

Search Light Inc. Annual Report 2015-16



Our Vision

Enriching lives, empowering people, fulfilling potential.

Our Mission

Search Light Inc., through support and education, nurtures and enhances the lives of children, young people and families enabling them to participate fully in the social, cultural and economic life of the community.

Our Crèche

The Crèche welcomes our community's children and families. We imagine a space where educators and families open the world of learning and discovery to children by responding to their questions and explorations. We look forward to making a difference in the lives of families and children in our care, and in turn, making contributions of the landscape of early childhood educations.

Our Committee

Jenny Medland

Chairperson

Nicola Free

Treasurer

Elizabeth Mackenzie

Secretary

Vicki Lomax

Deputy-Chair

Deb Ribinskas

Executive Committee member



Chairperson, Jenny Medland



2015 was a special year for Search Light Inc. It was as if, like the young children we care for at the crèche, we had grown up and moved on to something bigger and better but more challenging.

This year the crèche has introduced the mothers and children to a new program called “Bringing Up Great Kids.” It is a Parenting Program, developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation in collaboration the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The program is underpinned by a philosophy of promoting and supporting respectful, caring and nurturing relationships between parents and their children. Parents and carers are encouraged to become more reflective and mindful in their parenting approach.

During the year we attended an Awards Ceremony at Purga, where Hymba Yumba now runs a second Campus on Indigenous land.

On the day the school awarded prizes, sold paintings by students in a silent auction, and sold prints. After the event Search Light Inc. exhibited the paintings and sold prints on our new website.

A huge thank you and congratulations to Search Light Inc. committee members, for all the good work done in 2015. We again thank our funders: the Australian Government Department of Social Services, the Australian Government Department of Education and Training , the Sidney Myer Fund, Transurban, and the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. We also have a very generous private donor, Helen Ashdown, who supports us each year.



Financial Summary

Treasurer, Nicola Free



2015/16 was another busy year for Search Light Inc. The Federal Government announced proposed changes to legislation relating to child care under the new the *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package. We are working closely with the Australian Government Department of Education and Training to align our operations to the new arrangements.

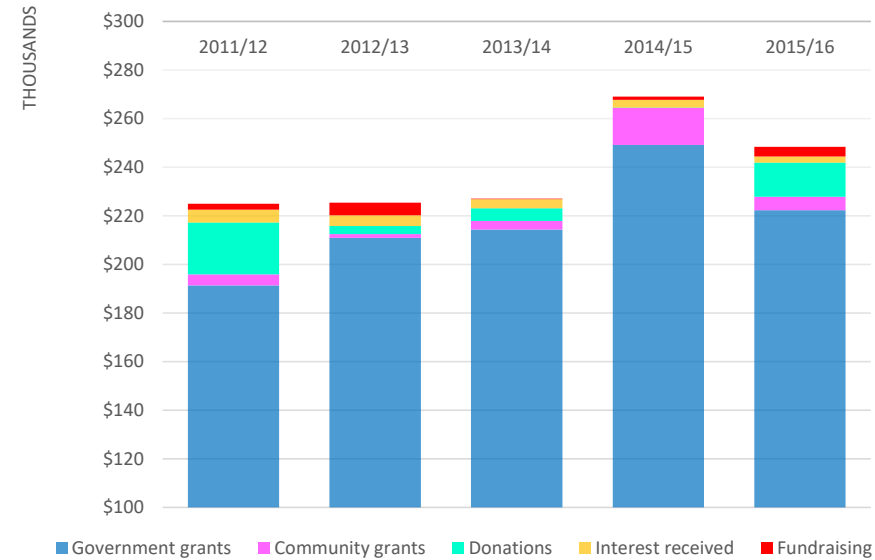
In 2015/16 our expenditure exceeded our income by \$11,894. This is mainly due to community grant funding received in 2014/15 for the Parenting Program that was expensed in 2015/16 and higher staffing costs due to an increased demand to provide school transport for student mothers and their children.

\$3,921 was raised for Carinity Education – Southside through an exhibition of student art held at the Brisbane Multicultural Arts Centre.

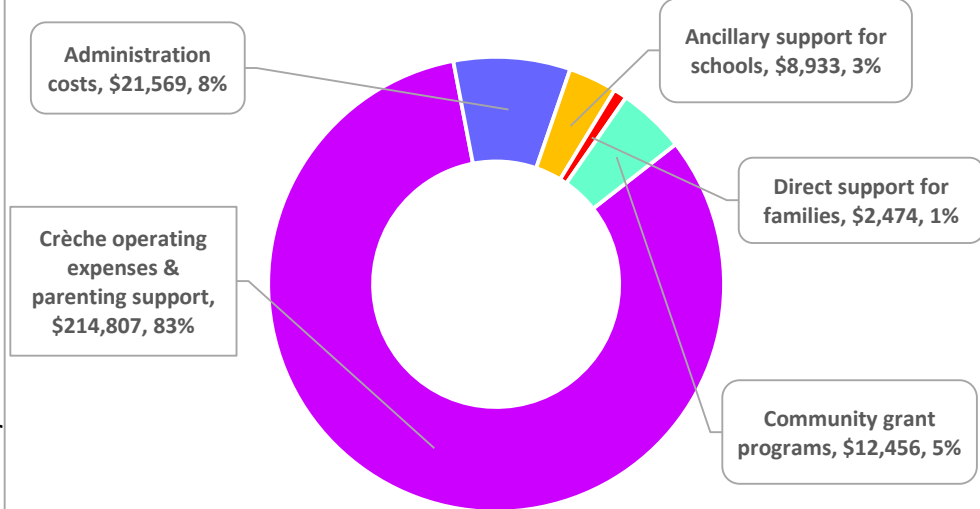
We contributed \$1,000 towards the publishing costs for a Poetry book launched at the Art Show and a further \$1,000 to the establishment of the Pathways to a Positive Future project, supporting students in successfully transitioning to work or further study.

Thank you to Arabon Accounting and Financial Services for the high quality, value for money services they provide to us each year. It was wonderful to see the team from Arabon at our fundraising event at BEMAC this year.

Income



Expenditure 2015/16



2015/16 Parenting Program activities & key outcomes

Bringing Up Great Kids

By the Australian Childhood Foundation

This year we partnered with Applied Learning Techniques to deliver the evidence based parenting program, Bringing up Great Kids.

This innovative approach to parenting uses mindful reflection to support parents to:

- review and enhance their patterns of communication with their children;
- promote more respectful interactions; and,
- encourage the development of children's positive self-identity.

The young mothers have been actively involved in the sessions, asking questions and extending conversations. They have shared heart-warming stories about how the course has had a positive effect on their interactions with their children.

The Australian Childhood Foundation offers a range of free parenting resources on their website. www.bringingupgreatkids.org

Peer Support Group

The Peer Support Group meets once a month on a Wednesday at the crèche. Young mothers come together to share stories and experiences about parenting and relationships with other young women who can relate to their situation. The mothers all have a close bond due to all being in a similar situation. Most of them often say to us that it's a place free of judgement and they feel safe to be themselves.



Southside Family Centre and Crèche – 2015/16

2015/16 has been one of our biggest years yet in terms of new enrolments and regular attendance.

22 young mothers and 27 children and babies attended the crèche during 2015/16. This included 8 Indigenous families and 10 families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Transport has also kept us busy this year with an increased demand for transportation to and from the crèche each day.

New life at the crèche

The chicken hatching program was a very popular activity this year. Over the course of 2 weeks the children got to watch the seemingly lifeless eggs crack open and see fully developed baby chicks emerge. They were awed by the amazing transformation from weak, damp newborns, into fluffy active chicks! The program was also popular with the students at the school and the staff. We have never had so many visitors!

Other activities

- Reading program
- Cooking program with Year 10 students
- Puppet show with Year 8 students
- Easter bonnet parade
- Mothers Day stall
- Gardening and composting
- 'Boppin Babies' music therapy program



Mission statement and philosophy

During the mid year school holidays we took the opportunity to review and update our mission statement and philosophy. The new mission statement and philosophy can be viewed at: <http://www.searchlightinc.org.au/what-we-do/southside-family-centre-and-creche/>

2015/16 Key Projects

Key projects:

- **Student transport – funded by Transurban**

- Many of the children and young people we support struggle to access education and support services due to lack of suitable transportation. This year we were successful in securing community grant funding through Transurban to establish the Student Transport project. The objectives of the project are to:
 - Provide transport assistance for senior students completing studies off campus or undertaking school based apprenticeships and traineeships
 - Remove barriers to education by providing free transport for young mothers and their children to and from school and the crèche

- **Art Show & Poetry book launch**

- In October 2015 we assisted Carinity Education – Southside to hold an exhibition of student art at the Brisbane Multicultural Arts Centre at Kangaroo Point.
- It was a wonderful night including a live auction and guest speaker Dale Spender
- Journalist Kathleen Noonan launched a collection of poetry, prose and art presented in a beautiful book called '*Memories....lost but not forgotten*'.



What else did we do?

We donated \$1,000 to Carinity Education – Southside to establish the **Pathways to a Positive Future** project.

We participated in the Early Childhood Australia Reconciliation Symposium

We donated \$500 to Hymba Yumba to support families dealing with Sorry Business

We assisted a family with medical expenses

We attended the Hymba Yumba Embedding Indigenous Knowledge and Fundraising Auction opened by **His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland**

We contributed \$1,000 towards the printing costs for the Carinity Education – Southside poetry book

Our staff participated in 242 hours of professional development

We implemented a Food Safety Program

Thank you to our supporters

- Australian Government Dept. of Education
- Australian Government Dept. of Social Services
- Anglicare
- Arabon Accounting & Financial Services
- Brisbane Circle
- Brisbane City Council
- Foodbank
- GIVIT
- Helen Ashdown
- Inala Indigenous Health Clinic
- Justice Berna Collier
- National Council of Women, Qld
- Opportunet
- Tony Free Photography
- Transurban

For more information about Search Light Inc.

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