

DEAL

Communication Centre Inc.



Annual Report 2008-2009

DEAL Communication Centre Inc.

538 Dandenong Road, Caulfield, Victoria 3162, Australia

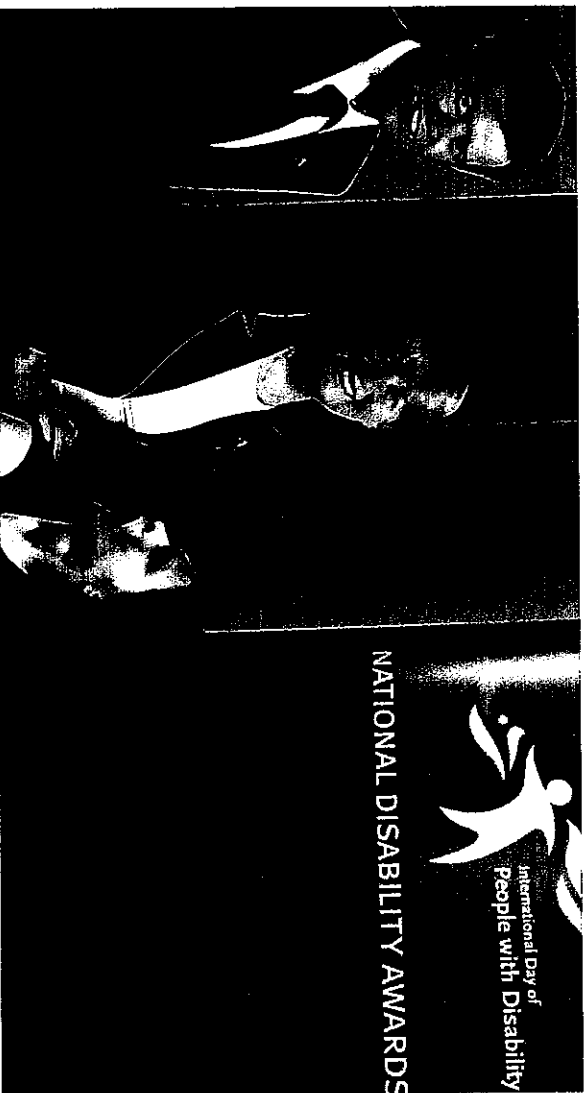
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From the floor of St.Nicholas to Parliament House



Anne McDonald with Minister Macklin and Parliamentary Secretary Shorten

A highlight of 2008 was Anne McDonald winning the National Disability Award for Personal Achievement. In her speech at the awards dinner in the Great Hall of Parliament House in Canberra (read by Chris Borthwick) Anne said:

If you let other people without speech be helped as I was helped they will say more than I can say.

They will tell you that the humanity we share is not dependent on speech. They will tell you that the power of literacy lies within us all.

They will tell you that I am not an exception, only a bad example.

Born with cerebral palsy, Anne was admitted to St. Nicholas Hospital, a Victorian institution, at age 3. Unable to walk, talk or feed herself, she was believed to be profoundly intellectually impaired. When she went to the Supreme Court to win her release, 15 years later, only one thing had changed - she had learnt to spell.

After leaving, Anne co-authored a book *Annie's Coming Out*, later made into a movie, graduated university, and lobbied around the world for the right to communicate. As well as being a long-term Deal client, Anne has been a member of Deal's Management Committee since 1986.



Not such a bad example after all, Anne. Congratulations!

DEAL Committee of Management President's Report July 2008 - June 2009

I am pleased to present the 2008 - 2009 Annual Report and audited accounts of DEAL Communication Centre Inc.

A special highlight of the year was Anne McDonald's receipt of the 2008 National Disability Award for Personal Achievement. On behalf of the Committee of Management I congratulate Anne and acknowledge her enormous contribution to those without speech.

This year DEAL extended its important work of providing services to people with severe communication impairments, both locally and internationally. It was a very busy year as an increase of more than 50% in overall client numbers was accompanied by vastly increased demands for support and advocacy for Deal's school-age clients. Fortunately we were assisted in meeting this need by a generous grant from the Newman's Own Foundation.

As well as continuing to provide services to our many clients through individual appointments, DEAL expanded its training of local and overseas professionals. A number of local speech pathology students and German and Italian interns spent time at DEAL as well as a visiting professor from Osaka University. DEAL also received funding from the Australia-China Council of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to provide resources and training in non-speech communication to parents, teachers and therapists in Shanghai. DEAL's partner institutions in this project are the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and Putuo and Quyang Hospitals. A detailed account of this project is included in the Annual Report.

As you can see from *What DEAL Contributed...in 2008-9*, DEAL continues to be involved in research, and the staff and committee members delivered many presentations on aspects of augmentative communication at national and international conferences.

Over the years DEAL has been fortunate in receiving support from many charitable foundations and private donors. This year one grant deserves special mention. In November 2008, Sidney Myer Fund and the Myer Foundation respectively celebrated their 75th and 50th anniversaries by establishing a Commemorative Grants Program. As part of this program 37 not-for-profit organizations were provided with unsolicited grants to develop their strengths and improve their viability in a project called Celebrating Our Partners. DEAL is proud to have been selected to receive one of these grants, which is currently being used to produce instructional videotapes and make our website more informative and user-friendly.

During 2008-9 DEAL also received generous assistance from the Singer Foundation, the Pratt Foundation, the Lord Mayor's Fund, and the James Kirby, Sentinel, and Collier Charitable Foundations and several anonymous benefactors. On behalf of DEAL I would like to thank them all, as well as DEAL's many kind individual donors, including those who contributed to our Clayton's Tea Party. Your generosity has enabled DEAL to continue providing free communication therapy to people who need it.

On behalf of the Committee of Management I would like to thank the DEAL staff for their hard work, skills, support and loyalty. They have continued to provide services of the very highest standard.

Finally, I wish to thank all the members of the Committee of Management for their support and enthusiasm during my time as President.

Amanda Ducrou, President, DEAL Committee of Management

Breaking the Silence:

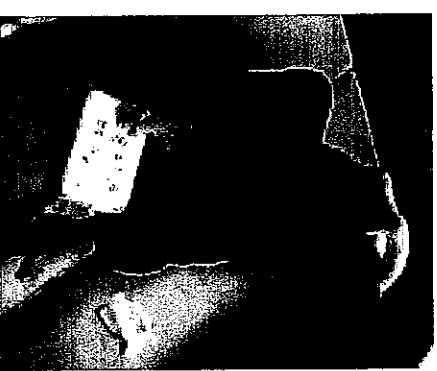
Providing communication aids for Chinese children who cannot talk

Following our 2007 discovery that augmentative communication (AAC) appeared unknown in China, DEAL received funding from the Australia-China Council for two visits to Shanghai to provide training in AAC to parents, teachers and therapists. The visits were arranged by Dr. Kexing Sun from the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Highlights-2008

On the first visit in November 2008 I worked with children with cerebral palsy, autism or other developmental disabilities and conducted in-service training for therapists in Putuo and Shanghai Pearl Hospitals before delivering two 2-hour plenary presentations on AAC at an International Seminar on Speech Therapy at Putuo Hospital attended by more than 100 local therapists. After each presentation I was literally mobbed by therapists desperate to get the laminated communication boards I had brought to give away. Before leaving I set up a small library of communication equipment and software at Putuo Hospital for use by therapists.

During this visit I met many fascinating people, including Yi Lin, a smart young lady of 15 with cerebral palsy who can walk - just - and talk - just - very unclearly. She cannot use her hands and she has never been to school. Nonetheless she has learnt to augment her dysarthric speech by writing with a pen held in the toes of her right foot. I lined up her 14-year-old brother to teach her Pinyin, a representation of Mandarin in European letters. With a large keyboard (which she'd use with her toes) attached to a laptop, a keyboard to stop her hitting 2 keys at once, and a text-to-speech program (yes, they do exist for Mandarin) Yi Lin could both type and talk.



Every child who couldn't walk who came to see me was carried by a parent, regardless of the child's age or size. The government does supply wheelchairs, but one size fits - or doesn't fit - all. A 5-year-old with spasticity and extensor spasm gets exactly the same off-the-shelf chair with no straps as an adult who has a broken leg. On my return to Australia I found a freely-available Norwegian design for a cheap easily-fabricated adjustable chair was being used successfully by a colleague in the Philippines. We have applied to Aus-Aid for funds for a small workshop to produce prototypes in China. If the Aus-Aid funding comes through the resulting chairs will be a truly international effort!

Highlights-2009

Apart from the usual assessments and training sessions most of my next visit to Shanghai in June 2009 was spent in discussions about the possibility of establishing China's first-ever AAC Resource Centre. This visit finished at the 2nd Chinese International Conference on Speech Therapy in Beijing, where I delivered a plenary presentation on *Communication Aids Programmed in Mandarin*. Partly as a result of DEAL's input the conference included four plenary presentations on Augmentative Communication, which aroused considerable interest.

The good news came after my return – before the end of 2009 China's first Augmentative Communication Resource Centre will open in a new Rehabilitation Centre based at Qiyang Hospital in the Hongkou District of Shanghai. Of course the hospital will need assistance in obtaining appropriate communication aids, and in training local therapists in their use, so DEAL's involvement in China may not be over just yet.

Rosemary Crossley

What DEAL contributed to Victoria, Australia and the World from July 2008 to June 2009

DEAL serves people with little or no speech, people who often have great difficulty in having their needs met, people who cannot even say 'I need help'. Since opening in 1986, DEAL has provided communication therapy to nearly 2500 Victorians without functional speech. Some of the first children to attend DEAL, students who were once believed to be significantly intellectually impaired as well as mute, have now graduated from university.

DEAL's innovative augmentative communication (AAC) programs have had wide international impact. Communication strategies developed at DEAL are now used in more than thirty countries, and have led many government agencies and universities to establish programs in non-speech communication.

DEAL remains highly productive despite its limited resources. In the financial year from July 2008 to June 2009 DEAL's output included:

***Therapy provision to 237 individuals with severe communication impairments, 95 of whom were new clients.** As well as providing on-going services to Victorians, DEAL staff undertook assessments and consultations in Queensland and the U.S.A. and China (see *Breaking the Silence: Providing communication aids for Chinese children who cannot talk*).

***Advocacy** – in addition to providing individual advocacy, DEAL takes up wider issues affecting people with significant speech limitations. Currently DEAL staff are working with concerned parents, professionals and Communication Rights Australia to push for much needed improvements in the support provided to students with severe communication impairments by the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

***Research & Development** – DEAL staff are joining with researchers from Melbourne University and St. Vincent's Hospital in an investigation of the usefulness of MRI technology in the assessment of the awareness of patients diagnosed as being in Persistent Vegetative State or Minimally Conscious State.

***Information & Education** – During 2008-9 DEAL staff and committee members delivered many presentations on AAC at national and international conferences, including 2 at the ISAAC conference in Montreal, 2 at the West Coast Facilitated Communication Conference in L.A., 2 at the ASSID conference in Melbourne, 2 at the AGOSCI conference in Canberra, and 3 at speech therapy conferences in Shanghai and Beijing.

As well, DEAL provides an e-mail information and advice service used by parents and therapists throughout Australia and around the world. This was augmented by the distribution of two issues of our on-line newsletter in October 2008 and April 2009.

DEAL -- Staff 2008-2009

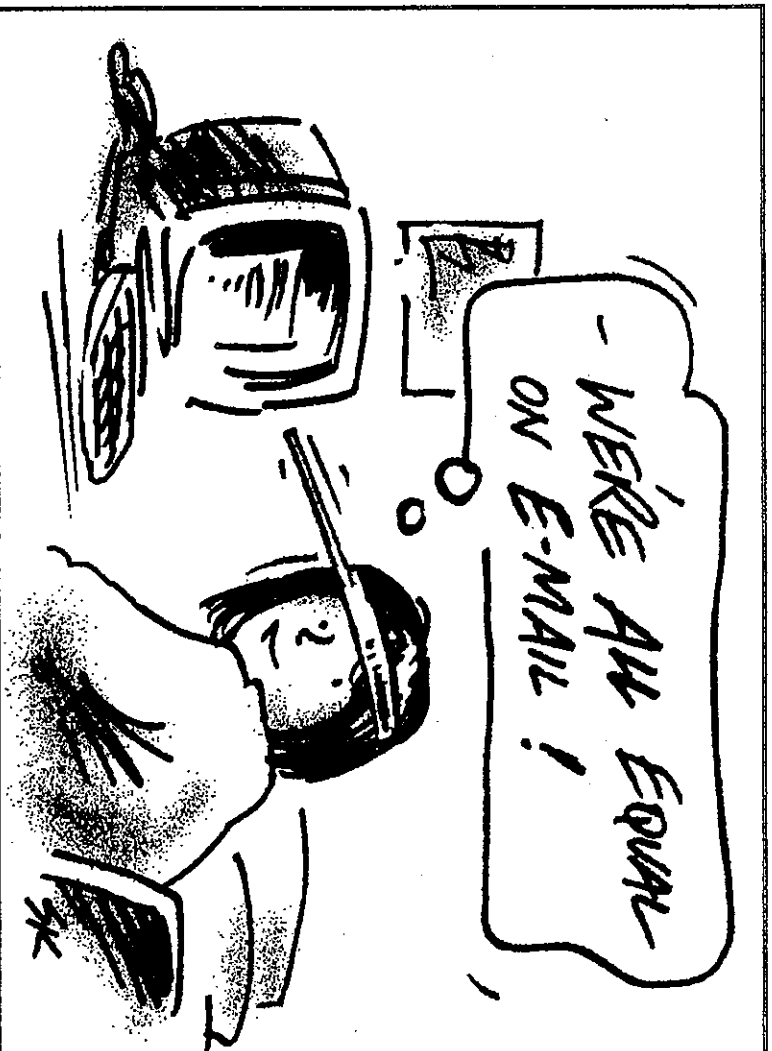
Director	Dr. Rosemary Crossley, A.M., M.Ed., Ph.D.
Speech Pathologist	Ms. Leslie Zimmerman, B.App.Sci. (Sp.Path.)
Office Manager	Ms. Kae Slattery
Therapy Assistant	Ms. Christy Longhurst (from Feb.09)
Interns	Claudia Streit, Marina Koswig
Volunteers	Mr. Bruce Marks, Ms. Emmy Elbaum

For the past year we have again been blessed with the services of Bruce Marks, a retired accountant who manages the office on Mondays and also looks after our books. We are very grateful to him and to Ben Ruschinek, our honorary auditor, for ensuring DEAL's finances are in good order.

We also owe many thanks to Emmy Elbaum, volunteer parent advocate, who has helped many of DEAL's clients and families in negotiations with the bureaucracy.

My personal thanks go to all the committee, staff and volunteers for their loyal support, especially to Amanda Ducrou, who is stepping down after 6 years as President of the DEAL Management Committee.

Rosemary Crossley, Director
November 8th 2009



DEAL -- Management Committee 2008-2009

DEAL Committee Centre is administered by a Committee of Management elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting. Any person supporting the aims of DEAL is eligible to be a member. DEAL's clients are encouraged to stand for places on the Committee of Management.

The Committee of Management elected at the AGM held on November 11th, 2008 was:

Executive

President	Ms Amanda Ducrou, B.A./LL.B., M.B.A.
Vice-President	Ms Jill Johnson, B.Sc.
Treasurer	Mr Bruce Marks, C.A.
Secretary	Mr Chris Borthwick, B.A., LL.B

Committee

Ms Joan Dwyer, O.A.M., B.A., LL.B.
Ms Leane Leggo, M.U.M.
Ms Kathy Macfarlane, B.Ed., M.A.(App.Ling.)
Ms Anne McDonald, B.Hum.
Mr John Perry, O.A.M., T.P.T.C., T.Sp.P.C.
Ms Penny Webster, B.Soc.Sci., M.Com. (IR & HRM)



DEAL COMMUNICATION CENTRE INC.

Statement of Financial Performance

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
INCOME		
Grants-Government	10000	10000
Grants-Foundations	152115	68700
Seminars & Consulting	12155	26648
Donations	23148	17039
Membership	320	395
Interest	5191	6192
Sale of Materials	809	1612
Bike Ride (Net of Expenses)	0	9064
Tea Party Donations	7140	9356
Travel Reimbursement	<u>3753</u>	<u>5608</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>214631</u>	<u>154614</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Communication Equipment	15861	12647
Depreciation Office Equipment	3610	3610
Rent	16691	16288
Salaries	96217	91740
Superannuation	8799	8257
Workcover	950	755
Cleaning	175	270
Computer Consumables	1442	2500
Conferences	297	0
Consultancy & Therapy Materials	0	178
Gas, Light & Power	1098	1087
Insurance	2794	2782
Postage & Freight	476	667
Repairs-Office Equipment	140	469
Security	485	400
Stationery & Printing	2795	624
Subscriptions	174	630
Telecommunications	1751	1679
Travel	10462	7588
Staff Amenities/Sundries	420	130
Sundries	1593	1430
Website Training/Production Equipment	<u>23049</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>189279</u>	<u>153731</u>
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	<u>25352</u>	<u>883</u>

DEAL COMMUNICATION CENTRE INC.

Statement of Financial Position

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	166586	126491
Funds On Hand	1170	0
Debtors	3713	19169
Other Debtors	1780	0
Office Furniture (At Cost)	18052	18052
Less: Provision for Depreciation	<u>-14523</u>	<u>-10913</u>
Written down value	<u>3529</u>	<u>7139</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>176778</u>	<u>152799</u>
LIABILITIES		
Creditors	1762	3509
Accruals	2866	0
Provision for Long Service Leave	<u>25913</u>	<u>28405</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>30541</u>	<u>31914</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>146237</u>	<u>120885</u>
GENERAL FUNDS		
Balance 30/06/2008	120885	120002
Surplus for Year	<u>25352</u>	<u>883</u>
BALANCE 30 JUNE	<u>146237</u>	<u>120885</u>

DEAL COMMUNICATION CENTRE INC

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009	2008
	Inflow/ (Outflow)	Inflow/ (Outflow)
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from Members, Grants, Donations, etc	209440	148422
Interest Received	5191	6192
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	<u>-185669</u>	<u>-150121</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>28962</u>	<u>4493</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Debtors	13676	-16274
Creditors, Accruals & Provisions	<u>-1373</u>	<u>2681</u>
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	<u>12303</u>	<u>-13593</u>
Net Increase in Cash Held	41265	-9100
Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Year	<u>126491</u>	<u>135991</u>
Cash at the End of the Financial Year	<u>167756</u>	<u>126491</u>

B. Ruschinek & Associates

REGISTERED TAX AGENTS AND ACCOUNTANTS
Ben Ruschinek, CPA
ABN: 87 070 673 013

Level 1, 207 Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick
P. O. Box 693, Elsternwick, 3185.
Tel. (03) 9523 8666
Fax. (03) 9528 2785

AUDITORS REPORT

To the Members of DEAL COMMUNICATION CENTRE INC.

I have audited the attached Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2009, the Statement of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 30 June 2009 and the accompanying Cash Flow Statement.

I have formed the opinion that the above Accounting Reports are in accordance with the financial records and minutes of the Committee of Management.

The Account reports are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of this Organisation's state of affairs as at 30 June 2009, and of its operations for the year ended 30 June 2009.

The Committee of Management has taken note of my report to it of various matters and as such is reflected in the reports as above.

Yours sincerely,

B. RUSCHINEK & ASSOCIATES



B. RUSCHINEK. CPA.
28 October 2009

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under Professional Standards Legislation

B. Ruschinek & Associates Pty Ltd is a CPA practice



DEAL Communication Centre Inc.
538 Dandenong Road, Caulfield, Victoria 3162 Australia

Treasurer's Statement

In my opinion the attached Income and Expenditure Statement gives a true and fair view of the results for the year ended 30 June 2009 and the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs at that date.



Bruce M Marks

Treasurer

28 October 2009