

# Vanīsh

Annual Report

2011 - 2012



Year 23

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## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

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Dear Members

It is a pleasure to be able to make this report for 2011 - 2012, my second as Chair of VANISH. Thank you for your support for VANISH.

It has been a huge year for VANISH and the adoption community with the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee report, a number of delivered Apologies, several more Apologies in the pipeline (including Victoria) and the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) survey of those affected by adoption and their needs, released in August.

I want to commence by thanking Coleen Clare our manager and the staff of VANISH for their dedication to our mission, often in difficult circumstances. Times haven't been easy for VANISH financially over the last year or so. Due to the increasing rental costs at 100 Franklin Street staff bore the brunt of belt tightening which will enable us to get back to surplus by the end of this financial year, and I thank them for their patience.

During all of this they have continued to undertake the core of the work of VANISH – our search and support work - diligently and professionally. I take this opportunity to thank them for their continued commitment, expertise and caring. Without it we would be just a shell.

### **Funding**

The triennial DHS funding round was in March 2012. DHS reaffirmed our core funding. Disappointingly, DHS and the Government did not agree to lift our funding so we could continue to provide access to initial adoption specific counselling for service users. Our requests for additional funding for more and improved support groups and better communications through an upgraded website also went unheeded. This was despite an excellent and evidence based submission – including the results of the one-off counselling pilot (which supported about 80 people) we ran during the year.

However, given the welcome news of a state parliamentary Apology on 25 October we live in hope that there will be a package of concrete actions announced at that time, some of which may enable VANISH to boost services

Clearly the need for adoption specific counselling services, adequate training for professionals and a range of other support measures, is a key issue for those affected by adoption – irrespective of your point along the 'journey'. This has been highlighted again and again – including in the Senate Report and the AIFS survey and recommendations. Any Apology must, as the Canadian Law Reform Commission has articulated, make reparations through 'concrete measures'.

### **The Apologies**

Part of the pleasing progress this year has been the delivery of Apologies in South Australia and the ACT with Tasmania, Victoria and the ACT all announcing an intention to make an Apology before Christmas. The Victorian parliament will hold its Apology on 25 October. The Gillard Government announcement of its intention to make an Apology, supported by the opposition leader is a huge breakthrough as well.

In Victoria our manager Coleen has played a key role in drawing together various advocates and voices to have their say about what a state apology should look like.

The Commonwealth have established a Forced Adoption Apology Reference Group on which I represent VANISH. The Reference Group will work hard to recommend to Attorney general Nicola Roxon the text of an Apology by December with the probable date for the Apology being February.

We thank everyone for their continuing input. However, we need to keep in perspective that an Apology, while an important step in the healing process by acknowledging the wrong and harm caused by adoption practices, will only be meaningful if there are 'concrete measures' attached and there is careful consideration of how not to repeat the mistakes of the past.

### **The Organisation**

I am pleased to report that VANISH is going from strength to strength.

As Coleen reports, by the end of September we will be in new premises at level 1, 50 Howard Street, North Melbourne. This was crucial for our sustainability – almost \$90,000 a year in rent and costs was a huge proportion of our budget and eroded the money available for service delivery. In advance I thank Coleen and the staff for managing the renovations and the move while still maintaining normal services – which is no mean feat. Thanks also to Gordon Ley who gave considerable pro bono legal advice around the lease and to Peter Slifirski for pro bono architectural services.

Last year we abolished membership fees in the hope of attracting new members and rationalised our membership lists. I am pleased to report that our membership has risen steadily since then with at least 4-5 new members per month.

At the core of the work of VANISH is the search and support work. The staff report is attached and shows the continued need for search and support services; searches that are becoming more complex each year as our user base becomes older.

Our goals include the need to:

- Strengthen our governance and triple our membership
- Broaden our funding base and successfully gain a new DHS funding agreement
- Improve our services, especially in regards to support, intermediary services and counselling for existing users and making our organisation more attractive to inter-country adoption and donor conceived communities
- Improve our communications – everything from the media activity to our website needs an upgrade, as well as our marketing effort
- Strengthen our advocacy and research, through both direct lobbying but also through alliances with like-minded organisations.

Against these goals we are progressing well in some areas and not so well in others as you can see from my report. The advocacy and lobbying is now obviously bearing fruit. However, we still have a considerable way to go on improving our communications and web-site so ably updated by Simon Keogh. In terms of services, the funding base allows little chance for innovation or broadening of services. One bright spot has been the commencement of a donor conceived support group each month – thanks largely to Coleen's initiation and the work of Committee members Lauren Burns and Ian Smith with Kate Bourne from VARTA.

Thank you to all of those involved in support group work throughout the year especially Diane, Liz, Michele, Pauline and Charlotte.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

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### **The world around us**

Priorities for VANISH over the next year include:

1. Continued approaches to the Victorian Government on our remaining key objectives - a full review of the Adoption Act 1984 but in particular the right to information for birth parents, funding for counselling for those affected by adoption and donor conception and information rights for the donor conceived.
2. Ensuring the implementation of the fabulous recommendations arising from the excellent report of the State Parliament Law Reform Committee inquiry into Access by Donor-Conceived People to Information About Donors.
3. Participation in the National Adoption Conference in Melbourne on 22 - 23 October 2012 and the National Post Adoption Meeting on 24 October 2012. VANISH hopes that the Conference will be an opportunity to build better links between post adoption advocacy groups, both within Victoria and nationally, as well as publicise the issues around adoption to the general community.

VANISH is committed to being a strong advocate for the adoption community and a provider of excellent search and support services to those searching for family. As I said last year it is easy to take our existence for granted. We forget that we are the only post adoption state organisation with a government funded, but community based self- help model. We also forget at our peril how easily things could change if we don't remain active, relevant and committed to continuously improve what we do. That is our challenge for the next year.

Leigh Hubbard  
Chair

Dear Members and Friends of VANISH

What a very exciting year 2011 - 2012 has been. The political context has been electrifying as courageous mothers have shaped and influenced governments across Australia with their honest testimony about their adoption experiences. The Federal Senate Inquiry was moved to tears as it learnt of the lasting trauma of separation of mothers and fathers from their children. Senators responded with the *Australian Senate Committee Community Affairs References Committee 2012, Report on 'Former forced adoption policies and practices'* that listed 20 recommendations for action to assist to bring acknowledgement and healing to the adoption community.

Apologies have begun to flow with Western Australia leading the way, followed by South Australia and the ACT with Victoria's Premier due to apologise on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in a joint sitting of Parliament, followed by Tasmania, NSW and Queensland at a time to be determined. Various other institutions have also made apologies to mothers, fathers, daughters, sons and families affected by adoption, including the Royal Women's Hospital of Victoria.

VANISH has been strongly advocating on your behalf that the Apology is accompanied by the announcement of legislative review of the Adoption Act 1984 to include, amongst other changes, the right for mothers and fathers to have identifying information about their adopted daughters and sons.

VANISH has also listened as you, our service users, have told us how important access to specialist counselling and support groups is, not only in the city, but in regional areas. We have had a good hearing from Minister Mary Wooldridge and Federal Ministers Roxon and Macklin and hope for progress in the New Year.

Evidence for the need for more counselling and support services is supported in the recent release of the *Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), National Research Study on the Service Response to Past Adoption Experiences* commissioned in late 2009 by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). The aim of this new research study is to utilise and build on the existing research and evidence about the extent and impact of past adoption experiences. It is intended to use the findings to strengthen the evidence and impact of past adoption experiences and to strengthen the evidence available to governments to address the current needs of individuals affected by past adoption experiences, including the need for information, counselling and reunion services.

The decision of the VANISH Committee of Management in this our 23<sup>rd</sup> year to economise by moving to smaller premises in order to ensure we can maintain service provision to our community has been a timely one as costs continue to rise. So from next month VANISH will be in our new home at level one 50 Howard Street, North Melbourne – about ten minutes away from where we are now and just off the tram route. The building is light and bright with a lovely coffee shop opposite for meetings and chats. We will have small meeting rooms available and if our meetings and support groups get bigger we are surrounded by pleasant rooms we can hire. Most support groups will continue to fit within the new VANISH office and be able to meet at the new premises. We look forward to inviting you to some 'open days' for you to visit us later in the year.

The dedicated VANISH team of expert search and support workers continues to provide a very high level service to our service users and generous staff members and wonderful volunteers continue to contribute to the support groups for mothers, adopted daughters and sons and post-donor conception people. This is the heart of what we do and success with searches and feedback from service users tells us we do it well and frank and fearless feedback helps us continually improve.

VANISH is greatly assisted in our work by a fine team of volunteers and I thank the Committee of Management and each one of our volunteers for your extraordinary contributions to our work. Without you our impact would be lessened and our daily work much harder.

Coleen Clare  
Manager, VANISH 2012

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**VANISH could not operate without the generosity  
of the following people and organisations:**

Department of Human Services for the funding and support  
of the work of VANISH and in particular  
Liz Hughes, Amanda Youngs and Cathy Burnett.

Gordon Ley for pro-bono legal advice.

Freehills for pro-bono legal advice.

Rob Hore of Webres Solutions for IT support.

Simon Keogh for his rapid responses to requests to update the website.

Barbara Burns for her assistance with *VOICE* and her financial acumen.

Sue Green, Lyn Bender and VANISH members for contributions to the  
counselling workshops.

Peter Slifirski for pro-bono architectural services

## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

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### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2011 – 2012      Status at year end

<b>Members</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Term of Representation</b>
Leigh Hubbard (Chair)	Offspring	Commenced September 2010
Anne Sullivan (Secretary)	Natural Families	Commenced March 2010
Ian Smith	Natural Families	Commenced September 2011
Helen Boucher	Offspring	Commenced September 2006 Resigned May 2012
Mandy Candlish	Offspring	Commenced September 2010
Meagan O'Connor	Independent	Commenced April 2009 Resigned June 2012
Lauren Burns (Treasurer)	Membership Development Donor Conceived	Commenced June 2009
Simon Keogh	Membership Development Intercountry Adoption	Commenced August 2009

### STAFF

<b>Manager</b>	Coleen Clare	Commenced August 2011
<b>Search and Support Workers</b>	Andrea Parascandalo	Commenced August 2006
	Elizabeth Tomlinson	Commenced November 2007
	Mary Peckett	Commenced July 2008
<b>Specialist Searcher</b>	Mary Rawson	Commenced February 2004
<b>Receptionist / Administration</b>	Diane Jacobson	Commenced January 2003
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Rosemary Murphy	Commenced December 2006

### VOLUNTEERS

Jo Burns	Bernadette Harris	Nina Klos	Gaylene McCooey
Alan McNamara	Mary Rawson	Judith Thorn	Alison Wright
David Martin	Tara McLaren	Barbara Burns	Roger Lang
Roger Smith	Jo-anne MacKenzie	Lyn Moore	Sue Green



## SEARCH ROOM REPORT

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The past year was once again a very busy one in the search room with four part-time search and support workers and cost constraints resulting in less hours of work being available. There was a very slight decrease in the number of new service users and new searches registered.

### Service Users:

- 229 new service users
- 57% are female and 43% are male
- 79% are adopted persons or children of adopted persons (deceased)
- 14.5% are Forgotten Australians or children of Forgotten Australians (deceased)
- 64% of service users live outside the Melbourne metropolitan area
- 53 years is the average age of a service user

### Searches:

- 386 new searches registered
- 54% of persons sought are female, 22% are male
- 24% of persons sought are natural relatives such as siblings, grandparents
- 65% of persons sought are natural parents - 49% natural mothers, 16% natural fathers
- 7% of searches are for records such as original birth certificates or time 'in care'
- 73 years is the average age of the person sought
- 73% of searches are for one person usually a natural parent, but 27% of service users request multiple searches when looking for siblings, or in cases where a natural parent is found deceased, a search is conducted for a close natural relative.

The above statistics taken from the VANISH Search Room database allow us to monitor trends and assist VANISH in forward planning.

The manager and search room staff met during the past year with colleagues from FIND, Connections, Council of Single Mothers and Their Children, Link-Up, Open Place and Post Placement Support Service. Discussion revolved around the process of conducting searches, the public resources available, the increasing number of multiple searches after finding a birth parent deceased, the increasing difficulty and length of many searches and improvements in data bases.

In addition discussions have been held with Monash IVF and FIND about negotiating contracts to enable these two organisations to use the VANISH search service on behalf of some of their service users. The contract has been renewed between VANISH and Open Place (Berry Street) for the former to conduct searches on behalf of Forgotten Australians wanting to find family members.

Our search work is guided by relevant legislation, our duty of care to all parties involved and VANISH Procedures and Policies. VANISH endorses the principles outlined in the Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct which refers *to behaving with respect and courtesy, and without harassment.*

### VANISH SUPPORT

- Individual
- Adopted Persons
- Adoption Community
- Post-Donor Conceived Persons

Support continues to be a highly valued aspect of the work undertaken at VANISH.

The increased media this year following the *Apology from the Royal Women's Hospital*, the release in February of the *Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into 'Former forced adoption policies and practices'* and more recently the announcement of State and Federal Apologies has led to an increase in requests for both individual and group support from VANISH.

During the year VANISH held 26 Support Groups with an average of 6 attendees per group.

This year we welcomed members of the post-Donor Conceived community to their first two support groups with a very positive response.

VANISH would like to provide support groups for regional members and is talking with members in Ballarat and Geelong who are interested in starting groups.

Our support groups would not be possible without the commitment of our dedicated staff, Diane and Liz and volunteers Pauline, Michele and Charlotte, who arrange and facilitate the meetings and provide valuable experience and insight to those who attend.

### SUPPORT GROUP FACILITATORS – whom we acknowledge with deep thanks

Diane Jacobson	Mixed Support Group (adoptees, natural parents, adoptive and alternative parents, donor conceived persons)
Elizabeth Tomlinson	Mixed Support Group
Michele Hutchins	Adoptee Support Group
Pauline Ley	Adoptee Support Group
Charlotte Smith	Adoptee Support Group
Lauren Burns	Post- Donor Conceived Support Group
Kate Bourne (VARTA)	Post-Donor Conceived Support Group

## **COUNSELLING BROKERAGE**

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This year VANISH introduced a pilot brokerage counselling program where members of the adoption community were able to access a limited amount of funding for counselling services and where VANISH was able to provide workshops for professionals who were involved in the program. Sadly this program has not received on-going funding and has ceased.

VANISH has received a consistent flow of requests from all sections of the adoption community for access to this funding; unfortunately we were not able to meet all of these requests due to the limited budget.

The strong response and subsequent feedback from those who did access the funding reinforces our position regarding the on-going need for and the benefits of counselling services within the adoption community.

Two adoption information workshops for the professionals who provided counselling services and other relevant professionals were held during the year. Speakers from the adoption community (mother, adopted daughters, adoptive father) were invited to present at these workshops and this was followed by small discussion groups where professionals had the opportunity to discuss issues with colleagues and with each presenter. Feedback indicated that those who attended found the workshops extremely beneficial and would like to attend sessions in the future. This positive response is very encouraging and VANISH hopes to be able to provide more workshops in the future.

We would like to take this opportunity to particularly acknowledge and thank our speakers at these workshops who generously gave their time so that professionals have the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the issues associated with adoption.

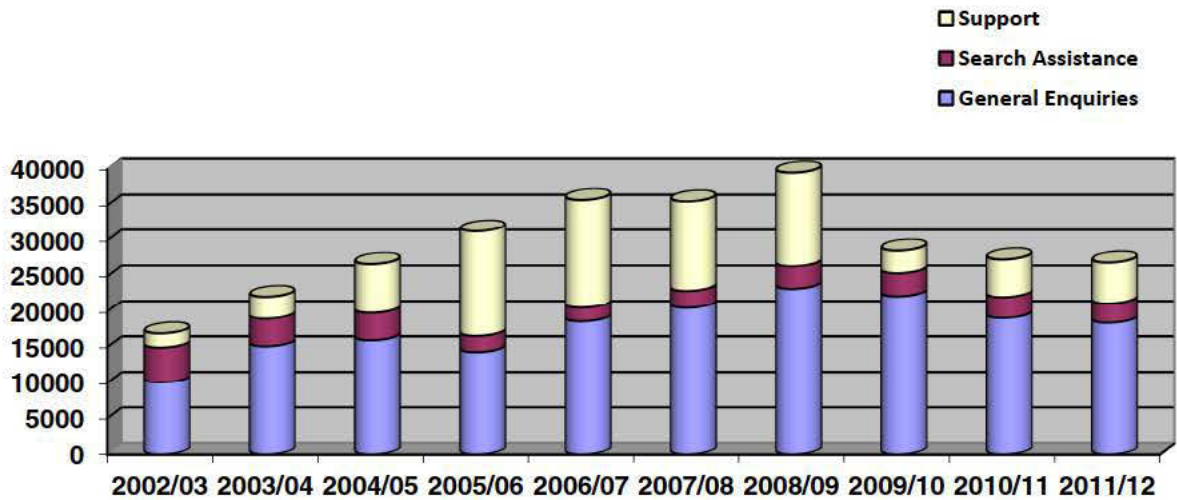
### **COUNSELLING BROKERAGE PROGRAM STATISTICS as at 30 June 2012**

<b>Initial Enquiries</b>	<b>Enquiries Accessing Funding</b>	<b>Completed Counselling</b>	<b>Currently Completing Counselling</b>	<b>Non-counsellor matched enquiries or decided not to proceed</b>
<b>107</b>	<b>77</b> 51 Adopted Persons 24 Natural Parents 2 Adoptive Parents	<b>34</b> Average 6 – 8 sessions	<b>43</b>	<b>30</b>

### **WAITING LIST**

VANISH has been very careful not to publicise the pilot program widely due to limited funding, nevertheless, there has always been a steady stream of enquiries ranging from 5-10 people a week who are unable to access services. VANISH continues to hear, on a daily basis, from people seeking counselling who are desperately in need of understanding, support and advice. This need is particularly acute in a year when the media is continually reporting on forced adoption issues and this need for appropriate counselling services will continue with three more State Apologies due this year and next year's pending Federal Apology.

## STATISTICS



	GENERAL ENQUIRIES	SEARCH ASSISTANCE New and reactivated searches	SUPPORT One on one, groups and telephone support	TOTALS
2002/03	10066	4870	2010	16946
2003/04	15128	3891	3116	22135
2004/05	15998	3846	6890	26734
2005/06	14320	2275	14734	31329
2006/07	18647	1929	15204	35780
2007/08	20545	2430	12597	35572
2008/09	23274	3149	13136	39559
2009/10	22190	3262	3146	28598
2010/11	19114	2959	5295	27368
2011/12	18450	2753	5742	26945

Effective 1 July 2009, VANISH ceased providing the full suite of services to Forgotten Australians. The role is now undertaken by *Open Place*.

# **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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**VANISH Inc**

ABN 35 582 901 627

**Financial Statements  
For the year ended 30 June 2012**

**Barbara Burns, CPA**  
Barbgb@bigpond.com

**VANISH Inc**  
**ABN: 35 582 901 627**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2012**

**Committee's Report for the year ended 30 June 2012**

Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the VANISH Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2012.

**Committee Members**

The names of committee members at the date of this report are:

Leigh Hubbard (Chairperson)

Lauren Burns (Treasurer)

Anne Sullivan (Secretary)

Mandy Candlish

Simon Keogh

Ian Smith

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: Search and support services provided for those separated from their family of origin as outlined in the Constitution of VANISH Inc., and additional services for care leavers.

**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**Operating Result**

The profit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to

Year ended	Year ended
30 June 2012	30 June 2011
\$	\$
\$2,321	\$2,829

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on:



Leigh Hubbard (Chairperson)



Lauren Burns (Treasurer)

## FINANCIAL REPORT

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### **VANISH Inc**

ABN 35 582 901 627

### **Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 2012**

<u>Income</u>	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Vic State Government Grant	327,693	324,688
Dept Grant Capacity Building	500	
Counselling services income	51,496	
Less expenses counselling services	-51,496	
Care Leaver Service Funding – Berry St	26,183	29,056
Donations	2,570	7,396
Search Fee	1,359	770
Interest Received	9,023	10,692
Membership Fees	150	2,171
Rents Received	4,950	20,500
Other Income		<u>-49</u>
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b><u>372,428</u></b>	<b><u>395,224</u></b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Accountancy	3,873	2,423
Advertising & Promotion	1,949	3,145
AGM Expenses		1,633
Audit Fees	1,044	1,401
Bank Fees & Charges	894	839
Bookkeeping	6,548	3,983
Cleaning	1,279	864
Committee Expenses	1,774	1,281
Depreciation - Plant & Equipment	2,512	3,511
Depreciation Leasehold Improvements	8,747	
Employment and General Expenses	713	523
Insurance	1,528	1,497
Information Technology	3,336	12,051
Interest Expense	94	51
Library Expenses	65	
Light & Power	2,218	3,255
Long Service Leave Provided for	3,060	
Newsletter Expenses	1,504	1,235
Postage	1,436	1,332
Printing and Stationery	2,830	2,292
Professional Service	3,745	2,940
Rent on Premises	75,537	75,925
Share of Building Expenses	4,321	
Repairs and Maintenance and Security	191	512
Search Fees and Resources	339	1,217
Staff Amenities	788	1,658

## FINANCIAL REPORT

<b><u>Expenses (continued)</u></b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Staff costs – Other	227	559
Staff & Committee Training & Profess Development	4,118	1,501
Subscriptions	603	1,727
Support Group Expenses	134	280
Superannuation	17,471	20,606
Telephone	5,847	7,681
Travel, Accommodation & Conferences	2,167	92
Volunteering Expenses		746
Wages	204,379	230,668
WorkCover	<u>4,836</u>	<u>4,968</u>
<b><u>Total expenses</u></b>	<b><u>370,107</u></b>	<b><u>392,395</u></b>
<b><u>Profit from ordinary activities before income tax</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,321</u></b>	<b><u>\$2829</u></b>
Less Income tax expense - non-tax paying entity	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b><u>Profit attributable to the association</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,321</u></b>	<b><u>\$2829</u></b>

### Retained Earnings Reconciliation for the year ended 30 June 2012 ( Note 10)

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b><u>Balance at start of period, 1 July 2011</u></b>	186,985	184,156
Profit for year ended 30 June 2012	<u>2,321</u>	<u>2,829</u>
	<u>\$189,306</u>	<u>\$186,985</u>
<b><u>Corrections to published accounts year ended 30/6/11 &amp; prior years</u></b>		
<b><u>Increase in profit</u></b>		
Liability for Time in Lieu overstated at 1/7/10	1,292	
Information Technology exp overstated as grant not deducted YE 30/6/11	<u>8,818</u>	
	<u>10,110</u>	
<b><u>Decrease in profit</u></b>		
17.5% annual leave loading not included as liability prior to 1/7/10	-5,216	
Long Service Leave not included as a liability prior to 1/7/10	-13,319	
Loss on Laptop computer unaccounted for prior to 1/7/10 now written off	-3,170	
Donations overstated (Amount from Rotary Club should have been deducted from database asset in year ended 30/6/11)	-5,530	
Depreciation on leasehold improvements not charged year ended 30/6/11	-8,747	
Share of building expenses not charged as expense year ended 30/6/11	-7,592	
Increase in annual leave liability not charged as expense yr ended 30/6/11	-7,837	
Increase in long service leave not included as expense year ended 30/6/11	<u>-3,060</u>	
	<u>(54,471)</u>	
<b><u>Net prior year corrections to opening Retained Earnings</u></b>	<b><u>(44,361)</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>
<b><u>Balance Retained earnings as at end of the period 30th June 2012</u></b>	<b><u>\$144,946</u></b>	<b><u>\$186,985</u></b>



## FINANCIAL REPORT

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**VANISH Inc**  
ABN 35 582 901 627  
Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash assets	4	190,360	251,399
Petty Cash	4	350	350
Security Deposit Franklin Street	4	25,812	25,812
Trade Debtors		1,094	0
Sundry Debtors		406	0
Prepayments		<u>2,217</u>	—
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b><u>\$220,239</u></b>	<b><u>\$277,561</u></b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	<u>10,412</u>	<u>39,119</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b><u>10,412</u></b>	<b><u>39,119</u></b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b><u>\$230,651</u></b>	<b><u>\$316,680</u></b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	6	299	307
Accrued expenses	6	7,779	
Unused counselling income		18,504	70,000
Current tax liabilities	7	11,874	9,301
Payroll Liabilities		1,340	8,070
Provisions	8	44,066	30,957
Other liabilities	9	<u>1,843</u>	<u>11,061</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b><u>85,705</u></b>	<b><u>129,695</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b><u>85,705</u></b>	<b><u>129,695</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b><u>\$144,946</u></b>	<b><u>\$186,985</u></b>
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
Retained profits		186,985	184,156
Corrections Prior Years (see prior page)	10	-44,361	
<b>Profit</b>		<u>2,321</u>	<u>2,829</u>
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<b><u>\$144,946</u></b>	<b><u>\$186,985</u></b>

**VANISH Inc**

**ABN 35 582 901 627**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2012**

**Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**(a) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)**

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

**(b) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

**(c) Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period.

**(d) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reasonably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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### **VANISH Inc**

**ABN 35 582 901 627**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2012**

#### **(f) Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

#### **(g) Leases**

Leases of PPE, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership, are transferred to the association, are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for that period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease term. Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the period in which they are incurred.

#### **(h) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the assets and liabilities statement are shown inclusive of GST.

#### **(i) Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### VANISH Inc

ABN 35 582 901 627

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2012

#### Note 2: Income

<b>Operating Activities:</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Vic State Government Grant	327,693	324,688
Dept Grant Capacity Building	500	
Care Leaver Service Funding – Berry Street	26,183	29,056
Donations	2,570	7,396
Search Fee	1,359	770
Interest Received	9,023	10,692
Membership Fees	150	2,171
Rents Received	4,950	20,500
Other Income	<u>      </u>	<u>-49</u>
	<b><u>372,428</u></b>	<b><u>395,224</u></b>

#### Note 3: Profit from Ordinary Activities

Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax has been determined after:

##### Charging as Expense:

Borrowing costs	94	51
Depreciation of non-current assets:		
- Plant and equipment	2,512	3,511
Leasehold improvements	8,747	<u>0</u>

##### Auditors' Remuneration

Remuneration of the auditor of the company for:

Auditing or reviewing the financial report	1,044	1,401
Other services	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<b><u>1,044</u></b>	<b><u>1,401</u></b>

#### Note 4: Cash assets

Bank accounts:

Cash at Bank - ANZ (4982-35391)	13,989	16,825
Cash at Bank - ANZ (4944-53973)	6,391	4,929
Cash at Bank – ANZ V2 (5263 61353)	25,088	24,036
Cash at Bank – ANZ (5263 61337)	144,890	205,609
Cash at Bank Security Deposit – ANZ (2580 55279)	25,812	25,812
Petty Cash	<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>
	<b><u>216,520</u></b>	<b><u>277,561</u></b>

## FINANCIAL REPORT

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### VANISH Inc

ABN 35 582 901 627

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2012

#### Note 5: Property, Plant and Equipment

Leasehold improvements:

- At cost	43,733	43,733
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(43,733)</u>	<u>(26,240)</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>17,493</u>

Plant and equipment:

- At cost	45,249	48,420
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(34,837)</u>	<u>(32,324)</u>
	<u>10,412</u>	<u>16,096</u>

Other plant and equipment:

- At cost	0	5,530
- Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>5,530</u>

Total	<u><b>10,412</b></u>	<u><b>39,119</b></u>
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#### Note 6: Payables

Unsecured:

- Trade creditors	<u>299</u>	<u>307</u>
- Accrued expenses	<u>7,779</u>	<u>0</u>

#### Note 7: Tax Liabilities

Current

GST Collected	9,737	7,678
GST Paid	(2,553)	719
PAYG Withheld	<u>4,690</u>	<u>904</u>
	<u><b>11,874</b></u>	<u><b>9,301</b></u>

#### Note 8: Provisions

Current

Provision for annual leave	24,627	24,127
Provision for long service leave	19,439	0
Provision for time in lieu	<u>0</u>	<u>6,830</u>
	<u><b>44,066</b></u>	<u><b>30,957</b></u>

* Aggregate employee entitlements liability	44,066	30,957
There were 6 employees at the end of the year		

#### Note 9: Other Liabilities

Payments received in advance	1,843	11,061
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**VANISH Inc**

ABN 35 582 901 627

**Certificate by Member of the Committee for the year ended 30 June 2012**

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of VANISH Inc. as at 30 June 2012 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Leigh Hubbard (Chairperson)



Lauren Burns (Treasurer)

# AUDITOR'S REPORT



**J L COLLYER & PARTNERS**  
ACCOUNTANTS & AUDITORS

Suite 1  
187-189 Coleman Parade  
Glen Waverley Vic 3150  
PO Box 340  
Glen Waverley Vic 3150  
Phone: 03 9560 0211  
Fac: 03 9561 5497  
Email: jan@collyerpartners.com.au

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of **VANISH INC**

### Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of **VANISH INC** which comprises the balance sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012, income statement and notes for the year then ended.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management of **VANISH INC** is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The management's responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing 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 judgement, 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 entity'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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Management's financial reporting requirement. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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

#### Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the relevant independence requirements.

#### Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of **VANISH INC**

- (a) gives a true and fair view of **VANISH INC's** financial position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with appropriate accounting policies; and
- (b) complying with appropriate Australian Accounting Standards.

Janet Collyer  
**J L COLLYER & PARTNERS**

Dated : 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012

DIRECTORS  
JANET L. COLLYER FCPA  
LIONEL R. ARNOLD CA B.BUS  
RAELENE LAI CPA B.COM



Chartered Accountants

LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED  
UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION