

## **Grandparents for Grandchildren SA Inc**

### **Chairperson's**

## **Annual Report 2021 -2022**

I describe this year as a pivotal year in the life of Grandparents for Grandchildren SA Inc. There were several major events that occurred with each impacting on the leadership, sustainability, presence and sustainability of the organisation.

Possibly the two most significant events were the appointment of a new and current Chief Executive Officer Mike Feszczak, as well as the relocation of GFGSA offices to Pitt St, near the centre of Adelaide CBD.

However there were other critical events that occurred which I will now touch on in a more sequential order.

The impact of the resignation of the long term volunteer Chief Executive Officer Peter Biber occurred early in the year, leading to adjustments in the management of the organisation as well closer relationship on a day to day basis between the Board members and volunteer staff. It must be acknowledged that prior to Peter's resignation, he provided clear direct and rigorous advocacy for the role and function of the organisation as well continuously identifying both public and philanthropic funding to support the growing services being provided by GFGSA. Following his departure, Joanne Lauristen acted as the CEO.

The Board embarked on securing additional funding for a paid CEO role. Additional short-term funding was made available by DHS. This funding was provided in addition to cost efficiencies GFGSA was able to make, particularly in regard to office and administrative costs being incurred at the time.

This led to a decision of the GFGSA Board to relocate the offices to a suitable, cost-effective location. Appropriate premises were identified at a reduced annual lease fee. The facility owned by Uniting Communities, in Pitt St, is now home.

There were many issues to be managed prior to occupancy, including significant renovations, organising the move from one office to another, and to ensure the DHS funds were secure to support the salary of the CEO. The renovation process which occurred over the 2021/22 Xmas New Year period was paramount for the organisation to move early in the new year. GFGSA was very fortunate in gaining extremely generous assistance from Nick House, Managing Director of NJH Developments Pty Ltd and his team, who were able to organise various contractors during this time when many trades people are enjoying the festive holiday season. The Board and staff once again acknowledge the amount of effort required and the generosity that Nick and his team provided to GFGSA.

Following completion of the renovations, the office was furnished, and staff moved into their new location, again with significant input from Joanne in managing removalists and fit-out logistics.

The search for a paid CEO commenced prior to Xmas 2021. The first opportunity to appoint a new CEO commenced in December 2021. The selected person who was unable to take up the offer due to a change in personal priorities. The next opportunity led to an appointment in early 2022 which

was unfortunately terminated prior to probation ending, due to experience inconsistencies. After further careful consideration the Board was able to select and appoint Mike Feszczak in May 2022. We welcome Mike who has engaged with the role enthusiastically and purposefully. We look forward to recognising Mike's impact into the future.

Funding for GFGSA was further enhanced through DHS formalising additional funding over the next 8 years. This will secure the paid CEO role and may contribute to additional paid staff positions, as they are identified.

I would like to thank Joanne Lauristen for her energy and capacity for taking on the role of acting CEO for many months, prior to passing the responsibilities to Mike. As mentioned earlier, the Board now looks forward to the impact that Mike is able to bring to GFGSA.

In November 2021 Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC Governor of South Australia advised she would be pleased to accept patronage of GFGSA jointly with her husband Mr Rod Bunten. I look forward to further interaction with our Patron during 2022 and beyond.

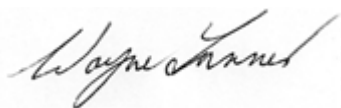
Also in late 2021, Mrs Lan Le accepted GFGSA invitation to be appointed our first Ambassador. We look forward to her participation in the activities of GFGSA as her time allows.

The Board accepted the resignation of Matt Romaine during the year. We thank Matt for his valuable contribution whilst on the Board.

The Board continues its search for new members that fit the skills need of the Board. This activity together with proposed changes to the constitution (to be approved at the AGM November 2022) will possibly see the number of Board member positions reduced, which in turn may mean some of the existing vacancies will become redundant.

Finally, I would like to thank all Board members for their effort and resilience in addressing a wide range of topics that has led to a better positioned organisation. Board Directors at 30/6/2022 who together provide a broad set of skills and lived experiences are; David Egege (Deputy Chairperson), Kath House, Marcia Evans (Secretary/acting Treasurer), Penny Fraser, Rob Proctor, Sandra Egege and me. Each has enthusiastically involved themselves in the issues and events of 2021-2022.

GFGSA, with its strong and growing presence as a service provider and advocate for those Grandcarers who have full time care and responsibility for Grandchildren, will expectedly be further enhancing its role and contribution during 2022/2023.



Wayne Turner  
Chairperson  
GFGSA  
21/11/2022