Working together to realise our vision of a **community free from asthma**

**Our Vision**

‘Free’ means a person's asthma is well managed, freeing them to live life to the fullest, and removing the constraints imposed on them by their asthma. It can also mean finding a cure for asthma through research so we can cure the disease when it is diagnosed, or potentially even prevent it from developing in the first place.

**Our Mission**

“Build life-changing services and fund world-class research to help free people from the limitations of their asthma, in a way that is efficient and sustainable.”
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Dear Members, Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the team at Asthma Foundation Queensland and New South Wales (AFQN), I thank you once again for supporting our cause over the past year, and helping us to deliver vital services and programs for the asthma community.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors large and small, the Foundation has enjoyed a strong financial performance with a surplus of $893,996, which will allow us to expand services and ensure our long-term sustainability. This result was much better than expected and I thank all involved for making it possible.

In last year’s Report, I foreshadowed our plans to merge the state foundations into a national entity and I am delighted to report that this has been achieved, albeit in a different form. A change in direction from The National Asthma Council (NAC) and the Asthma Foundations of Western Australia, Tasmania and Northern Territory will result in the Asthma Foundations in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Australian Capital Territory joining together as Asthma Australia Ltd. from 1 October 2017.

This combined organisation covers more than 85% of Australia’s population and will enable all of the efficiency and influence gains that we intended. We will of course collaborate strongly with the NAC and other states and territory, as we all share the same objective of reducing the impact of asthma on people’s lives.

I hope that you will continue to support Asthma Australia Ltd as it embarks on this new journey. It will be filled with the passion and commitment inspired by Mickie Hardie and Leila Schmidt when founding the Asthma Foundation in 1962. Our wonderful history is also our guide for the future.

On a personal note, the national merger brings to a close my term as a director and President of AFQN. What a privilege it has been to serve this wonderful cause along with its dedicated staff and volunteers. I have been humbled to lead a board of remarkable directors, each of whom are among the very best of their professions and their communities. All are busy people, who have given their expertise and time with no other consideration than achieving the best possible outcomes for the asthma cause. I cannot thank you enough.

Ian Buddery
President
This time last year I was writing my CEO report for the first annual report of the fledgling Asthma Foundation Queensland and New South Wales (AFQN) following a merger of the two state Foundations. As I put pen to paper this year I’m conscious that this is the final annual report of AFQN.

While the life span of AFQN has been brief, it has been the catalyst for a broader merger involving the majority of the asthma organisations in Australia. This will lead to greater efficiencies, a stronger voice and more services in support of people with asthma.

Our first full year of operation has been highly successful. It was somewhat a leap of faith when we developed the first ever budget and business plan for AFQN without any historical reference points.

The vision of a merged organisation with reduced costs and greater capacity to deliver on programs and services has been achieved admirably. We were able to meet all the Key Performance Indicators for our funded programs, increase our total research commitment, exceed our fundraising targets, were successful with new funding sources and expanding our scope of activity.

It was a year of many changes. For most of the year the senior leadership team implemented the merger plan which brought staff in Sydney and Brisbane offices onto the same finance, phone, IT, video conferencing, and payroll systems. In addition, the Art Union which had run in Queensland since the 1970s was experiencing deteriorating financial performance which led to its closure.

However rather than lose the benefit of the database asset, we developed a fundraising call centre and many of our Art Union ticket buyers continued to support the Foundation as donors and regular givers. This program is generating good revenue for the Foundation, while also continuing the association with long term supporters.

The Foundation in Queensland has had a long history of involvement in clothing recycling and its five Queensland Op Shops continue to generate much needed revenue whilst providing a window to the community with respect to brand recognition, increasing awareness and providing educational resources.

We maintained our strong commitment to research contributing over $400,000 to research grants and scholarships. $366,000 went to the Asthma Australia National Research Program to fund the best research around the country. This included $76,000 from The R E Ross Trust to continue to support asthma research through our Foundation.
The Foundation also continued to provide administration support for a National Health and Medical Research Council funded program examining how the costs of asthma medicines impacted upon their use by patients. With data collection largely concluded, the group spent much of their time writing research papers and presenting the findings at conferences ensuring that the findings were disseminated to as large an audience as possible. The group is also looking at follow up research deciding how to use the existing findings to inform advocacy and education programs for consumers and health professionals.

The Foundation worked closely with Primary Health Networks (PHNs) maintaining a close collaboration with the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (formerly WentWest), for the delivery of the GASP (Giving Asthma Support to Patients) Program which we are collaboratively funding; and also Brisbane North Primary Health Network (PHN) who has provided funding for the Patient Education Referral Service (PERS) which encourages GPs to refer their patients to the Foundation’s Helpline and The COACH Program service.

While we have a longstanding and close connection with these two PHNs we also work with other PHNs where we can collaborate on projects where there is a shared interest.

Similarly we have good relationships with the state government in New South Wales (the Agency for Clinical Innovation) and the state government in Queensland (Brisbane’s Metro North Hospital and Health Service) where we also share information and work on joint projects.

In conjunction with the Asthma Australia national office the Foundation conducted an Asthma Symposium in Sydney on 13 October 2016 and in Brisbane on 20 October 2016. The symposium brought together some of the top Australian researchers and practitioners, including some of our own staff, to present the latest evidence to respiratory health professionals in each of the capital cities.

Planning also continued for the National Asthma Conference which is held in a different state every two years as a joint initiative of Asthma Australia and the local (host) state Foundation. The last event was held in Brisbane in 2015, and the next event will be in Adelaide in October 2017. Having hosted the most recent conference AFQN staff provided advice and planning materials to both the Scientific and Organising Committee for the Adelaide conference and many of our staff will be in attendance.

We also held a number of stakeholder events during the year focussing on our relationships with major donors and long-time supporters of the Foundation. The
first of these was a “Night at the Opera” in July 2016, with the support of corporate partners Opera Australia followed up by our presence at Opera in the Domain in Sydney in January 2017.

In February 2017 our Chairman Ian Buddery hosted a research dinner with donors and supporters to bring attention to the latest research findings on a number of contemporary asthma topics.

The Foundation’s relationship with Perpetual Trustees includes management of the Foundation’s investments as well as a gateway for applications to Trusts and Foundations for funding support for major projects. In the later part of the year the Foundation received advice that it had been successful in applications for support of Helpline and the The COACH Program in Queensland, as well as a project scoping the specific experiences and needs of Aboriginal people with asthma, in New South Wales.

The Foundation was fortunate to receive ongoing support from both the Queensland and New South Wales governments. These funds come with Key Performance Indicators that are aligned to our business plan so they support us in achieving our mission.

There was renewed focus this year on advancing the objectives of the Pearl Sheppard Fund. With the closure of the Wollongong branch of the Asthma Foundation in New South Wales the remaining funds were held in trust for the benefit of programs, services and research to benefit children in the area.

Through collaboration with the local health professionals and academic community there is now a national research grant scheme to fund local asthma research as well as ongoing support for professional development of respiratory staff and the provision of spirometry machines in community health.

It’s been a challenging year but I want to finish by recognising the extraordinary efforts of the staff over the past 12 months as they’ve implemented one merger while preparing for another, all the while ensuring that the Foundation met its obligations for funders and supporters while never failing to adhere to our mission of providing the best possible care to people with asthma and their carers.

Dr Peter Anderson
Chief Executive Officer
Our Programs & Information Services

Our merger in 2016 has enabled the Programs and Information Services team to maximise its efforts to support people living with asthma.

This year, as a combined entity, we have realised a number of our key drivers and objectives of merging including increasing our reach across both states, and developing new ways of providing services to more beneficiaries. Among our other achievements, our partnership has enabled us to combine our years of knowledge and experience in this field, and in turn strengthen our position in the sector as reference point for issues that affect the asthma-related quality of life and wellness for people with asthma across both states.

Whether in the far west of New South Wales or the far north of Queensland, our dedicated team has remained committed to providing support and education for people with asthma and their carers through our comprehensive suite of services and resources.

Asthma Assist

Our free information and support service for people with asthma, Asthma Assist, with its regular e-news, is perfect for those who wish to take control of their asthma. Over 1,200 people joined Asthma Assist this year, taking the total number of members across both states to over 21,000.

1800 ASTHMA Helpline

Ensuring the right help is available for people with asthma and their carers is a priority for the Foundation. Our recent merger has enabled a strengthening of our 1800 ASTHMA Helpline service by ensuring our trained staff are readily available during business hours for people needing support and guidance in managing their asthma. 1800 ASTHMA Helpline supported almost 1,900 people in the management of their asthma this year across Queensland and New South Wales.
Our Patient Education Referral Service, an innovative program which enables health professionals to refer patients to 1800 ASTHMA Helpline for ongoing education and health coaching, continues to grow rapidly, with 788 people referred by their health professional this year, an increase of 25% from 2015/2016.

Keeping pace with technology changes in general practice is crucial to ensure it is as easy as possible for general practitioners to refer patients and that we enable it in a way that guarantees privacy and security. We worked with Brisbane North Primary Health Network (PHN) to develop referral templates for the key medical software packages, including Best Practice, Medical Director, ZedMed, Practix and Genie. This ensures patients can easily be referred directly from their general practitioner’s computer.

Patient Education Referral Service

The COACH Program

This year saw the introduction of The COACH Program by the Foundation’s 1800 ASTHMA Helpline. The COACH Program is a confidential and free health coaching service delivered over the phone by Asthma Foundation coaches. For up to a six month period, the program aims to help people with asthma improve their general health and asthma control by working with them to better understand their health needs, identifying gaps in their treatment and recommending a plan to align with best practice treatment guidelines.
The role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers in educating their local community is of paramount importance to the Foundation. We remain committed to resourcing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers to educate members of their communities on effectively managing asthma. With the asthma related hospitalisation and mortality rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people significantly higher than non-Indigenous populations, this important work remains a priority for the Foundation.

In 2016-2017, we travelled to both Charleville and the Gold Coast to conduct Asthma Education 8 Ways workshops to over 20 participants, encouraging their ongoing imparting of information and knowledge to their community regarding effective asthma management.
Asthma First Aid Training in Schools

For almost two decades, the Foundation has delivered education to school staff to enhance the health and learning opportunities of students with asthma. The school based education workshops aim to increase teacher and staff understanding of the importance of correctly identifying asthma and ensure staff are able to appropriately manage an asthma emergency that occurs at school.

During 2016-17:

- 16,539 school staff trained
- 3,016 students trained
- 963 schools trained

Fairbridge Foundation Distribution of Asthma Emergency Kits

Upon the closure of their organisation in 2017, the Fairbridge Foundation made a substantial donation to the Asthma Foundation to provide 1,500 asthma emergency kits to schools in New South Wales from areas of socioeconomic disadvantage.

Working with public health students from the Australian Catholic University, the Foundation has sent out 1,260 kits to 630 qualifying schools across New South Wales, all of whom had received training from the Asthma Foundation during the past 3 years. Schools who have received these kits to date expressed great gratitude, and the remaining 240 kits will be sent out to qualifying schools in other areas.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the administrators of the Fairbridge Foundation for the opportunity to take on this important project.
Live Well With Asthma Workshops

Supporting people with asthma to live well with asthma drives all we do and our Live Well with Asthma workshop has helped people for the last 15 years by providing information about asthma and strategies to effectively manage the condition. Over the last year we have travelled as far north as Cairns, as far west as Bourke and Longreach and as far south as Bulli sharing these vital messages.

77 Live Well with Asthma Workshops with 967 participants

Helping Others Live Well With Asthma Workshops

Supporting health professionals to appropriately care for people with asthma is an important part of what we do. Over the last year we have educated pharmacy staff, prison officers, social support staff and community health workers so they can better care for people with asthma through our Helping Others Live Well with Asthma workshop.

54 Helping Others Live Well with Asthma Workshops with 731 participants

Asthma Foundation Queensland and New South Wales gratefully acknowledges the Australian Government Department of Health for its funding of this substantial multi-faceted asthma education program we have had the privilege of running over the past 10 years.

GASP (Giving Asthma Support to Patients)

Our innovative GASP program continued successfully this year with recruitment of 150 patients and completion of 250 consultations. Importantly, we are seeing improvements in asthma outcomes, including hospital admissions, emergency department presentations, unplanned GP visits and use of oral steroids. Although the results are preliminary and not substantial enough yet to be statistically significant, we are encouraged by these early signs.

We are also collaborating with the University of Wollongong who will help us expand the scope of our activities into the Illawarra region enabling us to achieve completion of our pilot in a shorter time frame.
Resources for People With Asthma and Health Professionals

Asthma first aid… there’s an app for that!

Remembering what to do during a stressful and scary asthma attack can be difficult. The Asthma First Aid app can help. Designed for both Apple and Android devices, the app takes the user through the four step asthma first aid process and even enables the user to dial 000 (Triple Zero) from within the app. Users can practice the asthma first aid steps in a non-emergency situation and even hone their skills in assessing if an attack is severe or life-threatening in pretend scenarios. A useful tool to ensure the asthma first aid steps are always close at hand.

JAM – Just Asthma Messages

People like things short and snappy… we aim to please and have introduced JAM - a free text messaging service designed to provide people with asthma with all the information and skills to sweeten their asthma management, right in the palm of their hand.

Over four weeks, participants receive 13 text messages on key asthma management issues including topics such as the importance of using a spacer, why you should take your preventer and what to do in an asthma emergency.
Providing resources to aid health professionals is our priority.

**Asthma Control Pack**

The Asthma Control Pack is a one-stop shop for asthma information. Whether in hard copy or electronic, this important pack provides people with asthma and their carers essential information on getting control of their asthma. Almost 2000 Asthma Control Packs were provided direct to people with asthma and their carers this year and a further 6500 provided to health professionals, at no charge, to support the comprehensive care they provide to people with asthma.

**Asthma Connect**

Our flagship program for health professionals, Asthma Connect provides resources and information to assist all health professionals in managing people with asthma. Whether it is subscribing to our e-news, ordering an Asthma Education Flipchart, linking to the Asthma app or referring a patient to 1800 ASTHMA Helpline, health professionals can access every support resource provided by the Foundation by downloading this electronic flyer and clicking on their topic of choice.

**Perpetual Trustees**

Further to our successful year of attracting funds for important projects, we were successful in two applications to the IMPACT Philanthropy program in 2017 which has provided us with resources to fund two critical positions in year 2017-2018. The first position is a skilled health professional to join our Helpline team to increase the reach of this flagship activity which we know has sustained impact on the wellness of people with asthma, as described above.

The other position will be a project manager to scope the environment for people who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander who have asthma.

We are very grateful to Perpetual for making this available to us to enable us to progress these very important projects for people with asthma.
Asthma Symposium, Sydney

Every two years Asthma Australia facilitates a round of asthma symposia across the country and in 2016 Asthma Foundation Queensland and New South Wales had the pleasure of being the first to deliver.

On 13 October 2016, 110 guests came from across the country to the Zenith Theatre in Chatswood to hear from the leading asthma researchers, academics and clinicians with topics ranging from patient experience of severe asthma; to the development of an app to engage adolescents in their asthma; to the challenges faced in the management of anaphylaxis. The day was highly successful and a great source of information and inspiration for all those who attended, who dedicate their time to improving the lives of people with asthma.

We would like to thank Asthma Australia and sponsors for facilitating the event, as well as the City of Willoughby for providing the event space at a discounted rate.

“Thank you so very much for sending me the excellent information in the Asthma Control Pack. The information is helping me immensely and I appreciate it so much.”
Fundraising and Engaging with Our Community

Engaging with our community

Over the period 2016-17, Asthma Foundation Queensland and New South Wales continued to be supported by a large group of enthusiastic community supporters, raising vital funds for asthma research and spreading important awareness about asthma management and first aid.

PJ Day 2016 was again well supported by over 140 schools, pre-schools, childcare centres and workplaces wearing their PJs for the day. Over $16,000 was raised for asthma research and services.

Queensland’s Blue Dress Day was renamed, refreshed and run over both Queensland and New South Wales for the first time. Dress Blue for Asthma was well received with participation up by 30 percent on previous years. The event encourages schools and businesses to dress blue on one day in September to raise funds in memory of eight year old Bryn Epiha, who tragically died of an asthma attack in 2011. A small but dedicated group raised over $5,000.

Warwick McLauchlan and the members of the Gold Coast Walking and Paddling Group again held multiple fundraisers during the year including their 4th annual 36km 6000 Breaths walk from Point Danger to The Spit in the Gold Coast.

Also in its 4th year was 5k a Day in May. Newcastle locals Natalie Doolan, Kerri-Ann and Wade Hooper started the event to support asthma research and this year raised nearly $5,000.

To all our community fundraisers we thank you for your support of people living with asthma. All the running, walking, gym classes, treks, baking, swimming, painting, bowling and dressing up raised a total of $50,000 throughout Queensland and New South Wales. Your enthusiastic support has helped us reach tens of thousands of people in hundreds of communities.
Our amazing supporters

Our donors are individuals and organisations who either give a regular monthly donation, contribute to our appeals, respond to an ‘ask’ from the Fundraising Call Centre, or raise funds through community events.

Funds raised through these donation channels are vital in supporting asthma research and we are thankful for each and every one of our amazing supporters.

Our monthly regular giving program which started with 9 Queensland historical givers increased to 648 regular givers through the efforts of the Call Centre Team. The program also received a rebrand with the apt name of Blue Ribbon Regular Giving Supporter Program.

Having an event in honour of Bryn, came to us in the small hours of yet another sleepless night. We thought if there was some way of celebrating Bryn’s life, as well as raising awareness and much needed funds to help the Asthma Foundation, then we would do anything we could to make it happen. We are hoping to prevent any other family from going through the grief that our family has to endure. We are so grateful to walk into a school and see hundreds of kids dressed in honour of Bryn is amazing. He would have loved it!

Kind regards
Basil, Corina and Family
Thank you Wentworth Shire Library for supporting our annual PJ Day in 2017. The staff at the Library held a story time PJ night attended by many excited children. After story time when everyone had gone home the children’s Teddies had a special ‘sleep over’ in the library. What mischief did they get up to..?

Regular ongoing donations give us the ability to forecast income which helps determine the contribution we make to the Asthma Australia National Research Program, which in turn supports the best asthma research across the country.

We are also very appreciative of an increase in the generosity of those leaving gifts in Wills, with bequests received during the year totalling $1.2 million. In addition to this, from a survey our supporters so kindly completed, we received 10 bequest expressions of interest.

Our ability to contribute considerably to asthma research wouldn’t be possible without the kind and generous hearts of our amazing supporters, and we truly and deeply thank you.

We feel it is so important to raise money for research into asthma and finding a cure. After seeing first hand the heartache and stress of a child having an asthma attack, it is so vital that we find a way to beat this illness, so there are no more Asthma related deaths.

Kerri-Ann and Natalie, 5k a day in May

Thank you Wentworth Shire Library for supporting our annual PJ Day in 2017. The staff at the Library held a story time PJ night attended by many excited children. After story time when everyone had gone home the children’s Teddies had a special ‘sleep over’ in the library. What mischief did they get up to..?
Fundraising Call Centre

From its early beginnings over 40 years ago as an Art Union to its current day Fundraising Call Centre, thousands of people in communities throughout Queensland and now New South Wales have been reached by our wonderful and dedicated team members across the years. The Fundraising Call Centre contributed significantly to the Foundation’s income, as well as raising awareness about the seriousness of asthma and engaging support for people living with the disease. The team also utilises its exceptional phone service skills to provide support to other program areas when needed.

With the merge of Asthma Foundation Queensland and Asthma Foundation New South Wales twelve months ago, the Call Centre team was excited to expand its range and establish meaningful connections with New South Wales supporters which has resulted in long-term, committed donors.

At the end of June 2017 we farewelled three of our long-serving staff who held a combined 29 years of service. We would like to acknowledge the remarkable involvement of Julieann Strathearn (8 years of service), Judy Treloar (11 years of service) and Sandy Wilson (10 years of service) who gave their time, effort and passion to help make a difference in raising funds for asthma research.

Lenore’s Story

August 2017 will mark 10 years since my son Ryan’s death – for the past 10 years I have lent my voice to the asthma cause – telling our story, raising awareness and much needed funds for research and education.

Ryan had an asthma management plan in place. It was in his wallet but he had not been following it. Like many other young men and women (and some not so young), Ryan did not take his asthma seriously enough.

My aim is to jolt others from their complacency!
The Asthma Foundation has owned and operated Op Shops in the greater Brisbane region for 28 years, from our first store in Wynnum Manly to now five profitable stores. The business generates over a $1,000,000 in gross sales with $90,000 in net profit, employs more than 20 staff, 90 volunteers and continues to be an invaluable platform for the Foundation to engage with our community.

The 2016-17 year has been one of consolidation for the business after opening a new super store in Coorparoo in 2015, which holds both retail and warehouse operations. The retail store has quickly established itself while the warehouse operations have enabled more efficient distribution of donations.

The Op Shop operation could not function without the generous support of the community through donations and the many volunteers. The stores are an important community hub and meeting point for customers, volunteers and staff. They provide inexpensive clothing and furniture options as well as a treasure trove of items for people looking for period clothing or costumes. We also support the community by hosting work for the dole participants and we work with other not-for-profit organisations providing placements for their retail and warehouse trainees.
We’d like to thank the following volunteers for donating their time and dedication in assisting our five Op Shops across Brisbane to operate so efficiently:

Asthma Foundation Op Shop Annerley
Lynette Coop
Gerard Christensen
Sandra Davis
James Evans
Diana Moore
Tien Tang

Asthma Foundation Op Shop Coorparoo
Greg Minehan
Chris Phillips
Matthew Greer

Asthma Foundation Op Shop Hillcrest
Jennifer Haddad
Paula Bakek
Pauline Wood
Glenis Hind
Kathleen Griffiths
Myra Potter

Asthma Foundation Op Shop Mitchelton
June Noon
Sandra Keating
Thelma Dennis
Carmel Todd
Mary Paterson
Jenny Brown
Evelyn Critchley
Margaret Sheehan
Anita Lomas
Lyndi Dunstan
Jacqui Grice

Asthma Foundation Op Shop Zillmere
Ann Needham
Ann Ditchurn
Sarah Gallaher
Bernadine Denaro
Gloria Squire
Sylvia Aldrich
Jeremy Gallaher

Asthma Foundation Op Shop Hillcrest
Geraldine Farrel
Sue Healy
Kay Simpson
Sylia Koot
Bonnie Twyford
Barbro D

Asthma Foundation Op Shop Mitchelton
Alex Grice
Merilyn James
Robyn Elford
Bill Sturtridge
Judy Ballantyne
Marline Plato
Galinlagunova
Trish Nehmer
Glenys Mikan
Julie Brett
Michael Kenny

Asthma Foundation Op Shop Zillmere
Rachel Chalker
Felicity Denaro
Tracey Scott
Audrey Gallaher
Carol Tucker
Debbie Voysey
Contributing funds to asthma research in Australia is a significant priority for the Foundation and during 2016-17, we contributed over $400,000 to asthma research through Asthma Australia’s National Research Program.

The following new research was funded by Asthma Australia this year:

Dr Anne Vertigan, University of Newcastle
Voice and upper airway symptoms in patients with difficult to manage asthma.

Dr Gabrielle McCallum, Menzies Institute, Northern Territory
Improving asthma education for Indigenous people through a culturally appropriate mobile application.

Dr Nathan Bartlett, University of Newcastle
Novel epithelial targets and targeting strategies to prevent asthma exacerbations.

Dr Connie Xia, University of Melbourne
Validating a novel treatment target for asthma: a key step to improving control of severe asthma.

Dr Neve Troy, Telethon Kids Institute, Western Australia
Discovering the immune inflammatory gene networks underlying the epithelial response to human rhinovirus in children with asthma.

We have continued to fund two PhD students through our Charles Mitchell PhD Scholarships:

Lisa Murray, University of Queensland
The genetics of antiviral immunity in people with asthma.

Johanna Schagen, University of Queensland
Viral infections in early life and mucosal immunity.

We acknowledge the valuable financial support of The R E Ross Trust which continues to support asthma research through our Foundation. The R E Ross Trust has provided subsequent years of funding for Dr Paul Robinson and the research team from The Children's Hospital at Westmead, and Woolcock Institute of Medical Research examining home based monitoring with forced oscillation in school aged children with asthma. The research will finalise in 2018 and we look forward to providing further information on the findings then.
Special thanks to…

We are extremely grateful for the generous support of our donors, regular givers, bequestors, corporate sponsors, corporate partners, government, trusts, foundations, ambassadors, life governors, life members, community fundraisers and community groups who so generously gave their financial support, their time and their expertise over the 2016-17 year, in support of people living with asthma.

Thank you.

Asthma Foundation Queensland and New South Wales would like to thank:

Department of Health
New South Wales Government
New South Wales Health (Ministry of Health)
New South Wales Agency for Clinical Innovation
Queensland Government
Queensland Health
Metro North Hospital and Health Service
Brisbane North Primary Health Network
Hunter New England Local Health District
Western Sydney Primary Health Network
Wentwest Limited
Opera Australia
The R E Ross Trust
Perpetual - IMPACT Philanthropy program
Woolcock Institute of Medical Research

Pearl Sheppard Fund
Fairbridge Foundation
Asthma Australia
City of Willoughby
NSW Women's Bowl for others
The Epiha Family
All supporters of Dress Blue for Asthma 2017 and PJ Day
Warwick McLauchlan
Gold Coast mid-week Paddling & Outdoors Group
Gold Coast mid-week Walking & Social Group
Natalie Doolan, Kerri-Ann and Wade Hooper
Mat Darcy
Carnelian Project
Melissa Camilleri
Cathy Holland (photography pages 3, 8, 18 and 19)
We are also extremely grateful to the following persons, who left generous bequests in their Will, ensuring research into a cure for asthma will continue for many years to come.

The Estate of C Edwards
The Estate of E Fair
The Estate of J Jacobs
The Estate of H Mierzwa
The Estate of B Moffat
The Estate of W Nicolson
The Estate of P Powell
The Estate of M Ralston
The Estate of M Reid
The Estate of D Smith
The Estate of R Trood
The Estate of M van Batenburg
The Estate of G Windsham
The Thomas & Vera Condie Trust
The Hart Family Perpetual Trust
Queensland Community Foundation

Volunteers
Graeme Elliott since 2016
Andrew Howard since 2004
Chris Jenkinson since 2014
Paul Kiujian since 2012

Life Governors
Joyce Tyson
Dr Russell Vandenberg
Beverley Adcock, OAM
Dr Sandy Anderson, AM
Rosalin Strong, AM

Mat

An asthmatic myself, I support the foundation by raising funds by competing in running events so the foundation can continue their great work.
Asthma Foundation Queensland and New South Wales benefits from the strong leadership and expertise of its Board of Directors and Committee Members.

All board members from Asthma Foundation Queensland and Asthma Foundation New South Wales were invited to maintain their board membership of our new merged entity, Asthma Foundation Queensland and New South Wales.
Treasurer’s Report

With the merger of the Asthma Foundation of New South Wales (AFNSW) and Asthma Foundation Queensland (AFQ) having taken effect from 1 July 2016, the financial year ending 30 June 2017 is the first full year of financial results for the entity Asthma Foundation Queensland and New South Wales (AFQN). As planned, both the New South Wales and Queensland Foundations ceased trading with effect 1 July 2016.

The surplus for the 12 month period ending 30 June 2017 for AFQN was $734,586 compared to the combined AFQ and AFNSW loss of $206,365 in FY16.

Consistent with prior years the FY17 result included a significant contribution from bequests of $1,255,365 (2016:$1,190,997), however as we are unable to predict and therefore rely on bequests, the Foundation continues to face significant challenges in securing sustainable income to support delivery of our core services.

This was one of the key strategic considerations in the merger of AFNSW and AFQ, to reduce costs and drive greater efficiencies through a larger merged organisation in the longer term.

The AFQN balance sheet shows a strong position as at 30 June 2017 with net assets of $13,117,679.

**Highlights from the FY17 results include:**

- Total revenue of $5,861,452 in FY17 reduced from the AFNSW and AFQN combined position in FY16 of $6,141,094 following the termination of the Queensland based Art Union fundraising activities in July 2016, but in part offset by increased bequest inflows.

- Funds committed to research grants and scholarships in FY17 totalled $402,400 as compared to $388,054 in FY16. This continued contribution demonstrates the very strong commitment AFQN has to ongoing research activities undertaken nationally.
Income derived from our investment portfolio continued to provide a significant contribution in funding the operations of the Foundation. Net income from interest and dividends during the year amounted to $426,088 as compared to $311,093 in AFNSW and $154,817 in AFQ for FY16. The investment portfolio for the combined entity is managed within an agreed investment strategy adopted to ensure a consistent level of income is achieved with reduced exposure to capital losses. As at 30 June 2017, the total value of investments under advice for the merged entity AFQN was $10.4m an increase on the 30 June 2016 position of $8.9m arising from both the bequests received in FY17 and an increase in the market value of the investment portfolio over the period.

Our 2018 net result for the merged AFQN organisation is forecasted to be an improvement on FY17 due to significant bequests that have been received early in the new financial year and a continued focus on cost savings and securing new revenue streams. It is important to acknowledge the reduction of around 40% in Federal Government Grant funding of AFQN programs in FY18 relative to prior years and pressure this places on the Foundation.

The Board acknowledges the effort and commitment of the team in working towards ensuring the financial sustainability of the Foundation, and the considerable work that has been undertaken by all the team within AFQN to very successfully deliver wide range of services and programs undertaken in FY17.

We continue to explore further opportunities to collaborate and achieve economies of scale working directly with the other state and territory foundations and through the national body, Asthma Australia. It is pleasing to note the Board of AFQN agreed on 3 August 2017 to participate in a potential national merger.

Jonathan McLeod
Treasurer
Investing in achieving change

We are proud that the majority of the funds during FY2016-17 were spent on achieving our mission and purpose as we work towards building life-changing services and fund world-class research to help free people from the limitations of their asthma in a way that is efficient and sustainable.

Where our money came from in QLD and NSW

- Fundraising (including bequests) 29%
- Programs and Services (including Government funding) 53%
- Net investments 18%

Where our money was spent in QLD and NSW

- Fundraising 26%
- Programs and Services (Includes all costs directly attributable to delivering program services) 53%
- Research 11%
- Communications and Advocacy 2%
- Operational Business Costs (includes all costs borne by the Foundation not recouped elsewhere) 8%
Asthma Foundation Queensland and New South Wales recognises Australia’s first peoples and value their cultural knowledge, strength and resilience in our work to improve the lives of people with asthma. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which Asthma Foundation works and pay respect to Elders, past and present and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our community.
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Queensland and New South Wales

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... a community free from asthma