

**Assistance Dogs
Australia®**

Giving Freedom & Independence

ASSISTANCE DOGS AUSTRALIA® ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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: Ruby and Hope

Hope was placed with Ruby in April 2018 in WA. Hope is a constant companion for Ruby, she can often be seen quietly lying nearby as Ruby works hard at completing her therapy sessions.

Ruby is determined to be part of everything life has to offer and Hope has given her a new found confidence to achieve this. Before Hope entered the home Ruby wouldn't go into the backyard alone, now they can both be seen regularly enjoying the sunshine on the grass together.

Hope was sponsored by the Billie Kinder Foundation.

RIGHT: *Photo by The Gehrmanns*





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PRESIDENT AND CEO REPORT



Thanks to supporters like you, 2017-18 was a year full of newfound independence, inclusion and dignity for children, ex servicemen, first responders and adults with disabilities. Assistance Dogs Australia placed 32 assistance dogs free of charge, while maintaining a graduate team success rate of over 97%. It appeared as though nothing could stop us from smashing our record of top quality placements.

It takes nearly 20,000 donors, puppy raisers and other volunteers to provide our services at no cost to our recipients. We thank you for your partnership with us. Our commitment to serve more people, while ever-improving the quality of our services, has necessitated strategic planning to grow and scale all facets of our organization. In 2018 we:

- Upgraded our dog health and welfare centre
- Bred 40 puppies
- Employed a psychologist to enhance our service to clients
- Trained staff in Mental Health First Aid
- Developed a Puppy Enrichment Area
- Delivered four PAWS (parents autism workshop support) programs
- Delivered four PTSD Assist programs
- Held graduations in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

That wouldn't have been possible without hundreds of amazing puppy educators and supporters who were loyal to this life-changing mission. Assistance Dogs Australia also supported over 100 teams to ensure successful partnerships between clients and their assistance dogs. Our professional trainers provided advice and guidance to teams throughout the country.

Additionally, our animal assisted intervention program has provided 500 clinical occupational therapy sessions to children and young adults living with autism. I look forward to updating you in the future on this vital new program.

We continue to evaluate opportunities to enhance our programs, including the need for a new National Training School in Western Sydney. We've made great strides in planning and gaining support for this important project.

We are the first and largest provider of assistance dogs for people with physical and developmental disabilities. With hundreds of applications coming in every year, demand is still greater than we can currently serve. In a united effort to build capacity, our community of supporters is essential.

Thank you for giving the gift of independence to individuals with a range of disabilities.

- **Rowan McDonald** **PRESIDENT**
- **Richard Lord** **CEO**

WHO ARE WE?

Founded in 1996, Assistance Dogs Australia trains and places unique dogs with Australians in unique situations. We currently train dogs that specialise in support for people living with a physical disability, autism or PTSD.

Our free-to-client assistance dogs provide independence, self-esteem, improved health and relationships to individuals and families - resulting in stronger and more successful communities.

It takes two years to train and costs over \$35,000 to provide a qualified assistance dog. As we receive no government funding, we rely solely on the generosity and philanthropy of individuals and organisations.

In 2006 Assistance Dogs Australia became the first organisation in the Southern Hemisphere to be accredited by Assistance Dogs International. We have been re-accredited every five years since. We have also been recognised as an accredited supplier of service dogs by Qld, SA and WA state governments.

Puppies are trained with the help of volunteer puppy raisers in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and the Gold Coast or through our innovative Pups in Prison, a training program that has operated for over 17 years in 10 correctional centres and two juvenile justice centres.

WHAT DO WE DO?

For over 22 years, we have been training and placing very special dogs with Australians with physical disabilities such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, and those injured in serious accidents. The benefits are immediate and impactful, reducing stress and isolation for individuals and their families, while improving relationships and allowing our clients to save much-needed money on paid care.

Clients with our dogs are more likely to venture out of the house with their buddy, increasing their physical activity and often reducing reliance on medication. Physical disability dogs lower taxpayer costs to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and help people with disabilities participate more actively in their community, stimulating the economy and



OUR SPECIAL DOGS
HAVE A HABIT OF
BRINGING FAMILIES
BACK TOGETHER



helping to educate the public about their very special companion.

The introduction of our PAWS (Parents Autism Workshops Support) program has brought together parents of children with autism, to share experiences and explore the potential that a assistance dog can bring within the family.

Autism is a persistent developmental disorder, evident from early childhood, that affects almost 1 in every 150 Australian children. True to our pioneering nature, Assistance Dogs Australia has been on the front line of training and placing dogs with children with autism in Australia.

Once placed with their new assistance dog, children with autism show remarkable improvement across social, verbal and cognitive skills, as well as the ability to learn routines and structures that aid development, communication and community interaction.

One of the most rewarding elements is the impact our dogs have on the entire family. Often siblings of children with disabilities suffer stress and isolation from other family members, but our very special dogs have a habit of bringing families back together, providing often much needed companionship, improved sleep, peace of mind and stability for the entire household.



**"PTSD SERVICE
DOGS UNDERGO A
UNIQUE TRAINING
PLACEMENT"**

Our assistance dogs are also being trained to help returned servicemen and first responders who are living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). PTSD is a mental disorder that can develop after exposure to a traumatic event. It is disproportionately prevalent in Australian first-responders such as firefighters, police officers and the military personnel. PTSD is characterised by severe anxiety, leading to isolation and an inability to work and interact with others/the community at large.

Once placed with their new assistance dog, PTSD sufferers become less anxious and begin to feel they can take on the world again! In numerous cases, assistance dogs have been directly attributed to suicide prevention for many of these brave men and women, something we can all be thankful for.

The social benefits of providing a path back into society for these incredible people are enormous. Families are able to function again, individuals are able to work or stimulate the economy through economic and social interaction and, through the power of education and storytelling, they are helping inform the community at large of this very serious condition.

Our service dogs can be trained to provide a combination of physical task-oriented and emotional support to assist their owner and help them to overcome fears.

The dogs undergo a unique training placement, where they are trained to work with the very individual and specific needs of the client, in particular detecting signals of anxiety, or a certain 'trigger'. Upon sensing their owner's trigger, the dog is trained to perform a specific cue to help alleviate the symptoms of this trigger, for example, engaging in eye contact and body contact to comfort their owner and divert their attention.

Educational support dogs can be a fantastic addition to any learning environment. The dogs can provide support to students in a number of ways, including offering emotional support, recognising signs of anxiety, and helping improve concentration and communication skills as well as reducing the incidence of antisocial behaviour and bullying. We currently have 14 dogs in schools throughout Australia.

This financial year Assistance Dogs Australia began a pilot Animal-Assisted Intervention Therapy program with an assistance dog (and its trainer) involved in all sessions as the primary therapeutic tool. Part of this program is an exciting Australian first: a research project in collaboration with The University of Sydney to look at outcomes of a therapeutic program with children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) using trained assistance dogs.

Sessions are play-based, with interventions divided into 3 areas:

1. Self-care (dressing, grooming, eating) eg. preparing food for and feeding the assistance dog, brushing the assistance dog's coat and dressing the assistance dog.
2. Play (imaginative, creative, structured, musical, interactive), eg. tug-of-war, fetch, doga (yoga with a dog!), animal hospital and emotion charades.
3. Productivity (social skills, gross/fine motor skills, organisation/planning), eg. obstacle course, video modelling and social scripts.

Our occupational therapist can tailor interventions to participants' specific needs, and can use the Assistance Dog as an active participant in therapy or as a calming influence for the participant. Reports developed by the University of Sydney students will be submitted for publication in relevant peer reviewed journals, disseminating the study results nationally and internationally.

WHAT'S NEW?



300

CLIENT
SUPPORT VISITS
WERE MADE

64

FAMILIES

attended Puppy
Educator Information
Sessions

32

PUPPY EDUCATION
CLASSES HELD

40

PUPPIES
WHEPLED

2018 WAS A LIFE-CHANGING YEAR...



28
INDIVIDUALS
& THEIR FAMILIES
had their lives
transformed

97% OF
TRAINED DOGS
WERE PLACED
SUCCESSFULLY

60
CHILDREN

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

65
FAMILIES

received support
through PAWS (Parents Autism
Workshops and Support)

WHO DO WE HELP?

REAL LIFE SUCCESS STORIES

A BRAVE NEW WORLD

Kaleb is a 15-year-old young man living with autism. His family felt they were running out of options to improve their son's future. Then along came Ganan...

Kaleb's family were the sole Puppy Educators of Ganan as a young pup. Kaleb's mum Emma explains how her confused, frustrated son was previously self-harming; something that stopped very shortly after Ganan joined the household. This allowed Kaleb to attend school for full days for the first time. His teachers reported that Kaleb's attitude had completely changed at school, while the family also joyfully observed the same transformation at home.

This was no coincidence — once Ganan left for his Advanced Training at our National Training School in Sydney, it was apparent just how huge an impact he had been having on Kaleb. Without Ganan, the teen immediately went downhill, returning to self-harm and withdrawing completely at school and home, due to his high levels of anxiety. And so began a terrible time for everyone: numerous days at school were missed, and there were frequent trips to the hospital with police escorts. Kaleb refused to leave the house and, as a last resort, the upsetting decision was made to sedate him full-time. This was obviously not something any parent wants to do, but the family were running out of options to keep him and others safe.

Fast forward to today and a much happier time! Who would have thought a dog could do so much for a whole family? Emma says: "The most important thing for all of us is Ganan's ability to reduce Kaleb's overall anxiety. It's as if he's a different boy. Ganan is always by his side and they do everything together."

Emma explains: "My daughter Bindi also has Autism. Years of sleep therapists and psychologists couldn't get her to sleep in her own room because she was so terrified. But Ganan can! Since he returned, she has been sleeping in her bed with her 'protector'.

"We are all so very much in love with him. We thank our lucky stars every day that we have him. Kaleb has even spoken in front of a few different groups of people about Ganan and is now applying for jobs. From a boy who wouldn't leave the house, and was in hospital every few days, to a happy young man who is going out into the world and living life!"





"HE'S A
PART OF OUR
FAMILY NOW"



Charlie's calming presence GIVES A FAMILY A FRESH START



Matt was a man struggling with PTSD. He served in the NSW police force for 16 years — until PTSD mental health issues forced him to retire, reluctantly, in 2010. Matt became a recluse, unable to cope with unfamiliar places, and revisiting the same three locations again and again. "I would become hyper-vigilant, anxious and wound up, so I would get done what I had to quickly, and just go home."

At 42 years old, this husband and father of two children felt the quality of his life had deteriorated to a point of hopelessness. Until Charlie came along...

Charlie is naturally a very affectionate dog, who adores human contact and is always offering lots of love. These qualities proved to be deciding factors in his placement as a PTSD Assistance Dog. He goes everywhere with Matt now, not liking to ever be far from his side. They love going to the beach together and playing ball. They also go caravanning together and Charlie has his own bunk bed, even though he doesn't stay in it too long because he prefers lying next to Matt.

For Matt, having Charlie means everything has changed. The world has opened up for someone who used to shy away from going out and interacting with society. Family outings are no longer unthinkable. Matt says: "I was recently in the Sydney CBD with Charlie and my family. It was a Saturday with loads of people everywhere. Although it was hard and my anxiety levels were very high, I got through it by concentrating on Charlie, stopping and spending time with him. I would never have even attempted this before."

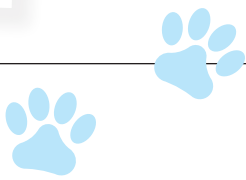
Matt has just embarked on a brand new venture — He Brews Mobile Café. Of course, Charlie will be partnering him in the coffee van business and accompanying him on each run. And all this from a man who once avoided social interaction! But Charlie's magic has not just impacted upon one person. Matt says: "The family love him, as do all our friends. He's a part of our family now. He comes to church with us and half the people say hello to him before me!"



With thanks to Bernasconi Photography, Sydney Pet Photography, Perfect Paws, Portraits With Purpose



HELPING PEOPLE
every day!



Assistance Dogs Australia Limited

ABN: 90 074 746 160

**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018**

		2018	2017
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	3	6,619,684	7,142,340
Cost of fundraising and promotional items		(2,801,868)	(4,050,799)
Employee benefits expense	4	(2,027,968)	(1,848,120)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(94,993)	(87,818)
Other expenses	4	(681,958)	(758,404)
Surplus before income tax		1,012,897	397,199
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus for the year		1,012,897	397,199
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,012,897	397,199

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements, as part of the full financial report available on the Assistance Dogs Australia website www.assistedogs.org.au/about-us/annual-reports/

Assistance Dogs Australia Limited

ABN: 90 074 746 160

Statement of Financial Position**30 June 2018**

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	3,873,257	3,092,927
Trade and other receivables	7	105,338	210,942
Inventories		46,013	15,250
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		4,024,608	3,319,119
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	3,014,920	2,705,774
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		3,014,920	2,705,774
TOTAL ASSETS		7,039,528	6,024,893
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	187,629	370,583
Short-term provisions	11	210,782	174,340
Other liabilities	10	148,250	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		546,661	544,923
TOTAL LIABILITIES		546,661	544,923
NET ASSETS		6,492,867	5,479,970
EQUITY			
Issued capital		1,196,387	1,196,387
Members' building fund		4,439,819	3,846,971
Accumulated funds		856,661	436,612
TOTAL EQUITY		6,492,867	5,479,970

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements, as part of the full financial report available on the Assistance Dogs Australia website www.assistancedogs.org.au/about-us/annual-reports/

Assistance Dogs Australia Limited
 ABN: 90 074 746 160

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	Accumulated funds	Contributed Equity	Members Building Fund	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2017	436,612	1,196,387	3,846,971	5,479,970
Surplus for the year	1,012,897	-	-	1,012,897
Transfer to Members' Building Fund	(592,848)	-	592,848	-
Balance at 30 June 2018	856,661	1,196,387	4,439,819	6,492,867
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)	-	335,350	(20,000)
Balance at 30 June 2017	436,612	1,196,387	3,826,971	5,459,970

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements, as part of the full financial report available on the Assistance Dogs Australia website www.assistedogs.org.au/about-us/annual-reports/

Assistance Dogs Australia Limited

ABN: 90 074 746 160

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers	6,591,233	7,137,800
Payments to suppliers and employees	(5,456,573)	(6,562,216)
Interest received	49,809	71,352
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,184,469	646,936
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(404,139)	(180,187)
Net cash used in investing activities	(404,139)	(180,187)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held	780,330	466,749
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3,092,927	2,626,178
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	3,873,257	3,092,927

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements, as part of the full financial report available on the Assistance Dogs Australia website www.assistancedogs.org.au/about-us/annual-reports/



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ASSISTANCE DOGS AUSTRALIA LIMITED

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Assistance Dogs Australia (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 September 2017 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with 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 believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Directors 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 in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the directors determine is 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.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. 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 auditor's 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 Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individual or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report (cont'd)

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

A handwritten version of the PKF logo in black ink, located below the printed PKF logo.

PKF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'STobutt', located below the printed name.

SCOTT TOBUTT
PARTNER

4TH FEBRUARY 2019
SYDNEY, NSW



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Assistance Dogs Australia continues to grow in capacity to serve our clients' needs.

We extend a warm and sincere thank you to our 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 enable us to provide freedom and independence to people with disabilities.

Thank you also to our corporate 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

ASSISTANCE DOGS AUSTRALIA®
GIVING FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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 455 Engadine 2233 Australia

Toll Free: **1800 688 364** Fax: **02 9699 1171**

info@assistedogs.org.au

assistedogs.org.au



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

ACME FOUNDATION

Allianz

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION

Australian Government
Stronger Communities

Australian Super

ANZ Staff Foundation



blue illusion



BRAVECTO®
Long-acting parasite protection for dogs and cats

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



McLeod Family
Foundation

Owen Miller
Memorial Foundation

PKF

The QBE
Foundation

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

Tradies

United Way
United Way
West Australia

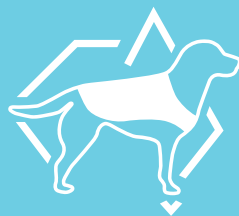


THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL TRUST
Helping Australians in need since 1912
THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
Supporting medical research and those with health related problems

William
Angliss Trust

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

Estate of the Late Gai Slater • Estate of the Late June Allison Henderson
Estate of the Late Beth Lorraine Grainger • Estate of the Late Gwen Craft
Estate of the Late Garth Patrick • Estate of the Late Lillian Agnes Young
Estate of the Late Angela Ridsdale • Yeh Family Bequest



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