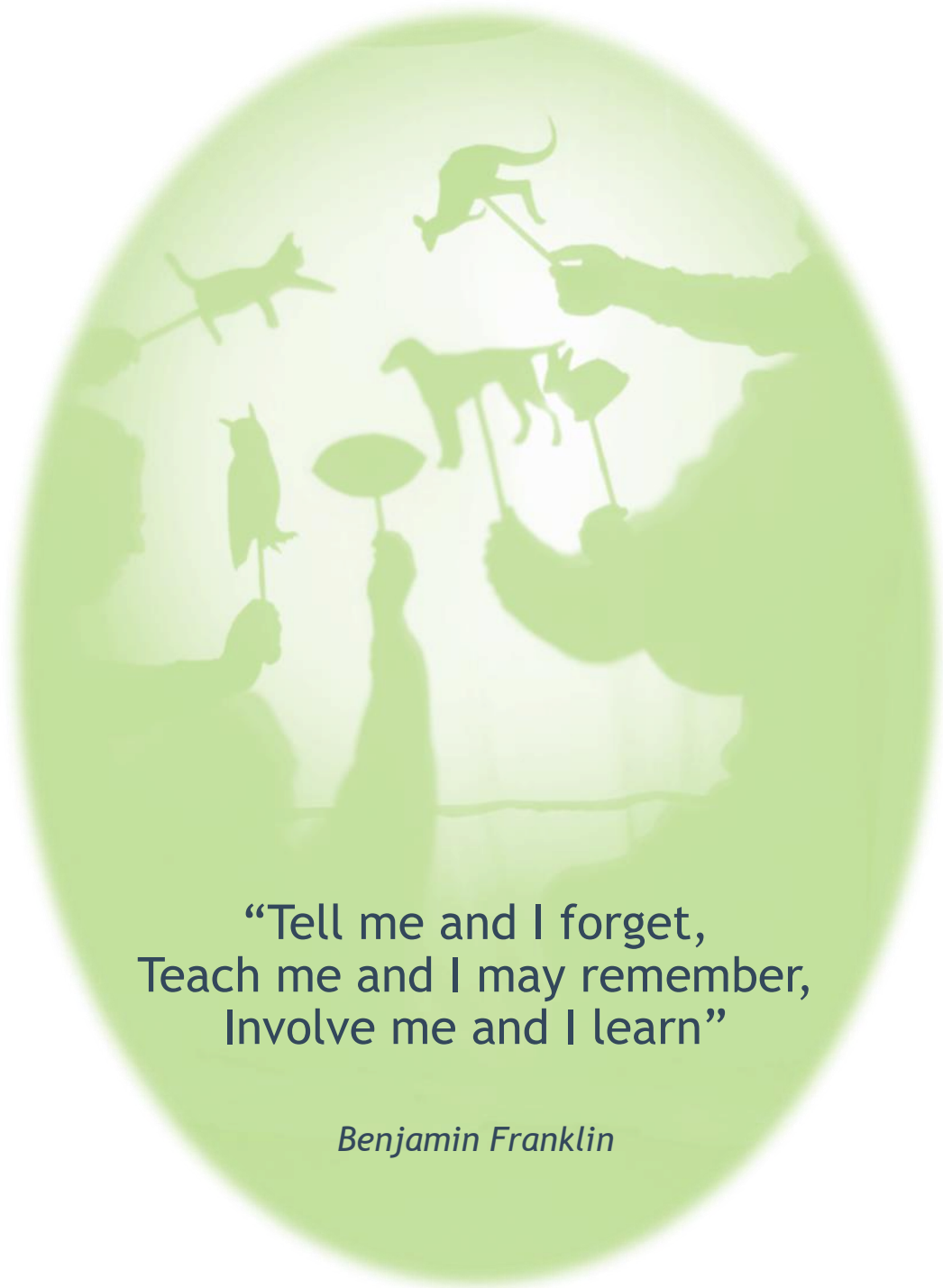


21st Annual General Meeting





“Tell me and I forget,
Teach me and I may remember,
Involve me and I learn”

Benjamin Franklin

From the Chairperson

Your Board members had hoped that the new financial year would be a period of growth and consolidation for BDS support services.

As has been the case in past years NDIS continues to be an organisation that presents BDS, like other similar organisations with ongoing challenges. Our clientele are now all supported by NDIS.

A large amount of time and effort was expended on locating premises for our expansion into the Craigieburn area and it was with a great deal of pleasure that the Board members were able to attend the opening ceremony at the new Craigieburn site on the 3rd of February this year.

However as the poet Robert Burns said in his poem, 'To a Mouse,' "the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry" and that has been the case for all of us, Families, Carers, Clients, Staff and Board members.

The onset of COVID-19 has radically affected us all and it will be some time before your Board is able to assess the damage that the extensive period of closures have caused to our organisation.

The Board would like to extend our thanks to all staff and clients for their co-operation and support during the past eight months. We know that it has been a stressful and difficult time for all concerned. As a Board we are committed to ensuring that we can return to normal as soon as restrictions are lifted and circumstances allow.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our CEO Barb van den Vlekkert and her management team for their continued efforts through out the suspension of operations and their invaluable work in planning for BDS to return to work.

The financial year 2019 to 2020 has certainly provided your Board and the Management team with challenges which are ongoing.

On the 7th of September last year the Board held our strategic planning workshop. This is when Board Members prepare a plan to take BDS into the following years. This year we renewed our vision and mission statements for BDS.

Our plans ensure that we have a roadmap for what we want to achieve and how BDS will arrive at outcomes that benefit all of us; clients, staff and the organisation in general.



Unlike most commercial organisations our Vision and Mission statements are directed towards the people we serve rather than our objectives and aims as a business, although these are extensively covered in our planning for the future.

It is perhaps worth being reminded what our vision and mission statements are;

Our Vision

"Our people belong, develop and succeed"

Our Mission

"We facilitate a responsive and inclusive environment that supports connections, opportunities and achievement of goals."

These statements reflect our purpose, objectives and what we hope to achieve for our clients and BDS. In combination they are a statement of our purposes, goals and values and are driven by a desire to achieve the best possible outcome for our clients.

This years AGM by necessity will be restricted by COVID19 restrictions and we look forward to next years AGM when we can welcome everyone as we have been accustomed to in the past.

For the Board of directors, this past year has once again been one of challenges, change and renewal. There are two nominations for Board members Connie Vaiano and Muhammad Murtaza who were co-opted onto the Board during the past year and have provided invaluable support through out the past year. One director, Derek Clapton resigned this year and we thank him for his efforts on our behalf.

All board members are volunteers and the positions are not remunerated.

The members of the Board of directors acknowledge the support and dedication of the CEO, Staff and volunteers for their continued work and dedication to the clients and their efforts on behalf of BDS.

May I thank my fellow Board members for their support and assistance throughout this past year, It has been of immense help to me.

Graham Edwards - Chair

From the CEO

“I look forward to when we can all meet in 2021 to celebrate the special milestones of staff and participants and enjoy an afternoon together. Until then stay safe”



The first half of the financial year was business as usual, with all of us moving into 2020 with our usual optimism and excitement for the year ahead. Following the official opening of the Craigieburn site in February, we were planning full steam ahead to expand the clientele and develop new opportunities for that cohort.

All our participants have transitioned to National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding now, except for four who are funded federally under the “Continuity of Support Program” (COS). COS is for those over 65 who are not eligible for NDIS funding. It is an agreement whereby they maintain their funding enabling them to continue receiving the same supports through the disability sector.

We launched our new strategic plan at last year’s AGM and were progressing works identified in strategic plan. Two of the key areas identified are -

1. Engaging and consulting with our stakeholders; and
2. Review of our current business model.

This will be even more pertinent now, post COVID –19.

We commenced consultative forums with participants, families and staff late last year and gathered some great feedback on opportunities and things we may do different. We will use this information in our future planning.

We thank those who participated.

We received funding from the Caldwell Electorate under the “Stronger Communities program (capitol works) “to create a multi-sensory room. This will provide great opportunities for our participants. We thank Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP, Member for Caldwell for the grant.

Once again this year we were involved in the local Great Chase organised by Greyhound Racing Victoria at "The Meadows". As well as the great enjoyment of attending the races and barracking for our designated greyhound, we were very fortunate to win a final heat, which resulted in us taking home a \$10,000 prize. We are very appreciative to be included in this wonderful program each year.

BDS was successful in receiving a \$10,000 grant for a community development project in Merrifield. This project provided funds to support marketing and engagement with families in this area north of Craigieburn. Although this has commenced, due to COVID it is now on hold until further notice. We look forward to reengaging families when it is safe to do so.

In November a number of our participants and staff along with the CEO, attended a formal function to launch the Hume City Council Active All video. We were actively involved in the making of this video and it was a lot of fun!

We received two small donations from the local Commonwealth Bank Dallas Branch. We thank Kevin the Manager for this support.

To date 2020 has been a year like never before. COVID-19 has really challenged us in many ways and has made us change the way many things are being carried out. It has been a significant time for all businesses including BDS with many rules and restrictions imposed upon us to manage this pandemic.

Many of our services have been suspended since end of March, in part due to the imposed lockdowns and also due to Government public health guidelines. It is also unfortunate that both our service sites are located in identified COVID hotspots. We have however, continued to provide limited essential services to those individuals living in the community with no support networks to rely on.

Ongoing planning for the return of participants and staff back to BDS allowed us to return for one week in June. Although this was short lived due to lock down it did enable us to trial the model. We are confident that when lockdown ceases or restrictions ease we will be well placed to resume limited services.

Barb van den Vlekkert - CEO

Brendon Agpasa Five Years on



My name is Brendon Agpasa from BDS, I'm nearly 24 years old. I commenced here at BDS in January 2015, after finishing school at Jacana School for Autism in December 2004, Western Autistic School Niddrie in December 2005 and Coburg SDS in December 2014.

I really like my programs at BDS and am well able to make choices for myself. I participate in the Bundoora Farm program, Bushwalking, movie making, Drama, and computer, training, as well as Escapade.

My favourite activities include computer, art, music, dance, books and magazines. I love attending Disco Mania on Friday nights where I get to display all my favourite dance moves and play my guitar. I also really enjoy BDS activity days such as footy day, our Christmas party, Easter activities and end of term disco.

I enjoy chatting to all those around me at BDS for last 5 years, learn about my favourite TV and radio programs including free to air, Pay TV and streaming services plus digital radio services.

I have been at home due to COVID - 19. I have learned to keep social distancing in COVID-19 and to wear a mask.

I have been writing news posts on Instagram each week whilst at home. I write about holiday trips, computer at home, cooking at home, how to make and cook pizza, garlic bread and ice cream.

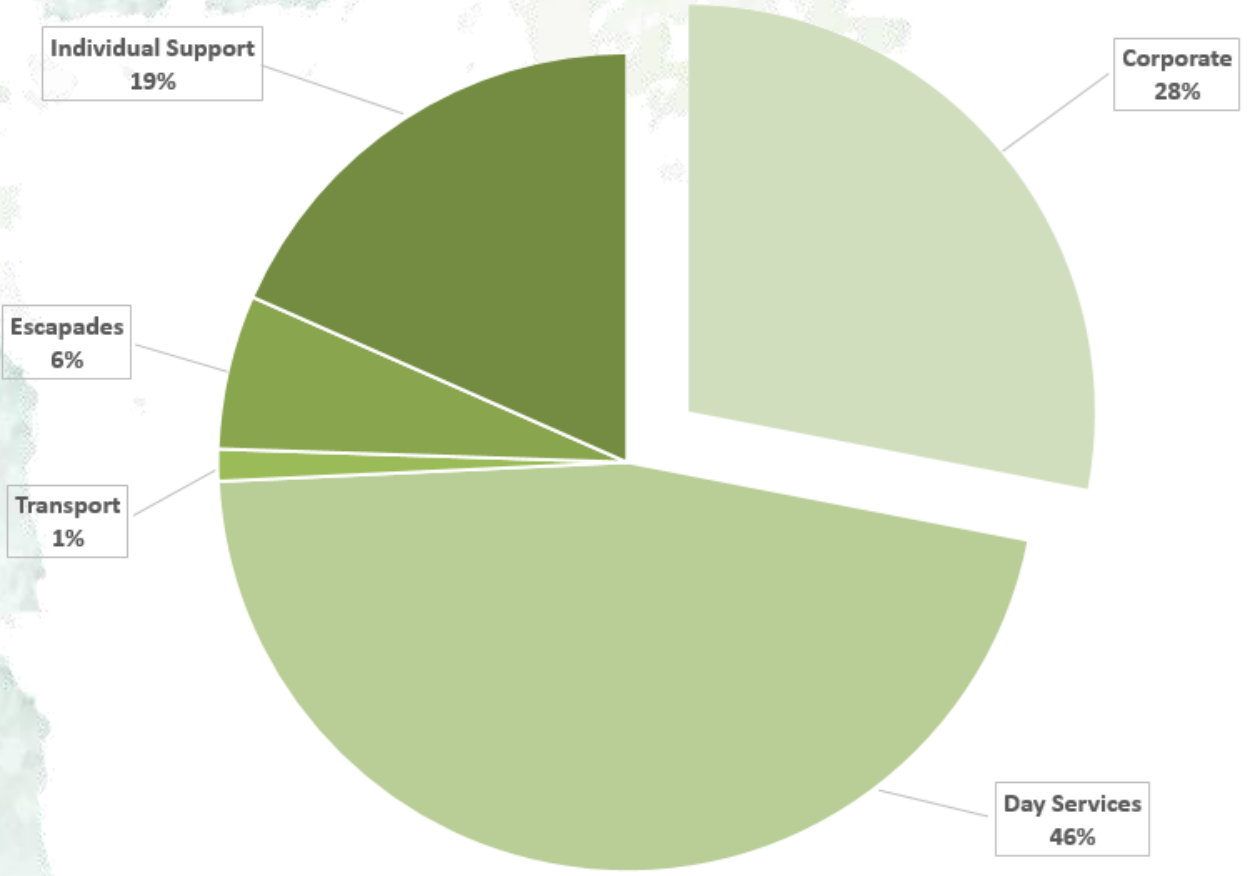
I am now back and BDS and it makes me very happy.

I have been involved in selecting the themes for Discomania with Leanne and Barb. Also each disco I get to choose 5 songs which are played for me. I really enjoy the Themes and always dress for that theme. The Disney theme is one of my favourites

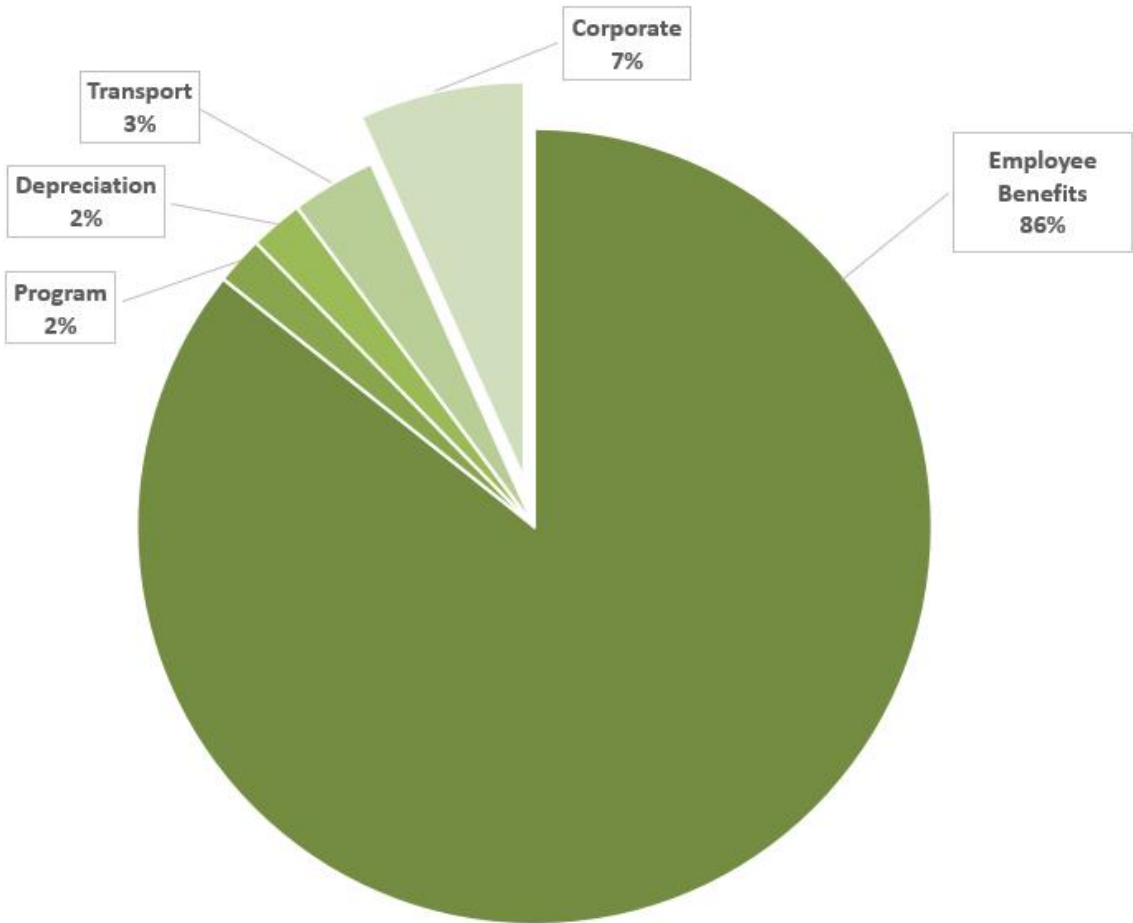
Stay safe



Revenue 2020



Expenditure 2020



Board of Management

Graham Edwards - Chair

Margaret Ruff - Deputy Chair

Lisa Hunter - Secretary

Claire Young

Connie Vaiano

George Martens

Derek Clapton

Muhammad Murtaza

Our Team

Jackie Albrecht

Kate Allingham

Dolores Amazona

Benjamin Ardley

Tanya Ascenzo

Elizabeth Barber

Elishia Bartolo

Eva Batsanis

Tanya Bird

Monica Blackstock

Susie Bountris

Amanda Bricknell

Georgia Cabecas

Marie Camilleri

David Cassar

Lyn Chapman

Renee Clarke

Tammie Cooper

Hayden Cummins

Harbhajan (Harry) Dass

Fiona Davis-Ziebell

Teo Digal

Russell Emmins

Ninfa (Rose) Flores

Brianna Garbutt

Carmen Gatoc

Chelsea Gee

Cindy Gee

Anne Hammill

Tanicka Hammond

Dale Hanson

Noreen Hickey

Casey Houston

Melanie Irving

Jowita Jackowski

Kaitlin Johnston

Warwick Jones

Fatmata Kamara

Kim Keevers

Rebecca Kendall

Manisha Khadgi

Melina Kritikos

Agnes Kyriakou

Elaine Latham

Maree Leach

Jorge Leiva

Carmen Liang

Natalie Lobosco

Geraldine Long

Jodie Long

Suzie Mansell

Stephanie Maundrell

Bonnie McDonald

Simon McDowell

Phillip McKenzie

Courtney Micallef

Rita Moses

Crystal Needham

Michael Nicholls

Sharon Nilsson

Dale O'Keefe

Lutfiye Ozalkim

Laurie Page

Frank Pardo

Michael Perri

Kim Prosser

Manpreet Randhawa

Mollie Ratcliffe

Shane Ray

Ian Rowe

Samuel Santosh

April Schang

Craig Schell

Simon Silwamba

Mary Skopelianos

Sanjeev Sood

Dolores Stiffles

Sharon Swindells

Cathie Turhan

Barb van den Vlekkert

Heidi Vincent

Alan Walley

Stephanie Walsh

Janine White

Kayla Wilson

Lara Wilson

Debbie Young

Kelly Zarb

belong | develop | succeed

A watercolor-style illustration of a tree with a white trunk and branches, set against a circular background of various shades of green. The background of the entire page is a soft, abstract watercolor wash in shades of green and white.

bas