



CDH
Australia

Supporting families and medical professionals along their CDH journey



CDH Australia
Annual Report 2012

CDH Australia
ABN 131 315 145
www.cdh.org.au

President's report

I am honoured to provide the Presidents Report for the 2011-2012 Annual Report.

In February this year Danielle Kessner (who founded CDH Australia and was President of the Board) stepped down from her position to enable her to have some more time to spend with her family. However like the trooper she is, Danielle was still involved in a number of capacities and when due to unforeseen circumstances our Secretary had to resign, Danielle immediately put her hand up to see us through to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM is held at the conclusion of the CDH Australia Annual Forum (CAAF) which will be held 19-20 October, in Perth.

This year CDH Australia has again looked at ways to further increase awareness of CDH across the community as well as providing opportunities for support and two way discussion for our CDH families. We launched two new Facebook pages earlier this year with membership being restricted to parents who either have a surviving CDH child, are a CDH survivor or who have a CDH angel. The interaction on these pages has been wonderful as parents help each other with those often impossible to know/answer questions. Our other Facebook page, which is open to every one, has many visitors and is a great way to raise awareness about CDH.

The 2011 CAAF, which was held in Sydney, was a great success from both an information and support perspective. CDH families across Australia joined in the events and the sharing of stories was beautiful. Our sincere appreciation to Kellie and Alicia for all their hard work, which ensured the CAAF was a success. Maryanne and Sharon have been equally as hard working in organising the 2012 CAAF in Perth. These wonderful volunteers have given much in time and effort and were successful in obtaining a grant to help with the costs of this year's CAAF. Both of these ladies have somehow pulled the conference together with minimal assistance from the Board.

CDH Australia is looking forward to extending the services it provides. However this relies on volunteers and we are continuously reaching out to the CDH community and their wider circles of family and friends for people to be more actively involved. We have also worked on extending partnerships with health care professionals around the country, an important way to bring people interested in CDH together, so that improvements in care for our children can continue.

The overwhelming generosity of our Australian CDH families who have donated money and helped with fundraising efforts has been amazing this year. One of our families, Opec Systems Pty Ltd, donated \$30,000 for the Board to use to update their processes and technology. This has enabled us to source technical equipment and support to improve communications and records management within CDH Australia. Updating the websites, developing an intranet and providing laptops for use by the Directors has been invaluable in ensuring that CDH Australia is able to keep operating and potentially improve the services we are able to offer.

Our inaugural Sunflower Sunday was held in 2011. This is an annual day for families to come together to raise CDH awareness and celebrate the friendships made through CDH Australia. In 2012 we again held Sunflower Sunday in March with great participation at the events. Again if it wasn't for the volunteers who take on organising these events they couldn't happen.

On behalf of the CDH Australia Board of Directors I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of volunteers and their families who have given their time and support to CDH Australia during the past 12 months. I would also like to thank all of our members who by renewing, or becoming members, enable CDH Australia to remain sustainable.



Christine Waite
President CDH Australia

Who we are

CDH Australia is a registered Health Promotion Charity that has been operating since July 2008.

CDH Australia was established to provide support to families expecting a baby diagnosed with CDH, families caring for a child with CDH, adults with CDH and grieving families who have lost a child to CDH.

Support is offered to families in a number of ways, these include:

- parent-to-parent matching – helping families who have experienced similar CDH situations get in contact with each other
- forum boards
- chat room
- website with information, links, photos and stories
- annual forum each October alternating between cities around Australia.
- Sunflower Sunday – CDH awareness day
- information booklets created for CDH families
- state contacts to offer members support
- on-call volunteers available in all states throughout Australia.
- Facebook network including private support pages
- newsletters with group updates, latest CDH news and information and member profiles.

CDH Australia's Mission Statement

Our mission as a volunteer organisation is to provide support to families affected by Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH). We will support and help fund research into the causes and better treatments of CDH. We will help educate families and the community about CDH.



Summary of achievements 2011-2012

CDH Australia's achievements can be attributed to the hard work of its volunteers and members who generously contributed their money and/or time and effort to enable our events and activities to take place.

Results

Fundraising

Donations in memory/honour of children	\$36,974.45
Donations for Christmas in lieu of presents	\$860.00
Donation through Workplace Giving programs	\$500.00
Money raised for CAAF fundraising	\$630.00
Money raised via fundraisers	\$2,771.98

Membership

Increase in registered website users	Over 100%
Increase in facebook group members	Over 100%

Administrative Achievements

- Strategic Business Plan – developed and implemented
- Updated Privacy Policy
- Records Management system developed and implemented
- Updated Website
- Handmade card policy developed and implemented
- 2 Private Facebook pages developed with guidelines for use



Highlights of 2011-12

CAAF 2011 Sydney

The CDH Australia Annual Forum (CAAF) 2011 was held on Friday 22nd October and Saturday 23rd October in Sydney.

The venue for Friday was the Children's Hospital Westmead where we were fortunate to hear from a number of health experts. Speakers included A/Professor Kaye Spence, Dr Karen Walker, Professor Dominic Fitzgerald, Dr Andrew Numa, and Professor Alec Welsh. This was followed by a discussion panel, which was informative and interactive with forum participants and panel experts sharing questions and answers

On Saturday the venue was ASICS Head Office in Eastern Creek, kindly donated by management of ASICS. A moving tribute to our cherubs and sharing of individual stories was followed by a workshop with Susan's Clarke, Social Worker at Grace Centre for Newborn Care at CHW. Susan's topic was "managing the impact of CDH within families." Participants were then split into groups to provide input into CDH Australia's support booklets. The final Agenda Item was the Annual General Meeting where all the current Directors were voted back into their positions.

Sunday was family day and was attended by many of our forum families. The event was held at Jamberoo.

The forum was a great success and sincere thanks go to Alicia Wood and Kellie Greenfield who organised the venues, speakers, accommodation and all the many other tasks that must be done to ensure the forum runs smoothly with a minimum of fuss for all the participants. Thanks are extended to Rod Greenfield for once again taking amazing photos of the families who attended the event.



Sunflower Sunday

CDH Australia celebrated its second Sunflower Sunday in March 2012 with CDH families gathering in parks to share a fun picnic with their extended families and friends. Events were held in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. There were also a few smaller gatherings held by families around Australia.

It was a day to celebrate our wonderful support group, CDH Australia, and the friendships that have been made across the country, and around the world, between people who would never have met had it not been for our shared CDH bond. We also celebrated and acknowledged our wonderful volunteers who give up their time to help families going through tough times, times that the volunteers have been through themselves.

Sunflower Sunday was also about raising CDH awareness and how it affects children and their families. Awareness is crucial!!! Without awareness, gaining funding is difficult. And without funding we will never be able to find the cause of CDH or a cure.

The most important part of the day was all about our cherubs – our beautiful children with CDH who we hold close, whether in our arms or in our hearts. By releasing bubbles for our cherubs we remembered their fighting spirits, their preciousness and their gift of love, with smiles breaking through our tears.



Board of Directors

CDH Australia's Directors

The purpose of the Board of Directors is to advise, govern, oversee policy and direction, and assist with the leadership and general promotion of CDH Australia so as to support the organisation's mission and needs. All board positions are filled by volunteers.

Kellie Greenfield (Secretary); Danielle Kessner (Past President and Secretary); Christine Waite (President); Sharon Knott (Family Liaison Officer) – Absent Kath Murphy (Treasurer);



Directors who served during the 2011-12 year are detailed below.

	Role	Date of Appointment	Date of Cessation
Outgoing Directors			
Danielle Kessner	President	22/10/2011	17/02/2012
Christine Waite	President	17/02/2012	20/10/2012
Christine Waite	Vice President	22/10/2011	17/02/2012
Kay Holwell	Vice President	17/02/2012	20/10/2012
Kellie Greenfield	Secretary	22/10/2011	22/02/2012
Tabatha Barrett	Secretary	22/02/2012	05/06/2012
Danielle Kessner	Secretary	06/06/2012	20/10/2012
Kathryn Murphy	Treasurer	22/10/2011	20/10/2012
Sharon Knott	Family Liaison Officer	22/10/2011	20/10/2011

Each Director position's appointment is for one year only. All current Directors are able to nominate for a position on the Board at the AGM. Sincere thanks go to all the Directors that served throughout October 2011 to October 2012 for the effort and commitment each and everyone of them gave to ensure that CDH Australia continues to grow and develop.

Financial Report for Year Ending 30 June 2012

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

Income Statement

Revenue 2012

Membership	640.00
Donations	38,334.45
Fundraising	3401.98
Sponsorship/Grants	5000.00
Merchandising	2445.80
Other	201.09
Total revenue	\$50,023.32

Expenditure 2012

Fundraising Costs	0.00
CAAF 2011 expenses	5,853.39
Website & IT Expenses	7,222.35
Merchandise	7,928.98
Printed Material	542.85
Postage	230.45
Insurance	2,922.70
Paypal Fees	76.25
Bank fees	7.00
Other	3,078.36
Total expenditure	27,862.33

Net surplus (loss) for the year

\$22,160.99

Financial health

Integral to CDH Australia's ability to provide services is fundraising, donations and voluntary work, which pay for and manage our events, publications, support and research initiatives and our website. As with any organisation run by volunteers, the help of many is always welcome.