

ARACY ANNUAL REPORT



2020 - 2021

Message from the Chair

It is again a pleasure to present the ARACY Annual Report, this one for the year to 30 June 2021. As we all work our way through the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to thank our CEO Penny Dakin and our staff for their fantastic work over the past 12 months. Inspired by the exacerbated and new challenges faced by children, young people and their families and carers, as well as those faced by our colleagues, the ARACY team have stepped-up and lived our core value of collaboration.

Under Penny's leadership over the past year, ARACY has facilitated and been invited to be part of deeper and more fruitful collaborations. Examples include an invitation to play a key role in the Minderoo Foundation's highly effective (and ongoing) Thrive by Five campaign, the establishment and Co-Chairing of the National Early Years Catalysing Group (and the attraction of funding from the BHP Foundation for that project), and our ongoing work with UNICEF Australia to ensure our leaders and our colleagues have the information and evidence they need to help our young people best recover from the pandemic.

I wish also to thank my Board colleagues for their ongoing commitment to ARACY, the children and young people and allied organisations it seeks to serve.

I particularly welcome our new Board members, Anne Cregan and Shamal Dass. Anne is a partner in Gilbert + Tobin's pro bono practice. She has over 25 years' experience acting for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disabilities and refugees and asylum seekers and the organisations working with those communities. Shamal is Head of Family Advisory and Philanthropic Services at JBWere. He is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Centre for Social Impact, University of NSW Business School.

It speaks not only to the importance of ARACY's mission, but the clear ability of our staff to carry it out, that we are able to attract such extraordinarily experienced (and busy) people to our Board.

I would also like to pay tribute to Tim Goodwin who retired from the Board after more than a decade of service to ARACY. Tim brought all his experience – as a Yuin man, barrister, former Associate to two Justices of the Federal Court of Australia, as a Board Member of the National Apology Foundation and much else. At ARACY we benefited greatly from his intellect, generosity and drive, as have the children and young people of Australia. I thank Tim for his service.

To summarise, ARACY has had an extraordinarily productive year despite COVID-19. It remains culturally and financially sound. It has met the challenges before it and is well positioned to continue in 2021-22 to effectively deliver



PROFESSOR GERVASE CHANEY

its mission of bringing people and knowledge together for the benefit of young people.

I thank our members and partners for working with us this year. We look forward to continuing building our collaborations with you.

The ARACY Team (at 30 June 2021)

Our Board

- Professor Gervase Chaney
- Professor Ngare Brown
- Anne Cregan
- Adj Associate Professor Shamal Dass
- Professor Kristy Muir
- Dr Norman Swan
- Emeritus Professor Stephen Zubrick

Our Staff

- Penny Dakin – Chief Executive Officer
- Dr Rebecca Goodhue – Lead, Capacity Building
- Diana Harris – Lead, Projects and Programs
- Paul Kindermann – Lead, Communications
- Barbara Barker – Research Manager
- Andrew Bedford – Digital Communications Officer
- Dr Kristy Noble – Principal, Collaboration and Engagement
- Lauren Renshaw – Research Officer
- Lori Rubenstein – Principal Adviser, Director – Brain Builders Alliance
- Sadhana Seriamlu – Policy Officer
- Annmarie Thomas – Program Officer
- Carolyn Warren – Executive Assistant, Office Manager, Company Secretary

Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership

- Michael Hogan – Lead
- Kylie Caso – Partnerships and Projects Officer
- Giselle Olive – Partnerships and Projects Officer
- Afrouz Shoughi – Principal Partnership Officer



OUR ASPIRATION

All children and young people are loved and thriving.

OUR INTENT

We catalyse change by bringing people and knowledge together for the benefit of children and young people in Australia.

Put Knowledge to Work

FOUR
PILLARS



Helping schools take the 'Pulse' of student wellbeing

ARACY has assisted in the development of ei Pulse, a phone-based app which allows educators to rapidly track the wellbeing of students in real time, and enables the young person to use the app to reach out for help. The app engages with students using principles of the Nest and ARACY's The Common Approach.

This year Pulse was being used by 28,000 students at 70 schools. Students and staff checked-in more than 356,000 times. Importantly, Pulse allowed more than 1,300 students to reach out for help conveniently and discreetly.

Pulse is also proving to be a rich source of de-identified data on the mental health and wellbeing of students which will aid ARACY and collaborators in ongoing evidence-based advocacy.

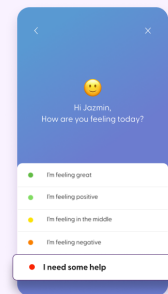
Taking the **Pulse** of Australian Students



1 in 3

**Students
experienced
high anxiety**

November 2021 Results



Setting the course for the next three year – our path, our strategy

A major milestone for this financial year was the development of ARACY's Three Year Strategy 2021-2023. Just as collaboration is central to ARACY's core business, so it has been central to the development of our strategy. With input from our national network of government and non-government members, stakeholders, and partners, we developed a strategy that has strong alignment with a broad section of our sector and a focus on addressing long-standing issues and those either exacerbated or created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our strategy is supported by 4 pillars:

1. Put knowledge to work
2. Grow capability
3. Influence decision making
4. Catalyse collective action

We are determined our strategy be a pathway to greater achievement for ourselves, our stakeholders and partners. As such the four pillars are already guiding all our activities and have done so over the past year.

Building a Common Approach to ensuring First Steps Count

Recognising one of the most powerful ways to support children, young people and their families is through growing the capabilities of the workforces that serve them, ARACY has continued to engage, equip, and support diverse workforces across the country. We have been working with the First Steps Count Child and Community Centre in Taree NSW to help professionals from the community, health and education sectors understand the Nest wellbeing framework and how it can be used in daily practice when working with children, carers and families - primarily through The Common Approach.

Our work included a two-day The Common Approach training workshop and a visit from ARACY CEO Penny Dakin to speak with local service providers at an event arranged by Communities for Children and Mid Coast 4 Kids.

"The Common Approach is increasing the capacity of our local service system to engage children, young people and families in a way that is child focused, strengths based and holistic. As more and more organisations are trained in the use of The Common Approach, a shared dialogue is emerging about 'what works' in keeping children safe and well, and how we can work together to make sure every child is given the opportunity to thrive."

**BREE KATSAMANGOS - PROGRAM MANAGER,
COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND MID COAST 4 KIDS**

Grow Capability

**FOUR
PILLARS**



Influence Decision Making

FOUR PILLARS



Kids at the Crossroads

Young people, supported by UNICEF and ARACY, had the opportunity to speak directly with senior members of the Australian Parliament in February 2021.

UNICEF Young Ambassador, Atosha Birongo, told of the difficulties of moving to online education during the COVID lockdowns while Monique Worsley, UNICEF Youth Drought Ambassador and Youth Advocate for The Benevolent Society's Every Child campaign talked of how COVID-19 has only exacerbated the difficulties young people in regions face in accessing mental health and other services.

MPs, including the Hon Luke Howarth MP, Assistant Minister for Youth and Employment Services, and the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education and Development and Shadow Minister for Youth, heard firsthand these challenges facing young people across Australia

ARACY and UNICEF Australia hosted this briefing for the Parliamentary Friends of UNICEF, highlighting our joint report Kids at the Crossroads: Evidence and Policy to help Mitigate the Effects of COVID-19. Our thanks go to the Co-Chairs Katie Allen MP and Peter Khalil MP and their staff for their assistance in arranging the event.

The report distils the evidence contained in the monthly Australian Children and Young People's Knowledge Acceleration Hub digests ARACY has been producing since May 2020 in order to inform decision-making and support the best possible COVID-19 response for children and young people.

The report, the considerable evidence informing it, along with our briefing to parliament and the national Thrive By Five campaign for better access to quality early education and care (of which ARACY is an active member) all contributed to increased funding in the federal Budget handed down in May 2021. The report also called for the Government to prioritise employment programs targeted at young people. The Budget included an extension of the \$1 billion Job Trainer program for 17-24 year-olds.



Helping build the collaboration to ensure Queensland kids thrive

ARACY has initiated and auspiced the Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership (TQKP). TQKP is a cross-sectoral coalition made up of tertiary, not-for-profit, government, philanthropic and corporate bodies committed to making a difference through systems work that takes 'science to service'. This has been supported by the Paul Ramsay Foundation, QUT, Children's Health Qld, Health and Wellbeing Qld, the Qld Mental Health Commission and Queensland Government agencies, and Griffith University.

Initiated in mid-2020 in the midst of COVID-19, TQKP is designed to build the capabilities, capacities, connections and relationships that disrupt disadvantage and to help counter the pandemic's impacts on children, young people and families in Queensland. The partners are inspired by optimism about the opportunities to connect and build on current knowledge, networks and initiatives. TQKP works to leverage the resources and goodwill of leaders, practitioners and change agents across all levels, disciplines, and sectors, to make the wellbeing of children and young people a priority in short and long-term responses, recovery and renewal.

Giving effect to ARACY's mission to catalyse change by bringing people and knowledge together for the benefit of all children and young people, TQKP is advancing development of a systems reform roadmap and a suite of practical proposals. TQKP is using the frames outlined in the Stage 1 Synthesis Report for ANZSOG and the Every Child joint project on Systems Leadership for Child and Youth Wellbeing. TQKP has so far built an impressive network of 300+ collaborators and subscribers from a wide range of sectors and organisations.



**Thriving Queensland Kids
Partnership**

Connect • Catalyse • Amplify

Catalyse Collective Action

FOUR
PILLARS



Thank you to our supporters and partners

ARACY gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organisations in allowing us to continue our work on behalf of our members and young people in Australia, to 30 June 2021.

- Australian Communities Foundation
 - BHP Foundation
 - Children's Health Queensland
 - Educator Impact
 - Deloitte
 - Griffith University
 - Health and Wellbeing QLD
 - Minderoo Foundation
 - Paul Ramsey Foundation
 - QLD Mental Health Commission
 - QUT
 - Social Ventures Australia
 - The Ian Potter Foundation
 - UNICEF Australia
 - Commonwealth Department of Social Services
 - Commonwealth Department of Health
 - Commonwealth Department of Education, Skills and Employment
 - Queensland Government
-

Bringing people and knowledge together

ARACY works with varied partners and stakeholders. We acknowledge the significant time and wisdom many individuals and organisations bring to alliances and collaborations.

- A Village for Every Child Leadership Table
 - ACT First 1000 Days Reference Group
 - Australian Early Years Catalyst
 - Australian National Child Health and Development Atlas (ANCHDA) Oversight Group
 - CHF Youth Health Forum Summit Program Advisory Committee
 - Early Childhood Development (ECD) Council
 - Evidence for Learning (E4L) Schools Expert Reference Council (ERC)
 - Evidence for Learning (E4L) Early Childhood Education Expert Reference Council (ERC)
 - Integrated Kids Hub Consortium
 - Leading for Every Child Steering Group Committee
 - Raise Foundation Research Advisory Council
 - Minds Together for Family Day Care Educators Reference Group
 - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy – Advisory Group
 - National Advisory Group for a Declaration on Playgroups
 - National Child and Family Hubs Network
 - TeEACH Advisory Board
 - Thriving Qld Kids Partnership: philanthropy group
 - Wellbeing in Adolescence – Project Update and Policy Advisory Group
-

ARACY

**We catalyse change by bringing people and knowledge together
for the benefit of all children and young people in Australia**

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Financial Position

ARACY continues to prioritise strong financial management, building solid foundations and delivering on projects with partners and funders.

The surplus of the Company amounted to \$149,059. (Year ended 30 June 2020: deficit \$68,048).

As at 30 June 2021, ARACY's net assets were \$824,961 representing an increase of 22% on the previous financial year (Year ended 30 June 2020 net assets: \$675,902).

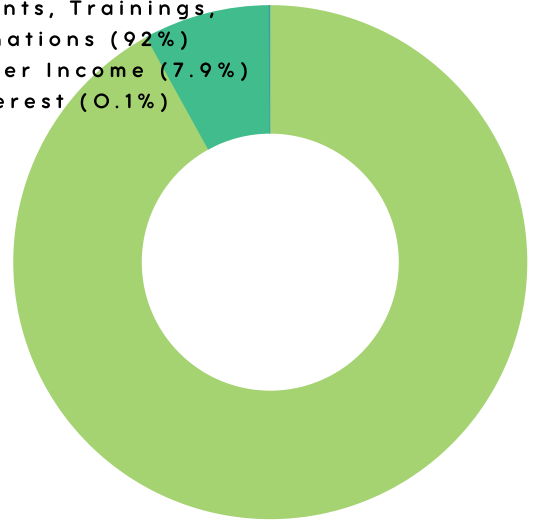
ARACY's Financial Report for the financial year 2021 was audited by Hardwicks Chartered Accountants, Canberra in accordance with the 'Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012'. A copy of ARACY's annual financial report is available on request or from our website.

In the day to day administration of ARACY we work with a range of agencies, who deliver services to ensure our ongoing good processes and practices. Thank you:

- Bellchambers Barrett – financial
- BluePackets – IT
- Mindset Psychology – EAP
- Spinach Ventures – human resources

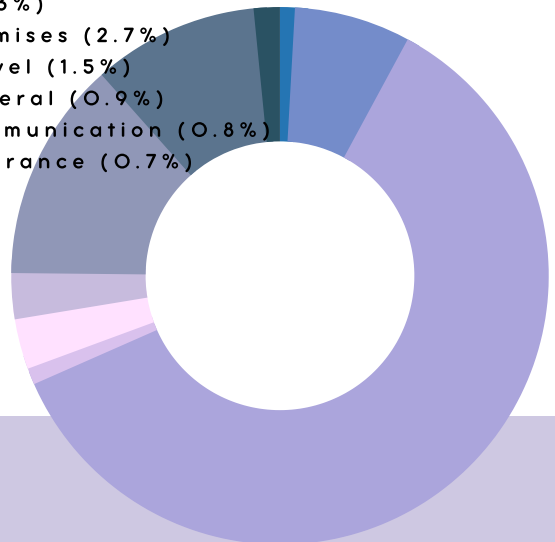
REVENUE

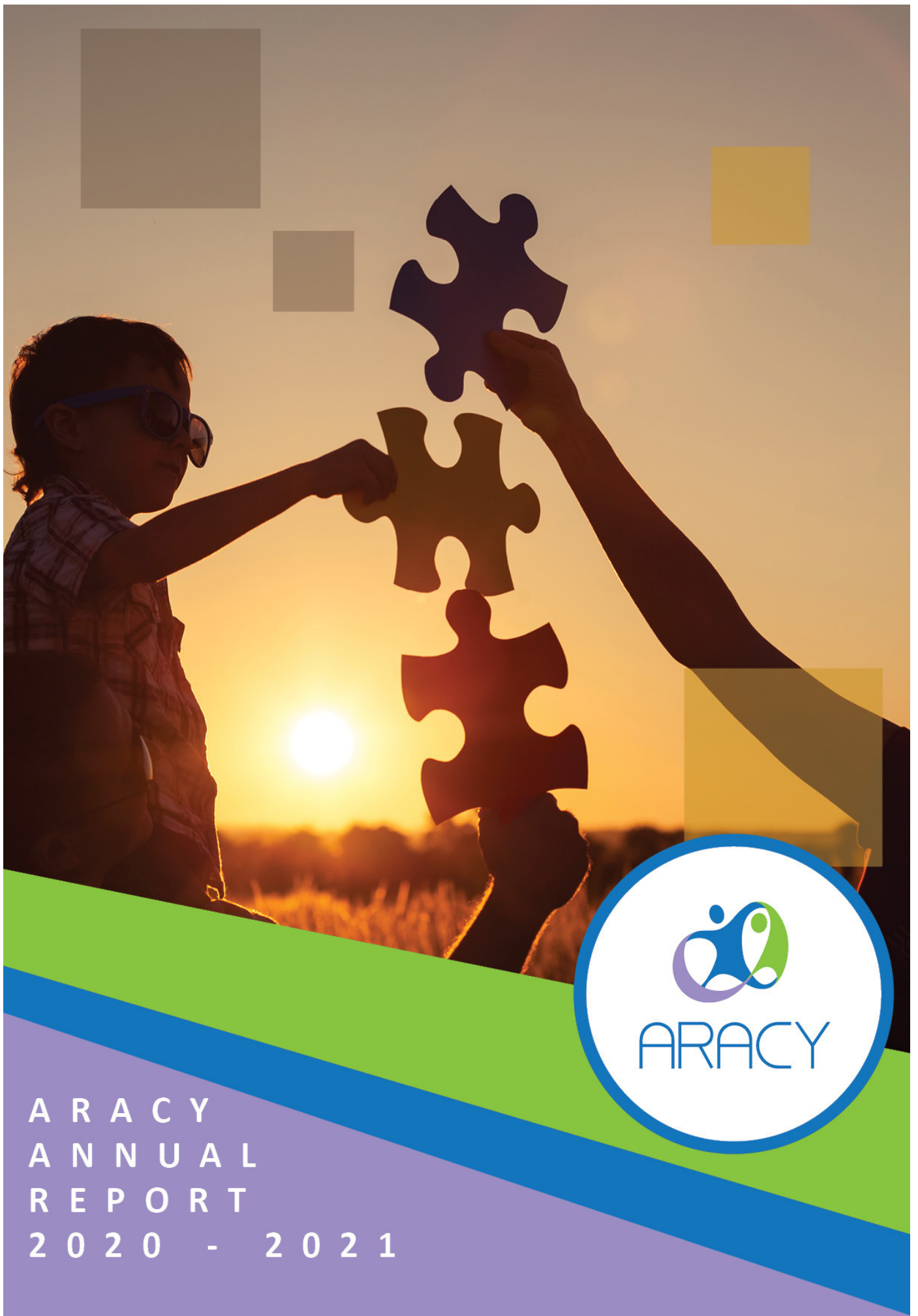
- Grants, Trainings, Donations (92%)
- Other Income (7.9%)
- Interest (0.1%)



EXPENSES

- Employees (60.5%)
- Professional Fees (13.3%)
- Research Partners (10%)
- Depreciation (7%)
- IT (3%)
- Premises (2.7%)
- Travel (1.5%)
- General (0.9%)
- Communication (0.8%)
- Insurance (0.7%)





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WWW.ARACY.ORG.AU