

97th

Annual Report 2022 – 2023

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY



Ija Mulanggari, Goodtha Mulanggari
Thriving Mothers, Thriving Babies



Canberra Mothercraft Society Inc.

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Australia

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ABN 27 358 139 470

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President's Message

Canberra Mothercraft Society continues to press ahead in its work to improve the lives of women and young children and their families, as the past year has clearly demonstrated, in particular through the 2023 Mary Kirk Fellowship.

In awarding the fellowship to Professor Leonie Segal, a leading researcher in the field of intergenerational trauma, CMS was able to shine a light on the largely hidden plight of children exposed to child abuse and neglect through intergenerational trauma.

According to Professor Segal, Australia is failing these children with “truly shocking” results. “Child abuse and neglect is the primary public health issue — responsible for the largest discrepancy in health, social and economic outcomes,” she said. “And yet, as a society we are failing to provide a proportionate response.”



There is more to say on the fellowship, but first I would like to mention other significant activities.

CMS continued its support for the Rhodanthe Lipsett Indigenous Midwifery Charitable Fund with the funding of a further Indigenous midwifery scholarship. The board was pleased to host Karel Williams, the fund's secretary, at its July meeting. Karel spoke of the need to increase the number of First Nations midwives — currently about 305 — by 700 to achieve proportional parity with the non-indigenous population. We very much hope to contribute to that aim with our consistent backing of the fund.

The partnership with Maternal Health Matters, in which CMS provided funding for the professional production of a series of videos for the Right Birth Your Choice program, took another step forward with the completion of the videos. Congratulations to MHM president Ellen O'Keefe and her team for providing women with important information on their right to respectful maternity care and how to go about making the right birthing decisions for themselves and their babies.

During the year, the board also continued to work on the financial aspects of its brief, culminating in the closure of its Perpetual and Australian Ethical accounts and the transfer in

May of the scholarship and community development funds to investments overseen by Shaw & Partners. Thanks to treasurer Vanessa Bakker for her participation in the extensive bureaucratic requirements necessary to achieve this outcome.

The remaining funds, amounting to half of our assets, will stay under CMS's direct control until such a time as the board can assess the performance of the S&P investments.

The board also proceeded with its exploration of a new name for CMS, in line with the view that a more contemporary title reflecting the changes since leaving QE II would be beneficial. In this quest, the board looked to CMS's Ngunnawal language vision, Ija mulanggari, goodtha mulanggari, meaning "Thriving mothers, thriving babies". After much discussion, we agreed to adopt the name Mulangarri, subject to approval by local Aboriginal community representatives.

The background to the phrase is that, more than 20 years ago, CMS asked Aunty Agnes Shea to bestow an Aboriginal name on CMS and QE II in Curtin (which was then under our care). In November 2001, Aunty Agnes attended a function at QE II to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of CMS and provided us with the name Ija mulanggari, goodtha mulanggari.

For the past 22 years, these words have stayed close to us and today are still our organisation's vision and at the core of our mission. The local nature of these words is also of significance to CMS.

Subsequently, CMS's immediate past president Fiona Smith du Toit undertook to follow up the naming matter with the United Ngunnawal Elders Council. She met first with Ngunnawal Elder Roslyn Brown, who graciously supported the use of Mulanggari, especially as it had been gifted to CMS by Aunty Agnes Shea. Further attempts to meet with the full United Ngunnawal Elders Council, to confirm their blessing of the use of Mulanggari, were unsuccessful as the council was heavily involved in a court matter during this period and was unable to accommodate our requests.



The board nevertheless decided to seek a special resolution In March from all CMS members on the proposed name. While the name was well received the resolution was not successful as it was felt we would need formal approval from the Elders Council.

We were unable to pursue this further, as the board's attention and efforts were soon diverted to organising the second biennial Mary Kirk Fellowship and its accompanying lecture, which, after the lifting of Covid restrictions, was able to be held in person in Canberra. Thanks must go to board member Tish Mercieca and psychologist and infant/early childhood mental health practitioner Dr Anna Huber, who suggested CMS approach Professor Leonie Segal, Foundation Chair, Health Economics and Social Policy, at the University of South Australia.

The entire board contributed to arranging Professor Segal's public lecture on Wednesday, 24 May 2023, and helping on the night. Special thanks to vice-president Frances Wild for checking out prospective venues, and coming up with the ideal one — the small theatre at the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia — and for organising catering.

We were delighted to have Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, Families & Community Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, launch the lecture. Also present were Director-General of the ACT Health Directorate Ms Rebecca Cross, ACT Chief Nursing

and Midwifery Officer Mr Anthony Dombkins and other senior health and community services officials. Both Minister Stephen-Smith and Ms Cross took a keen interest in the lecture and sought out Professor Segal afterwards.

Professor Segal spoke of her research showing that the children of mothers with an abuse or neglect history were far more likely to be abused or neglected — despite a fervent desire of parents not to repeat this pattern.



Photo: Mary Kirk AM, Professor Leonie Segal and Dr Sue Packer AO at the 2023 Mary Kirk Fellowship lecture.

“As a society we are not providing the services babies, toddlers, children, adolescents, troubled families need to turn their lives around and prevent transmission of child abuse and neglect to the next generation.

“We know the early years are critical to social and emotional well-being and health across life, as well as educational and employment outcomes,” she said.

Given the urgent need for action in this area, CMS looks forward to supporting Professor Segal's publication of a journal article and opportunities for further collaboration.

Turning to board changes, three valued members stepped down from the board in the past financial year. Jane Smyth OAM gave dedicated service to the CMS board over 20 years in a number of roles, including president. We were also sorry to lose vice-president and treasurer Maria Edwards to the demands of a very busy day job. Likewise, Lisa Anderson was unable to continue on the board owing to work commitments. They departed with our thanks and best wishes.

CMS was pleased to welcome three new board members, Margaret Brodrick, Alyce Merritt and Vanessa Bakker, who bring valuable skills to the board.

At our 2022 AGM we were proud to award life memberships to Mary Kirk AM and Jane Smyth OAM, who have both contributed so much to CMS over very many years.

A big thank-you to Kathryn Forster for her ongoing support and assistance in compiling the annual financial statement required by the ACNC. Thanks also to Lynne Johnson and the Knitters for their donations to CMS, which are much appreciated.

Finally, whole-hearted thanks to the board — Frances Wild (vice-president), Vanessa Bakker (treasurer), Tish Mercieca (secretary), Kathy Metallinos (public officer), Fiona Smith du Toit,

Alyce Merritt and Margaret Brodrick — for their contributions to a busy and constructive year. Thanks, too, to our business manager, Colleen Josifovski, for her diligence and efficiency.

I commend this annual report to you and look forward to another rewarding year ahead for CMS.

Gia Metherell
President



Photo: Gia Metherell, Rachel Stephen-Smith
MLA at the 2023 Mary Kirk Fellowship lecture.

2022-23 Board Members

Gia Metherell (President)	Master of Letters Bachelor of Arts
Frances Wild (Vice-President)	Bachelor of Arts (Art History and Curatorship) General Nursing Certificate
Vanessa Bakker (Treasurer)	Bachelor of Applied Science (Nursing) Graduate Diploma in Midwifery Graduate Certificate in Child and Family Health Graduate Certificate in Health Care Management Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
Kathy Metallinos (Public Officer)	Cert IV in Project Management; Cert IV in Procurement and Contract Management; Adv Cert in Public Administration
Tish Mercieca (Secretary)	Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) / Bachelor of Social Work Diploma of Community Services Certificate V Train Small Groups Certificate IV Workplace Assessor
Lisa Anderson (Resigned February 2023)	Bachelor of Counselling Cert IV in Workplace and Business Coaching Diploma of Business Management
Margaret Brodrick	Bachelor of Social Work Certificate in General Nursing
Maria Edwards (Retired November 2022)	Certificate IV in Property Services
Alyce Merritt	Bachelor of Human Nutrition Graduate Certificate in Policy Analysis
Fiona Smith du Toit	Bachelor of Architecture (First Class Hon)
Jane Smyth AOM (Retired November 2022)	Master of Philosophy Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) Dip SKTC

2022-23 Committees

Governance Committee

Margaret Brodrick
[Chair]
Alyce Merritt
Tish Mercieca
Kathy Metallinos

Finance and Audit Committee

Gia Metherell [Chair]
Vanessa Bakker
Margaret Brodrick

Community and Public Relations Committee

Gia Metherell [Chair]
Frances Wild
Fiona Smith du Toit
Colleen Josifovski
[Administration]



2021-2026 Strategic Plan

OUR VISION

Healthy families through:
Thriving Mothers, Thriving Babies.
Ija Mulanggari, Goodtha Mulanggari (Ngunnawal language).

OUR MISSION

To support and influence the delivery of comprehensive policies and services for the well-being of women and families in the pre-natal and early years.

OUR VALUES

We value:

- the use of reliable evidence as the foundation for policy development and service delivery;
- primary health care focused on achieving physical, emotional and psychological well-being and strengthening family resilience;
- close links to the community;
- respect for individuals and cultural differences; and
- strong leadership as a good community organisation.

OUR STAKEHOLDERS

We will achieve our objectives through working with our stakeholders:

- ACT community
- Child and family health providers, researchers and professionals
- Mothers
- Families with young children
- Members

OUR
OBJECTIVES

1. To support the wellbeing of women and families with young children through:

- encouraging the development of coordinated primary health care policies;
- promoting evidence-based models of care, community development and primary health care programs;
- promoting woman-centred care in maternity services;
- supporting continuing education in the fields of midwifery and child and family health;
- supporting research in primary health care for women and families;
- identifying emerging health needs of families through advisory committees; and
- working in collaboration with communities and partners in the field.

2. To demonstrate best practice as a community organisation in all of our activities, through:

- focus on organisational purpose, direction and achievement of strategic ends;
- striving for contemporary best practice governance; and
- providing sound leadership through a skilled board.

3. To strengthen community awareness and support for CMS and our role in the community.

4. To ensure financial sustainability in the short and long term to enable achievement of our strategic objectives.

KEY
OUTCOMES

- Partnerships
- Sponsorships
- Fellowships
- Scholarships

Financial Statements

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

The members of the Board of the Canberra Mothercraft Society Incorporated present their report for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Directors:

The names of persons who were members of the Board at any time of the year and at the date of this report are as follows:

Ms L Anderson
Ms T Mercieca
Ms G Metherell

Ms V Bakker
Ms A Merritt
Ms F Smith du Toit

Ms M Brodrick
Ms K Metallinos
Ms F Wild

Principal Activity:

The Society is committed to supporting and influencing the delivery of comprehensive policies and services for the well-being of women and families in the pre-natal and early years.

Significant Changes:

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

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board.



V Bakker
Treasurer



G Metherell
President

CANBERRA, 1 November 2023

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

COMBINED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
INCOME		
Bank Interest	1,915	526
Distributions and dividends	6,319	91,790
Miscellaneous	776	723
Realised gains on investments	79,142	0
Unrealised gains on investments	18,180	0
	<u>106,332</u>	<u>93,039</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Administration	40,475	91,667
Project costs	25,154	19,100
Unrealised losses on investments	1,051	122,720
	<u>66,680</u>	<u>233,487</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>39,652</u>	<u>(140,448)</u>

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
Current Assets		
Cash	932,327	1,068,971
Investments	1,034,449	839,004
Receivables	0	19,149
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,966,776</u>	<u>1,927,124</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>1,966,776</u>	<u>1,927,124</u>
Equity		
Opening balance	1,927,124	2,067,572
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	39,652	(140,448)
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>1,966,776</u>	<u>1,927,124</u>

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

1. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The Society was formed in 1927 and is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1991, ACT. It is registered with the Australian Business Register - Australian Business Number 27 358 139 470. The Society is not registered for Goods & Services Tax purposes. The Society is registered as an income tax exempt charity and as a deductible gift recipient and is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the notes to the financial statements and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

- *AASB 101, Presentation of Financial Statements*
- *AASB 108, Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*
- *AASB 1048, Interpretation of Standards*
- *AASB 1054, Australian Additional Disclosures.*

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

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

(a) **Income Tax**

The Association is registered as an income tax exempt charity with the Australian Tax Office. Consequently, no provision for taxation has been made in the financial statements.

(b) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts.

(c) **Investments**

Investments are measured at fair value. Fair value is the market value of the investments as at the balance date.

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INC.

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
INCOME		
Bank interest	1,227	517
Donations	466	393
Subscriptions	210	330
	1,903	1,240
EXPENDITURE		
Administration	40,475	84,837
Project costs	11,220	19,100
	51,695	103,937
OPERATING (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(49,792)	(102,697)
	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

Current Assets		
Cash	932,111	979,684
TOTAL ASSETS	932,111	979,684
Current Liabilities		
Loan - CDF	2,219	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,219	0
NET ASSETS	929,892	979,684
	=====	=====
Equity		
Opening balance	979,684	1,082,381
Net (deficit) for the year	(49,792)	(102,697)
TOTAL EQUITY	929,892	979,684
	=====	=====

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
INCOME		
Bank interest	641	1
Distributions	3,418	49,515
Dividends	1,500	530
Realised gains on investments	67,927	0
Unrealised gains on investments	18,180	0
	<hr/> 91,666	<hr/> 50,046
EXPENDITURE		
Scheme payments	13,934	6,830
Unrealised losses on investments	0	74,136
	<hr/> 13,934	<hr/> 80,966
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<hr/> 77,732	<hr/> (30,920)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

Current Assets		
Cash	115	8,262
Investments	734,098	630,442
Receivables	0	11,882
TOTAL ASSETS	<hr/> 734,213	<hr/> 650,586
Current Liabilities		
Loan - CDF	5,895	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<hr/> 5,895	<hr/> 0
NET ASSETS	<hr/> 728,318	<hr/> 650,586
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Equity		
Opening balance	650,586	681,506
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	77,732	(30,920)
TOTAL EQUITY	<hr/> 728,318	<hr/> 650,586
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
INCOME		
Bank interest	46	8
Distributions	1,402	41,744
Donations	100	0
Realised gains on investments	11,215	0
	<hr/> 12,763	<hr/> 41,752
EXPENDITURE		
Unrealised losses on investments	1,051	48,584
	<hr/> 1,051	<hr/> 48,584
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<hr/> 11,712	<hr/> (6,832)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

Current Assets		
Cash	101	81,025
Investments	300,351	208,561
Receivables	8,113	7,267
TOTAL ASSETS	<hr/> 308,565	<hr/> 296,853
NET ASSETS	<hr/> 308,565	<hr/> 296,853
Equity		
Opening balance	296,853	303,685
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	11,712	(6,832)
TOTAL EQUITY	<hr/> 308,565	<hr/> 296,853

CANBERRA MOTHERCRAFT SOCIETY INCORPORATED

ABN: 27 358 139 470

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

STATEMENT BY THE BOARD

The Board 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 Board:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out in the financial report are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
 - a. complying with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
 - b. complying with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013*.
 - c. give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the association.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Canberra Mothercraft Society Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



V Bakker
Treasurer



G Metherell
President

CANBERRA, 1 November 2023

Towards Healthy Families

Ija Mulanggari, Goodtha Mulanggari
Thriving Mothers, Thriving Babies

