



**FIGHTING  
CHANCE**

**Annual Report**

**Nov 2010 – Nov 2011**

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## 1. About Fighting Chance

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### **Vision**

Creating a world for people with disabilities where each individual lives a life without limits.

### **Mission**

Pioneering innovative employment opportunities and fulfilling life experiences for people with physical disabilities.

### **We are committed to...**

- Equality
- Inclusion
- Innovation
- Transparency

### **We believe...**

...that all people with disabilities have value and potential and that it is beholden on the youth of today to build the world we wish to live in tomorrow.

## 2. Board Members 2010/11

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### **Board: Nov 2010 – Dec 2010**

Dominic Corrigan (Appointed 15/10/09, resigned 21/12/10)

Robert Nelson (Appointed 15/10/09, resigned 21/12/10)

Sue O'Reilly (Appointed 15/10/09)

### **Board: December 2010 – December 2011**

Sue O'Reilly (Resigned 06/12/11)

Jordan O'Reilly (Appointed 21/12/10, Resigned 06/12/11)

Laura O'Reilly (Appointed 21/12/10)

### **Board: December 2011 - present**

Nicky Ashton (Appointed 06/12/11)

Tim Moore (Appointed 06/12/11)

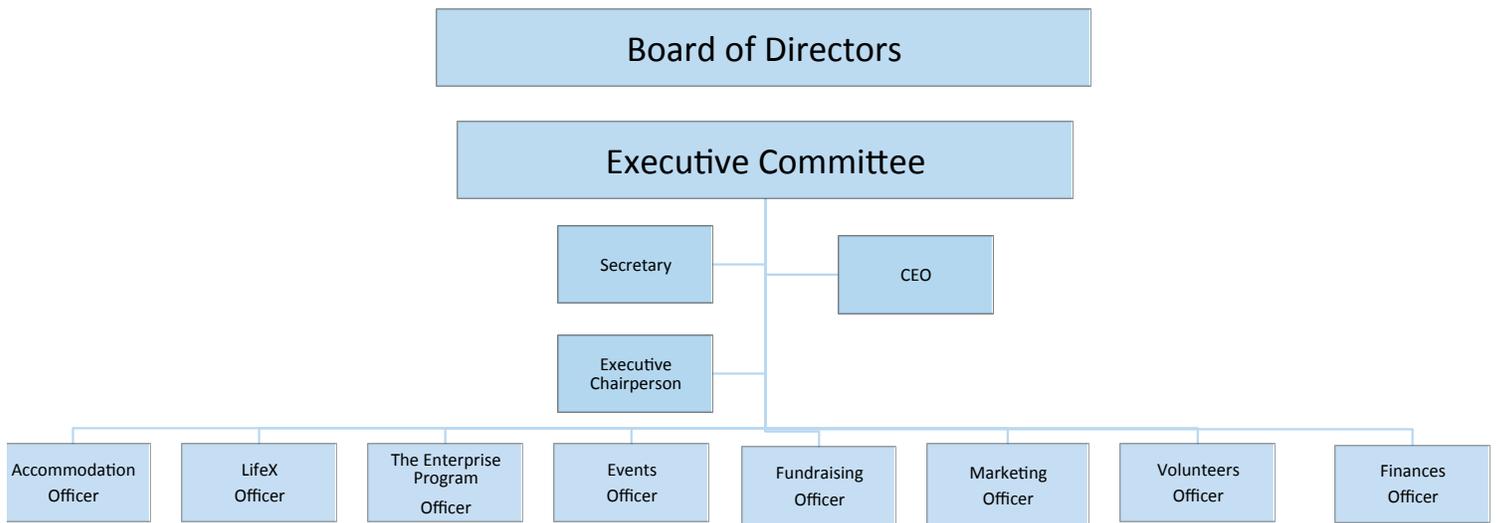
Peta Morrison (Appointed 06/12/11)

Laura O'Reilly

Justice Stephen Rothman AM (Chairman) (Appointed 10/1/12)

## 3. Organisation Structure

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## 4. CEO's Report

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2011 was a momentous year for Fighting Chance.

My brother Jordan and I took over the running of Fighting Chance in January 2011, and we began the work of building it into the organisation we knew it could be. A clarification of the charity's purpose was followed by the formulation of a new brand identity, website and management team.

In July 2011 we began searching for premises to house our employment venture. We signed the lease on a property in Brookvale and quickly transformed it into a working office. Donations of computers and office equipment from Atlantis and The Macquarie Foundation were gratefully received to allow us to do this.

NSW Minister for Disabilities, Andrew Constance, helped launch our employment venture in September 2011, realising a commitment we had made to stakeholders the previous year that we would establish such a project, and marking a turning point for Fighting Chance. The next step was making it work.

The latter months of 2011 were spent bedding down the project and welcoming 10 new disabled interns into the project. We have also laid the seeds for three exciting business ideas which we hope to develop in 2012.

In addition to building the projects, the Fighting Chance team spent a month in 2011 working with KPMG to review our operational and governance structures, and to begin building our long-term strategic plan. The consultation process was very worthwhile for the whole team and has allowed us to lay firm foundations for future growth.

Fighting Chance maintains best practice transparency which is the foundation stone upon which the next decades of Fighting Chance's success can be built.

In addition to refining the charity's structures and establishing our employment project, we also used 2011 to begin raising some money. Although we focused on service delivery and structural concerns in 2011, with fundraising taking a back seat, we

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nonetheless managed to raise more than \$220,000 last year. Our two big events – the annual dinner and trivia night – brought in profits in the region of \$33,000. The in kind donations from our friends at the Macquarie Foundation and Atlantis, grants from Warringah and Manly Councils, a large donation from MAY Day, and smaller individual donations from our supporters, all provided a solid monetary basis upon which to do our work.

In summary, 2011 was a hugely exciting year for Fighting Chance, in which significant progress was made. The year was about transition and we look forward to the future with great optimism, knowing that this was the year in which we positioned ourselves for continued growth and impact.

Finally, we at Fighting Chance would like to thank the departing Foundation Board for their hard work in the previous year, and at the same time welcome the incoming Board.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L O'Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura O'Reilly

CEO

## 5. Finance Officer's Report

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It is with pleasure that I present the Finance Officer's report for Fighting Chance for the financial year ended 30 November 2011.

Fighting Chance generated a surplus of \$45,266 (2010: \$92,513) for the financial year.

The charity raised \$221,450, with 48.7% of this being generated through donations and 45.2% generated through specific fundraising events.

The charity spent \$176,184 during the year, of which 41.3% related to the provision of disability services, 2.9% related to administration, 10.4% related to awareness campaigns and 37.6% related to fundraising costs.

An additional, \$20,630 was invested into Fighting Chance's Enterprise Program in the form of donated furniture, computers and equipment. Fighting Chance is grateful to The Macquarie Foundation and Atlantis for their kind support. This sum makes up 46% of the \$45,266 surplus generated in the period.

It also means that the total investment in disability services for the year is 54.2% of total expenditure, when in-kind donations are factored in.

Fighting Chance ended the year with cash and cash equivalents of \$96,856 (2010: \$92,513) and retained earnings of \$137,779 (2010:\$92,513).

## 6. Program Reports

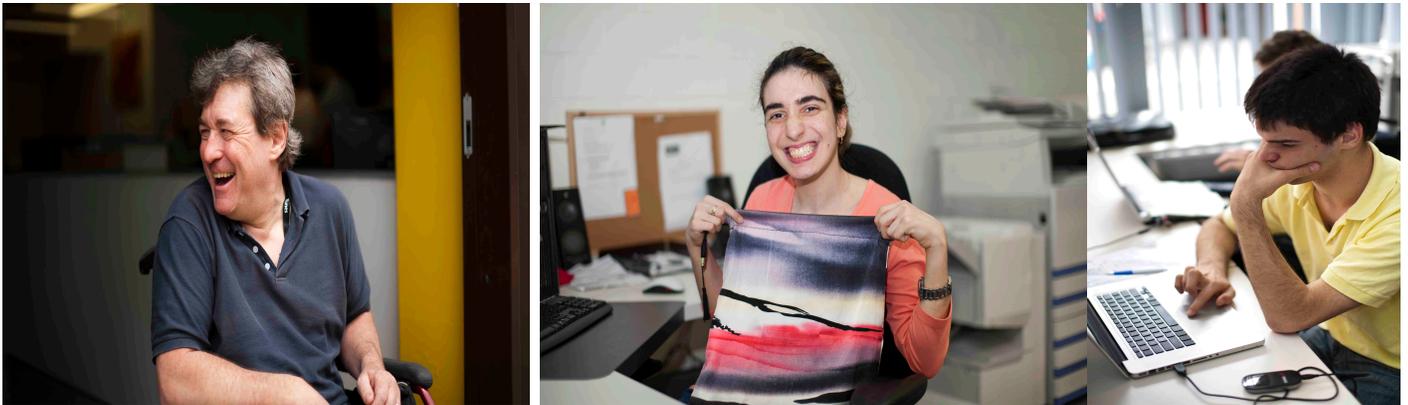
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### The Enterprise Program

On Monday 12 September 2011, Fighting Chance launched its first program – an employment project for people with physical disabilities called The Enterprise Program (formerly The Kairos Project).

The program was opened by NSW Minister for Disabilities, Andrew Constance, Warringah Council Mayor, Michael Regan and Manly Council Mayor, Jean Hay.

The program was established in our newly hired offices on Old Pittwater Road, Brookvale and aims to build social enterprise businesses which will create employment opportunities for people with physical disabilities.



We started the program with just one employee, Mark Wadsworth, but by the end of the year this had grown to a staff of 10 disabled employees. We hope to significantly expand this number in 2011/12.

Several employment projects have been initiated since our doors opened in September, including *CloudCare* and *Shags*. Ideas have also been initiated around the sale of art produced by our staff, and we have begun the planning for a support service for people with intellectual disabilities, with backing from Slater and Gordon Lawyers.

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The end of 2011 saw the laying of the seeds of these business ideas, which we will continue to grow in 2011/2012.



## LifeX



In 2011 we launched our LifeX program, which is designed to give people with physical disabilities access to fulfilling life experiences and social interaction with peers their age.

The program was launched by Fighting Chance supporters Sam

Carson and Peter Susau, who climbed Mt Kosciuszko in October to find a wheelchair accessible route to the top, in preparation for a FC expedition next year.

Poppy Malone and Jess Drysdale lead the team's planning as we head into 2012.

## Accommodation

In August of this year, Fighting Chance kicked off its accommodation program by hosting a conference on accommodation options for people with disabilities entitled *Accommodation Models for People with Disabilities: The past, the present and the future*. Presentations were given by academics, including Prof. Christine Bigby, Prof. Roger Stancliffe, as well as Belinda Epstein-Frish, David Holst, Max Jackson, representatives from *Young Care*, *CLP* and *RASAIID*. Panel discussions were hosted by Disability Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Graham Innes and Robbie Williams of *Julia Farr*.

We also established a working panel which will spend 2011 and 2012 building our accommodation vision, under the leadership of Fighting Chance's Lachlan Bursle. The team we have assembled includes parents, building industry representatives and industry professionals with experience in Occupational Therapy of respite care provision.



## 7. Events Report

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### **Trivia Night**

The Trivia Night was held in August this year at Cabana Bar in St. Leonard's, and was a huge success. Over 200 people turned out to play some trivia and support Fighting Chance.

An excess of \$5,000 was raised by entrance and sale of raffle tickets.

The event was so successful, that it will be repeated annually.



### **Annual Dinner**

Our annual dinner was held in October this year at the Westin Hotel in Martin Place.

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The event was attended by nearly 500 guests and entertainment was provided by James Valentine, Julia Morris and Anthony Ackroyd, among others. Speeches were given by Bill Moss AM, the Hon. Pru Goward MP, and CEO Laura O'Reilly.

The event raised \$25,000, from ticket sales, the silent auction and the raffle.



## 8. A massive thank you

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Fighting Chance would like to thank all of the organisations and individuals who have supported our work over the past year and made our extraordinary progress possible.

Firstly, we would like to thank the members of our Executive who gave up a huge amount of time over the course of the year to keep us running. We are so grateful to each one of you for everything you do.

Secondly, we would like to thank the numerous supporters of Fighting Chance, who help out where they can and come to our events.

We would like to say a special thank you to the following organisations and individuals, who have donated significant time and resources to our cause:

Atlantis  
Cerebral Palsy Alliance, and particularly Louise McCormack  
Dave Sutton  
Grant Thornton  
Geoff Wilson and the team at KPMG  
Manly Council  
MAY Day Foundation  
The Mockler family  
Nikki Ashton  
SEDs, and in particular Sue Werner  
Sparke Helmore  
The Macquarie Foundation  
Warringah Council

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to each individual who has donated to Fighting Chance over the course of the last year. You have made our work possible.

## 9. Financial Statement

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