annual report

2020-2021

This year has been one of unprecedented challenges, for both AS Purposeful and the people we serve. A sweeping global pandemic has closed borders, disrupted every aspect of work and education, and greatly limited our ability to socialise with one another.

Autism can be a condition that produces endless solitude by limiting opportunities for those who are impacted by it.

Unfortunately, the current crisis will compound this pre-existing disadvantage, and there is a risk of a 'lost generation' emerging in its aftermath. This means that fostering social inclusion will be even more important in the coming years.

Over the past 12 months, we have been developing the tools and techniques that will be needed to help rebuild the social fabric of our society. We will have a vital role to play in minimising the long-term damage of COVID-19, not just for people with autism and similar challenges, such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, but also for their families, schools, and local communities. As a result, we have been focused on increasing our ability to help more people, more flexibly, and more often.

The coronavirus may be changing the world around us, but our mission—to support neurodiverse Australians to become as independent as possible—has not changed at all. How very appropriate for an autism charity!

— David Harper, Founder & Chair



## our finances AS Purposeful Limited: Income Grants & Sales Miscellaneous Income **Balance Sheet** Facilities Rental As at 30 June 2021 \$10.00 \$15.00 \$20.00 \$25.00 \$30.00 2020-21 (\$) Thousands **ASSETS** ■ FY2019-20 ■ FY2020-21 48,503.29 Current 6,412.27 Non-Current Sundry Expenses 54,915.56 **Total Assets** Professional Services **LIABILITIES** 2,453.67 Insurance **MEMBERS' EQUITY** 52,461.89 Occupancy Employees and Volunteers \$15.00 \$20.00 \$30.00 Thousands AS Purposeful Limited: Expenditure we acknowledge the generous support of: Gallagher **bdj**partners



## our work

we paused delivery, but not development... here's what we did to get ready for the recovery:



ascent essentials: training to identify and harness strengths—greater focus on positive experiences and emotions

**ascendant**: a facilitated peer support program to learn new skills and develop their networks —better support for regional and rural areas

autism@school: specialised teacher training to foster inclusive education—new evidence based tools to foster peer to peer mentoring



aspire: supporting social participation for young people—a brand new program to foster inclusion in our local communities



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