



PeakCare  
Queensland Inc.



Our Vision:

*Safe and healthy children, young people, families and communities who enjoy equitable access to life opportunities*

ANNUAL REPORT

2013 / 2014



## Acknowledgement of Country

PeakCare Queensland Inc. (PeakCare) affirms that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the Indigenous peoples of Australia.

PeakCare acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land upon which the PeakCare office is located – the **Jagerra** and **Turribul** peoples. Our respect is paid to Elders past, present and future for they hold the traditions, cultures and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia.

We must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt covering much of our continent, there was and always will be traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands. It is incumbent on all Australians to respectfully acknowledge the spiritual connections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the land and sea.

## The flags

The **Aboriginal** flag is divided horizontally into halves of black at the top and red underneath with a yellow circle in the centre. The black symbolises Aboriginal people and the yellow is the sun. Red depicts the earth and also represents the ochre used by Aboriginal people in ceremonies.

The flag was designed by Harold Thomas and first flown at Victoria Square, Adelaide on National Aboriginal Day on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1971. Today the flag has been adopted by Aboriginal groups and is flown or permanently displayed at Aboriginal centres throughout Australia.

*Aboriginal flag produced by permission of the designer, Harold Thomas © 1971.*

The **Torres Strait Islander** flag features three horizontal coloured stripes with green at the top and bottom and blue in between, divided by thin black lines. A white *dari* or head-dress sits at the centre with a five pointed star underneath.

The colour green is for the land and the *dari* is a symbol of all Torres Strait Islanders. The black represents the people and the blue represents the sea. The five pointed star represents the island groups. The star, used in navigation, is an important symbol for the seafaring Torres Strait Islanders. The colour white stands for peace.

*The Torres Strait Islander flag was designed by the late Bernard Namok of Thursday Island.*

PeakCare Queensland Inc.  
Board Members 2013 / 2014

Office bearers



Ms Shelley Wall  
*President*



Ms Tracy Adams  
*Vice President*



Ms Leith Sterling<sup>1</sup>  
*Treasurer*

Executive Members



Ms Shirley Pevitt



Ms Sally Keynack



Mr Brad Swan



Ms Karen Salam



Mr Raymond Bruncker

Co-opted Members



Ms Jane Carter



Mr Christopher John

<sup>1</sup> Ms Sterling resigned from her position on the Board during 2014 due to the cessation of her employment by Anglicare Southern Queensland. Upon subsequent commencement of her employment with The Benevolent Society, Ms Sterling was elected by the Board to casually fill the position on the Board she herself had vacated due to the change of her employment status.

<sup>2</sup> Mr Raymond Bruncker was elected by the Board to casually fill the position on the Board vacated by Ms Karen Salam during 2014.

PeakCare Queensland Inc.

## Annual General Meeting

4.00pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Riverside Receptions, New Farm, Brisbane 4005

### Agenda

**Welcome:**

Ms Shelley Wall  
President of the Board of Governance

**Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting**

**President's Report**

Ms Shelley Wall  
President of the Board of Governance

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr Lindsay Wegener  
Executive Director

**Treasurer's Report**

Ms Leith Sterling  
Treasurer

**Appointment of Auditor for 2014 / 2015**

**Election of Board Members**





## President's Report

A review of the 2013/14 year must kick off with an acknowledgement of the presentation by the Honourable Tim Carmody SC of the final report of Queensland's Child Protection Commission of Inquiry to the State Government on 1 July, 2013. The report, *Taking Responsibility – A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection*, has understandably continued to dominate PeakCare's agenda throughout much of the year as the organisation seeks to provide ongoing support and guidance to both members and Government in relation to the implementation of the Inquiry's 121 recommendations. The recommendations have significant implications for the non-government sector both in terms of the Inquiry's call for significant changes in current service provision as well as the exciting opportunities to introduce new models to better support families and children to get help early and stay out of the statutory child protection system.

Highlights of PeakCare's 2013/14 activities in relation to the report include:

- the facilitation of a series of roundtable meetings offered to members across the State, many held in partnership with the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, to consult with member agencies about their reactions to the 121 recommendations;
- the authoring of PeakCare's preliminary response to the recommendations and PeakCare's use of this document to further survey members; and
- the submission made to the State Government of a comprehensive report detailing the outcomes of this survey and the full range of opinions and views held by our members in response to each of the Inquiry's recommendations.

December 2013 marked the release of the Government's response to the Inquiry's recommendations. Since this time, much of PeakCare's operational focus has been placed on taking up opportunities to participate in various forums established to plan and guide the program of child and family reforms. This has included membership on a Stakeholder Advisory Group and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service Reform Project Committee, along with PeakCare's active participation in many other project-related activities.

Understandably, PeakCare's major focus for 2013/14 has been on activities relating to the reforms arising from the Inquiry; other highlights of the year include:

- PeakCare's commencement of a Research Group with the meetings of this Group now regularly featuring in the diaries of many;

- chairing of the Child Protection Week Committee;
- PeakCare's ongoing monitoring, liaison with and lodgement of submissions to, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse; and the co-hosting with Micah Projects and the Commission of a well-attended information session addressed by Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald;
- the researching and production of a discussion paper, *Towards a better understanding and management of the nexus between child protection and domestic and family violence*, and the co-hosting with Griffith University of a symposium about this important matter; and
- PeakCare's auspicing of Foster and Kinship Carer Week 2014, re-vitalising this annual event through the use of a high-profile social media campaign that combined an acknowledgement of the valued contribution being made by Queensland Carers while also promoting greater community awareness and understanding of the important role played by Carers in the child protection system.

The body of work undertaken by the PeakCare team during the 2013/14 year is expansive and impressive. It is with gratitude that, on behalf of the Board, I recognise the considerable efforts of Lindsay Wegener and his team in delivering these outstanding results for and on behalf of members. Lindsay's role in particular in improving services for members must be recognised; these are important times of change and the role that Lindsay and the team have played in ensuring that member agencies have had a voice in both the formation of the Inquiry report via the many submissions that were made and the work subsequently undertaken to exercise an ongoing influence on the implementation of the report's recommendations have been vital in making sure that our members' interests have been well represented whilst at the same time, upholding the organisation's responsibility as a peak body to provide frank and fearless policy advice to create outcomes that will benefit our communities. I am aware that this has always been at the forefront of our team's thoughts and actions.

In the background of all of the system reforms, the 2013/14 Board has been working on our own process of reform and improvement. The aim of the Board has been to ensure that PeakCare as an organisation is well placed to continue to serve both members and our Government and non-government partners and stakeholders well as we proceed into the future. With this aim in mind, the Board has pursued an ambitious program of Board development which has included:

- successful application to become registered as a charity by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and the obtaining of endorsement as a Deductible Gift Recipient by the Australian Taxation Office, subject to an amendment being made to the PeakCare Constitution which was passed unanimously at a special general meeting of members held in February 2014;
- the commissioning of a project to develop new Board procedures which will provide a solid foundation for sound governance into the future including increased accountability for both the Board and the Executive – it is envisaged that this will improve accountability to members in terms of clear delegations and limitations of duties to ensure the organisation remains independent in its execution of services to both members and Government; and

- the development of plans for an updated strategic plan which better responds to the transformational reforms called for in the 121 recommendations outlined in the report *Taking Responsibility – A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection*, June 2013. This includes plans for an independent member survey to ensure members' views are a driving force underpinning all future activities of the organisation.

I am proud to have led, for most of the 2013/'14 year, a highly committed and dedicated Board. I recognise the efforts of Michael Tizard who was President for the first six months of this period, stepping off the Board at the end of 2013 having served his maximum number of terms. Whilst I too am up for re-election at this Annual General Meeting, I sincerely hope that I will be afforded the opportunity to continue to serve on the PeakCare Board, to continue the planned reforms to our governance but most importantly, to continue to work towards achieving our strategic vision for safe and healthy children, young people, families and communities who enjoy equitable access to life opportunities.

I would like to thank all members of the 2013/14 Board for their commitment to both internal and sector reforms; and to achieving the best possible service to our members and supporters and a return on the investment by Government by ensuring that PeakCare remains a strong and independent voice able to work collaboratively towards the achievement of a better child protection system which serves our families, children and communities well.

**Shelley Wall**  
President  
2013 / 2014



## Treasurer's Report

It is my pleasure to submit to you the audited Financial Statements for PeakCare Queensland for the year ended 30th June 2014.

The total income for the organisation for the year ended 30 June 2014 was \$759,414.

This included \$648,791 in operating grants from the State Government.

Other areas of income include:

Membership Subscriptions	\$49,582
Forums, Conferences	\$ 5,850
Interest received	\$21,354

Grants carried forward to meet commitments in 2014/15 totalled \$6,921

This leaves PeakCare with an operating profit of \$4,740 for the year.

Accumulated Funds of the organisation as at 30 June 2014 are \$610,677

On behalf of the PeakCare Board and Members of the Association, I wish to thank the Honourable Tracy Davis MP, Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and Officers of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services for their support during the year.

My appreciation also goes to Board colleagues, as well as Lindsay Wegener (Executive Director), June Darvill (PeakCare Bookkeeper) and Gary Roberts (Corporate Support Manager) for their support and commitment during the year.

*I now move that the accounts for PeakCare Queensland as audited for the year ended 30 June 2014 be passed. I also move that Reid Maddison Pty Ltd be appointed as auditors for PeakCare Queensland for the year ending 30 June 2015.*

**Leith Sterling**

Treasurer

2013 /2014

**The accompanying notes form part of this financial report**