



CHERUBS

AUSTRALIA

*Supporting families and medical
professionals battling CDH*

CHERUBS Australia Organisation Annual Report 2009

Organisation of Congenital Diaphragmatic
Hernia Support, Advocacy & Research

CHERUBS Australia Organisation

ABN 131 315 145

www.cdh.org.au

President's report

While our first year as a registered Health Promotion Charity has been incredibly busy for the board of directors and volunteers it has also been a very rewarding time.

Given the global financial crisis we have been overwhelmed with the generosity of our Australian CDH families. We have received:

- donations in memory/honour of children,
- families have requested donations in lieu of presents for birthdays
- people have donated in family members names for Christmas in lieu of presents
- 'Workplace Giving' programs have been established by some families
- members have raised money at their workplace for CHERUBS Australia
- families have taken part in the Run Melbourne event to raise money.

All of this has allowed us to increase our ability to reach CDH families to offer support. Information packs have been created and distributed to hospitals and medical care providers around the country and our first booklet 'Expecting a CDH Baby?' has been published. Work is underway to complete a number of other support booklets for CDH families and we are also in the process of having a professionally designed website created.

We have continued to establish partnerships with medical care professionals. These partnerships are an important way to bring people interested in CDH together so that improvements in care for our children can continue.

On behalf of the CHERUBS Australia board of directors I would like to thank all of our members and volunteers who have given their time and support over the past twelve months to help us achieve what we have. We are looking forward to the next twelve months with excitement knowing how much we can achieve and what a difference we can make to the lives of people affected by CDH.

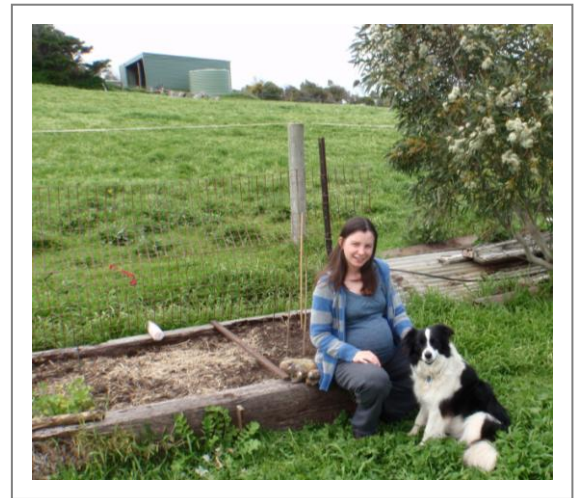
Kind Regards,

Danielle Kessner
President
CHERUBS Australia Organisation

Who we are

CHERUBS Australia is a registered Health Promotion Charity that has been operating since July 2008. CHERUBS Australia was created to provide support to families expecting children with CDH, families who have surviving CDH children and families who have lost their babies to CDH. Support is offered to members in a number of ways, these include:

- newsletters with group updates, latest CDH news and information and member profiles
- parent-to-parent matching – helping families who have experience similar CDH situations get in contact with each other
- listserv (group mailing list)
- website with information, links, photos held and stories
- annual member forum each October, in a different city each year
- information booklets created for members
- on-call volunteers available in all states throughout Australia.



What we achieved in 2008-09

CHERUBS Australia's achievements can be contributed to the hard work of its volunteers and members who contributed financially and/or through their time and effort.

The highlight of the year was the CHERUBS Australia Annual Forum (CAAF) 2008 held in Perth, which was a wonderful success. Over 30 people attended to hear three presenters from the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Mr Ian Gallow (Paediatric Surgeon), Dr Corrado Mintillo (Neonatologist) and Dr Jacqui Scurlock (Paediatrician). The presentations covered the topics of surgery and potential causes of complications, treatment of babies in the NICU and the ongoing care of CDH children; issues that are pertinent to the experiences of our families.

All presenters were very obliging and willing to answer any questions raised. They also listened intently to the families' stories. These interactions and learnings are a critical part of continually improving practices for CDH treatments.

Another achievement for the year was the creation and distribution of CHERUBS Australia Hospital Packs to various hospitals around Australia. These packs provide much needed introductory information to families who have received a CDH diagnosis. Most families have never heard of CDH when finding out their baby has the condition, so it is a very daunting and scary time. Therefore, it is really important for these families to know where they can access quality information and support, and our hospital packs provide them with information on CHERUBS Australia and contact details to access support.



We also began creating and distributing Membership Packs to existing members in October 2008, and these packs are now issued to all new members.

Our goals for the next year



CHERUBS Australia's goals for 2009/2010 are focused on obtaining funds to enable more research into CDH in Australia and a greater level of support to our families.

We would like to provide appropriate, national training to our volunteers and complete our other support booklets, so our volunteers can be better equipped to support our families.

We are also seeking to partner with other health support organisations to facilitate a combined effort to raise the

necessary funds to provide a follow-up clinic coordinator at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. This clinic would enable follow-up appointments for our cherubs, and children with other conditions, to monitor development.

We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with families and medical professionals through our strategic initiatives, regular communication, social events and our CAAF, which will be held in Brisbane in October 2010.

Board of Directors

Director	Role	Date of Appointment	Date of Cessation
Danielle Kessner	President	11/06/2008	17/10/2009
Sabine Kingston	Secretary	11/06/2008	25/10/2009
Fiona Rice	Secretary	26/10/2008	17/10/2009
Tanya Quirk	Treasurer	11/06/2008	17/10/2009
Joanne Kjaersgaard	Volunteer Co-ordinator	11/06/2008	17/10/2009
Lynda Viset	Fundraising Co-ordinator	11/06/2008	21/04/2009
Margaret Polacska	Fundraising Co-ordinator	22/04/2009	17/10/2009

Financial Report for Year Ending 30 June 2009

Auditors report – is currently being prepared and will be made available upon completion.

Income Statement

Revenue 2009	
Fundraising – donations & gifts	8,562
Membership fees	300
Interest received	4
Total Revenue	8,866
Expenditure	
Membership packs	2,069
CAAF 2008 expenses	555
CAAF 2009 expenses	500
Management & administration	120
Bank fees	23
Total Expenditure	3,267
Net surplus for the year	5,599