

ANNUAL

Impact Report



Financial Year 2019-2020

SUPPORTERS



MAJOR SUPPORTERS

ANGGATHA PTY LTD
Aranda Primary School
Betty Radford Discretionary Trust
Butterfly Connection
Carey Baptist Grammar School
Gremmo Homes
Heidelberg Primary Schoolr
IVE Group VIC P/L
Jean Thyne Hedges
Jenny & John Marty
Kenny Stephens
Lachie Albert
Mary Woods
Norwex Australia
Paul Sadler Swim School
Ravenswood Hotel
The Elms Fundraising Event
Thelma Carr Foundation
Todd Family
Toombul Bowls Club
Vanessa Jones

MEDIA PARTNERS

Ruby Agency

VISION

VISION

A world where no one suffers from the painful genetic skin condition Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB).

MISSION

To ensure that people living with EB have access to the best quality support and medical care, whilst also driving the effective development of treatments and cure for EB. To raise awareness and understanding of EB amongst health professionals and the general public within Australia.

AIMS

- » DEBRA aims to improve the lives of children and adults living with EB by providing necessary support services, home aids and information to individuals and their families.
- » DEBRA aims to deliver programs to support and educate families living with EB, health professionals, communities and the general public.
- » DEBRA strives to ensure that all EB families across Australia have access to specialised EB care services within hospitals and the community.
- » DEBRA will support and facilitate opportunities for EB research with the aim of finding approaches to curing and developing symptomatic therapies for EB.
- » DEBRA Australia contributes to and supports the activities of DEBRA International.
- » DEBRA aims to establish positive and sustainable partnerships to support our mission.

VALUES

Focused

DEBRA is an individual and family-focused, EB service organisation

Compassionate

DEBRA supports EB families with compassion, respect and empathy

Ethical

DEBRA is a professional, responsible, honest and ethical organisation

Accountable

DEBRA is accountable to its members and to the wider community

Collaborative

DEBRA builds partnerships and networks to collaborate with stakeholders and the wider community

Impactful

DEBRA seeks to achieve positive impacts on behalf of the EB community.

WORDS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

“It’s an absolute privilege to gain their trust and have EB individuals and families confide in me by sharing their fears, tears, highs and lows of living with this incredibly sad, challenging and debilitating disease.”
Simone Baird
DEBRA Family Support Coordinator

“I have learnt to realise that my condition is just a part of my story - it doesn’t define me”
Bianca Saunders
EB Individual

“As for EB, I’d like to say...it’s only skin. It won’t stop me from being the best person I can be, now and in the future.”
Ghadir
EB Individual

“What I have learnt from being a brother of two siblings with EB is that these people are resilient. Nothing gets in their way and they keep on pushing the best they can. EB doesn’t define them”
Joel Bevilacqua
DEBRA Ambassador

“The thing is, people need to know I will push through the pain. If I want something, I’ll just do it and try to have fun along the way. I want to show people that despite what they think they see, I am strong.”
Connor Fitzpatrick
EB Individual

“I once watched a medical show that showed the day to day life of a couple of children with EB. It focused on the dreaded removal of bandages, and I have never forgotten. Still now, it pops into my head. That’s why I knew I had to do something to raise funds for DEBRA”
Skye Lyons
DEBRA Supporter

“It is truly heartbreaking when your child asks you if his skin will get better.”
Kimberley Miller
Mum of EB child Hayden

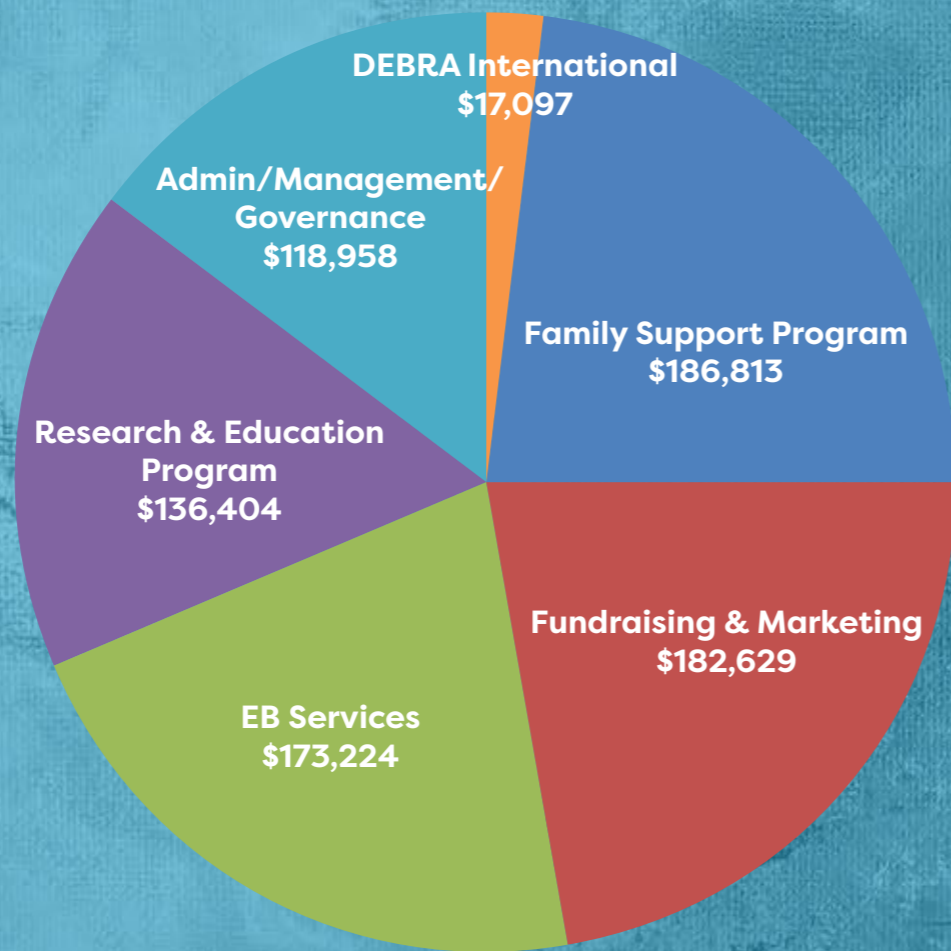
“When I was born, I was given a life expectancy of five. I’ve now just turned 40. In those 40 years I’ve lived with extreme chronic wounds. Wounds that I have no memory of ever not having.”
Dean Clifford
EB Individual & DEBRA Ambassador

“I had genetic testing when I was 6 years old. Back then, they only had two confirmed genes they could test for EB sufferers. Now, at the age of 26 I am having further genetic testing and they can test 27 confirmed gene changes thanks to medical research, which has come leaps and bounds in 20 years.”
Rena Wood

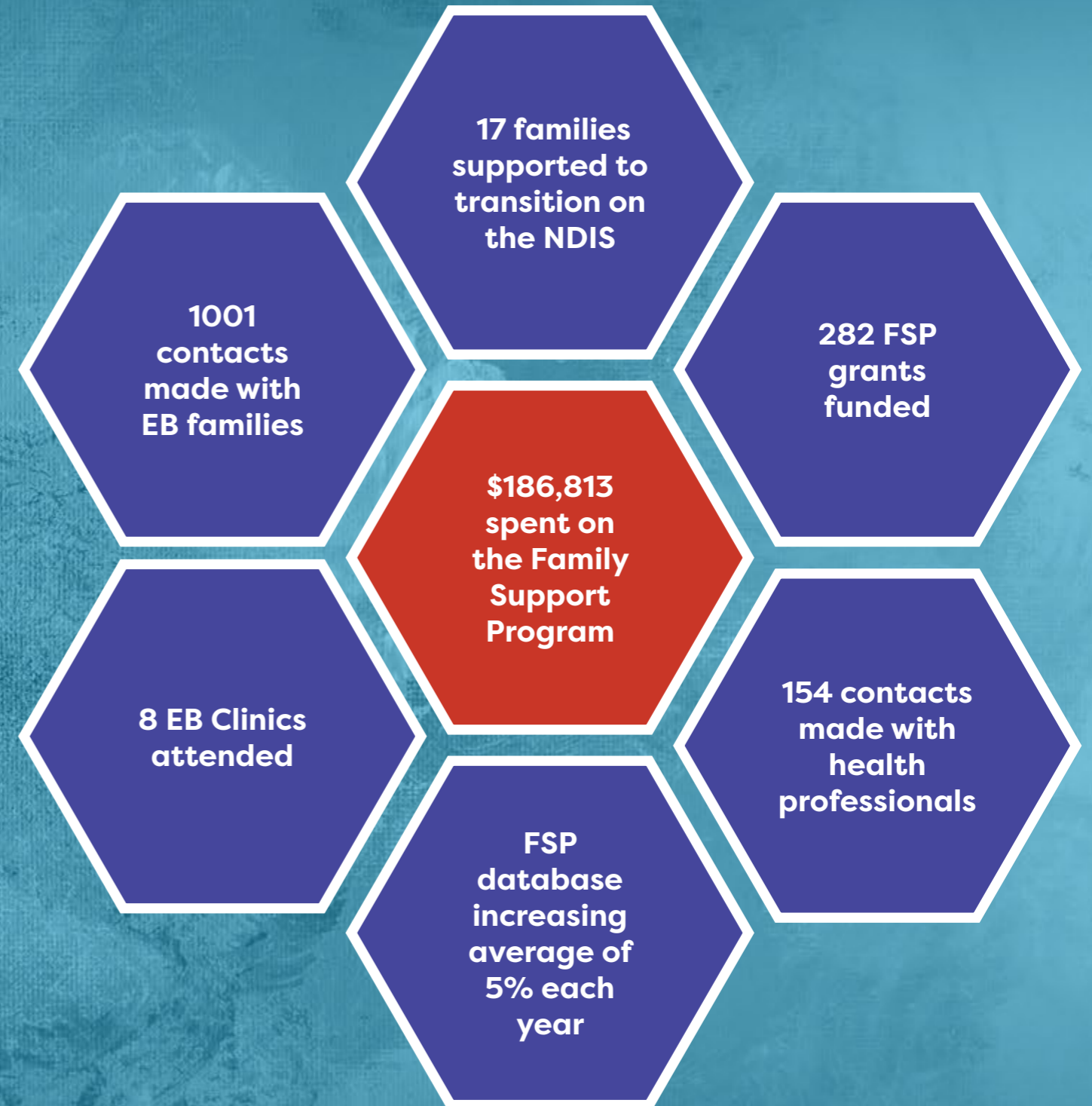
“She is very resilient. She takes it on so well. She goes through life daily with a smile on her face. She still goes to daycare and has friends and plays and carries on like a normal child.”
Alarna Gordon
Mum of EB child Alexis

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE

**TOTAL PROGRAM SPEND:
\$815,125**



TOGETHER THIS IS THE IMPACT WE MADE TO THE LIVES OF FAMILIES LIVING WITH EB VIA THE FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO COLLECTIVELY CONTRIBUTED OVER 1785 HOURS IN 2019/20

CHAIR'S REPORT

Well, this has been an interesting year with the challenges thrown at us by the Covid-19 pandemic occupying a lot of our time. Still I am pleased to report that DEBRA is surviving very well and continuing to deliver its services, although sometimes in a modified manner. For example most of our Counselling program has been delivered via telehealth since March.

We recorded a solid financial result, with a small surplus. This was greatly helped by the Australian Government's stimulus packages, including JobKeeper, and also we were lucky that a couple of our major fundraising events, Brighter Days and the Melbourne Markets Golf Day just squeezed in during March before the major COVID-19 restrictions came into effect. Due to the Board's policy of ensuring we have more than one year's operating expenses in the bank, we expect to be able to continue to operate satisfactorily in the coming year.

However there are considerable uncertainties about whether various fundraising events will be able to go ahead and we are expecting reduced income for 20/21. We are hopeful that we will still qualify for the JobKeeper subsidy but have to wait for the final figures for the first quarter of this financial year before we can be certain. We are intending to continue our major services as before and are being as careful as we can with our expenses, but it is likely that we will post a deficit in this new financial year.

We are hoping to hold our 7th family conference in Melbourne next year, but the timing is fluid at present while we wait to see whether borders open and travel restrictions are relaxed in the next few months. We believe it is worth waiting till we can have a national face-to-face meeting to maximise opportunities for networking for parents and children.

Our fallback position is to have some individual state get together if a national meeting is not possible. Unfortunately we had to postpone a planned Health Professionals' education day until next year but are continuing to distribute pertinent information electronically.

Several staff and Board members attended the EB World Congress in London in January 2020. This was a great opportunity to hear about the activities of other DEBRA organisations as well as the latest research. There are several promising leads being investigated for both symptomatic relief as well as gene correction approaches for different types of EB. The landscape of treatment options appears set to start changing in the next five years, so we are keenly awaiting the results of the current trials and will keep you updated via our newsletter.

Our EB nurse and psychology programs are funded by a grant from Future Generation Australia (ASX: FGX) which is Australia's first listed company with the dual purpose of generating a social and financial benefit. We are extremely grateful to Future Generation Australia and their shareholders for their generous support which amounted to over \$250,000 this year. It has been indicated that this level of funding is likely to continue, which is good news.

Whilst I'm not able to mention all our major donors in this short review, we are particularly grateful to the Brighter Days Foundation, Melbourne Markets Golf Day & the Eliza Braitling Foundation for their continued support. I would also like to give a special mention to Kenny Stephens, 87 years young, who paddled his kayak on the Murray River for over 2,000km raising over \$6,000 and much needed awareness for DEBRA.

You can read all about the assistance that DEBRA gives our EB community in the reports you've received from each of our committees, so I will not go into a lot of detail here. Overall, over 60% of our expenditure goes to our various support programs.

The Board has recently decided to assist podiatrist Tariq Khan to improve access to podiatry services for young people and adults in NSW. This may be of particular benefit to those with EB simplex who often experience troublesome foot problems. More details about this will be announced in the next few months. Also, on-line chat sessions for young people with EB are being set up with the help of Kids Helpline, and two of our ambassadors, Matt Bevilacqua and Dean Clifford are training to be moderators.

Our staff continue to go “above and beyond” to assist our EB community. Enormous thanks go to General Manager Lise Angus and her staff, including Simone Baird, our dedicated and caring National Family Support Coordinator and Sue McKenna our capable and dedicated Executive Coordinator. Bianca Ciccia, our Fundraising and Marketing Manager, is currently on parental leave and we have welcomed Claudia Brooks as her contract replacement.

Our Board continues to make an excellent contribution to steering DEBRA though these troublesome times and I thank all of them for their insights and advice. Finally, we could not achieve what we do without fantastic support from our volunteers, and I would like to finish by thanking them all on your behalf.

JENNIFER MARTY
CHAIR, DEBRA AUSTRALIA



DEBRA Australia Chair, Jenny Marty, with the DEBRA Australia team at the DEBRA International Conference in London.

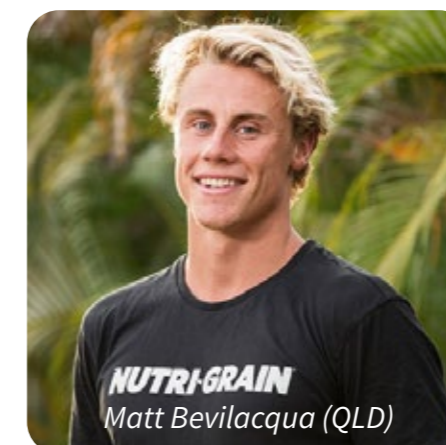
DEBRA AUSTRALIA TEAM

All directors, committee and subcommittee members are voluntary positions

Directors	Staff / Contractors
Jennifer Marty (NSW) (Chair)	Lise Angus (NSW)
Mary Woods (NSW) (Deputy Chair)	Simone Baird (VIC)
Zlatko Kopecki (SA)	Bianca Ciccia (NSW)
Judith Davis (SA)	Sue McKenna (QLD)
Melinda Oxford (VIC)	Joanne Sturgess (QLD)
Tina Segulin (VIC)	Claudia Brooks (NSW)
Belinda James (VIC)	Scott Macfarlane (QLD)

And Committee Members located around Australia.

AMBASSADORS



FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

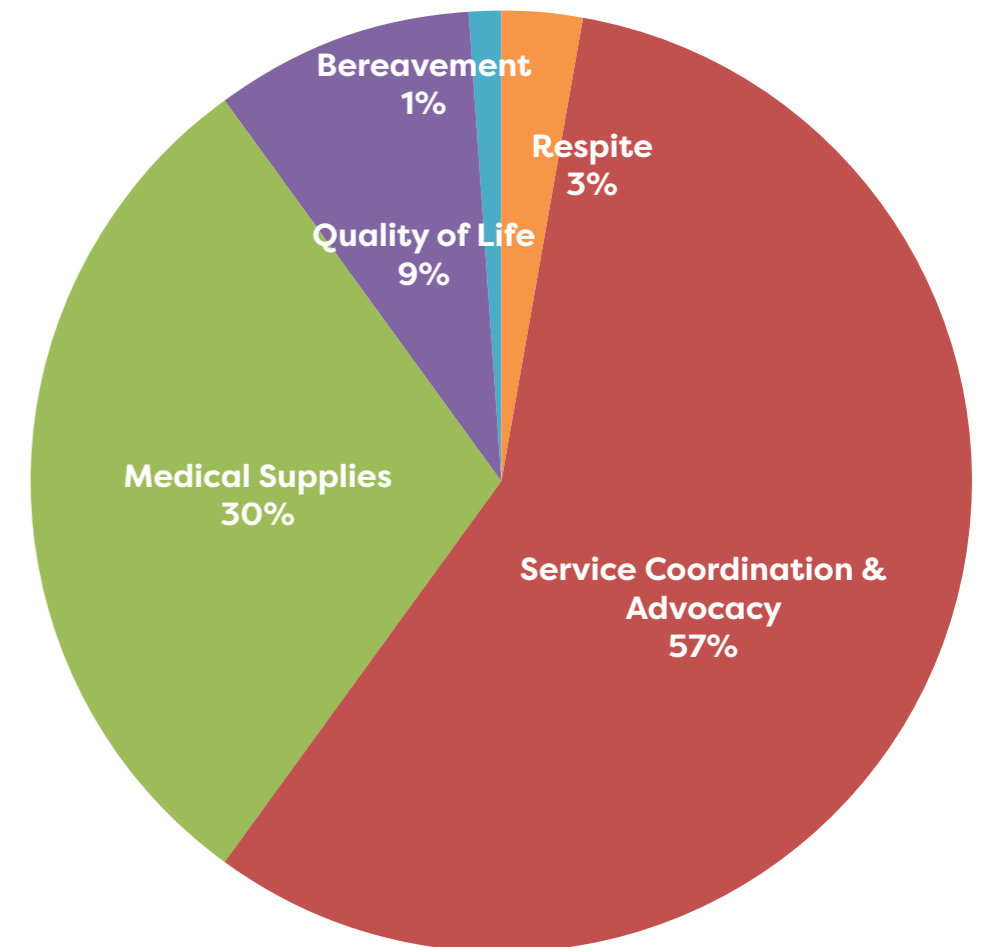
FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Family Support Program received 282 applications during the 2019/2020 financial year for assistance with various EB related items, which is an increase of 50 applications compared to last year. Some examples of support given include:

- The purchase of iPads to lessen the burden of writing and assisting children with home schooling.
- Many families have also been supported with medical item purchases that are not accessible via the EB Dressing Scheme or via NDIS funding.
- Some families have also been given financial support with the purchase and installation of air conditioning units and part funding of electrical bills during summer months when air conditioning is essential.
- Ten mums of severe EB children attended the annual respite weekend away for some much needed rest and relaxation.
- Ongoing networking and connecting families with relevant health professionals is also a vital part of the program.



Family Support Coordinator, Simone Baird, at an EB Clinic in SA



FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM



Simone with EB patient, Nikki



EB Baby Kylan



Mum's respite week in Byron Bay, 2019

EB GRANTS

The following grants were established to help support individuals living with EB to improve their quality of life.

The Follow Your Dreams annual grant (which closes each year on the 31st May) commenced in 2009 in memory of Carmel Harris from Perth. The Kate Turner Fund was established in 2013 in memory of Kate Turner from Adelaide.

Both Carmel and Kate were great supporters of DEBRA and always flying the EB banner. Their legacy now lives on helping others living with EB via the grant programs and their supporting families and friends.

More information on the grant applications processes and prior successful recipients can be seen via debra.org.au/kate-turner-fund and debra.org.au/follow-your-dreams.

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS GRANT

The successful 2020 grant recipient is Marrie whose dream is to go on a cruise ship holiday off the Qld coast. \$1,170 has been allocated from the grant and along with some other outside funding Marrie's dream will one day come true.

Dean was the successful recipient for 2019 and got to go on a trip of a life time in November 2019 to have his 40th birthday party in Las Vegas. The holiday was a huge success and a major milestone for Dean and his family and friends.

KATE TURNER FUND

One grant was awarded in 2019 to Kerrie, from NSW to help with her mobility. The grant allowed for a motorised wheelchair to be purchased which has greatly improved Kerrie's quality of life and Independence.



2019 Follow Your Dreams recipient, Dean Clifford, in Las Vegas

HOSPITAL BASED EB NURSES

This Year DEBRA has facilitated nurse positions at three hospitals: St George Sydney, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and The Royal Melbourne Hospital, with support from the Future Generation Australia. The possibility of funding an adult nurse in Brisbane is still under investigation. We hope to make more progress when COVID-19 restrictions relax. We have assumed in our 2020/21 budget that this position will not be implemented till mid-2021.

Several Australian EB nurses were able to attend the EB World Congress in London in January 2020 which enabled them to enhance their professional knowledge and develop new contacts. All the EB nurses work hard to make a difference for our families and we are grateful for their support.

IN HOME EB CARE

A lot of our families are now being supported via the NDIS for in home nursing or support workers. During the year DEBRA has coordinated home care for 7 families. On average we have funded 44 hours care each week. Some families decided to suspend their care visits during the COVID-19 pandemic and will return to using in home nurses when restrictions ease. As of August 2020, we are supporting 3 families under this program. Funding assistance has been given by the Eliza Braitling Foundation and the Future Generation Australia Fund.

EB DRESSING SCHEME

Communication regarding the EB Dressing Scheme has continued with Independence Australia and the Commonwealth Department of Health. We have continued to advocate for the establishment of a transparent, defined process for proposing changes to the list of dressings available under the scheme and in December 2019 we made a submission to add two high priority dressings to the scheme which DEBRA has been funding for needy patients.

In late July we were advised that a process for adding new products to the Schedule has been determined. The Department, via the NEBDS Administrator, hopes to be able to communicate to all NEBDS stakeholders the process for adding new products to the NEBDS Dressing Schedule "in the near future". As of late August we have received no further communication.

NDIS

We continue to help individuals and families access NDIS support plans and also assist when existing plans are being reviewed. In the past year we have achieved some good outcomes, assisting 9 individuals with plan reviews and 2 new applications.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

A short survey was conducted in November to evaluate the impact of the pilot counselling program which had been operating for about 15 months. The aggregated and de-identified results indicated that the majority of participants reported beneficial outcomes from the program, such as ability to cope with EB and its life challenges and improved interactions within their family unit. These findings supported continuation of the scheme in VIC and NSW and expansion to other parts of Australia. However, since the uptake had been lower than expected, some strategies will be explored to encourage greater participation.

Before starting up a service in a new state, the level of need and barriers to participation should be ascertained to help with planning and implementation. Eight people have utilised the program over the past year. The option of telehealth consultations has recently become available and may be useful in some situations. Since the COVID-19 pandemic six people have been able to access counselling via a telehealth service over the past few months. This program has generously been supported by the Future Generation Fund.

PODIATRY

The board has recently decided to work with podiatrist Tariq Khan to improve access to podiatry services for young people and adults in NSW. This may be of particular benefit to individuals with EB simplex who often experience foot problems. More details about this program will be announced in the next few months.



Podiatrist Tariq Khan and other Melbourne EB team members at the EB 2020 Congress.

From left: Dr Susan Robertson (Dermatologist, Melbourne), Blake Smith (PHD researcher with Ken Pang in Melbourne), Dr Tariq Khan (Podiatrist, Sydney), Johannes Kern (Dermatologist, Melbourne), Lauren Weston (Paediatric, transition and adult EB Nurse, Melbourne), Dr Laura Lacobaccio (Podiatrist, Melbourne)

MARKETING & FUNDRAISING

MARKETING & FUNDRAISING

The Marketing & Fundraising Committee has continued on with momentum this year despite the challenges and uncertainty COVID-19 has brought to our current fundraising landscape, and the subsequent revision of DEBRA's fundraising activities throughout 2020. Over the past 12 months, the F&M Committee has made a concerted effort to focus on four key areas: Increasing and diversifying fundraising, deepening partnerships and relationships, increasing efficiency and better use of resources, and improving statistical data for reporting and improving outcomes.

We welcomed Claudia Brooks to the team who is filling in for Bianca Ciccio while she is on maternity leave. Congratulations to Bianca, Samuel and family on their new arrival baby Hunter.

BRAND AWARENESS

This year, there has been a particularly strong focus on EB awareness. This is highlighted through various media appearances, as well as strong, story-focused content shared across social media, web and DEBRA newsletters. Significantly, DEBRA has also continued to feature amongst external organisation's newsletters, social media and websites, deepening relationships and partnerships with aligned organisations, including;

- Wounds Australia
- Australasian College of Dermatologists
- Rare Voices Australia and more.

PUBLIC RELATIONS (PR)

The last financial year saw a healthy growth in media reach, with 20 pieces focusing on DEBRA and EB individuals and families, featuring across a range of online, print and TV media outlets. Collectively, the PR efforts from this financial year would have reached over 10 million individuals - an incredible boost for EB awareness. Thank you to Kathryn and her team at Ruby Agency.

Some key PR highlights included:

- 7News Toowoomba
- Sydney Morning Herald
- Herald Sun
- Adelaide Advertiser
- Daily Mail
- SBS Australia

Our PR campaigns were a mix of EB case studies and DEBRA fundraising campaigns. For the new financial year, we have built a strategy to ensure that media coverage is based on 4 key pillars;

- DEBRA fundraising campaigns and the impact those campaigns have on EB patients
- Medical research and breakthroughs locally and internationally
- EB Case studies sharing their stories
- Reporting and improving outcomes

Over the past 12 months, we have instated several tools to improve our capacity to raise both awareness and funds for DEBRA. We successfully implemented Hootsuite, a social media management tool, enabling us to widen our audience by posting content to multiple platforms (LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook) easily and effectively. We hope to see the employment of Hootsuite driving more traffic to the DEBRA website (raising awareness) and converting a great number of individuals to donors.

Discussions are currently underway for the adoption of a NFP tailored Customer Relationship Management system, eTapestry, which would allow us to improve and simplify database processes

MARKETING & FUNDRAISING

AMBASSADORS

We've had some exciting updates in the DEBRA Ambassador program this past financial year. Notably, we have taken great strides in transforming the program by honing in on each ambassador's key areas of interest, skill-sets and strengths, and leveraging these for both marketing & fundraising purposes. Highlights from the ambassador program for this year include:

- Joel Bevilacqua, a Bondi Rescue Lifeguard, High School English teacher (and brother to fellow DEBRA Ambassador, Matt Bevilacqua!) came on board as a new Sydney Ambassador in 2020 to help with networking and our NSW Ambassador program.
- Matt Bevilacqua attended the "Gold Coast Roadshow", representing DEBRA as Ambassador and continuing to drive awareness.
- Dean Clifford presented at the Molnlycke "Lunch and Learn" event, continuing to grow and strengthen our partnership. He also attended the Future Generation Australia 5th birthday celebrations to support and thank Future Generation Australia for their ongoing commitment to DEBRA Australia and EB individuals.

Highlights from the past 12 months include:

- The Walk for Wings campaign was held across; NSW, SA, QLD & VIC. Over two weekends, nearly 600 people hit the pavement and caused a wave to raise much needed awareness and funds for DEBRA Australia in our first ever National walk for our EB community.
- The Christmas campaign 'Light up the Tree' initiative continued with great success, growing the income for year two of this Christmas giving campaign.
- PB4EB in May was again, a very successful event, engaging 25 participants and raising a total of \$12,000. Significantly, PB4EB saw the participation of 18 year old Lachie Albert (who, prior to beginning the challenge had never heard of DEBRA or EB) independently raising \$5000.

Over the past 12 months, we have made distinct efforts to increase and diversify fundraising despite the circumstances, which have unfortunately caused the postponement of Tee off for EB (which was booked for June) and the Brave Butterfly Gala. We extend our immense gratitude to Future Generation Australia for their ongoing support in funding several of our EB Services, including nursing and our new Counselling program.

As always, we are very grateful to our third party and partnership events, in particular the Brighter Days Festival and Melbourne Markets Golf Day for all their support which enables us to deliver our programs. Our community fundraisers also play an integral part in raising funds for DEBRA and we continue to grow these relationships and together make a difference to our EB individuals and families. A particular big thank you to Kenny Stephens, 87 years young, who navigated his kayak on the Murray River for nearly 2,400kms raising \$6,370 and much needed awareness.



DEBRA Ambassadors, Matt Bevilacqua & Dean Clifford



Dean, Matt & Brielle at Walk for Wings, QLD



Lisa Brains and her Walk for Wings team in Adelaide, 2019



Dean Clifford at the Molnlycke Lunch and Learn event



Dean at the Future Generation Australia 5th birthday celebrations



DEBRA Junior Ambassador, Lachie Alberts, completing his PB4EB Challenge



Brighter Days 2020



Brighter Days 2020



Kenny on his Kayak



Lisa Brains at Melbourne Market Golf Day, 2020



Brighter Days 2020

RESEARCH GRANTS

We are proud that DEBRA Australia has contributed over \$458,000 to support EB-related research in the past 8 years.

The following grants were awarded for projects to be undertaken in 2020:

- A/P Kenneth Pang (Murdoch's Children's Research Institute) was awarded \$40,000 for a project entitled "Identification of effective analgesics for DEB."
- Dr Zlatko Kopecki (University of South Australia) was awarded \$30,000 for a project entitled "A new medicated surgical hydrogel for improved healing of infected blister wounds."
- Assoc Prof Albert Mellick (Ingham Institute, University NSW) was awarded a grant of \$10,000 for a project entitled "Assessing severity and progression in EB."
- The progress of some of this work may be hampered by the impact of the COVID-19 virus in various institutions, but our researchers are endeavoring to move forward within these limitations.

TRAVEL GRANTS

Two of last year's recipients presented their research work at the EB 2020 Congress in London in January 2020. The following new grants have been awarded for 2020/21. Dates of travel may be impacted by restrictions due to the COVID-19 virus, but we are hopeful that things will relax next year.

- Ms Annaleen O'Hara, EB CNC, St George Hospital: \$3500 for travel to the UK for EB nurse training at Guys and St Thomas Hospital.
- Ms Hannelore Bodacion, Research Student: \$3500 to travel from Austria to Sydney and accommodation in Sydney to continue her research project with Assoc Professor Albert Mellick on early detection of SCC in EB, prior to starting a PhD program.

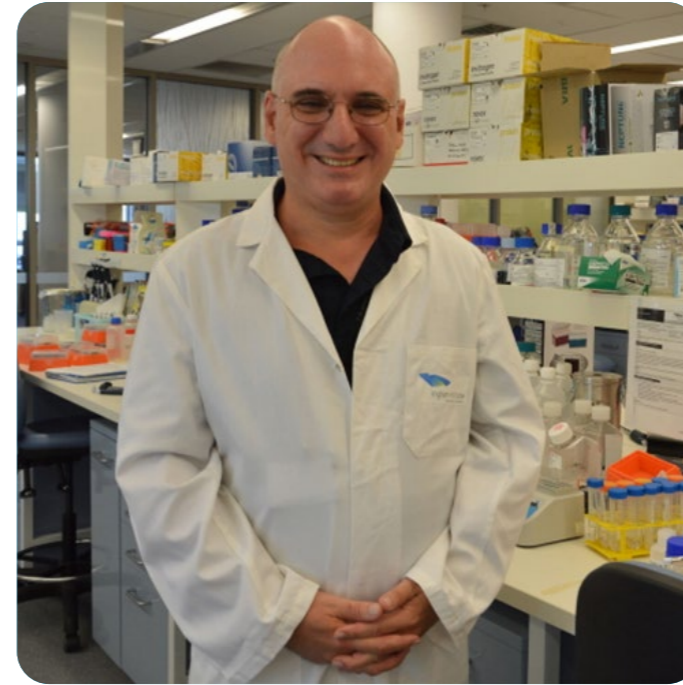
- Dr Zlatko Kopecki, Research Fellow, University of South Australia: \$1000 for travel to attend Wounds Australia Conference in November 2020 (or later if postponed).



Dr Ken Pang



Dr Zlatko Kopecki



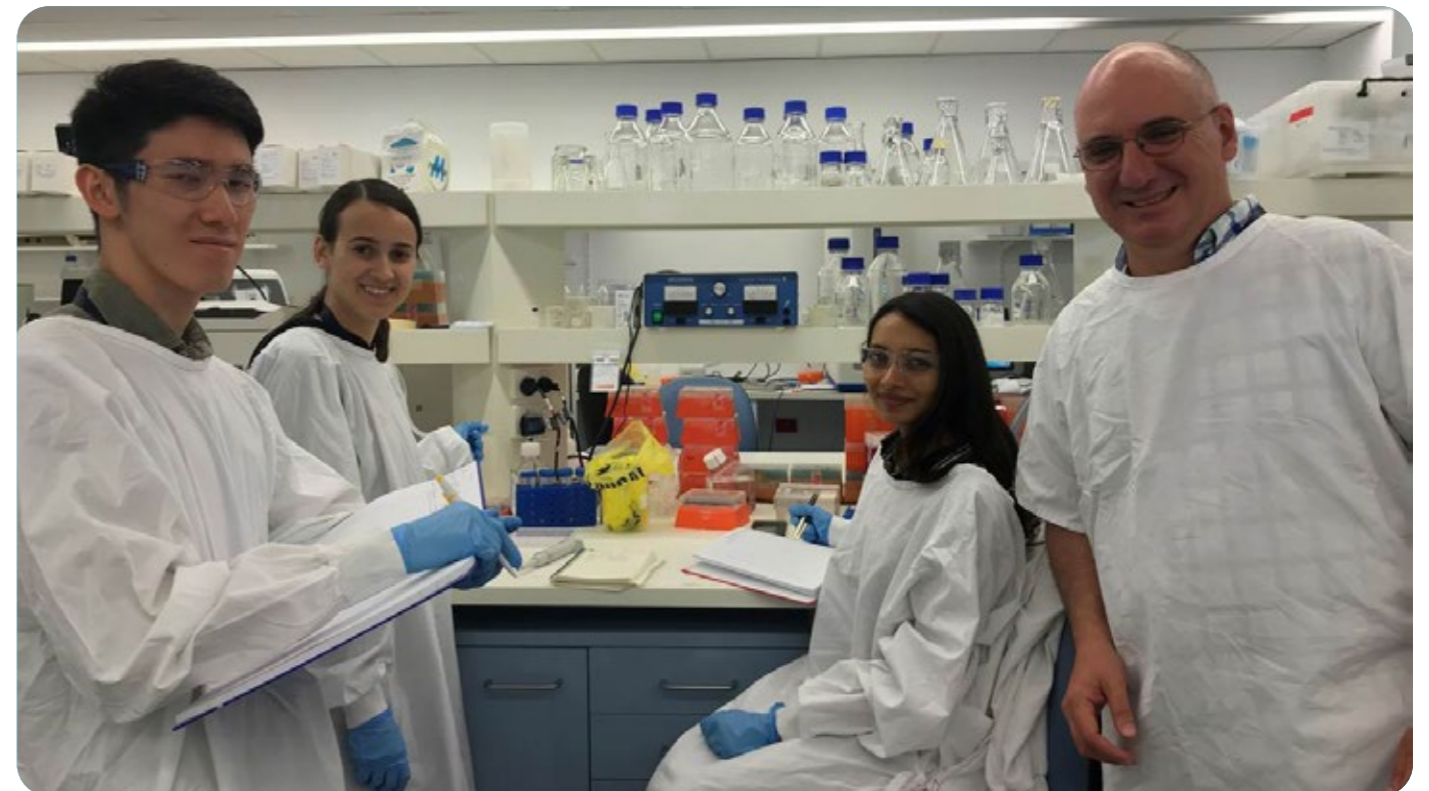
Dr Albert Mellick

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS SYMPOSIUM

A symposium planned for September 2020 was deferred due to the COVID-19 restrictions. At this stage it is hoped that the next symposium will now be held in conjunction with the 2021 Family Conference, with the date and venue dependent on developments with the pandemic.

GENE THERAPY PROGRESS

This field is moving forward with a number of therapeutic approaches moving into clinical trials. At this stage the ones most likely to be accessible in Australia in the short to medium term may be some topical products which will not require local specialised manufacturing facilities. A multi-centre, placebo-controlled, double-blinded, Phase 3 clinical study of beremagene geperpavec (“B-VEC”, previously “KB103”), a gel applied to the skin for the treatment of dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (DEB) patients, began in the USA at the end of July 2020. Plans for trialing this product in Australia have not been announced yet but we are monitoring the situation and are in contact with the company, Krystal Biotech



Dr Mellick & Researchers

DEBRA INTERNATIONAL

DEBRA INTERNATIONAL

The highlight of the past 12 months for DEBRA International (DI) included a very successful London 2020 congress in the UK held in January 2020. This was the largest ever EB congress event celebrating achievements of EB research progress and gathering of all DEBRA member countries, stakeholders, industry and patient representatives. Other highlights include our improvement in the way we operate in terms of financial reporting, Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, new website, monthly member updates and number of Clinical Practice Guidelines (CGP) that have been recently released.

DEBRA International continues to support development of new DEBRA groups globally and advocate for better support services and research, aimed at finding the cure for all EB types. Dr Zlatko Kopecki has taken on the position of Treasurer of the DI Executive Board and Dr Jenny Marty continues to be an essential member of the Governance committee. Our General Manager, Lise Angus has established important networks with other DEBRA general managers globally and DEBRA Australia remains active at international level, with the recent trip by our Family Coordinator Simone Baird to Vietnam as the EB without Border's ambassador.

This year has been challenging for all DEBRA organisations in terms of income stream shortfalls due to COVID-19 and pausing of number of clinical trials. DI continues to provide patient support through release of infographics and is developing educational webinars for patients and health professionals. Additionally, the Board has been working on a number of strategic plan items to ensure sustainability and improved fundraising and communications in order to continue to serve the global EB population.

OPERATING REPORT

In the 2019/20 financial year total income was \$840,518 compared with \$694,484 in the previous year. The government stimulus packages and JobKeeper payments have definitely been a welcome resource in these uncertain times to help keep the income stream momentum and make up for fundraising events that have had to be cancelled.

Annual expenses were tightly controlled especially due to the COVID-19 circumstances, with total expenses being \$815,124 in 2019/20. The increase from the previous year's total expenses of \$758,156 was primarily due to a full 12 months of the new general manager position being in place, compared to the previous year with only two months included.

There was a net surplus of \$25,394 for the financial year, compared with a net deficit of \$63,672 for 2018/19 which was pleasing.

BALANCE SHEET

Compared with the previous year, total assets increased from \$1,901,541 to \$1,934,046 and total liabilities increased from \$60,071 to \$67,173. Total equity was \$1,866,863 at year end. The organisation's financial position is still strong and reserves are well above the Board's target minimum of \$1.2 million.

BUDGET

The 2020/21 budget projects total income of \$735,517, expenses of \$934,715 and a net deficit of \$199,198. Whilst a deficit of this size can be absorbed this year, it is imperative that fundraising strategies and income is increased over the next 1 to 2 years to enable desired expenditure to be maintained. We will be closely monitoring the budget given the low interest rate environment and unknown headwinds before us.

DEBRA's Strategic Plan includes objectives to achieve a surplus or break even by 2021/22. The Fundraising and Marketing team is looking at new and innovative approaches to hold events in the digital space due to the current environment.

AUDITOR

The audit process went smoothly and it is recommended that Hooper Accountants be appointed as auditors for 2020/21.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jenny Marty retired as Chair of the Finance Committee in April 2020 but remains on the committee. The Committee wishes to thank Jenny for her excellent leadership, knowledge and contribution during her time as Chair. We would also like to thank Judith Davis for taking over the Chair role.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We welcomed Mark Oliver and Tony Baum to the Committee this year. Both bring specific knowledge pertaining to investment funds to the committee and we thank them for coming on board.

[Click here to download the report](#)