



# Anne M<sup>c</sup>Donald Centre

A new deal for people with little or no speech



## Annual Report 2016-2017

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**The Anne McDonald Centre Inc**

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**ABN 68 933 715 362**



## **I HAVE A DREAM**

I have a dream that people will think that we are all equal.

I have a dream that children will all go to the same schools whether they can talk or not.

I have a dream that all children will be taught and will learn.

I have a dream that important people will see that we are the smartest not the dumbest.

I have a dream that just as blacks equal whites we who cannot talk properly will be the equal of those who can.

Victor Lam



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## Anne McDonald Centre Committee of Management President's Report July 2016 - June 2017

I am pleased to present the 2016 - 2017 Annual Report and accounts of the Anne McDonald Centre, a new DEAL for people with little or no functional speech.

Please join me in welcoming our two new members to the Committee of Management, Lis Diedrich and Brandon Tomlin.

This year saw exciting developments in the Department of Education with revised DET guidelines on non-speech assessment being issued. The Department have accepted the Anne McDonald Centre's recommendation for use of specific non-speech tests for assessment of students with little or no functional speech.

The recommendations were a direct result of the excellent research work being conducted by the collaborative effort of the Anne McDonald Centre and Doug Biklen, recently retired emeritus professor of Syracuse University. The research shows that approximately 4,000 students in the current school system have been mis-assessed with inappropriate tests. A preliminary report on the assessment project has been printed in the widely-read AGOSCI non-speech communication journal, *In Focus*.

Whilst this is a good first step, we still have a considerable amount of work to do with the Department to ensure students with little or no functional speech receive adequate education, particularly in the special school system.

The NDIS is rolling out across Melbourne and Australia with exciting opportunities for Anne McDonald Centre clients. We have provided increasing client appointments and training for new staff, enabling greater communication for people with little or no speech. The Director, in conjunction with Communication Rights Australia, has also worked on a communication flip book to be made available in all NDIA offices.

On behalf of the Committee of Management and the Anne McDonald Centre, I would like to thank all our supporters for their generosity over the past year, especially Sarah Barton, who arranged a special benefit showing of her newly released documentary, *Defiant Lives*, in aid of the Annie Mac.

Special thanks also go to Ben Ruschinek, CPA, for his many years of unremunerated service in auditing our accounts. His help has been invaluable.

I would also like to thank the Anne McDonald Centre staff for the excellent services provided and their commitment and dedication. In particular, special appreciation goes to our Director, Rosemary Crossley for her exceptional hard work and enthusiasm.

To the Committee of Management, thank you for your assistance and support over the last year and I very much look forward to the coming year.

Leane Leggo, President



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## We couldn't be prouder of Cameron



When Cameron came to the Centre at the age of five he was a sweet kid who could only say a few words. He still can't speak much, but with the help of his family he's made his way through mainstream primary and secondary education. Now he's studying Digital Literacy at Deakin University, as part of an Associate Arts Degree. We've been with him all the way.

*I've been going to the Centre since I was very young. Without Rosie and the other staff, I believe I would have been labeled as unintelligent and not be able to communicate. Rosie trusts in my intelligence and pushes me to keep exploring my abilities.*

*It's great to be learning at university, and I believe that every student needs to be given that opportunity.*

*Attending the Centre has enabled me to have a voice and a say in the society I want to live in.*

To see a video Cameron made for his Deakin course go to  
[https://video.deakin.edu.au/media/t/0\\_8snb7xgb](https://video.deakin.edu.au/media/t/0_8snb7xgb)

## What the Anne McDonald Centre contributed to Victoria, Australia and the World from July 2016 to June 2017

The Anne McDonald Centre (the Annie Mac) serves people with little or no functional speech - people whose opinions are never consulted, people who cannot even say 'I need help'. Since opening in 1986 as DEAL the AnnieMac has provided free communication therapy to thousands of people without functional speech.

Communication strategies developed at the AnnieMac are used around the world, and have led many government agencies, schools and universities to establish programs in non-speech communication. For a small centre, the AnnieMac makes a large impact.

**Hands-on therapy** - This year we provided ongoing services to 137 individuals with severe communication impairments, 40 of whom were new clients. As well as providing ongoing services to Victorians, AnnieMac staff undertook assessments and consultations in the USA, and provided Skype consultancies to interstate and overseas families and professionals.

**Research** - We have continued our important research into the appropriate cognitive assessment of people with little or no functional speech. We have now re-assessed more than 70 individuals, most of whom are school-age children, using standardized non-speech tests. All have scored well above - typically more than double - their previous scores on tests requiring spoken answers. As a result, the Department of Education changed its assessment rules in May this year, at last allowing non-speaking children to be assessed with tests that do not require speech.

Our Human Research Ethics Committee, chaired by Dr Rhonda Galbally AO, has ensured our research is ethical and meets the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines.

**Advocacy** - In addition to providing individual advocacy, the AnnieMac takes up general issues affecting people with significant speech limitations.

We are currently focusing on the unfair disadvantages which students with little or no functional speech face in getting an appropriate education. Even after re-assessments showing that they do not have an intellectual disability, most are still attending schools for children assessed as IQ less than 50, and receiving little or no academic education. We are continuing to meet with the Department of Education and Training regarding this important issue, which affects the lives of many of our clients.

**Information & Education** - During 2016-17 AnnieMac staff delivered presentations at three international conferences - the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Canada, the Institute for Communication and Inclusion in the US, and the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities in Melbourne. We also delivered a presentation at the national Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment conference and published an article about our initial research in the AGOSCI journal *In Focus*, Issue 41, Vol 2, Summer 2016, pp 12-15.

As always, we host students undertaking tertiary courses in disability and regularly exchange information on specialist Listserves and Facebook groups.

Rosemary Crossley, AM, PhD. Director

## The Anne McDonald Centre — Staff 2016-2017

Director	Dr. Rosemary Crossley, <i>A.M., M.Ed., Ph.D.</i>
Speech Pathologist	Ms. Leslie Zimmerman, <i>B.App.Sci. (Sp.Path.)</i>
Office Manager	Ms. Kae Slattery
Research Consultant	Dr. Douglas Biklen, <i>Ph.D., Emeritus Professor</i>
Honorary Auditor	Mr Ben Ruschinek. <i>CPA</i>

This year we say thank you and farewell to our wonderful honorary auditor Ben Ruschinek, who for decades has made sure that our accounts are accurate. Happily Ben is well, and has not retired. Rather, it is we who have retired. Ben's last duty for the Anne McDonald Centre was to confirm that under the new Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission's rules we, unsurprisingly, are categorized as a small charity, and hence no longer need to have our accounts audited, a change that has saved Ben and Kae many hours of work this year. Of course we will still maintain detailed accounts for regular presentation to the Committee as before, and have them available for audit on request.

Our devoted Committee and President work hard to assist people with little or no functional speech to achieve the rights which the rest of us take for granted.

Emeritus Professor Doug Biklen and the Human Research Ethics Committee chaired by Dr Rhonda Galbally AO have worked their way through the rules and regulations of the National Health and Medical Research Council to ensure that our investigations into appropriate assessments for students with little or no functional speech are ethical and meet the NH&MRC guidelines.

Our sincere thanks go to them all. Without their help we could not continue our work.

Rosemary Crossley, AM, PhD Director

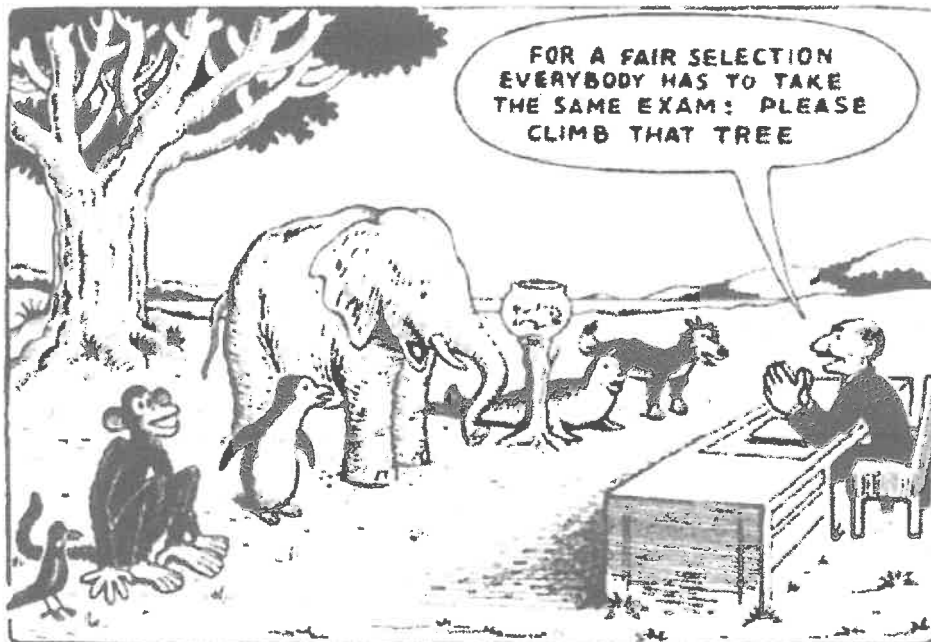
"Everyone is a genius.  
But if you judge a fish on its ability to  
climb a tree, it will live its whole life  
believing that it is stupid."

Albert Einstein



# The Anne McDonald Centre Management Committee 2016-2017

<b>President</b>	Ms Leane Leggo
<b>Vice-President</b>	Ms Amanda Ducrou
<b>Secretary</b>	Ms Jill Johnson
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr Chris Borthwick
<b>Members</b>	Ms Sarah Barton
	Ms Ruth Cauchi
	Ms Lis Diedrich
	Ms Kaye Gooch
	Ms Tracey Hayes
	Mr James Henry
	Mr Brandon Tomlin
	Mr David Wood





## Financial Report 2016-7

### Statement of Financial Position for the year ended June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

<i>30/06/16</i>		<i>30/06/17</i>
	<b>ASSETS</b>	
\$29,753	Cash at bank	\$21,593
\$950	Funds on Hand	\$188
\$8,326	Debtors	\$8,435
<b>\$39,029</b>	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$30,216</b>
	<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
\$665	Creditors	\$3,436
\$3,414	Accruals	\$1,007
\$6,453	Provision for Long Service Leave	\$4,692
<b>\$10,532</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$9,135</b>
<b>\$28,497</b>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$21,081</b>
	<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	
\$24,981	Balance	\$28,497
\$3,516	Surplus for Year	-\$7,416
<b>\$28,497</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$21,081</b>

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#### Treasurer's Statement

In my opinion the attached Income and Expenditure Statement gives a true and fair account of the results for the year ended 30 June 2017 and the Statement of Financial Position gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs at that date.

Chris Borthwick  
Treasurer  
8 November 2017



## Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended June 2017

<b>2016</b>		<b>2017</b>
	<b>INCOME</b>	
\$25,650	Grants	\$10,000
\$84,709	Donations	\$89,348
\$23,033	Seminars and consulting	\$30,312
\$710	Membership	\$590
\$117	Interest	\$27
\$3,231	Sale of materials	\$41
\$3,572	Travel Reimbursement	\$1,030
<b>\$141,022</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$131,358</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
\$317	Communication equipment	\$0
\$250	Bank fees	\$244
\$54	Subscriptions/dues	\$49
\$120	Cleaning	\$22
\$708	Computer consumables	\$396
\$617	Website	\$624
\$3,759	Insurance	\$3,251
\$410	Security	\$420
\$452	Stationery, printing, copying	\$770
\$36	Staff amenities	\$18
\$9,155	Superannuation	\$9,258
\$96,371	Salaries	\$97,447
\$429	Postage & freight	\$127
\$0	Repairs & maintenance	\$0
\$20,655	Rent	\$21,818
\$2,056	Telephone	\$2,211
\$1,941	Gas/light/power	\$2,018
\$0	Travel	\$0
\$176	AGM cost	\$100
\$0	Sundries	\$0
<b>\$137,506</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$138,774</b>
<b>\$3,516</b>	<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$7,416)</b>

