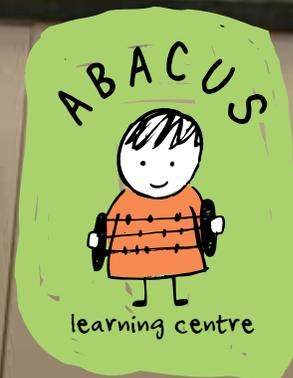


Abacus News



Term 1 2020

Beginning of a busy year ahead

As Abacus Learning Centre enters its twelfth year of 'Achieving with Autism', we once again started Term 1 with joy and sadness, farewelling students who are ready for the next part of their learning journey.

The 2019 Alumni have now started their first few weeks of school and the team celebrate their success. We really enjoy seeing the photos and hearing updates of how they are settling into their new classes.

We also welcomed many new students and their families to the centre and look forward to an exciting and productive 2020.

Behind the scenes, Senior Management and the Board will be working to improve and grow our services.

We encourage everyone to please support this year's fundraising efforts. Whether it be big or small, each contribution is invaluable and funds raised help ensure Abacus can continue to make a difference.

CALENDAR DATES



Key events to remember



Friday 3 April

Term 1 Ends



Tuesday 14 April

Term 2 Commences



Sunday 26 April

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle



Saturday 29 August 2020

Achieving with Autism Gala Dinner

NDIS Registration Update



Abacus is excited to be moving through the process to become registered as an NDIS Disability Service Provider for Early Childhood Supports as well as continuing our registration for Therapeutic supports.

Once we have completed the process, we will be able to provide services funded under these registration groups, regardless of how participants and their representatives choose to manage their plans.

This process is highly regulated by the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission which commenced operations in Victoria in July 2019.

Currently, the Senior Management Team has been working through all

requirements and working closely with the Board as well as our staff, to update all policies and procedures to ensure we are delivering a service that meets all of the requirements of the NDIA and the Commission, while continuing to provide a quality, best practice service to all our students and families.

In the near future, we will be having an audit by a Quality Auditor who will work through all of our policies and processes and visit our Centres to

meet and talk with staff and families about how they receive services with us.

We will be sending out a letter when we have a date for the on-site audit that will explain the process fully and the opportunities for you to be involved.

If you have any questions, thoughts or ideas, please make a time to come and speak with Nina Sutton or Lauren Wicks at the Centre.



PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Recently, Abacus emailed the link for a Parent Satisfaction Survey.

We greatly appreciate the time families have given to complete this survey. This feedback will help inform how we deliver our service and is most valuable.

If you have not yet been able to go through the survey, please take the time to do so as it is a great way to help us improve what we do.

Abacus Welcomes...

Tara Beckett



Tara gained her Bachelor of Education at Victoria University and joins us after working for the past seven years as a Primary School teacher. Tara has worked with students across Prep to year six and in Specialist classes including Art, Music and PE.

Tara was born in England but has lived in Australia for the past 13 years with her husband and now, two young daughters.

We are thrilled to welcome Tara to the Abacus Team.

Lauren Woolhouse



Originally from the United Kingdom, Lauren achieved her undergraduate degree in Social and Public Law, in the process of which she developed a strong interest in advocating the rights of children. Following her passion for working with children, Lauren relocated to Melbourne to complete her Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education. Since achieving her degree Lauren has worked with children of all ages in various capacities, as an educational leader, mentor and Kindergarten teacher. Lauren hopes to continue her studies to eventually achieve her PhD in the near future and is thoroughly excited to be part of the Abacus family.

Sallyanne



We are thrilled to welcome Sallyanne back to Abacus to return to her position as an ABA therapist while completing her Master of Educational and Developmental Psychology. Sallyanne's passion for working with children with special needs and ASD was realised while undertaking her Honours degree, in which she completed a research project in ABA. Sallyanne is very happy to be returning to Abacus and once again using ABA therapy to make positive change in the lives of Abacus children and their families.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE OPPORTUNITY

On Sunday 26 April we have been offered the opportunity to hold a sausage sizzle at the Bunnings store in Hastings.

We would really appreciate the support of a parent or two to organise this event including the purchase of goods.

We also need volunteers to help out on the day.

If you think you can assist please contact the centre.

Financial Summary 2018-19

As a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation, Abacus provides services from funds received through clients fees, fundraising, donations and grants.

Whilst the proven benefits of 1:1

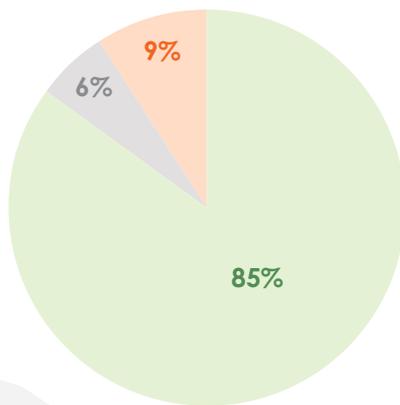
therapy are clear, staffing costs still account for over 90% of the centre's expenditure.

This means that Abacus is still very much reliant on the efforts of staff, families, friends and the wider

community in raising funds, securing donations and applying for grant assistance, all of which are vital to ensuring we can continue to provide our services.

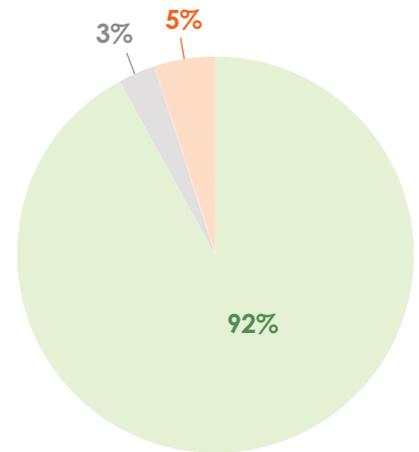
Income 2018-19

- Fees
- Donations and Fundraising
- Grants



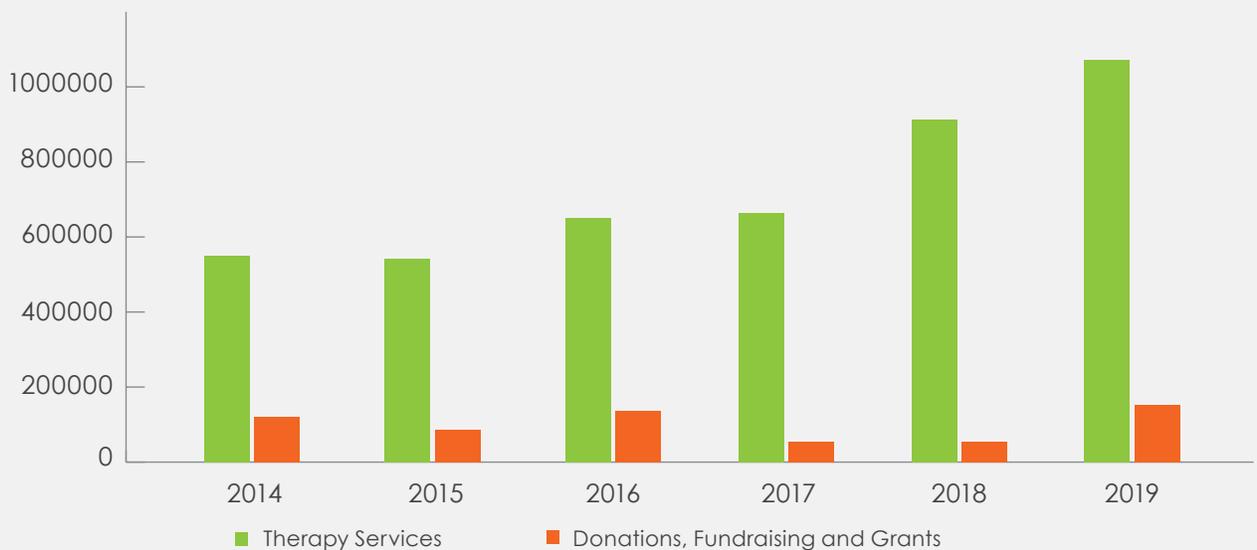
Expenditure 2018-19

- Staffing Costs
- Building and Property Costs
- Administration



Fundraising Update

Fundraising in the 2018-19 financial year increased over the previous year thanks to the Hon Greg Hunt's Walk for Autism and government grants. However despite our best efforts fundraising is currently unable to sustain the growth in demand for our services. With the help of the Abacus community we hope to be able to continue increase our efforts in the coming financial years.



It takes a village...

Each year Abacus receives over \$100,000 in value from in-kind donations of time, expertise, products and services.

Abacus has always been reliant on the generosity of the community. We greatly value these partnerships and would especially like to thank the following businesses for providing so much pro-bono work in the last twelve months.



IT Support and Infrastructure

ROBINSON
VOSS
PARTNERS

Accountants and Business Advisors



Electrical Services



Jumping for Joy!

Thanks to a very kind donation of \$1,000 from the Balnarring Picnic Racing Club, monies raised from our Christmas raffle and a generous discount from OzTrampolines, our Church Street site now features a terrific commercial grade trampoline.



Along with this tangible gift, as one of the groups chosen by the Balnarring Picnic Racing Club as a Caring for the Community partner we also increased awareness of our cause.

We sincerely thank everyone who donated prizes for the raffle and our volunteers who donated their time at the Race Day in December.

- Kylie and Justin Coad
- Lesley & Geoff McMillan
- Lynda Stafford
- Barry Small
- Narelle Box

Children at our second site are now thoroughly enjoying jumping around on the new trampoline during breaks between their life-changing sessions.



BALNARRING PICNIC RACING CLUB



achieving with autism

Gala 2020

We need everyone's help
with donations of product
or services for the gala.

Sponsorship and program
advertising opportunities
are also available.

After a sold-out event in 2018, the biennial 'Achieving with Autism' Gala Dinner will once again help raise much-needed funds for Abacus Learning Centre.



Bigger Venue

Southern Golf Club
Corner Lower Dandenong
and Springvale Road
Keysborough



Live Entertainment

Melbourne's Premier
5-Piece Cover Band
'Easy Street' will keep the
dance floor full



Celebration

Throughout the evening
enjoy the auctions, raffles
and heartfelt personal
accounts

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST 2020 6:30PM - 11:30PM



EARLY BIRD TICKETS*

ON SALE UNTIL 30 JUN

\$130 per person
\$1300 table of 10



REGULAR TICKETS*

1 JUL - 14 AUG (UNLESS SOLD OUT PRIOR)

\$150 per person
\$1400 table of 10

includes three-course meal, drinks (beer/wine/soft drinks) and live entertainment



www.trybooking.com/613063

*additional 50c booking fee and 2.5% payment processing fee apply

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