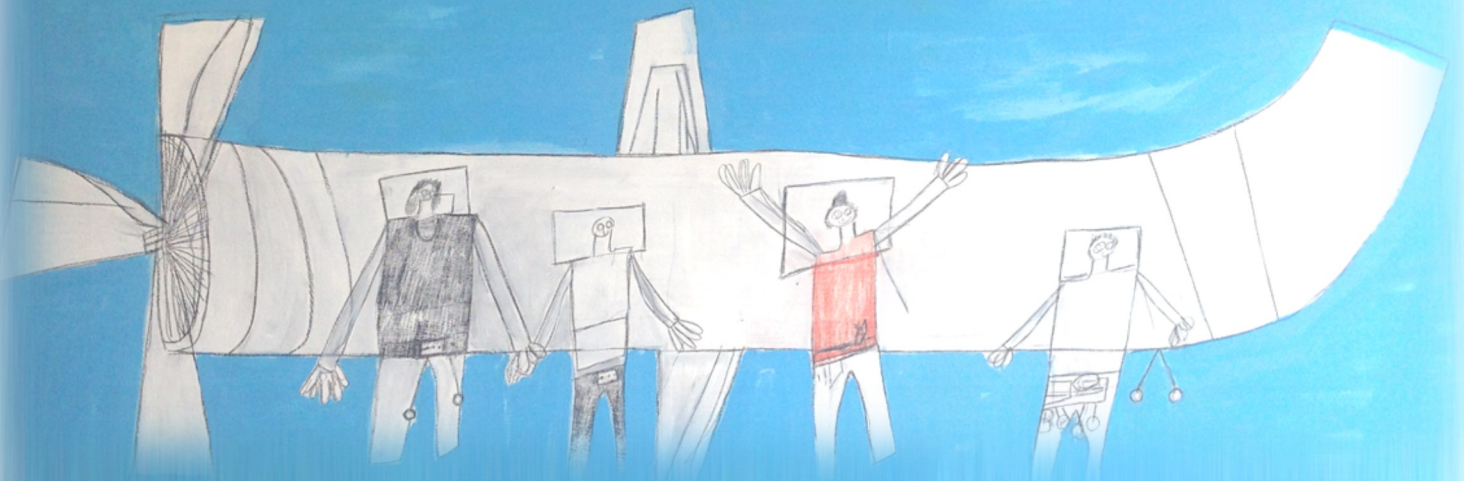
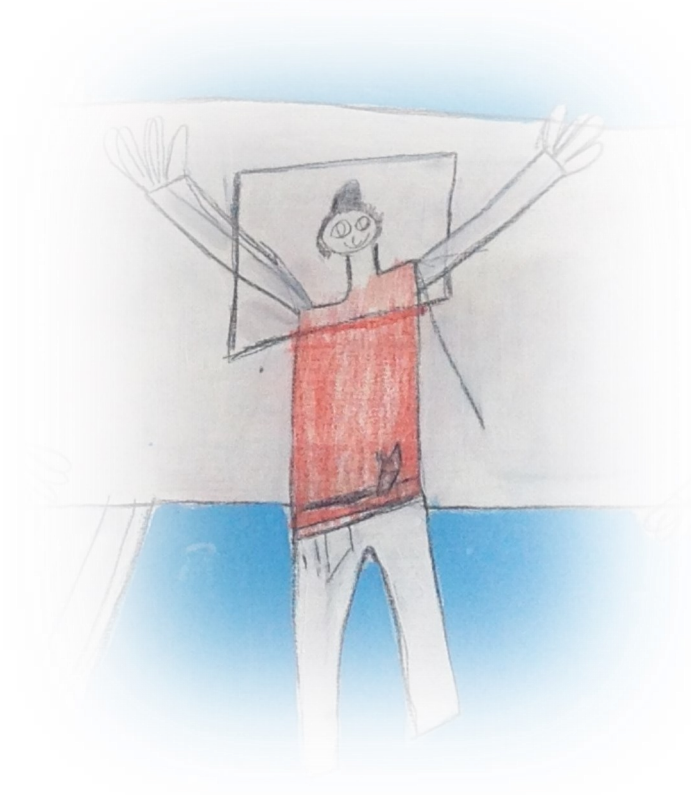


# ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

AMICUS GROUP INC.





**Front Cover: Artwork by Dylan "Plane to Hobart "**

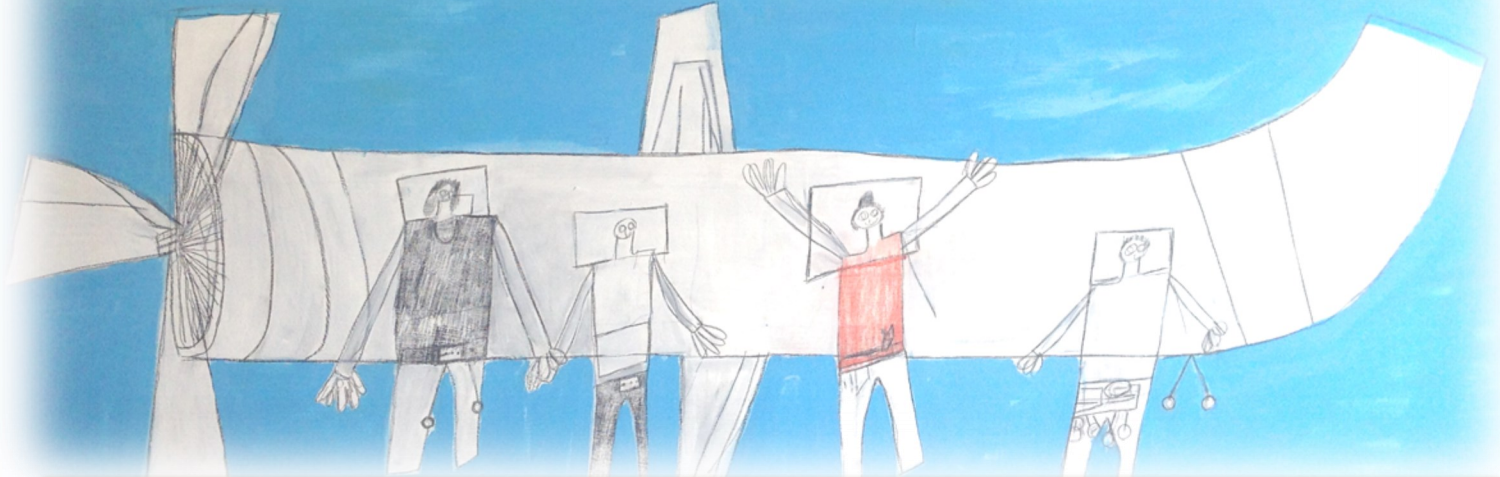
**Background Image: Artwork by Dylan "Plane to Hobart "**

***Thankyou to the artist for the use of your artworks in the Annual Report.***

***Thankyou to those who gave permission to include images in this years annual report.***

*All works © of the artist.*

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## Strategic Plan 2014-16

### Amicus' Vision Mission and Values

#### **Our Vision For The Community:**

A community that welcomes all people and that values everyone for their unique talents, abilities and what they give to the community. It is a place where every person can live an active life, doing the things that are important to them.

#### **Our Mission:**

Amicus supports people of all ages to live a good life.

We do this by making sure people have a say about the support they want, and that they participate actively in their community.

We also help the community to understand what they can do to make sure that everyone is included.

#### **Our Values:**

We believe in:

- ***Self direction- Each person decides for themselves***

We believe that all people have the right to decide about the things that happen in their lives. We give information, support and opportunities for people to direct their own lives and the services they want from Amicus

- ***Individuality- Each person is an individual***

We welcome and respect that people are individuals and have their own cultural background. At Amicus, this means people we support, their families, people who work there, volunteers and everyone in the community.

- ***Active Participation- Each person should be in the community and be a part of it.***

We believe that all people have the right to be part of the community they choose. This means we support people to: be involved in the community, feel part of the community and to add to the community in their own way.

- ***Capacity Building- Everyone has the chance to grow and learn new skills.***

We have an important role to make sure that everyone has the skills they need. At Amicus, this means the individuals, their families, people who work here, volunteers, people in the community and everyone who works in disability services. We believe it is important that we give everyone the chance to keep learning and offering better services to people we support.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

To establish Amicus as a leading provider of personalised support which promotes community inclusion for individuals and their families who are socially disadvantaged, isolated or culturally diverse, including people with disabilities and people who are aged and also frail, through:

1. Being **Person Directed** - Providing support which is distinctive and person directed
2. **Adaptability** – Being a flexible and responsive organisation which is growing
3. **Partnership** -Networking, cooperating and collaborating with other local, regional, national and international organisations
4. **Sustainability** - Implementing business processes which ensure ongoing financial and environmental viability and accountability
5. **Capacity** - Recognising that the development of participants, families, staff, managers and the Committee is essential to Amicus' future.



# Committee of Management

President



Paul Somerville

Vice President



Robert Blanch

Treasurer



Jessica Ritchie

## General Members



Graeme Parker



Michael Kiernan



Greg Noonan

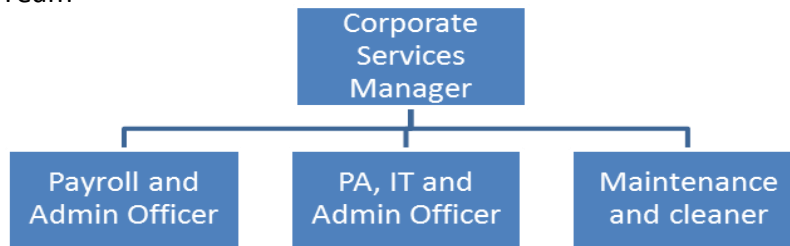
The Amicus Committee of Management offer their condolences to the Family of Committee Member Tony Browne who passed away in December last year.

# ORGANISATIONAL CHART

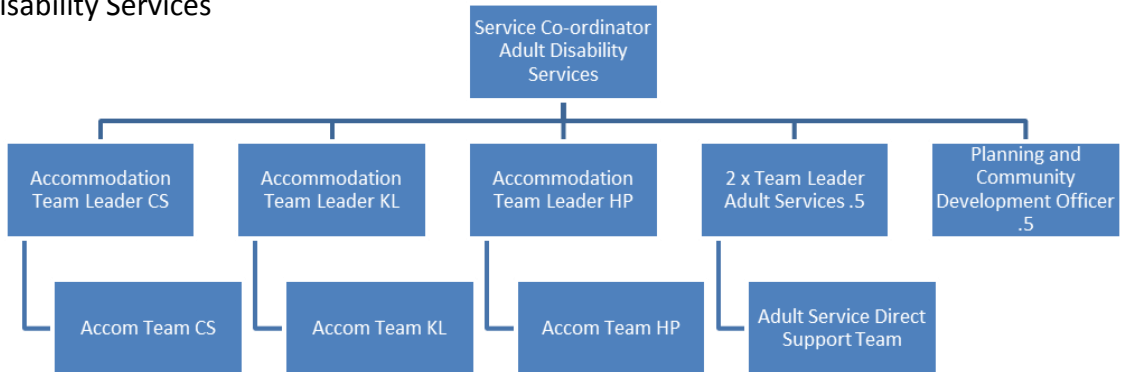
## The Management Team



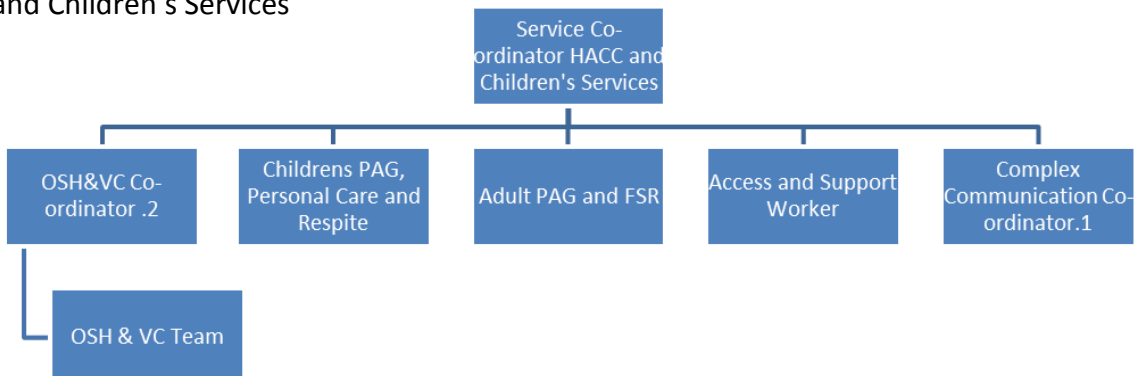
## Corporate Services Team



## Adult Disability Services



## HACC and Children's Services



## Presidents Report

On behalf of the Board I am pleased that 2014-15 has been another year of significant growth and opportunity for Amicus, with a further increase in the number of people who are choosing our support, particularly in the areas of accommodation and community based respite.

With the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) just around the corner, the primary focus of the Amicus Board has been the strategic positioning of the organisation to respond to the needs of Amicus participants and the opportunity to respond to the needs of people with a disability who currently don't receive any support but may be eligible under the NDIS.

This positioning has been articulated in our Strategic Plan, which provides a strong road map to assist us in preparing for the NDIS. The Board in conjunction with the CEO and management Team have been working towards the implementation of the key strategies in this Plan. In summary this has been about changing our service delivery model to improve the lives of people with a disability, growing the organisation to a more sustainable financial footing and improving our backroom so we can efficiently manage and understand our performance.

In terms of service delivery we have successfully worked over the last five years to change the way we work with people so that our services are delivered in the community rather than separate from it and to be responsive to how people want to live their lives. For this change, I would like to acknowledge and thank all staff who have been part of this journey. Without your support, this would not have been possible. An important part of this change has been the relocation of our service to central Bendigo. This strategy has been a success in a number ways and created an exciting opportunity in relation to our former North Bendigo home which I will talk about later.

We have developed and approved a Growth Strategy which will guide the management team when responding to new requests for service. This strategy importantly supports an organisational position of not creating new groups support opportunities but instead responding to requests for individualised and innovative supports. While Amicus will continue to maintain its existing group supports, this position enables us to work more closely with the people who choose our support to live the life they would like to lead, one person at a time.

Our growth strategy has meant that for the first time we have generated over \$3m in revenue. We are also delivering a diverse range of supports to people that now includes accommodation support. New growth is not easy to implement and I want to thank Shane and Carolyn from our management team in particular for their above and beyond efforts here. We have also seen an expansion in demand for school holiday program supports for young people delivered through a valued partnership that we have with Bendigo YMCA. Both of these factors mean that we are moving towards a position of better financial sustainability.



We have also developed and approved a Workforce Strategy that will assist us to ensure that we have a workforce that is skilled and ready to respond to the expected increased demand for services when the NDIS is implemented in Bendigo from 1 May 2017. Across Australia there is expected to be new job opportunities for more than 20,000 people in the disability sector and we want to make sure that they know that Amicus is the best place to work.

We have also developed a Marketing Strategy which will support our Growth Strategy and highlights the personal achievements being made by the people who chose our support. These good news stories are a very effective way of communicating how the support that Amicus provides is really making a difference for people.

We have also been working hard behind the scenes to make sure that all of our back of house functions will be compatible with the requirements of the NDIS including invoicing and reporting and of course identifying our costs of service to make sure that we will have sustainability into the future. Implementation of our new IT system has been a significant piece of work for the entire management team however I would like to thank our Finance Manager Cathy for her efforts here.

Another exciting area of focus for the Board had been our work around the redevelopment of our former home at Cecil St site. We are in the process of decommissioning the site following a massive clearing sale and auction earlier this year. At the time of writing this report, Amicus is working in partnership with local Housing Association, Haven Home Safe, to identify our preferred development option for the site. Our ultimate aim is to assist in responding to the unmet need for affordable and accessible housing for people with a disability in our community. We expect to have things well underway by our 2015-16 AGM.

Special thanks to our Executive Office Ann-Maree Davis. You have worked tirelessly on all of the above and your passion and determination to improve the quality of life for people with a disability and who are frail and aged is inspiring.

I would also like to thank my fellow Board Members for their ideas, commitment and support. Good organisations need good Boards and I value working with you all at Amicus.

Lastly, I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Board Member Tony Browne who sadly passed away this year. Tony had only moved to Bendigo in recent years and one of the first things he sought to do was seek out an organisation to volunteer his services to. He chose Amicus and for that we thank him.



**Paul Somerville**  
President

## Executive Officers Report

Our Annual Report this year uses the art work of Dylan Sacharov, and depicts a trip to Tasmania by plane earlier this year with fellow artists to visit the MONA. For me this work also represented the description that I have often heard staff from the National Disability Insurance Agency use to describe the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) ... “We are building the plane as we are flying it ....”

Amicus along with all Bendigo based providers welcomed the recent news that the NDIS would be implemented in our community from 1 May 2017. By this time the plane will have a few more miles on the clock and we are hopeful that it will be built by the time it lands in Bendigo for us to climb aboard! From now until that time will really be a phase of preparation and transition for all of our services and supports with changes to HACC services also forming a part of the larger sector reform at the National level.

In the past 12 months Amicus has undertaken quite a bit of work in preparing participants and families for the roll out of the NDIS, through some of the NDIS forums we have hosted including Alex Gunning from the NDIA joining us for a large public forum at the Bendigo Town Hall, some joint workshops with Carer Support Services and Carers Victoria, and more recently a session on Housing and the NDIS. Amicus is planning to run a series of workshops over the coming 12 months that will provide participants and families to learn about the different options that they can consider to assist with their housing and support needs.

Amicus has been involved in the Bendigo Disability Housing Working Group which is comprised of parents and carers, local disability service providers and housing and community support providers, local government, banking, real estate and our local members. The group convened by Lisa Chesters seeks to develop local solutions to the unmet need for accessible, secure and affordable accommodation in our community. I have also been invited to participate on a national committee convened by our peak body National Disability Services which will have a focus on Accommodation and Housing under the NDIS.

The work that the Committee of Management is undertaking around the redevelopment of our Cecil St site is an opportunity for us to explore how Amicus may be able to assist in meeting some of the unmet housing need in our own community. While these developments can take some time to undertake, it is pleasing to see the commitment of our organisation in creating a solution.

Back of house we have had a big 12 months putting in place the systems we will need in place to meet the requirements of the NDIS. There is no one size fits all solution for organisations so Amicus has been implementing a number of solutions that will assist us to track and monitor individual progress against support plan goals and expenditure of our participants Individualised funding. This work is nearing completion and will enable us to have almost 18 months of implementation prior to the NDIS.

It has also been a big year of personal achievements for many of our participants with example after example of people using the support they receive to achieve goals of community membership, participation and skills development. The establishment of our Community Inclusion Facilitator role has been a very valuable resource for many of these participants and has enabled them to have a dedicated focus in making their goals come to fruition.

This year has also seen a significant increase in the number of people choosing to individualise some or all of their funding, and exercise much more choice and control over how their funding is used. This experience and the skills developed will be very advantageous for participants and their families as we enter the NDIS world and will provide for a smoother planning and transition experience to the NDIS.

This year we have again received the generous support of some wonderful sponsors who have supported us to raise much needed funds for our Ipad fundraiser. As the performance by the Soapbox Performers highlighted, the use of technology in our work has become increasingly important, and the capacity for organisations to provide these resources continues to be challenging.

Finally I would like to thank participants of Amicus and their families, our staff and Committee of Management for their continued support and belief in the work that Amicus is doing.

Ann-Maree Davis  
Executive Officer



**Ann-Maree Davis**  
Executive Officer

# Amicus News



Cassie, Kathleen, and Charmaine are preparing, cooking and serving the community lunch at the House every second Tuesday. Lisa Chesters presented certificates recognising the valued volunteer work these ladies do, in particular at the community lunch.

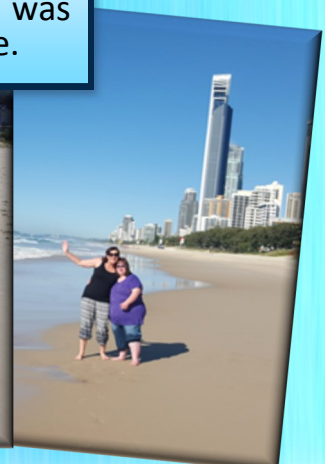


## My Jet Trip

Eddie and Daniel got to look in the plane and the cockpit.

## Charmaine's Gold Coast Trip

Charmaine travelled to the Gold Coast supported by Karen. This trip was amazing, Charmaine was lucky enough to sit in the cockpit of the plane.



# Amicus News



Sean volunteering at B & B Basil



Neighbours Trip



Dylan Walker volunteering at Hardcopy Entertainment, he is a passionate fan of movies.



The Have a Say Group contributed to the City of Greater Bendigo's Community Access and Inclusion Plan 2015-2018.  
(Photo courtesy of the Bendigo Advertiser)

# Service Co-Ordinators Report

## Disability Service — Shayne Scott

2015 has been a year of steady growth for Amicus with 18 new adults choosing Amicus as their preferred individualised support provider. More and more, individuals and their families are wanting to self-direct and individualise their supports, as they have found that the quality of a 1:1 support service they receive is much better than group supports, and they achieve their goals much more quickly. Amicus will not provide group based supports to any new participants into the future. People who are currently in receipt of group supports will continue to have the choice to access group or individualised support through their support planning.

In response to this market direction, and with the NDIS roll out confirmed for Bendigo in May 2017, Amicus made a significant decision to move away from group supports and provide individualised 1:1 supports only into the future. To progress individualised services and assist people to achieve their goals and become actively involved in community undertaking valued roles, Amicus created a part-time community facilitation coordination position. This role enables the capacity to source opportunities and build community relationships which will result in more successful and positive outcomes for both the individual receiving supports and also the community.

2015 also saw growth in our accommodation services, with Amicus providing supports to 3 individuals in their homes, as well as providing some additional short term accommodation supports for some individuals in crisis. It has been especially pleasing to see the progress of the three individuals currently being supported by Amicus, as the opportunity for individualised accommodation supports has built their confidence and developed their independent living skills to such a degree they no longer require 24 hour supports.





There will also be exciting times ahead for accommodation supports at Amicus, with the redevelopment of our Cecil St site in North Bendigo. Our mission to *“support people of all ages to live a good life”* will be the driving force for Amicus as we consider the best way to utilise this development for the best possible outcomes for individuals. I recently travelled to Canada to attend an International conference and also visit a number of organisations as an agency exchange. I had a focus on learning more about various models of accommodation support in light of Amicus’ future Cecil St redevelopment, to ascertain what type of accommodation models and options may be best suited to Cecil St, and what living arrangements result in the best outcomes for individuals to live a good life.

I was fortunate to meet a number of people with disabilities who were generous in inviting me into their homes and sharing their stories. I met people who were living in a **Cluster** living arrangement (a number of individual homes all situated next to each other), others who were living in a **Key Ring** model of support (individual homes not next to, but in close proximity of each other), **Homeshare** model where a person with a disability boards within another person’s home), **‘Flatting’** (New Zealand term) where a person with a disability shares a house / apartment together with a friend, **Mixed Equity** where the organisation assists an individual to purchase their own home,

as well as some traditional models of accommodation such as **Group Homes**.

I reflect on the past twelve months with satisfaction that Amicus has continued to enable individuals to ‘live a good life’ through the development of values community roles, connectivity and self direction. A huge thank you to the people we support who have chosen Amicus as your provider, and stuck with the organisation as we continue to transform into an individualised, community based specialist provider. Also a big thank you to the Amicus staff for your ongoing conviction to the quality of service you provide.



**Shayne Scott**  
**Disability Service Co-Ordinator**

# HACC Service Co-Ordinators Report — Caralyn Collins

## Home & Community Care and Children Services Report

Well, what a huge year it has been for Amicus! Our HACC and Children's Services have seen the greatest growth in these services, particularly to participants under the age of 18. The OSHC, Vacation Care and Children's Service area has provided supports to over 50 participants in the past 12 months. These supports have included Out of School Hours and Vacation Care, In-home Respite and Personal Care, Out of Home Respite and Community Access, Short term Respite, including week long respites in the home and from other venues, such as the Park Lane Tourist Park, in Junortoun.

This year has also been a very busy year for our Quality reporting for Department of Health and Human Services (formally the Dept. of Health). During the 2014 -15 year, we have submitted our 2015 Diversity Plan, 2015 Active Support Model Plan and completed a review of our Common Community Care Standards Implementation Plan. We have also commenced planning for the re-orientation of services in 2016-17 that will include HACC services to people over the age of 65 years or 50 years for Aboriginal people, to go to the Commonwealth and services for people under the age of 65 and living with a disability to the NDIS. This will be one of the largest changes to the way we deliver Home and Community Services funded support to people living in Supported Residential Services, since Amicus commenced delivering Planned Activities in the SRS's. Amicus will endeavour to work with all people that will be effected by these changes in the coming 12 months to assist them with as smooth a transition as possible.

## OSHC & Vacation Care

Amicus continues to partner with the YMCA to provide Outside of School Hours Care through Community Based Respite Funding. OSHC is delivered from 5 of the current YMCA school sites.

Children are regularly participating in this program, up to 3 days per week. The program has been essential for some families, to enable parents to be able to maintain work, whilst knowing the child is engaged in community based activities where they are able to participate in activities they enjoy, making friends and socialising on a regular basis.

Tracey and team have had a very busy year in our Vacation Care program, with record numbers of participants enrolling each vacation period. This year, we have also incorporated respite opportunities to children accessing this program, to enable good breaks for families.

The Vacation Care program has seen the children enjoy a wide variety of activities, with children choosing activities of interest when enrolling. These have included:

- Arts and Drama
- Visit to the Imax Theatre
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Rock Climbing
- Trip to the Melbourne Museum
- Swimming
- Day trip to the Geelong Water Park
- Ice Skating
- Cinemas
- Animal Petting Zoo Day
- Laser tag
- Multicultural days
- Treasure hunts
- Shepparton Kids Town Day

Tracey and I would like to thank the YMCA for their invaluable partnership with Amicus in providing this important respite support to children and their families.



## Community Based Respite and Supports

One of the biggest growth areas for Amicus in the past 12 months, has been the support provided to children and teenagers. The Community Based Respite and Flexible Service delivery we have offered has enabled participants who have very complex support needs to receive supports that enable them to participate in their community, engage in activities of importance to them, have much needed respite breaks for families, and have fun while being supported!

In June 2014, we were advised by the Department of Health and Human Services that we had been funded approximately \$180,000 for non-recurrent funding to deliver Community Based Respite to people who did not have an ISP. We chose to use the funding to provide both flexible respite options for teenagers and children, and to trial a work focused program for teenagers.

The Community Based Respite program is now delivering a range of supports to approximately 15 children and teens. These respite supports have been offered in the home, in the community, in small groups and 1:1. Some of the activities participants have been involved in have included:

- Going to the gym
- Catching up with friends
- Having support in the home so other family members could participate in activities of interest
- Art sessions
- Going to the library
- Participating in a Basketball team
- Going out for a meal

For participants and families, this support has often been the first opportunity for them to experience individualised support that is tailored to the person's needs, interests and goals.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of delivery of this funding is a Teen Work Program that commenced recently. By July 2016, we hope to have supported a number of teenagers to experience a range of employment and work opportunities as their peers and siblings do. The project is still in early stages but some great planning has been happening with participants, with work experience opportunities now being sourced.

Amicus is now providing Fee For Service supports for a number of teenagers and children. These supports have included in-home respite for participants with high support needs, whilst their families have much needed breaks; and Out of Home Respite opportunities that include holiday trips and respite from the Junortoun Park Lane Tourist Park. The participants of these respites have had some wonderful experiences, including a weekend in Echuca and getting to become 'regulars' at the Tourist Park.

During the year, several of our 'service areas' combined to provide some intensive planning support to a family with a young child who participated in our OSHC program. The boy and his carer were having needing support to ensure the family were able to continue support for the child. With the funding support of Aging Carers, we were able to complete a whole of life plan for the family, followed by support to implement the plan. The outcome from this plan is the boy now has regular weekend foster care, enabling his family member a break and ensuring he remains with family. I thank Di Ryan, Di Parker and Tracey Christmas for their commitment to this particular plan.

Amicus has started working closely with the two specialised schools in Bendigo, Kalliana and the Special Developmental School. Through the work we are doing, we are now working with a range of children from both schools in a range of ways, including transport support to two children to enable them to get to and from school. Without this support, neither of these children would be able to get to school, which would isolate them from their community. I thank both schools and their staff for the willingness to work with us to ensure we can provide a consistent and positive support to the children.

## Planned Activities in Supported Residential Services

Amicus continues to deliver HACC Funded Planned Activities to the residents of the Supported Residential Services in the North Loddon area:

- Homebush
- Princess Park, Maryborough
- Kyneton Lodge
- Karinya, Lancefeild

During the past year, Elaine, Glenda and Lisa have concentrated on supporting participants of the program in completing Care Plans, with plans completed for approximately 80 % of residents of the SRS's. For most people who had a plan completed, chose to also work with Elaine to develop an "All About Me", that enables new supporters to learn more about the person, their needs, interests, skills and goals. This was a major project within our HACC Planned Activity Service and I am very proud of work completed. These plans will be very useful tools for each individual participant in preparing for changes to the service that they are receiving.

I would like to thank the HAVEN Home Safe SAVVI Team for the support of our Planned Activity Services throughout the year. The HACC Team have liaised closely with the SAVVI staff in shared care planning and funding of activities and resources that enable residents of the SRS's to achieve their goals. SAVVI has funded a number of special activities throughout the year.



Princes Park residents enjoyed lunch and a tour of the Bendigo Golden Dragon Museum.



Homebush residents visit Kyneton Lodge for afternoon tea.

## **Access & Support**

The Access & Support Program continues to provide support for Bendigo HACC eligible people for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or CALD backgrounds to engage in services. The programs offers support to people from the target group to overcome barriers they have in being able to engage and/ or participate.

During the year, Di has linked closely with the RIAC Access & Support Program, under the guidance of A & S Manager Bridey. This partnership has enabled the A&S workers to ensure the best support can be offered to participants of the program. In some cases, where barriers to engagement have been complex, the participant has required the specialised area of support through to different designations of support for the workers.

RIAC also worked closely with Amicus in the development of our 2015-16 Diversity Plan and in developing Working Agreements with the City of Greater Bendigo Assessment Officers. Through this work, the A&S workers are now meeting regularly with the City of Greater Bendigo to receive referrals and discuss specific participant issues.

During 2014-15, Amicus completed a Mapping Exercise to determine the Target group needs within the City of Greater Bendigo and other Local Government Areas. In late 2014, Di commenced work in the Loddon Shire, offering Access & Support to people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or CALD communities and those who are Financially Disadvantaged. Di has introduced the service to the HACC services in Inglewood, Dingee, Bridgewater and Serpentine and is now working with participants from these towns.

Amicus had a focus on Diversity in 2014-15. Under Di's expertise and guidance, we held an all of staff Diversity Day Professional Development, focusing on the topics:

Di has participated in community events such as the Multicultural Services Taste of Harmony Day, Closing the Gap ceremonies and NAIDOC week. Di has also completed training in Dementia in Aboriginal Communities and Bridges out of Poverty. Di maintains a very useful resource library on all topics of diversity, for staff and participants. Di provides regular newsletter articles, discussing topics of Diversity and she assisted in the Big Planning program offered to Amicus participants.

As part of the Access & Support role, Di participates in the NAIDOC committee and has been involved in Reconciliation Week planning, which included an afternoon tea at Amicus and an award at the NAIDOC week Art Exhibition at BRIT. Di has recently commenced work within the Karen Community and has been invited to participate in the Karen Elders Group.

I would like to thank Di for the wonderful work she has been doing in ensuring all people have an opportunity to access and service and making Amicus an organisation, inclusive of all people.

Finally, I would like to thank all Amicus HACC and Children's Services staff, who's tireless work ensures we provide the best service possible to people who chose to access our service. I look forward to another fantastic year in 2015-16!

Cheers

Caralyn Collins



**Caralyn Collins**  
**HACC Service Coordinator**

# Finance Report/Treasurer's Report

## Year Ended 30 June 2015

### Financial Result

- Amicus Group Inc. reported a deficit of \$324,382 (\$3,887 surplus result for the year ended 30 June 2014). However, the Net Result Before Capital and Specific Items was a deficit of \$29,863 (\$103,823 surplus for the year ended 30 June 2014).
- Major item impacting on the deficit was the Fair Value Adjustments for Non-Current Assets of \$211,269. This was due to the sale of the portable buildings at Cecil Street for an amount that was less than their carrying value. The portable buildings had a disposal date of 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and are reported at 30 June 2015 as Assets Held for Sale at their sale value of \$95,000, rather than Property, Plant and Equipment.
- Revenue has continued to grow in the 2014/15 year. Service income for the year was \$2.89m (compared to \$2.13m for 2013/14). This reflects the growth in services and the full year impact of accommodation support services being provided to two clients and a new accommodation support client from September 2014.
- With the growth in services, our staffing has grown. Employee costs were \$2.58m for 2014/15 (\$1.81m for 2013/14). Our staff are a valuable asset. The provision for long service leave has increased as staff retention rates have improved and many casual staff are now permanent staff.
- Total assets as reported in our Statement of Financial Position are \$2.27m (\$2.15m in 2013/14) and Net Assets of \$1.49m (\$1.81m in 2013/14). Total assets has grown even with the disposal of assets due to some funding being received in advance and increasing Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the year. The funding received in advance is held as a liability which has an impact on Net Assets.
- At 30 June 2015, Amicus Group Inc had received funding for 2015/16 Community Based Respite and other programs totalling \$211k. This is held as prepaid income in the Statement of Financial Position.

### Asset Additions & Disposals

- In May 2015 a Clearing Sale was held at our Cecil Street site to dispose of assets no longer required, given our relocation to 100 Queen Street Bendigo. The clearing sale raised \$30k in revenue. Assets sold at the clearing sale of \$131k were written off, this included the Sheds and log cabin and other miscellaneous items. The portable buildings at Cecil Street were 'passed in' on the day of the Clearing Sale but sold at a later date. As noted above, the portable buildings have been written down to their sale value. It is noted that the disposal of Cecil Street assets has had an impact on financial performance.
- We finalised our purchase and implementation of MERP – our electronic staff rostering and client database system in 2014/15.
- A terminal server was replaced to upgrade our information technology platform.
- As we move to new technology, a number of iPads were purchased during the year.
- Three new vehicles were purchased during 2014/15 and three vehicles traded in, including one Toyota Hiace Commuter bus. The Toyota Hiace Commuter bus was replaced with a Holden Cruze. An old ute was sold at the clearing Sale as it was no longer required.

### Ongoing Operations

- Amicus is proposing a \$50k budget surplus for the year ended 30 June 2016. It is based on continuing our operations from our central Bendigo site and providing quality services.
- Growth in our services will continue, particularly in the area of Community Based Respite.
- We expect to rollout more iPads and computer technology to our staff in line with our Information, Communication and Technology Strategy.
- To accommodate our growing staff base, we plan on some minor works to be undertaken at our Queen Street site.
- We expect to changeover our remaining bus for a vehicle that suits our needs.
- We look forward to a successful year.

Jessica Ritchie - Treasurer



# Auditor's Report



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www.rsdccpa.com.au

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AMICUS GROUP INC.

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Amicus Group Inc. (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

### *Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The committee of Amicus Group Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

*Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Amicus Group Inc. as at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

*Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describe the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to Amicus Group Inc. to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

**RICHMOND SINNOTT & DELAHUNTY**

Chartered Accountants



**P.P. DELAHUNTY**

Partner

Bendigo

Date: 16 October 2015





## Volunteers, Sponsors and Donations

### Volunteers

Community Service organisations such as Amicus rely heavily on the support of volunteers to provide the full range of services. We would like to acknowledge our volunteers for their valuable contribution to our organisation during 2014-15

### Sponsors and Donations

Amicus would like to thank the following business, organisations and individuals who have supported our valuable work during 2014-15 through their Generous donations:

#### Sponsors and Donations

- ◇ Bendigo Strathdale Rotary Club
- ◇ Lions Club

#### Amicus ipad Donors

- ◇ Lyn Letts
- ◇ AFS & Associates Pty Ltd
- ◇ Bendigo Strathdale Rotary Club

#### Amicus Christmas in July Fundraiser

- ◇ Bendigo Braves
- ◇ Custom Shade Solutions
- ◇ Epsom Lotto
- ◇ Fitzpatricks Hardware
- ◇ Hendersons Camping & Fishing
- ◇ John Cross Plumbing
- ◇ Long Gully IGA
- ◇ Newmarket Hotel
- ◇ Prattys Patch
- ◇ Paul Somerville
- ◇ Sangria

**We acknowledge and thank all other support to our organisation.**