

Educate, Advocate and Celebrate

A Business Action Plan for 2008/09 and Beyond



AAFCD

**Australian Association for Families
of Children with a Disability (AAFCD)**



**Australian Association for
Families of Children with a Disability
Suite 2, 98 Morang Road
Hawthorn VIC 3122**

Phone: 1800 222 660

Fax: 03 9818 1999

Email: mail@aafcd.org.au

Web: www.aafcd.org.au

Auspiced by the Association for Children with a Disability Inc. ABN 39 835 407 788.

Our Association is a registered charity and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

The generosity of our members and community supporters in providing donations is a key factor in the strength of our organisation. If you, or others you know, are in a position to make a donation, it will be sincerely appreciated.

December 2008

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Strength together

Families of children with a disability across Australia include a diverse range of people with a wide variety of life experiences and skills.

We share a common bond, yet we are all unique. When we join together we are a strong force.

By becoming involved as an active member of AAFCD you will be supporting families of children with a disability throughout Australia and adding strength to our national voice.

Membership is FREE for families of children with a disability, including families with older children.

For more information about getting involved and the benefits of AAFCD membership, visit www.aafcd.org.au or phone 1800 222 660 (freecall from a land-line anywhere in Australia).

Note: Service providers, organisations and interested persons are welcome to join and enjoy the benefits of AAFCD membership for an annual fee of \$20 (GST Inc).

Introduction

This Business Action Plan for AAFCD combines specific planning and activities for the 2008/09 financial year with a long-term vision for AAFCD's development in future years.

Families and public policy

Our core business is to give families of children with a disability opportunities to voice their experiences and ideas to public policy-makers at the national level and to influence decisions made by the Australian Government.

Our strength is the passion and energy of parents of children with a disability. Other family members, including grandparents and siblings, are also major contributors to our overall family perspective on disability.

Telling it like it is

Our membership across Australia lives the family experiences of disability. We aim to make sure these experiences are known to, and understood by, key national decision-makers. People making decisions that affect families of children with a disability need detailed knowledge about real-life family experiences of disability.

The challenges ahead

Our challenges for 2008/09 and beyond include:

1. Being more influential in shaping public policy outcomes at the national level

We aim to contribute to positive policy changes that provide real benefits for families of children with a disability in towns, suburbs and remote and rural areas across Australia.

2. Building a solid financial and organisational base for the future

For AAFCD to grow stronger as a national voice for families of children with a disability in the future, we need additional income and a broader base of support from government, business and the community.

3. Independence

We aim to achieve incorporation and become established as an independent legal entity.



We make no apologies for our tell-it-like-it-is approach. People making decisions that affect families of children with a disability need detailed knowledge about real-life family experiences of disability.

About AAFCD



While we are focussed on families of children with a disability aged 0-17 years, we also take a strong interest in issues for young adults aged 18+ and their families.

The Australian Association for Families of Children with a Disability (AAFCD) is a national organisation representing families of children with a disability. We are a non-profit, community organisation run by families for all families who have a child with any type of disability.

Aims

The aims of AAFCD are to provide children with a disability with the opportunity to live meaningful and fulfilling lives within safe, supportive and appropriate environments.

AAFCD acknowledges the critical role that families play in providing the necessary care and support to children with a disability and recognises their need to be supported in this role.

AAFCD will achieve these aims by:

1. **Educating** national public policy-makers and the broader community about the needs of children with a disability and their families.
2. **Advocating** on behalf of children with disability to ensure individual choices and the best possible support and services are available to them from government and the community.
3. **Informing** families about the rights and entitlements of the child with a disability to services and support.
4. **Celebrating** the successes and achievements of children with a disability.

Guiding principles

The establishment of AAFCD as an independent national peak body will be guided by the following principles:

Children the priority

That the safety and well-being of children with a disability is paramount and consistent with Australia's obligations under the international Convention on the Rights of the Child and the international Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Respect

For the views and interests of children with disability and their families.

Recognition

For contributions made by families to ensure the safety and well-being of children with a disability.

Inclusion

To ensure that children with all types of disability, from all cultural and religious backgrounds and from different family structures, are supported by the work of AAFCD.

Responsiveness

To ensure that full advantage is taken of strategic opportunities that arise from the political and social policy environment that benefit children with a disability.

Strategic directions



We will be louder, clearer, more visible and more effective in our public policy advocacy to decision-makers at the national level.

The strategic directions which underpin our Plan are:

Advocacy loud and clear

We will be loud, clear, visible and effective in our public policy advocacy to decision-makers at the national level.

Community awareness

We will extend the effectiveness of our community awareness work through astute use of opportunities in the media.

Collaboration

We will build stronger collaborative relationships with other organisations and networks that are working to improve services and support for families of children and young adults with a disability.

Community and business

We will think and act creatively to harness the goodwill in the community and business sectors towards families of children with a disability.

Information for families

We will work with government and community organisations to promote better access to information about new policies and programs for families of children with a disability.

Celebrating achievements

At the family, community and national level, we will encourage celebration of the achievements and successes of children with a disability.

Consolidation

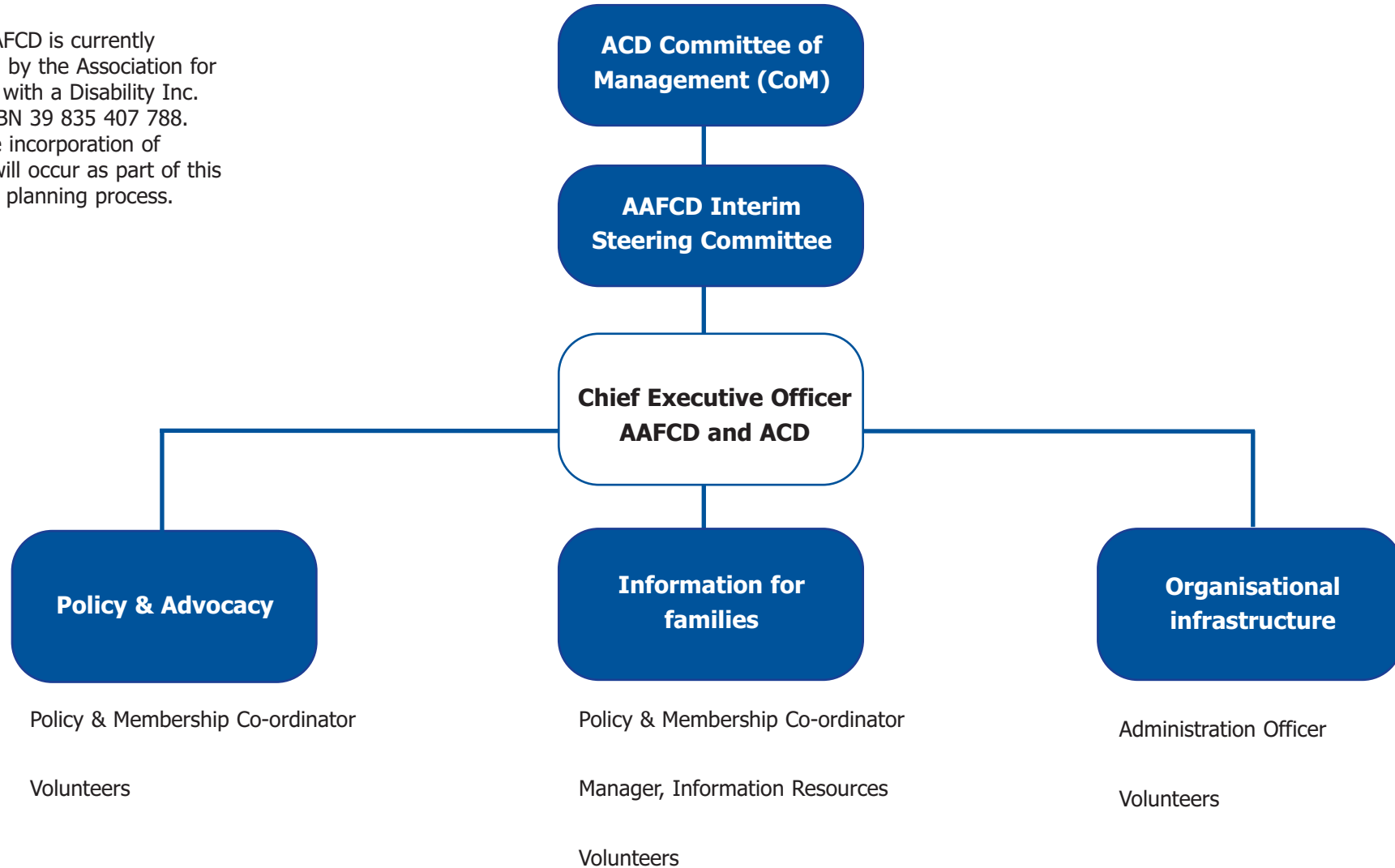
We will continue to strengthen our grass-roots membership base of families and community supporters by establishing ourselves as an independent national company, limited by guarantee.

Financial planning

We will manage AAFCD finances efficiently and effectively and seek to financially secure our Association into the future

Organisational chart

Note: AAFCD is currently
auspiced by the Association for
Children with a Disability Inc.
(ACD) ABN 39 835 407 788.
Separate incorporation of
AAFCD will occur as part of this
business planning process.



1. Policy Development

Key Result Area for 08/09	Deliverables	Performance Indicators
<p>Policy Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide advice to the Australian Government on policy and service delivery issues for children with a disability in at least three priority areas to be identified by AAFCD and negotiated with FaHCSIA. ● Provide advice to the Australian Government in response to the findings of the House Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth Inquiry into Better Support for Carers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Advice is factual and well researched. ii. Advice is informed by AAFCD's individual and organisational membership. iii. Advice is strategic and demonstrates an understanding of government's key priorities and broader policy directions to maximise the potential to influence decision-making. iv. Positive feedback is received by FaHCSIA and other relevant stakeholders about the quality and timeliness of advice.

2. Information Provision

Key Result Area for 08/09	Deliverables	Performance Indicators
<p>Information Provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Publish two editions of the AAFCD Family Voice magazine. ● Finalise and maintain AAFCD website including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uploading policy advice provided to government by AAFCD. - Providing opportunities to post issues for AAFCD to consider through an on-line feedback mechanism. - Providing opportunities for families to share success and celebrate their successes and achievements. ● AAFCD contributes to at least one publication of Families Australia, Carers Australia, the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations and National Disability Services. 	<p>AAFCD electronic and hard copy documents contain up to date and accessible information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. key issues for children with a disability and their families. ii. the activities of the organisation. iii. information about relevant FaHCSIA funded initiatives and services.

3. Profile Raising & Relationship Building

Key Result Area for 08/09	Deliverables	Performance Indicators
<p>Profile Raising & Relationship Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AAFCD staff and FaHCSIA contract managers meet on a quarterly basis with at least one meeting being face-to-face (remainder to take place via teleconference). ● AAFCD identifies key government, non-government (including national peaks and state / territory organisations) and private sector organisations that can support the work of AAFCD. ● AAFCD to develop and distribute an information pack to the key partners identified above to raise awareness about the work of AAFCD. ● AAFCD meets at least once with national peak bodies from the children’s, disability, carer and family support sectors to begin building collaborative links. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Regular and effective communication takes place to ensure effective management of AAFCD’s funding relationship with FaHCSIA. ii. The role of AAFCD is well promoted within the children’s, disability, carer and family support sectors. iii. AAFCD begins to build and maintain collaborative relationships with key non-government partners in the children’s, disability, carer and family support sectors.

4. Governance

Key Result Area for 08/09	Deliverables	Performance Indicators
<p>Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Publication of AAFCD 2010 Strategic Directions framework and 2009 Business Action Plan. ● Steering Committee convened to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop the 2008-09 AAFCD Business Action Plan. - Oversee the implementation of the 2009 AAFCD Business Action Plan and provide staff with advice and input on key issues. - Provide a national perspective to the work of AAFCD. - Begin developing the necessary governance arrangements that will assist the inaugural Board of Directors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 2011 Strategic Directions framework supports the decision-making processes of the Steering Committee and inaugural Board of Directors. ii. 2009 Business Plan is achievable and meets the requirements of AAFCD's funding body. iii. Steering Committee has a clear understanding of its role and meets its Terms of Reference.

Governance continued ...

Key Result Area for 08/09	Deliverables	Performance Indicators
<p>Governance continued ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AAFCD is incorporated as a 'Company Limited by Guarantee' and registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). ● AAFCD begins to develop protocols for independent financial management and reporting. ● AAFCD begins to re-design its existing membership database. AAFCD begins to develop a membership renewal process and revised membership fee structure for associate members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. AAFCD's Constitution provides for membership and decision-making structures consistent with the organisation's Aims and Guiding Principles. v. AAFCD's constitution and application for incorporation is accepted by ASIC. vi. Appropriate financial controls exist to support accurate financial and activity reporting. vii. AAFCD expenditure in 2008-09 can be used as an evidence base to determine an appropriate amount of future secretariat funding. viii. AAFCD membership provides a modest income stream. ix. AAFCD membership database allows for improved data collection. x. AAFCD is better able to engage with its members and core constituents.

Your feedback and involvement

Your feedback

Your feedback on this Business Action Plan or any other aspect of our work is most welcome at any time.

Please address all correspondence to:

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Suite 2, 98 Morang Road
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Phone: 1800 222 660

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Email: mail@aafcd.org.au

Your ideas and involvement

AAFCD relies on the involvement and support of a wide range of people and organisations.

If you would like to contribute to our efforts to assist families of children with a disability across Australia, we'd love to hear from you!



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