



Auckland Parents of Deaf Children

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

WELCOME

What a milestone year for APODC, turning 70!

There are not many not-for-profit and volunteer organisations that can boast the strong and vibrant history we have and it was such a special moment to come together to celebrate our journey to 70 years. From humble beginnings, of just a few passionate parents that came together through the Kelston School for the Deaf to our now 161 membership, and growing. Thank you to all of you that made it possible to reach this impressive milestone.

On top of a wonderful birthday celebration, 2022 provided a great number of opportunities for our community to return to a far more connected and interactive way of being and it's something we've relished. So many times I hear from our whānau and our tamariki about how important it is to interact, engage and connect kanohi ki te kanohi - face to face - and how great it is when we are all together. Our events this year provided many great opportunities to do this.

I want to thank our partners who continue to support us year on year, **The Hearing House, First Signs, Deaf Aotearoa, Deaf Children New Zealand, Ko Taku Reo and Auckland Deaf Society**, and our sponsors and grant providers, without whom none of this would be possible, **Deaf Children New Zealand, Connect Interpreting, Foundation North, COGS Manukau, COGS Papakura/Franklin, COGS Waitakere City, COGS North Shore/Rodney, COGS Auckland City, Lotteries Community Fund, NZSL Lottery Grant Board, Office for Disability Issues and The National Foundation for Deaf and Hard of Hearing**. With your help we have been able to create events and opportunities to bring our APODC community together to build and strengthen our connections and help each other as we navigate our journeys through the Deaf and hearing world.

To our dedicated team of parents that make up our Committee. Thank you for giving your time, ideas and enthusiasm to the Committee and the wider APODC community. Your care and consideration are a big part of what helps us grow. It is also time to say farewell to Jess and Tim as they step down this year, thank you for being valuable Committee members and a part of our team, and welcome to Rhian and Lydia who have joined to bring new energy and perspective to our group this year.

It's been a year for the history books for Auckland Parents of Deaf Children, celebrating our 70th year, persevering through the unknown as we journeyed through the pandemic, making it out the other side and welcoming new families along the way. It's our members that make us who we are and I am proud that our members have brought us to this point. Thank you for continuing to be engaged, caring and active members of our community. I cannot wait to see what we can do together over the next 70 years!

Nga mihi nui



Willa Hand
President, Auckland Parents of Deaf Children



OUR YEAR

This year, the focus of our committee was getting everyone together safely and reinvigorating our events.

Feedback from many of you has reinforced just how important community is, how being together face to face provides our children both Deaf and HoH and their siblings an opportunity to connect with each other, and for our parents and caregivers an opportunity to engage, seek and receive support. Being together is critical for our kids and something we know hugely benefits their sense of belonging.

We've also spent time this year connecting more deeply with the Auckland Deaf community, strengthening the use of NZSL within our events and building stronger relationships with other groups such as Deaf Aotearoa, First Signs, AoDC's, Ko Taku Reo and the Hearing House which we believe is providing better outcomes for our members.

It wouldn't be right to talk about the year without again recognising our 70th anniversary. What a massive achievement! We were so happy to be able to celebrate with so many of you in person as we stepped out of our final lockdowns and the government restrictions eased. Our tamariki loved all of the inflatables, facepainting and fun and our matau made new friendships and reinvigorated some old ones.

We've had some great fun together this year, partying at our 70th, jumping into fun at Inflation World, joining forces with ADS, testing our rafting skills at Vector Wero, hanging out with Santa and the animals at Butterfly Creek and educating ourselves about the Deaf community and services available to our families. Thank you to all of you who were able to join us at these events over the year, it was great to reconnect and celebrate with you.

We have continued to focus on our operational requirements with our development of our CRM which provides us rich data on our membership, streamlining our funding approach and combining these two workstreams to evolve our events. Which is intended to provide you and your whānau even better experiences and opportunities to be together as we plan support and events that are tailored to our membership needs.

It's so encouraging to see our membership grow each year but what is more important is seeing matua/parents make new connections and build friendships and watching our tamariki thrive with their peers. Your unwavering enthusiasm to be part of our community is what motivates us to adapt and evolve our organisation to meet the needs of you, our APODC whānau.



70TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marked our 70th anniversary. Thank you to all those who have made it possible for us to reach this impressive milestone and those that were able to join us to celebrate it in style.



We have continued to honour the vision of our of our founding parents from 70 years ago, giving our whānau tools to support and empower our children. We may have grown in members, and hope to keep growing, but still our purpose remains focused on the impact we can have on each individual family as we promote and facilitate supportive and cohesive relationships with whānau in the Auckland Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. We will always strive to champion the right for deaf and hard of hearing children to realise their full potential and help them to develop a positive, healthy, and secure self-identity.

"A great relaxed environment where we could reconnect with families..."

APODC TIMELINE



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

“So encouraging to meet other parents...”

OUR MEMBERS

Our purpose is to connect and support families and whānau of Deaf and HoH children so they can live their very best lives. We welcome new families every year and continue to provide opportunities for them to meet and build relationships at our events:

161
Members

A 19%
increase in
membership

12 previous
members
rejoined our community

14 new
member
families
joined APODC in 2022

25
new parents

14 new Deaf of HOH children
along with **8** siblings

Ages of
new Deaf or
Hard of Hearing
members

9 5 and under

4 6 to 11 years old

1 12 to 18 years old



OUR EVENTS

Despite the restrictions still in place to manage the risk of COVID, we were able to create safe enjoyable experiences for all of our members. Being able to bring our families and whānau together safely will always be a priority because we believe that when they are well supported and connected as part of a peer network, deaf and hard of hearing children can realise their full potential as active participants, and valued members within their respective communities.



"Inclusive for all... brilliant!"



7 *events*

414 *guests*

2 *APODC Connect educational series*

12 *attendees*

3 *family days*

ADS Joint Event
Inflatable world · Christmas

308 *attendees*

1 *Youth Event*

Vector Wero Whitewater Park

5 *attendees*

APODC 70th

Anniversary

89 *attendees*



OUR SPONSORS & GRANT PROVIDERS

\$167,929.13
received

9 *grants*

COGS
Rodney/
North Shore

COGS
Manukau

COGS
Papakura/
Franklin

COGS
Waitakere City

COGS
Auckland City

Community
Lotteries

The National
Foundation for
Deaf and Hard
of Hearing

Foundation
North

NZSL Lottery
Grant Board

Office for
Disability
Issues

thank you

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Throughout 2022 we have worked with our professional bookkeeping service, Little Black Books, to standardise our reporting. By presenting our annual financial data in a consistent format we are able to ensure full transparency of APODC's financial health with our members. Overall we are in a strong financial position as we head into 2023.

Profit and Loss

Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Inc For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
Trading Income		
Grant Received - COGS Auckland City	1,084	24
Grant Received - COGS Manukau Sponsorship	-	2,174
Grant Received - COGS Papakura/Franklin Sponsorship	-	4,348
Grant Received - COGS Rodney/North Shore	70	1,739
Grant Received - COGS Waitakere	-	1,739
Grant Received - Deaf Children NZ (Rainbows End)	-	4,600
Grant Received - Foundation North	23,156	-
Grant Received - Lottery Community Committee Auckland	3,122	12,827
Grant Received - NZSL Board	34,446	174
Membership Fees	1,517	1,495
Other Income	-	43
Total Trading Income	63,395	29,164
Gross Profit	63,395	29,164
Other Income		
Interest Received - Term Deposits	8,945	7,883
Interest Income	249	42
Donations - Miscellaneous	174	1,696
Covid 19 Wage Subsidy	-	4,800
Total Other Income	9,368	14,421

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

	2022	2021
Expenses		
Accommodation and Travel	-	70
Accounting- Xero Subscription	657	677
Advertising	-	802
Bank Fees	-	40
Committee Expenses - (Functions.Gifts etc)	-	4,944
Consulting & Accounting	-	2,119
Contractors	30,243	4,023
Depreciation	500	500
Entertainment	49	-
Event - AGM Annual Event	16,284	-
Event - APODC Camp	-	374
Event - Children's Xmas Party	10,117	36
Event - Coffee Groups	-	50
Event - Family Interactive Day/Joint ADS	-	1,254
Event - Inflatable World	997	120
Event - Rainsbow End	-	5,002
Event- ADS Youth Cookery Course	-	888
Event-Wellbeing Session	-	728
Event - Youth Event	467	-
Interpreter Fees	1,741	1,366
KiwiSaver Employer Contributions	-	508
Legal expenses	-	181
Office Expenses	-	7
Penalties	-	250
Printing,Stationery & Postages	37	47
Salaries	-	16,943
Stripe Charges	70	66
Subscriptions	552	941
Telephone,Internet & Web management	1,932	1,683
Training and Conferences	-	97
Wages- Coordinator	-	14,820
Wages-Coordinator-NZ Lottery Commision	-	5,130
Total Expenses	63,647	63,667
Net Profit (Loss) Before Taxation	9,116	(20,082)
Taxation and Adjustments		
Non Deductible Expenses		
Entertainment - Non deductible	57	-
Total Non Deductible Expenses	57	-
Total Taxation and Adjustments	57	-
Net Profit (Loss) for the Year	9,059	(20,082)
Net Profit Percentage	14	(69)

Balance Sheet

Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Inc As at 31 December 2022

	31 DEC 2022	31 DEC 2021
Assets		
Current Assets		
GST Receivable	3,558	-
Total Current Assets	3,558	-
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	500	999
Other Non-Current Assets	559,665	446,193
Total Non-Current Assets	560,165	447,193
Total Assets	563,723	447,193
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	1,969	338
GST Payable	-	211
Total Current Liabilities	1,969	549
Non-Current Liabilities		
Other Non-Current Liabilities	154,890	48,840
Total Non-Current Liabilities	154,890	48,840
Total Liabilities	156,860	49,389
Net Assets	406,863	397,804

Movements in Equity

Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Inc For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
Equity		
Opening Balance	397,804	417,886
Increases		
Profit for the Period	9,059	(20,082)
Total Increases	9,059	(20,082)
Total Equity	406,863	397,804

OUR TEAM



Willa Hand
President

In 2019, Willa's youngest son Emerson lost his hearing as a result of illness and is now profoundly deaf aided by Cochlear. It was finding her way to her first APODC event, Camp 2020, that provided Willa and her whānau the connection into the Deaf community she was looking for. Coming from a hearing family, Willa has spoken of the benefits of meeting and engaging with other parents, learning about the community, and making connections that support Emerson as he grows.

Willa joined the committee in 2020, and she was elected as President in 2021. She is excited to progress the great work done by the committee in recent years, connecting families through fantastic events and ensuring APODC continues to meet the needs of Parents and Children in the Auckland Deaf community now and into the future.

Willa has extensive business experience including expertise in membership experience and culture, strategy, governance, process improvement and facilitation and brings these skills to the table in her role as President for APODC.



Kirsten Davis
Secretary

Kirsten enjoys life in the country with her husband and two children, Xavier and Milan. Xavier was born with Charge Syndrome and has severe bilateral conductive hearing loss, aided with hearing aids. She joined APODC as she wanted to connect with other families and find a gateway to increase her knowledge into what supports were available to access.

Kirsten joined the committee in 2014, and was soon elected President. In 2021 she stepped down and into the Secretary role and she has continued in this role to date. She is proud of the changes the committee has made in the last few years and hopes to build on the progress they have made in creating a dynamic, accountable and visible organisation that prides itself on organising a wide range of fun events to allow connection and support.

Kirsten is a Clinical Psychologist and has extensive experience working with young people and their whānau. She is passionate about enabling families to have increased access to their wider community. She brings these critical insights to her role as Secretary and supports the committee as they continue to build APODC's role in the Deaf Community.

OUR TEAM



Rhian Thompson
Treasurer

Rhian is married to Michael and has two children Audrey and Gethin. Her son Gethin was born profoundly deaf and received bilateral cochlear implants at the age of 6 months. Rhian joined APODC in 2022 as she wanted to re-build connections with other families of deaf and hard of hearing children, which she felt had fallen away since her son had started school.

Rhian believes that having a support network connecting families of deaf children is vital for the wellbeing of our parents and their children. She feels APODC provides a valuable service allowing families to share knowledge and experiences, access information and build relationships and wishes to give back some of her time to help improve and grow the organisation.

Rhian has a background in banking and commercial law and has worked at law firms, financial institutions and publicly listed companies. She is currently a stay at home mum and chair of the school board of her children's primary school. Rhian has experience in project management, governance, finance and compliance. She has recently started learning NZSL with the intention of teaching it to her children and hopes to reach a level where she is able to easily converse with other NZSL users.



Anna Park
Committee Member

Anna, her husband James, and their son Theo have been members of APODC since 2017. Theo, who is now 8 years old, has bilateral severe to profound hearing loss, identified as a mild loss at birth, which has since deteriorated. (This means he uses hearing aids to hear, and can hear when he wears them, but can't hear much at all in either ear when he doesn't).

Theo, James and Anna use spoken English as their primary means of communication, but they are all learning NZSL via a mix of formal classes, in school (for Theo), online resources, and attending Deaf events. They communicate in NZSL at home more and more as they gain knowledge. The benefits of being able to communicate in NZSL have been enormous for their family.

Joining APODC gave Anna and her family lots of support and introduced her family to others who know the unique experience of raising a deaf or hard of hearing kid. Anna joined the committee in 2021 because she wanted to give back to an organisation she had benefited from joining. In the last couple of years, Anna has helped with events and planning. She has also been a point of initial contact for members and non-members who had questions or concerns or just needed information.

OUR TEAM



Lydia Cook
Committee Member

Lydia joined the APODC community in 2022, looking for community after her youngest daughter Thea was diagnosed with profound bilateral hearing loss. Thea's diagnosis came not long after her birth and during the 2021 Auckland lock down. APODC has provided a way to connect with other families and has been a source of real encouragement for us.

Thea, now approaching two years old, wears cochlear implants. Thea is developing her NZSL skills with some excellent First Signs support and she signs enthusiastically at home and at daycare. Attending APODC events has been a fantastic opportunity for the whole whānau to build on their NZSL skills, meet members of the Deaf community and share experiences with other parents and siblings of deaf and hard of hearing kids.

When Lydia isn't practicing her own NZSL skills, she is working as a senior legal counsel and company secretary. She brings her governance experience and enthusiasm to the Committee and is passionate about helping the Committee bring meaningful connections and events to the Auckland community.



Jess Fonoti
Committee Member

Jess, who is proudly of Samoan descent, her husband John and their five children have been a part of the APDOC community ever since their two youngest children were diagnosed with unilateral hearing loss. Jess and her aiga have enjoyed many APODC events over the years and are grateful for the opportunities they provided to be able to reflect on, and celebrate, the hearing journey her youngest children are on.

Jess joined the committee in 2021 as she wanted to help serve the Deaf Community by supporting APODC to further expand its reach to Pacific families.

Jess is a senior social worker, currently working as a Neighbourhood Lead for The Cause Collective, Manukau. She has previously worked in Family Harm under Counties Manukau Health, and various social service agencies for the past 20 years, both Pacific and mainstream. She is passionate about connecting with people and brings another level of understanding of how to reach and work with people across a range of communities. Soifua ma ia manuia.



Jo Weaver Committee Member

Jo and her partner moved from the UK, in 2007, to Aotearoa where they live with their three children. Her partner and two youngest children all wear hearing aids for different degrees of sensorineural deafness. Jo believes APODC events are a great place for families to enjoy quality time together, network with others and share experiences.

Jo has been a committee member since May 2018 and is passionate about supporting connections between families, and offering friendship and support. Knowing about deafness and understanding 'the system', has made her family's journey somewhat easier than it may have been and she uses her experience to support others in a similar situation.

Jo is an experienced Speech-Language Therapist who works privately. She has experience working for MOE, Special Schools and spent many years working at Kelston Deaf Education Centre (now known as Ko Taku Reo). Jo helps APODC to build and nurture their networks with many professionals working in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community.



Tim Huang Committee Member

A teacher introduced Tim to APODC in 2015 when they told him about a coffee group they were hosting. Tim decided to attend and, after meeting the wonderful members, he himself decided to join with his two children, Adam and Emma. Adam was diagnosed with microtia of one ear when he was born. This condition means the external ear is small and usually has a closed ear canal which causes Adam to have one sided hearing loss. Tim continues to learn about the difficulties of single sided hearing and is passionate about promoting awareness.

Tim has been a committee member since 2018 and during his time he has helped host several coffee groups and provide input for event planning and previously held the post of Treasurer. Tim understands that there are many challenges in bringing up a child nowadays and knows from experience how vital organisations like APODC can be in the journey of parents who are entering into the Deaf community.

Tim works in IT but his passion is in the education and training space. Since joining the committee he has been supporting parent education sessions.



Become a sponsor or join our community.

Visit apodc.org.nz for further details on sponsorship or joining our community.

Or if you have queries and would like to speak to someone, email us on coordinator@apodc.org.nz.