



Little Dreamers Annual Report 2014 - 2015

www.littledreamers.org.au



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Little Dreamers Australia Incorporated acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to past, present and future elders.

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Little Dreamers Australia believes in a world where young people who are put in the position of caring for people in their family with a serious illness or disability have someone to care for them.

Find out more at
littledreamers.org.au

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Letter from Little Dreamers CEO, Madeleine Buchner

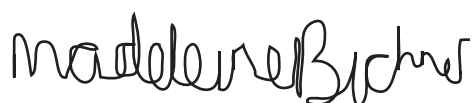
Little Dreamers has seen big growth in the past year and I am incredibly excited about the future of this organisation.

Throughout the past 12 months we have launched the very first Young Carers Festival in Australia, made the Dreams come true for over 40 Young Carers and positively impacted the lives of over 250 kids by raising awareness and connecting them to a network of other Young Carers, people who understand what they are going through and what the challenges can be.

I was honoured to be accepted into the 2015 cohort of the Young Social Pioneers Program facilitated by Foundation for Young Australians. This program gave me the opportunity to finetune the Little Dreamers programs, begin to develop impact measures for the organisation and improve upon my pitching skills. Within this program I was able to meet 50 other young people from around Australia who have been running or are in the process of developing their own businesses and 'for good' organisations. I am very excited about what opportunities can come out of being connected to a network like this one.

The 2015-2016 year for Little Dreamers looks very bright with prospects for new partnerships, opportunities for program development and new innovative ways to raise money and awareness for Australia's 420,000 Young Carers.

May all your dreams and wishes come true!



Madeleine



Little
Dreamers

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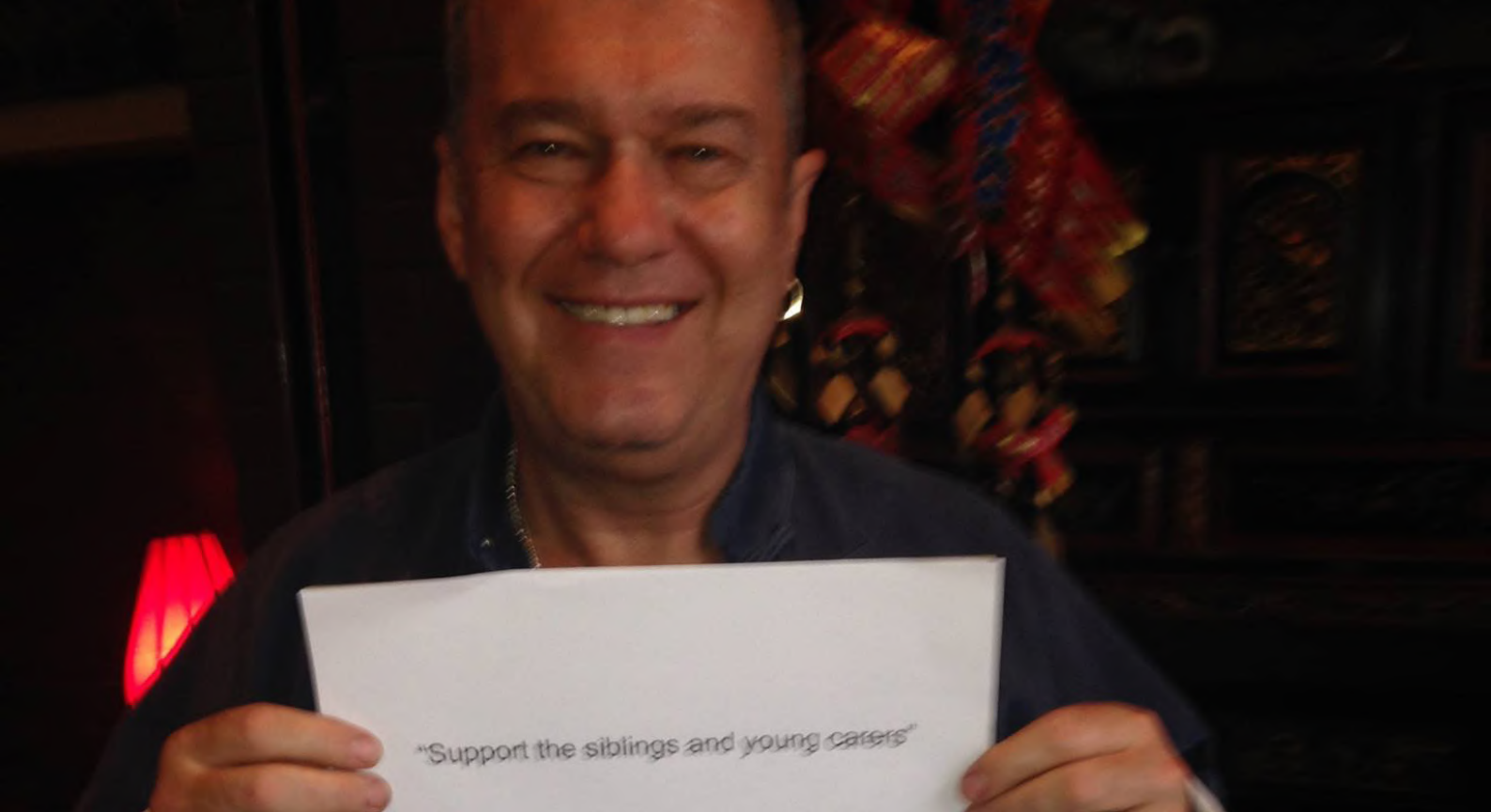
THE DREAM COACHING PLATFORM

Madeleine Buchner



fya.org.au

Research and Strategy



Young Carer Research

1 IN 10 PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 25 IN AUSTRALIA ARE YOUNG CARERS

Majority of Young Carers in Australia are between the ages of 10-13 years however some have been found to be as young as 6 years old. These young people usually care for 6 hours per day for up to 14 years of their life.

YOUNG CARERS OFTEN STRUGGLE TO COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION JOURNEY

It is understood that 96% of 15-25 year old Primary Young Carers have dropped out/not continued their education compared to 77% of the general population in this age group. This is often due to challenges getting to school, difficulty engaging with others at school, inability to have someone else care for their family member while they're at school and poverty e.g. the inability to pay for school uniforms and textbooks.

YOUNG CARERS USUALLY COME FROM FINANCIALLY DISADVANTAGED HOUSEHOLDS

In Australia, 2 of the most financially vulnerable groups within the community are families where a member has an illness or disability and sole parent families. As many Young Carers live in families that fit into both of these groups it has been argued that they make up "one of the most vulnerable and financially disadvantaged groups in Australian Society" (Carers Australia, 2002)

THERE ARE MANY HEALTH AND WELLBEING ISSUES THAT IMPACT UPON YOUNG CARERS

Young Carers can face increased Physical risks due to improper/incorrect lifting of family members. Their mental health can be impacted due to poor psychosocial development, low self-esteem and unresolved feelings of fear, worry, sadness, anger, resentment and guilt. Young Carers often feel alienated and isolated due to their caring roles, sometimes leading to poor psychosocial development and difficulty developing meaningful relationships.



Strategy

DREAM EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Provides opportunities for Young Carers to participate in an activity that they have not been able to organise or afford due to their home circumstances.

Examples of these include running onto the ground with your favourite AFL team, hot air balloon rides, concert tickets, girls day out and more.



YOUNG CARERS FESTIVAL

Rewarding the contribution of Young Carers in the community. The festival recognises their efforts by providing a free fun-filled day for Young Carers and their families whilst also providing support information.

Through this event we also seek to raise awareness in the community.



In the Media



The Age, September 2014
 Young Carers Festival



774 ABC Radio, September 2014
 Young Carers Festival



Weekend Sunrise, May 2015
 24-hour Dance Marathon Fundraiser



The Australian Jewish News,
 May 2015
 24-hour Dance Marathon
 Fundraiser



Our Programs



Dream Experience Program

40 Dreams were granted during 2014 - 2015. This was an increase of +30% from 2013-2014.

This increase can be attributed to the growing profile of Little Dreamers especially with the inaugural Young Carers Festival. A Dream Coordinator volunteer was brought on in 2015 which helped to process the Dream Experiences faster and advertise for the program.

The Dream Experiences granted in 2014-2015 included:

- Running onto the MCG with the Gold Coast Suns AFL Team
- Girls Day Out with Hair, Makeup and Limousine
- Luna Park Adventures
- Horse Riding Camps
- Go Karting in Phillip Island
- Theme Park Experience in QLD

The impact for the Dream Experience Program is measured through qualitative responses in a survey received following the Dream Experience. In 2015-2016 this impact measurement method will be reviewed to ensure that the responses received are useful for further development and growth of the program.



Young Carers Festival

September 2014 saw our Australia's first Young Carers Festival pioneered by Little Dreamers. This Festival was run in partnership with Carers Victoria at the Melbourne Meat Market in North Melbourne. The aim of this Festival was to thank Young Carers for the work they put in every day and raise awareness about the Young Carer community in Victoria.

The Festival had over 250 attendees participate in a number of activities including:

- Silent Disco
- Arts and Crafts
- Petting Zoo
- Cooking
- Badge Making
- Blender Bikes
- Storytelling
- and more...

The Festival assisted to raise the Little Dreamers profile, increasing our social media following by +150%. We were featured in 4 different forms of media in the lead up to the Festival and received 15 new Dream Experience Applications. The Festival was received positively with fantastic feedback from parents. The Festival is set to be run again in October 2015 with the aim to further increase attendance and raise awareness about Young Carers.



Our Team



The Team

Little Dreamers Australia Incorporated is an Incorporated Association, under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. Little Dreamers is also a Registered Charity with the *Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission* with DGR1 Status. Responsibility for the organisation's financial viability, legal requirements and ensuring that the association's purposes are achieved lie with Little Dreamers' Committee of Management.

Special responsibilities of the Little Dreamers Committee of Management:

- Developing Little Dreamers' strategic direction and ensuring it is consistent with the vision for the organisation
- Approving the annual financial plans and budget
- Giving authority to enter into legal agreements
- Assisting with building the public awareness of Little Dreamers and developing key relationships with external organisations
- Helping with fundraising strategies
- Evaluating Little Dreamers performance each year using appropriate evaluation mechanisms
- Appointing appropriate people to the Committee of Management
- Reviewing Little Dreamers' governance structures, policies and processes as required
- Annually reviewing, ratifying and reporting on systems of risk management, internal compliance and control, codes of conduct and legal compliance

These responsibilities are set out in detail in Little Dreamers' Board Terms of Reference which can be provided upon request.

The Team

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

- Madeleine Buchner - President
- Tony Aarons - Vice-President
- Simon Buchner - Treasurer
- Lisa Buchner - Secretary
- Trevor Givoni
- Karl David
- Michael Short

DAILY MANAGEMENT TEAM

Madeleine Buchner - CEO

Nicole Anderson - Dream Coordinator

VOLUNTEERS

- Mahalia Dobson
- Amelia Swain
- Lucy Pollard
- Jake Boxer
- Charlie Buchner
- Gabby Recht
- Claudia Iacovangelo
- Owen Walker
- Isobel Lyon



Financials



Financials

When putting together the financials for 2014-2015 we had a volunteer bookkeeper come to help us out during the year and after she had finished entering items our Treasurer and team did not check thoroughly enough before closing off the year. For the 2015/2016 financial year we will be moving to a new cloud based accounting software and we will be much more stringent in reporting requirements. Below you will see some explanations of the entries that have been recorded incorrectly.

The overall profit, loss and cash flow numbers are correct.

1/ What does supplies cover?

Supplies covered a lot of items from the 2014 Carers Festival. To cover these costs Little Dreamers received private donations and funding from Carers Victoria.

2/ Were concert tickets for dreams? If so, what does the dreams entry cover?

Concert tickets were for Dreams and should have been included as Dreams and listed as a separate Job for each Dream. This is the same as for point 8 below – Cinema Tickets

3/ Why are late fees so high?

There was an incorrect entry here. This was actually Public Liability insurance, not late fees.

4/ What was the marketing expense?

\$720 of the Marketing Expense was made up of a \$300 printing cost and \$420 for a cash withdrawal from Australia Post prior to the Carers Festival in September 2014.

The \$420 should have been listed as Petty cash rather than a marketing expense as it would have been used for smaller purchases and a float for the carers Festival.

5/ What was the travel and entertainment, and how does that differ from the separate item of transport?

Again there was an incorrect entry made here. \$847 (incl. GST) was for a payment made to a performance group called Cultural Infusion. They were mandated to us by Carers Victoria and was including in the funding received from Carers Victoria.

This is different to transport was predominantly made up of van hireage for transport of items to and from the Carers Festival.

6/ Why are bank fees so high on such a relatively small account?

Again unfortunately a mistake. \$300 of the Bank Fees should have been listed as a payment made to Steven Johnston for providing Airbrush Tattoos at the Carers Festival.

The Merchant Fees of \$36.30 per month were listed separately and stopped in approximately December 2014 when we were able to get out of the Merchant contract with Bendigo Bank.

7/ Why was stationary so high?

Stationary includes printing for Dream Forms, ink & paper for the office printer and many small purchases during the year, however I do agree with you that it is a little high and must be controlled in the future.

8/ Were cinema tickets part of the dream? If so, why are they a separate item?

See point 2 above

Little Dreamers Australia Pty Ltd

513 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2014 through June 2015

11/09/2015

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4-0000	Income		
4-1000	Donations	\$11,640.96	
4-9990	Tax	\$471.00	
4-9999	Withdraw	-\$200.00	
	Total Income		\$11,911.96
			<hr/>
5-0000	Cost of Sales		
	Gross Profit		\$11,911.96
			<hr/>
6-0000	Expenses		
6-1100	Supplies	\$4,082.68	
6-1105	Concert Tickets	\$814.58	
6-1111	Dreams	\$1,419.86	
6-1120	Marketing Expense	\$794.63	
6-1350	Stationery	\$601.43	
6-1400	Equipment Rental Expense	\$385.00	
6-1600	Insurance	\$172.89	
6-1700	Late Fees Paid	\$2,001.87	
6-1800	Legal & Accounting	\$422.20	
6-2000	Employment Expenses		
6-2050	Other Employer Expenses	\$44.20	
	Total Employment Expenses	\$44.20	
6-2100	Postage & Shipping	\$4.30	
6-2450	Internet Expenses	\$109.44	
6-2500	Travel & Entertainment	\$770.00	
6-2710	Bank Fees	\$364.11	
6-2715	Merchant Fees	\$257.34	
6-9990	Cinema Tickets	\$91.00	
6-9999	Transport	\$483.34	
	Total Expenses		\$12,818.87
			<hr/>
	Operating Profit		-\$906.91
			<hr/>
8-0000	Other Income		
8-1000	Interest Income	-\$2.87	
	Total Other Income		-\$2.87
			<hr/>
9-0000	Other Expenses		
	Net Surplus / (Deficit)		-\$909.78
			<hr/>

Little Dreamers Australia Pty Ltd
513 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield

Statement of Cash Flow

July 2014 through June 2015

11/09/2015
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Cash Flow from Operating Activities

Net Income	- \$909.78	
2-1330 GST Paid	- \$811.98	
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		- \$1,721.76
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		\$0.00
Cash Flow from Financing Activities		
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		\$0.00
Net Increase/Decrease for the period		- \$1,721.76
Cash at the Beginning of the period		\$5,256.24
Cash at the End of the period		\$3,534.48

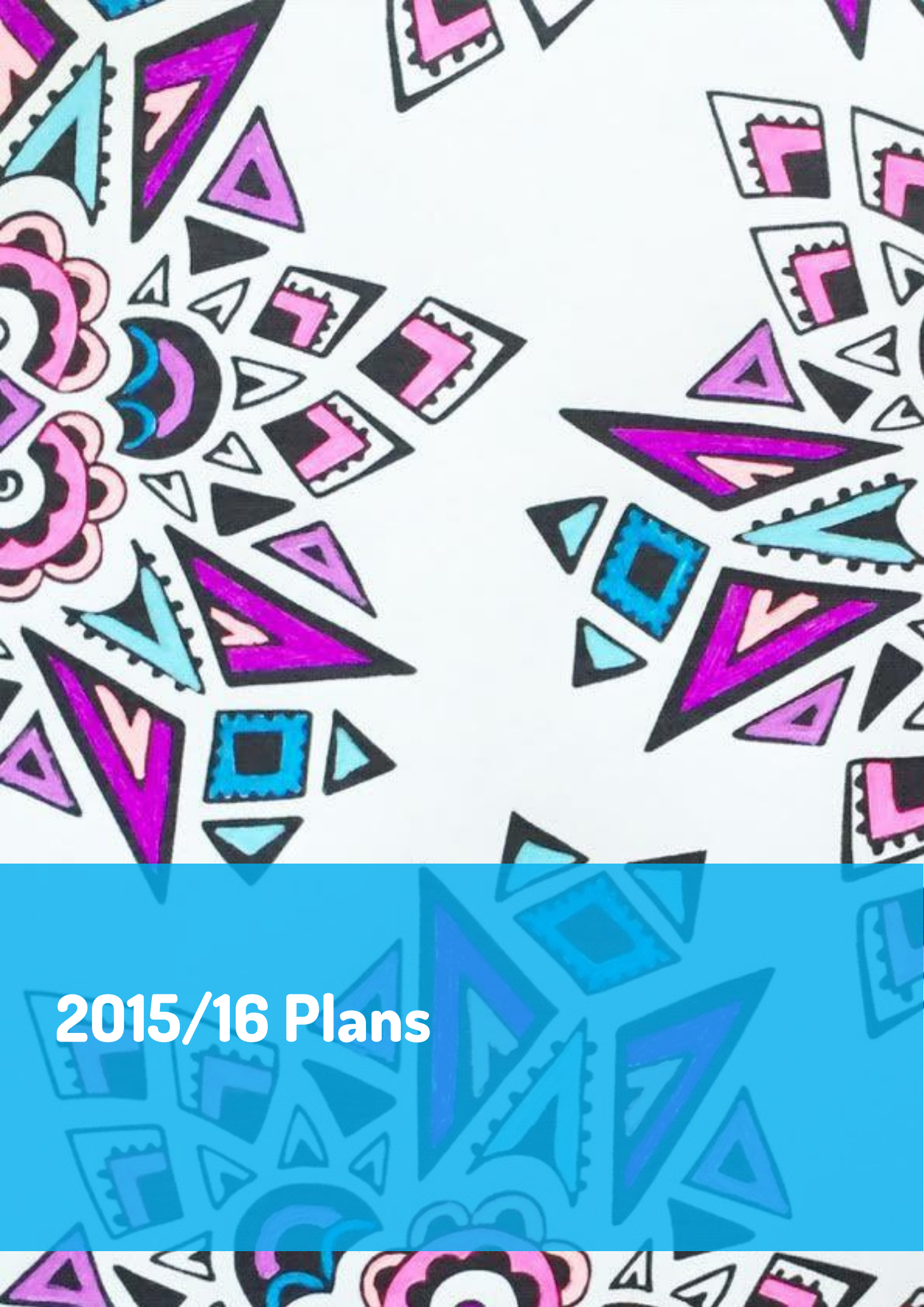
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513 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield

Balance Sheet

As of June 2015

11/09/2015
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1-0000	Assets			
1-1000	Current Assets			
1-1100	Cash On Hand			
1-1110	Cheque Account	\$3,534.48		
	Total Cash On Hand		\$3,534.48	
	Total Current Assets			\$3,534.48
1-3000	Property & Equipment			
1-3200	Motor Vehicles			
1-3250	Office Equipment	\$35.45		
	Total Motor Vehicles		\$35.45	
1-3300	Furniture & Fixtures			
1-3310	Furniture & Fixtures at Cost	\$166.32		
	Total Furniture & Fixtures		\$166.32	
	Total Property & Equipment			\$201.77
	Total Assets			\$3,736.25
2-0000	Liabilities			
2-1000	Current Liabilities			
2-1300	GST Liabilities			
2-1310	GST Collected	\$663.71		
2-1330	GST Paid	-\$4,862.43		
	Total GST Liabilities		-\$4,198.72	
	Total Current Liabilities			-\$4,198.72
	Total Liabilities			-\$4,198.72
	Net Assets			\$7,934.97
3-0000	Equity			
3-8000	Retained Earnings		\$8,844.75	
3-9000	Current Year Surplus/Deficit		-\$909.78	
	Total Equity			\$7,934.97



2015/16 Plans



DREAM COACHING PLATFORM

The Dream Coaching Platform is an online support group run by Young Carers for Young Carers. Featuring a forum, resource library, inspirational stories and a chill out zone, The Dream Coaching Platform aims to improve social connectedness and reduce the prevalence of mental illness.

Our impact for this program is measured by regular mental health surveys, assessments by psychologists and tracking the active use of resources.



DAY DREAM SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The Day Dream Program is a new school holiday program developed for young carers accompanying their sibling who are sick in hospital or attending doctors appointments often over the school holidays.

Our impact for this program is measured by qualitative feedback forms from both parents and children and the number of young carers that attend the program.



It is important for Little Dreamers to become a sustainable organisation to ensure that more time can be put into supporting Young Carers and less time into applying for grants and sourcing ongoing funding.

Happy Kids Publishing is the revenue arm of Little Dreamers promoting education as a form of early intervention to help kids understand chronic illness, mental illness and disability.

Launching two books in 2016 will see Little Dreamers get started on raising independent revenue with the aim of expanding Happy Kids in the future.

MY BROTHER IS SICK AGAIN

This beautiful storybook tells the story of Hannah, 9 and her brother Alex, 6. Alex is in and out of hospital a lot and Hannah doesn't understand why. Hannah does a lot to help out around the house including pouring out Alex's medication, ensuring that he always has his teddy bear and his blanket and helping to calm him down when he gets anxious.

Based on a true story, Hannah grows up wanting to be a doctor so that she can help out other kids just like her brother. This book explores the frustrations Hannah faces when all of the attention is constantly on her brother and her parents and she wonders why no one seems to care about her.

This story book is the first in a series of books about different health conditions including Elliot has Epilepsy, Amelia has Asthma, Darcy has Diabetes and more. On sale for \$15 in Community Organisations, Hospitals, Schools, Bookshops and online this book is fantastic at explaining what it is like to be a Young Carer from a young age.

COLOUR IT WITH HAPPINESS COLOURING BOOK

Designed by Melbourne textile designer Hayley Lauren (10k+ followers on Instagram), this book is an A5 interactive colouring book designed to clear the mind and soothe the soul. This book features 32 colouring in pages each within the Little Dreamers theme and is for sale for \$15 through independent stores, Bookshops, Hospitals and Online.



www.littledreamers.org.au

info@littledreamersonline.com

0433 818 212



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