



Annual Report 2010

Newcastle Family Support Services Inc

About us

Newcastle Family Support Services is a non-government incorporated association that has been providing services to families with children in the Lower Hunter Region for over 30 years.

We have a vision of families flourishing as they raise resilient children in a just society. We optimistically pursue this vision by providing services that include:

- Counselling and individual assistance, either in the home or at a centre
- Therapeutic group programs with associated child development activities
- Supported playtime activities
- Community work and
- A family centre with a therapeutic community approach.

We believe that parents have a desire for their children to grow up to be good citizens with healthy self-esteem and resilience. We believe that with appropriate support most families can achieve this.

As we work with families we are informed by these core values:

- All people have the ability and right to participate in decision making about their lives, the services that they receive and their community
- All people must be treated with respect: including honesty, generosity, equity and empathy
- Open, inclusive, secure and socially just communities are vital to the wellbeing of families
- The social context of a family impacts on them and must be considered in our work.

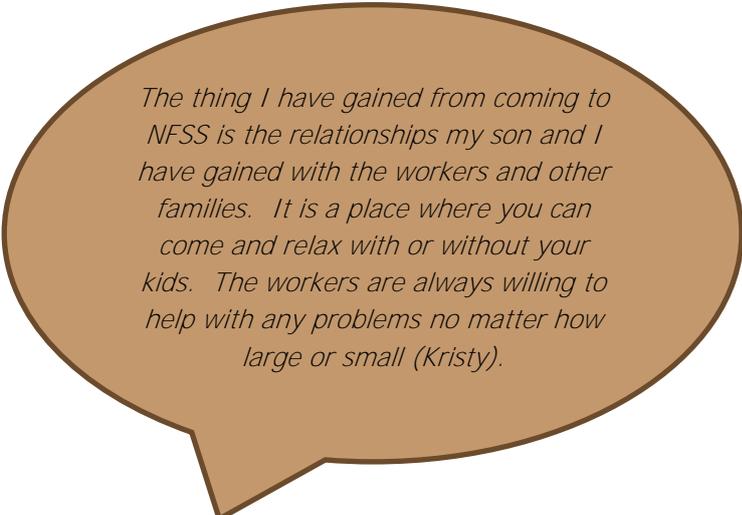


What we do and how we do it

Individual family work

Individual family work, usually in the **family's home**, is a significant proportion of our work. It is the service that is most commonly requested. Unfortunately, we are regularly unable to meet all requests for individual assistance.

Typically a family worker contacts the family within one week from referral and consults with the family about a suitable time and venue to meet. We aim to meet with as many members of the family as possible, believing that all members will have valuable contributions to make. Of course, this may not be possible, particularly if the referral is from a member of the family who may wish to leave a family violence situation. Over this year we provided individual family work assistance to 224 clients. Typically 90% of the families that provide feedback on this type of assistance report that the work contributes to improvements in their family life.



The thing I have gained from coming to NFSS is the relationships my son and I have gained with the workers and other families. It is a place where you can come and relax with or without your kids. The workers are always willing to help with any problems no matter how large or small (Kristy).

Jennifer was referred from Community Services. Jennifer and her partner, Dan were arguing around their two month old baby. Community Services were concerned about a history of domestic violence. The baby was sleeping a lot and hardly woke for feeds. Jennifer was on the methadone program. Jennifer had little family or social support. Jennifer and her baby are living together. Dan has his own accommodation but has daily contact with the baby and has a parenting role.

Our work started with clarification of our role: to work with them on the issues of concern to them and to Community Services. We talked about their hopes for their child and how they wanted to parent.

As the family worker shared information about child development, Jennifer's confidence in herself grew. She was able to reflect too on the circumstances that had led to the removal of her other two children.

Jennifer and Dan have been to the family centre and found it to be a welcoming environment. They are continuing to be involved.

The baby has thrived. Community Services are no longer involved with the family.

**Note that many details have been changed to protect the family's identity*

Sue has one teenage son. She has an acquired brain injury from a childhood accident. Sue struggles in social situations: finding it difficult to make and keep friends and feeling as though she does not fit in.

She has found it difficult to make changes in her life. She did engage well with a family worker. As the work progressed both Sue and the family worker focused on making small changes but soon discovered that even the smallest of changes can be in fact life changing. Early in the work Sue expressed a keen interest in sewing, although she did not know how to operate her new sewing machine and she was not at all confident. The family worker taught her some very basic sewing processes. Sue has now made cushion covers for her lounge and a pair of winter pyjamas. She has recently enrolled in a sewing course at TAFE and joined a community sewing group. Her confidence has increased dramatically. Working with Sue on her interest in sewing has enabled a subtle but powerful change for her.

*Note that many details have been changed to protect the family's identity

Group programs

Over the year we provided 30 group programs for parents. Twenty seven of these groups ran **associated children's** programs. These programs were mostly provided in association with other organisations. This year we collaborated with agencies as varied as Schools as Community Centres, McCauley Drug and Alcohol Outreach Service, Family Support Services, refuges and neighbourhood centres. Services have been provided across the lower Hunter.

The group programs are provided

in ways that emphasise family participation. After initial consultation with

collaborating agencies about identified needs a group program is developed and promoted. At the initial session, participants are invited to contribute to determining the topics/issues that will be addressed in the sessions. The group leader responds flexibly to these issues and designs the program accordingly. This year we introduced a new group program called Love Laughter and Limits. It has a

*...We learnt about love and limits, for
our children so dear,*

*And along the way we have laughter
and fun*

*Use the information wisely and keep it
near,*

*(Excerpt from a poem written by a
group participant)*



focus on emotional intelligence and parenting. It included conversations on social, emotional and cognitive development of kids.

We run a group program 'Keeping Cooler' about self-awareness and managing strong emotions, particularly anger. Often situations arise in these groups where all members get opportunities for 'on-the-spot' practice of what they are learning.

At about week four, a situation arose where a group member became increasingly agitated as she talked about her experiences of abuse. She was unaware of the impact that she was having on other group members (who were also becoming agitated and wanting to leave) and unresponsive to the attempts by the group leader to intervene.

When the group member responded, the leader initiated a mindfulness exercise. The group members then took a break.

Everyone returned to the group after the break. There was a discussion about injustice, where everyone was invited to participate with regular checking in by each person on how they were feeling. They then moved onto a body percussion exercise. The next time people were asked to check how they were doing they noted that they were calmer, open and energised.

The group, in planning their homework for the coming week, decided that they would reflect on gratefulness and letting go.

Family centre

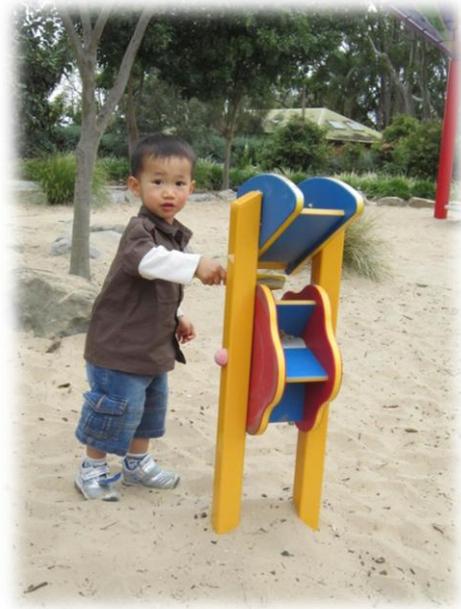
The family centre is a key place for developing a sense of community in our service. It is a valuable opportunity for many families who have been isolated to develop an understanding of processes that support resilient family and community relationships. Our family centre operates three days a week and is attended by an average of 10 families on each day that it is open. This year we have provided a range of activities, based on feedback from families and the skills and interests of clients and staff. We have practised meditation, learnt some quilting, jewellery making and mosaics. We have cooked with the children and families have made



a short DVD of interviews with each other about what makes a good family worker. We also celebrated Mental Health Week, NAIDOC Week, and Families Week.

A good family centre is a place where people can find space for quiet chat or a cuppa, participate in lively, loud discussions, use the **service's technology** or play. On any given day we usually achieve all of this as we fumble our way through in a building that was never designed to meet these needs, is often overcrowded and is becoming run down.

Conflict is inherent in a centre such as this. But we mostly maintain enough generosity of spirit to learn and to move forward together. We make room for celebrating achievements large and small and we grow in ways we didn't know were possible or imaginable.



Magda is a woman who has been coming to the family centre for some time. She was angry and extremely distressed that her children had been taken into care. She stayed connected to the centre and the friends she has made there. Friends and staff listened and supported, challenged and shared her journey.*

Magda's children are still in alternate care but now she acknowledges that she cannot, despite her desire, care for them in the way they need at this time. She looks for ways that she can stay connected and available to them when she has contact. She actively works to improve her life skills with the hope that sometime in the future she will be more equipped to meet their needs.

**Not her real name*

John turned up at the family centre one day in the middle of winter desperate about his and his daughter's housing. They were in imminent danger of being evicted from a unit they could barely afford to live in.*

We began to work on a few possible solutions, including caravan parks, and accommodation through the Department of Housing and community housing. Six weeks later and after a lot of telephone calls, letters, and legwork by John and our staff, John and his daughter moved into secure community housing.

**Not his real name*

Playtime Plus

In providing our playtime activities, we have developed particular processes that enhance parents' relationships with their children while providing developmental activities for the children. During the activities, parents are supported by family workers to increase their knowledge of their children, develop their skills in responding to **their children's growing social awareness and enhance their** understanding of child development.



This year, Playtime Plus programs have been provided in two venues: a community centre at Wallsend and our **family centre. Parents' participation in the ongoing** activities may be casual and low key or be part of case managed activities designed to achieve particular goals that the family has identified.

Families who attend note the value of learning to play with their children. Additionally of course, new friendships are

made and community connections are strengthened.

The Wallsend playtime is provided in an area with a significant population of culturally and linguistically diverse families where mothers are frequently newly arrived in Australia and very isolated. We have been excited by the connections that we have seen develop as they make new friends through this activity.

Playtime has been great for my daughter..... Helps her with interacting with children, plus it gives us time together which we both enjoy.

Monica* is the mother of two children aged one and two. She very reluctantly and nervously joined the playtime activity. She found it difficult to trust the staff. Her children were similarly nervous and stayed very close to her.

Gradually the children began to move around in the play area and interact with the staff. Monica continued to stay on the edge of the group. She started to appreciate that the children were enjoying themselves.

After several months, she cautiously began to interact, initially with staff members and then with other parents in the group. These days Monica is actively involved in playtime and the boys have moved from being very unsure of these surroundings to moving away from mum happily knowing she is close by or even going to other adults when needing to communicate or be comforted. They both love morning tea time, sitting up with the others and are now eating fruit and cheese, where previously they would not eat anything other than biscuits.

Engagement through the playtime activity has allowed sufficient trust for Monica to be able to ask for some assistance in dealing with sleep issues. This has led to some home visits and the opportunity to engage around other parenting and relationship issues.

**Note that many details have been changed to protect the family's identity*

Some particular projects

Aboriginal families

The service has had funding to provide family support services to Aboriginal families for many years. As well Aboriginal families are supported to access mainstream programs offered by NFSS.

As a mainstream organisation that understands the deep historical mistrust that Aboriginal people may feel about non-

Aboriginal organisations we feel particularly heartened when we hear feedback from Aboriginal people that we are a good organisation.



Family support has a good reputation out there in the community. (Conversation at the school gate)

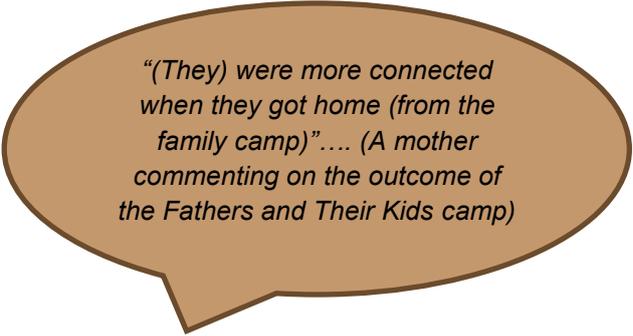
Katrina* was referred by the early childhood nurse. She had a six week old baby and several older children, including a teenage daughter who was pregnant. Her older children and partner were fighting a lot. We engaged initially with Katrina and soon learnt about violence within the family. Katrina was very distrustful of services and people in the local area. The children were attending school out of area. Police had been involved because of neighbourhood conflict. There had been reports to Community Services and the possibility of eviction. Family work included liaison with the various services and linking the father to a program for perpetrators of domestic violence. Katrina was supported to link her children to the local school which has resulted in the children feeling more settled and connected to friends in their neighbourhood. This has made the children much happier as they go to school with their neighbourhood friends. Katrina is gradually connecting to local services.

Community Services are no longer involved; there is greater harmony in the family. The family continues to make changes.

**Note that many details have been changed to protect the family's identity*

Fathers in families

NFSS has always believed that it is important that fathers participate in family life; making strong connections with their children and participating in the decision making about their lives. We provide group programs and family work services particularly aimed at men with fathering roles. This year we also provided a weekend camp for fathers and their kids.



"(They) were more connected when they got home (from the family camp)".... (A mother commenting on the outcome of the Fathers and Their Kids camp)

Ted and Alice* sought our assistance a year or so ago because of concerns about their relationship, their parenting and their 'life directions'. They have two children: a 15 year old girl and an 11 year old boy.

As the work progressed they agreed on a temporary separation and Ted left the state. We talked extensively about how Ted would stay engaged with the family, in particular his children.

They re-engaged with our service this year. Ted and Alice have maintained their amicable separation and are actively engaged in projects they had previously only dreamt of including tertiary study, independent living, financial stability, growing new friendships, addressing the impact of alcohol. Ted is well connected with his children.

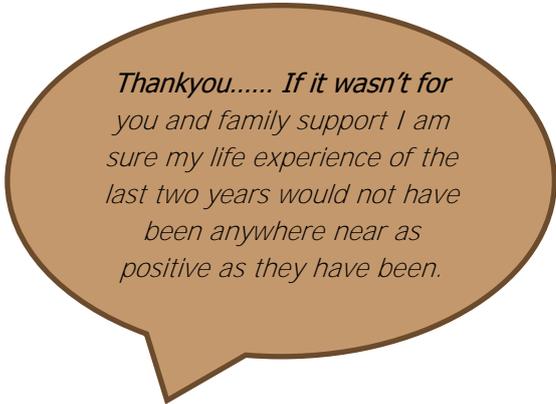
*Note that many details have been changed to protect the family's identity

Families dealing with mental health issues

This year **our Headin' Up** program has continued to provide particular services to families where a member has a mental illness. In this project we have provided relatively intensive support including weekly home visits, group programs and access to telephone support at other times.

We have continued to provide our Emotional Wisdom program based on dialectic behaviour therapy principles. This work has demonstrated the value of being able to offer reasonably intensive support to families. It requires considerable commitment from participants: regular attendance at the group, individual counselling, homework and self-reflection.

Headin' Up has a particular emphasis on connecting with Aboriginal families



Thankyou..... If it wasn't for you and family support I am sure my life experience of the last two years would not have been anywhere near as positive as they have been.

experiencing mental illness. We have collaborated with Aboriginal services including Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Co-Op and Warlga Ngurra Women and Children's Refuge to provide a traditional basket weaving group as a means of supporting Aboriginal women to connect with their culture while talking about the impact of mental illness on their families.

Mary* is a grandmother who has the full time care of her 5 year old grand-daughter, Jay. Vera and her daughter Rhonda had a very hostile relationship.

Rhonda has a serious mental illness and had been in hospital for many months prior to the work. When we started working with Mary, Jay had not seen her mother for over 6 months and said that she could not remember what she looked like. Our work started with supporting contact visits between Rhonda and Jay. Mary and Rhonda would not speak to each other, nor be in the same room together. Mary would stay in one room while Rhonda and Jay played in another room.

Other agencies were nervous about this work, because of concerns about the effect of the contact on Rhonda's wellbeing. The work was helped though by both Mary and Rhonda being committed to improving the connection between Rhonda and Jay.

For the first 6 months, visits were pretty irregular, and resource-intensive, often being cancelled at short notice by the Mental Health Team - either because of concerns about Rhonda's wellbeing or competing appointments.

Gradually the visits became more regular, and the benefits for both Mary and Jay became more and more obvious. After 18 months, all services now make the visits a priority, recognising the key role that they play in Rhonda's wellbeing. Plans are progressing for Rhonda to be able to have contact with her daughter without the presence of other people.

Rhonda and Mary are still at odds. However, they manage the occasional note to each other and the (very) occasional phone call. They have expressed a desire to work on improving their relationship.

*Note that many details have been changed to protect the family's identity



Supporting Women Leaving Violence

This year we received funding for a project working with women who wanted to leave domestic violence but maintain stable housing. This has been challenging but rewarding work. It requires close collaboration with police domestic violence liaison officers, the domestic violence court support service and housing services.

We support the women to obtain exclusion orders through court proceedings and provide funding to make safety upgrades on their houses. We provide case management to facilitate a gradual move to economic independence and overcome the effects of living with violence.

Miriam* has 3 children: 14, 10 and 9. She had been in a new relationship for four months. Her partner was very controlling and obsessive. He wouldn't let her out of his sight and always wanted to be at her house. He put his fist through her windscreen one night and that was when she decided that was the end of the relationship. There has been an AVO in place since separation and in this time the violence increased: he has assaulted her, threatened her, stolen her car and damaged property at her house.

She had been dealing with this on her own and had been at court by herself with no support or knowledge of the processes. She was ready to abandon the court process. She was referred to NFSS and we were able to offer her court support, safety planning and some security upgrades at her house. Despite a disappointing court outcome, she has been heartened and encouraged to have support and someone who believed her story.

She has since enrolled herself in tertiary education and loves studying, finishing all her assignments ahead of time, helping other students and eagerly looking for her next form of study. She notes that her family has grown closer and more supportive since we started the work together.

*Note that many details have been changed to protect the family's identity



How we are supported to do this work

Our funding

NFSS receives funding from a range of state and federal government funding programs as described in Figure 1: Funding sources.

Over the year we have also received various donations that have supported our work including:

- Microsoft & Donortec: software, and
- Michael Leunig: use of his cartoons for group flyers.

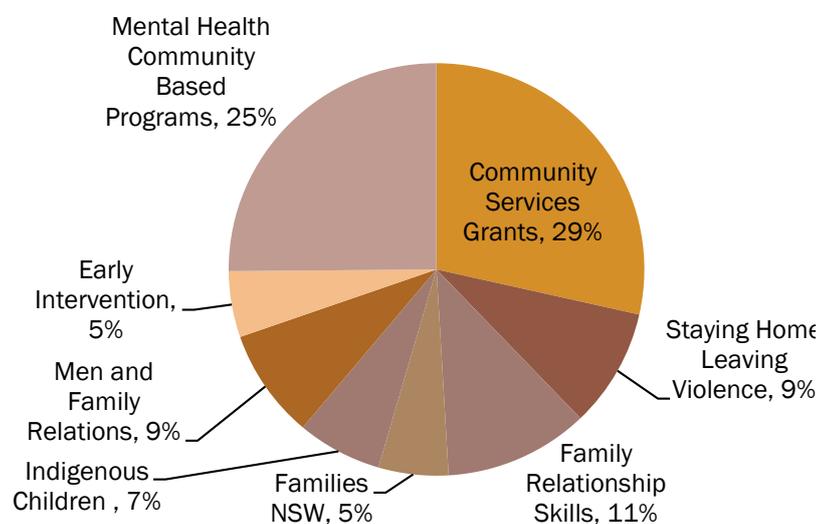


Figure 1: Funding sources

Our board

NFSS is directed by a hard working Board that consists of community members and past or present clients of the service. The Board works closely with senior managers to ensure that the organisation is providing high quality services to families in ways that **reflect the organisation's values**. Senior managers appreciate their collaborative approach to the work and the many perspectives they bring.

Our staff

Twenty four permanent staff members and another ten casual staff work directly with families and children. Other staff provide administrative, IT and management support. The combined team has a wide diversity of skills and passions – all directed to enhancing the wellbeing of children and their families.

Staff members come from a range of backgrounds – cultural, professional, life style and life experiences.

'Watching her slowly gain confidence and trust ...over the last year has been inspirational' (Staff member)

I expected to learn about group processes and family work theory..... but I also learnt to deal with a highly emotionally charged setting..... attachment theory... how to make a child laugh..... dealing with baby boogers on your shirt. (Student on placement)

There is a strong team approach to the work. This ensures that we can share the heartache and the inspiration that we experience as we work with parents and children to improve their family life and ultimately the wellbeing of the children.

We find the work most challenging when we see the impact of social injustice, such as a lack of affordable housing and poverty, on the ability of parents to care for their children.

We are most rewarded when we walk alongside parents making changes in their lives despite the overwhelming odds against them. Invariably we are enriched by this experience.

Our volunteers

Families who have been involved with the service often become volunteers, helping the service to help other families. Volunteers have been involved in a wide ranging set of activities to support the service over this year. They have assisted in gardening, shopping, playtime activities, food preparation, cleaning, administration, welcoming new families to the family centre and the preparation of the family newsletter.



... the friendships I have made (at NFSS) will stay with me forever. I have interacted with staff, families, volunteer and management: all have added their special touch to my life as I hope I have to theirs. (Jo)

Volunteers bring a wealth of experience to the service and also serve to remind us in an ongoing way of the reciprocity that is so central to a rich community life. It is a privilege to work with people who have often been treated unjustly in our society but still retain a sense of responsibility for contributing to their community and strengthening the services that support a community.

Highlights of the year

A new family centre

This year, we have been offered a building (the old Waratah Fire Station) which we are planning to relocate our family centre to. We have been excited by the **possibility of having a family centre with good external space for children's activities** and gardening, as well as adequate areas for a variety of activities associated with a vibrant family centre including rooms for counselling, quiet office space, a room for babies and large group activity rooms.

We are currently awaiting the outcome of development application.

Conference presentations

This year staff and clients from NFSS have made presentations to conferences about the work that we do. The focus of presentations has been our work with families where a member has a mental illness.

We gave a poster presentation: **'Gin Dhanbaan Djuyaliyn, Strong Women Talking, Coming Together, Weaving our Wellness'** at The Mental Health Services Conference in Perth.

We delivered a paper: **'Innovation and Research in a Family Support Setting: Working Together With Families'** to the World Children of Parents with a Mental Illness Conference in Adelaide.

This is a pleasing development. Over the years it has been a challenge to take time from the doing of our work in order to show aspects of it to our colleagues. We hope that this is just the beginning.

Challenges of the year

Collection and analysis of evaluative data

The service has a commitment (articulated in our strategic plan) to ensure that we have processes that collect data and evaluative feedback from the families that we work with to inform and guide ongoing improvement. To this end, we have been developing and implementing a client management system that is responsive to the unique requirements of an organisation such as NFSS. This has been a huge undertaking over the past 5 years. At the time of this report, we have been able to extract some rudimentary data (as detailed in this report.) We look forward to progress that will mean that we will be able to analyse data about the outcomes for families.

Responding to emerging sector developments

This is the first year of the implementation of Keep Them Safe. This is the NSW Government response to the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW. While many of the Keep Them Safe developments have been welcomed, we have continued to be concerned that there has been an ongoing relative reduction in the funding that we receive to provide the service that may prevent children and their families from entering the child protection system.

We continue to work with families for whom homelessness or inadequate housing is an ongoing issue. This has a significant impact on their ability to care for their

children. We have been pleased to see the significant increase in funds for community housing over the past year but feel concerned that much of the increase has been focused on small (one or two bedroom) houses and units which are rarely suitable for families with children.

Looking ahead

Family Centre

While we are still waiting for a successful outcome of the Development Application submitted for our new family centre, we are cautiously optimistic that this will proceed. We are planning to be in the new centre in the coming year and look forward to making a very welcoming centre where families and staff are working together indoors and outdoors, to develop friendships, skills and resources that foster good family and community life.

Funding constraints

Funded programs that have become ongoing are normally indexed each financial year. Over the years this indexation has rarely matched the increased costs associated with providing the service. This has become particularly apparent in the last few years but was cushioned to some extent by the introduction of new funded programs that shared some of the fixed costs.

However, the service has not been able to absorb the increases associated with wage rises, the cost of premises and overheads associated with accountability requirements. There were two significant periods in this year, when we were not able to accept new referrals. As we move into the new financial year, we have had to reduce staff hours and this has meant that service delivery will be reduced. This is deeply distressing in a situation where we are already finding that we cannot meet the need.

In conclusion

We would like to thank all the organisations and individuals that have supported our work over the past year: funders, donors and other community organisations. In addition we would like to thank all the families and friends of Board members, staff and volunteers who often end up participating, or helping in some way in our various activities.

NEWCASTLE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES INC.

COMMITTEES REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of Newcastle Family Support Services Inc. (Non-Reporting) for the year ended 30 June 2010.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Evelyn Apthorpe
Jo-anne Black
Lorraine Humphris-North
Sharlene Dyer
Karla Heke
Valma Rutherford
Bernie Coulter
Ruth Spence
John Curtis
Mel Hunter

MISSION STATEMENT

Newcastle Family Support Services has a vision of families flourishing in just and strong communities. We contribute to this vision by providing services which promote the well-being of individuals, families and communities. We do this through the provision of services to families with children, who are experiencing ongoing hardship.

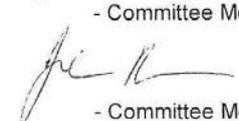
SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

OPERATING RESULT

The net surplus for the year amounted to \$56,221 compared to a surplus of \$1,848 last year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee:


- Committee Member

- Committee Member

Dated this 1st day of September 2010

CROSBIE WARREN SINCLAIR

ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS ADVISERS

NEWCASTLE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES INC.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the members of Newcastle Family Support Services Inc.

SCOPE

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Newcastle Family Support Services Inc. (Non-Reporting) comprising the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, accompanying notes to the financial statements and Committees Declaration for the year ended 30 June 2010.

Committee's Responsibility

The Committee of the Incorporation is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act NSW and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members and Funding Bodies to which they must report to. The Committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that it is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also involves evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Committee as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

Gold Coast Office

7 Cloyne Rd Southport QLD 4215
PO Box 2147 Southport QLD 4215
Ph (07) 5591 4444 • Fax (07) 5531 1000
www.bamr.com.au

Newcastle Office

Cnr Pacific Hwy & Warabrook Blvd
Warabrook NSW 2304
Box 29 Hunter Region MC NSW 2310
Ph (02) 4923 4000 • Fax (02) 4923 4040
www.cws.biz

Sydney Office

Level 1, Suite 107 Edgecliff Centre
203 New South Head Rd Edgecliff NSW 2027
Ph (02) 9301 5200 • Fax (02) 9363 0335
www.cws.biz

Liability limited by a scheme approved under the Professional Standards Legislation

CROSBIE WARREN SINCLAIR

ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS ADVISERS

NEWCASTLE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES INC.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT (cont.)

The financial report has been prepared for the distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act NSW and also to Funding Bodies to which they must report. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence that we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian Professional Ethical Pronouncements.

AUDITOR'S OPINION

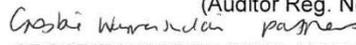
In our opinion,

the financial report of Newcastle Family Support Services Inc. (Non-Reporting) presents fairly in all material respects the financial position of the Incorporation as of 30 June 2010 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the funding agreements.



K. PORTEOUS CA
Partner

(Auditor Reg. No. 276970)


CROSBIE WARREN SINCLAIR PARTNERS,
Certified Practising Accountants.

Dated at Warabrook, 1 September 2010

Gold Coast Office

7 Cloyne Rd Southport QLD 4215
PO Box 2147 Southport QLD 4215
Ph (07) 5591 4444 • Fax (07) 5531 1000
www.bamr.com.au

Newcastle Office

Cnr Pacific Hwy & Warabrook Blvd
Warabrook NSW 2304
Box 29 Hunter Region MC NSW 2310
Ph (02) 4923 4000 • Fax (02) 4923 4040
www.cws.biz

Sydney Office

Level 1, Suite 107 Edgecliff Centre
203 New South Head Rd Edgecliff NSW 2027
Ph (02) 9301 5200 • Fax (02) 9363 0335
www.cws.biz

Liability limited by a scheme approved under the Professional Standards Legislation

NEWCASTLE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES INC.

COMMITTEES DECLARATION

The Committee has determined that the Incorporation is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the financial report comprising the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet and notes to and forming part of the accounts:-

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Newcastle Family Support Services Inc. (Non-Reporting) as at 2010 and its performance for the year ended on that date and in accordance with the accounting policies as set out in Note 1.
2. Funds have been expended in accordance with Funding Agreements and for the purpose in which they were granted.
3. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Newcastle Family Support Services Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:


- Committee Member


- Committee Member

Dated this 1st day of September 2010

NEWCASTLE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Statement of Accounting Policies

The financial report is a special purpose financial report and has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act NSW and the Funding Agreement. The Committee has determined that the Incorporation is not a reporting entity and therefore there is no requirement to apply all Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory reporting requirements in the preparation and presentation of this financial report.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirement of the Associations Incorporation Act NSW and the following Australian Accounting Standards:-

AASB 1031 - Materiality

AASB 110 - Events After Balance Date

AASB 124 - Related Parties

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Income Tax

The Service is exempt from Income Tax under section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Costs in relation to fixed assets acquired with grant funding are expensed as incurred. Fixed assets acquired with non-grant funding are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Incorporation commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The Incorporation may receive funding for a specific project of which some expenses relate to fixed assets. In this case fixed assets are shown as an expense of the specific non-recurrent funding income in accordance with the Funding Agreement.

Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the Incorporation's liability for employee entitlements arising from service rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries, annual and sick leave which will be settled after one year have been measured at their nominal amount. Entitlements expected to be settled later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those entitlements using appropriate estimation techniques. The Incorporation also provides for relief staff which may be required should a long term staff member be required to take extended leave. The provision accrued in relation to this type of leave is brought to account on the basis the employee will take the leave and casual staff would be hired in this instance.

NEWCASTLE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES INC.
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Incorporation has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured as the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at reporting date. The Incorporation has provided for grant funds which have not been expended at balance date but which will be expended in a future period in accordance with the funding agreement.

Trade Debtors

Trade debtors are carried at amounts due. The recoverability of debts is assessed at balance date and specific provisions made for any doubtful debts.

Accounts Payable

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods or services received whether or not billed to the service. Trade accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

Revenue Recognition

Grant Revenue

Income from government grants is brought to account when the grant is received by the Service. Unexpended grant revenue which may be carried forward to a later period is shown as a liability as detailed above in Provisions.

Service Revenue

Service revenue comprises revenue earned (net of returns, discounts and allowances) from the provision of products or services to entities outside of the Incorporation. Service revenue is recognised when the goods are provided, or when the fee in respect of services provided is receivable.

Interest Income

Interest income is recognised as it accrues.

Asset Sales

The gross proceeds of asset sales are included as revenue of the Service. The profit or loss on disposal of assets is brought to account at the date an unconditional contract of sale is signed.

Other Revenue

Other revenue is recognised as it accrues.

Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the Balance Sheet. Cashflows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

Incorporation Details

Newcastle Family Support Services Inc. is incorporated in Australia under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984.

Comparatives

When required by stated accounting policies, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Newcastle Family Support Services Inc

Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2010

Assets	2010	2009
Current Assets		
Working Cheque Account	-5,176	-27,505
Maxi-Direct	641,912	707,547
Petty Cash	1,704	2,004
Coles Gift Card	1,460	866
Undeposited Funds	560	241
Payroll Clearing A/C	-10,808	0
Trade Debtors	2,246	3,490
Prepayments	5,500	0
Total Current Assets	637,398	686,644
Non-Current Assets		
Furniture & Equipment at Cost	75,840	75,840
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-75,840	-75,840
Total Non-Current Assets	0	0
Total Assets	637,398	686,644
Liabilities		
Creditors & Accruals		
Westpac Credit Card	6,367	3,392
Accruals	20,815	1,111
Creditors - JCC	3	184
Creditors - Nina's IGA	0	124
Creditors - Key Deposits	205	220
Total Creditors & Accruals	27,390	5,031
Pre-paid Grants	14,713	1,364
GST Liabilities	0	-113
Provisions		
Prov for Long Service Leave	85,580	75,629
Provision for Annual Leave	84,424	64,701
Prov Annual Leave Loading	14,828	10,899
Prov Leave Relief	40,603	36,165
Provision for Property Costs	79,400	40,784
Prov-Project Completion CWS	10,542	10,258
Enhancing NFSP Provision	20,558	20,558
Provision for Equip Aquisition	40,128	54,991
Provision for IT Development	35,880	34,915
Prov for Swim4Life completion	552	0
Prov Cafe "Estate" completion	4,547	0
Prov "Energy Efficiency Wallsend" complete	1,405	0
Provision for Hunter FSS	4,067	4,067
Provision for Headin Up Comple	177	217,689
Workers Compensation Payable	12,549	7,343
Provision for Audit	9,705	8,250
Total Provisions	444,945	586,249
Payroll PAYG Liabilities	16	0
Total Liabilities	487,064	592,532
Net Assets	150,334	94,113
Retained Earnings NG	71,533	90,675
Retained Earnings FSP	1,291	391
Retained Earnings FF	-682	296
Retained Earnings FSK	-3,893	-409
Retained Earnings Mens	-5,474	1,774
Retained Earnings Indigenous	4,836	-586
Retained Earnings SHLV	22,814	\$0.00
FRCEI	3,688	124
Current Earnings	56,221	1,848
Total Equity	150,334	94,113

Newcastle Family Support Services Inc

Consolidated Report

Income & Expenditure Statement

For the period ended 30 June 2010

Income	2010	2009
Grants Received	1,635,773	1,436,798
Interest Received	24,839	38,876
Miscellaneous Income	94,454	24,549
Consultancy	1,820	1,517
Membership Fees/Donations	2,495	10,322
Total Income	1,759,381	1,512,061
Expense		
Salaries	1,308,985	1,128,957
Salaries On Costs	168,018	148,978
Other HR Costs	33,241	41,734
Total HR Costs	1,510,244	1,319,669
Travel	34,989	32,094
Total Travel	34,989	32,094
Operational Costs		
Accounting & Audit Fees	9,000	8,250
Administration Costs	90,482	71,660
Program Activity Costs	40,342	33,004
Equipment	25,218	20,391
Property Costs	108,355	51,693
Total Operational Costs	273,397	184,998
Total Expense	1,818,630	1,536,761
Provisions		
Provision for Annual Leave	19,722	-1,895
Provision for A/L Loading	3,929	-115
Provision for LSL	31,905	18,732
Provision Other	46,486	-729
Provision for Project Completion	-217,512	-42,541
Total Provisions	-115,470	-26,548
Surplus/Deficit	56,221	1,848

Joy Cummings Centre

Balance Sheet June 2010

Assets	2010	2009
Current Assets		
Cheque Account - @ CBA	13,043	10,789
Debtors	1,647	2,703
Total Current Asset	14,690	13,492
Non-Current Assets		
Furniture & Equipment at Cost	3,034	1,860
Less: Accum. Depreciation	-632	-340
Total Non-Current Assets	2,402	1,520
Total Assets	17,092	15,012
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors & Accruals	990	1,591
GST Liabilities	39	156
Total Liabilities	1,029	1,747
Net Assets	16,063	13,265
Accumulated Funds		
Opening Balance	13,265	16,748
Surplus/Deficit for Year	2,798	-3,483
Total Accumulated Funds	16,063	13,265

Newcastle Family Support Services Inc

Joy Cummings Centre

Income & Expenditure Statement

July 2009 through June 2010

	09/10	08/09
Income		
JCC Building Fund	17,940	18,330
Meeting Room Donations	385	318
Total Income	18,325	18,648
Operational Costs		
Administration Costs	2,976	1,547
Property Costs	12,259	20,584
Provisions	292	0
Total Operational Costs	15,527	22,130
Surplus/Deficit	2,798	-3,483



Artwork by Michael Leunig. Images from our
Playtime Picnic day.