



Assistance Dogs
Australia®

Giving Freedom & Independence

ASSISTANCE DOGS AUSTRALIA®
ANNUAL REPORT 2017



OUR MISSION

**Giving freedom and independence
to people living with disabilities**

THE BOARD

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The Governor-General, His Excellency General
the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (RETD)

COVER PHOTO:

In November 2013, Sarah Jane went for a routine surgery to fix a bulging disk in her back and woke up a quadriplegic. Before surgery, this brave lady's life was filled with adventure and adrenalin. Now SJ, as she likes to be called, has Cossie to trot by her side and share her excitement of the natural world and the wonders it has to offer.

RIGHT: *Photo by The Gehrmanns*



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As the President and Chairman of the Board of the Assistance Dogs Australia I have many opportunities to witness the wonderful work that is accomplished by our dedicated team.

In the past year there have been many success stories – our new animal assisted intervention program for children with Autism, our work with service personnel and first responders living with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and our Educational Support Dogs in 12 schools across Australia, just to name a few.

All of these activities have led to the continued growth of our supporter base and community awareness of Assistance Dogs Australia.

We have welcomed new sponsors like QBE, The Rydge Foundation and Owen Miller Foundation and enjoyed the continued support of long term advocates such as Discount Drug Stores, Colonial First State and Scentre Group who have all taken up the opportunity to sponsor our programs and support the creation of our infrastructure.

We were fortunate to see 32 dogs graduate over the year with a phenomenal success rate of 92% of the puppies which entered our program graduating as Assistance Dogs.

At the same time we welcomed forty new Assistance Dog puppies into the program which means that we will be able to train, place a similar number of Assistance Dogs to people with disabilities in the coming year.

Our corporate volunteer network has grown, with organisations such as QBE, Event Hospitality, Bupa and PKF taking up the challenge and assisting at our annual

graduation events in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. These events continue to provide great opportunities for a diverse audience to witness how a trained Assistance Dog can provide much needed support to someone with a disability, as well as providing companionship and improving confidence and freedom.

I anticipate that in the coming year Assistance Dogs Australia will experience even greater growth in all areas including marketing, fundraising and corporate sponsorship which will mean that we can increase the freedom and independence of even more people with disabilities by providing them with a fully trained Assistance Dog.

I am also pleased to announce that over the past 12 months we have gained a number of new enthusiastic directors who have each rolled their sleeves up and have worked tirelessly to support our staff and set the strategic direction for Assistance Dogs. As volunteers, our directors join our volunteer army of puppy educators, event and administrative helpers without whom we could not achieve our amazing results.

And finally, I would like to thank our dedicated staff led by Top Dog, Richard Lord, National Programs Manager and resident dog whisperer, Alberto Alvarez-Campos, Head of Individual Giving, Adrian Mitchell and Administration Manager, Erika Spicer. These people and each member of their teams have worked extremely hard throughout the year with limited resources to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

• **Rowan McDonald** PRESIDENT

TOP DOG'S REPORT



The achievements of Assistance Dogs Australia over the past financial year have made me incredibly proud. This small charity manages, every year, to exceed my expectations in continuing to transform the lives of Australians with disabilities.

We have had an exciting year with the official launch of our pilot Animal Assisted Intervention program providing occupational therapy to 75 families with children with autism using an assistance dog as motivation for gross and fine motor skills. This program sponsored by the Scentre Group and overseen by Sydney University will launch a whole field of dog use in clinical situations.

Our PAWS (Parents Autism Workshops and Support) continued rolling out the workshops across the country helping over two hundred and eighty families see the positive benefits that a well-trained dog can bring to a child with autism.

Our Dogs 4 Dementia pilot program in collaboration with the federally funded HammondCare has proved valuable for the twelve couples, one living with early onset dementia in keeping them in their own home as long as possible.

The Pups in Prison program in the S.E. QLD correctional centre continues to be a win/win situation for all involved – the correctional centres and staff, community volunteers, and the inmates whose self-confidence and communication skills dramatically improve when they participate in the program. This very positive program has enabled us to train and socialise many more pups.

Volunteers have again been integral in assisting us achieve our goals. The dedicated office volunteers, the enthusiastic network of puppy educators, and sitters who selflessly give up their time to raise and train puppies, the corporate volunteers who assist at our annual fundraising events and of course our board members who set direction and ensure the transparent governance of our organisation.

“Thank you to all of you for your efforts and hard work in helping us reach our objectives.”

As you may be aware Assistance Dogs Australia receives no government funding and is totally reliant on the generosity of the general public, corporates and philanthropic organisations. Thank you to all those generous individuals and families who have supported Assistance Dogs Australia through donations, the sponsor a puppy program and or through leaving a bequest to help secure our future. I would like to also thank all our corporate and philanthropic foundations who have supported our work so generously over the past 12 months.

The Assistance Dogs Australia staff remain devoted to helping our clients through working tirelessly in all areas to ensure we can place an even greater number of Assistance Dogs in the coming year. Seeing the difference an Assistance Dog makes to someone is a fantastic and rewarding experience. With your help we aim to place many more Assistance Dogs into the future.

• **Richard Lord** TOP DOG



2017 WAS A LIFE-CHANGING YEAR...

34

**INDIVIDUALS
& THEIR FAMILIES**

had their lives transformed

**94% OF
TRAINED DOGS
WERE PLACED
SUCCESSFULLY**

75

CHILDREN

benefited from our ground-breaking Autism Animal-Assisted Intervention Therapy program

98

FAMILIES

received support through PAWS (Parents Autism Workshops and Support)

REAL LIFE SUCCESS STORIES

HOW A BEAUTIFUL, BOUNCY, CLEVER DOG

is turning a little boy's
world around...



Life has well and truly changed for seven year old Rook, who has Autism. These days, he wants to tell the whole world about the special dog who is responsible for his new-found happiness and confidence. Rook's dad Adam says, "Rook is opening up and talking to people he never would have before. He loves telling anyone who will listen, 'My name is Rook, this is Turbo. He is my dog'."

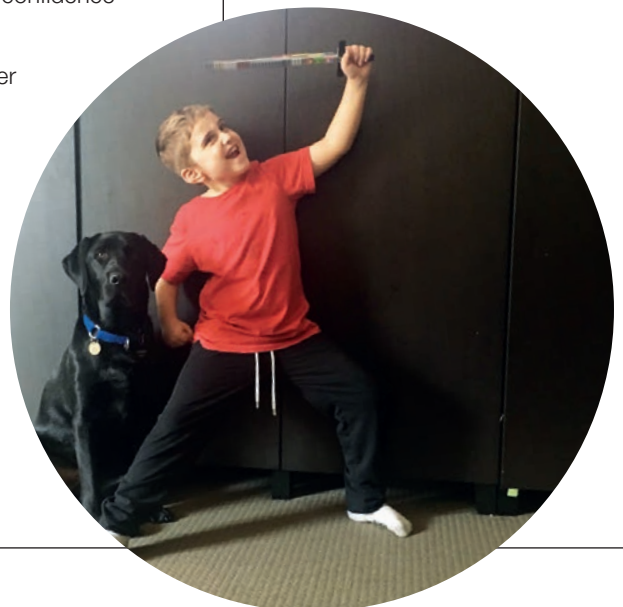
Other children don't want to play with Rook, and he often feels very alone. Now a big black Labrador with bags of personality is his best friend. The pair run around chasing each other, as the sound of laughter rings out from the garden.

For many people, a trip to the cinema is a normal part of happy, family life but, before Turbo's arrival, an outing to the movies was unthinkable for Rook and his parents. Recently, with Turbo by his side, the whole family were able to go and see Spiderman at the cinema and stay until the very end. Instead of running up and down the aisles after 15 minutes, Rook stayed focused. Turbo lay curled up by his feet.

Another life-changing development is that Rook hasn't had a single nightmare since Turbo joined the family. Thanks to Turbo, Rook slept all through the night for the first time ever. We think that's a pretty amazing achievement! Imagine the impact this has had on not only Rook, but on mum Kate and Adam too.

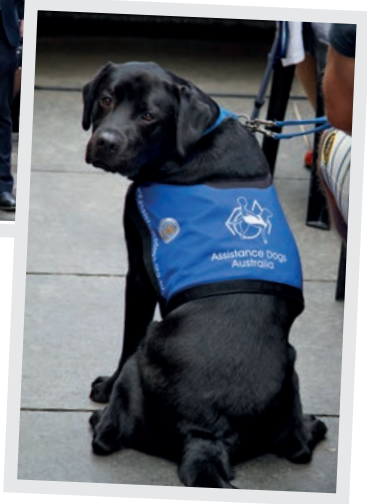
Rook's job is to feed Turbo. Kate says, "We still have to remind him of what to do, but essentially he does it. Rook loves this. It makes him feel he is responsible for another living being and his confidence levels have soared."

So a beautiful, bouncy, clever dog is turning a little boy's world around. Now life is Turbo-charged!





"IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS MEANT TO BE, AS IF WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN EACH OTHER"



Canine LIFE-SAVER



Like many people living with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Andrew was a man struggling with everyday life. He served in the military for 15 years, twice in East Timor — until PTSD mental health issues forced him to retire.

Simple daily activities that most of us take for granted were causing him untold pain and anxiety and his family life was disintegrating. At 42 years old, for this husband and father of three children, the future was looking bleak and hopeless.

For Andrew, having Benji means everything has changed. He helps with Andrew's anxieties of being out in public and has reduced his feelings of anger and aggression. The settling-in period literally happened from the moment this bouncy ball of fur bounded through the front door. Andrew recalls: "When Benji arrived at our home, he was wagging his tail. My wife opened the front door to let us in and from that moment on, he has been a part of our family. The assimilation was immediate and he was welcomed with open arms by my children — they love him so much."

The pair go everywhere together — for walks, to the shops, to Andrew's appointments at the doctor, psychologist, psychiatrist and physio. Andrew smiles happily: "We are always together and I wouldn't have it any other way."

Andrew's frankness is disarming and incredibly moving. "My marriage was being pushed to its limits but now Benji is in our lives, my wife and I are able to talk more easily. My wife has said that I have become a lot calmer and even the kids have noticed the difference. I have been laughing more often, too, something that I had lost. Benji came into our lives just when we needed him the most and it feels like it was meant to be, as if we've always known each other."

Assistance Dogs Australia Limited

ABN: 90 074 746 160

Statement of Financial Position**30 June 2017**

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	3,092,927	2,626,178
Trade and other receivables	7	194,731	126,971
Inventories		15,250	33,054
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>3,302,908</u>	2,786,203
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	2,705,774	2,613,406
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2,705,774</u>	2,613,406
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>6,008,682</u>	5,399,609
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	354,372	176,377
Short-term provisions	10	174,340	140,461
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>528,712</u>	316,838
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>528,712</u>	316,838
NET ASSETS		<u>5,479,970</u>	5,082,771
EQUITY			
Issued capital		1,196,387	1,196,387
Members' building fund		3,846,971	3,491,621
Accumulated funds		436,612	394,763
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>5,479,970</u>	5,082,771

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Assistance Dogs Australia Limited
 ABN: 90 074 746 160

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Accumulated funds	Contributed Equity	Members Building Fund	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2016	394,763	1,196,387	3,491,621	5,082,771
Surplus for the year	397,199	-	-	397,199
Transfer to Members' Building Fund	(355,350)	-	355,350	-
Balance at 30 June 2017	436,612	1,196,387	3,846,971	5,479,970
Balance at 1 July 2015	163,600	1,196,387	3,159,164	4,519,151
Surplus for the year	563,620	-	-	563,620
Transfer to Members' Building Fund	(332,457)	-	332,457	-
Balance at 30 June 2016	394,763	1,196,387	3,491,621	5,082,771

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Assistance Dogs Australia Limited

ABN: 90 074 746 160

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers	7,137,800	5,674,856
Payments to suppliers and employees	(6,562,216)	(5,184,430)
Interest received	71,352	83,088
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>646,936</u>	<u>573,514</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(180,187)	(2,195,469)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(180,187)</u>	<u>(2,195,469)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	466,749	(1,621,955)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>2,626,178</u>	4,248,133
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6 <u><u>3,092,927</u></u>	<u><u>2,626,178</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Assistance Dogs Australia Limited

ABN: 90 074 746 160

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
3 Revenue and Other Income		
Revenue from continuing operations		
Fundraising Activities		
- Bequests	1,132,469	332,457
- Donations, grants and sponsorships	5,867,804	4,907,565
- Fundraising events & merchandise	70,715	103,193
	<u>7,070,988</u>	<u>5,343,215</u>
Other income		
- Interest income	71,352	62,362
	<u>71,352</u>	<u>62,362</u>
Total Revenue	<u><u>7,142,340</u></u>	<u><u>5,405,577</u></u>
4 Result for the Year		
The result for the year includes the following specific expenses:		
Other expenses:		
Advertising and promotion	33,359	7,413
Bank charges and credit card expenses	58,142	40,231
Computer database and website expenses	130,632	98,042
Consultancy	49,761	69,622
Education program	30,617	11,276
Pet transport	5,527	17,445
Puppy raising program	29,209	36,701
Insurance	12,842	6,701
Rent and property expenses	108,815	107,871
Miscellaneous expenses	29,207	36,814
Motor vehicle expenses	16,724	11,868
Printing postage and stationery	16,961	25,812
Subscriptions, licences and legal fees	17,381	13,588
Telephone, fax and internet	36,047	33,375
Training and veterinary expenses	95,128	120,134
Travel	88,052	100,602
	<u>758,404</u>	<u>737,495</u>
Employee benefits expense		
Wages	1,636,620	1,301,626
Other employment expenses	66,400	68,992
Superannuation	145,100	114,380
	<u>1,848,120</u>	<u>1,484,998</u>
Audit Services		
Audit Services have been provided by PKF on a pro bono basis.		



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Assistance Dogs Australia continues to grow in to a burgeoning organisation with many opportunities ahead backed by our ever increasing professionalism and capacity to serve our clients' needs.

We extend a warm and sincere thank you to our Assistance Dogs Australia family of supporters who keep the wheels of our organisation turning, enabling us to provide positive outcomes for people living with disabilities throughout Australia. Your wonderful support truly changes lives and we could not do what we do without you.

We thank our tireless volunteers who provide their valuable skills, experience, patience and time to assist training dogs, help at events, and lend a helping hand with administration tasks.

We rely on you all so much and appreciate all you do.

To our committed supporters, donors and Sponsor a Puppy regular donors, you keep the wheels moving with your support, enabling us to provide freedom and independence to people with disabilities.

Thank you also to our corporate supporters and philanthropic supporters who believe in our work and provide generous support as well as staff engagement with many areas of our work.

Assistance Dogs Australia does not receive any government funding and as a small charity see ourselves as the 'underdog' charity, small but mighty, and with you behind us we can achieve even more in the year ahead.

Thank you.



Leave a gift in your Will to Assistance Dogs Australia® and leave a lasting legacy

By leaving a gift in your Will to Assistance Dogs Australia you can help improve the lives of people living with severe disabilities. Making a bequest is a simple way you can help Assistance Dogs.

Every Assistance Dog costs over \$35,000 and takes around two years to train. This covers all puppy training, food, veterinary care, kennelling and placement and follow up care. Assistance Dogs are placed free of charge to their new disabled owner.

Assistance Dogs Australia is a nationwide charity and we rely on the generosity of Australians through donations and bequests to carry out our vital work for the community. We do not receive government funding.

Bequests can be made to 'Assistance Dogs Australia Limited'. For a copy of our bequest booklet or to discuss leaving a gift in your Will, please contact the Fundraising Manager:

ASSISTANCE DOGS AUSTRALIA®
 PO Box 503, Surry Hills NSW 2010, Australia
 Toll Free: 1800 688 364 Fax: 02 9699 1171
 info@assistedogs.org.au
 assistedogs.org.au



ABOVE: Photo by The Gehrmanns

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

ACME FOUNDATION

ADVANTAGE
PETCARE

Allianz

The Allport
Bequest

AUSTRALIAN
COMMUNITIES
FOUNDATION

Australian Government
Stronger Communities

Australian
Super

ANZ Staff
Foundation



Canon
CANON MEDICAL SYSTEMS ANZ PTY LIMITED



CLAYTON UTZ



Club
ENGADINE

ClubGRANTS

Colonial
First State
Global Asset Management



DISCOUNT DRUG STORES
more than just low prices

EMORGO
Foundation

EVENT
HOSPITALITY & ENTERTAINMENT
EST. 1910



Goldie Knight
Foundation

THE GOOD GUYS
DISCOUNT WAREHOUSES



Gregory Patrick & Delorus
Marie Farrell Foundation

J&M Wright
Foundation

McLeod Family
Foundation

Office of Liquor
Gaming and
Regulations QLD

Owen Miller
Foundation

PKF

The QBE
Foundation

Quicksuper

rsi RESPONSE SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL TRUST

RYDGES
HOTELS • RESORTS

Suitters
Foundation

SCENTRE GROUP
Owner and Operator of Westfield in Australia and New Zealand

Spinifex
Trust

Steadfast
FOUNDATION

War Widows
Guild of Victoria



THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL TRUST
Helping Australians in need since 1912
THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
Supporting medical research and those with health related problems

William
Angliss Trust

We extend our heartfelt thanks for the following bequests in the last financial year:

Estate of the Late Allan Ronald Hoy · Estate of the Late Beth Lorraine Grainger · Estate of the Late Edna Elizabeth Steele
Estate of the Late Ellen Susan Olsen · Estate of the Late Gwendolyn Muriel Allis · Estate of the late John Lindsay Stewart
Estate of the late Joyce K Betz · Estate of the Late Julie Ann White · Estate of the Late June Allison Henderson
Estate of the Late Kerry Ann Coombs · Estate of the Late Patricia Huntley · Estate of the Late Elizabeth Maxa
Estate of the Late Roger Mountain · Estate of the Late Alexander Eberlein · Estate of the Late Olive Esme Branz
Estate of the Late Vivienne Margaret Yates · Mr Peter Vodicka · Yeh Family Bequest



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