



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

A new deal for people with little or no speech



## Annual Report 2017-2018

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**The Anne McDonald Centre Inc**

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## **McDonald Centre Committee of Management President's Report July 2017 - June 2018**

I am pleased to present the 2017 - 2018 Annual Report and accounts of the Anne McDonald Centre, a new DEAL for people with little or no functional speech.

This year the Anne McDonald Centre has been continuing their communication with the Department of Education in revising the DET guidelines on non-speech assessments. The department will now provide training sessions to the psychologists responsible for assessing children with little or no functional speech, and provide training to DET's own student support psychologists in using non-speech assessments for students with little or no speech.

The Department has also worked with Communication Rights Australia to develop an online resource for teachers of students with little or no speech -. The Teachers' Toolkit [studentswithnospeech.org.au](http://studentswithnospeech.org.au) will have national circulation and be of national significance.

By providing increased client appointments and training for their staff, the Anne McDonald Centre supported three clients with their presentations to the International Society of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (ISAAC) conference held on the Gold Coast in July.

Our three clients, Mitchell Leggo, Tim Chan and Victor Lam are to be congratulated on successful and well received presentations. In addition to the papers presented by Mitch and Tim, and Victor and Chris Borthwick's posters, our Director also conducted a workshop on assessments. It was extraordinary to see so many friends at the international conference held right here in our own backyard, and to see the confidence and determination of the young men from the Anne McDonald Centre.

Our work would not be able to continue without the wonderful support of our many friends. Thank you to all those who donated to our annual Tea Party and to the Commonwealth Bank and the Singer Foundation for their generous grants.

I would like to give a big thank you to the Anne McDonald Centre staff for once again providing stellar services to our many clients. Your dedication and commitment is greatly appreciated. Regretfully, we said goodbye to our wonderful Administrative Officer, Kae, who has taken up a new position. We wish her well and we would also like to welcome Sarah into her new role.

Special thanks go to our Director, Rosemary Crossley, for her tireless devotion and hard work. Congratulations also to our Director on the publication of a Russian translation of "Speechless", bringing her work to a whole new audience.

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

**Leane Leggo, President**



# TEACHERS' TOOLKIT

## FOR STUDENTS WITH LITTLE OR NO SPEECH

ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST POTENTIAL  
IN STUDENTS WITH COMMUNICATION SUPPORT NEEDS

A June 2018 letter from the Department of Education Training shows that progress on changing assessments is continuing:

The Department is now *"...working ... on guidance for psychologists who are assessing students with Complex Communication Needs (CCN)."*

It will consider *"issues you have raised such as determining a student's ability to participate in a formal cognitive assessment by considering their communication and motor capabilities etc. prior to assessment...."*

*"We will be offering professional learning later this year for [DET contractors] Assessments Australia psychologists, and next year this professional learning will be offered to student support services psychologists...."*

DET is also getting the word out on the Teachers' Toolkit:  
[www.studentswithnospeech.org.au](http://www.studentswithnospeech.org.au)

Where cognitive assessments are being undertaken with a student with communication support needs, be aware that standardised non-verbal cognitive assessment tools exist – these are tests that do not rely upon the student's verbal ability – and should be used instead of the standard Weschler tests (WPPSI-IV and WISC-V).

Sadly there is still no sign of any change in educational provisions for students with little or no speech who have been re-assessed with appropriate tests, and have scored in the normal range or above.

## What the Anne McDonald Centre contributed to Victoria, Australia and the World from July 2017 to June 2018

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 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** – In 2017-8 we provided ongoing therapy services to 143 individuals with severe communication impairments, 31 of whom were new clients. As well as providing hands-on services to Victorians, AnnieMac staff provided Skype consultancies to interstate and overseas families and professionals.

**Research** – We are continuing our important research into the appropriate cognitive assessment of people with little or no functional speech. We have now re-assessed more than 100 individuals, mostly school-age children, using standardized non-speech tests. All scored well above their previous scores on tests requiring spoken answers and unimpaired hand skills.

While the Department of Education (DET) changed its rules in May 2017 to allow non-speaking children to be assessed with non-speech tests, this had little effect, as most psychologists did not own any non-speech tests, and did not know how to use them.

**Advocacy** – In addition to providing individual advocacy, the AnnieMac takes up general issues affecting people with significant speech limitations. This year much of our advocacy has been focussed on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). For the first time ever we are charging a majority of our clients, whose therapy is funded by the NDIS. (Of course we continue to provide free services to clients without NDIS funding.) Sadly a downside of NDIS is its lack of a nation-wide scheme for funding communication aids. Funding decisions appear completely arbitrary, and vary from region to region and state to state. Consequently we have a new role as equipment recyclers, passing used but working communication aids on to people who desperately need them, but who haven't received funding e.g. a gentleman with Motor Neurone Disease who'd lost speech (life expectancy 1-2 years) was told he'd have to wait 12 months for a Lightwriter and pay \$2,000. We sent him an old one for free. Our beloved but now deconstructed Electronic Communication Devices Scheme would have sent a new one.

**Information & Education** – We have continued to host students undertaking tertiary courses in disability. We also contribute regularly to specialist Listserves and Facebook groups. Our main method of disseminating news and information widely is now the Annie Mac Facebook page. Our Website needs refurbishing, and some parents with IT smarts have kindly offered to help with this in the near future.

**Rosemary Crossley**



## The Anne McDonald Centre — Staff 2017-2018

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 (till Dec) Ms Sarah Greene
Research Consultant	Dr. Douglas Biklen, <i>Ph.D., Emeritus Professor</i>

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

We are very grateful for their honorary contribution to our work.

We were sorry to farewell our Office Manager, Kae Slattery at the end of 2017, after she received an offer she could not refuse. We thank her for her wonderful work and welcome her successor, Sarah Greene.

Rosemary Crossley, AM, PhD Director



*Speechless*, a book about our work and our clients, was translated into Russian in 2018. Above is a Russian artist's representation of Anne McDonald, Chris Borthwick (Treasurer) and myself at the National Gallery in 1977, as true Victorians.

## The Anne McDonald Centre Management Committee 2017-2018

<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 David Wood

This has been a very busy year, with the premises we've rented for more than 30 years being sold (we're OK for 2019), NDIS commencing for many of our clients, hence many reports being needed, and continuing research requiring follow-up discussions with schools and DET. Throughout it all the Committee has been endlessly supportive, and we all – staff and clients – owe them our sincere thanks. Plus a special thank you for the Chair, Leane Leggo.





## Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended June 2018

2017		2018
	<b>INCOME</b>	
\$10,000	Grants	\$20,000
\$89,348	Donations	\$95,378
\$30,312	Seminars and consulting	\$19,070
\$0	NDIS	\$20,160
\$590	Membership	\$400
\$27	Interest	\$0
\$41	Sale of materials	\$798
\$1,030	Travel Reimbursement	\$178
\$131,358	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$155,984
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
\$244	Bank fees	\$180
\$49	Subscriptions/dues	\$49
\$22	Cleaning	\$136
\$396	Computer consumables	\$559
\$624	Website	\$477
\$3,251	Insurance	\$3,484
\$420	Security	\$435
\$770	Stationery, printing, copying	\$620
\$18	Staff amenities	\$144
\$9,258	Superannuation	\$9,490
\$97,447	Salaries	\$99,898
\$127	Postage & freight	\$248
\$0	Repairs & maintenance	\$0
\$21,818	Rent	\$22,606
\$2,211	Telephone	\$2,149
\$0	Water	\$196
\$2,018	Gas/light/power	\$1,932
\$0	Travel	\$22
\$100	AGM cost	\$92
\$0	Sundries	\$20
\$138,774	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	\$142,738
<b>-\$7,416</b>	<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$13,245</b>





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## Statement of Financial Position for the year ended June 2018

30/06/17		30/06/18
	<b>ASSETS</b>	
\$21,593	Cash at bank	\$28,008
\$188	Funds on Hand	\$2,663
\$8,435	Debtors	\$7,694
\$30,216	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$38,365
	<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
\$3,436	Creditors	\$241
\$1,007	Accruals	151
\$4,692	Provision for Long Service Leave	\$3,647
\$9,135	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	\$4,039
\$21,081	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	\$34,326
	<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	
\$28,497	Balance	\$21,081
-\$7,416	Surplus (Deficit) for Year	\$13,245
\$21,081	<b>BALANCE</b>	\$34,326

## Treasurer's Statement

In my opinion the attached Statement of Financial Performance gives a true and fair account of the results for the year ended 30 June 2018 and the statement of Financial Position gives a true and fair account of the state of affairs at that date.

Chris Borthwick  
Treasurer  
8 November 2018

