



APODC

Auckland Parents
of Deaf Children

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





Welcome

Please join me as we reflect on the past year and celebrate the collective achievements that have strengthened our community. It's a wonderful opportunity to look back on our shared successes and express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our mission, our community, and supported the wonderful tamariki who are the heart of Auckland Parents of Deaf Children.

2024 was a particularly challenging year for many in our community, with changes to support and funding, as well as the Ombudsman's findings related to Deaf Education. APODC has prioritised providing insight to the government—including in the health, disability and education sectors—and ensuring our members know what is happening.

It has also reaffirmed to the committee that our role extends beyond hosting events and fostering connections. We are striving to provide equal access to information, collective advocacy, and representation for our wider community in decision-making spaces—a responsibility we take seriously and carry out with deep care.



Our committee has been focused on developing a clear and purposeful vision for APODC, one that will guide us in serving our families to the best of our ability. Our efforts to strengthen and expand our network have also been a key priority as we've continued to collaborate with other organisations and individuals who share our goals.

2025 is stacking up to be another great year for our community. Thank you for your ongoing support. Let's go!

Nga mihi nui

Willa Hand
President

Auckland Parents of Deaf Children



APODC
Auckland Parents of Deaf Children

Our Year

In 2024, APODC stepped up its focus on strengthening connections – both within the Deaf community here in Aotearoa and overseas, provided enhanced self/parent advocacy development through a tailored set of events, and within our membership provided opportunities for parents, caregivers and our kids to learn, connect and bond. We set our sights on ‘going digital’ and launched our Instagram strategy that has allowed us to be where our whanau are, share engaging content that will benefit our members from local and international experts and commentators in our area. So, if you haven’t checked out our profile, please make sure you do – [@aucklandparentsofdeafchildren](https://www.instagram.com/aucklandparentsofdeafchildren)

Behind the scenes, we took a more strategic look at how we work—finding ways to strengthen and diversify our finances for long-term sustainability, making key info easier to access, and creating safe, supportive spaces for parents to connect and share. It’s been a year full of learning, connection, and special moments.

"We love being members of APODC and have met some wonderful people. It's so special for our daughters (one deaf and one hearing) to meet people of different backgrounds with different types of hearing impairments and different devices."

Jessica Chang, APODC Parent



"APODC has become part of our family. An organization close to our heart"

Jojie Adigue, APODC Parent

Our Members

Thanks to you, our APODC whānau is thriving! Your energy and involvement help us stay strong, connected, and focused on what matters—supporting you and your tamariki as they navigate both the Deaf and hearing worlds. We're proud to walk alongside you, listening and learning to make sure we're meeting your needs. Our community continues to grow, with over 300 people on our mailing list and 600+ social media followers. Together, we're creating a welcoming, inclusive space where families stay informed, supported, and connected.

"APODC is a great organization that helps to connect all kinds of kids with different deafness."

Karime Assoni, APODC Parent

314

Newsletter Recipients

111

Active Members

89

Family Members

11 New Family Members

13

Associate Members

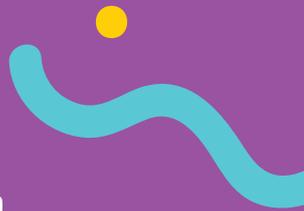
1 new member

7

Committee Members

1

Lifelong Member



Ages of new Deaf and Hard of Hearing children:

8 5 and under

3 6 to 11 years old

10 Siblings

"An absolutely magical experience for our children and family that we will treasure forever - thank you!"

APODC Parent

Our Committee and Volunteers

APODC would not run without the incredible mahi and sacrifice of our committee and volunteers. They are the backbone, providing guidance, leadership and laughs, dedicating their expertise and time to our wider whanau. We are sincerely grateful of your sacrifice and support.

To our committee members, your strategic vision and unwavering commitment drive our mission forward. Your leadership means we continue to provide essential support (in a number of ways) to our whanau. Thank you.

Equally we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers. Your contributions of time and energy at our events help create a vibrant community and amplify our impact.

*"Overwhelmingly positive.
Well organised, fun, inclusive."*

APODC Parent



Our Events

This year, our events gave parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing tamariki helpful tools and real-life advice, from tips on advocacy and language development to ways to support reading at home. We created opportunities for parents to connect, share openly, and learn from sector experts and Deaf adults who've walked a similar path.

Our family events brought kids together to celebrate their deafness, build friendships, and feel proud of who they are. Our youth group also began shaping their own space, and we're keen to keep building on that. These moments reminded us how powerful connection, learning, and community really are.

"We were not sure what to expect and we were surprised how fun and amazing the activities were."

APODC Parent

10
Events

353
Guests

88%
Average
Attendance



"I really enjoyed how the families and children were so excited to see one another again. To see everyone talking freely and having good laughs."

Catherine Greyling, Deaf Aotearoa

4 APODC Connect Educational series webinars

Aligning Your Child's Village, Language Acquisition in the Early Years, Parent Advocacy, Reading Hacks & Strategies - **61 attendees**

2 Family Days AGM and Christmas - **245 attendees**

2 Coffee Groups - 14 attendees

1 Community Workshop - 27 attendees

1 Youth Event Bowling - 6 attendees





Our Sponsors and Grant Providers

As a small not-for-profit, we couldn't do what we do without the amazing support of our sponsors and grant providers. Their generosity helps us make a real difference and keep supporting our whānau in meaningful ways. We're so thankful for their ongoing support.

\$108,253

total amount received

Our Grant Providers

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

Rano
Community
Trust

Four
Winds

Our Sponsors

The
Warehouse
Glenfield

The
Warehouse
Takanini

Chelsea Andrews
Cameron Owens
Jojie Adigue
Anna Child
Bruna Perin
Katie Peat
Sophia Vailanu

Our Donors

A big thank you to our awesome donors – your generosity means the world to us! Your support helps us keep going and make a real difference for the families we work with. We're so grateful to have you backing our mission.

Thank you!

Our Year in Numbers

The financial comparison over the last three years highlights APODC's stability. In FY2024, we delivered a varied series of events, supported by the ongoing investment in an Operations Manager to ensure smooth grant funding management and streamlined internal operations. This strategic move has allowed APODC to navigate the complexities and increasing challenges around grant funding and has contributed to our overall success. Despite economic uncertainties, our income and profit from interest and membership fees have increased year on year. APODC is financially well-positioned to make a positive impact to our community in FY2025.

Profit and Loss

Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Inc

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023	2022
Trading Income			
APODC Camp - (Family Camp Contributions)	-	1,610	-
Grant Received - APODC Camp 2023	-	50,000	-
Grant Received - APODC Camp 2025	2,781	-	-
Grant Received - COGS Auckland City	2,535	5,161	1,084
Grant Received - COGS Manukau Sponsorship	5,842	3,500	-
Grant Received - COGS Papakura/Franklin Sponsorship	5,614	8,786	-
Grant Received - COGS Rodney/North Shore	2,130	1,430	70
Grant Received - COGS Waitakere	3,000	1,500	-
Grant Received - Foundation North	15,000	11,844	23,156
Grant Received - Lottery Community Committee Auckland	41,424	105,017	3,122
Grant Received - NZSL Board	(174)	11,984	34,446
Grant Received - NFDHH	2,500	1,739	-
Grant Received - Rano Community Trust	-	6,446	-
Grant Received - Four Winds	27,600	-	-
Workshops	165	-	-
Membership Fees	2,432	1,730	1,517
Total Trading Income	110,850	210,747	63,395
Gross Profit	110,850	210,747	63,395
Other Income			
Interest Received - Term Deposits	18,501	11,505	8,945
Interest Income	1,476	1,323	249
Donations - Miscellaneous	76	250	174
Total Other Income	20,052	13,078	9,368

	2024	2023	2022
Expenses			
Accommodation and Travel	-	711	-
Accounting - Xero Subscription	649	580	657
Marketing	2,489	7,605	-
Bank Fees	15	20	-
Committee Expenses - (Functions, Gifts etc)	536	1,916	-
Computer Expenses	-	1,043	-
Contractors	86,726	116,777	30,243
Depreciation	125	250	500
Entertainment	65	641	49
Event - AGM Annual Event	4,390	1,337	16,284
Event - APODC Camp	64	49,111	-
Event - APODC Connect	10,341	1,312	-
Event - Children's Xmas Party	5,328	13,045	10,117
Event - Coffee Groups	-	25	-
Event - Inflatable World	-	2,638	997
Event - Rainsbow End	-	1,628	-
Event - Youth Event	367	1,850	467
Interpreter Fees	2,640	1,441	1,741
Printing, Stationery & Postages	-	221	37
Stripe Charges	102	66	70
Subscriptions	748	469	552
Telephone, Internet & Web management	1,699	2,530	1,932
Training and Conferences	226	2,650	-
Total Expenses	116,511	207,868	63,647
Net Profit (Loss) Before Taxation	14,392	15,957	9,116
Taxation and Adjustments			
Non Deductible Expenses			
Entertainment - Non deductible	65	-	57
Total Non Deductible Expenses	65	-	57
Total Taxation and Adjustments	65	-	57
Net Profit (Loss) for the Year	14,327	15,957	9,059
Net Profit Percentage	13	8	14

Balance Sheet

Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Inc

As at 31 December 2024

	31 Dec 2024	31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2022
Assets			
Current Assets			
GST Receivable	1,634	7,706	3,558
Total Current Assets	1,634	7,706	3,558
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	125	250	500
Other Non-Current Assets	502,290	444,775	559,665
Total Non-Current Assets	502,415	445,025	560,165
Total Assets	504,049	452,731	563,723
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	2,960	8,527	1,969
Other Current Liabilities	-	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	2,960	8,527	1,969
Non-Current Liabilities			
Other Non-Current Liabilities	63,942	21,384	154,891
Total Non-Current Liabilities	63,942	21,384	154,891
Total Liabilities	66,902	29,910	156,860
Net Assets	437,147	422,820	406,863
Equity			
Retained Earnings	437,147	422,820	406,863
Total Equity	437,147	422,820	406,863

Movements in Equity

Auckland Parents of Deaf Children Inc

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023	2022
Equity			
Opening Balance	422,820	406,863	397,804
Increases			
Profit for the Period	14,327	15,957	9,059
Total Increases	14,327	15,957	9,059
Total Equity	437,147	422,820	406,863

These financial statements have been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

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 also sits on the DCNZ Committee and The Hearing House Advisory Board.

She 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.

Lydia Cook

Secretary

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 four 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.

Rhian Thompson

Treasurer

Rhian is married to Michael and has two children, Audrey and Gethin. Her son was born profoundly deaf and received bilateral cochlear implants at the age of 6 months and her daughter recently experienced hearing loss and uses a hearing aid. Rhian joined APODC in 2022 to re-build connections with other families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, which she felt had fallen away since her children started school.

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

Rhian has a background in banking and commercial law and has worked at law firms, financial institutions and large corporates. She currently works part-time as consultant for a law firm and is otherwise a stay-at-home mum. Rhian has experience in project management, governance, finance and compliance. She is learning NZSL 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 10 years old, has bilateral severe to profound hearing loss. He wears hearing aids on both ears.

Joining APODC introduced Anna and her family to others who knew the complex and rich experience and shared the struggles of raising a Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing child in a hearing world. It has also meant Theo has met heaps of kids who are just like him. Anna volunteered for the committee in 2021 because she wanted to give back to APODC and help to keep it thriving. In the last couple of years, Anna has helped with hosting 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.

Theo, James and Anna use spoken English as their primary means of communication, but they are all learning NZSL via a mix of classes, online resources, and attending Deaf events. They use NZSL every day at home and out and about. The benefits of being able to communicate with each other in NZSL have been enormous for their family.

Anna works as a Research Librarian. She and her family live in West Auckland. Anna also volunteers at Theo's school Breakfast Club during term time.



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.



Duncan Henderson

Committee Member

Duncan is a father of three children, one of whom has moderate hearing loss and wears hearing aids. He is kept busy with family activities that include the outdoors and sports.

Duncan joined the APODC in 2021 as a way to help connect with other families in the Deaf community. Duncan decided to join the APODC committee in 2023 to help the organisation to continue to be an ongoing success.

Duncan works in marketing and has a background in event management, advertising and corporate communications and is glad to bring these skills to the APODC as a committee member. He looks forward to being an advocate for the families of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children.



Alison Verona

Operations Manager

Alison is a mother of two little boys. She left her corporate job to work with us, full time, as she's passionate about supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and their whanau.

As our Operations Manager you have likely met her at one of our many events or liaise with her about membership, support and any other general queries.

Alison has been learning NZSL through online and in-person courses with Auckland Deaf Society and has used NZSL to communicate with her sons from birth. Her oldest boy enjoys using his signs at daycare and has helped to encourage his teachers to learn signs and incorporate them in their everyday play with the other children. With help from the Deaf community, Alison has been able to practice and improve her signing and hopes to one day be fluent.



Sarah Burgess

Bookkeeper

Sarah is a Virtual CFO offering advisory and bookkeeping services to small to medium sized businesses in New Zealand. Sarah has been running Little Black Books for 5 years with a growing team. Her goals are simple: to empower you, hold you accountable and make a difference to not only your charity or business but to your lifestyle.

Sarah enjoys life by the beach in Devonport with her three children and has a Bachelor of Accountancy and over 15 years' experience in financial services as a Management Accountant, she is Xero Certified Advisor and a member of the Institute of Certified Bookkeepers. Having worked for various hedge funds overseas as well as in analysis roles for PR and telecommunication companies, Sarah moved back to New Zealand and started her own company Little Black Books so she could spend more time with her growing family.





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.



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