



The **Asha** Foundation

Annual Report

2016 - 17



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FACTS ABOUT NEPAL

Nepal is a small landlocked country sandwiched between China to the north and India to the south. It is one of the poorest countries in Asia with a population of just over 30 million, a life expectancy of 67 years and a literacy rate of 57%. The main religion is Hindu (83%) followed by Buddhist (9%), Muslim (4%), then Christian and others.

The capital is Kathmandu situated in the Kathmandu Valley and home to many UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Nepal is home to 8 of the 10 highest mountains in the world, Mt Everest being the highest. These mountains are a magnet to climbers and adventurers making tourism one of Nepal's main incomes.

Nepal is truly a 3rd world country with a large percentage of the population without direct access to water, electricity and medical services.

PRESIDENTS REPORT



The past twelve months has seen the construction of a further two schools following the devastating earthquake of 2015. The classrooms at Shree Samundra Devi and Shree Radha Krishna schools along with Shree Bachala School now completes our building reconstruction programme. I am so proud that our small volunteer organisation has been able to provide financial assistance in helping to rebuild these schools.

Our Asha children continue to do well at school with four of our older children now enrolled in tertiary education courses. For Asha to be able to financially support their chosen career paths certainly puts weight behind our Mission Statement *“Improving the lives of underprivileged children in Nepal through education”*.

2016 saw the commencement of our feminine hygiene programme whereby female students from the Shree Bachala School 60kms north of Kathmandu, along with their mothers being issued with reusable sanitary pads. This programme has been enhanced with the further supply of sanitary kits to women in the surrounding rural areas of Bhadratar. Not only is Asha addressing the problem of absenteeism amongst menstruating students, we are also addressing the loss of dignity during the menstruation cycle when there is no access to sanitary pads for these females.

One of the many highlights for the year was the issuance from the Australian Charities and Non Profit Commission of their tick of acknowledgement for Asha’s transparency and accountability, this was an incredible honour.

On a very sad note we saw the passing of two of Asha’s beautiful girls. Saru from our Sai Home passed away in October 2016 from a blood disorder and our lovely Manisha succumbed to years of complications from spina bifida in January 2017. Words can’t express the sadness felt at losing these two beautiful young girls, they will always be remembered.

In closing I would like to say a huge thank you to my hardworking Australian committee, our Nepal Manager Satish Tamang, Nepal President & Cultural Advisor Narayan Shrestha, Home Loan Experts for their continued support of the Good Oil Project, our wonderful sponsors and donors, and lastly a huge thank you to Sean and the team at Vincents Canberra for their pro-bono audit.

Pauline Gleeson

President

OUR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION



*“A child without an education, is like a bird
without wings”*

Tibetan proverb

OUR MISSION

**To improve the lives of disadvantaged children in
Nepal through education**

ABOUT US

The Asha Foundation is a not for profit, non-political and non-religious Australian registered charity.

We are dedicated to helping disadvantaged Nepalese children improve their life through quality education and safe environments in which to live.

All our Australian committee members volunteer their time and expertise. Committee members travel to Nepal at their own expense. We pride ourselves on sending 100% of donor funds to Nepal.

OUR VALUES

- Operating with honesty & integrity
- Highest standards of governance, management, financial reporting
- Reporting in accordance to Department of Fair Trading, Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing and the Australian Charities & Not for Profit Commission
- Working alongside local Nepal NGOs so they are continuously improving governance processes
- Fostering social responsibility, equality and independence
- Ensuring female voices are heard
- Helping disadvantaged children and women by creating genuine links between our generous donor community and cost effective programs in Nepal
- Zero tolerance approach to child abuse and child pornography in accordance with our protection policy

THE ASHA TEAM IN AUSTRALIA



President

Pauline Gleeson joined the Asha team in April 2008 after visiting Nepal for the first time with co-founder Mary-Louise Parkinson. Pauline became President in November 2010 and has held that position ever since. She travels to Nepal regularly to visit our staff, Asha children and projects. A Rotarian, Pauline has been awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship for her work in Nepal.



Vice President & Good Oil Project Co-ordinator

Kelly Sullivan is our Good Oil Project Co-ordinator and joined Asha in 2013. Kelly has travelled to Nepal on a number of occasions and has visited our Good Oil Project school. Her reporting skills have been an incredible asset to Asha.



Secretary

Karen Soresen is Asha's secretary and has been part of the team since 2010. Karen has a background in nursing and counselling and is a much valued member.



Treasurer

Rohan Gleeson is Asha's Treasurer and like Karen has held that position since 2010. Rohan has a background in I.T. and accounting. He travels regularly to Nepal with his wife Pauline and along with Satish Tamang maintains the strict budgeting required. Like Pauline, Rohan is a proud Rotarian.



Public Officer

Ken McLeod is our Public Officer and has held that role since 2011. Ken is a retired Air Traffic Control, Search & Rescue Manager and was the Australian delegate to 2 United Nations committees. Ken's knowledge of good governance and transparency is a huge benefit to our organisation.



Sponsorship Coordinator

Bridie Young is our Sponsorship Co-ordinator and joined Asha in 2014. She has gained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Sydney majoring in French and Anthropology. Bridie has a strong interest in social justice.



Fundraising Co-ordinator

Pat Reid is our Fundraising Co-ordinator and joined Asha after her first visit to Nepal in November 2014. Her role has been a baptism of fire after the devastating earthquakes and Pat has stepped up to the mark with incredible enthusiasm.



Web Developer

Phil Gleeson is Asha's web developer and hosts our website free of charge. Phil has been part of Asha since 2011 and has travelled to Nepal and visited our projects. He was the first member of Asha to travel to our Good Oil Village project and the first westerner to go to the school.

THE NEPAL TEAM



Narayan Shrestha is our Nepal President & Cultural Advisor and has been with Asha since the organisation began in 2007. Narayan gives his time and advice freely and guides us in all aspects of Nepali life. His association with The Asha Foundation is invaluable.



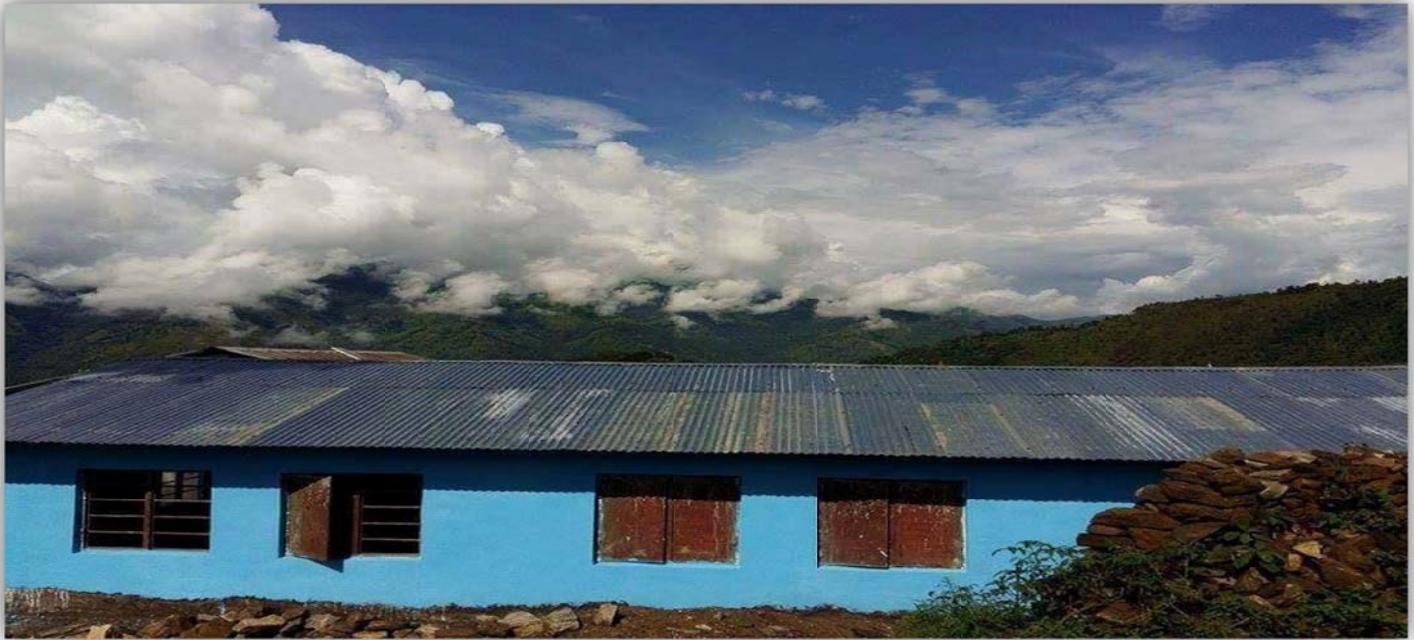
Nepal Manager

Satish Tamang is The Asha Foundation's Nepal Manager and Finance & Project Manager and has been with our organisation since 2010. He is responsible for strict budgeting and financial reporting each month.

CONTINUING OUR EARTHQUAKE REBUILD PROJECTS



Shree Samundra Devi School – Nuwakot District
Shree Radha Krishna School – Kavre District



Shree Samundradevi School Dadathok – Nuwakot District

This school was severely damaged by the 2015 earthquake, with most of the classrooms needing to be demolished. Through our Earthquake Appeal we were able to construct 4 classrooms each kitted out with new desks and chairs.

Click the link below to read the full story

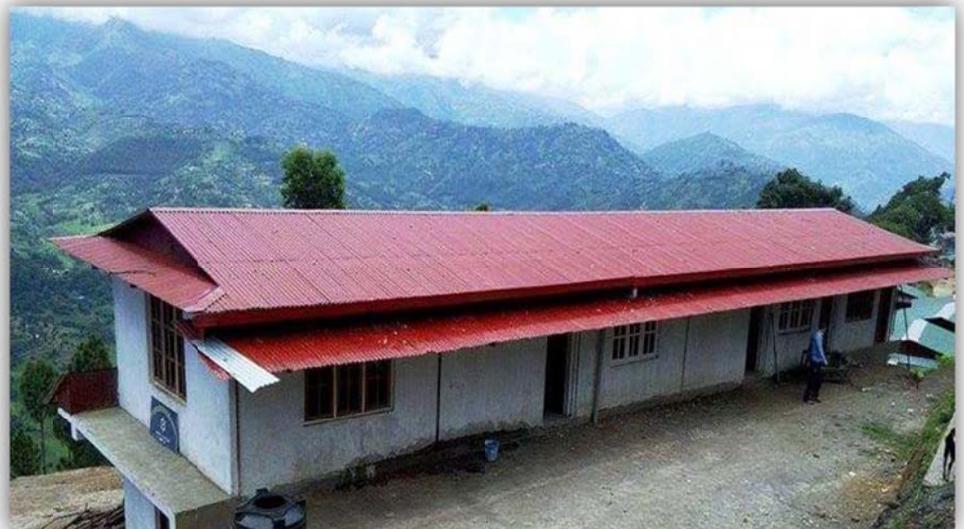


<https://www.ashafoundation.org.au/our-projects/rebuilding-shree-samundra-secondary-school.html>



Shree Radhakrishna School Mahadevsthan-Kavre District

The Shree Radha Krishna School was all but destroyed by the 2015 earthquake. The rebuild of the entire school consists of 11 classrooms – Kindergarten to Year 10, Principal's office and the installation of an underground water storage concrete tank. This project is the largest project The Asha Foundation has undertaken and is one we are enormously proud of.



To read the full story, follow the link - <https://www.ashafoundation.org.au/our-projects/rebuilding-radha-krishna-school.html>

OUR PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

Sponsorship

The welfare of our children is of the utmost importance to The Asha Foundation. In 2007 we were supporting 16 children in a small dwelling in the northern area of Kathmandu, today our sponsorship programme supports 46 children.

All our children receive private school education which is preferable to the government schools where teaching quality is poor and classrooms overcrowded.

We now have four of our oldest children enrolled in tertiary colleges, two completing a four year degree in Business Administration and two completing a four year degree in Applied Science majoring in Biology. Prior to 2007 none of these children would have believed they would be able to go to college, but thanks to Asha and our wonderful sponsors and donors, we have made this dream a reality.



Transparency to our sponsors and donors is of utmost importance to us and we can proudly say that 100% of sponsorship funds go towards our sponsorship programmes.

Providing tertiary education



Bishnu – Applied Science



Sumina – Applied Science



Binita – Business Administration



Kriti – Business Administration



Good Oil Project

Educating children in rural Nepal

This unique project commenced in April 2011 providing cooking oil to families whose children attend the Shree Bachhala Primary School situated at Bahdratar village. To read about the continuing success of this project – follow this link

<https://www.ashafoundation.org.au/our-projects/good-oil-project.html>

To read the 2017 Good Oil Report – follow this link

<https://www.ashafoundation.org.au/news/good-oil-report.html>

The Asha Foundation is extremely grateful to our major sponsor of this project – Home Loan Experts – Australia. Whilst their head office is located in Sydney they also have an office in Kathmandu which enables the HLE team to closely monitor this project. Home Loan Experts are also funding a Quality Education Project at the school which although independent from Asha's Good Oil Project, it is enhancing the quality of teaching skills at the school which is having a positive outcome for the students.



Feminine Hygiene Kits



Following our successful distribution of reusable feminine hygiene kits in February 2016, we were approached by a local ladies group at Bhadratar village for a further 200 kits late in 2016. Our decision to have these kits made in Kathmandu not only made the logistics of getting the kits to these women easier, but in doing so we were supporting a local female tailor who had no difficulty in reproducing this large order.

Two women's groups from the Bhadratar area are now keen to start an enterprise whereby they make and sell the sanitary products. Whilst this concept is in the early stages of planning, it will be an example of female empowerment. The further details about this project – click on this link

<https://www.ashafoundation.org.au/our-projects/feminine-hygiene-kits.html>



FINANCIAL REPORTS



The Asha Foundation Incorporated
ABN: 19 235 956 280

Statement by Members of the Committee

In the opinion of the Committee Members of the Asha Foundation Incorporated (the Association):

- a) the financial statements comprising of the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017 the income and expenses statement for the year then ended, notes comprising of the summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information presents fairly, in all material respects, for the year ended 30 June 2017 and comply with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*; and
- b) 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 become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Committee Member



Committee Member

Dated this 12th day of 1 January 2018

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CFN 20547

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president@ashafoundation.org.au

The Asha Foundation

Income and Expense Statement for the period ended 30-Jun-2017

2016		2017
	Income	
35888.94	Donations	7871.44
11000.00	Donations - Good Oil Project	
	Earthquake Appeal	
6096.45	Emergency Fund	
<u>6096.45</u>	Earthquake Income	
130.00	Field Trip Income	
-850.00	Female Hygiene Kits	120.00
31872.40	Sponsorships	28573.00
525.00	Special Projects	
<u>84662.79</u>	Income	<u>36564.44</u>
	Other Income	
1750.47	Interest Received	1456.02
<u>1750.47</u>	Other Income	<u>1456.02</u>
<u>86413.26</u>	Total Income	<u>38020.46</u>
	Less Outgoings	
1094.48	Bank Charges	873.48
71300.00	Funds Transferred to Nepal	77500.00
<u>72394.48</u>	Total Outgoings	<u>78373.48</u>
<u>14018.78</u>	Surplus (Defecit) for the Period	<u>-40353.02</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30-Jun-2017

2016			2017
	Assets		
91940.51	ASHA - Bendigo Bank	52612.96	
1988.01	DHARMIK - Bendigo Bank	1433.01	
25.00	Card Account - Bendigo Bank	25.00	
28475.36	Safety Net No.1: 134053073	29244.95	
25902.39	Safety Net No.3: 139974141	26588.82	
773.64	PayPal - Dharmik	456.52	
3106.54	PayPal - ASHA	1497.17	
<u>152211.45</u>	Total Assets		<u>111858.43</u>
	Less Liabilities		
	Total Liabilities		
<u>152211.45</u>	Net Assets		<u>111858.43</u>
	Equity		
138192.67	Retained Earnings	152211.45	
14018.78	Surplus (Defecit) For the Year	-40353.02	
<u>152211.45</u>	Total Equity		<u>111858.43</u>

Robert D. Glass
TREASURER



**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
Year Ended 30th June 2017**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements cover The Asha Foundation Incorporated (the Association) as an individual entity. The Association is a not-for-profit association incorporated in New South Wales under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation 2010.

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012. The committee have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

a) Basis of Accounting

These accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts are prepared on a cash basis. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with the previous year.

b) Taxation

No provision for income tax is provided against any surplus of income over expenditure as the Association is exempt from tax under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.



Independent Audit Report to the members of The Asha Foundation Incorporated

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of The Asha Foundation Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the statement of Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2017, the Income and Expense statement, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Statement by the Members of the Committee.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of my report, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2017, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Cash donations are a significant source of fundraising revenue for the Association. The Association has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of cash donations prior to entry into its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding fundraising revenue from this source was limited, my audit procedures with respect to cash donations had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. I therefore am unable to conclude whether the recorded cash donations of the Association are complete.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the Association 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 my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association to meet the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the Association are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My 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 my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with 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 the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Vincent's Assurance & Risk Advisory
Josie-Marie Lopez CA
Director
CAANZ membership no. 230333
CANBERRA ACT



11th January 2018

Ms Josie-Marie Lopez
PO Box 680
CANBERRA. ACT 2601

Dear Josie,

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial report of The ASHA Foundation (the Association) for the period ended 30 June 2017 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2017, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such enquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Report

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement dated 22nd May 2017, for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*; in particular the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance therewith.
- Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
- All events subsequent to the date of the financial report have been adjusted or disclosed.

Information Provided

We have provided you with:

- Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial report such as records, documentation and other matters;
- Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

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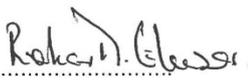


- All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial report.
- We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial report may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the entity and involves:
 - Management;
 - Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial report.
 - We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial report communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others.
 - We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report.
 - We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
 - We have provided you with all requested information, explanations and assistance for the purposes of the audit.
 - We have provided you with all information required by Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Yours faithfully,

Signed 

Committee Member
President

Signed 

Committee Member
Treasurer

PO Box 300
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12/01/2018

The Committee
The ASHA Foundation
PO Box 300
MORUYA NSW 2537

Email via: president@ashafoundation.org.au

Dear Committee Members,

The matters raised in this letter arise from our audit of your financial report and relate to matters that we believe need to be brought to your attention.

We completed our audit of the ASHA Foundation ("ASHA") financial report for the year ending 30 June 2017 in accordance with Auditing Standards.

Our audit was performed to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatements. Absolute assurance is not possible because of the inherent limitations of internal control, the fact that we do not test 100% of transactions, and that much of the audit evidence available to us is persuasive rather than conclusive.

In planning our audit we consider internal control over financial reporting to determine the nature, extent and timing of audit procedures. However, a financial report audit does not provide assurance on the effective operation of internal control at ASHA. Because fraud is always deliberately concealed there are always risks that material misstatements, fraud and other illegal acts may exist and not be detected by our audit of the financial report.

The following is a summary of our audit findings.

1. We did not identify in the course of our financial report audit:

- Any accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas.
- Any material changes in selection of application of accounting policies.
- Any evidence of fraud or misappropriation of funds.

We did not identify any material weaknesses in the design, implementation or operating effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

2. Results on Operations:

- We note that ASHA recorded a deficit of \$40,353 in its financial report and note that the deficit was funded from cash reserves held by the foundation. We are aware that ASHA regularly forecasts its future expenditure commitments in order to maintain reserves to meet future commitments.

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3. The financial report contains a number of significant estimates/judgements, which include:

- Expense allocations.

No misstatements in the financial report were identified during the audit.

Management and employees were very cooperative during our audit. To the best of our knowledge we also had complete access to the accounting records and other documents that we needed in order to carry out our audit. We did not have any disagreements with management and we have resolved all auditing, accounting and presentation issues to our satisfaction.

We would also like to draw the following matters to your attention:

- Please note that the objective of an audit is to obtain reasonable assurances whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. It is not specifically designed to identify matters that may be of interest to management. Accordingly, an audit would not usually identify all such matters.

This communication is prepared solely for the information of management and is not intended for any other purpose. We accept no responsibility to a third party who uses this communication.

Would you please sign the enclosed copy of this letter as evidence that it has been read by the Committee and return the copy to us in due course. We would also appreciate a written response to the matters raised in this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Josie-Marie Lopez CA
Director
Vincents Assurance & Risk Advisory

We hereby confirm that the above correspondence has been presented to the Committee for their consideration.

Signed.....

Committee Member
K. McLeod

Signed.....

Committee Member
ROHAN GLEESON



**Trade &
Investment**
Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing

20/10/2014

Mrs Pauline Gleeson
The ASHA Foundation Incorporated
7 Kiora St
MORUYA NSW 2537

Charitable fundraising authority

Charitable fundraising number **CFN/20547**

This document certifies that **The ASHA Foundation Incorporated** holds an authority to fundraising under section 13A of the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*, subject to compliance with the Act, the *Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2008* and the conditions attached as Annexure A.

This authority is in force from **3/12/2014**
until **02/12/2019**
unless surrendered or revoked earlier.

This authority is approved under delegation from the Minister administering the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*.

Important information

Please ensure you read the conditions attached as they may have changed since your last approval. You must inform us of any change to the information you provided in your application within 28 days. Please contact us at charity.inquiries@olgr.nsw.gov.au for further information.

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Annual Report 2016-2017