

A photograph of a woman and a young girl sitting on a stone ledge, viewed from behind. The woman is wearing a striped shirt and has her hair in a ponytail. The girl is wearing a blue polka-dot dress and has her hair in two braids with bows. They are looking out over a green lawn towards a line of trees in the background.

Annual Report

2018 - 2019

Working together
to support
bereaved children
and their families

nccg
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
CHILDHOOD GRIEF





01

Introduction

- 05 Our Purpose, Vision, Values
- 06 Our Story, Focus, Programs
- 08 Chairperson's Report
- 09 Clinical Director's Report
- 11 Our Strategic Pillars
- 12 Highlights 2018-19

02

Operations

- 15 Our Bereavement
Counselling Services
- 20 Our Education
- 22 Our Supporters

03

Governance

- 25 Governance
- 26 Our People

04

Financials

- 29 Director's Report
- 32 Financial Report
- 42 Auditor's Report

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored jacket, is seen from behind, holding a young child. The child is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and a light-colored knit hat. They are standing in a field of tall green grass or corn. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, warm glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and nostalgic.

—
01

Introduction
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Our Vision

is a community which accepts there is no right or wrong way for children to grieve, and that grief is a normal and ongoing process which, with compassionate support, children can accommodate into their lives as they become adults.



Our Purpose

is to provide the best possible care for grieving children, their families and support networks, to enhance their opportunity to live a full and meaningful life.



Our Values

Trust, Love, Resilience, Quality,
Compassion, Accessibility.

INTRODUCTION

Our Story



The National Centre for Childhood Grief (NCCG) is dedicated to helping bereaved children rebuild their lives, by teaching them to live with their grief. The Centre was established in 1994 by founders Mal and Dianne McKissock OAM, internationally recognised experts in the field of child bereavement and grief counselling. Through their clinical practices, the McKissock's identified the profound impact bereavement has on a child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development and the possible lifelong detrimental effects if the child doesn't receive appropriate support.

We are Australia's only provider of free and unlimited grief counselling for bereaved children aged 3 -18 years. The McKissock therapeutic model, developed and used at the Centre, represents best practice when working with bereaved people.

We operate from 'A Friend's Place', our dedicated bereavement care centre in Denistone East, Sydney. We offer a range of programs nationally, supporting children, families, adults and those who work with the bereaved. We have an experienced

team of specialist bereavement counsellors and trained volunteer support workers, led by our Clinical Director, Dr Elizabeth Mann, ensuring the effective delivery of our services.

One in 20 Australian children experience the death of one or both parents. We know this has a profound and lifelong impact on children. We know that our services contribute greatly to providing a child with the opportunity and resources to go on and live a full and meaningful life.

INTRODUCTION

Our Focus

Bereaved children often feel different and alone in their grief, leading to social withdrawal and isolation. They may find difficulty staying socially and academically engaged. It is common for bereaved children to experience anxiety due to the dramatically changed circumstances at home.

Bereavement counselling at our Centre has three important aspects:

.....

1 We **support** children to learn that the grief response they are experiencing is a normal reaction to death and that there are skills and techniques they can develop through this process to improve their wellbeing.

.....

2 We **teach** children to learn to manage intense feelings, build resilience and strengthen their confidence, as they integrate grief into their daily lives.

.....

3 We **provide** a safe, nurturing environment and community where bereaved children and families feel they belong, which supports them to not feel alone and different.

.....

Our Programs

Through our programs, we provide a safe environment for bereaved children and their families to share their experiences, which in turn helps them integrate grief into their everyday lives.

Our care is delivered through the provision of the following programs:

- Individual counselling for bereaved children (free and unlimited), adults and caregivers (fee-for-service basis).
- Group support for bereaved children, bereaved parents and young adults.
- Weekend programs and workshops for bereaved children and families.
- Phone and email support for bereaved people and caregivers i.e. schools, hospitals and other healthcare professionals.
- Delivery of accredited bereavement counselling training programs.
- Publication and distribution of grief resources.
- National Outreach Support Service coordinated by Dianne McKissock OAM.

INTRODUCTION

Chairperson's Report



In late 2018, I was honoured to have been appointed by the NCCG's Board as its Chairperson after our predecessor, Mark Steinberg, retired from that role.

The NCCG is very familiar with the uncertainty and anxiety that often comes with change. However, for the NCCG's Board and senior leaders, any anxiety associated with this change quickly dissipated when Mark assured us that he would continue as a Director after his retirement as Chair. I speak for the whole Board in acknowledging the tireless effort, sound judgement, and good humour which Mark applied to the NCCG during his time as Chairperson. I would like to sincerely

thank Mark for his dedication in that role and with the rest of the Board, I look forward to continuing to work with Mark as a fellow Director. I would also like to acknowledge Mark's colleague, Jenn Pryor, who supported Mark and the Board in an administration capacity during his time as Chairperson. Thankfully Jenn has agreed to continue in that voluntary role and has already provided me with an enormous amount of help, which we are all most grateful for.

As a Director who isn't involved in the daily operations of 'A Friend's Place', it can sometimes be hard for me to really appreciate how the NCCG helps bereaved children, and their families and communities. To fill that gap in a small way, at the beginning of each Board meeting, our Clinical Director, Dr. Elizabeth Mann, shares with us one or two stories about how 'A Friend's Place' has had an impact on a child's life. We don't know the child's name and we obviously can't see their tears or their smiles, but Liz's stories help us to understand the enormity of the challenge that this organisation faces

every day, as well as the immense amount of love which our team shares with every family we encounter. The fact that we have been meeting that challenge, with the same degree of love and compassion, for 25 years, is extraordinary.

For each of those 25 years – congratulations go to our founders, Mal and Dianne McKissock and to the whole NCCG team (past and present) who continue to make 'A Friend's Place' a world leader in addressing issues associated with childhood grief.

To our volunteers and supporters, without your contribution in time and money, the NCCG would simply cease to be. So, as we look forward to the next 25 years, we thank you for being a part of the story of each child who takes their first, tentative step through our front door

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, flowing 'R' followed by a series of loops and a final downward stroke.

Robert McRobbie
Chair

INTRODUCTION

Clinical Director's Report



2019 marks the 25th Anniversary of 'A Friend's Place' and it seems fitting to pause and reflect on what has been, what is now and what is to come in the next 25 years.

In 1994, Mal and Dianne McKissock recognised that there was a huge need for a service in Australia that understands and specialises in children's grief. Mal and Di then had the vision and the courage to set up the National Centre for Childhood Grief - the first specialised, free, children's bereavement service in Australia. Mal and Di deservedly both

received OAM's in 1996 in recognition of the incredible work they had done for the bereaved community over many years. Internationally recognised as leaders in this field, they have taught and advised thousands of health professionals around the world in the hope that bereaved children everywhere will have access to appropriate care.

Their vision and passion for helping bereaved children and their families has not diminished. The NCCG has supported thousands of bereaved families over the years and sadly, the need just keeps growing. The NCCG would not have survived and flourished without the support of many generous people. Mal and Di, our clinical team, administration staff and volunteers, our supporters, our board members, both past and present, and our clients, have all contributed to keeping 'A Friend's Place' going. I want to thank all of you for your wonderful support.

“ 219 CHILDREN ACCESSED OUR BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING PROGRAMS DURING THIS PERIOD, A 37% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR. ”

Over the past 25 years the NCCG has experienced many financial ups and downs. Running and funding a not-for-profit organisation certainly has many challenges, but the commitment of everyone involved at the Centre means that our vision has remained clear, no matter what hurdles we have to overcome. Our service is so important to families experiencing the pain of grief that we hold an unwavering belief that 'A Friend's Place' is worth fighting for. This financial year reaffirmed again the value and necessity of our services. 219 children accessed our bereavement counselling programs during this period, a 37% increase from the previous year. Our adventure

weekend programs for bereaved girls, boys and families were incredibly beneficial for all participants. We facilitated an additional core education program in order to meet the increased demand for upskilling in this field and our National Outreach Service programs were also met with much appreciation and respect by those in need of our direct intervention support or our specialist training.

As people who are bereaved know all too well, grief makes life feel unstable and precarious and in this uncharted territory, the NCCG provides a necessary, secure anchor for so many people. Many years after the death of a loved person, children and adults who have used our service know they can come back if things get tough. Just knowing we will be here for them whenever they need help is an incredibly comforting thought for so many people. Our Young Adult

“MAL AND DI STARTED SOMETHING SPECIAL 25 YEARS AGO, AND WHAT THEY BEGAN CONTINUES TO BE SPECIAL – A UNIQUE, SAFE HAVEN FOR MANY.”

Group, which has now successfully completed its first year of operation and resumed for another year, is testament to this fact. The group participants, who visited the centre as bereaved children, cannot thank us enough for providing such a unique program to help them to navigate the re-emergence of grief as they transition through this new life stage without their parent/s.

I feel privileged to be leading this wonderful organisation and for being able to offer this unique and much

needed service to bereaved people in what are often the darkest, most painful circumstances of their lives. We know that we can't ever “fix” grief or take away the pain and hurt when someone we love dies. What we can do is be here for hurting families for as long as they need, walking beside them as they “find their feet” in unfamiliar territory. Mal and Di started something special 25 years ago and what they began continues to be special – a unique, safe haven for many. I look forward to the next 25 years as we build the future together.



Dr Elizabeth Mann
Clinical Director

INTRODUCTION

Our Strategic Pillars

1



To continue to deliver **quality counselling programs** in a loving, safe environment to grieving children (and their families and carers) in a way that is client centred and accessible to all.

2



To attract and retain **quality people**, right across the organisation, from clinical staff to non-executive directors to enable us to deliver on our purpose.

3



To ensure ongoing **financial sustainability** through attracting funding from a diverse range of sources.

4



To develop our **national outreach** program that is creative and effective in the way it supports our purpose.

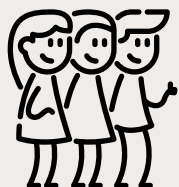
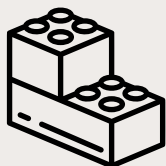
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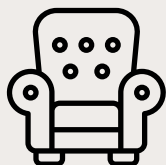
To follow industry standard **good governance** practices to recognise and manage risk, which will underpin our success and sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

Highlights 2018-19

**750+**Children's Counselling
Sessions**41.5% ↑**Individual Counselling
Sessions from 2017/18**5,900+**

Resources purchased

**1**New Grief Publication
by Dianne McKissock OAM**10% ↑**

in Counselling Resources

**2,000+**

Volunteer Hours



The Annual Peter Coupland Adventure Weekend Programs

“She has returned from camp happier, more settled and calmer in her own skin. She is confident and happy.”

[Parent, name withheld]

“He repeatedly says to me that at school he just “wants to fit in” – while he doesn’t overtly say it, he’s the only boy without a dad. When he was at camp or in Kids Group, he fits in as everyone has experienced something similar. There is no need to explain and everyone understands each other.”

[Parent, name withheld]



NEW PROGRAM

Peter Coupland Family Camp

“This weekend gave me some new insights into what is important to my child, that I would not have gained otherwise.”

[Parent, name withheld]

“Having other parents to talk to that understand me was invaluable”.

[Parent, name withheld]



In 1994, 25 years ago, the Bereavement C.A.R.E. Centre gave birth to The National Centre for Childhood Grief – affectionately known for many as ‘A Friend’s Place’. Despite lack of funding, we were energised by hopes and dreams and a strong conviction that a specialist service for grieving children was a social necessity. We had established the Bereavement C.A.R.E. Centre 16 years earlier, and during the time we provided free care for grieving adults, it became clear that childrens’ needs would remain largely overlooked or misunderstood unless a specialist service became their advocate. We had learned that people tended to believe children were resilient, would ‘get over their grief’, or that they didn’t feel as intensely as adults. How wrong they proved to be.



A team of 20 part time counsellors, six board members, and an enthusiastic group of eight people who called themselves ‘Friends of The Bereavement C.A.R.E. Centre’, all volunteered their time to help us begin our journey into the future. The service was free, no counsellors were paid and the funds were not only tight but had to be shared with the Bereavement C.A.R.E. Centre which still provided free counselling for adults. A few years later, fees for adult counselling were reluctantly introduced as a matter of necessity. However, we remained

determined to ensure that children would be seen free of charge and the financial strain so often experienced by bereaved families would not be the reason a child could not be supported.

The Centre has always been proud of its greatest asset – people. First, the team of professionally competent counsellors and support workers who undertake intense, specialist training and clinical supervision to ensure that they provide the best service possible for bereaved children and their families. They model good



team work. Team work is essential – the exchange of ideas, shared skills, mutual support, good humour, compassion and adaptability, create an environment in which giving is as rewarding as receiving.

Next – the clients. The vulnerable people of all ages who have the courage to make that first phone call, the courage to walk through the door of an unfamiliar building and trust their vulnerability to the care of strangers, and finally, trust strangers with the care of their precious children. We are always sensitive to the leap of faith these steps require and work hard to deserve the trust placed in us.

Next – the supporters. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, our silver anniversary, we want to express appreciation for all the people who have helped throughout those years: the initial Board led by Tom Wykoff; Patrons like Professor Beverley Raphael and Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO; Friends of The Bereavement C.A.R.E. Centre; wonderful folk like Rick Taylor who gave his heart and soul as Board Chair for so many years; past Boards comprised of women and men who were determined, supportive, and creative; the current Board of talented, compassionate human beings; past and current Office Managers, Counselling Coordinators and Business Development Managers who have kept the wheels turning in good times and tough; and all the folk who have contributed their time, energy and practical gifts. The first financial help the Centre received was from Barb and Don Spry who contributed what they called ‘honey money’ – money from the sale of jam and honey at local stalls. Other folk – individuals and financial institutions – have made generous financial donations that have ensured the longevity of the service. Others have donated their creative ideas and enthusiasm. We are grateful for every contribution – no matter how big or how small – they were ‘votes of confidence’ that encouraged us all to keep going.

The NCCG was the first specialised service for bereaved children in Australia. Within Australia, we continue to be the leading experts on Childhood Grief and we are proud of the fact that in this safe setting, children’s grief is normalised, understood, and supported as they learn how to live in a world that has been forever changed by their loss. If we could see into the future, we wonder what the NCCG might look like as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. We hope that there will always be those to help our successor, Dr Elizabeth Mann, to fulfil the dreams we began but are now hers, to ensure that all bereaved children can sustain the hope of a fulfilling future despite the pain of grief.

Mal McKissock OAM
Dianne McKissock OAM
 Cofounders and Patrons

A blurred background image showing a person in a pink and white checkered shirt sitting on a grey couch with their hands clasped. In the foreground, another person's hands are visible holding a clipboard with a yellow notepad and a black pen.

— 02 Operations —

OPERATIONS

Our Bereavement Counselling Services

Individual Counselling

The NCCG has been providing individual face-to-face counselling to bereaved children and adults since 1994. To date our services have helped many thousands of bereaved children and their families.

In 2018-2019, there was a 41.5% increase in the number of counselling sessions provided from the previous year. Our profile raising over the past 2 years in corporate, community and media sectors has certainly contributed to this upsurge. Thankfully, we have had the capacity to meet this rise in service provision through the employment of an additional counsellor in January this year and the increase of availability within our existing cohort.

Email and Phone Support

All our counsellors are available to provide additional phone and email support to clients in between sessions if required. We also collaborate

with multidisciplinary teams when necessary for transparency and alignment, to support children and families who are engaged in other systems of care. As part of our National Outreach Service, Dianne McKissock OAM, Cofounder and Patron of

the NCCG, provides email support for dying and bereaved people (all ages) and anyone involved in their care.

During the 2018-2019 period, we provided support and advice to more than 1,500 bereaved families and practitioners including hospital social workers, school counsellors and other health professionals.

“ DURING THE 2018-2019 PERIOD, WE PROVIDED SUPPORT AND ADVICE TO MORE THAN 1,500 BEREAVED FAMILIES AND PRACTITIONERS. ”



Kids' Group

In addition to our individual counselling, we provide a Kids' Group program. As bereaved children often feel different and alone in their grief, some may benefit from processing their grief experience within a group environment, to know there are others who are in a similar situation. Taylah, who graduated during this period, shares her experience of being in group.



A KID'S GROUP TALE

Taylah's Story

"4 years!! That's how long I have been in the group at 'A Friend's Place'. I started group when I was only 8 years old. I'm not going to lie I was a bit nervous at first. But then I grew to realise that group was a nurturing and fun way to meet other kids that have been through something similar to your experience. You also get a new perspective on how you should handle situations at school, home, with friends and many more. Group has helped me through most of my primary

“ GROUP WAS A NURTURING AND FUN WAY TO MEET OTHER KIDS THAT HAVE BEEN THROUGH SOMETHING SIMILAR TO YOUR EXPERIENCE. ”

school years and I couldn't have asked for more nurturing, kind, funny and intelligent Counsellors. There was one thing that I realised on my final night in group, it was at the end of year party and I was dancing and singing with all my friends and looking around at all the happy faces and I realised that this right here was the definition of a community and a place where no matter what happened or who you were you will always be treated equally and have a strong sense of belonging in this group and at 'A Friend's Place' because everyone has had something bad happen to them but instead of bringing other people down they build each other up and at group they teach you that you are still allowed to live and laugh even if you've lost someone." - Taylah

Parents' Support Group

The parent support group runs simultaneously alongside the kid's group. It is an opportunity for parents to connect and share with others who are experiencing similar challenges that inevitably come with grieving their own loss, while also parenting and managing the adjustment to the family system. Nikki (Taylah's Mum) shares her experience of being in this group.

My husband died nearly 5 years ago, my children were 6 and 8 years old. I felt alone and desperate, my life as I knew it was changed forever. I worried about my children, about life for them emotionally- how will they do life with such a loss. My kids had no father! I then found 'A Friend's Place'. This has literally saved me and my children. Being part of this group has been incredible, to share experiences and struggles of life as a widow. Mal McKissock and the other Counsellors have been able to guide us through this journey that no wants to be part of. A huge thank you to all at 'A Friend's Place'. I feel confident that my children will be able to manage what life throws at them with all that they have learnt. - Nikki Kerr

Young Adult Group

In April 2017, we introduced the monthly support group for young adults. This group is for young people aged 18 – 25 years, who were bereaved as children through the death of a parent/s and came to 'A Friend's Place' when they were children. This program identifies and explores the impact of childhood grief on early adult life, providing an opportunity for participants to learn a variety of strategies to navigate adulthood without the support and care of a parent/s.

Completion of the first year of this new program reaffirmed how valuable and necessary this service is for young people. The re-emerging nature of grief has meant for these adults they have needed extra support again while they transition through this life stage.

"... As it was 12 yrs ago, I feel like I shouldn't feel sad anymore, so when I am sad I don't know how to handle it."
[Name Withheld]

"It feels like there are a lot of questions and conversations I would like to be able to have with my birth mum, that I'm unable to have. I also find parts of my personality I get from my mum and I have no one to relate to about those areas/interests."
[Name Withheld]

“ ...THE GROUP HAS PROVIDED ME WITH SO MANY TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR HOW TO COPE WITH MY GRIEF AND ALSO HELPED ME BETTER UNDERSTAND IT AS AN ADULT. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE THESE SKILLS AND USE THEM WITHIN OTHER RELATIONSHIPS, ESPECIALLY WITH MY FAMILY, WHICH HAS LED TO AN EVEN MORE ENRICHED MEMORY OF MY DAD. ” MG, 21



Participants have indicated after completing the first year that they are beginning to grasp how their childhood grief influences their perceptions and responses to daily life activities and interactions with family, friends, work etc. in ways that they could not recognise or did not originally associate to their grief before

attending the group. The participants have all expressed how helpful it has been to have a safe place where people understand their grief and how it is still affecting them. Overall, the group exceeded expectations.

"I knew it would be helpful but I didn't realise how much." [Name Withheld]

Peter Coupland Adventure Programs for Bereaved Boys and Girls

This annual Adventure Weekend Program was established by and is named in memory of Peter Coupland, a valued and long-time counsellor at the Centre. These weekends are an important and special adjunct to our regular individual counselling programs. Currently, we run one girls and one boys adventure weekend each year. It is an opportunity for bereaved children to come together with others who understand this grief process. Through a combination of different adventure experiences, clinical group activities and discussion, having fun and relaxing together, the children find these weekends help them to feel less alone and different. Other benefits for children include increased levels of confidence and resilience and a greater capacity to talk about their experiences and feelings with family.

During this period, both weekends were again very successful with children thoroughly enjoying all aspects of the camp from the horse riding and pool time, to the grief focused clinical activities woven throughout



Testimonials from parents of the girls' weekend

[names withheld]

"She loved bonding with a lot of the other girls and had lots of fun with all of the adults."

"She came home buzzing about her experiences and the people that she met as a result of the camp. The camp certainly allowed her to better understand that she is not the only person going through the trauma of losing a parent and that unfortunately there are people whose tragedy extends further ie. to both parents. I believe she got a huge amount from the camp on a personal level, she is really growing into a beautifully emotional young woman, with the assistance of this amazing camp."



Testimonials from parents of the boys' weekend

[names withheld]

"He came back with a sense of accomplishment, achievement and I have noticed how independent he has become. It feels like he also feels slightly more secure around the house and is engaging more openly and more often than he was before he went on camp."

"He got a sense of familiarity with his situation by discussing his personal loss with the group. I think that has helped him be a bit more open with me when discussing mummy or difficult times such as birthdays and anniversaries."

NEW PROGRAM

Peter Coupland Family Camp

While our counselling programs are designed to work with bereaved children, as a child's reaction to death is also dependent on the way that grief is demonstrated by caregivers and other adults, our support extends to include the parent/guardian and or caregivers. Our new program, the Peter Coupland Family Camp, where bereaved families come together in a group setting to work through the pain of their grief, was undertaken in May. This was incredibly beneficial for all the families who participated. By the end of the weekend there was an enhanced capacity to live with their grief in a meaningful way. Feedback indicated that one of the most significant aspects of the camp was the opportunity to meet with other bereaved families.

Testimonials from parents [names withheld]

"It's really helped to further normalise how we feel".

"The camp has helped me understand there is no timeline to grief".

"I found seeing all the kids connect so effortlessly amazing".



“ I SAW FAMILIES
COME TOGETHER AND
THE KIDS BOND WHO
HAVE BEEN THROUGH A
SIMILAR EXPERIENCE.”



Clinical Supervision

Given the population we work with, the wellbeing of our staff is a high priority. All our counsellors must participate in both individual and group supervision each month. Extra supervision is always available for those who request it. Supervision is provided by Dianne McKissock OAM and Dr Elizabeth Mann, Clinical Director, both specialist bereavement counsellors and qualified clinical supervisors.

In-service Training

To ensure our counsellors meet their professional counselling bodies' annual requirements, we conduct internal professional development

training workshops. We seek to continue to diversify our in-service training with new topics and revisiting of significant areas to further instil these learnings.

In the 2018 - 2019 period, our special guest speaker was one of our counsellors, Manny Kassiotis, who recently began working with the NCCG, after finishing his work with the Missing Persons Unit. The Missing Persons Professional Development presentation provided an overview of the research, literature, and clinical interventions relating to the grief experience of families of missing people and ambiguous loss. This

is a particularly complex area, as there are often coronial proceedings, legal or financial issues, and media involvement. It provided our staff with a helpful insight into the complexities that come with this particular loss and what needs to be considered when working with people who are bereaved in this way.

Our counsellors were incredibly appreciative for this information. We see clients for all manners of death and while all will grieve 100% for the loved one who has died no matter the circumstances, ethically we need to remain well informed of any complex and high risk factors that can present with our clients and know how to best approach these situations.

Evaluation

We have many testimonials and feedback from our programs that indicate our services are valuable and helping bereaved people integrate grief into their daily lives.

Last financial year, with the support of our Board member, Dr Heidi Coupland, we developed a new evaluation program, which involves a formalised six month and 12 month follow up with the child's parent. While this project is still in its infancy, current findings from the first phase of our impact study during this period indicated that children/families benefitted from at

least 1 of the following three themes. The testimonials included are from parents [Names withheld].

- 1. Emotional Catharsis:** The emotional catharsis that happens at the Centre allows for children to return home more settled and with strategies to manage their grief, so it doesn't intrude on their daily life.

"Outbursts of emotion have lessened".

"Behaviour has definitely changed – more settled and sensory issues less notable and less disruptive".

- 2. Memory Consolidation:** Literature consistently indicates that the observation of healthy grief does not resolve by detaching from the deceased but rather in creating a new relationship with them. Remembering the loved one who has died is helping children integrate grief in a healthy way.

"Content knowing that her memory is being kept alive."

- 3. Peace of Mind:** Coming here gave the surviving parent or caregiver peace of mind that their child was being taken care of in a specialised counselling environment. As such, reducing additional anxiety in the family system.

"Provides comfort knowing kids are talking to trained professionals and are treated and cared for as a family unit."

"I am very concerned and worried about my children, so it helps me knowing that this is helping them."

2019 – 2020 Plans for Bereavement Counselling Services

Our second Peter Coupland family camp program is scheduled to run in May 2020. We will also seek to pilot a Young Adult weekend program.

As part of our National Outreach Services program, we have been invited to consult with the ABC producers on a new Playschool episode called 'Beginnings and Endings'. This is the first time in 54 years that Playschool has broached the subject of death in this way and we feel it is a really significant thing for them to do. We know that as a society, we still do not like to talk about death and grief, and any way we can encourage people to start to talk about it, will be of benefit to those children and families who are sadly living through the devastation of having a loved one die.

“ EXPRESSING EMOTION AND STRENGTHENING MEMORIES HAVE BEEN THE MAJOR BENEFITS FROM COMING TO COUNSELLING. ”



OPERATIONS

Our Education

The McKissock's are internationally renowned authorities on childhood bereavement with each having over 50 years clinical experience. During this time, the McKissock's have provided their specialised and accredited training programs throughout Australia and internationally. Mal and Dianne have acted as grief and bereavement consultants to a number of government departments and community organisations, including The Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission. In addition, Mal and Dianne have authored many books and articles for professional journals on grief, death, dying and bereavement. Through our programs we provide the opportunity for those working with bereaved people to upskill and gain competence and confidence in what is best practice. In doing so, we indirectly support many bereaved children and their families.



Professional Development Workshops

Currently we facilitate 3 accredited professional development training workshops in bereavement counselling at 'A Friend's Place'. Our Core Course in Bereavement Counselling, Working with Bereaved Children and Working with Bereaved Adults workshops, attract a diverse range of national and international participants, particularly those who are needing to upskill within this specialist area to further support their work (e.g. school

counsellors, teachers, psychologists, chaplains, police, social workers, funeral consultants and other health professionals).

During this period, we successfully introduced a second Core Course in Bereavement Counselling in response to the increased interest in training within this field. The feedback from all our workshops has been positive with high emphasis on the value and necessity of these skills to further enhance the participants' professions.

72% of participants noted that as a result of doing this course their understanding of grief had changed considerably. With all participants noting an increased confidence in working with bereaved people.

“... I had limited skills and now feel much more confident.”
- Nurse

“I now have a framework for talking with bereaved people both in and out of the workplace - which is better than no framework or no clue as to what could help.”
- Therapist

Post-Graduate Training

We also offer Post-Graduate Diplomas in working with bereaved adults and bereaved children for those wishing to become bereavement counsellors. As this is a specialist area, enrolment is by invitation only.

In 2018-2019 we enrolled one new children's counsellor who is set to graduate in December 2020. Our two counsellors who commenced training in the 2017 – 2018 period are well on track to complete their final assessments in December 2019, with graduation set for February 2020.

National Outreach Program Training

As part of the Centre's Outreach Program we provide tailored presentations and workshops to various organisations requesting resources and training.

During 2018 - 2019, we presented to Macquarie Group, Turks Legal, Merck, IPSHA Teachers Forum, Westmead Children's Hospital, Police Legacy, Northmead Uniting Church, Campbelltown School, Gosford High School, Notre Dame University and the Palliative Care Conference. Feedback from these sessions has been consistently positive with many participants expressing how valuable the information delivered was.



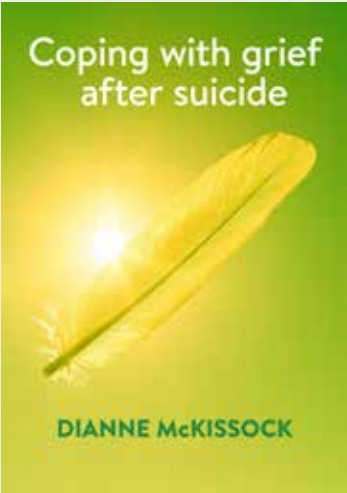
200

Schools received
'Grief Resource Packs'

Also, during this financial period, we were funded by Greater Charitable Foundation to distribute 'Grief Resource Packs' to 200 schools and facilitate a one-day intensive workshop on Children's Grief to 25 school counsellors within the Hunter/Newcastle region. We received consistent positive feedback from the schools for both the packs and the workshop. In particular, schools noted how helpful the packs are for all staff, not just counsellors.



Newcastle Weekly newspaper article



Resources

The McKissock's have to date written and published 15 grief resources, accessible to both children and adults. Their book 'Coping with Grief' (currently in its fifth edition) has been an invaluable resource for many bereaved people since it was first published in 1988. Acknowledged by the ABC as the best selling book they have ever produced, it still remains after all this time our most popular purchase as well.

During this period, over 5,900 NCCG resources were purchased through 'A Friend's Place', a 70.7% increase from the previous year. This included Dianne McKissock's OAM new book titled, 'Coping with Grief after Suicide', written in response to the consistent demand for support regarding suicide related grief.



5,900+

NCCG resources were purchased through 'A Friend's Place'



"This compassionate and practical book provides straightforward guidelines for understanding and managing grief after suicide. Based on Dianne McKissock's personal experience and her professional experience as a specialist bereavement counsellor over many decades, it will be a beneficial companion book to the well known classic Coping With Grief, now in its fifth edition. Easy to read at a time when concentration is often difficult, this self help book will prove invaluable for anyone bereaved as a result of suicide, and for those involved in their care."

2019 - 2020 Education Calendar

All the education programs offered by the NCCG will continue to run in the 2019 - 2020 financial year. We have again scheduled 2 'Core Courses in Bereavement Counselling' to meet participant demand. In doing so, this also provides for an increase in education revenue to further support our financial sustainability. We also expect to commence training of another specialist bereavement counsellor to ensure future capacity to effectively and ethically deliver our programs.

OPERATIONS

Our Supporters

Thank you to all those who are working with us in varying capacities to support bereaved children and their families. The donations given to the Centre make a real difference in achieving positive outcomes for the kids that we care for. This support varies from donation of goods and skills, time and resources, to capital funding for our bereavement programs. Over the last year we have attracted funding from both existing and new supporters. I would like to thank the individuals and organisations for your generous support. Your donations ensure we can continue to provide our valuable services to our grieving families.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Cheryl & Holly



“Holly and I were referred to ‘A Friend’s Place’ by her school principal following her father’s sudden death in July 2017. It was Holly’s 11th birthday shortly after this, and the team went out of their way to fit her in for her first appointment, to support her as best as possible during this very difficult time. We have both been so immensely grateful to have connected with ‘A Friend’s Place’, where we have felt welcomed, safe and surrounded by caring people who understand how we might be feeling (both the team at ‘A Friend’s Place’ and the other families we have met who we share our grief experience with). We started with one on one appointments, but not long after transitioned into a group, where Holly has been able to make friends with other children who have unfortunately lost a parent, and I have been able to share the difficulties of solo parenting whilst grieving for my loved husband with others who really get just how hard that is. I honestly don’t know if we would have adjusted to the way life is if we hadn’t become part of the family that exists at ‘A Friend’s Place’. As part of our journey, about a year after my husband and Holly’s Dad, Marcus, passed away, we decided to enter the Blackmores Running Festival (as I had joined a fitness group in our local park, and the trainer had encouraged me to set

“ I HONESTLY DON’T KNOW IF WE WOULD HAVE ADJUSTED TO THE WAY LIFE IS IF WE HADN’T BECOME PART OF THE FAMILY THAT EXISTS AT ‘A FRIEND’S PLACE’.”

a stretch goal for myself). Rather than just doing the run for fun, we decided to dedicate our run to Marcus, and undertake a fundraising event for ‘A Friend’s Place’. The response from our friends was amazing, and we are so pleased that by doing this we have been able to raise awareness and much needed funds for the centre. The support Holly receives is truly amazing, and the fun and caring environment of her group sessions means she looks forward to coming every fortnight and is navigating her way into life by carrying her grief in a way she can now manage.”

– Cheryl

Cheryl and Holly raised \$1500 for the NCCG in the 2018 Blackmore’s Sydney Running Festival. We were incredibly grateful for their support and touched by all those who willingly gave to support these two, and in turn the NCCG.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Better Homes and Gardens

In January this year, we had the wonderful opportunity to have the Better Homes and Gardens team come and redecorate one of our kids counselling rooms. 'A Friend's Place' was turned into both a recording studio and a workshop for a number of days. The Better Homes and Gardens team were exceptional. They were very interested and respectful of the work that we do with bereaved children and their families. They genuinely wanted to produce a space that would enhance the counselling experience for hurting children. The final result was a beautiful, whimsical room that the kids just love. It is now the most popular counselling room for both children and counsellors and is in constant use. The episode was aired on Friday, May 3, and we have had lots of positive feedback following this, including people offering to volunteer for us and bereaved people reaching out to us for help. Our deepest thanks to the Better Homes and Gardens team for making this possible.



OUR SUPPORTERS

John & Holly

"Just over 9 years ago I lost my wife and the mother of my 2 children Holly & Sam who were 12 & 10 at the time. We spent several years with the National Centre for Childhood Grief at the 'A Friends Place' at Eastwood. Tough times but hopefully we all move forward in a positive way when something like this occurs. The picture above is of Holly recently graduating from University as an Interior Designer – (and a very proud father). Difficult to put into words what you have done for us and certainly never forgotten."

OUR SUPPORTERS

Staff Engagement





A close-up photograph of a child's hands writing on a worksheet. The child is holding a red pencil with white polka dots. The worksheet has a grid with numbers and lines for writing. The child is wearing a blue and white striped shirt. The background is blurred, showing a wooden desk and some other items.

03

Governance

GOVERNANCE

Governance

Organisation Management

The NCCG is managed by our Clinical Director and Board Member, Dr Elizabeth Mann. Dr Mann is a qualified General Practitioner and specialist bereavement counsellor. Our Board is comprised of corporate business, legal, accounting, research and clinical professionals, who meet eight times each year. A finance subcommittee meets at regular intervals between Board meetings to refine, implement and evaluate the outcomes of our fundraising strategy.

- Graduated with an NCCG Post Graduate Diploma in Counselling Bereaved Children and/or Adults.
- Maintained a current 'Working with Children' check.
- A current first aid certificate.
- Participated in monthly clinical supervision (individual and group) facilitated by Dianne McKissock OAM and Dr Elizabeth Mann.
- Participated in a minimum of 20 hours of professional development training annually.

- Undertaken child protection training – In June, the Board approved the adoption of the following revised policies: Code of Conduct, Child Protection Policy and Complaints Handling Policy. Training on child protection issues was also provided to staff when the new policies were implemented, with future refresher training scheduled periodically.

Bereavement Counselling Faculty

The NCCG's current case load is managed by a team of specially trained bereavement counsellors. To specialise in this area and to work at the NCCG, all counsellors must have:

- A tertiary qualification in social work, counselling or psychology.
- Attended the NCCG's accredited training courses, including the 'Core Course in Bereavement Counselling', the 'Working with Bereaved Children' and/or 'Working with Bereaved Adults' programs.



GOVERNANCE

Our People

Board Members



Robert McRobbie
CHAIR

Division Director of Legal, Commodities and Global Markets Group
Macquarie Group
LLB (UNSW), BA(Pol&EnLit) (UQ),
MSocSci (PolSci) (UQ).



Andrew Marchant
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chief Investment Officer
Minchin Moore Private Wealth Advisers
BComm(AccFin) (UON), GradDipAppFin
(SIA) GradDipFinPl (SIA), Portfolio
Mgt (SIA).



Dr Elizabeth Mann
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Clinical Director
National Centre for Childhood Grief
MBBS (USyd),
PostGradDipCoun (InstCoun),
PostGradDipBereaveCouns(Adults/
Children) (BCC), PACFA.



Dr Heidi Coupland
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Public Health Researcher in Drug
Health Services
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
BAppSc(OT) (USyd), MPH (UNSW),
PhD (UNSW).



Mark Steinberg
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chief Executive Officer
First Sentier Investors
Chartered Accountant, BComm
(HonsAcc) (University Witwatersrand),
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered
Accountants (ANZ), Member of FINSIA.



Emmanuelle Delannoy
NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Division Director
Macquarie Group
BA in Mathematics and German
Studies (Cornell University), MBA and
MA (International Studies) (Lauder
Institute at University of Pennsylvania).



Patrons

Dianne McKissock OAM, Mal McKissock OAM

Bereavement Counsellors & Support Workers

Scott Andrews, Mary Ashton, Nick Backo, Belinda Dunn, Wendy Grant, Kerri Hamer, Elizabeth (Betsy) Hill, Carolyn Johns, Emmanuel (Manny) Kassiotis, Johanna (Joke) Klein-Van Exel, Lillian (Lil) Markovic, Ada Stanton

Operations Staff

Annette Gurr, Valda Tucker, Natalie Hartley

A photograph of two children, a girl and a boy, sitting on a wooden bench and looking away from the camera towards a green field and a line of trees. The girl has brown hair in a ponytail with a red bow. The boy has brown hair and is wearing a blue and red scarf. In the foreground, below the bench, are several colorful bags, including one with a cartoon character and a party hat.

04

Financials

FINANCIALS

Directors' Report

Your directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 30th June 2019.

Directors

The names of directors in office at the date of this report and during the financial year are as follows:

E. Mann
A. Marchant
R. McRobbie
M. Steinberg
H. Coupland
E. Delannoy

Principal Activity

To develop and maintain a centre of Clinical Excellence to ensure that all bereaved children in NSW and eventually Australia, have access to appropriate support as they grieve, and to provide training and support for those who care for them.

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

Operation Results

The net profit after providing for income tax amounted to \$32,346.06 (2018 \$34,639.72 Loss).

Dividends Paid or Recommended

The directors are prohibited from payment of dividends pursuant to the company's Constitution.

Review of Operations

Financial Year 2019 was another successful year for the Centre. In addition to regular counselling services, we continued the successful Peter Coupland Adventure weekends, with two of these weekends held during the year, one for boys and one for girls. We also hosted an inaugural family weekend which was very well received.

Thank you to all our donors this year including Third Link Investment Managers, St George Foundation, Turks Legal, Macquarie Group Foundation, Thyne Reid Foundation, Merck, Greater Charitable Foundation, John T Reid Charitable Trusts, CommBank

Foundation, The Golden Stave, First Foundation, IMB Bank Community Foundation, MACPAC, ncjwa NSW, Rotary Club of Eastwood-Gladesville, The Growth Project, Better Homes and Gardens, City of Ryde, Intersource and a number of private individuals who made donations. We receive very little government funding and your support is integral to the viability of the charity.

We continue to provide a much needed and highly valued counselling service and this is mainly due to our skilled counsellors and support staff, and the Board would like to thank them for their work.

Significant Changes in State of Affairs

No significant change in the state of affairs of the company occurred during the financial year.

After Balance Date Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those

operations or the state of affairs of the company in financial years subsequent to the financial year ended 30th June 2019.

Likely Development

We expect our counselling services to be in high demand this coming year and the consequential demand on our finances to be draining. As a charity that relies on donations, we will continue our fundraising activities with increased vigour.

Indemnifying Officers or Auditors

The company has not, during or since the financial year, in respect of any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company or of a related body corporate:

indemnified or made any relevant agreement for indemnifying against liability, including costs and expenses in successfully defending legal proceedings; or

paid or agreed to pay a premium in respect of a contract insuring against a liability for the costs or expenses to defend legal proceedings..

Directors' Meetings

The number of directors' meeting held, and directors' attendance at those meetings during the financial year is recorded as follows:


	Attended	No. of Meetings Held
Mark Steinberg	6	7
Andrew Marchant	6	7
Robert McRobbie	7	7
Elizabeth Mann	7	7
Emmanuelle Delannoy	6	7
Heidi Coupland	7	7

Environmental Issues

The company's operations are not subject to environmental regulation under the law of the Commonwealth and State.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors made pursuant to s298(2) of the Corporations Act 2001.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director: 
Robert McRobbie

Date: 18 February 2020

FINANCIALS

Auditor's Independence Declaration

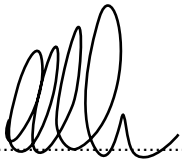
Under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To the directors of National Centre for Childhood Grief Australia Limited.

In relation to our audit of the financial report of National Centre for Childhood Grief Australia Limited for the year ended 30 June 2019, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit: and
- (b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

MOSER BLAND & CO



.....
C. S. Moser
Partner
Chartered Accountant

Date: 28 February 2020

Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Income		
Counselling Revenue	93,488	42,908
Donations Received	367,268	383,965
Grants Received	198,146	20,000
Interest Received	3,388	4,388
Merchandise Sales	40,952	20,565
Sundry Income	-	34
Training Course Sales	41,009	27,282
	744,251	499,142
Expenses		
Auditor's Remuneration	10,205	10,150
Bank Charges	495	2,039
Cleaning & Gardening	5,241	5,759
Clinical Programs & Events	25,347	9,600
Counselling Materials	3,677	1,028
Counselling Services (BCC)	28,800	27,273
Counsellors' Fees	6,000	1,750
Depreciation	2,859	1,587
Employment Expenses	2,560	-
Fundraising Expenses	36,011	4,296
General Expenses	897	1,353

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Expenses (continued)		
Insurance	11,374	6,658
Interest Paid	69	8
Internet & Website Expenses	391	1,320
Light, Power & Rates	3,368	3,997
Meeting Costs	5,952	6,462
Postage & Freight	2,477	501
Printing & Stationery	27,239	14,146
Professional Development	1,500	107
Purchases - Merchandise	20,471	11,840
Recruitment Expenses	-	761
Rent	37,542	37,021
Repairs & Maintenance	2,763	1,764
Salaries & Wages	422,490	338,762
Staff Amenities	546	1,342
Subscriptions	3,188	3,529
Superannuation Contributions	40,137	32,182
Telephone & Teleconferences	4,322	3,440
Training Costs	5,985	5,107
	711,905	533,782
Net profit / (loss)	32,346	(34,640)
Retained earnings at the beginning of the year	-	-
Transfer from Reserves	(32,346)	34,640
Retained earnings the end of the year	-	-

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	499,358	451,785
Trade and other receivables	4	13,627	13,562
Total current assets		512,985	465,347
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	5,641	1,508
Total non-current assets		5,641	1,508
Total assets		518,626	466,855
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	71,442	52,017
Total current liabilities		71,442	52,017
Total liabilities		71,442	52,017
NET ASSETS		447,184	414,838
Equity			
Gift Fund		447,184	414,838
TOTAL EQUITY		447,184	414,838

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

As at 30 June 2019

	Note	2018 (\$)	2017(\$)
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:			
Receipts from operating activities:			
Donations Received		367,268	383,965
Counselling Revenue		93,488	42,908
Grants Received		198,146	20,000
Interest received		3,388	4,388
Training Course Sales		41,009	27,282
Merchandise Sales		40,952	20,564
Sundry income		-	35
Payments for operating activities		(689,685)	(528,901)
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities	1	54,566	(29,759)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(6,993)	(941)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held		47,573	(30,700)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		451,785	482,485
Cash at the End of the Financial Year	2	499,358	451,785

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

As at 30 June 2019

	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows		
NOTE 1. Reconciliation of Net Cash provided by Operating Activities to Operating (loss) after income tax	32,346	(34,640)
Non Cash Flows in Operating Profit:		
Depreciation and Amortisation of Property, Plant & Equipment	2,859	1,587
Changes in Assets & Liabilities:		
Decrease (Increase) in receivables	(65)	3,370
Increase (Decrease) in creditors	19,425	(76)
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Operating Activities	54,566	(29,759)
 NOTE 2. Reconciliation Of Cash For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash and at call deposits with banks, and investments in money market instruments, net of bank overdrafts. Cash at the end of financial year 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	499,358	451,785

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2019

The financial statements cover the business of National Centre for Childhood Grief Australia Limited and have been prepared to meet the needs of stakeholders and to assist in the preparation of the tax return.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1. Basis of preparation

The company is non-reporting since there are unlikely to be any users who would rely on the general purpose financial statements.

The special purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies described below and do not comply with any Australian Accounting Standards unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the business is entitled to it.

Interest revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2019

Rendering of services

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the services can be measured reliably. If this is the case then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period.

If the outcome cannot be reliably measured then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

Other

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the company is entitled to it.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises 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.

	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
3. Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on Hand	151	686
Moser Bland & Co Trust Account	37,251	4,684
Westpac Banking Corporation - Cheque Account	269,318	136,622
Westpac Banking Corporation - Project Account	408	407
ING - Business Optimiser	184,736	271,444
Paypal Account	7,374	27,942
IMB Grant - Young Adults	120	10,000
	499,358	451,785

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
4. Trade and other receivables		
Current		
Trade Debtors	13,627	13,562
	13,627	13,562
5. Property, plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment		
Furniture & Fittings, at Cost	20,480	13,487
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(14,839)	(11,979)
	5,641	1,508
	5,641	1,508
6. Trade and other payables		
Current		
Other Creditors & Accruals	71,442	52,017
	71,442	52,017
7. Reserves		
Gift Fund		
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	414,838	449,478
Transfer to (from) Gift Fund	32,346	(34,640)
	447,184	414,838

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
8. Retained Earnings		
(Net loss) attributable to members of the company	32,346	(34,640)
Transfer from/(to) Reserves	(32,346)	34,640
Retained Earnings at the end of the financial year	-	-

9. Related Party Transactions

Directors:

The names of directors who have held office during the financial year are:
R. McRobbie, M. Steinberg, E. Mann, A. Marchant, H. Coupland, E. Delannoy

No directors were entitled to receive any remuneration during the financial year.

10. Segment Reporting

The company operates predominantly in one industry. The principal activity of the company is to develop and maintain a centre of Clinical Excellence to ensure that all bereaved children in NSW and eventually Australia, have access to appropriate support as they grieve, and to provide training and support for those who care for them.

The company operates predominantly in one geographical area, being NSW, Australia.

11. Financial Instruments

The company has no exposure to interest rate risk.

12. Company Details

The registered office of the company is:

Moser Bland & Co.
Level 10, 31 market Street
Sydney NSW 2000

The principal place of business is:

14 Hollis Avenue
Eastwood NSW 2212

FINANCIALS

Director's Declaration

The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 6, present fairly the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements; and
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable..

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the board of directors.

Director:



Robert McRobbie

Date:

18 February 2020

FINANCIALS

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CHILDHOOD GRIEF AUSTRALIA LIMITED (A Company Limited by Guarantee), (the company) which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2019, the income statement 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 director's declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the company is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the director of the company, would be in the same terms if given to the director as at the time of this auditors' report.

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

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 for the purpose of fulfilling the director’s financial reporting responsibilities under the Corporations Act 2001. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Director’s for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and is appropriate to meet the needs of users. The directors’ responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the company’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors’ Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors’ report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

Name of Firm: Moser Bland & Co
Chartered Accountants

Name of Partner: 
Christopher Shedden Moser

Address: Suite 1001 Level 10 31 Market Street Sydney NSW 2000

Date: 28 February 2020

Highlights 2018-19



750+

Children's Counselling
Sessions



41.5% ↑

Individual Counselling
Sessions from 2017/18



5,900+

Resources purchased



1

New Grief Publication
by Dianne McKissock OAM



10% ↑

in Counselling Resources



2,000+

Volunteer Hours