



Victorian Adoption Network for
Information and Self Help



Annual Report
2020 – 2021
Year 33

OUR VISION

That the human right to genealogical connection and identity is recognised and supported in the broader community and in legislation, policy and practice.

OUR PURPOSE

To empower and assist those who have experienced adoption, donor-assisted reproduction or other separation from family, by providing a formal structure through which to deliver efficient and effective advice, search and support services and advocacy.

OUR VALUES

- Respect
- Empowerment
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Inclusiveness
- Self help

OUR SERVICES

- Specialist search assistance
- Support by phone, email or face to face
- Information and resources
- Facilitated support groups
- Counselling
- Referrals to other practitioners and services
- Training for professionals
- Public information sessions
- Advocacy and policy advice

OUR SERVICE USERS

- People affected by separation and adoption in Victoria - mothers, fathers, adopted persons and other family members
- People affected by adoption in other states and territories and overseas
- People affected by donor conception - donor conceived persons, donor parents, natural parents and social parents.
- Forgotten Australians - former wards of state, de facto adoptions and/or those who were placed in institutional or foster care in Victoria.

VANISH ACKNOWLEDGES AND THANKS...

Department of Justice & Community Safety, Victoria

For the financial support for VANISH services and our positive working relationship with Adoption Services.

Forced Adoption Support Services (Relationships Australia Victoria) For small grant funding.

Jigsaw Western Australia for their support with AEC searches while Melbourne was in lockdown.

Herbert Smith Freehills for pro bono legal advice.

Members and Friends who have made financial donations to VANISH over the year.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Fellow members,

I thank all of our staff, ably led by our Manager Charlotte Smith, for maintaining the quality and level of their work. This in the face of the extraordinary circumstances we have all experienced in this year of the COVID-19 pandemic. VANISH

additionally faced the challenges of uncertainty about longer term funding (thankfully resolved this year), a surge in demand for services during a year of public inquiry and of developing a response to the Parliament of Victoria Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into responses to historical forced adoption in Victoria.

The value of a broad membership base was clearly shown this year; your voices were needed at the Parliamentary Committee's Inquiry and on the occasions where this work brought attention and interest in media outlets across this State. Membership grew to 962, an increase of 38 from last year.

When we began this year the expectation was that Government would finally start work on a new Adoption Act for Victoria. This has not occurred. Whilst there are mitigating circumstances for this lack of progress (pandemic and the Inquiry) I think we are all entitled to feel disappointed. I believe VANISH must hold our Government to account and work to ensure that the needs of our constituency remain very firmly on the legislative work table.

The work of the Inquiry Committee was outstanding. It would be tragic if nothing came of this. The VANISH Committee of Management intends to remain vigilant as the Government responds to their recommendations.

So goals for the immediate future must include legislative reform *and* ensuring a concrete and positive response to the Inquiry recommendations.

I thank all CoM members for their work, in particular noting the lasting, significant contributions made by our retiring members Sue Green and Courtney Du Toit.

Simon Pryor, Chair

MANAGER'S REPORT



Dear members,

I am very pleased to present our Annual Report for 2021 and delighted that after more than 250 days in lockdown we can hold our AGM face to face.

Throughout this year of restrictions and working from home the VANISH team has continued to provide valuable search and support services to our service users. I am particularly proud of our achievements this year given these circumstances and I commend the team for their commitment, flexibility and perseverance.

We have assisted individuals to search for and where possible connect with, their (adult) children, natural parents, siblings and other family members. We have provided specialist support around the many different challenges individuals face in their lives and we have received many letters, emails and cards from service users telling us what a difference our services have made in their lives.

Much of our work this year related to the Inquiry Simon refers to. The Inquiry report included 56 recommendations to government on redress, support services, access to information and future adoptions. We eagerly await the Government's response in March.

VANISH also undertook advocacy on the rights of people born through Assisted Reproductive Treatment, including surrogacy. Despite the rhetoric, the legislation continues to prioritise the needs of people wanting to create children over the needs of the children born and there is much work to be done.

I am very grateful to our team of staff and volunteers for the quality of their work and their dedication to VANISH's philosophy and values. I thank the Chair, Simon Pryor, and the rest of the Committee of Management for their leadership through this challenging year.

Flavia, Gail, Lorna, Patricia, SallyRose, Tracey and I look forward to welcoming you back in our office again and to resuming face to face support groups in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Charlotte Smith, Manager

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT & STAFF

Committee of Management 2020 - 2021

VANISH is governed by a Committee of Management made up of volunteers who, with the exception of the Independent Experts, have a relevant lived experience. Committee Members assist the organisation to achieve its mission, purpose and goals and ensure compliance with VANISH Rules and state and federal legislation.

Members	Representing	Term Commenced
Simon Pryor (Chair)	Offspring	May 2017
Tricia Lester (Secretary up until July)	Natural Parent	September 2013
François Petitto (Treasurer)	Offspring	July 2019
Sue Green	Offspring	September 2015
Todd Dargan	Offspring	September 2018
Ross Hunter	Offspring	September 2019
Hannah Spanswick (A/g Secretary from August)	Natural Parent	November 2020
Maureen Long	Independent Expert	May 2018
Courtney du Toit	Independent Expert	April 2021
Charlotte Smith	Manager (Ex-Officio)	May 2016

Staff & Volunteers

VANISH services are delivered by qualified professionals with extensive experience. The majority of our staff and volunteers also have a relevant lived experience.

Name	Title	Commenced
Charlotte Smith	Manager	July 2013
Patricia Navaretti	Search and Support Worker	June 2018
Tracey Hudson	Search and Support Worker	August 2019
Lorna Sleightholm	Administrator/Receptionist	September 2018
Flavia Leser	Accountant	January 2020
Gail Holstock	Search and Support Worker	November 2020*
SallyRose Carbines	Search and Support Worker	March 2020*
Kerri Licheni	Bookkeeper (Contractor)	April 2011
Andrea Phillips	Legal Volunteer	September 2018

*Gail and SallyRose both worked at VANISH for significant periods in previous years.

Support Group Facilitators

Melbourne Adopted Persons: Cal Spiers, Gail Holstock, Tania Curlis (to December 2020), David Cross and SallyRose Carbines

Melbourne Donor Conceived Adults Network: Ross Hunter with VARTA Counsellor Kate Bourne

Regional Groups: SallyRose Carbines (Ballarat), Dr Rosie Saxton (Albury/Wodonga)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We are very grateful to our volunteers and staff who facilitated our support groups this year under difficult circumstances. Without your skill and commitment we would not be able to offer this highly valued service.

We are also grateful for additional assistance from former staff members Julie Gomez (NSW) and Mary Rawson.

SEARCH AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Overview

This year our search work was complicated by the extended lockdown which meant that staff were working from home and most of the sources of public records such as the State Library, the Public Records Office and the Electoral Commissions were closed.

Despite these challenges, VANISH continued to register new service users and searches and provide support to individuals undertaking searches. We also continued to provide information, support, referrals and support groups. Our in-house counselling service was wound down last year due to lack of funding, however, in our last month of operating we secured funding for a critical counselling program which commenced in June.

New Registrants

In the year 2020-2021, we had 127 new individuals register for a service with VANISH for the first time, either directly or through an agency. This compares to 184 in 2020. This figure relates to people registering for search or counselling services. Support services are covered on the next page. The majority of new registrants were Adopted Persons as shown below:

- 82 Adopted Persons
- 5 Natural Relatives of Adopted Persons
- 3 Forgotten Australians/Adopted Persons
- 5 Natural Parents (all Mothers)
- 11 Agency searches on behalf of Natural Parents, Adopted Persons and Forgotten Australians.
- 1 Donor Conceived Person
- 20 VARTA requests on behalf of Donor Conceived Persons, Donors and Parents of Donor Conceived Children.

The average age of new registrants was 56.

Agency Searches

VANISH conducts searches on behalf of individuals supported by other agencies here in Australia: Open Place, Adoption Information Services (DJCS), Anglicare, Uniting and VARTA. We also have reciprocal arrangements with post adoption agencies in New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland, Aotearoa New Zealand and England. These arrangements are long standing and highly valued. They have enabled many long and difficult searches to be completed.

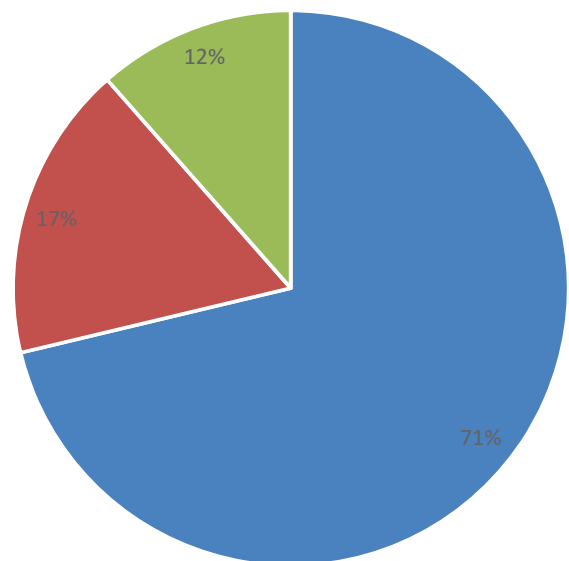
Search Services

There were 173 new searches registered this year compared to 241 in 2020. The people sought were:

- 124 Natural Parents of Adopted Persons and Forgotten Australians (84 Mothers and 40 Fathers)
- 11 Adopted Persons
- 1 Forgotten Australian/Adopted Person
- 17 Natural Relatives of Adopted Persons and Forgotten Australians
- 10 Donors
- 9 Donor Conceived Persons
- 1 other

The Chart below shows the Status of Persons Sought in as percentages of total searches.

Status of Person Sought 2021



- Searching for natural parents
- Searching for sons, daughters or natural relatives
- Searching for donor parent/donor-conceived persons

The difference between the number of registrants and the number of searches is that some new and existing registrants request more than one search, for example:

- a person searches for both natural parents
- A parent searches for more than one adult child
- a relative is found deceased and a new search for a living relative is undertaken.

SEARCH AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Completed Searches

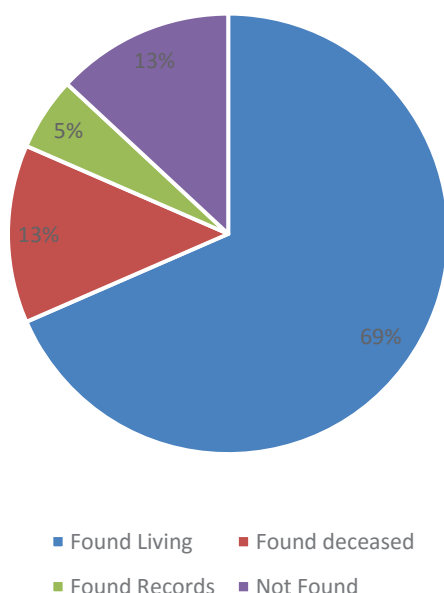
130 searches were completed this year:

- 89 Found living (105 in 2020)
- 17 Found deceased (41 in 2020)
- 7 Found records (12 in 2020)
- 17 Not Found (62 in 2020)

The figure for completed searches does not correlate directly with the figure for new searches because it includes searches that were registered in previous years as well as this year.

Completed searches are shown in the chart below in percentage.

Completed Searches 2021



It is really hard to put into words the warmth and joy that this process has had on my life, and my families life.

Once again Gail I can not thank you enough for your assistance.

(Paul)

Support and Information

Despite COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns, VANISH continued to receive a significant number of requests for support, information and referrals this year. These were mostly via telephone and email, with a few through letter, Facebook and the website. We only provided support face to face in a few instances. VANISH received 1288 requests for information, support and referrals from service users this year compared to 1598 last year. The following figures and the chart overleaf provide a breakdown:

- 981 instances of information and support provided (1423 in 2020).
- 190 referrals made to other agencies and services and to counsellors (166 in 2020).
- 117 contacts with professionals assisting clients affected by adoption and state wardship (329 in 2020).

Enquiries

VANISH registers all enquiries which require detailed responses, follow-up or on-going support. Enquiries often involved requests for:

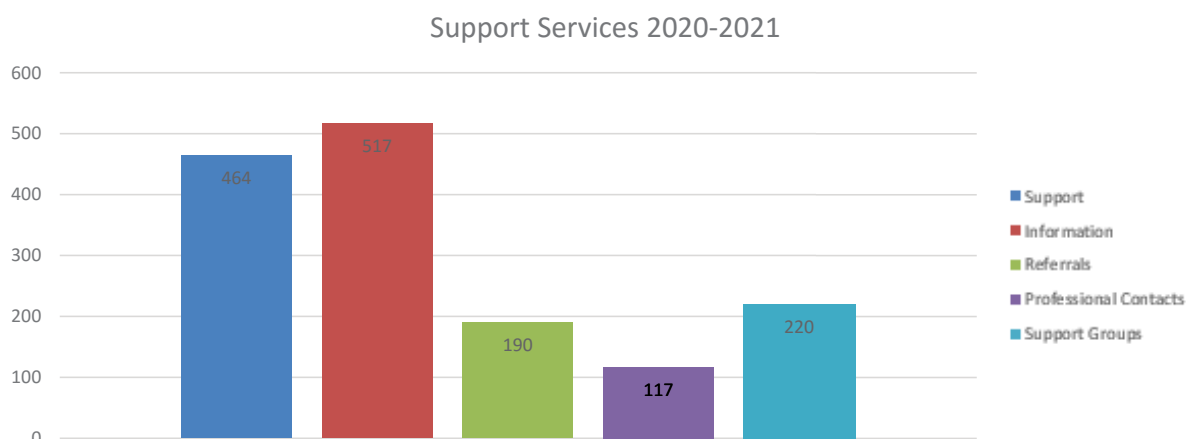
- how to access adoption records so as to search for adopted persons, mothers, fathers, Forgotten Australians and other family members
- support around making contact with a relative
- information about support groups
- support in managing relationships
- Information on how to discharge an adoption
- Counselling or counselling referrals.

This year these types of enquiries increased by 31% compared to last year. Quite a few of them related to the Parliamentary inquiry into responses to historical forced adoption in Victoria (see page 8) including from individuals who wished to make submissions, attend hearings, access redress, pursue legal action, or who needed support having heard about the inquiry through a radio segment or newspaper article. Many of these individuals had never spoken to anyone about their experience before and were not aware that support services are available.

VANISH also received a considerable number of calls from people wanting to know how to go about adopting a child or adult. This was largely as a result of Adoption Services not being able to receive phone calls during the lockdown and people preferring to call rather than email.

SEARCH AND SUPPORT SERVICES

This chart shows support services for this year.



Counselling

At the end of last financial year VANISH wound down the in-house counselling service due to lack of funding. This meant we only registered one new client and focussed our efforts on ensuring existing clients received the sessions they needed. From then on service users requiring counselling were referred to mental health practitioners on our counsellor register.

Towards the end of the financial year VANISH secured funding to provide critical counselling services to individuals directly affected by separation and adoption and facing barriers to accessing counselling through the normal channels. This service has been available for individuals involved with, or triggered by, the Victorian Inquiry.

Counselling has been provided through a brokerage system, The chart below shows the modest counselling provided this year.

Detail	Adopted Person	Natural Mother	Total
In House Counselling			
New Clients	1		1
Existing Clients	4	3	7
Total Clients	5	3	8
Appointments provided	15	8	23
Brokered Counselling			
New Clients	4	4	8
Appointments committed	40	40	80
Appointments provided	1	1	2
Total Clients	9	7	16
Total Appointments	16	9	25

Support Groups

This year the pandemic and lockdowns meant that most of our support groups were conducted over Zoom. The Melbourne group only managed to meet in person once, while the regional groups (Albury-Wodonga and Ballarat) had more opportunities for in person groups. Online groups worked well for some attendees, whilst others have preferred to wait for in person groups to resume. The groups continued to provide an important source of support and connection during lockdown. A total of **190** attendances were recorded as follows:

FY2021 Support Group attendance		
Location	No. of groups	No. of attendees
Regional	12	69
Metro	20	121
Total	32	190

Vanish, these wonderful kind, caring people.

If it wasn't for Liz and Tracey I would not be the person I am today!

(Lee) ❤️

COMMUNITY

The late Pauline Toner MP honoured in Parliament portrait



Madeleine and Dennis with Charlotte Smith

VANISH representatives Pauline Ley and Charlotte Smith were delighted to be invited to the unveiling of a portrait of the late Pauline Toner, the first Victorian female Cabinet Minister in 1982, serving as the Minister for Community Welfare Services until 1985.

One of Pauline's daughters, Madeleine and her son Dennis attended, they both remembered attending the opening of VANISH's first office, Pauline Toner House. Madeleine made a speech, sharing anecdotes about family life with Pauline when she entered politics.

Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker Maree Edwards spoke about Ms Toner's achievements, including initiating the 1984 Adoption Act which legislated for

open adoptions and rights to adopted persons to apply for their records. Pauline was recognised for her initiation and handling of the Adoption Bill, an extremely emotive bill, strongly contested in the media. Pauline was as a strong negotiator who sat with all parties and listened to their perspectives and discussed their concerns. This approach resulted in the bill being agreed upon by all sides.



Maree Edwards with Madeleine and portrait

Presentation to Wodonga Family History Society



In May Gail Holstock and Charlotte Smith, presented to the Wodonga Family History Society on:

- * past adoption policies and practices
- * what VANISH is and does and for whom
- * how VANISH undertake searches
- * what we do when we hit 'a brick wall'
- * discovering someone in the family tree is adopted, donor conceived or a care leaver.
- * the Inquiry into Responses to Historical Forced Adoptions in Victoria.

The Wodonga hearings for the inquiry were held the same day and some of the individuals who

presented to the Committee at the hearings generously shared their personal experiences in the group discussion afterwards. The discussion also covered using DNA for research which is a popular topic among family historians, with one genealogist sharing how she assisted a person to establish their identity in an extremely complex search. The presentation was well received with lots of the reading resources snapped up at the end. This is the second presentation VANISH has done for the Wodonga Family History Society. It was great to see them again and we look forward to next time.

Anniversary of Victorian Parliamentary Apology for Past Adoption Practices Fireside Chat

In October we commemorated the ninth anniversary of the Victorian Parliamentary Apology for Past Adoption Practices with an online Fireside Chat hosted jointly by VANISH and ARMS. We were delighted to have Australian singer-songwriter Mia Dyson join us to perform her song *Jesse*. Mia said she wrote this song after being approached by a fan of hers, Victorian mother Lesley Pearse. It describes her experience of having her son taken from her and the profound loss and longing she felt and still feels.

*Jesse did they change your name
So you won't know who I am
Jesse
Where are you darling son
You were taken from my arms*

Mia performed this song at the National Apology for Forced Adoptions in 2013 and it was such a treat to have her come online from Los Angeles and play it for us, along with *When the moment comes*, another fine song she wrote. Mia chatted with us about her song *Jesse* and how impacted she was by Lesley's story and seeing so many people come together at the Apology who had similar experiences. She also generously shared some of what has been going on in her life then stayed with us to hear some of the group discussion.

Jo Fraser, Secretary of ARMS provided an update about the statue *Taken Not Given* which has now been moved to a more prominent position and will sit adjacent to a new family violence memorial.

The group talked about the recent Inquiry report and recommendations (see page 8), particularly the redress scheme and counselling. We then heard from Pauline Ley and Marie Meggitt about their advocacy in the 1980s and how ARMS and VANISH were established. It was surprising how quickly the two hours passed!

While we have missed meeting up in person, it was lovely to have this special event online and be joined by members from all over Victoria as well as other states. Our special thanks go to Mia Dyson and to Lesley Pearse. Thank you too, to everyone who came along and made it such a memorable event.

Both songs Mia performed are on her album *The Moment* and her performance was recorded and will be on the VANISH YouTube channel soon.



Mia Dyson performing



Jo Fraser hosting and providing the fireside



Charlotte Smith interviewing Mia



Mia receiving her sitting ovation!

ADVOCACY

VANISH has undertaken a significant amount of advocacy this year which we hope will result in positive outcomes for the individuals and families we support. A key focus was the *Inquiry into responses to historical forced adoption in Victoria* which involved VANISH presenting to the Committee at the public hearings, promoting the inquiry through state-wide media and supporting members and service users to contribute and engage. The report tabled in Parliament in September contains 56 recommendations, all of which VANISH broadly supports, although some of our recommendations were not picked up and there is still work to do.

These recommendations, if implemented, have the potential to make a significant difference in the lives of people affected. With regards to reparation, establishing a redress scheme for mothers, including statements of responsibility or individualised apologies, is key. VANISH strongly recommends adopted people and fathers adversely affected by forced adoption also be eligible for redress. VANISH agrees that amending the *Limitations of Actions Act 1958* (Vic) and removing the requirement to prove significant injury are crucial for achieving justice.

On access to records, VANISH considers it appropriate given the harm caused by past practices that mothers, fathers and adopted people are provided information relating to an adoption free of charge. The courts, Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDMs) and hospitals must waive fees to access records and certificates. Furthermore, individuals have been devastated by the news that their records were lost in a fire or flood or were destroyed, yet evidence has rarely been provided. This must change. Hospitals and agencies must be answerable for whether they have managed records in accordance with the *Adoption Act 1984* and be held to account if they have not. They must also locate and document all remaining records and make them available to eligible applicants without delay.

VANISH has long advocated for the introduction of Integrated Birth Certificates for existing adoptions, as recommended in the 2012 Senate Inquiry and the 2017 Review of the Adoption Act. This is a concrete way for the Victorian Government to address the lack of honesty about the identity of adopted persons.

VANISH supports most of the recommendations regarding support services, particularly that VANISH funding be sufficiently flexible to respond to the complex needs of people affected at the times in their lives they need support. VANISH agrees that mental health services must be appropriately resourced - a matter we have long advocated on. VANISH also strongly supports the recommendations regarding training mental health professionals and people working in community welfare as well as at BDMs.

With regards to future adoptions VANISH supports the recommendation that adoption be removed from the permanency hierarchy in Victoria's child protection legislation, as argued in the Commission for Children and Young People's report *Safe and Wanted* (2017). VANISH also supports the recommendation that original birth certificates

be retained in any future adoptions.

VANISH notes the State Government's role and responsibilities to the individuals and families affected. "The systematic removal of newborn babies from their mothers was facilitated by hospitals, religious organisations and private medical professionals. However, the Victorian Government had a responsibility to monitor and enforce the State's adoption legislation. Its failure to effectively perform this duty enabled the implementation of unethical and illegal policies and practice that resulted in the removal of newborn babies from their mothers." (*Inquiry into responses to historical forced adoption in Victoria*, Report, August 2021, p. 218).



Inquiry Related Media

VANISH undertook a considerable amount of media this year in a bid to generate awareness about the inquiry and the policies and practices it was looking into. Some of the articles and programs are provided below.

Border Mail: Women share experiences of forced adoptions (Wodonga). Four mothers and one adoptee shared their personal experiences of forced adoption in the Border Mail ahead of appearing at the Wodonga Inquiry hearing.
<https://bit.ly/BorderWomenExperiences>

Herald Sun: Government considers nation-leading redress scheme to compensate victims of forced adoption. Mothers and children separated through decades of horrific forced adoption practices could soon be offered compensation as the state weigh up an Australian-first redress scheme.
<https://bit.ly/HeraldSunCompensation>

ABC Online: Forced adoption pain even more raw for Victorian mother 60 years on
 Merle Kelly shares her experience of forced adoption and her long and tireless search for her daughter in this ABC online article which also includes an interview with VANISH Manager, Charlotte Smith.
<http://bit.ly/newsForcedAdoptionStory>



ABC Conversation Hour with Richelle Hunt
 Could a redress scheme help victims of Forced Adoption heal? Host Richelle Hunt asked guests Charlotte Smith, Jo Fraser and Dr Sue Green and heard from Elaine and others.
<https://bit.ly/ConversationHour>

Manager Charlotte Smith was also interviewed by Raf Epstein on ABC Drive and by Dee Dee Dunleavy on 3aw Afternoons. As a result of the various articles and radio programs VANISH received an increase in calls from individuals wishing to know how to access redress or counselling, or how to undertake a search.

Donor Conception Advocacy

It is over two years since the Gorton report *Helping Victorians create families with assisted reproductive treatment* was published following the review of Victoria's Assisted Reproductive Treatment (ART) Act. Although the ART Act emphasises the needs and rights of the children born, many of the recommendations in the report do not seem to reflect this, focussing instead, as the title suggests, on the needs of people wanting to create families.

VANISH has strongly advocated to Government regarding the need to recognise the implications of policy and practice for donor conceived people. We have particularly focussed on ensuring their right to identity, but also on recognising the potential harm of having multiple unknown siblings.

The main concerns VANISH has with the most recent amendment centre around:

- Expanding the circumstances whereby the sperm of a deceased person may be used
- Increasing the number of children per donor
- Reducing opportunities for a donor to withdraw their consent to the use of their gametes.

The amendment did include two changes VANISH had argued for:

- To clarify that an organisation authorised to undertake searches for VARTA under the Act is not prevented from undertaking private searches to support people conceived through donor conception, donors and registered ART providers.
- The second related to enabling donors and commissioning parents to access pre-treatment counselling from an independent counsellor. This does not fully address our concerns as counselling can still be delivered by ART providers which we believe has potential for a conflict of interests.

There are many other recommendations in the Gorton report that are of concern, including establishing a sperm bank, importing sperm from overseas and changing language, for example changing 'surrogate mother' to 'surrogate'.

VANISH will continue to advocate that the Act properly protect the rights of all parties, particularly people not yet born who cannot speak for themselves. We commend the individuals born through ART who courageously share their personal experiences in the hope of informing policy and practice.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Committee's Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the VANISH Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

Committee Members

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

Simon Pryor (Chair)
Tricia Lester (Secretary)
François Pettito (Treasurer)
Todd Dargan
Ross Hunter
Sue Green
Hannah Spanswick
Maureen Long
Courtney du Toit
Ex-officio, Charlotte Smith (Manager)

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: search, counselling and support services for people affected by adoption, state wardship, donor assisted reproduction and other separation from family, as outlined in the Rules of VANISH Inc.

Operating Result

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

Year ended	Year ended
30 June 2021	30 June 2020
\$132,045	\$92,384

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



François Pettito (Treasurer)



Simon Pryor (Chairperson)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Summary Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Revenue		
State Government Funding	569,149	652,391
Open Place MOU	43,485	43,966
RAV Small Grants	8,070	1,250
Interest Received	2,453	4,426
Donations	2,480	2,788
Other Income	166,022	71,745
Total Revenue	791,659	776,567
Expenses		
Communications	5,136	4,658
Finance	11,530	7,855
Provisions Expense	19,862	-
Administration	19,914	18,382
Depreciation	3,600	6,827
Information Technology	15,826	12,862
Governance and Compliance	4,938	4,233
Small Grants	5,731	1,250
Service Expenses	3,633	12,310
Support Groups	6,083	3,081
Employment	494,016	530,028
Property	55,612	60,007
Utilities	2,906	6,741
Stakeholder Engagement	3,688	2,879
Professional Development, Training and Supervision	7,139	13,071
Total Expenses	659,614	684,184
Net Profit	132,045	92,384

FINANCIAL REPORT

Summary Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2021

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	673,718	464,837
Income Owing	-	(218)
Prepaid Expenses	654	2,315
Total Current Assets	674,372	466,934
Non-current Assets		
Security Deposit Howard Street	10,000	10,000
Property, Plant and Equipment	9,248	12,848
Total Non-Current Assets	19,248	22,848
Total Assets	693,620	489,782
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors and Accruals	18,577	674
GST Liability	14,067	13,370
Payroll Liabilities	12,231	12,821
Grants Carried Forward	34,494	6,950
Provisions	98,356	64,725
Reserves	28,850	-
Total Current Liabilities	206,575	98,540
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provision for Long Service leave	12,421	19,812
Total Non-Current Liabilities	12,421	19,812
Total Liabilities	218,996	118,353
Net Assets	474,624	371,429
VANISH Funds		
Reserves	(28,850)	-
Current Year Earnings	132,045	92,384
Retained Earnings	371,429	279,044
Total VANISH Funds	474,624	371,429

FINANCIAL REPORT

Summary Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2021

	inflows, (outflows)	
	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Cash flow from operating activities		
Net Income	132,045	92,384
Adjustments for depreciation and amortization	3,560	6,827
Changes in cash flow from trade receivables and deferrals	(9,121)	21,155
Changes in cash flow from trade payables, provisions and accruals	71,794	34,707
Net changes in inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	198,278	155,073
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments for plant and equipment	-	(1,683)
Net cash flow from investing activities	-	(1,683)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	474,837	321,498
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	673,718	474,837
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	198,881	153,339

Movement in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Opening Balance	371,429	279,045
Cash Reserves	(28,850)	-
Current Year Earnings	132,045	92,384
Total Equity	474,624	371,429

Financial Declaration by Members of the Committee

VANISH Inc.

For the year ended 30 June 2021

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 2 to the financial statements.

Per section 60.15 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013

The Responsible Persons declare that in the Responsible Persons' opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*.



François Petitto (Treasurer)



Simon Pryor (Chairperson)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2021

The functional and presentation currency of VANISH Inc. is Australian dollars.

1. Basis of Accounting

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. VANISH Inc. is a not-for-profit entity as required by Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, AASB 120 Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance, AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards, AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Bank overdrafts also form part of cash equivalents and presented within current liabilities on the balance sheet.

(b) 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 reliably measured.

(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. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits expected to be settled more than twelve months after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements.

Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss. Employee benefits are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the Association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date regardless of the classification of the liability for measurement purposes under AASB 119

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment of losses. Plant and equipment are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

(e) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

Interest Revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

Rendering of Services

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the services can be estimated reliably. If the outcome can be estimated reliably then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period. If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated, then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

Grant Revenue

Government grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating. Grants relating to assets are credited to deferred income at fair value and are credited to income over the expected useful life of the asset on a straight-line basis

(f) 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 Australian Taxation Office (ATO). 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 are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements have been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the Audit Review Report.

AUDITOR'S REPORT



J L Collyer & Partners

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Directors

Lionel R. Arnold CA B.Bus
Raelene Cheng CPA B.Com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VANISH INC.

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Vanish Inc., which comprises the financial position as at 30th June 2021, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including summary of significant accounting policies and managements assertion statement and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Vanish Inc. as at 30th June 2021, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter- Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Vanish Inc. to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

Lionel R. Arnold
Chartered Accountant

Dated 11th September 2021
J L Collyer & Partners
Unit 7 603 Boronia Road Wantirna Victoria

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Standards Legislation.





In Memory

We are very saddened by the passing of some of our members and service users this year.

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to their family and friends.

We cannot name them all for privacy reasons, but these three individuals spoke openly about their lived experience and their affiliation with VANISH:



Alan Charlie Walker

"The rat bag orphan"



Frances Livingston

Granny Franny



Sandra Pankhurst

The Trauma Cleaner

They will always be remembered.

VANISH welcomes voluntary donations at any time to enable us to extend our services.

Give now at www.givenow.com.au/vanishinc

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