

2018 - 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

*"Words mean more than
what is set on paper.
It takes the human voice to
infuse them with deeper meaning."*

- Maya Angelou, author & poet



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Our Mission

The Australian Dysphonia Network Inc (ADN) is a not-for-profit organisation run by, and for, people affected by voice disorders. We provide support and help to others affected by dysphonia, while educating, lobbying and raising awareness of voice disorders within the community and the medical profession. The ADN works in collaboration with voice healthcare professionals for mutual benefit.

Our Vision

That all Australians experiencing chronic voice disorders, are able to access early diagnosis, management and treatment and that they are aware of and feel supported by the ADN.

Our History

In October 2015 a couple of 'vocally challenged' individuals hosted '***Dysphonia~ let's talk about it***'... a forum for others affected by, or interested in, voice disorders.

It's true to say, while **we** thought it was a great idea, we had no idea whether anyone would bother to come... But they did... 40 people who know what it's like to live in a world where communication comes so easily for most, but is so damn difficult for others.

For many people and their supporters, it was the first time they had met *others like them*...people who understood their daily frustrations and who knew it was not *all in their head*. And then of course, there were the amazing voice health professionals who shared their time, their expertise and their compassion with no strings attached, just a desire to help us to better understand dysphonia ...and show their support.

It was on **that** day last year, that a decision was made to create something for us and for others in the same situation.... To create a network of those personally impacted by a voice disorder along with interested professionals, and to start and make some noise about dysphonia here in Australia.

So... here we are 4 years down the track and it feels like a great time for a little 'back patting' and time to thank **everyone** that has been involved along the way. Whatever your role was, or continues to beWe thank you as we celebrate some of the following milestones and achievements.

- October '15... A [committee](#) of amazing, hard-working and vocally challenged folk with some brilliant and diverse skills was formed.
- February '16... the Australian Dysphonia Network became Incorporated and fully registered entity.
- April '16 ...Official Launch on [World Voice Day](#), our first fundraising effort nets approx. \$11,000.

- May '16...Strategic Planning Day – [priorities and directions](#) were set.
- June '16...Australian Dysphonia Network Inc became a Registered Charity with ASIC.

AND since then we have....(in no particular order)

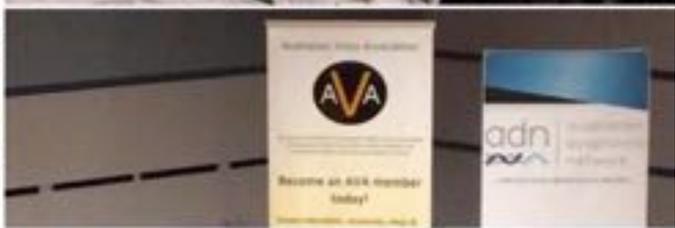
- connected with over 200 voice health professionals across the country... Doctors, Speech Pathologists and supporting voice practitioners.
- established close relationships with University of Newcastle (UoN), Western Sydney University (WSU) and Dr Liang Voice Program at University of Sydney (USyd)
- produced a range of [downloadable](#) information and free [support resources](#).
- been invited regularly to present to final year Speech Pathology Students on the impact of life with a voice disorder.
- continued to explore the development of a personal amplification system, initially in partnership with WSU then subsequently through independent R&D.
- established a '[closed discussion group](#)' to connect and support people affected.
- responded to approximately 300 individual email requests for information, referral or support, connecting people and strengthening the network.
- hosted our second forum 'Voice Disorders – Join the Conversation'
- commenced filming a human-interest documentary highlighting life with dysphonia
- began development of video teaching resources for use in tertiary settings
- filmed a promo-clip highlighting the importance of the work of ADN
- were invited to partner with University of Technology Sydney in a research funding submission focussed on improving life with a communication disorder
- were invited to auspice funds for the further development of a bionic larynx – currently in development by Laronix.
- partnered with Australian Voice Association to host annual awareness activities in support of World Voice Day (celebrated globally on April 16)
- initiated 'Voice Awareness Month' celebrated in April Nationally
- established annual fundraising concerts in Newcastle and Penrith
- launched #NoBall – an online Charity Ball
- presented at a Scientific Voice Forum hosted by University of NSW
- launched the '[ADN Menu Mug](#)' an environmentally friendly coffee mug that removes the need to 'speak your order'
- partnered with Vocal.Disorders.com to host a web-based week-long international symposium on voice issues
- raised awareness of voice issues through a range of [mainstream media moments](#) including:
 - Dr Norman Swann on ABC Health Report
 - Studio 10 Breakfast Television.
 - interview on 9Honey
 - article in 'Take 5' Magazine

And it's still only been 4 years Thank you to everyone who has played a role in any part of our achievements so far.



help us
to
bring the
'voiceless' back
into the
conversation

dys-phonia
...not simply, it means...
'difficulty making voice sounds'
...BUT WE KNOW...
THERE'S NOTHING SIMPLE ABOUT LIVING WITH IT



Voice Disorders ... join the conversation



ABOUT US

The Australian Dysphonia Network, was born out of a need to raise awareness of life with a chronic voice issue, and to provide peer support and encouragement for those affected. It has become so much more than that since its inception.

We are people who understand life with a voice disorder, because we either live with one, or have close experience of supporting someone who does.

Why the Network?

The Australian Dysphonia Network Inc, was established in 2016 to support people whose lives are impacted by a voice disorder, because:

- Voice disorders may affect relationships
 - Voice disorders may change the way we relate to each other
 - Voice disorders may change our ability to participate in broader social circles
 - Voice disorders also have the potential to impact on careers
-yet, they are poorly diagnosed, and even more poorly understood by the general population.

This completely independent organisation was created by people affected by dysphonia who want to work with doctors, speech/voice therapists and researchers to help change that. We want to make life a little easier for the vocally challenged here in Australia.

We aim to:

Support: individuals, family and close friends who are affected; to share experiences and support each other.

Educate: the general population, GPs and other health practitioners.

Advocate: for voice disorders to be considered in terms of occupational risks, disability or sickness benefits; and for noise reduction in public spaces, restaurants and cafes in order to reduce voice strain.

Lobby for, and Fund Research: there has been very little local research into the causes, management, or the psycho-social impact of voice disorders. ADN wants to address this.

We want to be here for those individuals affected, their friends and family members ... as well representing their concerns in professional forums and settings.

No matter what the 'label' or the underlying cause, life with dysphonia is difficult. We welcome contact from anyone who is affected, because regardless of the medical diagnosis, the impacts on daily life will be very similar.

If you have any suggestions , or just want to say 'hi', please drop us a line using the [contact form](#) on our website ...you see, we don't have a phone (because the telephone is the enemy of most people with a voice disorder), ... but you can also find us on [Facebook](#) and Instagram.

OUR PEOPLE

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Louise Bale	Chairperson	2018 -2019
Brenda Simmonds	Vice Chairperson /Treasurer	2018 -2019
Greg Davis	Secretary/ Public Officer	2018-2019
Lyn White	Director	2018-2019
Judith Rough	Director	2018 -2019
Justine Kingham	Director	From 27/10/18

Louise



Brenda



Greg



Lyn



Judith



Justine



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



It's been another huge year; one that saw us progress our long-held dream of making a video documentary, while continuing to forge new professional and corporate relationships. We have been invited to partner with others on research proposals while continuing to be active in projects that raise awareness of voice, voice issues and of course the ADN ... BUT our most significant achievement has been to connect with, and given hope to many more people who are living with the daily challenge of a voice disorder.

At times, it has been tough going as each board member continues to juggle work & family commitments as well as their own health issues. We are all human and need to balance a range of responsibilities, so thanks to each of our extraordinary Directors for stepping up to support each other where necessary in order to ensure that we remain focussed and don't lose momentum.

There is no doubt that the biggest excitement this year has come from finally commencing our film project. With the generous support of Grace Australia through their 'Grace Gives' community grants program, we have begun to create a number of video resources which will help to raise awareness of dysphonia and its impacts, as well as support medical and allied health training in the field of voice. The personal accounts, along with the knowledge and experiences of researchers and voice-health professionals, will result in a meaningful human interest resource which we hope will build awareness and understanding of voice issues.

So... here we are another 12 months down the track and it is time to once again thank each and everyone that has been involved in some way. We could not have enjoyed the significant achievements without the hard work and support of our Directors, the World Voice Day Campaign planning groups, our partner organisations, our supportive voice professionals..... and of course the family and friends who have continued to support us on the side-lines.

A few other stand-out memories of 2018-2019 include:

- funding of our first research project, a scholarship through the Dr Liang Voice Program @ Sydney University, to explore quality of life impacts and coping strategies of those living with dysphonia.
- receiving the generous support of a Grace Gives Community Grant
- continuing the development of a personal amplification system – a project that commenced with students at WSU and is showing some promise despite the long slow haul.
- launching of [#NoBall](#) our online gala event for the seriously antisocial.
- writing to the Prime Minister seeking research funding consideration – sadly without success.
- filming a promo-clip / elevator pitch, highlighting the importance of the work of ADN
- partnering with UTS in a research funding submission focussed on improving life with a communication disorder.
- being the chosen charity and recipient of funds from the Balmain / Rozelle 'Unchoir'
- being invited to auspice funds for the further development of a bionic larynx – currently in development by Laronix – still awaiting the outcome of grant submission.
- launching the [ADN Menu Mug](#) – fundraising merchandise with a purpose.

All these highlights, while carrying on our core business of:

- providing connection and support for those affected.
- responding to requests for resources (individuals and professionals)
- growing our public facebook community
- growing our closed discussion group for those living with a voice disorder.
- maintaining and updating website
- circulating current research and interest articles
- maintaining a high level of governance and accountability in line ASIC requirements. (special thanks to Brenda and Greg).
- co-ordinating World Voice Day activities – including 2 fundraising shows and a workshop 'Care of the Performing Voice'
- responding to media requests

Another huge and heartfelt thank you to **everyone** who has played a role in any part of our achievements throughout the year

Louise Bale
Chairperson



TREASURER'S REPORT



Our fourth year in operation has been our most successful financial year to date. Over the past twelve (12) months we implemented changes to increase our income and reduce our expenses.

We will continue in 2019 -2020 financial year, to review our activities to increase our income through donations and sponsorship, and to ensure our expenses are closely monitored in all activities.

The following are comments in relation to our financial statements.

Profit & Loss Statement

This financial year has seen a turn around in our net profit from a small loss in 2017-2018 to a profit of \$14,145.13 in 2018-2019.

Assistance from Grace Gives Australia, and other generous supporters of our activities, along with the decrease in overall expenses has contributed to our overall positive financial position.

Balance Sheet

Our only asset at this point of time is cash at bank and the balance sheet therefore shows this has increased by approximately \$15k over the past twelve (12) months.

Our balance sheet shows that the shareholders equity has increased by \$14k from the previous year.

Brenda Simmonds
Vice Chair/ Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brenda Simmonds'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'B' and a long, sweeping tail.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Australian Dysphonia Network Incorporated

PROFIT AND LOSS COMPARISON

July 2018 - June 2019

	TOTAL	
	JUL 2018 - JUN 2019	JUL 2017 - JUN 2018 (PY)
Income		
Donations Received	16,588.30	4,958.55
Event Income - Donations	1,070.00	1,628.45
Event Income - Ticket Sales	3,828.28	2,051.08
Membership Income	8.18	9.09
Sales of Product Income	2,775.23	363.63
Sponsorship / Advertising Income	2,272.73	4,545.46
Total Income	A\$26,542.72	A\$13,556.26
GROSS PROFIT	A\$26,542.72	A\$13,556.26
Expenses		
Advertising expenses	140.00	0.00
Bank charges	1.01	55.62
Dues and subscriptions	136.36	223.56
Event Expenses	8,614.61	10,048.18
Insurance expenses	1,814.11	1,812.91
Marketing / Promotions Expense	0.00	1,117.27
Office, general and administrative expenses	327.36	135.91
Other external services	1,363.64	0.00
Total Expenses	A\$12,397.09	A\$13,393.45
Other Expenses		
BAS Roundoff Gain or Loss	0.50	-0.01
Total Other Expenses	A\$0.50	A\$ -0.01
NET EARNINGS	A\$14,145.13	A\$162.82

Australian Dysphonia Network Incorporated

BALANCE SHEET COMPARISON

As of June 30, 2019

	TOTAL	
	AS OF JUN 30, 2019	AS OF JUN 30, 2018 (PY)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Accounts receivable		
Accounts receivable	0.00	834.35
Total Accounts receivable	A\$0.00	A\$834.35
Cash on hand	0.00	0.00
Com Bank Account	21,653.30	6,229.08
Petty Cash	131.00	0.00
Total Current Assets	A\$21,784.30	A\$7,063.43
Total Assets	A\$21,784.30	A\$7,063.43
Liabilities and shareholder's equity		
Current liabilities:		
ATO Clearing Account	0.86	-422.00
GST Liabilities Payable	228.74	75.86
PAYG Withholdings Payable	0.00	0.00
Total current liabilities	A\$229.60	A\$ -346.14
Shareholders' equity:		
Net Income	14,145.13	162.82
Retained Earnings	7,409.57	7,246.75
Total shareholders' equity	A\$21,554.70	A\$7,409.57
Total liabilities and equity	A\$21,784.30	A\$7,063.43

DECLARATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors confirm the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2019 and that they provide a true and fair view of the Australian Dysphonia Network Inc financial performance and that the Board of Directors declare in their opinion:

a) the income statement gives a true and fair view of all income and expenditure with respect to fundraising appeals.

b) the balance sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation with respect to fundraising appeals

c) the provisions of the Act, the Regulations and the conditions attached to the fundraising authority have been complied with by the organisation, and

d) the internal controls exercised by the organisation are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by the organisation from any of its fundraising appeals.

Dated 28 th November 2019.

Louise Bale - Chairperson



#NoBall

The best fundraiser you'll never attend



Gregory Davis - Secretary



Special thanks to the following people and organisations

Andrew Coppin

Grants and Funding Support 2019

Grace Gives Australia
The Joan – Penrith City Council

Research, Community & Corporate Partners

Dr Liang Voice Program USyd	University of Western Sydney
University of Technology	Lumina Visual
Content Media	Lizottes Newcastle
Laronix	

ADN World Voice Day Ambassadors 2019

Anthony Ackroyd	Francine Bell
Yianna Nicholas	Sheridan Gaudry

Participants who shared their personal story in our video project

Ellie Koski	Mark Kristian	Louise Bale
Lyn White	Justine Kingham	Michelle Coccoli
Brenda Simmonds	Carolyn Volos	Greg Davis

Health Professionals who gave up their time to be involved in our projects

Dr Georgina Harris	Dr Cate Madill
Judith Rough	Dr Daniel Novakovic
Dr Janet Baker	Jared Hermogenes

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer your time

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to offer professional expertise on a Pro Bono basis. In particular, we are interested in help with Auditing and Marketing – but welcome expressions of interest from anyone keen to assist.

Make a donation

Nothing speaks quite like cash.

Whether it is a small one off personal donation, or a larger corporate contribution, we can provide you with a Deductible Gift Recipient receipt for your tax purposes.

Direct Deposit www.australiandysphonianetwork.org/2017/03/23/support-us/

Donate via our Charity Partner - MyCause www.donate.mycase.com.au/charity/21302

Leave a bequest

One of the most generous ways to support us, yet one of the trickiest to talk about.

If you or someone you know is looking to support us in this way, we would love to hear from you and discuss options. We will be eternally grateful and ensure appropriate acknowledgement.

Support an event or fundraising activity

If you are free to help with selling tickets, promoting or physically assisting at one of our regular planned events, we can always use a hand. Email us your details and areas of interest and we will add you to our pool of 'on-the-ground' volunteers

You may like to host an event and dedicate the funds raised to us. Let us know and we will support you with a resource kit and help to promote your event.

Become a corporate partner

Corporate partnerships are a way to visibly demonstrate your ongoing support and commitment. Contact us for a Corporate Partnership Kit which will outline the mutual benefits and obligations.

Other ways you can help our cause

Become a 'Voice Champion'.

While we are always open to ideas about fundraising to support research and support activities; raising awareness of the importance of voice is also extremely valuable. Help us by talking ABOUT voice, its importance, its beauty, and its value. Voice is just as valuable as vision and hearing.



CONTACT US

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Email: australiandysphonianetwork@gmail.com]

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dysphonia.network.australia

Instagram: [australiandysphonianetwork](https://www.instagram.com/australiandysphonianetwork)



...a place for people affected by voice disorders...

ABN: 61974274234