



Annual Report 2009/10

2009/10 has been a big year for Sole Parents' Union. We have gone from being an unfunded, purely volunteer body operating out of the goodness of people's hearts, and their pockets, to managing a Child Support project funded by the federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA),

This has brought about some great outcomes for both SPU and its constituency of sole parents, as well as highlighting a number of problems that are now being addressed.

First the positives.

Sole Parents' Union has been able to successfully bring to the attention of FaHCSIA, and the federal government, issues of importance to sole parents. Having funding has meant that we've been able to reach a lot more people than previously, particularly those that wouldn't normally come to us. Our funding has covered us to go directly to where sole parents gather, and create partnerships with other organisations who provide direct services to sole parents.

This has given us a greater understanding and knowledge of what sole parent families are facing in their day-to-day lives. In turn, we've been able to pass this knowledge on to FaHCSIA, Centrelink and the Child Support Agency, and work with them to improve both policy and administration practices.

The funding from FaHCSIA enabled us to set up an office, with paid staff, for the first time. We now have one part-time (.2) staff member, working together with me not only on the child support project, but also to raise SPU's influence in improving broader outcomes for sole parent families.

At the beginning of 2010 three independent reviews of the Family Law Amendment (Shared Parental Responsibility) Act 2006 were released by the federal government. All these evaluation reports showed what we, and many others, have said all along. The changes made in 2006 are not working, and are putting women and children at greater risk of violence. We have been and



will continue to work on getting changes to the Family Law Act to put the best interests of children back at the centre of family law.

We have continued to take part in the Child Support National Stakeholder Engagement Group. While the name specifies child support, the group works more broadly on the family law system and how its different parts should operate together as a whole.

In addition, during the year we worked on improving our partnerships with other organisations to help them to help their sole parent clients. As part of this started sending out our newsletter every quarter. This was linked in to CSNSEG meetings so that we could pass on information gained at those meetings to our other stakeholders.

But having funding also raised some issues which we are addressing. Having operated for so many years as an unfunded, volunteer body, Sole Parents' Union needed to do some work on improving its accountability and governance processes. This was aided by changes to the Association's Legislation.

We have drawn up a new constitution which improves the way in which the Board of Management will operate. This will be supported in the coming months with training for the Board and SPU staff on their roles and responsibilities. We are hoping that this will put in place a better, more effective management and oversight process for the organisation.

Going through the audit process for our first lot of project funding from FaHCSIA was a useful and enlightening experience. It helped enormously with better understanding the level of accountability and transparency needed. As a result of this audit we have put in place better governance and management processes.

It has been a fabulous year with Sole Parents' Union and the organisation is now putting in place new ways of working which will ensure that it continues to go from strength to strength.



Balance Sheet as of 30/6/2019

	<u>Jun 30, 10</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Sole Parents' Union Incorporate	<u>28,126.87</u>
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>28,126.87</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>28,126.87</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>28,126.87</u>
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	<u>-1,752.00</u>
Total Accounts Payable	-1,752.00
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	1,030.91
Tax Payable	<u>-1,658.00</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>-627.09</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>-2,379.09</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>-2,379.09</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>30,505.96</u>
EQUITY	
Net Income	<u>30,505.96</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>30,505.96</u>



PROFIT & LOSS AS AT 30/6/2010

	<u>Jul '09 - Jun 10</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Grants	90,000.00
Total Income	<u>90,000.00</u>
Expense	
Computer - hardware/software	2,690.70
Insurance	3,615.66
Miscellaneous	55.00
Office Supplies	155.96
Payroll Expenses	19,249.91
Postage and Delivery	4.50
Programme Expenses	392.29
Rent	3,000.00
Supplies	
Marketing	24.00
Total Supplies	<u>24.00</u>
Telephone	1,237.45
Training	959.00
Website/internet/printing & stationery	14,482.19
Total Expense	<u>45,866.66</u>
Net Ordinary Income	44,133.34
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Income	36.62
Total Other Income	36.62
Other Expense	
Other Expenses (repayment unspent grant)	13,664.00
Total Other Expense	<u>13,664.00</u>
Net Other Income	<u>-13,627.38</u>
Net Income	<u><u>30,505.96</u></u>