



Down Syndrome  
Association of Qld Inc

# Annual Report



## 2010-11

We live inclusive, productive, & fulfilling lives.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible  
ABN 38 934 427 390


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# Contents



|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 2010-11 Committee & Staff .....             | <b>1</b>     |
| Thank you for your Monetary Donations ..... | <b>2</b>     |
| President's Report .....                    | <b>3</b>     |
| Executive Officer's Report .....            | <b>4-6</b>   |
| Thank you Volunteers .....                  | <b>7</b>     |
| Auditor's Report .....                      | <b>8-9</b>   |
| 2010-11 Financial Reports.....              | <b>10-11</b> |
| Photo Collage.....                          | <b>12-13</b> |
| 2010-2011 Financial Reports Continued ..... | <b>14-15</b> |
| Information & Support Report .....          | <b>16-17</b> |
| Education Report .....                      | <b>18-19</b> |
| Activities Report .....                     | <b>20-22</b> |
| Youth Development Report .....              | <b>23</b>    |
| Music Therapy.....                          | <b>24-25</b> |
| Regional Contributions .....                | <b>25-27</b> |
| Photo Collage .....                         | <b>28-29</b> |



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# 2010-11 Committe & Staff

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## **Patron**

Chris Bombolas

## **Ambassadors**

Nicole Fletcher

Sam Leahy

## **Honorary Life Members**

Wayne Grady

Mark Hargroder

Anne Jobling

Julie Mitchell

Bev de Smidt

Sandra Mayberry

Scott & Melissa Dowling

Warren & Dawn Dowling

Anne McInnes

## **Management Committee**

2010-2011

**President:** Scott Templeman

**Treasurer:** Gillian Sullivan

**Secretary:** Kathy Bailey

**Committee Members:** Mark Hargroder

Brian Edwards

Toni Mitchell

Belinda Swain

## **Staff**

Executive Officer: Louise Lloyd

Information & Support Coordinator: Rachel Carr

Education Consultant: Amanda McFadden (until February)

Education Consultant: Amanda Corby (from April)

Community Outreach Coordinator: Irena Novic (until September)

Activities Coordinator: Julia Newett

Youth Development Officer & Music Therapist: Kate Fletcher

Administration Officer: Karen Stirling

Office Assistant: Nikela Carrigan

## **Quarterly Financial Reviews**

Mark Hayward

## **Auditor**

Brenden Priest - Hall Browns Accountants

# Thank you for your Monetary Donations

## Nov - Dec 2010

Carole Ward  
Rob & Virginia Lonsdale  
Faith Baptist Christian School  
Michelle Koppen  
Julie Murphy



Count Charitable  
Dianne Harch  
Lynsay Cumpstay  
Riverside Mining  
Aust Tax Office Mt Gravatt  
Scott & Melissa Dowling  
Scooters & Mobility  
E Chun Tie & FR Lowe  
Pop Standen  
Exchange Hotel  
Charles Harrison & Assoc



## Jan to Nov 2011

ANSVAR Insurance  
Sharon Lowrey  
Brandella Bulb Blowers  
Mike Medrano  
Ball Events - Garry Stickley  
The Public Trustee of Qld  
Jonathan & Julie Shaw  
Kevin & Lorraine Castles  
Wamuran Co-Op Ltd  
Bruce & Gillian Sullivan  
Patrick Borg



John Wiley & Sons  
Emily Jeffress  
Alicia Thompson  
Everyday Hero  
Theresa LeFeuvre  
Kelvin Wuttke  
Eimear Moran  
Sara Dobson  
Specsavers  
Anthony Black Family Lawyers  
The Rotary Club of Monto  
Lindsay & Lucky Sidwell  
David Mills Lawyers  
Everyday Hero  
Red Hot Relationships  
James Robertson  
Peta-Kaye Croft  
G. Hansen  
Virginia Golf Club  
Port of Brisbane

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# President's Report

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Prepared by Scott Templeman

This year has been outstanding; we have made some changes and have participated in the inauguration of a National Down syndrome body. The Committee and I feel that we are moving in the right direction and the evidence of this is the increase in membership and the increase in the number of workshops, seminars and activities.

In the first section of this report I want to focus on the changes we have made. We are a parent run organisation, our committee is made up of volunteers and we love to give our time. We like to have committee members from all over the state but it has been difficult for our regional committee members to participate fully in the meetings. Everyone who has been on the end of a phone line for a committee meeting will tell you that it is very difficult to hear, let alone make genuine contributions. For this reason, this year we have experimented with quarterly meetings on Saturdays with our regional committee members attending in person. I am hoping that we will continue with this approach as it has led to much better communication.

The next change has been taking a further step towards a governance Committee instead of a management committee. The difference being that, the professional staff does the day to day management of DSAQ and the committee provides the direction. The committee is still the body that runs the DSAQ but we do not need to be doing so much of the "work". This model is working very well. We have fantastic staff, they know their jobs and they have the best interest of the DSAQ community in mind. The governance model gives them the space to be effective and to grow as professionals. The evidence of this is in the world-leading work they have done this year. DSAQ is so progressive in the development of resources and programs, that we are fielding enquiries from all over the world for our products and services.

This year has seen the inauguration of Down Syndrome Australia, which is designed to be the single voice of all of the Down Syndrome Associations in the country. It is a company limited by guarantee and every State and Territory President has a seat on the board. I have been firm in my representation of DSAQ to ensure that the new body; its constitution and operational plans will deliver good results for all Associations and the Down syndrome community in Australia. The National body has the potential to be a great asset and advocate, which is why we need to engage and participate fully as a board member.

Progress to date has been slow but we need to keep pushing for our needs through this group.

I would like to thank the many elected members of the State Parliament and local Governments around the Queensland who have helped us this year, in particular Stirling Hinchliffe, who is our Office's Local Member, for all of the assistance in getting our office and grounds looking fantastic. We have also built relationships with The Honourable Curtis Pitt MP (Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships), The Honourable Cameron Dick MP (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) and (in his ministerial portfolio) The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) who have given us their time and attention and assisted us to address issues that effect our families.

Cr Graham Quirk, Lord Mayor of Brisbane and Cr Brad Carter, Mayor of Rockhampton have also assisted us in improving community awareness and access and a listening ear to local needs. I am confident that these relationships will continue to be strengthened and developed over the following years, with improved outcomes for our community.

I would also like to thank our Regional Representatives (see Regional Contributions), without the support you provide, the Association would not achieve its goals and mission. You are doing a valuable job and the whole committee appreciates your time and effort.

Without our generous corporate sponsors DSAQ would struggle to provide the services and programs our members have come to rely on. Thank you to ANSVAR, Colliers International, Ball events, Port of Brisbane and Count Charitable Foundation. Your contributions have meant that we can carry out the great work we do across this big State.

Lastly, I would like to thank our DSAQ Staff for a great year. There are not many times we get to acknowledge the great work you do so I really want to congratulate you all on your achievements. I look forward to the coming year, working with you to fulfill the mission of the DSAQ. The committee and I are constantly astounded by the amount of work you get through and your passion for the work you do.

It has been a big year, we have made some significant changes and they appear to be working. This coming year will be spent concentrating on the consolidation of this plan, while delivering the best levels of service to our members that we possibly can.

# Executive Officer's Report

Prepared by Louise Lloyd

2011 has been full of vibrancy and drive, with a focus on getting out into the community and connecting with members, families, organisations and businesses. The reasoning being to listen to community needs and ideas, to promote the Association and advocate at a community level for social change and of course improve awareness and understanding. This has been coupled with an increased number of workshops throughout Queensland focussing on Education, iPads, toileting, aging, understanding Down syndrome and many more.

Supporting our communities to educate, support, understand and develop people with Down syndrome's skills and talents has been a priority and will continue to be so in 2012. The more we educate the community, the greater chance a person with Down syndrome has of a fulfilling and inclusive life. Towards the end of 2011, we have been focusing on employment and the transition process needed to make this vital social step. This will continue to be a focus as we move into 2012. We have been steadily achieving this through partnerships with Endeavour, NDS, Autism QLD, QPPD, CRU, Cerebral Palsy League, AEIOU and Montrose at a state level, and through the formation of Down Syndrome Australia at a national level. This has given my counterparts and I a platform to discuss issues of importance in the sector and to challenge government departments to focus on supporting disability organisations.

I have been privileged to have had many discussions over the year with Queensland Ministers in regards to Employment, Education and Disability as well as the Director Generals of these portfolios. I would like to thank Cameron Dick MP, Stirling Hinchliffe MP and Curtis Pitt MP for their time and attention to our cause. I have also had the pleasure of attending many events and functions with members and getting to know the families that make up this Association.

Along with me is the DSAQ's dedicated staff: Rachel Carr (Information & Support), Irena Novic (Community Outreach - until September), Julia Newett (Activities Coordinator), Amanda Corby (Education Consultant), Kate Fletcher (Youth Development), Karen Stirling and Nikki Carrigan (Administration). Without the dedication and hard work of the staff all of the activities, workshops and supports would not be possible. I would like to say a big thank you to all of the staff for making DSAQ a vibrant, supportive and caring place to be.

## Programs

With thanks to ANSVAR, Count Charitable Foundation, Colliers International and Gaming Machine grants we have been able to provide a range of high quality programs, events, regional visits and information days.

The year began with a regional visit to Mackay, followed by Townsville, the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, Rockhampton, Ipswich and Bundaberg. May 2011 saw the annual DSAQ Camp arrive with a vengeance. Forty adults with Down syndrome and 18 volunteers tackled the YMCA campsite at Petrie.



DSAQ members & volunteers enjoyed Camp at Petrie.

The weekend was a riot of adventure, learning and mayhem as adults with Down syndrome let their hair down and had a great time.

This year the Youth Development Officer position was taken up by Kate Fletcher. The role involves networking and connecting the youth, facilitating the development of activities and support structures and linking-in with any new and emergent youth. The main events for the year were the New Years Eve Ball, Movie World and Camp Reunion.

Our Music Therapy program has also been facilitated by Kate Fletcher, a registered music therapist. The DSAQ choir has grown and developed a new name, "Together Red", conceived by the choir members themselves. They have been performing all over Brisbane and have launched a new CD of original songs compiled by the adults in the choir. Kate has also conducted Music Therapy groups on the north and south sides of Brisbane and Ipswich, with Hamish King running the group on the Gold Coast. DSAQ would like to thank Steve Dillon and Sweet Freedom Music for partnering with this program and developing new technologies to assist our choir members to access music and to join with choirs from all over the world to sing over Skype.

# Executive Officer's Report

The Speech Therapy Playgroup also continued in 2011, allowing children to engage in speech therapy within a play-based program. This is currently facilitated by Bernadette Bugden (SLP). Due to the increased demand for programs and the desire for families not to travel too far from home, we began offering these programs on the south side of Brisbane as well. This has been achievable with the support of Tingalpa Uniting Church.

## Awareness Week

October saw another action-packed Awareness Week. It was kicked off with a spectacular Celebration Night at Arana Hills Leagues Club and topped off by the Brisbane Buddy Walk. A big thank you must go to Julia for her organisational efforts and all staff and committee who supported these events. The Celebration Night was a night to kick up your heels and celebrate our community together as an Association. The night saw 100 people attend, enjoy fabulously entertaining speeches from our two Ambassadors, Nicole Fletcher and Sam Leahy, as well as dance and eat fabulous food.

The Brisbane Buddy walk was held again at Orleigh Park, West End, with an increased number of families in attendance. The Mount Gravatt East Marching Band kept us in time with their spectacular efforts. Thanks must go to Roary, Tracy Davis MP (Member for Aspley and Shadow Minister for Disabilities), Redback Garrison 501st Legion (Storm Troopers), pREDixS dancers and Melissa Downes for their involvement in the excitement on the day. This event raised upwards of \$7,000 in sponsorship.



Minister Pitt's office donned their DSAQ wristbands and got involved with Primary Colour Day.

Primary Colour Day 2011 was a major event this year, with DSAQ taking over King George Square and Queen St Mall in the Brisbane CBD. This gave DSAQ an opportunity to talk to a large number of families from the community and to educate the wider Brisbane community on the issues surrounding Down syndrome.

The Minister for disabilities, Curtis Pitt MP, joined in the action with his office donning primary colours for the day. Young photographer Rory O'Chee displayed his photographic prowess with a high quality display of his work, which was commented on by the Brisbane Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk. However, the most important part of the events was the community awareness of people with Down syndrome and their families.



Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, DSAQ Ambassador Sam Leahy, Photographer Rory O'Chee and DSAQ President Scott Templeman help launch Primary Colour Day 2011.

The regions also enjoyed Awareness Week events with Rockhampton, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast holding Buddy Walks, and Bundaberg, the Sunshine Coast and Ipswich holding events in their areas. It was motivating for us at the office to hear about what was happening all around Queensland and to be able to offer support where needed. Without the great efforts of our regional families DSAQ would not be able to host such amazing events.

This year we were also beneficiary of a Garden Party at Sanctuary Cove. 200 guests were treated to bubbly, an enormous raffle, sumptuous food, roving fashion parade and (of course) the garden to end all gardens, the Sidwell's amazing garden 'Turnberry'. It was a hot, sunny day and one full of colour and surprises. A big thank you goes to Lucky and Lindsay Sidwell and the Lions of Sanctuary Cove for the time and energy they put into making this event such a success.

Our merchandise boxes made forays into regional areas with new packages of pens, wristbands and jellybeans. These proved a hit with children and adults alike. The Monto Tea Party was a huge success, with people coming from near and far. It was a pleasure to present DSAQ Life Memberships to Warren and Dawn Dowling, Anne McInnes and Scott and Melissa Dowling, to recognise the time and energy contributed to DSAQ during the Tea Party's thirteen years.

# Executive Officer's Report

## Supporters

As a not-for-profit Association receiving minimal government funding, we are heavily reliant on the generous support of our corporate partners and friends, without whom many of our programs could not function. I would like to thank ANSVAR Insurance for their contribution of \$15,000 to expand our youth program, Count Charitable Foundation for donating \$10,000 to develop our regional information and supports, The Brisbane City Council (Lord Mayor's Office) for generously donating the funds to run Brisbane Buddy Walk activities, while the Jupiter's Community Gambling Benefit Fund donated \$39,000 to run our Music Therapy program. Jupiter's also donated \$10,000 to set up a technology hub and the Brisbane City Council sponsored our Choir program.

## Thank You to the Committee of 2010-2011

I would like to especially thank all the 2010-2011 Committee Members for their dedication and generous gift of time. It has been a pleasure to work alongside and be supported by you. This year, we say farewell and acknowledge the hard work of long-standing committee member Mark Hargroder, who after six years on the committee has decided to hang up his boots.

## Thank you to the following New Parent Support Volunteers who provide support throughout Queensland

Nancy Allan  
Leanne Ayling  
Kathy Bailey  
Traci Batten  
Tanya Fleming  
Allie Broadley  
Julie Challenor  
Melissa Dowling  
Latasha Escher  
Lorraine Gaunt  
Mary Ginty  
Rebecca Hammersley  
Trevor Hammersley  
Dianne Harch  
Theresa Lefeuvre  
Trish Lines  
Angela Logan  
Toni Mitchell  
Therese Moran  
Gayle Parker  
Judie Price  
Colleen Ryan  
Robyn Stewart  
Lilian Wyngaards



# Thank you Volunteers

We would like to extend an enormous thank you to **Ari Hunter**, a Brisbane based professional photographer who has provided her services free of charge in order to help up-date our photos for education resources.

## Regular child minders for coffee mornings

Joy Chegwidden  
Hannah Lace  
Cheryl Hamilton  
Marjorie Chafin  
Kylie Marsh

## Administration Volunteers

Nancy Trevathen  
Shipra Shah  
Yasha Sarvana  
Kara Biggs



## Primary Colour Day Launch Event Volunteers

Mark Hargroder  
Scott Templeman  
Angela Logan  
Bill O'Chee  
Kate Moore  
Renee La Roche  
Alex McDowell  
Anne Jarrad  
Sam Leahy  
Pam & Tara Lloyd  
Dea Artikasih  
Shinta Putri  
Sarah Blackburn  
Justin Hansen  
Christine Shepheard-Ashby  
Mike Lynn  
Shaun Vemuri  
Michelle Doyle  
Catrin Culla  
Austen Easerbrook  
Theresa Wade  
Sanne Dekker  
Emilie Skinner  
David Goff  
Dylan Falconer  
Lachie McLeahy

## Youth Camp Group Leaders

John Allan  
Ben Curtis  
Katherine Doggett  
Meaghan Fletcher  
Michayla Maher  
Carine O'Connor  
Michael Smith  
Gerard Vagg  
Daniel Barbour  
Brendon Daniel  
David McNair  
Ross Eichmann  
Kate Harlen  
Kristie Weller  
Kate Moore  
Christie Jones  
Wendy Winton  
Gemma Hildebrandt  
Chad Raines

## Movie World Volunteers

Kate Jackson  
Kylie Liscombe  
Shane Thompson  
Carine Jackson  
Daniel Barbour  
Renee La Roche  
Ben Curtis

## Buddy Walk Volunteers

Julie Challenor  
Angela Logan  
Luke Osborne  
Renee La Roche  
Riverside Lions Club  
Philip & Angus Lloyd  
Simon & Kathy Newett  
Sandi Meibusch & Mount Gravatt East  
Redback Garrison, 501<sup>st</sup> Legion  
State School Marching Band  
Patty Torres  
Melissa Downes  
Tracy Davis MP  
Kate Harlen  
Aimee Dane  
Graham & Bridget Dane  
Ruby Salazar

# Auditor's Report



Contact: [allison.mckelvie@hallbrowns.com](mailto:allison.mckelvie@hallbrowns.com)  
[brenden.priest@hallbrowns.com](mailto:brenden.priest@hallbrowns.com)

11 November 2011

The Members  
Down Syndrome Association of Qld Inc.  
PO Box 3223  
STAFFORD QLD 4053

Dear Members

## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INC.

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of the Down Syndrome Association of Queensland Inc. which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2011, and the income statement for the year ended 30 June 2011.

### *The Responsibility of the Committee for the Financial Report*

The Committee Members of the entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Committee Members' responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Committee Members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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PO Box 454 Spring Hill QLD 4004

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ABN 68 988 043 576

# Auditor's Report



## **Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies. We received no remuneration for the provision of our services.


## **Audit Opinion**

### **Cash Transactions**

Cash from donations and fundraising activities are substantial sources of revenue for the entity. The entity has determined that it is impracticable to ascertain control over the collection of cash from donations and fundraising activities prior to the amounts being banked. Accordingly, as the substantiation available to us regarding revenue from these sources was limited, our audit procedures with respect to cash from donations and fundraising activities had to be limited to ensuring that the amounts banked were accurately recorded in the financial records. We are consequently unable to express an opinion as to whether revenue from donations and fundraising activities is complete.

### **Qualified Audit Opinion**

In our opinion, except for the effects, if any, of the matter referred to in the qualification paragraphs above, the income and expenditure statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial performance of the Down Syndrome Association of Queensland Inc. as of 30 June 2011.

  
**HALL BROWNS ACCOUNTANTS PTY LTD**  
**ALLISON MCKELVIE**  
Director  
Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 2011.

**Down Syndrome Assoc. of Qld Inc 2008-09**

PO Box 3223  
STAFFORD, QLD, 4053

**Profit & Loss Statement**

**July 2010 through June 2011**

11/11/2011  
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|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                           |                     |
| DET - Grant Block Funding               | \$110,303.05        |
| DSQ - Grant Block Funding               | \$197,081.07        |
| Workshops                               | \$31,281.07         |
| Resource Sales                          | \$1,018.18          |
| Membership Subscriptions                | \$19,026.15         |
| Donations                               | \$99,019.54         |
| New Grant Money                         | \$48,453.46         |
| Events & Functions                      | \$43,015.72         |
| Merchandise                             | \$4,483.64          |
| General Workshop Income                 | \$2,207.16          |
| Bank Interest                           | \$33,604.25         |
| Watpac Share Income                     | \$3,190.00          |
| <b>Total INCOME</b>                     | <u>\$592,683.29</u> |
| <b>Cost Of Sales</b>                    |                     |
| Events                                  | \$109.09            |
| <b>Total Cost Of Sales</b>              | <u>\$109.09</u>     |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>                     | <u>\$592,574.20</u> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                         |                     |
| <b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; OPERATIONAL</b> |                     |
| Committee                               | \$4,978.90          |
| Committee Communication                 | \$6,427.00          |
| Staff Development                       | \$5,051.54          |
| Staff Travel                            | \$5,922.92          |
| Staff Conf/Event Attendance             | \$2,122.74          |
| Wages & Salaries                        | \$169,798.65        |
| Superannuation Expenses                 | \$17,741.70         |
| <b>OFFICE OPERATIONAL</b>               |                     |
| Office Stationery                       | \$10,730.67         |
| Office Equipment                        | \$16,190.86         |
| Office - Relocation expenses            | \$3,660.00          |
| Office Postage                          | \$6,203.41          |
| Advertising, - Staff Positions          | \$300.00            |
| Office Telephones                       | \$7,236.18          |
| Office Sundry                           | \$2,959.14          |
| Office Kitchen supplies                 | \$1,000.10          |
| Memorial Expenses/Donations             | \$1,430.86          |
| Office Printing                         | \$9,050.80          |
| Office World Vision                     | \$516.00            |
| Office Maintenance                      | \$3,301.28          |
| <b>IT</b>                               |                     |
| IT Hardware                             | \$2,408.68          |
| IT Software                             | \$3,366.78          |
| IT Support                              | \$1,678.86          |
| IT Internet / Egroup/Website            | \$1,481.56          |
| <b>BUSINESS &amp; FINANCIAL</b>         |                     |
| Bank Fees                               | \$1,426.12          |
| Interest Paid                           | \$382.83            |
| EFTPOS Charges                          | \$944.61            |
| Office Insurance                        | \$8,525.78          |
| Office Subscriptions                    | \$1,693.38          |
| Office Fees / Licences                  | \$402.20            |
| Office - ISO Audits/Compliance          | \$3,403.79          |
| Consultants External                    | \$727.27            |
| Office - Bookkeeping/Admin Ser          | \$7,742.15          |
| <b>FUNDRAISING &amp; PROMOTIONAL</b>    |                     |
| DSAQ Gen Merchandise                    | \$6,991.52          |
| Events & Functions Exps                 | \$34,562.57         |
| <b>INFO &amp; SUPPORT OPERATIONAL</b>   |                     |
| ISSC Salary                             | \$41,694.51         |
| ISSC Superannuation                     | \$4,582.04          |
| ISS Digest Postage                      | \$242.93            |

**Down Syndrome Assoc. of Qld Inc 2008-09**

**Profit & Loss Statement**

**July 2010 through June 2011**

11/11/2011  
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|                                |             |                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| ISS NP Support                 | \$955.23    |                     |
| ISS Presentations              | \$3,467.73  |                     |
| ISS FC Venue Hire              | \$95.45     |                     |
| FC Entertainment & Speakers    | -\$291.00   |                     |
| COMMUNITY OUTREACH             |             |                     |
| COC Salary                     | \$40,296.31 |                     |
| COC Super                      | \$3,679.20  |                     |
| COC Professional Development   | \$954.55    |                     |
| COC Regional Activities        | \$12,799.49 |                     |
| YOUTH & ADVOCACY DEVELOPMENT   |             |                     |
| YA Salary                      | \$1,287.50  |                     |
| Youth Camp                     | \$9,717.78  |                     |
| YA Expenses                    | \$2,848.99  |                     |
| YA Venue & Equipment hire      | \$687.12    |                     |
| EDUCATION CONSULTANT SERVICES  |             |                     |
| EC Salary                      | \$40,261.27 |                     |
| EC Superannuation              | \$1,803.00  |                     |
| EC - Annual Leave              | \$2,098.32  |                     |
| EC External Consultant Fees    | \$6,165.70  |                     |
| EC - Prof. Development         | \$60.00     |                     |
| EC- Research/Networking/Visits | \$9,211.79  |                     |
| EC Computer/Software           | \$7,149.55  |                     |
| EC Resources                   | \$18,330.70 |                     |
| EC Administration              | \$4,918.91  |                     |
| EC Conferences & Equipment     | \$10,349.89 |                     |
| EC Student Resources           | -\$17.73    |                     |
| Other Grants                   |             |                     |
| OG Resources                   | \$26,333.15 |                     |
| Employment Expenses            |             |                     |
| Other Employment Expenses      | \$1,517.38  |                     |
| Total EXPENSES                 |             | <u>\$601,560.61</u> |
| Operating Profit               |             | <u>-\$8,986.41</u>  |
| Other Income                   |             |                     |
| Other Expenses                 |             |                     |
| Net Profit/(Loss)              |             | <u>-\$8,986.41</u>  |







**Down Syndrome Assoc. of Qld Inc 2008-09**

PO Box 3223  
STAFFORD, QLD, 4053

**Balance Sheet**

**As of June 2011**

11/11/2011  
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|                              |              |                     |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                |              |                     |
| <b>Current Assets</b>        |              |                     |
| Suncorp Cash Mgmt 047846070  | \$29,712.32  |                     |
| Suncorp Chq A/C 047847467    | \$31,184.37  |                     |
| Suncorp A/C 45 234 8314      | \$84,227.26  |                     |
| Suncorp Term Deposit 1       | \$150,000.00 |                     |
| Suncorp Term Deposit No. 2   | \$400,000.00 |                     |
| Undeposited Funds            | \$260.00     |                     |
| Cash Accounts                |              |                     |
| Office Petty Cash            | \$200.00     |                     |
| Visa Account                 |              |                     |
| Visa                         | -\$5,988.53  |                     |
| Waipac phones                |              | \$9,800.00          |
| Computer Equipment           |              | \$7,079.33          |
| Trade Debtors                |              | \$4,402.88          |
| <b>Total Assets</b>          |              | <b>\$710,877.83</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>           |              |                     |
| Trade Creditors              |              | \$10,210.96         |
| <b>GST Liabilities</b>       |              |                     |
| GST Collected                | \$9.09       |                     |
| GST Paid                     | -\$174.03    |                     |
| GST Payable to ATO           | \$11,990.18  |                     |
| <b>Total GST Liabilities</b> |              | <b>\$11,825.24</b>  |
| <b>Payroll Liabilities</b>   |              |                     |
| Superannuation Payable       | \$0.01       |                     |
| PAYG Payable                 | \$8,564.70   |                     |
| Annual Leave Accrued         | \$18,712.80  |                     |
| Revenue in advance           | \$47,000.00  |                     |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>     |              | <b>\$96,313.71</b>  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>            |              | <b>\$614,563.92</b> |
| <b>Equity</b>                |              |                     |
| Retained Earnings            | \$623,550.33 |                     |
| Current Earnings             | -\$8,986.41  |                     |
| <b>Total Equity</b>          |              | <b>\$614,563.92</b> |

# Information & Support Report

Prepared by Rachel Carr

The Information and Support role has grown and expanded in many ways over the past 12 months. The primary focus of this role is, and will always be, to provide quality information and support to people with Down syndrome, their families and the range of professionals involved in their support including medical professionals, educators, support staff and allied health professionals.

Information requests this year have covered a range of topics including but not limited to: feeding, toilet training, medical issues, employment, communication, housing, puberty, behaviour, relationships, ageing, Alzheimer's disease, iPads, funding, therapy and development. Up-to-date information was provided along with library resources and links with other organisations and groups where relevant.

I have continued to provide information and support to new and expectant parents across Queensland. This has included a number of hospital visits, telephone conversations, emails, library loans and our New and Expectant Parent Information Kits. I continue to face barriers with new parents not always being told of the support available through DSAQ, however I have endeavoured to make medical professionals more aware by visiting as many maternity wards as possible on my regional trips. I am developing further strategies to combat this problem and look forward to the development of our New Parent Support Program in 2012.



## Publications

Two free publications were developed early in the year – 'the DSAQ Guide to Apps' and the 'Visual Supports' booklet. These publications have been in high demand with requests and feedback coming in from parents, teachers and professionals not only across Queensland but from other parts of Australia and the world. An update is planned for the Apps Guide and a guide to the use of visual supports in the workplace is being developed for release in 2012.

## Expos and Conferences

DSAQ was represented with stands at a number of expos and conferences throughout the year. The Brisbane Pregnancy, Babies and Children's Expo was a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness and provide information to a large audience. A stand for the Ipswich Baby, Toddler and Child Expo was also planned; however this event was cancelled due to bad weather. Following the success of our booth last year, DSAQ was again invited to host a stand at the Self Help Queensland's Self Help and Support Groups Awareness Day expo, which was attended by Julia Newett.

DSAQ also hosted stands at the Alzheimer's Australia 14<sup>th</sup> National Conference in Brisbane and the Queensland Disability Conference in Cairns. These conferences provided a valuable opportunity to display the services and support DSAQ has to offer to a large number of families and professionals from across Queensland. They also allowed me to stay up-to-date on a range of topics relevant to my work at DSAQ by attending sessions presented by experts in the field.

## Library

The DSAQ library is always a work-in-progress with new items being added throughout the year. New carpet was laid in September and this provided a great chance to do a stocktake of our library items. Our library loan system is now running better than ever with loans and returns being processed quickly and efficiently. The library layout has also been changed to include the option to use it as a small meeting space and to create a more inviting environment for families and professionals to spend time.

## Youth

While our Youth Development Officer, Kate, is responsible for the ongoing support and networking of our youth members, I have continued to be involved in a number of youth activities with the highlight again being the planning and co-ordination of the DSAQ Camp. Following the review of the 2010 camp a number of changes were put into place including the arrival of campers being pushed back to Saturday morning to allow a more focussed preparation for staff and volunteers the night before.

This year's camp saw 40 young people with Down syndrome, 18 peer support volunteers, myself and Kate spend an exciting long weekend at YMCA Camp North Pine.

# Information & Support Report

Activities included workshops on feelings, art, sport, collaborative song-writing, a disco and the always popular talent show. While fun and friendship is the main objective of camp, I see it as an incredibly important opportunity for personal development. It's a chance for some of our campers to be pushed out of their comfort zones and gain independence in a safe, supported environment. It is always a pleasure to see the growth and development of our campers, even in the short time that we spend together, and this year was no exception. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible volunteers without whom camp would not be possible. We appreciate your energy, enthusiasm and willingness to have a go more than you could know.



Due to an increase in enquiries around young men with Down syndrome and the issues surrounding relationships and sexuality it was decided to trial a small group workshop program. Over three consecutive weeks, myself and Kate met with a group of young men to discuss various topics including the stages of relationships, appropriate behaviours and what makes a good partner. I was extremely impressed with the level of self-awareness displayed by the attendees and will use this experience to make future plans around this topic.

I also had the pleasure of supporting our youth members who attended the sailing day on the Young Endeavour. The Young Endeavour crew demonstrated an impressive and inclusive attitude and are to be congratulated on their efforts in ensuring our young members had a great day.

## Training

The past year has seen demand for training increase dramatically with my calendar booked up months in advance. Workshops for support staff were held throughout Queensland between April and October. These sessions, titled 'Understanding Down Syndrome' and 'Down Syndrome and Ageing' were held in Bundaberg, Cairns, Mackay, Townsville and Brisbane.

Feedback was fantastic with many participants responding that the information provided would allow them to better support the people with Down syndrome that they work with.

In-house training was provided to a number of organisations throughout the year including: Carers QLD, the Department of Communities, Elysium Consultancy, BMA Blackwater Mine and the Pine Rivers Disability Program. These sessions were tailored to the needs of the organisations and their staff, all with a focus on practical strategies for providing the best possible support to people with Down syndrome.

A large number of workshops on the use of iPads in Education were also held for parents and professionals in a range of locations. Please see the Education Consultant's report for further information.

A parents coffee morning was held in May which included an information session and discussion about puberty and sexuality. This was a well-attended session that has become an important part of our yearly calendar. Another coffee morning was held in June, with guest speaker Amanda Hartmann providing an engaging and informative presentation on multimodal communication. A three part series of workshops on toilet training was planned for September however due to the small number of registrations this information was provided in small informal groups.

Looking ahead to 2012 it is likely that the demand for training will continue to increase. Regional workshops are already planned for February, March and April, and a number of organisations have made enquiries for in-house training in the new year. Submissions have also been made for presentations at the World Down Syndrome Congress and ECIA Asia-Pacific Conference late 2012 with responses due shortly.

2011 has been an exciting and busy year with a focus on developing and nurturing relationships with our members, professionals and other organisations. This is an important focus that will allow more opportunities to work collaboratively with others in the field and I look forward to continuing this work next year. I believe that the Information and Support role will continue to evolve and grow into new areas that will allow me to support people with Down syndrome, their families and the professionals who work with them. At the basis of this I see one important message – we're in it together.

# Education Report

Prepared by Amanda Corby

My primary goal in this role is to work with educators, families and children to ensure the successful inclusion of children with Down syndrome in their individual educational contexts. I began my time at DSAQ working to establish relationships with schools throughout Queensland, making them aware of the Association and ways in which we can work with them to ensure the children in their care are achieving the best educational outcomes possible. This relationship building is crucial to the success of my role as Education Consultant. Already, this is proving to be successful as there has been a substantial increase in the number of member schools over the past year.

In March, a successful two day Education Workshop was held in Brisbane which was attended by many educators from varying backgrounds. The response from this workshop was excellent and offered an opportunity to showcase DSAQ's mission to support, advocate for and empower children with Down syndrome (and their teachers).



School visits have been a major part of my schedule throughout the past 6 months, visiting 26 schools throughout Queensland who are all now members of the DSAQ. These visits have occurred in a variety of contexts. Many schools have requested the Education Consultant observe the student and then meet with the teachers and teacher aides to discuss specific strategies. Other school visits have involved a meeting with all staff members and some have also involved parents. I believe that these visits are the most effective way as an Association to support schools and teachers.

School visits are a valuable way to share information on topics such as specialised teaching strategies, strategies for successful inclusion, targeted activities appropriate for students with Down syndrome, strategies for behaviour management, speech and language development, assistive/ augmentative communication and physical expectations and adaptations to the school program and environment. These visits allow me to support students and teachers within their own contexts and make meaningful contributions to the education of children with Down syndrome throughout Queensland.

I appreciate the importance of our member schools throughout regional Queensland and as such, have undertaken a number of regional trips to run workshops and school visits. These regional trips have allowed me to increase our profile within regional Queensland and continue to build our relationships with schools in these areas. Successful trips have been undertaken to the Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton, Toowoomba & surrounds, Bundaberg, the Gold Coast & Ipswich.

A further commitment to servicing the needs of our regional areas will continue into 2012 with regional visits (which will incorporate an Education Conference as well as school visits) planned for Townsville, Cairns, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Mackay in Term 1 of next year.

A number of information sessions have been run for parents and teachers throughout the year. Parent information sessions have included topics such as; iPads in education, starting school and transitioning to post school employment. These sessions have been well attended with fantastic feedback from all participants. Teacher professional development sessions have included topics such as; iPads in education, visual communication, early childhood education and understanding Down syndrome. Furthermore, I have developed a hands-on, practical whole day workshop on teaching children with Down syndrome which has been extremely well received by teachers in Rockhampton and the Sunshine Coast.

The development of inclusive technologies and their impact on the modern classroom has been a priority for DSAQ and we have established ourselves as leaders in the field of the use of iPads in an educational setting. To date we have delivered 15 workshops to almost 500 participants throughout Queensland.

# Education Report

We are now planning on taking this workshop interstate, to the ECIA Asia-Pacific Conference and to World Down Syndrome Congress.

I have continued with the rolling out of the Primary Education & Fine Motor Kits, promoting them during school visits and demonstrating their benefits in a classroom environment. As a result, a number of our member schools are now utilising these kits and orders are continuing to flow.



Another major project over the past year has been the development of our “Enabled Learning” books. We are currently working on the development of separate books for primary and secondary schools. These books will serve as a comprehensive guide for educators working with students with Down syndrome and will be launched at our Education Conference in Brisbane next year. Another successful publication over the past year has been the “Guide to Apps” booklet which was developed by DSAQ to support the use of iPads and iPods as an educational tool. This booklet is still in demand and is in the process of being updated.



A major overhaul of the library has been undertaken in recent weeks to ensure it is stocked with the most relevant and up-to-date resources that are easily accessible to parents and educators. Consequently, we have seen a steady growth in parents and educators accessing the library.

A lack of understanding of what Down syndrome is and how to cater for the needs of a student with Down syndrome in the classroom continues to be an ongoing issue for teachers. I have contacted Dean of Education at Griffith and QUT to advocate for the inclusion of Down syndrome education in their pre-service teacher courses. This issue was also addressed at a recent meeting with Minister for Education and Industrial Relations, Cameron Dick.

In reflecting on the past 6 months, I feel that the role of Education Consultant has come a long way. I believe that an ever increasing number of schools are becoming aware of the services DSAQ has to offer and are involving us in their journey.



In 2012, I am aiming to continue to increase the number of schools and parents we are supporting and maintain positive and supportive relationships with the wider community. I am looking forward to getting out and about into our regions early next year and continuing to work closely with schools and parents to support the successful education of children with Down syndrome.



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# Activities Report

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Prepared by Julia Newett

## **World Down Syndrome Day Event – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

The DSAQ event calendar got off to a soggy start this year, and for the first time I had to cancel our Brisbane World Down Syndrome Day picnic in the park. I was able to test our wet weather plans and risk assessment and these worked well. Most of the regional areas were able to proceed with their planned activities and made up for Brisbane by celebrating WSDS with picnics across the State.

## **July Family Gathering – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

I decided to try my luck with another outdoor family gathering event in July. I booked a park at Kangaroo Point and arranged activities including egg and spoon races, football, parachute games, bocce, hula hooping and Frisbee. I organised for the Riverside Lions to help run our barbeque and for special guests, Roary (Brisbane Roar Mascot) and the Paralympic Football Club players to attend the day. I had arranged for volunteers to be available and booked Fairy Raine the face painter. Unfortunately, I again had to make the call to cancel the event. I was able to use our social media channels to communicate with members who were planning to attend. A sad end to all the preparation but a win for the DSAQ's newly developed social communication platform and wet weather plan.

## **Networking, Expos and Social Media**

This year has been very valuable for establishing and expanding relationships and networks in my role as Activities Coordinator. I have been able to do this through attendance at expos, events and meetings. I have attended four expos this year: in Brisbane, Ipswich and the Sunshine Coast. The opportunities were not limited to information requests and gathering or awareness raising. I found chances to ask questions of other service providers in areas relevant to my role specifically, including; magazine production, volunteer management and the recording and delivery of workshops for regional areas.

I began attending social media workshops, panel discussions and seminars this year. This has already opened many doors for the Association thanks to the networking opportunities at these events. In particular, through Tanya Hundloe and Tara Castle at Social Money Solutions. Both Tanya and Tara have provided valuable advice and connections in the areas of social media and fundraising.

Louise and myself have also met with Tanya to discuss strategic communication plans that would take us to that next level in the awareness and fundraising stakes. Tanya has submitted a proposal and we are now waiting for committee feedback about the way forward. In the meantime I have been researching some of Social Money Solutions' other clients for ways to improve our choices in fundraising and online strategies. I am excited to continue to expand our networks throughout Queensland in 2012.

## **Fundraising**

Continuing in the area of fundraising, we maintain our use of Everyday Hero as an online fundraising platform. It continues to be a user friendly option that can be linked to our website, Facebook page, twitter, email and other online forums. More members are embracing the online medium and generating more donations than previous years. Events like the Bridge to Brisbane, Gold Coast Airport Marathon, etc. have been great to leverage from. Special thanks must go to Ellen Randle-O'Sullivan and her family for their amazing fundraising efforts leading up to the Gold Coast Marathon.

## **Garden Party – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

In August I was contacted by Lindsay Sidwell of Sanctuary Cove. His brother Kendall (Murphy) had Down syndrome and Lindsay wanted to use his award winning garden to raise funds for people with Down syndrome. Lindsay first contacted me seeking ideas for fundraising and after a good discussion the Garden Party was conceptualised! Over the following months the event grew to include a walk through fashion show, a raffle with very desirable prizes, face painting for children and a photographer becoming involved.

I arranged for our Ambassadors, Sam & Nicole to speak at the Garden Party and liaised with Lucky Sidwell, Lindsay's wife and a talented artist, over the distribution and display of information, merchandise and balloons.

The Lions of Sanctuary Cove came on board to take care of the catering, raffle and donation collections. Both Lindsay and Lucky Sidwell continued to draw support from their community and local media. We were blown away by all their interest and passion to make the Garden Party a huge success.

On the day of the event there were approximately 200 attendees including DSAQ members, Sanctuary Cove residents, friends and family of the hosts and Lions and interested members of the public.

# Activities Report

The Lions did a fantastic job with the raffle and mouth-watering food and those donation tins had so much in them that they didn't rattle anymore! Our Ambassadors, Sam and Nicole did an excellent job educating and spreading awareness about the opportunities and expectations for people with Down syndrome.



## **Celebration Night – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Celebration Night was our Awareness Week launch event. It was a worthwhile evening that was well attended by our members. Arana Leagues Club were a tremendous support and made preparations for this event straight forward and pleasant. The catering they provided was delicious and the whole night was financially achievable especially with their in-kind support. One recommendation I would make for this event would be to finish it a bit earlier to encourage more families with younger children to attend.

## **Primary Colour Day Launch Event – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Primary Colour Day was launched in King George Square this year. The aim was to encourage more of the community to be involved by wearing primary colours. We wanted a very public presence, so King George Square and Queen Street Mall were ideal choices for location. We joined forces with Bill & Rory O'Chee in June. Rory is a talented photographer and I recognised an opportunity to link a photographic exhibition with our Primary Colour Day Launch in King George Square. Bill was very receptive to this idea and came on board. Bill was able to provide ideas and guidance for attracting the media and was also able to help us secure the Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk, to officially launch the event.

On the day itself we set up Rory's exhibition along with our information, merchandise and helium balloons. Over 600 balloons were distributed before 1:00pm when the helium ran out! Lightbox Studio also set up a display with our raffle items. Their support of the Association over the last four years has been amazing. Thank you Helen & Tasmin.

Overall the Primary Colour Day Launch Event was a successful day for creating further awareness and generating funds. Rory and his classmates travelled from Maleny to attend the Lord Mayor's official opening address and Rory presented the Lord Mayor with one of his photographs as a thank you.

## **Buddy Walk Queensland 2011**

This year we staged four highly successful Buddy Walks in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Toowoomba and Rockhampton. This was a huge accomplishment and could not have been achieved without the determination of the Regional Representatives in these areas. I am very grateful to Maree McIntosh, Belinda Swain and Kathy Bailey as well as their support teams for all the effort they went to in order to achieve the community involvement and interest.



I would like to thank Amanda Corby for her additional support of Maree McIntosh in the organisation of the Gold Coast Walk. I was able to offer advice and ideas to Belinda Swain and The Toowoomba & District Down Syndrome Support Group. More can be read about the Gold Coast and Toowoomba Buddy Walks in the Regional Contributions section. Being the first Buddy Walk for the Rockhampton area and given the intensive nature and amount of paperwork for hiring a park in this region, I gave a considerable amount of time to helping Kathy Bailey and her team in feeling comfortable with putting this event on. Kathy and her team did a fantastic job with over 150 participants and fantastic media coverage on both the channel 7 and 9 local news.

## **Brisbane Buddy Walk**

Following on from feedback in 2010, we introduced a welcome speech at the completion of the walk thanking participants, acknowledging sponsors and volunteers and inviting members to participate in the entertainment on offer. This worked well and will be incorporated in future Buddy Walks.

# Activities Report

I also approached pREDixS, the Queensland Reds' Prematch entertainment, to perform at this year's event. A big thank you to Charlie Fetoai for his assistance in making the performance possible and for the amazing inclusion of our members we all witnessed on the day! I would definitely like to invite them back as they proved to be many Buddy Walk participant's highlight of the day with feedback like:

"It was the best Buddy Walk yet. The highlight this year was the dancing troupe. Getting all the kids down for a boogie was brilliant – they should have gone on for another 10 mins!" and "I just want to say 'Well done' on the organisation of the Buddy Walk. We thoroughly enjoyed it and loved the Qld Reds dancers, what a great idea, it was lots of fun and very young and 'cool' act. Ryan got to dance with one of the dancers and loved it."

Another popular addition was the participation by the Redback Garrison, 501st Legion. These enthusiastic guys attend events as Star Wars characters including Storm Troopers and Darth Vader. The costumes were fantastic and despite the heat they all completed the walk!

We eagerly welcomed back Melissa Downes, Roary from Brisbane Roar FC, The Riverside Lions Club and the Mount Gravatt East State School Marching Band. I again hired a jumping castle, petting zoo and face painter and all of these were enjoyed by the children and parents!

I was very grateful for the support of all the volunteers who helped us to set up, facilitate activities and pack up following the event. It is an event that continues to grow and therefore more and more volunteers are needed each year in order for it to run smoothly. Thank you to all who contributed to the day's success.

## **Monto Tea Party**

The Monto Tea Party is an event I always look forward to attending. This year was no different, but knowing that it would be the last tea party I was very motivated to encourage our members, committee and staff to join the amazing community one last time for a fantastic day at Hurdle Gully. Over the years the Tea Party has generated over \$40,000.00 and countless newspaper and magazine articles, as well as radio and television interest.

I would like to pass on my heartfelt thanks to Warren, Dawn, Scott & Melissa Dowling as well as Anne McInnes, Lyn & Katy Grant, as well as their support

team for making us all feel so welcome. For the past 13 years they have demonstrated how a community can band together to raise awareness about Down syndrome and funds for our Association. Thank you for all your generosity.



## **Volunteers**

This year we continued to build up our volunteer numbers through events, the camp, and administration positions. It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm and willingness to return again and again from everyone who becomes involved.

This year I also enjoyed helping to build the skills of two administration volunteers whose goals were to find employment. It was very satisfying to see their confidence grow as their skills increased and to wave goodbye when they did indeed find paid work.

I also learnt a lot after taking on a number of TAFE and school students who needed to complete hours for their subjects. This was a new and welcome experience that benefited both the student and DSAQ, especially in the preparation of education and information resources. I look forward to continuing to work with Southbank and Bracken Ridge TAFE's in 2012.

## **Digest**

I continue to produce the quarterly DSAQ Digest magazine for our members. We have been receiving great feedback from the latest issues. Topics have really resonated with our members and with Associations around the world! We recently found out that articles had been reprinted as far away as Manchester.

The submissions and layout are always improving and it is a resource that I am very proud to put together. Thanks to our staff, members and community for their contributions and to Kuhn Corp Press for the advice they have given me on production issues.

# Youth Development Report

Prepared by Kate Fletcher

This year we have seen great progress in the new youth development program. Thanks to ANSVAR, DSAQ received a grant to employ a youth development officer to help enable our youth members forge links of friendship between themselves and other members in the community.

My involvement in youth development kicked off with the New Year's Eve Ball, which was a fitting way to start the year! 21 of our 18+ members, volunteers, and I dressed up to the nines and danced the night away at the RNA Showgrounds. Thanks to Ball Events for the generosity with tickets.

In April a few of us (and some of our brothers and sisters!) got to go sailing with the Young Endeavour Sail Team! It was a fabulous morning, where we joined the crew and sailed along the Brisbane River and learnt a few things about how to work as a team and sail a tall ship! We hung out with the crew, had delicious food, sailed the high seas in the ferocious weather (it did rain a few times!), danced, sang, and generally had a good time. Some of us even got to steer the ship!



The main event of the year was the camp in May. It was a fantastic weekend filled with fun, music, learning, laughter, games and friendship. The weekend consisted of basketball, cricket, soccer, dancing, singing, info workshops, songwriting, art and performing. It is always great to see our members make new friends, reunite with friends from previous camps, and come together for a good time. Campers grow and progress throughout the weekend, surprising both us and themselves with what they can achieve. It makes me proud to see the positive effects of the weekend on everyone involved.

In July we travelled to Movie World. 23 members, eight volunteers and myself caught the bus down to the Gold Coast and had an amazing, fun-filled day. Some of us found the daredevils within us as many of our young men were eager to go on the fastest, scariest rides.



We felt our bodies go upside down and inside out until we were quite dizzy. Others preferred gentler rides, hanging out with movie stars and cartoon characters, having coffee at the cafes, and watching all of the different shows available. Either way, everyone had such a great day that they all fell asleep on the bus home.

Apart from these events, DSAQ also ran a pilot project of Personal Development Workshops for some of our young men here in Brisbane. This appeared successful and we are looking into conducting further developmental workshops for members in the year to come.



The main role of the youth development officer is to help link our members with each other and with the community. It has been lovely to see the connections that have been made so far. I feel that this year has been a great start for doing this and next year we will be able to build on the foundations, continue many friendships, develop ourselves to maximise potential, and make new friends in 2012.

# Music Therapy Report

Prepared by Kate Fletcher

The music therapy program here at DSAQ has achieved a lot this year. As a newly graduated music therapist, I built on the programs that I had piloted in 2010 as a student. The program is split into two main components: the music therapy groups for children, and the teen/adult choirs. The programs are funded through grants from the Brisbane City Council and the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund.

The first grant we received was from the Brisbane City Council. This money was used to build on the choir established in 2010. We were able to purchase a variety of instruments that are used by everyone in the music therapy program, along with the performance equipment needed by every choir. We now have percussion equipment, keyboards, a guitar, microphones and amplifiers. There are two separate choirs that make up Together Red, which is the name chosen by our singers, and we currently have 11 members.



Together Red have new uniforms, which look very smart, and are currently in the process of producing their first CD and DVD. The choir have been working very hard with writing original songs and designing a music video with artwork and photos to go with the songs. Some have also been learning basic keyboard skills to accompany the group through coloured notes.

This year we have performed at the Redlands Red Fest and Sherwood Community Festival and have debuted with our songs, which were well received by all.

In conjunction with QUT, we have had workshops on the digital music program jam2jam, which can be used to help create more original music and add a little bit of flare and magic to our songs. We look forward to working with them further in 2012. At the moment we are working hard to rehearse for our CD launch and our performance at the DSAQ Christmas party. The choirs have made huge progress this year, and are showing everyone the stars they truly are.



The music therapy groups for children have been very popular this year. With the grant from the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund, I have been able to establish five music therapy groups in the Brisbane area and in Ipswich.

There are three music therapy playgroups running in Brisbane north, Brisbane southeast, and in Ipswich, which have approximately 20 families attending each week. There are also two groups for primary school children running after school in Brisbane north and Brisbane southeast. These groups have approximately 10 children attending each week.

The mid-year evaluation has found that the program is achieving great things. Parents of our babies and toddlers have said that the benefits of the group music therapy program include having fun, developmental stimulation, confidence, interaction, excitement, and social participation.

Music has also been used more confidently at home. Parents of our primary aged children have said that the benefits of the music therapy program for their children include sitting and listening, engagement, participation, and of course fun! Music has been used in the home to help with behaviours such as throwing etc.

I really hope to further develop the music therapy programs as I gain more experience. Attending the Australian Music Therapy Association's Annual National Conference has given me invaluable information and motivation to look at music therapy's effect on neurologic and sensory perception of our members, which is a growing field of research.

I feel that the programs have been very successful in achieving goals in the areas of motor coordination, communication and social skills. Music therapist, Hamish King, has also been facilitating a music therapy group on the Gold Coast which has also been very successful.

Apart from the weekly programs, we had a Family Music Morning in the park in the June/July school holidays. Quite a few families turned up and we had music time, morning tea, free play and more music! We will be looking at having more mornings like this in future school holidays. It was a great morning with fun, music and food!

Through the year we have also had two students who have completed work experience with the music therapy program. Year ten student, Jade, joined us for a week to learn a little more about music therapy and to see if it may be a profession she is interested in. Anna, a university music student, completed an internship over six weeks at the DSAQ office location. Anna was very valuable for completing songbooks to use with the after school music therapy program and for giving her time with the choir rehearsals. Both students showed great potential for the music therapy industry and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

In conclusion, I have felt that the music therapy program has really flourished this year. I feel very privileged to be part of members' development and growth and to see how small progressions can make such a difference. I am really looking forward to developing the program further in the year to come and creating smiles through music.

## Thankyou to the following Regional Representative Volunteers who provide support throughout Queensland

Region 1: Leanne Ayling

Region 2: Traci Batten

Region 3: Vacant

Region 4: Vacant

Region 5: Vacant

Region 6: Kathy Bailey

Region 7: Stacy Kington

Region 8: Latasha Escher

Region 9: Gayle Parker

Region 10: Toni Mitchell & Belinda Swain

Region 11: Karra Pepper

Region 12: Brisbane

Region 13: Maree McIntosh

Region 14: Angela Logan

Region 15 : Vacant

## Put best foot forward

IT WAS a very special Down Syndrome Awareness Week in Toowoomba, with the first staging of the International 'Buddy Walk' event.

The Toowoomba and District Down Syndrome Support Group in conjunction with Down Syndrome Association of Queensland, hosted the walk-a-thon style event to raise awareness for people with Down Syndrome.

More than 135 participants enjoyed the walk followed by entertainment from dancers, face painters and Ruby Slipperz, who had everyone up and dancing.

Members and their buddies then enjoyed a barbecue whilst soaking up the beautiful sunshine in Queens Park.

TDDSSG president Lesley Numm said it was great to see so many supporting such an important issue.



**BIG WALK:** More than 130 participants turned out for the Toowoomba Buddy Walk in support of Down Syndrome Awareness Week.

News clipping from the Buddy Walk that was held in Toowoomba on 9th October.

# Regional Contributions

## GOLD COAST REGION

The previous twelve months, saw the Down Syndrome Association on the map at the Gold Coast.

The following events were held:

Nov 2010 Melbourne Cup - 7 mums

### 2011

Feb - Meet & Greet at Nerang Library - 1 mum

March - WDSO - cancelled due to wet weather

Apr - Meeting with Gold Coast Mayor

Jun - Family get together Broadbeach - 14 families

Jul - Mums and Bubs get together - 10 mums

Jul - Pre-prep meeting with Education Consultant, Amanda Corby - 5 mums

Jul - iPad Workshops Parent and Teachers - Fully booked

Oct 2011 Garden party Sanctuary Cove - 200 attendees

Oct 2011 Buddy Walk Paradise Point - 153 Registrations

Weekly Music Therapy for Under 5's - 4-6 families



### Results

The success of the above events shows that there is a strong presence of Gold Coast families with love ones who are Down syndrome. Connecting families has proved invaluable as parents share experiences and information. The music therapy sessions provides a mix of literacy, numeracy, gross and fine motor skills. The joy of the children is very apparent with regular attendees gaining the benefits of learning through music. DSAQ needs to continue holding family get-togethers and information sessions for these families.

The meeting with the Gold Coast Mayor resulted in DSAQ being entered in the Council's Disability Register. DSAQ events are showcased in the "What's On" GCCC website event calendar and the DSAQ now has a "Gold Coast Gives" campaign for donations.

The GCCC has a special needs library. The special needs librarian was very willing to advertise the DSAQ and Gold Coast events with flyers and information. She was also willing to distribute any information to all of the Gold Coast libraries. Unfortunately, I have not been able to follow up on this.



Ella McInnes enjoys swimming lessons on the Gold Coast.

### Goals

My goals for the future are:

- To increase the DSAQ membership base on the Gold Coast. I would like to achieve this by working with Amanda Corby in contacting all Gold Coast schools including ECDP's and enquiring about their Down syndrome enrolment and subsequently providing the school with membership information. In my role as Regional Representative, I have often come across an attitude of "the association does nothing for me" and "I have previously been a member and raised funds and that money was not spent on the Gold Coast" or "Brisbane is too far to go for anything." I would like to see the DSAQ promoted with a new enthusiasm and show potential members how proactive the DSAQ is in connecting families, providing information, empowering individuals and creating community awareness.
- To contact FSG and make enquiries to the needs of non-school age individuals with Down syndrome.
- To continue Music therapy for under 5's and commence a school age group also.
- To provide speech therapy sessions on the Gold Coast.
- To encourage DSAQ members to share their experiences: social or educational, good or bad, with other members with a view to have families well informed of the choices and opportunities available to them and their families.

Maree McIntosh  
Representative - Gold Coast

# Regional Contributions

## SUNSHINE COAST REGION

World Down Syndrome Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 was attended by four families at Cotton Tree Park, The Esplanade, Cotton Tree. It had been a rainy day, however the sun came out in the afternoon. All families brought along their own food and drinks. The kids enjoyed the playground and bike track.

On 19<sup>th</sup> June a family picnic was held at Nelson Park, Alexandra Headlands. This was a beautiful sunny day and many families enjoyed the fenced off playground. Ten families brought along their own food for a BBQ. The 15 kids ranged in age between 1 and 10 years of age.

I met with Amanda Corby on the 21<sup>st</sup> June to discuss education needs of Sunshine Coast kids. Amanda Corby held an Education Conference at Peregrine Beach for teachers and support workers on the 8<sup>th</sup> August. Thankyou to Peregrine Beach Community House for their function facilities.

A movie night was to be held in July, however this had to be canceled due to lack of interest from members.



“Is Everybody Here?” Day was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September at Maroochydore and was attended by Julia, the Activities Coordinator. It was a great opportunity for families to see what the DSAQ, and other organisations have to offer people with disabilities on the Sunshine Coast.

Two families celebrated Down Syndrome Awareness week at Maze Mania in Maroochydore on the 9<sup>th</sup> September.

My family attended our first Buddy Walk this year in Brisbane. We were amazed at the number of people raising awareness and walking as a united group. Very uplifting!



Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in raising awareness of Down Syndrome on the Sunshine Coast. I look forward to continuing my role next year and increasing the opportunities for DSAQ families to connect in 2012. I would like to hold a Sunshine Coast Buddy Walk next year. I'm truly inspired after seeing the wonderful turnout for the Brisbane, Gold Coast, Toowoomba and Rockhampton Buddy Walks this year.

Karra Pepper  
Representative Representative -Sunshine Coast

### Regional Buddy Walks

Thank you to the following Regional Representatives and volunteers for their efforts in organising and supporting Buddy Walks in their local areas:

Kathy Bailey  
Sam Cooms  
Maree McIntosh  
Belinda Swain  
Trent & Karen Lucas  
Richard & Treacy Newman

Thank you to everyone who made these events possible.





## Mission Statement

The Mission of the Down Syndrome Association of Queensland Inc. is to build community awareness and to support, advocate for and empower people with Down syndrome in order for them to take their rightful place within the local and global community.

## Objectives

The objectives of the DSAQ Inc. are:

- to support, encourage and inform people with Down syndrome and their family groups;
- to educate, inform and support health, educational and other professionals, students, support network members and the wider community;
- to be the representative body for issues relating to Down syndrome to government, service providers and other community organisations; and
- to stimulate and expand community recognition and awareness as to the individual rights, abilities and needs of people with Down syndrome.



Down Syndrome  
Association of Qld Inc.

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