



Gawith Foundation Inc

ABN 18 195 137 535

President & Chief Executive Officer's report

2013-14 has been a year of consolidation the Gawith Foundation. The key areas of activity that have occupied our attention over the past year are as follows:

1. Support for Inclusion Melbourne

The Gawith Foundation has again provided a major grant to Inclusion Melbourne to support their work with people with an intellectual disability. These funds have been used to support the volunteering programs that they offer, as well as assist with administration as they commence the work of readying themselves for the NDIS. Inclusion Melbourne has acknowledged this support through placement of our logo in their annual report, as well as publicity for the project they are conducting that is supporting NDIS awareness and readiness for regional and rural disability support providers. This project will also see a publication, which will include our logo and acknowledgment also side the other funder, the William Buckland Foundation.

2. Grant applications

Part of the strategy behind the Gawith Foundation is to seek funds for the delivery of innovative projects that support people with a disability. Over the past twelve months we have lodged small requests so that we have a greater chance of success and can build our profile. During the year the following grants were lodged:

Organisation	Purpose
GSK	Develop plain English guide on HPV
Perpetual	Discovery Vol Project

I am pleased to report that we were successful in our application to the Perpetual Foundation, which awarded us \$19,148 to support the creation of a volunteer coordinator to be located in the Brimbank / Melton area to support and create volunteering opportunities for people with intellectual disability and to support volunteers to work alongside people with intellectual disability. We have requested that Inclusion Melbourne undertake this work on behalf of the Foundation, and they have appointed a part time worker from their Sunshine office. Inclusion Melbourne have appointed Adjunct Professor Christine Fyffe to evaluate this program so we wait with interest to see a report into the effectiveness of their work in this area.

3. Building maintenance

The Gawith Foundation has re-roofed the majority of the property at 67 Sutherland Rd. This necessary work was completed following two earlier patch jobs to the roof, and should now not require any maintenance for the next twenty-plus years. It is the intention to support a



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the installation of solar electricity in the coming year which will add value to the property but also assist Inclusion Melbourne with its annual operating expenses.

Shade sails have also been erected in the past year, and again a further sail is planned so as to provide protection for the Inclusion Melbourne vehicles.

The peppercorn tree has also been trimmed during the year to maintain its health.

4. Activities

There were two activities completed to raise awareness of the new name and our purpose:

Gawith Lecture

The Foundation hosted two Gawith Lectures during the year – the first in November, where the Disability Services Commissioner spoke on ensuring safeguards for people with a disability under the NDIS, and the second was held at the State Library in March with Richard Bernstein, a blind US civil rights lawyer. Richard also featured on Radio National, 774 and Classic FM as well as a full page article in The Age. A strong bond was formed and it may be possible to utilise Richard's services again in the future for promotional or fundraising events. I note that at the time of writing Richard is currently standing as a candidate to be the first blind lawyer appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court. We wish him well and look forward to further encounters with Justice Bernstein!

NDIS readiness for regional and rural disability support providers

Inclusion Melbourne received funding from the William Buckland Foundation. Through our grant to Inclusion Melbourne we are also supporting this work, which is seeing Inclusion Melbourne bring 6 expert speakers to Bendigo to speak to regional providers on topics of relevance to support their transition to the NDIS. They have selected three national and three international speakers, each of which is being videoed and a booklet developed, and these will be collated and available for distribution. The Gawith Foundation will be acknowledged as a funding partner in this project which will be completed during the 2014/15 year.

In closing, we would like to thank the support of the all of the board and the staff and look forward to your continued support over the next 12 months.

Paul Gleeson
President

Daniel Leighton
Chief Executive Officer