



**lotus outreach australia**  
education-opportunity-action



**Preventing child labour and trafficking in Cambodia  
by enabling education and helping to change lives.**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**



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# Lotus Outreach Australia Overview

Lotus Outreach Australia is a Not-For-Profit organisation. Our mission is to ensure the education, health, and safety of the most marginalised and exploited women and children in Cambodia. We also advocate for their Human Rights. We are guided by the UN's Millennium Development Goals regarding extreme poverty, universal education, gender equality and empowerment of women.

## What we do

Working from the basis that prevention is better than cure, we work in partnership with respected Cambodian Government registered NGOs, to identify girls at risk of the worst forms of child labour and trafficking, and provide them with education and opportunity through our Girls' Access to Education (GATE) program.

## Our Projects

GATE is a highly successful program, seeing girls from the very poorest families through high school onto tertiary training and then to university. By supporting families in dire poverty to become self-sufficient, we create the possibility of an alternative future for these girls and change opportunities for whole communities and future generations.



Our projects focus on sustainable change for families and communities through the education of their girls. We provide: access to education, uniforms, school supplies, bikes for transport to school & healthcare for 150 at-risk girls, nutritional support for families in dire poverty to lessen the pressure on girls to work to feed their families - often entailing child labour or trafficking. Advocacy programs, in association with local partners, inform the community of the dangers and brutality of trafficking, the importance of Human Rights, and the immense value of girls' education to their families in terms of gainful employment and future economic opportunities.



## Our Outcomes

Lotus Outreach Australia continues to support 150 girls in Cambodia, keeping them in school where they not only receive an education, but also remain protected from exploitation. Lotus Outreach Australia works alongside our In Country partner Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC) who in turn work with Local Education Working Groups (teachers, principals and community leaders). Thanks to this kind of partnership, students are regularly monitored and mentored. This results in more regular school attendance and an improvement in their grades.

## Our status

### We are:

- incorporated as a Registered Charity with NSW Department of Fair Trading 2004
- a fundraising authority with NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing
- an affiliate of eight Lotus Outreach organisations globally, originally founded by Tibetan teacher and filmmaker Khyentse Norbu Rinpoche. Lotus Outreach Australia directs and supports its own programs in Phnom Penh.
- a successful, effective organisation with strong governance and proven programs

### We have:

- an ABN, plus charity tax concessions with the Australian Tax Office.
- tax deductibility for donations made through our community partner AFAP - Australian Foundation for Peoples of Asia and the Pacific - and ear marked for our projects.





# Letter from Our President



Jane Lyttleton

LOA has been providing access to education for girls from very poor families in undeveloped areas of Cambodia now for more than 10 years. These are girls who would otherwise have no chance to go to school, no chance to have the opportunity to get vocational training or to get a decent job. And every chance that they would end up in slave labour or being trafficked.

Awareness of the profound and far reaching effects of educating and empowering girls has, in 2015, reached universal recognition amongst government and policy makers, aid and funding bodies, and the media.

This year at the UN General Assembly many powerful people clamoured for an increased focus on girls' education. This year's new Global Goals for Sustainable Development, #4 and 5 focus on quality education and gender equality.

In 2010, 39 CEOs from around the world had signed up to the UN Global Compact's Women's Empowerment Principles; in 2015 over 1,000 CEO's have signed up. This year the First Lady of the USA, Michelle Obama launched a new initiative to fund community girls' education projects, called "Let Girls Learn".

This year Australian Foreign Minister, Julie Bishop, in describing the new aid paradigm, has emphasised education and gender issues, saying "Training women for employment, building their capacity and challenging barriers to their participation will deliver social and economic benefits to all societies."

Last year we saw powerful films like "Girl Rising", and this year "He named me Malala" – both such moving films and a clear confirmation of why LOA supports programs like "Girls Access to Education - GATE".



But there are still more than 60 million girls not in school world wide, and none of us can stop working in which ever way we can, to remedy this tragic situation.

In 2015, LOA continued to work with our impressive local NGO, CWCC in their untiring efforts to get vulnerable and disadvantaged girls into school and to stay tere. This year we saw another cohort of girls proudly graduate and several of them gained sought after positions in tertiary training colleges, or university.

On the local front, LOA has raised its profile significantly and has been very effective in fundraising with the help of our tireless fundraising committee. Several high profile fundraising events were staged, including movie nights and a fashion show and auction. We are grateful to the many sponsors who helped to make these events so successful, especially Macquarie Bank who hosted the “Fashion with Compassion” at their new premises in Sydney. There have been many requests for us to make this an annual event.

The LOA volunteer management committee deserve recognition and thanks for their dedication and time spent in ensuring that LOA is such an effective and accountable organization. I wish to thank all our donors and sponsors for your ongoing financial support and our pro bono supporters; auditors KPMG, legal advisors Clayton Utz and Gilbert and Tobin and website manager, Emrys Media. Together we make an enormous difference in the lives of the girls we help – an effect that has far reaching impact not just on the lives of the marginalized girls and their families but also empowers women economically and helps to change the culture that allows slave labour and trafficking to exist.

J Lyttleton, LOA President.





## Our Programs

Our primary program, GATE – “Girls access to education” in Phnom Penh has been supported now by LOA for 9 years, and remains a highly successful and proven project benefiting many hundreds of girls and making real change in their futures and that of their communities.

LOA supports girls from very poor families ranging in age from 8 to 21 to attend school (Grades 4-12). CWCC and the local education working groups mentor the girls and encourage them to study hard. But academic application and success is not always so easy when you are the first in your family to ever go to school.

Corruption is endemic in many parts of Cambodia and unfortunately the education system has not been immune. Cheating and purchase of exam answers, has long been common practice in Cambodian classrooms. We have always strongly discouraged LOA students from such practices but they have been disadvantaged by the lack of a level playing field. Hence we welcome the government initiative in the last school year to eliminate paid cheating by drastically changing its examination procedures. This meant a large majority of Year 12 students across the whole country failed their exams. However we are pleased to report that more than half our GATE PP students passed their Year 12 exams in 2015, and most of these graduates have gone on to do further vocational training. 3 of the LOA girls received sought after scholarships from Passerelles Numeriques Cambodia (PNC), a well known college that teaches IT skills and includes an intensive English language program, a guaranteed job upon completion, and options for subsidised further study. Extra curricular computer courses have also been attended by a number of our senior girls.





Girls dropping out of school is a common occurrence in a country where there is little support for education of girls and where family poverty puts pressure on children to work. Our local partner CWCC, maintains a close relationship with the LOA girls and this year conducted nearly 300 visits with families of girls who had, or were at risk of dropping out. They mentor the girls and encourage them to finish their education. They also visit the garment factories to discourage them from illegally employing underage girls. CWCC ran 2 workshops this year for GATE girls, their families and interested community members, with the themes “The importance of girls access to education” and “Improving lives of people through education”. These were attended by several hundred people who learned about girls’ rights, children’s rights, the importance of applying yourself to your studies, and details of the GATE program, and the issues facing drop out students. The workshops not only informed the local community but gave the CWCC staff the opportunity to listen to the GATE students and their families to better understand the needs of those living in extreme poverty, such as the rise in class fees that are impacting on families.

Our close relationship with local partners in Phnom Penh, CWCC and Lotus Outreach Cambodia, means we can be very hands on and involved even from a distance. Our In-country Liaison officer meets with local partners and LOA girls frequently, and members of the Australian based LOA management committee make regular visits to Cambodia.

Rice – 35 of the families of our poorest students received the rice allowance. Rice is provided to those in the most dire situations, to encourage the girls to remain in school rather than drop out to work in the garment factories.

Lotus Pedals – 51 new bikes were distributed this year, and 19 bikes were repaired, enabling 70 girls better access to school. Many of our girls live on the outskirts of their community so the provision of bikes is the only way to ensure they are able to attend school safely, punctually and regularly.







## Committee Member Visit



Janis Hall spent April and May this year in Cambodia, meeting with LOCAM, CWCC and a number of current and past GATE girls, as well as researching and making connections with NGOs offering potential vocational training opportunities.

"Spending a couple of hours in extremely poor and unsanitary surrounds and knowing that people live permanently in these conditions is very grounding. It's one thing to walk past, or even through, areas like this, it's another to sit there with the people who live there.

"From all the interviews it is obvious that without the GATE program, the girls would probably now be working in garment factories or worse, in slavery including sex slavery. All of the girls expressed fear of the people who come to the villages to offer young girls a "better life" and money to support their families."

Janis held meetings with people from Friends International, Japan Cambodia Interactive Association, Khmer Artisanry, Cambodian Children's Fund, Pour un Sourire d'Enfant and Connecting Hands. She built connections between these various NGOs and CWCC, creating the opportunity for CWCC officers to explore further vocational training opportunities for our graduating girls.

Finally, Janis met with a number of girls who shared their personal and moving stories, a couple of examples are shared in the Case Studies below.



## Case Studies

### Srey Theary

Srey Theary has always been an ambitious girl, making the most of her opportunities. In English classes she always studied hard and showed great progress, often helping other girls in her class.

Six years ago her father died, putting her, her mother and her two sisters into deep poverty. Her mother found work in a garment factory and works full time, 6 days a week, to support her daughters. She brings home \$130 a month, with \$50 going straight to rent.

“I would have to drop out of school if I don't have support from LOA and I would work in the garment factory. To be in this program has changed my family life, it has improved our family situation. We don't have so much worries and my study has improved very much and now I get good grades.”

Theary has lofty dreams:

“When I finish high school I will go to university to study medicine and become a nurse. I have family who are sick and need help, and I want to help other people because I have seen many sick people.”





## Srey Nean

"I was in the public school and the school principal knew about the program and he recommended me because we are very poor and because he said I was very clever. He wanted to give me an opportunity to get an education and further my studies to get a good job to support my family. I was so happy to have materials and books and money and uniforms like the other children. This helps me to be like the others and it helps my future. I don't have a bicycle yet so I walk to school, but I would like a bicycle.

I am studying general knowledge subjects like geography, history, Khmer literature, English. The history is good because we learn Khmer history and global history. I also study a little bit of Chinese. My favourite subject is Khmer literature.

"I will finish school in 2 years and then I want to go to university to study to become a tour guide for English and Chinese speaking visitors to Cambodia. I will have to study more English and more Chinese for this. The best thing about school for me is learning. I don't like hanging out much and prefer to stay alone because I like to study and I like to read. But sometimes I meet with friends and we practice English together.

I do not want to be in a garment factory but I will work there in the school vacation to get money for food. I would tell [younger children] to go to school because this is the only way to get a good job and money to support the family and to develop our community. I want a better community with no addictions, no gambling, no thieving. I want all the girls and all the children to go to school. I don't want people to see my community as poor."





# Fundraising Activities

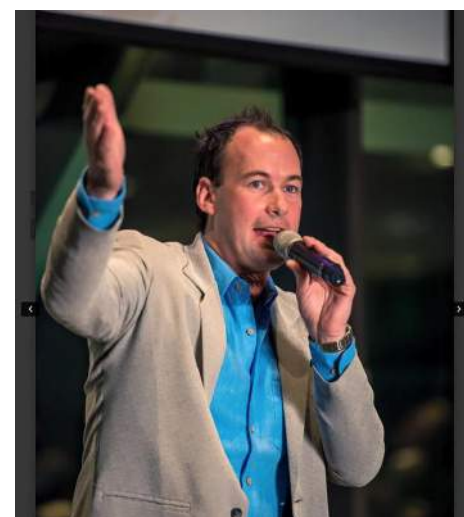
## Fashion with Compassion

March 2015

Over 250 guests from business, fashion and social enterprise sectors, were treated to runway looks from leading Australian designers at Lotus Outreach Australia's fundraising cocktail event, "Fashion with Compassion" at Macquarie Banks new premises in Sydney.

"Fashion with Compassion" featured fashion from high profile Australian designers, Ginger and Smart, Camilla and Marc, Rebecca Vallance, Carla Zampatti, We Are Kindred and Moss and Spy, as well as outfits by Curve boutique and shoes by the leaders in custom made footwear, Shoes of Prey.

The event was hosted by news.com.au editor and media commentator, Melissa Hoyer and entertainment was provided by well known Australian vocalist Darren Percival from "The Voice".





## City2Surf

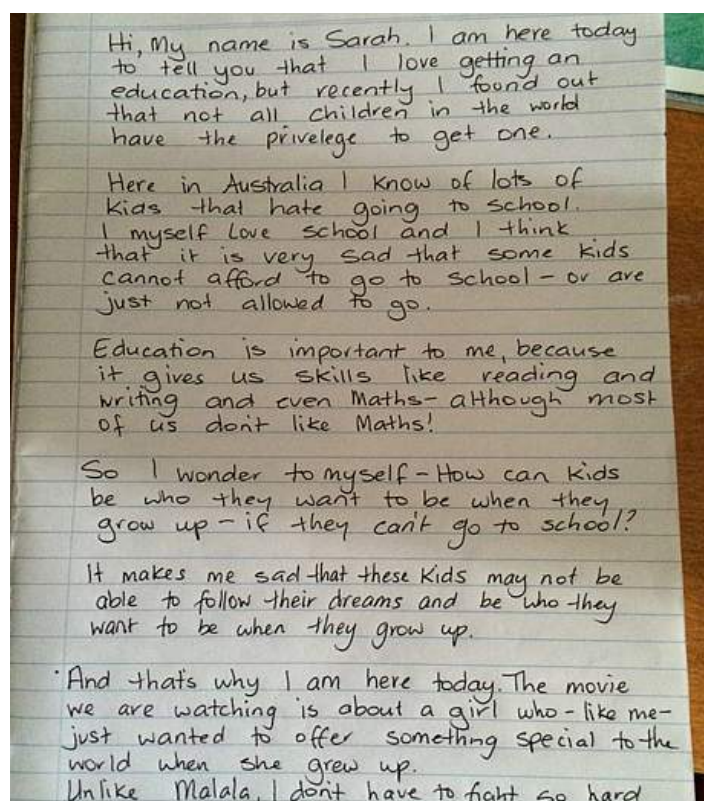
August 2015

Every year we are getting more runners and more support for Lotus Outreach Australia in the City2Surf. This year we had 16 members on the LOA team and a number of individuals and separate teams raising funds for LOA. Our youngest members (4 and 5 years old) made it the whole way, with the support of their pre-school behind them.

## He Named me Malala

November 2015

Two friends of LOA organised a viewing of the film "He Named me Malala" about the young girl who was shot by the Taliban for insisting on her right to an education. With the help of Newtown Dendy Cinema and the generosity of the organisers plus an inspiring speech from a young 9 year old supporter who really understands why girls need an education, the evening provided inspiration and motivation to members of the audience to sponsor young LOA girls to get an education.





## Our Team



### Jane Lyttleton - President

Jane Lyttleton is an author, teacher and practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) specialising in women's health. She lectures at universities in Sydney and internationally. Jane helped establish Lotus Outreach Australia in 2004 after she and a group of Lotus Outreach members travelled to Thailand and Cambodia meeting local groups working to combat sex trafficking.

### Anna Harper - Vice President

Anna Harper leads her consulting firm, Cultural Shapeshifters, working with Australian and International Businesses and Organisations, particularly in Asia, living there for 15 yrs, and with the UN. She specialises in developing global leaders for the future. She has a B.Fine Arts, M.Arts in Chaos, Complexity and Creativity, and M.Applied Science. Anna was Treasurer for Lotus Outreach Australia from 2004- 2012, and sits on the board of Lotus Outreach International.



### Dolma Gunther - Legal Secretary

Dolma Gunther works as a legal editor for Thomson Reuters. She has a Law degree from Sydney University and an Arts degree in Anthropology from Melbourne University and her main area of interest is human rights law and international law. She is currently working on a documentary featuring Tibetan refugees living in the Himalayas. She is passionate about human rights issues in global development and is especially interested in helping disadvantaged children in developing countries.



## **Kelly Tracey - Secretary and Child Protection Officer**

Kelly completed a BA in Dramatic Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne. She worked as an actor for the next 12 years in film, television and theatre. A founding member of Ranters Theatre Company, Kelly became Secretary of the Board, managed large-scale fundraising events, designed marketing material and toured as an actor with the company both nationally and internationally.

## **Rowena Frith - Financial Advisor**

With extensive experience in strategy and business development leadership roles in consumer driven businesses, Rowena's expertise incorporates formulating corporate strategy, managing and integrating mergers and acquisitions, forging and sustaining business partnerships, marketing strategy, financial management and business development.



## **Shona Baker - Treasurer and Risk Assessment Officer**

Originally from New Zealand, Shona trained as a journalist at Wellington Polytechnic and worked in newspapers there for four years. Shona has trained in complementary medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine. Having witnessed the devastating effect the lack of education has had on Asian girls being trafficked to Australia, Shona is a strong believer in education as the key to a better life for vulnerable young women.



## Jennifer Mellet - Director of Communications and Fundraising

Jennifer is a graduate of University of Western Australia and a screenwriter, actor and broadcaster. Jennifer has previously worked pro bono with the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Traditional Custodians in Far North Queensland, on their Cultural Heritage Mapping & Recording Project. She has filmed Lotus Outreach Australia's projects in Cambodia, and leads the very committed volunteer fundraising team.

## Trisha Heaton - Fundraising Co-director

Trisha graduated from the Australian Film, Television & Radio School (AFTRS) and has worked in the film industry since 1980. Trisha is a former CEO of Ausfilm. She has served on the Ausfilm Board and the Screen NSW Board and is Co-Director of The Heaton Group developing real estate projects. Trisha has been a passionate supporter and fundraiser for Lotus Outreach Australia over many years.



## Heather Brand - Fundraising Advisor

Since first visiting Cambodia aged 19, Heather has focused her career on the blend of business and philanthropy. Cambodia, anti-slavery and the rights of women and children have long been her focus. She spent 7 years at Macquarie Group Foundation as Vice President Asia, based in Hong Kong, and Senior Manager, Sydney. In 2003 she won the Prime Minister's Award for contributing to sustainable international development.





## Janis Hall - Donor and Supporter Manager

Janis spent 4 years as Community/Youth Development Officer at Lockyer Valley Regional Council SE Qld, focussing on culturally appropriate youth engagement initiatives. She received Outstanding Dedication Awards for her work during the 2010/11 and 2013 devastating floods. Janis now interprets pro bono for police and refugees in Qld. Janis has travelled to Cambodia to meet with the Lotus Outreach Australia graduates.

## Sue-Anne Muller - Director of Social Media

Sue Ann has worked in the community sector in Sydney developing and delivering recreation programs for families and children. Most recently she worked at the Australian National Maritime Museum and UNICEF Australia. She spent a year living in Hyderabad, India and Moshi, Tanzania which inspired her to use her communication and programming skills to help children in developing countries survive and thrive.



## Charlie Cristi - In Country Liaison Officer

Charlie lives and works in Phnom Penh. She is a gifted high school teacher. Charlie spent a year as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development, an AusAID initiative, liaising with Lotus Outreach Cambodia and helping to support the projects. Charlie also helped set up the English Language Program for Lotus Outreach Australia. Charlie is passionate about supporting the girls in our programs, and works part time pro bono, liaising with our partners and affiliates.



## Our Affiliates

### **Lotus Outreach International (LOI)**

Lotus Outreach Australia is proud to be an affiliate of Lotus Outreach International, based in California, USA. Lotus Outreach was originally founded by renowned Buddhist teacher and film maker Norbu Khyentse. He noted a need to give a voice to abused and exploited children in Asia, and helped set up Lotus Outreach as a secular Not for Profit. Today this highly regarded organisation has 8 affiliates worldwide Australia, USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

### **Lotus Outreach Cambodia (LOCAM)**

Lotus Outreach Australia works closely with LOCAM, our office in Phnom Penh, liaising in areas of project design and monitoring.

### **Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC)**

CWCC is a local NGO registered with the Royal Cambodian Government's Ministry of Interior. Its primary purpose is to provide assistance to women and children who are victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and trafficking, working towards creating equality, peace and development. CWCC is responsible for implementing and monitoring LOA's projects, ensuring they are effective, sustainable and culturally attuned.

### **Australia Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific (AFAP)**

AFAP is an Australian NGO incorporated in NSW. AFAP provides support to Australian Partners such as LOA, involved in sustainable international development programs. Lotus Outreach Australia has tax deductibility under the auspices of AFAP.



### **Local staff profile - CWCC**

Mr Sophal is CWCC's longest serving staff member for LOA's GATE project. He has worked with our girls since 2009. A teacher himself, he joined CWCC because he dreamed about being able to help the most vulnerable children from the poorest families to be able to access education. His wife is a teacher at one of our target schools and he has raised two sons of whom he is very proud. He particularly likes working with parents, educating them about the importance of education.



# Thank you



## Contact Details

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Donations:

[treasurer@lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au](mailto:treasurer@lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/LotusOutreachAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/LotusOutreachAustralia)

[www.instagram.com/lotusoutreachaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/lotusoutreachaustralia)

Firstly a huge and sincere thank you to our donors. It is the donors who make all our work possible and we are grateful for your ongoing and continued support.

Thanks goes to all of our volunteers in Australia, on the management and other committees and to those who donate their time and work pro-bono to help us keep at risk girls in school. Thanks also to the tireless and dedicated staff in Cambodia who make everything happen.

Finally, from Putherika, LOA graduate "I would like to say thank you (donors) for all of their thoughts and donations, it is very meaningful for us. Although we cannot pay you back, we will try to study and try to work in order to get a good future, because you all are trying hard to help us so we need to help ourselves, then we need to help another poor student too. It's what we can do for you. Thank you." -





**lotus outreach australia**  
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**Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated**

**ABN 13 358 876 011**

**Annual Financial Report**

**30 June 2015**

**Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated**  
**ABN 13 358 876 011**

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**Statement of comprehensive income**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2015**

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Donations received		153,460	68,082
Fundraising income	5	49,588	8,050
Membership fees		350	-
Interest income		87	265
<b>Total revenues</b>		<u>203,485</u>	<u>76,397</u>
Employee expenses		(44,455)	-
Management fees		(15,071)	-
Fundraising costs	5	(6,637)	(3,762)
Consultants expenses		(9,493)	-
Bank charges		(1,779)	(2,185)
Computer expenses		-	(1,114)
Other expenses		(3,325)	(614)
<b>Total expenses</b>		<u>(80,760)</u>	<u>(7,675)</u>
<b>Net surplus before payments to beneficiaries</b>		<b>122,725</b>	<b>68,722</b>
Funds provided to beneficiaries		(91,852)	(50,625)
<b>Net surplus for the year</b>		<u><u>30,873</u></u>	<u><u>18,097</u></u>



**Statement of changes in funds  
For the year ended 30 June 2015**

	<b>Accumulated funds \$</b>	<b>Total funds \$</b>
Opening balance 1 July 2013	95,801	95,801
Net surplus for the year	18,097	18,097
Closing balance 30 June 2014	<u>113,898</u>	<u>113,898</u>
<b>Opening balance 1 July 2014</b>	<b>113,898</b>	<b>113,898</b>
<b>Net surplus for the year</b>	<b>30,873</b>	<b>30,873</b>
<b>Closing balance 30 June 2015</b>	<b><u>144,771</u></b>	<b><u>144,771</u></b>



**Statement of financial position  
As at 30 June 2014**

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6(a)	32,080	46,348
Other assets	3	<u>122,366</u>	<u>67,550</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>154,466</u>	<u>113,898</u>
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>154,466</u>	<u>113,898</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other creditors	4	<u>9,675</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>9,675</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>9,675</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>144,771</u>	<u>113,898</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Accumulated funds		<u>144,771</u>	<u>113,898</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>144,771</u>	<u>113,898</u>





**Statement of cash flows**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2015**

	2015	2014
Note	\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Cash receipts from donations and fundraising	74,155	38,789
Cash payments to suppliers	(56,014)	(5,862)
Cash payments to beneficiaries	(32,496)	(50,625)
Interest received	87	265
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<u>6(b) (14,268)</u>	<u>(17,433)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(14,268)	(17,433)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	6(a) <u>46,348</u>	<u>63,781</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	6(a) <u><u>32,080</u></u>	<u><u>46,348</u></u>

