



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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*Working with Families involved  
in the Child Protection System.*

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*The Family Inclusion Network of WA Inc.  
acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
peoples as the traditional custodians across this land.*

*We pay deep respect to Elders past and present,  
and we recognise their spiritual relationship  
and connection to land, water and community.*

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## *Our Mission*

To have a child protection system that is respectful and inclusive of parents, family and community as key stakeholders.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- » Enhance the valuable role and intrinsic value of parents and families within the child protection system.
- » Develop and sustain a viable, effective organisation based on best practice.
- » Empower parents and families to participate meaningfully in the child protection system.
- » Foster a collaborative and inclusive child protection system.

## OUR PRINCIPALS

- » Families are the experts in their own lives.
- » Families are central agents of change in their lives.
- » Families are to be encouraged and inspired to find solutions for their families.
- » Children may be separated from their family, however, they are intrinsically connected for life.
- » Families are to be included as equal partners in assessment and decision making processes.
- » Dignity and hope must remain central to inspire families.
- » All stakeholders in the child protection process need to be treated with dignity, respect, inclusion and honesty.

## OUR VALUES

- » *Inclusion*  
Families of origin are a key stakeholder in the child protection process.
- » *Equity & Justice*  
Parents have the right to timely, accurate information, legal and other support during their time working with the child protection system.
- » *Transparency*  
Honest and open communication enhances all relationships.
- » *Diversity*  
We respect people's culture, age, abilities, sexuality, beliefs and life choices.
- » *Independence*  
Regardless of funding source, our commitment remains focussed on advocating for the rights of (and supporting) parents and families.
- » *Partnership*  
Working collaboratively and in partnership will achieve better results than working independently.



**HELEN NYS**

*Acting Chairperson*

Helen has been a Senior Executive for the Department of Communities – Child Protection and Family Support; with substantial experience in operational service delivery, Strategic Policy and Service design. She has worked at senior levels in government in Australia and the United Kingdom in Child Protection, Disability Services Strategic policy, and Service Design. She believes her unique quality is her experience and ability to work in both strategic and operational contexts.

Helen is passionate about effective community engagement, partnerships across government and non-government sectors, and contemporary service design. She has experience in the areas of Child Protection, Disability Services, NDIS, Housing and Homelessness, Family and Domestic Violence, Seniors and Elder Abuse.

Helen has a long-standing interest in better outcomes for children and families involved in the child protection system and advocates for better processes to support families and include them in decision making for their children. She is committed to working with Aboriginal people to reverse the disproportionate numbers of Aboriginal children in care”.



**KEIRAN DENT**

*Acting Vice Chair*

Keiran is a Ngarinyin Aboriginal man whose family and belonging is in the West Kimberley of WA. He is a dedicated human services practitioner passionate about the systemic healing of Aboriginal communities, families and children. He has worked with Aboriginal children and families in a variety of statutory and non-statutory roles for 13 years.

Keiran has drawn on his ongoing education and practice wisdom, leading teams to empower Aboriginal children, families and community to enhance safety and wellbeing through a cultural healing focussed, self-determined case management framework grounded in evidenced based clinical practice.

Keiran is a strategic thinker with strengths in understanding complex problems, developing evidenced based solutions and change management. Keiran is well known in the ACCO and mainstream sector and is well regarded for the work he has undertaken in community with children and families.



**ANDREW SPEIRS**

*Treasurer*

Andrew is a CPA and CMA qualified Finance and Accounting leader with 20 years of international accounting experience. Andrew is the Chief Financial Officer for Zetta Group Limited, a Perth based IT company, with responsibility for Finance, ESG, Health and Safety and HR. Andrew has been a Company Secretary for 15 years, currently holding that position at Zetta.



**GRADY COYNE**

*Board Member*

Grady graduated from Social Work at The University of Western Australia in 2002 and spent 2 years working in child protection in the Kimberley before returning to Perth where she has worked in various roles in the Health Department, predominantly in the Women and Newborn Health, and the Women and Newborn Drug and Alcohol Service (WANDAS). Grady has many years’ experience working with vulnerable families who are involved with the child protection system in the Pre-Birth space. She is currently Acting Coordinator of Social Work at King Edward Memorial Hospital.



**ANNA FARRANT**

*Board Member*

Anna has practiced extensively in crime (youth and adult), child protection, Family Law and Mental Health Tribunal matters throughout her career. She has held roles at Women’s Legal Service Victoria, Victoria Legal Aid (metro and regional offices) and in private practice. Anna returned to WA in 2020 after a decade in Victoria and is currently the Senior Lawyer at the Women’s Legal Service WA. In this role, she continues her focus on child protection and related legal issues for women.



**KATHERINE (KATY) RAFTERY**

*Board Member*

Katherine is an Aboriginal woman from the West Kimberley (Yawuru, Ngul Ngul an Bard) and East Kimberley (Jarú and Gidja) regions of WA. She was born in Port-Hedland Pilbara region and has strong kinship connections to the East and West Kimberley, and community connections in the Pilbara region.

Katherine has extensive experience at a senior leadership level in the human services sector across government and not-for-profit, and Aboriginal community-controlled organisation sectors. She has a strong background in child protection of 15 years, working with the Department of Child Protection and Department of Communities for a total of 20 years, with a dedication towards reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care.

Katherine has a demonstrated history of providing holistic, strategic and culturally safe support services, and an interest in collaborating to form strong partnerships with various agencies and communities. She is committed to reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal people across a range of structural areas and strives to support and improve service responses that empower Aboriginal people.

Currently, Katherine is the Coordinator of the Aboriginal Liaison Unit at Joondalup Health Campus, providing cultural support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients in their hospital journey. Liaising with clinical, allied health and health staff in a multidisciplinary approach, ensures quality care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.



**KATI FRANCIS**

*Board Member*

Kati Francis has been a member at Fin WA for 3 years. Kati is a social worker with over 20 years’ experience working with children and families in education, child protection and in not for profit services. Kati has studied child protection and service management as post graduate studies. Kati is passionate about children and families having a voice in services designed to support them and keep them safe. Kati has worked with user led organisations advocating for family voice in child protection in the UK, and has supported the work of Fin WA for the last 5 years since moving to Perth.

Kati is also employed at Wanslea, managing regional programmes delivering services to children and families, to achieve better outcomes for all children, to be safe and connected to community and culture.





**Fin WA continues to be led by CEO Libby Cramer and the team during FY23; by challenging the child protection system to be inclusive of the lived experience voice; through advocacy support, sector training, peer work and influencing sector reform discussion.**

The board welcomed Andrew Speirs, Keiran Dent and Grady Coyne, all bringing extensive experience and key understanding of the challenges families and community experience when interfacing with child protection. The initial focus has been to continue to drive the organisations work through the Fin WA Strategic plan 2021 – 2024; via four key pillars, empower families, drive systematic change, indigenous engagement, and operational excellence. The staff have continued to support the board by delivering a high standard of support and advocacy for families and deepening sector partnerships.

The team has continued to work with the Department for Communities (DoC) to secure funding that meets growing service demand and should be congratulated having achieved an uplift in funding for FY24. Ongoing funding is likely to continue to be a primary focus for the CEO and the board, to ensure continuity of service in the coming years, allowing Fin WA to continue to deliver on its commitment to the betterment of community and the wellbeing of families that we serve.

This will be my last report as Chair of Fin WA having stepped down from the position and board earlier this year. I would like to thank Libby Cramer, the Fin WA team and the board for their ongoing commitment to this challenging work. I have enjoyed my time on the board for the past several years and look forward to continuing to support Fin WA as a member.

*Vicki Tate*  
**OUTGOING CHAIR**

*“The team has continued to secure funding that meets growing service demand.”*



**I am very happy to present the 2022/23 audited financial statements for Fin WA in my first year as Treasurer.**

Fin WA reported a surplus of \$72,759 for the 2022/23 financial year. The

surplus was largely generated from the Department of Communities core programme. Surplus funds will be used to support a new addition to our team, Lotterywest project work, employee engagement initiatives and an IT refresh in the 2023/24 financial year.

Primary Income for the year was \$ 1,033,905, a decrease of \$19,542 (2.0%) from 2021/22. This small decrease was reflective of the receipt of Impact 100 funding in the previous year. Grant income makes up 97% of total income. Other income sources include interest, donations, training income and membership dues.

Expenditure for the year has decreased 1%, in line with expectations. Employee benefits make up 78% of total expenditure. Other expenditure includes accommodation, information technology, communication, and insurance. This is consistent with prior years and budget expectations.

The balance sheet grew stronger over the financial year as funding was received for the Lotterywest project to the end of December 2023 and further funding to be received at that time. Reserves are in excess of the organisational approved Reserves Policy. Employee leave provisions are monitored and are at acceptable levels, all employee leave provisions are cash backed. Net assets have increased in line with the reported surplus.

Fin WA continues to maintain a solid financial position with strong reserves, good employee governance and a rigorous operational model. There have been some very positive funding successes in the past 12 months.

The financial accounts have been audited by Thornbury's Accountants and Advisors, Chartered Accountants.

*Andrew Speirs*  
**TREASURER**

**I am pleased to present this 2022-2023 report highlighting Fin WA's challenges and achievements. Our mission is to have a child protection system that is respectful and inclusive of parents, family and community, as key stakeholders remain steadfast. I am grateful for the continued support of our dedicated team and stakeholders.**

Our advocacy services continued to make a positive impact on the lives of parents and families intersecting with child protection, providing assistance to 302 families throughout the year. We continue to work with the Department of Communities (DoC) to secure funding that meets growing service demand, and are pleased to announce an uplift to our funding for this next financial year.

We have also continued to source funding outside of the DoC, and were successful in a grant from Lotterywest to design and embed a peer model in child protection.

On a systemic advocacy level Fin WA has:

- » Provided consultation for the SNAICC 10 year Roadmap to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in Out of Home Care
- » Family Partners consulting on Community Sector Foster Carer Panels
- » Foster Carer training co-facilitated by Family Partners
- » Differing Perspectives consultation and training
- » Australian Centre for Child Protection WA Perinatal Involvement in child protection research
- » Parent and Family Peer Advocacy research project with the University of Queensland and other Fin agencies across Australia
- » Family Partner co-presentation at the 6th National Child Protection conference in Queensland – embedding peer work in child protection – key messages from families with a lived experience

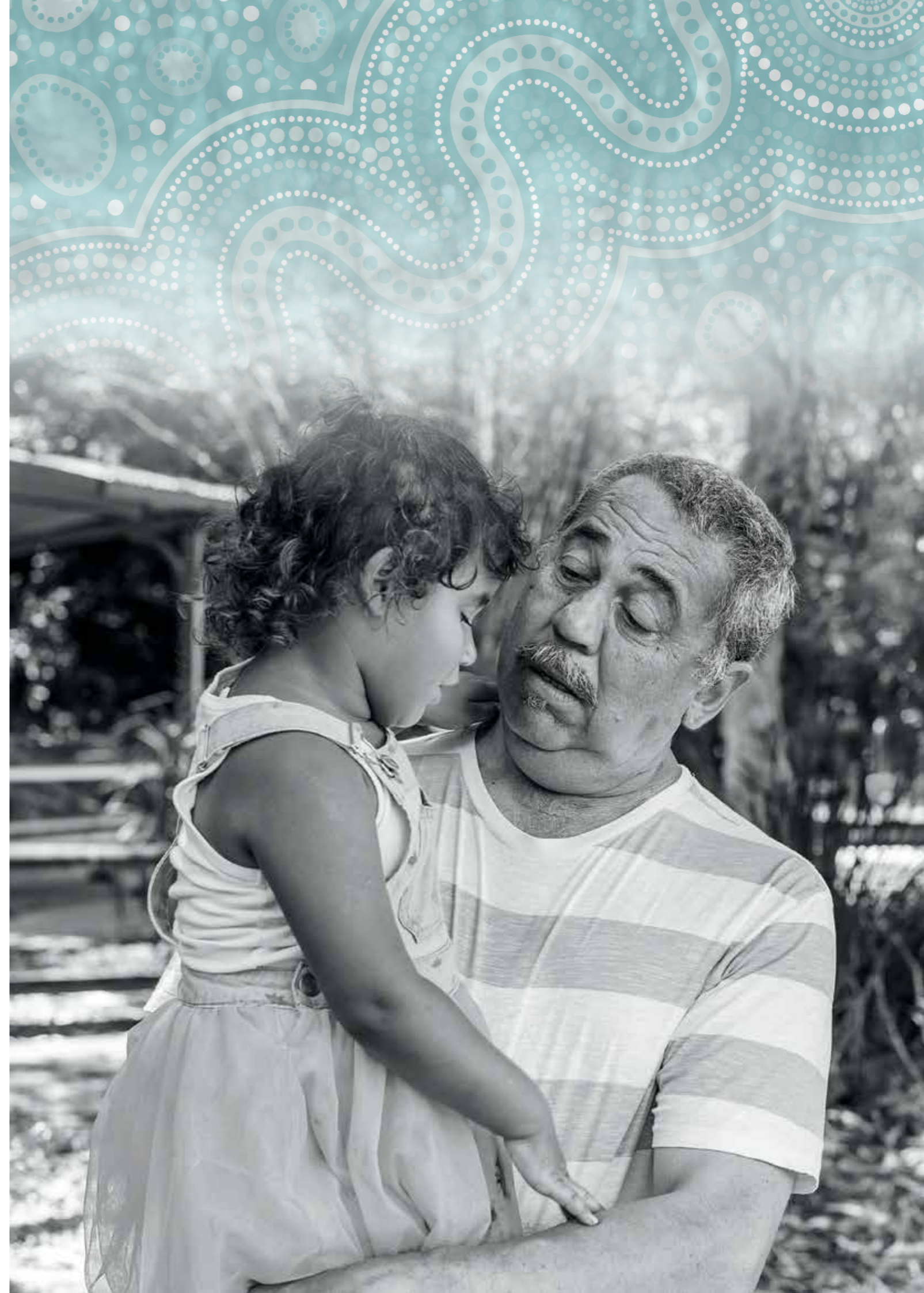
- » Input into the Review of the Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Offending – Improving Experiences of Victim Survivors
- » The Legal Symposium held in partnership with Protection and Care Advocacy Network (PCAN).

Fin WA's relationships with families and the community sector are strong and highly regarded. Our commitment to professionalism in our practice, and our unwavering adherence to organisational standards, are one of the cornerstones of our success.

Families are at the heart of our mission, and their trust and satisfaction are paramount. We have worked diligently to establish and maintain these robust relationships and are committed to ensuring that their voices are heard, respected and valued.

Moving forward, we will continue to prioritise the needs and concerns of families, ensuring that their voice remains pivotal in guiding our practice. We remain committed to the betterment of our community and the wellbeing of the families we serve. Thank you for your trust in us, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

*Libby Cramer*  
CEO



**LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN PROTECTION AND CARE.**

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 4TH LEGAL SYMPOSIUM<sup>1</sup>**

This 2023 Legal Symposium was the 4th symposium organised by the Protection and Care Advocacy Network (PCAN). The first was in March 2019. This year 162 participants registered.

**THIS YEAR'S THEME**

Parenting capacity assessments, its validity, the extent to which it reflects cultural ways of parenting; importantly Aboriginal parenting, context, the best interest of the child and family and the extent to which they are based on the most up to date social scientific concepts, research evidence and legal principles.



**KEY MESSAGES**

The Parent Voices set the stage for the afternoon. They spoke of the experience of their parenting capacity being assessed.

There were two expert speakers, Dr Josephine Power, Consultant Psychiatrist; Deputy Program Director for Monash Mental Health and Wellbeing Service; and Professor Victoria Hovane, Psychologist & Adjunct Prof. School of Law.

Dr Josephine Power provided a very stimulating and informative presentation on attachment theory and the extent to which it is misunderstood and misapplied in the court setting as a basis for decisions about children. The key points with respect to attachment theory were that; assessments of attachment and the commonly held assumption that disorganised attachment can be an indicator of maltreatment is misguided; one third of children who have been abused do not display insecure or disorganised attachment and there is only a small association with future mental health. Little attention has been paid to other socio-economic factors as a precursor to problems with health and social well-being<sup>2</sup>. With respect to assessment- it needs to be done under standardised conditions, and is very time consuming. There has been no research using gold standard for assessment of attachment with the Aboriginal population. Decisions about parenting should demand assessments that meet high quality scientific validity.

Professor Hovane, gave a very powerful presentation and began with the point that psychological tests are based on western empiricism and do not fit in with Aboriginal knowledge systems and ways of doing and being, and their sense of emotional and social well-being. The tests were developed to address a problem so is inevitably deficit based. To measure attachment, one has to be properly trained, and commentary about the child's attachment based on contact visits is flawed. Aboriginal families have experienced profound intergenerational trauma and experience high social risk and the surveillance they are subjected to by DoCs is "horrendous" ... The idea that psychologists don't carry bias is rubbish, ... we need to be aware of our biases

... personality tests were never designed to be used to predict parenting ... tests used for PCAs were seen as not appropriate, the judgement of level of risk and its ability to predict harm has not been established. There is a complex interaction between poverty, the presence of additional supports, capacity to change and the developmental stage of the child. Tests were seen as oppressive- "*just because the experts say something, that should not be the end of the matter*". Prof Hovane described the Noongar Trauma and Healing Model<sup>3</sup>.

**The following points were made over the course of the afternoon:**

1. Imagine if the resources that are poured into maintaining the foster care system was instead directed to supporting families; these families who have experienced trauma and living with social risks- imagine, what could be achieved? There will be no permanency planning, which is happening at the moment by stealth and based on the expectation that parents would have resolved their very complex needs within two years (Prof Hovane).
2. Parenting is not static, and assessment of parenting capacity has limitations: it cannot draw conclusions based on indirect measures, it cannot predict parenting based on mental health status, it cannot rule out situational effects and cannot predict future behaviour with certainty.
3. The assessments do not consider the context of the current situation. The historical information that is made available to assessors set up a confirmation bias. Further interrogation is needed around the danger statements.
4. Parents want to talk about their strengths, yet assessment reports usually have nothing positive, presenting a laundry list of transgressions<sup>4</sup>.
5. Parents are surveilled, and normal childhood accidents get pathologised, can be biased and create "tunnel vision".

6. PCAs tend to get used as a form of data collecting and seen as an automatic step. It is recommended that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a PCA be negotiated, bespoke the report, obtain expert reports and input from an Aboriginal social worker. ToR needs to include features such as cultural validity, be fair, and in the best interests of the child, and contain good quality information about the parents' skills and quality of care she/he is able to provide<sup>5</sup>.
7. The lawyers on the panel recommended a closer look at Sec 8 which sets out what the Court has to look at. It provides a signpost for the Court, Sec 139 of the *Children and Community Services Act* states that the Court may order a report. The job of the Department is to make a case and the Court is the decision maker. If the client does not agree with what is said about them, then challenge propositions - "*if this fact is not correct then what about the rest?*"
8. Involve the parent right at the start and get them to offer options of what might go into the ToR.
9. An examination of Court documents showed that only in 15% of the cases was there an affidavit from the parent and only in 37% of the cases was there a cultural plan<sup>6</sup>.
10. The second panel focussed on assessment with respect to Aboriginal parenting and was led by Wungening Moort Aboriginal Corporation<sup>7</sup>. Assessments do not accurately reflect the voice of Aboriginal people. Wungening has developed an assessment tool called the MDK tool drawn from the co-design work described in the paper by Scrine<sup>8</sup>. The tool reflects harmony and balance with interconnected domains (*Moort, Maya, Kaart, and Koort*) and the concept that many hands in an interconnected way gather around children. The panel members recommended that the assessment should be conducted by going into the home, and by immersing in the family and with a gentle approach. The MDK identified the gaps and where supports are necessary, and its use shifts the power imbalances.

- 11. The focus should not be on one caregiver, there are multiple attachments for a child; important to listen with the heart, build relationships, understand trauma and 'how our people see their world with attachment to lands, water, hills, people, animals, rocks, plants & totem. Importantly also recognises attachment to cousins.
- 12. Don't start the assessment by saying, 'I am only here for an hour' – build relationships and engage in critical reflection and be aware of your own biases both before and after the assessments.

*Dr Celine Harrison*  
 PCAN MEMBER AND ADJUNCT  
 RESEARCH FELLOW



<sup>1</sup> Prepared by Dr Celine Harrison. PCAN member and Adjunct Research Fellow, Centre for Social Policy, Research, Practice and Development. School of Social Work and Social Policy, University of Western Australia.

<sup>2</sup> Granqvist, P., Sroufe, L. A., Dozier, M., Hesse, E., Steele, M., van IJzendoorn, M., Solomon, J., Schuengel, C., Fearon, P., Bakermans-Kranenburg, M., Steele, H., Cassidy, J., Carlson, E., Madigan, S., Jacobvitz, D., Foster, S., Behrens, K., Rifkin-Graboi, A., Gribneau, N., Ward, M. J., ... Duschinsky, R. (2017). Disorganized attachment in infancy: A review of the phenomenon and its implications for clinicians and policy-makers. *Attachment & Human Development*, 19(6), 534-558. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616734.2017.1354040>

<sup>3</sup> Hovane, V. Sellars, L. Pickett, K., Mogridge, T., Pickett, L. Wallam, D. Chan, S. (2023). Noongar Trauma and Healing Model. *Yorgum Healing Services/*

<sup>4</sup> Panel. Recording 1.54.14

<sup>5</sup> Mr Jonathan Reid, Managing Solicitor of the Family Law Unit at Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia has a list of resources and invites contact from advocates and legal representatives

<sup>6</sup> Associate Professor Melissa O'Donnell, Dy Director Australian Institute of Child Protection (Recording at 1.54.14)

<sup>7</sup> Ms Natasha Kickett, Dr Glenda Kickett, & Mable Hayles. Recording at 2.53.24

<sup>8</sup> Scrine C, Farrant B, Michie C, Shepherd C, and Wright M (2020). Raising strong, solid Koolunga: values and beliefs about early child development among Perth's Aboriginal community. *Children Australia* 45: 40-47. <https://doi.org/10.1017/cha.2020.7>





## EMBEDDING PEER WORK PROJECT

In November 2022, Fin WA received the exciting news that we had been **successful in our application to Lotterywest** for a grant towards a pilot, of a peer-work model to support parents within the child protection system, and influence programmes to improve outcomes for families. This 2-year project is allowing Fin WA to build on the work we have been doing over many years, and to co-design a peer-work model with families, and the wider child protection sector. This project gives Fin WA the opportunity to develop and scale a peer-work model to be integrated at a system level. The Innovation Unit has been contracted to facilitate, support and document the co-design process.

**A Design Team** was established to deliver engagement activities, to synthesise the insights from these activities, and to develop a model to be trialed over a twelve month period. The Design Team consists of Fin WA staff including family partners and an advocate, Department of Communities representatives (from a District Office as well as Head Office), and Wungening staff to ensure the voices of Aboriginal families are heard and acted upon throughout the design process, recognising the overrepresentation in child protection involvement. The Design Team has met three times to progress the development of the model, and will continue to provide input throughout the implementation phase.

Guided by the question: *"How might we develop and embed a sustainable peer-worker model to give parents and families a valued place in the child protection system in Western Australia?"* Focus groups, expert interviews, and reviews of other peer work models around the world were conducted. Two Sector Forums were also held to gather insights, and to initiate the model design phase. These forums were attended by over 40 enthusiastic participants from 17 organisations. There was a lot of energy and goodwill to improve the system for families, and to ensure more respectful and collaborative approach to child protection.

A comprehensive Insights Report has been provided to document the learnings, implications, and next steps for the project.

The **Embedding Peer Project** has taken a significant proportion of time for the community development and family partner staff. A new role has also been created for the Peer Project: Peer Development Coordinator. Merida Cooke has been employed to undertake this role, which will ensure a strong professional advocacy framework is applied to the training and supervision of peers.

Other achievements during the year include:

**National Research:** Fin WA is working as an industry partner with the University of QLD, and University of Newcastle to co-design and develop national research concerning peer parent and family advocacy. The title of the research project is:

*'Parents as Partners: A co-design study of best practice in peer parent and family advocacy in Australian child protection systems'*

Fin WA family partners and other staff meet regularly to develop the research aims, objectives, questions, and approaches. This is excellent experience for the family partners to be involved in research from the very beginning, and it is expected that peers will be recruited as research assistants, if the grant application is successful. This research will build the knowledge base about the value and significance of the parent voice and leadership in reform of the child protection system in Australia.

**Networking Afternoon Teas** are held regularly. In addition to providing connection and support to staff, these meetings can highlight gaps and themes in the sector. The networking meeting held in February focussed on services working with Aboriginal families connecting with, or at risk of, connecting with child protection. A number of issues emerged organically about common experiences of some challenges faced in working alongside the Department. Fin WA staff, and Keiran Dent from Wungening, then met with Melanie Samuels, Deputy Director General, for a one-off solutions-focussed conversation about working together more collaboratively with families and community organisations.



## Another action packed year, entering into my 4th year in this role as family partner and always so humbled to be a part of this dynamic organisation.

Family partners/peer workers strongly represent the lived experience of parents. We are the voice, and encourage the voices of parents in many ways. We strive for change and are involved from one to one with parents through to group activities and also through many workshops throughout the sector.

Following on from last year's report our connections are strong and have been well maintained throughout the year and look super promising for 2024 and years to come.

### » Key Assets Foster Carer Assessment Panel Update

Emily and I have been on rotating shifts for the panel for 6 months when we were approached in July 2022 to provide feedback and, if required, to submit any reviews we thought could be useful into the assessment process.

This was very exciting as it resonated the fact that as lived experience independent panel members, our voices and perspectives were valued and explored. We would often get comments like: *"I hadn't thought of that"* when raising concerns and/or strengths of potential carers from other members on the panel.

The photo books that we have suggested as a communication line without words and punctuation, have also been adopted when suggesting improving communication between parents and children, which is heart-warming.

We were also able to provide a case scenario regarding the carer being called mum, which was received well and incorporated into the assessment process.

This is an ongoing relationship and we both still attend these monthly rotations at Key Assets.

### » Bandyup Women's Prison Careers and Transitional Expo

We were invited to hold a stall at the Careers and Transitional Expo held in October 2022 which was aimed at female prisoners due for parole or full-time release to engage with services to maximise their 'life after prison' journey.

This was a great way for Fin WA to be made known to parents and/or family members who have child protection involvement and a great networking event to meet with other likeminded organisations.

### » Parkerville Our Way Home Update

As an organisation we were invited to an afternoon tea celebration - to see the impacts from the model, 'Out of Home Care', and the final report for Our Way Home, which I had been a part of through the Family Reference Group, along with other parents/grandparents who had been involved. It was fantastic to see our quotes on the tables, and scattered throughout the model context - validation of being heard throughout and until the end, very empowering and fulfilling.

### » Housing Project - Orana House Update

We were invited to 'Conversation that Matters' in November 2022 - with guest speaker Hon. Simone McGurk MLA, to hear the success stories and future goals - again very exciting as I had been involved from the very first round table offering my lived experience of the rental crisis.



» **ANZTSR Australian & New Zealand Third Sector Research Conference**

Libby and I registered to attend the ANZTSR alongside Jessica & Felicity (Life Without Barriers & FISH) and Karyn & Maddie (Micah Projects & FIN SQ)

The group topic was social change making – third sector partnerships with parents with lived experience of child removal by child protection agencies.

We were able to speak to a diverse group about the *Charter of Rights for Parents and Families*. The topic being; developing with the third sector – Australia’s first charter for parents and family in child protection systems. This was launched in 2021 and had been a very back and forth process for many years. Speaking about the process at the conference was a reminder of commitment, lived experience opinion, and consultation processes which was well worth being a part of for the long haul.

» **Thread Together Update**

Fin WA has been linked to Thread Together since early 2021 with our Pamper Days and emergency clothing bundles, and we were asked in February 2023 to provide networks to be a part of the *Thread Together Wardrobe Pilot* - where IKEA donated wardrobes to NFP organisations and for Thread Together to provide clothing to organisations for instant access to essential clothing items – Fin WA was able to refer 8 organisations to this fantastic pilot, and we also have a wardrobe at our office.

I was asked to be a guest speaker at the *Thread Together Hub Launch* in June 2023- an excerpt of my speech:

*My name is Sharlene and I am employed at the Family Inclusion Network WA – Fin WA. I am a Family Partner which means peer work with a lived experience.*

*I first learnt about Thread Together and the wonderful Bronwyn, when I took 4 Fin WA parents to the mobile van outside Sudbury House in August 2021. From there, Bronwyn and I got chatting about ways for Fin WA families to benefit from this AMAZING service. The Thread Together van, and the gorgeous, cheerful, patient and vibrant personality of Bronwyn, are a huge pull for our parents/families to attend the Pamper Days, which is evident as 19 parents attended the last one in March this year and 2 care packs were supplied.*

*In between Pamper Days, care packs have been made available along with a huge donation of*

*children's clothing which parents were able to gift to their children at Christmas.*

*Looking forward to working with Vivien while Bronwyn is on maternity leave."*

» **Dress for Success Update**

I met with the new Business Development Officer in July 2023, and from that DFS has provided Fin WA mini self-care packs to give to our families for our *Pamper Days* which have been well received – also great networking as we put our heads together and a few developments and community organisation links were made, one being *Sister Project Ellenbrook* – which is a follow this space atm.

» **Pamper Days**

In March of 2023 I was approached that a part of my role was to be taking on coordinating the quarterly *Pamper Days*. I had previously assisted with the set up and have accessed my personal and professional services through networking to make these quarterly events a stand out.

I presented at a *Sector Forum* in June 2023 regarding *Pamper Days* to say:

**Pamper** – It means indulge with every attention, comfort and kindness, spoil

**Pamper Day** – to give someone special treatment, making that person as comfortable as possible.

At our quarterly Pamper Days – this is what we envision for every parent that attends.

- It is a chance to set aside all the pressures of court – meetings – appointments – courses etc.
- Also, all the big emotions that can consume parents, especially missing their children, dealing with the demand of the Department and life.
- Most parents are constantly trying to do the best they can – with what they have – and for everybody else. With that comes: self-doubt, fear, uncertainty and aloneness.
- Many parents have said to me that they feel guilty doing special things for themselves – like getting nails done or clothes shopping etc.
- Also with the current climate, finances are tight so any 'spare' money is not for indulging themselves.

So, these Pamper Days allow community support through the networks. I am always on the hustle for, and for connection – everybody there on some level has a common denominator – being that they have child protection involved, even though every story is different, unique and raw to each parent, along with service providers who often attend with parents.

We have many activities happening on the day:

- » **Coffee van**
- » **Nail art**
- » **Koordak introducing Flower Essence**
- » **WA Recovery College (to showcase the range of free courses available).**

Along with these we have the usual activities of:

- » **Making playdough for contact**
- » **Potting a succulent to take home**
- » **Photo books.**

A warm lunch of homemade sausage rolls and soups, home cooked by Andrew & the team.

With all this free and available to every parent, it restores dignity, self-worth, community connection and even in the moment EXCITEMENT – and we all need that at times.

A new initiative this year has been to invite the board to Pamper Days to connect with families. A special thanks to Andrew, our Treasurer, for purchasing the food for lunch and being the chef for the day.



Wendy



Sharlene & Thread Together



**We have delivered Self-Advocacy to 35 parents via workshops which are being delivered in many contexts – to individuals, small groups, and at other agencies.**

Uniting WA, Pat Giles and the Naala Djookan Healing Centre and Aboriginal Recovery Housing have hosted sessions for parents to receive the materials. The modules from the self-advocacy workshops have been developed into beautifully designed booklets which parents take with them at the end of each session, over 12 sessions being delivered over the year.

Some general feedback from parents:

*Girl, I absolutely love it. Just knowing it's been put together by someone who has been on the other side of the table makes it even more special. Love your work. ♥*

*I hadn't realised just how much I've disconnected lately, just your words & support & connection... Thank you so much.*

Parents asked the question regarding self-advocacy. *What's one thing you have learned or will take away from today?*

- » **Parent #1**  
I learn I am worthy anytime.
- » **Parent #2**  
Different styles of communication, being more aware of my own styles & how to communicate in a healthy way.

The self-advocacy modules are now available in a digital format so that we can provide self-advocacy to parents who live regionally or too far away to meet with us in person. This is an exciting development which we are very keen to offer to families.

Differing Perspectives: presentation to the Midland District Conference. In October 2022 I co-facilitated training with the co-author of this training. The entire staff of the Midland District of child protection attended this training in two groups of approximately 35 people. A wonderful opportunity for departmental staff to hear a parent's perspective and hear from Jenny, the co-author, who has worked for child protection.

The Sixth National Child Protection Forum was co-facilitated by Libby Cramer and myself. Presented on the 21st June, providing an appreciative enquiry style case study of my lived experience of the child protection system titled – 'Embedding peer work in child protection and key messages from families with a lived experience'. The key points were:

- » Analysing lived experience journey
- » Examining key messages from families to statutory
- » Workers and other families going through the system
- » Focussing on positive impacts on parent peers, families and the system as a whole.

The audience was very receptive, and several individuals took the time to ask me questions.

I am looking forward to presenting to Master of Social Work students at the University of Western Australia for the third year. I will be presenting alongside a foster carer & Create. There has been a great response from students & staff in previous years.



*I acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, water and community. I pay my respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders of the past and present.*

**As a proud Whadjuk woman from the Bennell family, with links to the Norwest on her Mother's side; Emma Truman, one of Fin WA's advocates, sees it as a great privilege to work on her Country, alongside strong leading Elders, in supporting community to have a greater voice in family led decision making in her role on the steering committee for the Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making (AFLDM) Ministerial Pilot.**

The *AFLDM Pilot* has aimed to reduce large numbers of over-representation of Aboriginal youth in the child protection system by utilising independent Aboriginal convenors to facilitate a culturally safe and appropriate process to support Aboriginal families to make decision regarding keeping children safe and connected with community.

The AFLDM Roundtable co-design identified nine key principles for the AFLDM Pilot, as shown below:

1. Right to self-determination.
2. Families are experts in their own lives and are empowered to make decisions.
3. Cultural autonomy of AFLDM – guided by cultural values and community connection.
4. Independently facilitated by an Aboriginal (or Torres Strait Islander) Convenor.
5. Children's voice, rights and their safety are fundamental.
6. Trauma informed and focussed on healing.
7. Respect for cultural diversity with flexibility in approach.
8. Trust, Respect, Transparency, and Integrity.
9. Aboriginal Child Placement Principle.

Source: Report on the Co-Design for an Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making Pilot (Marriott and O'Donnell, 2020)

After its launch in October 2021, the AFLDM Pilot commenced, with an initial investment of \$715,000 from the WA State Government. The programme has been delivered across two sites. One metropolitan site and one regional location. The metropolitan site, Mirrabooka, has been delivered by Wungening Aboriginal Corporation (Wungening), while the Midwest Gascoyne has been delivered by Geraldton based Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation (Streeties).

In September 2022, the State Government launched *National Child Protection Week* by committing an additional \$1.2 million to extend the AFLDM pilot programme until 30 June 2024 (Department of Communities, 2022). Through this extended funding and time, the AFLDM programme has been given a further opportunity to develop across the two pilot sites.

Initial evaluation findings have uncovered the following tangible outcomes for families participating in the AFLDM pilot programme:

Meetings held: 19 AFLDM meetings were held and 18 Family Plans were approved. A total of 14 children were prevented from entering into the out-of-home care system and 4 children were reunified with family. Those families that were unable to be reunified noted an increase in contact with children in care, as a result of family plans. Families surveyed gave feedback about being better able to work alongside Communities, being better connected to local services and families and also recommended the programme to other Aboriginal families involved with Communities.



As a value for money assessment conducted by IPA, it was also found that the AFLDM Pilot represents significant value for money to the state. AFLDM, across both pilot sites, diverted or reunified 18 children from out-of-home care which provides an estimated net benefit of \$545,000 to the WA State Government.

Evaluation has also uncovered that the Pilot has achieved a number of intangible outcomes, including: helping families to feel supported, families having improved social and emotional wellbeing, families making decisions on best care arrangements and feeling culturally safe.

## How feeling and being heard can change the length of time children are away from their parent's care.

This family consists of mum, dad, teenager (dad's child from a previous relationship), toddler and baby.

When dad contacted Fin WA for advocacy assistance, he shared how he was in a dark place, felt unheard by the Department, and couldn't see if he continued to be unheard, how he was going to be able to put his family back together.

### BACKGROUND:

This family had moved from interstate to a small country town in WA. They had no family living in WA. After the birth of their last baby, mum was experiencing a decline in her mental health. Dad was working each day, and also driving his teenager hundreds of kilometres every week to attend a school in a larger country town which had the type of supports the teenager required.

Dad was aware mum was not doing well and tried to get her to attend her mental health (MH) appointments. At times he would drive her to the appointments, but mum would not get out of the car. Things deteriorated to a point where mum was unable to attend to her own personal hygiene needs, nor meet the daily needs of the younger children. Eventually, over a couple of days, dad was confronted with mum exposing the two younger children to life threatening situations within the home environment. Dad contacted the Department of Communities Child Protection and Family Support (DoC) in November 2022, to get some support, as he did not know what else he could do, and he was worried about the children's wellbeing and the state mum's mental health had reached.

The police arrived at the family home, as it was reported the house was in a disordered and unhygienic state. Mum, toddler and baby were all taken to the closest major hospital for health assessments. Toddler and baby were placed with a general foster carer, in another country town. Mum was admitted to a mental health unit, as an involuntary patient under the mental health act with a review to occur in a few months.

The Department applied for preliminary protection orders for all three children. An interim order for the teenager was made so she could travel to the eastern states to stay with the paternal grandmother. The teenager was to stay with the grandmother over the long school holidays. The teenager had lived with the grandmother when she was younger and spoke with her daily; she had a strong connection to her grandmother.

### WORK:

Dad was experiencing feeling very low, missing his children and his partner. Feeling guilt and worry about the damage calling the Department on mum would have on their relationship, worried about the child and the toddler, who had them, how they were being cared for, how they were coping with being away from him, the teenager and their mum.

When the toddler and child were moved to a placement in a Perth metropolitan area, dad was worried how they would get to see him, their mum and sister, due to the distance and logistics that would be required to have contact.

Even though dad was feeling low, he started cleaning up the house, painted all the rooms, and set up the children's bedrooms and living areas with fresh bedding and furniture. Dad was trying to work with the Department and trying to find out what he needed to do to get the children home as soon as possible. Dad contacted Fin WA for assistance in early December 2022. Fin WA was able to provide dad an advocate by 15th December 2022. Dad explained how he didn't feel heard by the workers, he was concerned they were not listening to the changes he was making, and he was losing his confidence in being able to have

his voice heard and being able to move toward his children and family being back together.

Fin WA listened to dad; he was able to share in detail his feelings, situation, his worries and what steps he had taken to sort out his home. Fin WA heard dad had a stability and connection (S & C) meeting the following week and the advocate was able to attend via TEAMS. Fin WA talked with dad about the importance of a safety network and talked through who dad had in his life that could be on his family's safety network. The advocate, after hearing dad's situation and the worries, was able to explain how the concerns he and the Department held for the children could be addressed and what might be required to achieve the safety goals. Dad asked a number of people to attend the S & C meeting, and it was requested, prior to the meeting, for the Department to link in these people. At this initial meeting, mum was not linked in and none of the safety network were provided links to be able to participate in the meeting. Dad phoned mum on his own mobile phone so she could participate in the meeting. Fin WA was able to highlight the efforts/steps dad had made already to address the concerns and were able to provide enough support so dad felt he was being heard. Fin WA was able to ensure dad's concerns about the change in placement, to a metro location were noted, and solid plans for contact were then discussed. Dad was able to share part of his plans to ensure the children would be always safe while mum was in hospital, and said he was developing plans for when mum was released from hospital. After the meeting, dad shared that he felt heard and felt he had a clearer understanding of the situation.

Fin WA met with dad in person in a metro location on a contact day and had a detailed discussion regarding his safety network and what a safety plan would need to contain to address the concerns and reach the safety goals for the children. We contacted day-cares at this appointment and dad was able to confirm places for the child and toddler, and gained clarity on what would be required to have them attend.

Fin WA was able to reassure dad with the benefits in linking in with supportive services such as DAO, mental health and parenting support services and discuss how he could see these supports would be helpful to him, the children and mum. Fin WA was able to inform dad about the Department's procedures, and their responsibilities in ensuring the children are having contacts with him, mum and their sister. Fin WA listened to dad's ideas about the legal proceedings and guided dad to seek legal advice in challenging the applications, which were being made by the Department, through the Children's Court.

Through weekly phone conversations, which included mum (when she was feeling well enough to join in), emails from dad and following up on behalf of dad and mum with the Department, hearing dad and mum's challenges, worries and what was going well, Fin WA was able to guide and provide appropriate information so dad and mum were able to plan and take steps toward what was needed for their children to come home.

Fin WA worked with dad and mum on their safety plans and what would be required from their safety network. In turn dad and mum were able to develop a strong safety plan with a range of strategies and supports, which they were already implementing before the second S & C meeting. Fin WA attended all the S & C meetings and continued to reinforce with the Department the good work dad and mum were doing each month and reaffirm with the Department, any worries dad and mum had, so they could be noted and addressed. Dad and mum's confidence increased over this time; they challenged the applications in the court, they were able to speak up about what they needed to attend contacts, what they needed to maintain a safe, stable home environment, and they were open to linking in with a range of supportive services, so the whole family had support for their individual needs.

The case was transferred to a different district. Dad & mum felt they were heard more with this change and were able to build a respectful, working relationship with the new team. When this happened, they then felt they could request what supports they needed from the Department and were able to be really honest about the challenges that arose when the children were reunified. The Department were responsive, and helpful, to resolve these issues with the family.

### OUTCOME:

Dad and mum felt confident to challenge the application the Department made to the Children's Court and as a result, applications were withdrawn and no orders were in place. The younger children were reunified in April 2023 after being in care for four months. The teenager returned home at the beginning of Term 1 2023, ready to start school, and the supervision order was revoked.

The Safety Network provided on-going verbal and written feedback to the Department, on how the safety plan was working and they attended most of the S & C meetings. The whole family was engaged with a range of supportive services. Mum was discharged from the mental health unit and continued to follow her mental health/wellbeing plan. Dad developed clear steps for him to follow should mum show any signs of her mental health deteriorating.

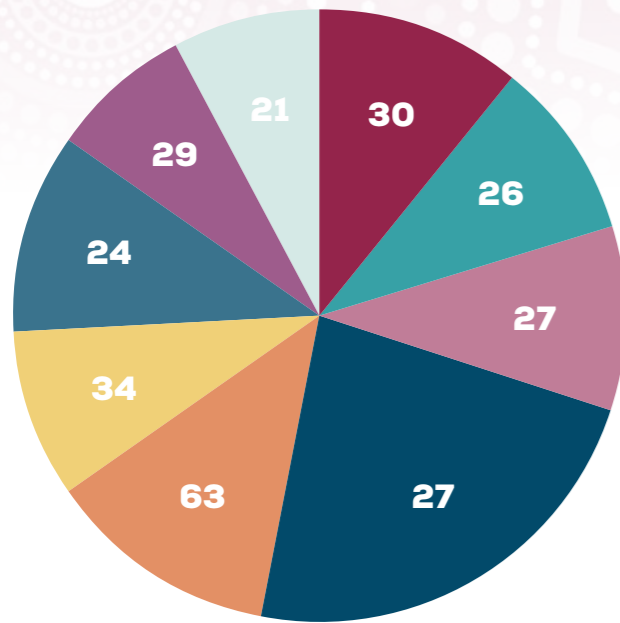
The teenager was taking up additional supports to provide emotional and cultural connections. Dad and mum were offered a state house in the same town as the teenager was attending school, and the Department provided much needed support for the family to move into the home and have the things they needed to set up the home, so it was comfortable for everyone. At the last S& C meeting in July 2023, the Department workers scaled dad and mum nines, and shared how much work the parents had done, stated they had no concerns, talked about how very impressed they were with the changes dad and mum had made and had continued to demonstrate.

When Fin WA came to close dad and mum's case, dad said that when he contacted Fin WA he was in a very dark place, didn't feel heard and couldn't see how to move forward with the children coming home if he continued to not be heard. Dad commented on having Fin WA, ensured he was listened to and heard by the Department and assisted in the children coming home when they did.

Once dad and mum's voices, views, plans and ideas were heard by the Department, the amount of time the children were in the Department's care and away from home, was very much reduced.



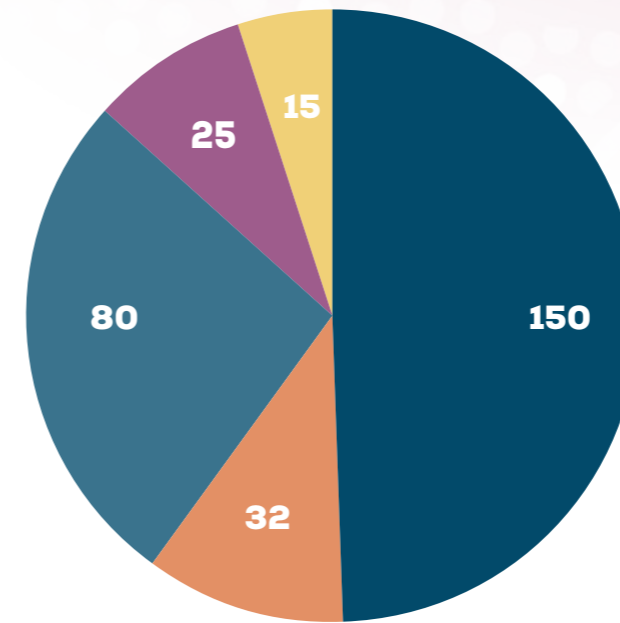
**CPFS DISTRICT – REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE**



Total: 302

- Armadale
- Cannington
- Fremantle
- Joondalup
- Country
- Midland
- Mirrabooka
- Perth
- Rockingham
- Unknown

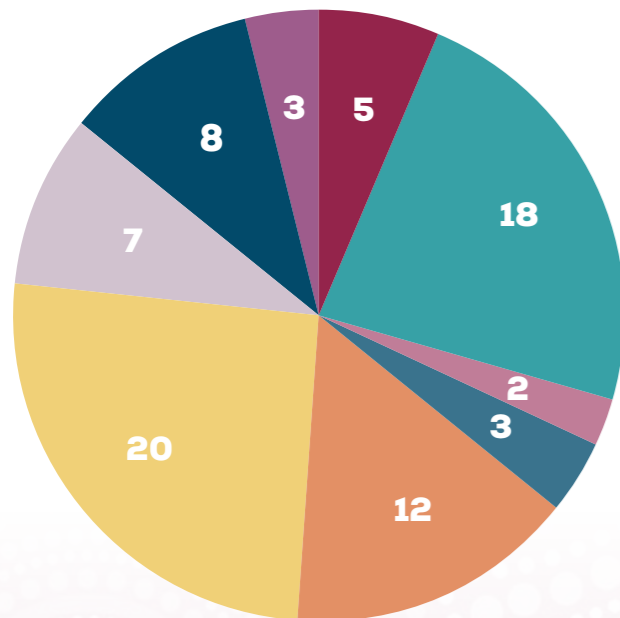
**FAMILIES REQUESTING ASSISTANCE**



Total: 302

- Requests for Assistance – metro
- Requests for Assistance – country
- Requests for Assistance – metro Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Requests for Assistance – country Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- CALD

**CPFS DISTRICTS – OPEN CASES**



Total: 78

- Armadale
- Cannington
- Fremantle
- Joondalup
- Country
- Midland
- Mirrabooka
- Perth
- Rockingham

**THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

ABN: 79 120 328 061

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**THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

ABN: 79 120 328 061

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

Your Board members submit the financial report of The Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

**Board members**

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

Vicki Tate	Chairperson	Retired 18/4/2023
Helen Nys	Acting Chairperson & Secretary	Appointed 18/4/2023
Keiran Dent	Acting Vice Chairperson	Appointed 18/4/2023
Carol Hunter-Lange	Secretary	Retired 25/10/2022
Allison Leonard	Treasurer	Retired 25/10/2022
Andrew Speirs	Treasurer	Appointed 25/10/2022
Katie Francis		
Katherine Raftery		
Anna Farrant		
Grady Coyne		Appointed 18/4/2023
Sharon Davis		Retired 25/10/2022

**Principal activities**

The principal activity of the Association during the financial year is:

To promote the enduring rights and benefits of a child to have their parents, family and community involved in respectful and inclusive processes within the child protection system

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

**Operating result**

The surplus of the Association for the financial year amounted to \$72,759.

**Significant changes in state of affairs**

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Association during the year.

**Events after the reporting date**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the association in future financial years.

**Environmental issues**

The Association’s operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the commonwealth or of a state or territory of Australia.





## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

#### Indemnification and insurance of officers and auditors

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of The Family Inclusion Network of Western

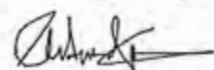
#### Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, for the year ended 30 June 2023 has been received and can be found on page 3 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Board:



Helen Nys - Acting Chairperson



Andrew Speirs - Treasurer

12 October 2023

Dated

12th Oct 2023

Dated



Harding & Thornbury  
AUDIT



## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

### THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

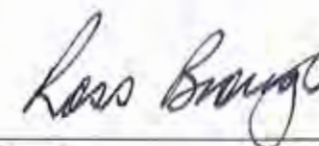
ABN: : 79 120 328 061

To the Committee of Management of The Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia I

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and section 80 of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)*, in relation to our review of the financial report of The Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2023, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the review; and
- No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* in relation to the review; and
- No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review

#### HARDING & THORNBURY AUDIT



Ross Brough

Dated 12 October 2023

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Revenue	1,033,905	1,053,447
Other income	-	5,209
	<u>1,033,905</u>	<u>1,058,656</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accounting & audit fees	9,667	10,579
Employee benefits expenses	748,391	791,051
Depreciation	6,412	3,061
Occupancy costs	64,409	56,764
Other expenses	132,267	104,826
	<u>961,146</u>	<u>966,281</u>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<u>72,759</u>	<u>92,375</u>

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	829,141	516,206
Trade and other receivables	4	6,614	2,679
Other current assets	5	12,137	8,483
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>847,892</u>	<u>527,368</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	6	11,358	17,770
Trade and other receivables	4	5,000	5,000
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>16,358</u>	<u>22,770</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>864,250</u>	<u>550,138</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	331,165	109,204
Provisions	8	49,580	36,783
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>380,745</u>	<u>145,987</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	8	43,346	36,752
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>43,346</u>	<u>36,752</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>424,091</u>	<u>182,739</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>440,159</u>	<u>367,399</u>
<b>Members' funds</b>			
Retained surplus		440,159	367,399
<b>Total members' funds</b>		<u>440,159</u>	<u>367,399</u>

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Retained Surplus</b>		
Opening retained surplus	367,400	275,024
Net surplus	72,759	92,375
	<u>440,159</u>	<u>367,399</u>
<b>Total equity</b>		
Balance as at 01 July 2022	367,400	275,024
Surplus	72,759	92,375
	<u>440,159</u>	<u>367,399</u>

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from customers		1,248,576	1,130,639
Payments to suppliers and employees		(936,143)	(951,141)
Interest received		502	247
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>11</b>	<u>312,935</u>	<u>179,745</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for plant and equipment		--	(6,522)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>179,745</u>
Net increase in cash held		312,935	173,223
Cash at beginning of financial year		516,206	342,983
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	<b>3</b>	<u>829,141</u>	<u>516,206</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The financial statements cover The Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia as an individual entity. The Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia is a not-for-profit association incorporated in Western Australia under the Associations Incorporations Act (WA) 2015 ('the Act').

The principal activity of the association for the year ended 30 June 2023 is:

To promote the enduring rights and benefits of a child to have their parents, family and community involved in respectful and inclusive processes within the child protection system

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

#### 1 Basis of preparation

The Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia (the Association) is a community based not-for-profit organisation. The address of the Association's registered office is 156 Vincent Street, North Perth WA 6006. The Association's aim is to promote the enduring rights and benefits of a child to have their parents, family and community involved in respectful and inclusive processes within the child protection system.

The Board of Management has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

In the opinion of the Committee of Management the Association is a medium size charitable entity. The financial report of the Association has been drawn up as a special purpose financial report for distribution to the members and for the purpose of fulfilling the regulatory requirements of the Charitable Collections Advisory Committee of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety under the Charitable Collections Act (WA) 1946 and thus of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 (ACNC), the Associations Incorporation Act (WA) 2015 and the Association's Constitution.

#### Statement of Compliance

The special purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 (ACNC) and the recognition, measurement and classification aspects of the applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and listed below:

The financial report does not include the disclosure requirements of all AASBs except for the following minimum requirements: AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures, AASB 1048 Interpretation and Application of Standards and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures to the extent deemed appropriate by the Board.

#### Basis of Measurement

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

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

#### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

##### Income tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. The Association is endorsed as a Registered Charity with ACNC and has Income Tax Exemption, including GST and FBT concessions with ATO.

##### Deductible Gift Recipient

The Association is approved as a Deductible Gift Recipient by the ATO as a Public Benevolent Institution. Gifts to the Association are tax deductible.

##### Revenue and other income

Revenue (including Grant income) is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below (see note 10), has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

##### Sale of goods

Revenue is recognised on transfer of goods to the customer as this is deemed to be the point in time when risks and rewards are transferred and there is no longer any ownership or effective control over the goods.

##### Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST.

##### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

#### Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the assets useful life to the association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

#### Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits, together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave, have been measured at their current amounts including loading and superannuation guarantee provisions.

#### Impairment of non-financial assets

At the end of each reporting period, the association determines whether there is an evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

#### Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association 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.

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>3 Cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cheque Account		222,641	15,593
Interest Bearing Account		527,551	421,918
Term Deposit		78,703	78,449
Petty Cash		246	246
		<u>829,141</u>	<u>516,206</u>
<b>4 Trade and other receivables</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Accounts Receivable		470	20
GST Paid		6,144	2,659
		<u>6,614</u>	<u>2,679</u>
<b>Non-current</b>			
Rental Bond		5,000	5,000
		<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<b>5 Other assets</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Prepayments		12,137	8,483
		<u>12,137</u>	<u>8,483</u>

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>6 Property, plant and equipment</b>			
<b>Office equipment</b>			
Office Equipment		8,680	8,680
Office Equip Accumulated Depreciation		(8,437)	(8,082)
		<u>243</u>	<u>598</u>
<b>Office furniture</b>			
Office Furniture		5,762	5,762
Office Furniture Equip Accumulated Depreciation		(5,042)	(4,862)
		<u>720</u>	<u>900</u>
<b>Computer Equipment</b>			
Computer Hardware		42,149	42,149
Computer Accumulated Depreciation		(31,754)	(25,877)
		<u>10,395</u>	<u>16,272</u>
		<u>11,358</u>	<u>17,770</u>
<b>7 Trade and other payables</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Credit Card		2,559	498
PAYG Payable		7,915	18,162
Super Payable		5,911	9,984
Income in Advance		261,031	45,408
Accounts Payable		35,843	1,533
GST Collected		17,906	33,618
		<u>331,165</u>	<u>109,203</u>

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>8 Provisions</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Provision for Annual Leave		38,186	28,459
Annual Leave Provision SGC		4,711	3,344
Annual Leave Loading		6,683	4,980
		<u>49,580</u>	<u>36,783</u>
<b>Non-current</b>			
LSL Provision - Provision		39,405	33,411
LSL Provision - SGC		3,941	3,341
		<u>43,346</u>	<u>36,752</u>
<b>9 Retained surplus</b>			
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		367,400	275,024
Net Surplus		72,759	92,375
		<u>440,159</u>	<u>367,399</u>

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>10 Income Reconciliation of Grants</b>			
<b>Grant - Department of Child Protection</b>			
Prior year correction		(2,000)	-
Funding from DCP		895,625	862,407
Last year deferred income brought back		21,837	4,225
This year deferred income carried forward		(9,929)	(21,837)
		<u>905,533</u>	<u>844,795</u>
<b>Grant - Communities for Children</b>			
Prior year correction		(6,303)	-
Funding from CFC		8,303	162,303
Last year deferred income brought back		8,303	-
Prior year underspent carried forward (2021)		(2,000)	-
This year deferred income carried forward		-	(8,303)
		<u>8,303</u>	<u>154,000</u>
<b>Impact 100</b>			
Funding from Impact 100		45,000	55,000
Last year deferred income brought back		23,571	-
This year deferred income carried forward		(17,356)	(23,571)
		<u>51,215</u>	<u>31,429</u>
<b>Lotterywest</b>			
Funding from Lotterywest		291,450	-
This year deferred income carried forward		(231,745)	-
		<u>59,705</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Other Revenue</b>			
		9,149	23,223
		<u>1,033,905</u>	<u>1,053,447</u>

In deferring income received from the Department of Child Protection, the Board has applied the recognition and measurement criteria of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts, having determined that the performance obligations associated with the grant conditions are sufficiently specific to do so.

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>11 Cash flow information</b>			
<b>Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with surplus for the year</b>			
Surplus for the year		72,759	92,375
<b>Non-cash flows in surplus</b>			
Leave Provisions		19,392	(5,208)
Depreciation and amortisation		6,412	3,061
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities</b>			
(Increase)/decrease in trade receivables		(450)	258
(Increase)/decrease in other current assets		(7,140)	7,272
Increase/(decrease) in trade payables		34,311	(1,600)
Increase/(decrease) in other current payables		187,651	83,587
		<u>312,935</u>	<u>179,745</u>

## THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABN: 79 120 328 061

### STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Committee of Management has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

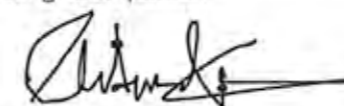
The Committee of Management declared that in the Committee's opinion

1. there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
2. the financial report and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012; and
3. the Committee has complied with the Governance Standards of the ACNC.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.



Helen Nys - Acting Chairperson



Andrew Speirs - Treasurer

Dated 30th September 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT  
THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

ABN: : 79 120 328 061

To the Members of The Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia Inc.

**Report on the Review of the Financial Report**

**Conclusion**

We have reviewed the financial report of The Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia Inc. (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the statement by the Committee.

Based on our review, which is not an audit nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report of The Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia Inc. does not give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2023, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year ended on that date, in accordance with:

- Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.
- the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)*,
- Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act)*
- the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

**Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* and the *ACNC Act*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our conclusion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report**

The Committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* and the *ACNC Act* and the needs of the members. The responsibility of the Committee also includes such internal control as the Committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Committee is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT  
THE FAMILY INCLUSION NETWORK OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

ABN: : 79 120 328 061

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Review of the Financial Report**

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2410 *Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Association*, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report is not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report. As the auditor of Ellis Charitable Trust, ASRE 2410 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the audit of the annual financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

**Independence**

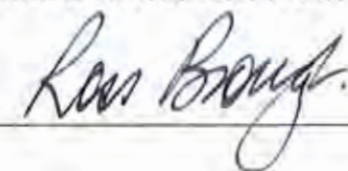
In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

**Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that The Family Inclusion Network of Western Australia Inc. has not complied with 60-30(3)(b), (c) and (d) of the *ACNC Act* and 82(1)(b), (c) and (d) of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)*:

- by providing us with all information, explanation and assistance necessary for the conduct of the review;
- by keeping financial records sufficient to enable a financial report to be prepared and reviewed; and
- by keeping other records required by Part 3-2 of the *ACNC Act*, including those records required by Section 50-5 that correctly record its operations, so as to enable any recognised assessment activity to be carried out in relation to the Association.
- by keeping other records required by Part 5 of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)*, including those records required by Section 66 that correctly record its operations, so as to enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared.

HARDING & THORNBURY AUDIT



Ross Brough

Dated: 12 October 2023





*Stay in Touch...*

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