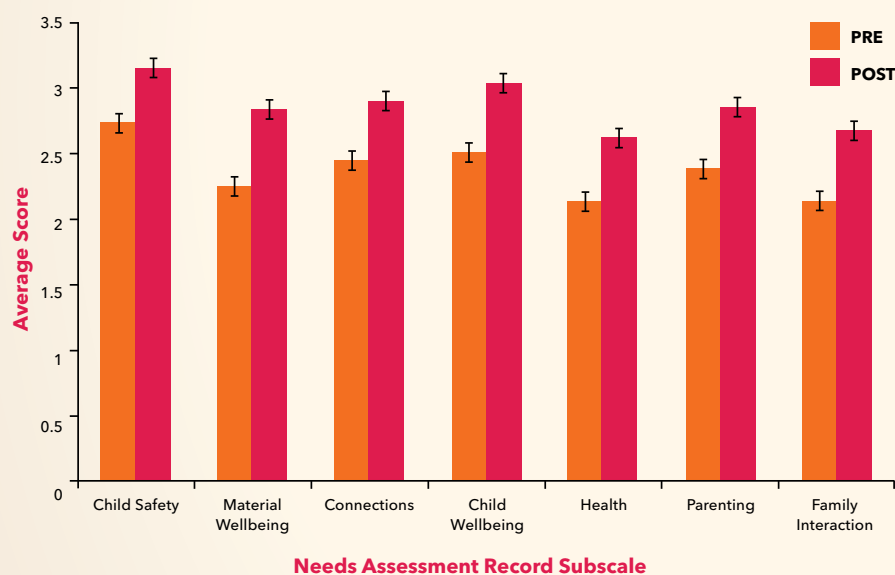


Figure 1. Differences between pre and post Needs Assessment Record measures for ACT for Kids HOFI IFS program (n=128, error bars=SEM). All changes indicate statistically significant positive improvement. Needs Assessment Record scores range from 1=Challenge to 5=Strength.

ACT for Kids Executive Director of Programs, Research and Education, Dr Katrina Lines, was selected to present a paper at the 30th International Congress of Psychology, Psychology Serving Humanity conference in South Africa which attracts over 5,000 attendees from across the globe. Dr Lines presented a research paper on the evaluation of our Referral for Active Intervention (RAI) Program, also published in the *Communities, Children and Families Australia* journal.

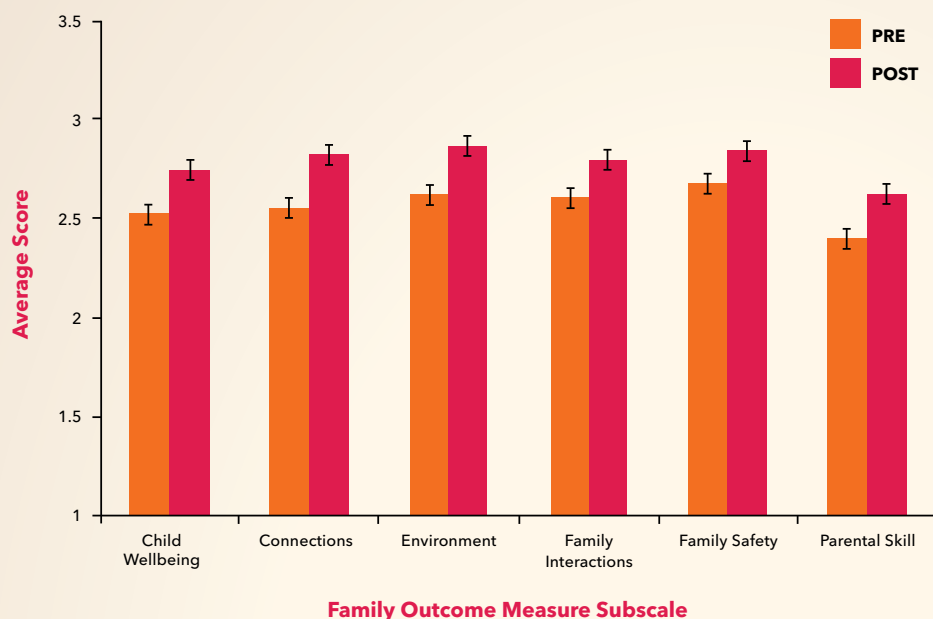


Figure 2. Differences between pre and post family outcome measures for combined ACT for Kids RAI Program data (n=389, error bars=SEM). All changes indicate statistically significant positive improvement. Scores on the Family Outcome Measure Scale range from -2=Clear Challenge to +2=Clear Strength and were recoded 1 to 5 for analysis.

The analysis of the differences between pre and post outcome measures for 389 families (including 86 Indigenous families) engaged with our RAI services from July 2009 to June 2010 indicates that, on average, **families make significant improvements in all domains of functioning** including child wellbeing, family connections, interactions and safety, home environment and parental skills.

Results also indicate **that the longer the family is engaged in the program the more likely it is that they will experience positive outcomes** (see Figure 3). More than 60% of families engage for the maximum length of time (six months). The RAI Program works with families in their homes to address areas of risk to their children's safety and wellbeing. It also helps connect families with other services and support networks like playgroups.

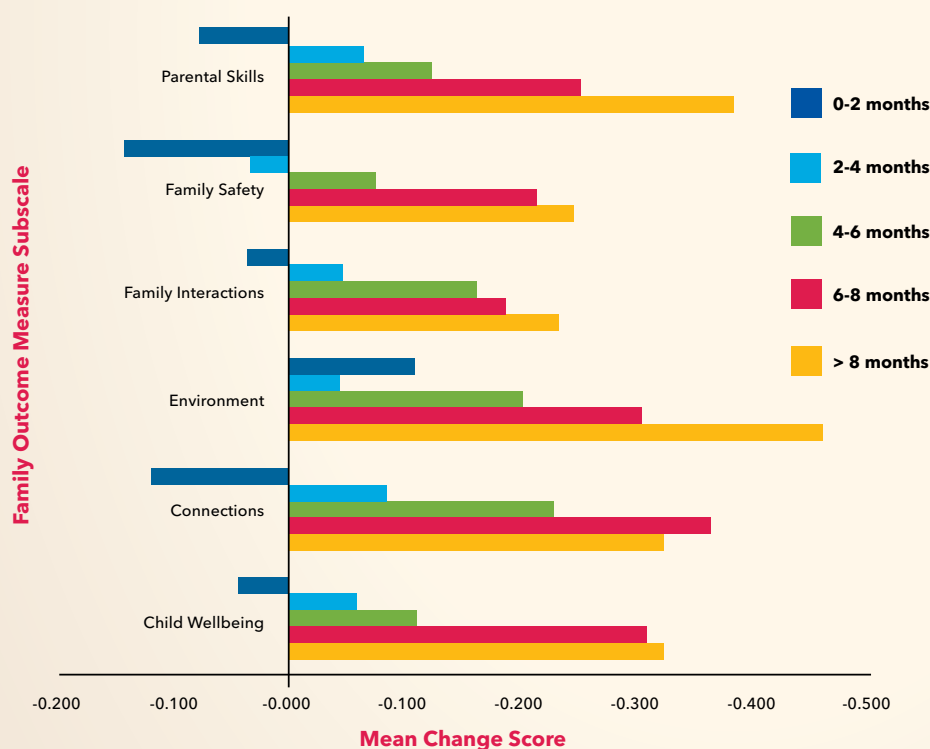


Figure 3. Average change in scores over the length of time families engage with the RAI Program. Data indicate the longer the engagement, the greater the positive change in Family Outcome Measure Scale scores. Change scores are calculated post score minus pre score for each family.

This year we partnered with Griffith University to evaluate Learn to BE SAFE with Emmy to assess the effectiveness of the protective behaviours program. There were 257 children involved in the pilot Randomised Control Trial, the first of its kind in Australia. The results showed that children not only learn what to do if they feel unsafe or find themselves in unsafe situations, but they can put what they've learnt into action. This research is being submitted for publication and is the basis for an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant with Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology and James Cook University. If successful, this large scale evaluation of a protective behaviours program will be the first of its kind in the world.

SVA Consulting completed the evaluation of the SafeKIDS Program in June 2012. The project was funded by the E Robert Hayles and Alison L Hayles Charitable Trust and the Russell McKimmon Charitable Trust. The final report outlined how intensive the process of implementing and operating the safe houses in the five remote communities has been, and how important our investment into

developing relationships with communities and training staff has been for the success of the program so far. The evaluation will form the baseline for a future Social Return on Investment study.

Advocacy and education

Protective behaviours workshops for year one students continued to be in high demand from principals and school counsellors. This year we delivered our Learn to BE SAFE with Emmy program to 257 students, empowering them to trust their instincts and tell trusted adults when they feel unsafe.

This year we celebrated again as 14 cadets graduated from our **Workforce Education Initiatives for Indigenous People** with a Certificate III in Community Services Work. The cadetship provides supported on-the-job and academic training and qualifications for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have a strong desire to make change in their communities. Our objective is to increase the number of skilled Indigenous people working in the community services sector. Ten

students will go on to study for their Certificate IV generously supported by the **Allan Slaight Scholarship Program**.

Many of our expert teams also delivered professional development training to child protection professionals and lectures for education, medical and psychology students at James Cook University and Queensland University of Technology. Our practice professionals also supervised clinical placements for 13 undergraduate and postgraduate psychology, social work, occupational therapy and speech language therapy students from Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology and James Cook University.

We continued to encourage greater community action against child abuse and neglect, bringing it out of the shadows and into the community consciousness. This year during National Child Protection Week we expanded our appeal across the state with support from our new partners, Channel Seven Queensland. As always, we continue to advocate for the rights of children and young people in everything we do.



2011 graduates from the Workforce Education Initiatives for Indigenous People with ACT for Kids CEO and Far North Queensland Regional Director.



Performers at the graduation.

It doesn't end here

We not only want to reach out to all the children and families in need, we aspire to provide high quality, effective services that give children the happy, healthy childhoods they deserve. We endeavour to see the first ACT for Kids Child and Family Centre of Excellence on the James Cook University campus in Townsville built and servicing the North Queensland region by December 2013. We plan to expand this concept in other regions in Australia to drive both therapeutic services and education.

We will share our knowledge and practical experience with the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry and help shape the future of child protection. We will advocate for more early intervention support for vulnerable families to prevent abuse and neglect, because we know it works.

We will continue to diversify our revenue streams to ensure we have sustainable and growing income so we can reach out to more children and families in need.

A heart warming reunion

Billy was two years old when he first went back to visit the Indigenous community where generations of his family had grown up. He had been removed from his family when he was just six months old and was growing up disconnected from his family, culture and country.

Billy was removed from his home because his parents often left him alone for long periods of time, forgot to feed him and did not give him the care and attention a new baby needs to grow and develop. He was placed in a number of foster homes more than 700km from his family. He was safe and well cared for, but he had no opportunity to develop his ties to his family and community.

Just over a year after he had been removed from his family, ACT for Kids' SafeKIDS team started working with the Department of Communities, Child Safety Services to return Billy to the community for a short visit to meet his family.

When Billy arrived his family was excitedly waiting at the ACT for Kids safe house. He had an incredible mop of curly brown hair and toddled shyly around the unknown adults. Billy spent the afternoon with his mum, dad and sisters at the safe house, but they desperately wanted to take him home to meet his extended family. Our team started to advocate for the family to have more visitation.

With support from ACT for Kids' Family Intervention Service to help them develop the skills they need to provide a safe and happy home, Billy's parents welcomed him a month later for his first unsupervised visit at home. It was very successful and Child Safety Services were quick to refer him back to the house a month later. This time he stayed in the safe house but was allowed to spend two nights sleeping in his parents' home.

Billy returned to Cairns and his foster family but just two months later ACT for Kids received a referral for Billy to live in the safe house full-time, without an end date. Normally the safe house takes children for a maximum of 12 weeks, but with a reunification in sight, the team were happy to extend this time to give Billy every possible opportunity to be with his family.

Billy's connection to his family grew stronger every day. He would wait at the door when he knew he was going home with them for an overnight stay. He developed a strong bond with his Mum, Dad, sisters and extended family, and picked up some of their mannerisms and behaviours.

The frequency and length of Billy's stays at home increased, and now he is home living with his family full-time. His confidence has increased; he has developed a strong, independent character that has endeared him to our staff.

Billy's family will continue to receive support from ACT for Kids' Family Intervention Service as they develop strong parenting skills and a real love and connection to their children.





How you helped

Our volunteers

The role of volunteers is central to achieving ACT for Kids' outcomes, bringing us closer to our goal to see all children enjoying a safe, happy childhood free from abuse and neglect. Our Volunteer Program serves as an extension of our workforce with volunteers taking on key roles, from our Board of Directors to trained and caring people providing child minding services at West Burleigh so parents can participate in workshops to improve and strengthen their parenting skills.

Our dedicated regular corporate and regional office volunteers work tirelessly to help us keep administration costs to a minimum so we can direct as much money as possible to providing therapy and services to the kids and families who need our help the most.

The contribution of volunteers in both economic and social terms is extensive and many of the activities and events undertaken by ACT for Kids simply would not happen without the support of our dedicated team. This financial year more than 270 volunteers supported us at over 30 separate events including:

- gardening at our kindy
- wrapping donated Christmas gifts for kids
- selling merchandise at the Brisbane Ekka
- helping set up and host our Art Show.

Our volunteers generously and selflessly donated more than 3,500 hours of their time, in financial terms this is a significant salary saving of over \$87,000. Volunteers also help us to raise much needed funds and through their support at events this year, they directly raised more than \$52,000.

We celebrated our volunteers at our gala dinner, Emmy's Night of Stars, presenting Emmy's Crusader of the Year Awards, sponsored by Tolerro, to four incredible people:

- ACT for Kids founder and Board member, Dr David Wood AM
- ACT for Kids Board member and Treasurer, John Eales
- long-time fundraising volunteers Marnie Sluice and Kayleen Tolley.

A large and active volunteer workforce is vital to the future of ACT for Kids, particularly in this climate of growth and expansion across our organisation. We are focussed on strengthening and growing our Volunteer Program to ensure volunteers can work alongside our dedicated staff to continue to help strengthen families in need and turn lives around.



The team from King & Wood Malleasons gave our Early Education Program kindy a spring clean.



Disinfecting toys.



Pressure cleaning for little feet.

King & Wood Malleasons Solicitor, Cassie Kam said the Brisbane team is "proud to support ACT for Kids, a local Queensland charity which is doing great work with children through their therapy programs, including the ACT for Kids preschool."

"We had a fantastic time assisting with spring cleaning at the preschool recently and look forward to continuing to support ACT for Kids through the Malleasons in the Community workplace giving and pro bono programs."

We would like to acknowledge the following corporate, Board and individual volunteers who supported ACT for Kids during the 2011-12 financial year:

Lauren	Ahern	Gary	Hardy	Katherine	Orr
Elise	Ainsworth	Brian	Harris	Christina	Packer
Christine	Allsop	Harriet	Harvey	Amy	Pagotto
Hannah	Anderson	Anna	Hawkings	Josh	Pagotto
Angie	Asimus	Caroline	Haydon	Owen	Parsons
Toni	Aspinall	Megan	Heiser	Krista	Paterson
Liz	Atkin	Kerri-Ann	Hilton	Claire	Pennell
Katrin	Attalla	Lorraine	Hislop	Casey	Perkins
Libby	Ballesteros	Eric	Howarth	Emma	Petersen
Danica	Barlow	Renee	Howarth	Goergina	Poole
Deb	Barnes	Jason	Huang	Eirene	Poulas
Cindy	Baxter	Hwi Yeon	(Fiona) Im	Emma	Preen
Nelissa	Bellich	Tamara	Jansons	Kelly	Prendergast
Carol	Bellis	Brittany-Elise	Johansen	Mei Fern (Alison)	Quah
Kathy	Biggs	Ewa	Johansson	Jason	Quinn
Ellie	Blackman	Catherine	Joseph	Lorena	Radford
Philippa	Brack	Jihye	Jung	Lauren	Radley
Rebekka	Bramble	Robyn	Keiseker	Meagan	Radley
Samantha	Braun	Matt	Kid	Helen	Reeds
Kate	Brennan	Rachael	Kiber	Debbie	Robertson
Chelsie	Bridge	Irene	Kurlack	Stephen	Robinson
Annie	Brock	Helen	Langborne	Jane	Rogers
Janette	Bruce	Kendy	Lau	Sue	Ross
Evannia	Bunnett	Cadellyn	Laura	Rebekah	Roxburgh
Corrine	Burke	Howard	Lealaogata	Christina	Russell
Megan	Campbell	Gemma	Leathem	Julie	Saaga
Anastacia	Caris	Andrea	Lee	Markus	Saiat
Georgie	Carrington	Samantha	Lewis	Samuel	Saiat
Zoe	Carrington	Cassia	Littler	Carol	Salvadori
Emily	Carter	Aileen	Lobb	Cherie	Santiago
Jill	Cavanagh	Vicki	Long	Janelle	Schlitter
Amy	Chen	Michael	Luchterhand	Michelle	Schlitter
Jaysen	Cignoli	Anna	Marburg	John	Schluter
Kate	Clark	Andrea	Maree	Lana	Sciasci
Delma	Cogman	Louise	Martin	Rhonda	Scott
Jo	Connors	Juno	Masani	Lia	Shea
Shannon	Cook	Helen	Matthews	Melissa	Singleton
Chris	Cossio	Katrina	Matthews	Melissa	Skerman
Caitlin	Cowper	June	Mc Crorie	Erin	Skopp
Paige	Crow	Donna	McCarthy	Marnie	Sluice
Kathryn	Curtis	Pat	McDonald	Robin	Smith
James	Cusack	David	McDonald	Allison	Stalling
Hannah	Davis	Nicole	McGinn	Sonia	Stangherlin
Rachael	Dawes	Tara	McGinty	Clare	Stanton
Rachael	De Marchi	Heather	McGrath	Sue	Stephenson
Belinda	Delmastro	Kay	McGrath	Carolyn	Stevens
Rosie	Dent	Kendal Jae	McGreachan	Simon	Stewart
Allison	Dohnt	Helen	McGrory	Meri	Stoerr
Georgia	Done	Lara	McKenna	Emily	Stroud
Stewart	Duff	Tina	McKenna	Aya	Sumitomo
Chris	Eacott	Olivia	McNeil	Brittany	Thomas
Rebecca	Eaves	Amy	McNeur	Kayleen	Tolley
Nick	Emmers	Natalia	Meggiolaro	Silvie	Tynan
Sam	Emmers	Natasha	Mehmut	Louise	Varendorff
Claire	Fardoullys	Stephanie	Middleton	Amanda	Vincent
Bronte	Feint	Amanda	Millar	Noel	Wakerley
Josie	Fielding	Madhubanti	Mukherjee	Belinda	Walsh
Yiwei (Judy)	Firmstone	Amy	Muller	Katrina	Wark
Ben	Flemming	Jessica	Muller	Christina	Weir
Judi	Forrester	John	Muller	Pat	Welsh
Cheryl	Frizzell	Jordan	Mulvey	Jennifer	West
Melanie	Fuchs	Kirsty	Murray	Lisa	Wheildon
Ewan	Fung	Shane	Murray	Marion	Wheldon
Bhavna	Gandabha	Hema	Mutyala	Kirsti	Wigginton
Sharyn	Ghidella	Amita	Nand	Lisa	Wigginton
Lucy	Gothmann	Emily	Newey	Jacinta	Wood
Jeff	Graham	Jessica	Newham	Tom	Worth
Marlene	Graham	Karen	Newham	Lauren	Worthington
Margaret	Gray	Cameron	Nicholls	Gemma	Wyer
Sam	Greentree	Kara	Nicholson	Nicolle	Yore
Jessica	Gregory	Bronwyn	O'Carroll		
Kieran	Gregory	Casey	O'Leary		
Stephanie	Hambly	Josh	O'Loughlin		
Gail	Hanlon				
Samantha	Hannah				

Thanks to our supporters

We would like to acknowledge the following corporate, Board and individual volunteers who supported ACT for Kids during the 2011-12 financial year:

In the past 12 months:

- Subway franchisees helped raise \$63,000 through in store ACT for Kids collection containers, we're excited that these devices are now rolling out across Subway Restaurants in Queensland and the Northern Territory
- ACT for Kids CEO, Dr Neil Carrington, raised over \$200,000 this year through his leadership and executive development work with some of Australia's best known organisations
- the who's who of Townsville business came together to form our Capital Appeal Committee, planning to raise funds for the ACT for Kids Child and Family Centre of Excellence
- two generous and considerate supporters left ACT for Kids gifts in their Will
- Rolleston Coal work crew B raised \$15,000, matched by Xstrata Coal for a total donation of \$30,000
- Commonwealth Bank hosted a gala dinner in Sydney with ACT for Kids one of the three beneficiaries, they raised over \$33,000 for us
- Michael Wilkins raised \$12,450 for ACT for Kids as a participant in the Dancing with the Townsville Stars Gala Charity Night
- North Queensland News, a committed corporate supporter, donated \$5,000 to launch their workplace giving campaign – straight away 34 staff signed up as Kids' Crusaders, contributing a collective \$6,600 per year
- QBE donated \$10,000
- Ray White Clint Wallis became a corporate partner, donating \$100 per real estate sale
- \$13,500 was raised through three different Melbourne Cup events.

We are very grateful that so many have continued to support our vital work so generously, in such difficult financial conditions, whether through a regular donation, taking part in events, or by tirelessly raising funds on our behalf. Our services are intensive, and therefore expensive to provide

(approximately \$5,000 for intensive therapy for one child for a year), but every donation – however big or small – combines to make a real difference.

Donations

With annual operating costs and the demand for services ever increasing, the \$352,000 in donations during our Tax, Child Protection Week and Christmas Appeals helped greatly. Growing our regular donor program was, and will continue to be, a key strategy for ACT for Kids, this year 289 generous supporters donated \$108,781. Welcoming more Kids Crusaders than ever before means we have a growing, steady, reliable income each month to support our services.

Grants

We'd like to acknowledge and thank:

Gambling Community Benefit Fund – Woolloowin phone system, Gold Coast office equipment, vehicle for Townsville outreach service

Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit Fund – Townsville five ipads

E Robert Hayles and Alison L Hayles Charitable Trust and the Russell McKimmon Charitable Trust – funding for evaluation and report on SafeKIDS Program implementation

Special events

Our gala dinner at Moda Portside with 245 guests was a night of fun and glamour.

Our volunteers turned the Mercedes-Benz Brisbane showroom into an art showcase for our Annual ACT for Kids Art Show, the highlight of the night was an Imants Tillers piece selling at auction for \$27,500.

Community fundraising across the state

Our volunteer network, including the Gold Coast and Townsville Friends of ACT for Kids groups, raised vital funds on our behalf within their local communities. Without our volunteers, many of these activities and fundraisers just would not be possible. Runners, walkers and other everyday heroes raised almost \$21,000 through the Everyday Hero website, putting their energy and enthusiasm towards our good cause.

Thousands of people across Australia purchased ACT for Kids Platinum Class Lottery tickets, raising \$281,103 while putting themselves in the running to win cars, holidays and platinum bullion (www.platinumclass.com.au). We would particularly like to thank our Platinum Reserve members who elect to buy tickets in every lottery and our lottery partners Mercedes-Benz Brisbane.

Some community groups also pull together to host events or raise funds, and we'd like to thank:

Freemasons St Andrew of Townsville Lodge No. 94 – Townsville sensory room fitout

Thiess Community Partnership Funding – Townsville playroom furniture

Apex Club of Townsville – furniture for the new waiting room

"For me, a child's safety is one of the most precious things in life and I know that you would agree as you have recently started supporting ACT for Kids. Unfortunately the terrible fact is so many children still suffer some form of neglect or abuse. This is why I recently became an ACT for Kids, Kids' Crusader.

I have often sat and watched real-life stories of children being subjected to unspeakable acts, often by people who are close to them. And for too long, I would shake my head and just pretend I didn't see or hear such atrocities. It was only after I saw first-hand the work that ACT for Kids does for these children that I realised that there was something I could do.

Being a Kids' Crusader and giving a monthly donation ensures ACT for Kids receives a steady and secure stream of funds to enable them to employ specialist counselors who nurture these children, and their families, and teach them vital skills in how to lead a safe and happy childhood: a childhood that every child deserves to have.

Chris Cossio, Kids' Crusader since January 2012

Donations

In kind

Sometimes free services can help us even more than the dollar value, and some organisations donate products we can't afford to buy. This year we'd like to thank:

Channel 7 Brisbane
Channel 7 Queensland
4BC/4BH
Prime Radio
Publicis Mojo
Zenith Optimedia
Cutting Edge
96Five Family
Conexus Consulting
Budget Direct
King & Wood Mallesons
Messages on Hold
Department of Human Services Brisbane
Smart Centre
Commonwealth Bank Australia
Stones Corner branch
In the Booth
Happy Memories Photography
Eckersleys
TopTaste
Nestlé
Bunnings Stafford
Bunnings Gold Coast
Licensys
Brisbane City Council
Toys Paradise
Softball Queensland
Dibbs Barker
Capitol Body Corporate Admin

Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who has supported ACT for Kids this year – donors, volunteers, sponsors, partners, lottery ticket buyers, granting bodies, the media and the Queensland Government. With your help, together, we aim to develop varied and sustainable income streams to enable us to help children and families most at risk.

Thank you for helping us give more children a second chance and the happy, healthy and safe childhood they deserve.

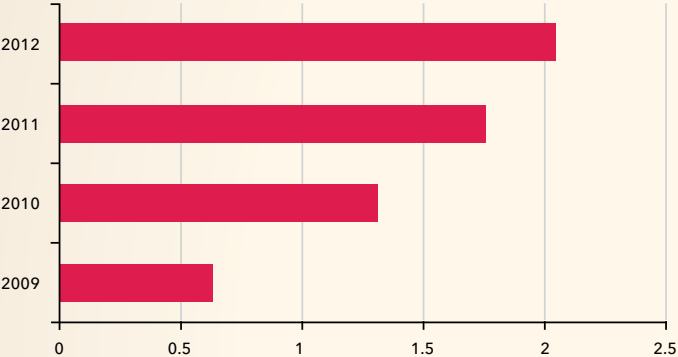
If you'd like to support those who support us, you can see our corporate sponsors on the inside back cover.

Financial report

Financial sustainability is one of ACT for Kids’ strategic imperatives. Our strategic plan includes objectives and targets for continual improvement in financial strength, fiscal responsibility and the growth and diversification of revenue. Most targets were met in the 2012 financial year.

Three consecutive years of profitability have resulted in a much stronger financial base. Reserves exceeded \$2 million for the first time at the end of this financial year.

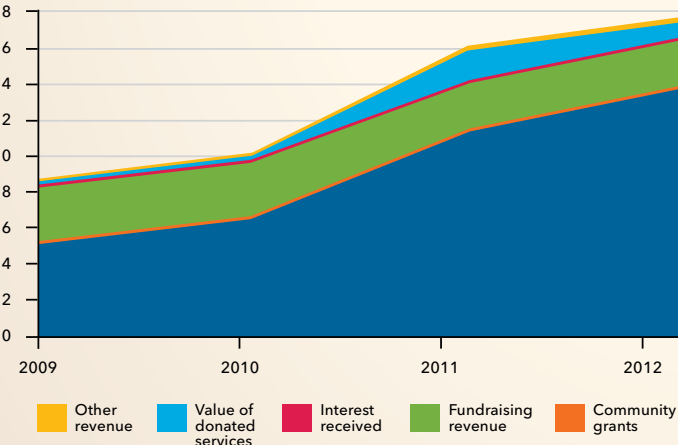
Reserves (\$millions)



Total assets as at 30 June 2012 were \$5.8 million.

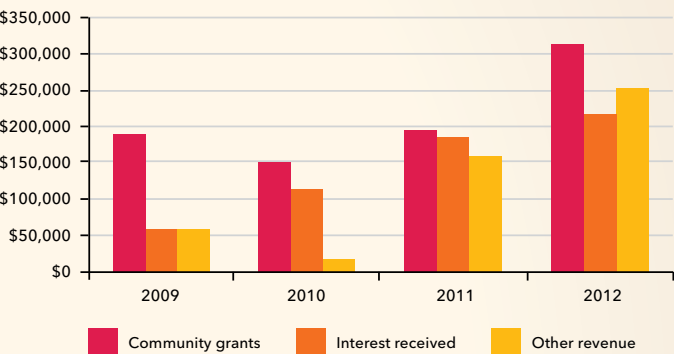
The profit of \$282,808 was lower than the previous two years, and slightly below our target, but still a reasonable result in the current economic environment. The high growth experienced in recent years slowed a little in 2012. However, revenue of \$17.7 million was still 10% higher than the previous financial year. Government grants of \$13.5 million accounted for 76% of revenue. The growth in grant funding continued to dominate the growth in total revenue.

Revenue (\$millions)

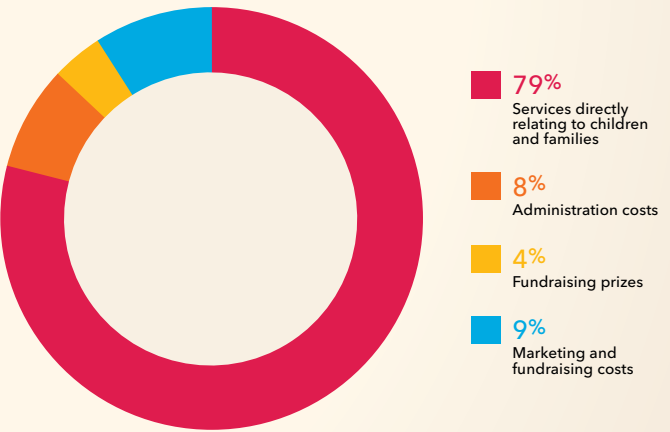


The value of donated (in kind) services from generous business partners totalled \$942,000.

Although the narrowest lines on the chart, the growth in interest received, community grants and other revenue was pleasing. ACT for Kids has identified the need to diversify and grow alternate sources of revenue to support the work that we do with children and families.



Expenses incurred directly on services to children and families accounted for 79% of total outlays (excluding the estimated value of donated services) at \$13 million.



Overall, the financial result for 2011-12 was positive.

ACT for Kids Official Partners



PUBLICIS MOJO

ACT for Kids Gold Sponsors



ACT for Kids Silver Sponsors



ACT for Kids Bronze Sponsors



**For more information please call 1300 228 000 or visit
www.actforkids.com.au**

mail@actforkids.com.au

PO Box 3387

South Brisbane Qld 4101



Formerly known as the Abused Child Trust

To buy tickets in the ACT for Kids Platinum
Class Lottery call 1800 968 946
or visit www.platinumclass.com.au

ABN 98 142 986 767