



Annual Report
2008 - 2009

There is no cure...

but there is hope

Autism
Awareness

Letter from the Board



Dear families and friends,

It is with great pleasure that we present our first Annual Report as an organisation. Early in 2007, whilst aboard a long trans-Pacific flight to Australia, Nicole Rogerson hatched a plan to create an Australian organisation to inform, represent and assist families and professionals in matters related to autism. Nicole had been inspired by the great work of organisations such as Autism Speaks in USA.

Together with a band of other willing parents of children with autism, Nicole organised the first Autism Expo at Sydney's Macquarie University. This was organised in just eight weeks and included a series of presentations and an exhibition hall of service organisations.

Like the Autism Expos which would follow, there was no cost to attend for either families or professionals other than a voluntary gold coin donation. This event clearly filled a need as over 1000 people attended throughout the day. The overwhelming emotion and gratitude which was received from families was indeed humbling. This first event was staged on a shoestring budget in "spare" time. The parent organisers work full time and have children with autism. It was a wonderful achievement.

The 2008 Autism Expo was held at Sydney University's Seymore Centre. In response to the feedback from the first Expo, some of Australia's leading professionals combined to deliver presentations on a range of topics which offered practical advice and strategies for the parents and professionals who attended. The extensive exhibition area allowed families to gather information at their leisure.

In 2009, we submitted a request and received a grant from the NSW government to assist with the increasing cost of staging the Expo. This allowed us to book the impressive John Niland Scientia building at the University of NSW and also enabled us to sponsor internationally renowned and well published U.S. Behaviour Analyst, Bobby Newman to add his expertise and experience to the presentations, as well as allowing us to hire our first employee, a wonderful temporary event coordinator.

Also in our first year, Nicole and her husband, Ian Rogerson, a well-known radio broadcaster and television personality, brought together many well known Australians, leading production professionals and very special children with autism to make a television commercial/community service announcement to raise awareness of autism. This was screened on all television stations and heard on Sydney and regional radio stations for several months and can be viewed on our website. Every single wonderful person involved in this project donated their time and expertise.

Autism Awareness finally became registered as a company on 1st April, 2008. Our many other activities are outlined in the body of the Annual Report. We are very committed to continuing to build Autism Awareness into a valuable resource for parents and into an increasingly loud voice to raise community awareness of the issues and community will to act upon them.

Warmest Regards

The Directors, Autism Awareness

Letter from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

Autism Awareness is a National non-profit organisation with over 23,000 registered members which was founded and is still run by a hard working group of parents in an effort to disseminate relevant information to the general public, families, professionals and the autism community. You may have heard of us in the recent Australian Story programme on broadcaster Ian Rogerson and his son, Jack.

Since its inception in 2007, Autism Awareness has evoked a huge response in a short time from families and professionals alike, highlighting the need for such an organisation. As such, the Board of Directors intend to consolidate and expand as an organisation in the coming years.

In 2008, I joined Nicole Rogerson and Wendy Rafferty on the Board of Directors of Autism Awareness and in 2009, Paul Blair and Sean Hughes accepted our invitation to bring their considerable passion and expertise onto the Board also.

Our greatest challenge continues to be finding enough time to bring to fruition all the ways in which we want to develop Autism Awareness for the benefit of the individuals, families and professionals affected by autism. In addition to developing and bringing to fruition several major projects each year, we will also focus on formalising a core group of patrons and sponsors which will assist with the ongoing cost of keeping our informative website up to date and managing our large support base.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present our first Annual Report. Having achieved so much in a short time span as an organisation, I am proud to be part of Autism Awareness and excited about what we can offer to so many Australians now and in the future.

Sincerely

Andrew McLean

Chairman



About Autism

Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that impacts upon communication, behaviour and social relationships. Many people with ASD also have unusual ways of learning, paying attention, or reacting to sensations. It is part of a group of disorders known as Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

In most cases, its causes are unknown. Today, one in 160 individuals is diagnosed with autism and it occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups. It is four times more likely to strike boys than girls.

Autism impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviours, such as obsessively arranging objects or following very specific routines. ASDs are complex with a variety of symptoms and characteristics that can occur in different combinations and varying degrees of severity.



Our Mission

Autism Awareness was launched in 2007 with the aim of promoting an increased understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders within the community.

Autism Awareness was founded and is still run by a small group of parents who are committed to the dissemination of relevant information about treatment and services to the community and to increasing community will to act on behalf of those whose suffer autism.

It is our hope that an increased understanding of autism within the community will lead to earlier diagnosis and more effective treatments as the earlier intervention commences, the less autism impacts on the child and family. Our website www.autismawareness.com.au provides a directory and general advice and information on appropriate services for families, professionals and organisations.

The Directors of Autism Awareness are all parents of children with autism and, as such, share the difficulties experienced by other families with this diagnosis. As parents we would like to see all those affected by autism given the opportunity to make significant gains and to be able to enjoy and experience life to the full.



Autism
Awareness

Federal Government Initiatives

The Australian Government has committed \$190 million for the four years up to June 2012 to deliver the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package. The package seeks to start to address the need for support and services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs).

The package includes:

- Autism Advisors - to assess eligibility
- Funding for early intervention services - currently \$6000 p.a. for two years to use with registered early intervention service providers (child age-limits apply)
- Playgroups
- Early Days family workshops
- An ASD website

Following diagnosis, families contact an Autism Advisor in their state or territory who will provide information regarding eligibility, available funding and early intervention and other support services. The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) has made new Medicare items available for children aged under 13 years (for diagnosis and treatment planning).

If you live in an outer regional or remote area, you may be eligible to receive an additional one-off payment of \$2,000 (paid directly to families) to assist with travel, accommodation, training, respite or resource costs associated with early intervention.

Although there have been implementation and procedural problems which need to be addressed, Autism Awareness welcomes this package as a first step in the provision of appropriate services for children and families affected by autism.



Awareness and Fundraising Projects

It is our hope that an increased understanding of autism within the community will lead to earlier diagnosis and more effective treatments, as the earlier intervention commences, the less autism impacts on the child, family and the community. Our website www.autismawareness.com.au provides Australia wide information on services and treatments for the benefit of families, professionals and organisations.

Autism imposes a devastating financial, social and emotional cost to families and an increasing economic cost to the Australian economy when the needs of children and adults with autism are not adequately met. Since inception in 2006, Autism Awareness has delivered the following projects:

1. The development and ongoing maintenance of the website www.autismawareness.com.au . This comprehensive website is used by individuals, families and professionals to access information about diagnosis, early intervention options, education options and services for adolescents and adults affected by autism, along with a directory of service providers in each State.



2. The production of a television community service announcement (CSA) featuring a host of well known Australian personalities alongside some very special children with autism. This CSA was made possible through the generosity of some of Australia's leading actors, production teams, technicians and editors and can be viewed on our website

3. Three successful Autism Expos have been held (Macquarie University 2007, Sydney University 2008, University of NSW 2009) with the aims of raising community awareness of autism, providing information about treatment options and to offer a place where people affected by autism can come together to discuss the issues. With the opportunity of hearing from leading Australian and international experts and meet with a variety of service providers. The Autism Expo's were well attended and open to parents and professionals for only a gold coin donation. The NSW State Government provided some sponsorship funds for the 2009 Expo.

4. Utilising a generous grant from the Shane Warne Foundation, we worked together with the team at Australian Women's Weekly and a host of medical professionals to produce a pull-out booklet which was included in the July 2008 edition of that magazine. This enabled valuable information to reach many families in a user friendly and accessible format through the 800,000 copies which were distributed throughout Australia. As a direct result of this project, many parents sought medical advice and therefore many children received early intervention aimed at giving them a better future.



Media highlights

Sunday Show – Channel 9, May 2008

ABC TV - 7.30 Report

"Calls for Government Support for Autism" (04/06/2007).

Sydney Morning Herald

Kate Benson: "Give autistic toddlers a chance at life: parents" (07/04/08).

Sydney Morning Herald

Steven Dow: "Love at any price" (09/08/07).

The Age

Annabel Stafford, Carol Nader: "Howard pledges \$190m for autism" (04/10/07).

9 AM with Dave and Kim - Channel 10

ABC Online

Mark Bannerman: "Australia's Silent Struggle with Autism" (11/06/07).

Daily Telegraph

Zoe Taylor: "Autism Epidemic Being Ignored" (12/05/07)

Kerri-Anne Kennerlly - Channel 9

Sunrise - Channel 7

Radio

ABC 702 (Richard Glover & Adam Spencer), 2UE (Mike Carlton), News Radio ABC, 2GB (Alan Jones), 2UE (John Stanley)

Partnerships and donations

Shane Warne Foundation

Tom Gliesner & Working Dog (Media)

Australian Women's Weekly

Michel Caton (Actor)

IPAC

Heather Mitchell (Actor) & Martin McGrath (D.O.P)

Mallesons Stephen Jaques

Dr Bobby Newman and Dana Reinecke

NSW State Government (DADHC)

Inekards

Steve Bisley (Actor)

Lizard Children's Centre

Ian Rogerson (Broadcaster)

The logo for Autism Awareness, featuring the word "Autism" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font above the word "Awareness" in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The letter 'i' in "Autism" has a small human figure icon as its dot.

Independent Auditor's report



QUINN CONSULTANTS
Chartered Accountants and Auditors

**Auditor's Independence Declaration
To the members of Autism Awareness Ltd**

UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001

To THE DIRECTORS OF: AUTISM AWARENESS LTD

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2009, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit

QUINN CONSULTANTS
MICHAEL JOHN QUINN

Quinn Consultants
Michael J Quinn
23/10/09.

ABN 65 002 926 531

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Level 1, 105 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000, DX 516 Sydney.

Telephone: 02 9223 9166 Facsimile: 02 9223 9266 Email: info@quinns.com.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

• SYDNEY: Level 1, 105 Pitt Street • NEUTRAL BAY: Level 2, 158 Military Road • PENRITH: 51 York Road
• PENSHURST: 8 Laycock Road • SUTHERLAND: Level 2, Endeavour House, 3-5 Stapleton Avenue

**Autism
Awareness**

Autism Awareness Ltd ABN 42 130 217 962
Income Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2009

	2009 (12 months) \$	2008 (3 months) \$
Income		
Donation Income	23,317.35	110,606.00
Exhibitors Fees	17,989.12	1,180.00
Sponsorships	30,000.00	
Interest Income	642.31	
Total income	<u>71,948.78</u>	<u>111,786.00</u>
Expenses		
Accounting Fees	550.00	
Audit Fees	1,500.00	
Advertising	436.36	
Bank Fees	157.00	
Catering & Presentation		1,495.61
Depreciation - other	1,473.75	540.00
Expo Expenses	29,739.90	21,300.58
General expenses	371.82	111.82
Hire/rent of Plant & Equipment		837.57
Insurance	1,208.84	1,208.84
Legal fees		396.36
Office Supplies		254.45
Printing	953.86	72,723.80
Superannuation	934.62	
Wages & Salaries	10,384.65	
Website Expense	<u>719.09</u>	<u>409.09</u>
Total expenses	48,429.89	99,278.12
Surplus	<u>23,518.89</u>	<u>12,507.88</u>

Autism Awareness Ltd ABN 42 130 217 962
Balance Sheet
as at 30 June 2009

		2009 \$	2008 \$
Current Assets			
Cash assets	2	28,349.72	48,114.70
Receivables	3		55,930.00
Current tax assets	6	<u>8,174.80</u>	<u>9,447.69</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>36,524.52</u>	<u>113,492.39</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	<u>2,776.25</u>	<u>1,668.18</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>2,776.25</u>	<u>1,668.18</u>
Total Assets		<u>39,300.77</u>	<u>115,160.57</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables	8	<u>2,734.00</u>	<u>91,566.28</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>2,734.00</u>	<u>91,566.28</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Loan from other entity	9	<u>540.00</u>	<u>11,086.41</u>
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>540.00</u>	<u>11,086.41</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>3,274.00</u>	<u>102,652.69</u>
Net Assets		<u>36,026.77</u>	<u>12,507.88</u>
Equity			
Surplus		<u>36,026.77</u>	<u>12,507.88</u>
Total Equity		<u>36,026.77</u>	<u>12,507.88</u>

Autism Awareness Ltd ABN 42 130 217 962
Changes in Equity Statement
as at 30 June 2009

	2009 (12 months) \$	2008 (3 months) \$
<hr/>		
	<u>Accumulated surplus</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 April 2008	0	0
Surplus for the period ended 30 June 2008	12,507.88	12,507.88
Total recognised surplus for the period	<u>12,507.88</u>	<u>12,507.88</u>
Balance at 30 June 2008	<u>12,507.88</u>	<u>12,507.88</u>
Balance at 1 July 2008	12,507.88	12,507.88
Surplus for the year	23,518.89	23,518.89
Total recognised surplus for the year	<u>23,518.89</u>	<u>23,518.89</u>
Balance at 30 June 2009	<u>36,026.77</u>	<u>36,026.77</u>

Autism Awareness Ltd ABN 42 130 217 962
Cash Flows Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
	(12 months)	(3 months)
Note	\$	\$
Cash flow from operating activities		
Receipts from customers	129,151.67	57,494.72
Payments to suppliers and employees	(146,334.83)	(7,171.84)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	10(b) (17,183.16)	50,322.88
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for plant and equipment	(2,581.82)	(2,208.18)
Net cash provided by investing activities	(2,581.82)	(2,208.18)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(19,764.98)	48,114.70
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	48,114.70	0.00
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	10(a) 28,349.72	48,114.70

Autism Awareness Ltd ABN 42 130 217 962
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2009

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001.

The financial report covers Autism Awareness Ltd as an individual entity. Autism Awareness Ltd is a company limited by shares, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The financial report of Autism Awareness Ltd and the controlled entity and Autism Awareness Ltd as an individual parent entity comply with all Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in their entirety

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the economic entity in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(A)Basis of Preparation

The financial report has been prepared on a cash basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

(B) Accounting Policies

Income tax

Income tax exemption under Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997

Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to present values in determining the recoverable amounts.

The cost of fixed assets constructed within Autism Awareness Ltd includes the cost of materials, direct labor, borrowing costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount recognized as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Autism Awareness Ltd ABN 42 130 217 962
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2009

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are credited to a revaluation reserve in shareholders' equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against fair value reserves directly in equity; all other decreases are charged to the income statement. Each year the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset charged to the income statement and depreciation based on the assets original cost is transferred from the revaluation reserve to retained earnings.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to Autism Awareness Ltd commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Class of Asset	Depreciation Rate %
Other plant and equipment	[50 %]

The assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposal are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee entitlements payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash out flows to be made for those entitlements.

Provisions

Provision is made for the liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee entitlements payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash out flows to be made for those entitlements.

Autism Awareness Ltd ABN 42 130 217 962
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2009

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks or financial institutions, other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short term borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

Revenue

Donations are recognized upon receipt from the donor.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Goods and Service Tax (GST)

Expenses and assets are recognized net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. Donation has no GST component, but government grant and sponsorship might be subject for GST under general provision of GST GSTR 2000/11. In these circumstances, the GST is recognized as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Autism Awareness Ltd ABN 42 130 217 962
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2009

	2009 (12 months) \$	2008 (3 months) \$
Note 2: Cash assets		
Bank accounts:		
Cash At Bank	28,349.72	48,114.70
	28,349.72	48,114.70
Reconciliation of Cash:		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
- Cash	28,349.72	48,114.70
	28,349.72	48,114.70
Note 3: Receivables		
Current		
Trade debtors	0.00	55,930.00
	0.00	55,930.00
Note 6: Tax Assets		
Current		
GST payable control account	8,174.80	9,447.69
	8,174.80	9,447.69
Note 7: Property, Plant and Equipment		
Plant and equipment:		
- At cost	4,790.00	2,208.18
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,013.75)</u>	<u>(540.00)</u>
	2,776.25	1,668.18

Autism Awareness Ltd ABN 42 130 217 962
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2009

Note 8: Payables

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Unsecured:		
- Trade creditors	1,240.00	91,566.28
- PAYG Withholding	1,494.00	
	<u>2,734.00</u>	<u>91,566.28</u>

Note 9: Borrowings

Non-Current

Unsecured:

- Loans from related companies	540.00	11,086.41
	<u>540.00</u>	<u>11,086.41</u>

Note 10: Cash Flow Statements

(a) Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments, net of outstanding overdrafts. Cash at the end of the seven months as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

Cash at bank and on hand	28,349.72	48,114.70
	<u>28,349.72</u>	<u>48,114.70</u>

(b) Reconciliation of profit for period to net cash flow from operating activities

Surplus	23,518.89	12,507.88
Depreciation of non-current assets	1,473.75	540.00
Decrease/(Increase) in receivables	55,930.00	(55,930.00)
Decrease / (Increase) in other assets	1,272.89	(9,447.69)
(Decrease) / Increase in current payables	(99,378.69)	102,652.69
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>(17,183.16)</u>	<u>50,322.88</u>

Board of Directors

Andrew McLean - Chairman of the Board Autism Awareness, Business Director BD Medical Australia & New Zealand

Nicole Rogerson - Founder and Director Autism Awareness, Director Lizard Children's Centre

Wendy Rafferty - Director Autism Awareness, Executive Officer Lizard Children's Centre

Staff Officers

With a grant from the NSW State Government, Autism Awareness was able to employ a temporary event coordinator in the three months leading up to the Autism Expo in May 2009. Ms Elizabeth Sarian fulfilled this role admirably. All services by Directors, parents, family and friends were provided on a voluntary basis.



Nicole Rogerson and her son Jack



Wendy Rafferty and her son Alex

There is no cure...

but there is hope

**Autism
Awareness**