



**Birthing Kit
Foundation**
Australia

Annual Report
2023/2024



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OUR VISION

A world in which all women and girls have access to a clean and safe birth.

OUR MISSION

- To positively impact the lives of mothers and babies in developing countries.
- To partner with and empower our partner organisations and communities.
- To enable systems where women and girls become truly empowered.



OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE



118K

BIRTHING KITS

were sent to people in under-resourced and humanitarian settings.



31

GLOBAL PARTNERS

across 11 countries were involved in our global initiatives.



56

TRAINING RECIPIENTS

including women extension workers, literacy teachers and traditional birth attendants (TBAs).



14,802

VOLUNTEERS

dedicated their time to assemble Clean Birth Kits.



236K

MOTHERS & NEWBORNS

were helped with health equipment and/or services.



260

ASSEMBLY DAYS

were held in Australia.

OUR SUPPORTERS

We would like to acknowledge the following supporters who provided financial and in-kind support to BKFA throughout 2023/2024:



PEGGY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

THINK TANK GROUP

JESSICA SCHYFF

MICHAEL MCLAUGHLIN

TONY MARTYR

DIANNE BONNICI

ELIZABETH YIP

**SRI SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATION OF AUST & PNG**

DR GRANT SAFFER

NADINE RYAN

PETER SARGEANT

JENNY COLLINS

AMY MCDUGALL

AMANDA ELLISON



CHAIRPERSON REPORT

The Birthing Kit Foundation has completed another year of support for birthing mothers in the developing world, thanks to our key supporters across Australia and dedicated partners delivering kits.

After the challenges of the last few years, marked mainly by the COVID pandemic, it is obvious that community support for kit production has been impacted. While birthing kit Assembly Days are occurring in rising numbers, the number of kits assembled at them is lower than in pre-COVID years, telling us that our willing Australian supporters are struggling to find the funds they need. To maximise potential assembly day production the BKFA Board and staff committed to holding the price of a kit at \$5.

It was a team effort. Financial support from the Neilson Foundation meant we did not have to raise the price of the kit. Zonta Clubs sustained their commitment to holding assembly days, encouraged by their magnificent leaders across Australia, known to us as

the Zonta Ambassadors and Champions. Schools, colleges and universities have continued making kits and we received increasing support from corporates. Companies, keen to offer something enjoyable and inspiring through their corporate responsibility programs, have started to work with us and we discovered some happy to make kits not just here in Australia but in their offices around the world. Over the year we developed the logistics needed for kits to be made overseas and shipped directly to our in-country partners and apart from corporates, we took this exciting proposition to Zonta Clubs when we met their representatives at the Zonta International Convention in Brisbane in June.

While we made every effort to maximise kit production over the year, we



Jennifer Weaver OAM
Chair of the Board

simultaneously worked at lowering our expenses. Using cost-efficient sea freight to replace air transport has started to pay dividends and is a workable solution for some of our transport needs in a world in which faster sea cargo is more efficiently tracked.

In-country kit production has been further developed with funds from The Charitable Foundation with programs in Uganda and DR Congo, where two partners have been strong enough to survive through COVID, maintain their work and grow. The BKFA worked with them to produce kits locally and distribute them to other BKFA partner organisations that used to get kits sent from Australia.

This has been a very satisfying part of our work, with UACO (Uganda Australia Christian Outreach) in Uganda and Mission and Health Care and Development (MHCD) in DR Congo, employing women in kit production at their headquarters. Both organisations, managed by local staff, have matured to be successful health service providers for their communities.

The result of all this effort saw 25,608 kits produced in-country over the year; 103,210 kits were booked in for Assembly Day production in Australia and 95,813 were despatched from our warehouse in Kapunda, South Australia. While these numbers are not as high as in pre-COVID years, they are a positive increase on the last few years and hopefully signify a continuing trend.

Our training program work has continued with APDA (Afar Peoples Development Association) in Ethiopia, building a network of skilled local health workers who train and facilitate maternal and neonatal services and producing its own birthing kits. Neilson Foundation funding kept this program going. In the Afar our goal is to maintain support for birthing mothers by helping more women, girls and men understand and practice safe birthing and aftercare. This includes providing information about eating the right food, avoiding harmful birthing practices and stamping out female genital mutilation. Vital changes of attitude away from harmful practises take years to embed in a community and APDA leader Valerie Browning continues to make strong

and steady headway in the challenging environment of Afar.

Testing new ideas and developing existing relationships was another feature of our work over 2023-2024. The Foundation continues to assess options for better ways to serve the most neglected and under resourced mothers in the world. This includes understanding what birth attendants might do when there is no birthing kit available and looking at using technology to educate and support them.

The WHO estimates that about 287,000 women die each year in childbirth, many from avoidable infections. The vast majority are living in the developing world where there are few, if any, birthing resources. This is our constituency. For every death it is estimated that about 30 women are likely to contract some kind of infection. Which, in the poorest places, will go untreated and may result in a range of health problems. These statistics do not cover the reality for women in these countries nor the challenges that they face. The provision of a birthing kit by someone trained in its use, a

birth attendant who can offer a basic but clean environment, who has gloves and will attend the birth of an HIV positive woman, a birth attendant who is connected to other health services that may be able to help if a birth looks or becomes higher risk, remains a simple, workable solution dealing with the problem where it exists.

Over this year this effort has been completed with a staff of four and a committed Board. This team of people has done a remarkable job as the Foundation emerged into a changed world. We could not have done it without the financial backing of The Neilson Foundation and the dedication of Zontians around Australia. The Charitable Foundation has also been vital by giving us the opportunity to expand our programs and develop skills in our partners, as they mature into more advanced health providers. Finally, our deepest thanks also go to the thousands of Australians who have again given time and money to help making kits. The commitment of all these partners and supporters is heart-warming and enables us to look forward with optimism.

Image by Rachel Glasby



BKFA AMBASSADORS & CHAMPIONS

This committee functioned to expand the BKFA Program of Recognition initially to acknowledge our many supporters within Zonta Australia.

The committee members include Val Sarah, 3 BKFA Ambassadors, 3 District Governors in Kay Steward, Lyn Agnew and Jean Daly, Julie Monis-Ivett OAM BKFA Director (Committee Chairperson) and Adrian Harris BKFA Business and Operations Manager. They are an informed, powerful and passionate assembly of Zontians and BKFA staff.

The BKFA's Program of Recognition is to acknowledge our many supporters within Zonta Australia.

We welcomed:

- Val Sarah AM DJSJ (Past Zonta International President) as our BKFA Patron.
- 3 BKFA Ambassadors - District 22 Simone Ricketts, District 23 Tyril Houghton and D 24 Sandra Gilbert. All 3 have made a commitment to continue for another 2 years.
- 50 BKFA Champions. Members nominated by their clubs who have excelled in commitment to support the Birthing Kit project over many years. Many BKFA Champions received their badges at their Area Workshops.
- BKFA Champion Clubs. Silver Champion clubs had held a minimum of 15 Assembly Days, Gold Champion clubs held 30+ Assembly Days and Platinum Clubs held over 50 Assembly Days. These certificates were presented at the District conferences in 2023.

With the Zonta International Convention in Brisbane this year we focused on inspiring Zontians around the world to

join us on our Birthing Kit journey.

2000 Zontians across 69 countries gathered. Two 90 minute workshops were held where 2000 Birthing Kits were assembled and 400 attendees heard about the history and expanse of the BKFA's work over 25 years, while experiencing the simplicity of assembly of our kits, and understanding they can save a woman and baby's life.

The aim was to encourage worldwide expansion, with more kits being made internationally by more Zonta clubs. To do this they pay US\$5 per kit to be involved.

This was an engaging and successful day only achieved under the direction of our three Ambassadors and over 70 volunteers who made the entire processes smooth. Logistically it was a huge job. Special thanks must also go to Adrian Harris and Pam Harris.

Formally we wish to thank Judy Gorton, ZI Convention Chairperson, and Jane Adornetto for facilitating the 2 Workshops.



Dr Julie Monis-Ivett OAM
Director

ZONTA DISTRICT	22 - QLD	23 - WA, SA, NT, TAS & VIC	24 - NSW & ACT	Total
1999 - 2004	-	26,480	-	26,480
Aug 2004 - Aug 2005	25,100	53,700	14,200	93,000
Sep 2005 - Feb 2007	36,500	75,400	30,850	142,750
2007 - 2019	467,600	333,640	313,800	1,115,040
2019 - 2020	19,000	8,800	12,000	39,800
2020 - 2021	15,600	15,520	13,800	44,920
2021 - 2022	16,600	19,400	14,800	50,800
2022 - 2023	16,500	19,480	15,740	51,720
2023 - 2024	16,300	19,720	18,950	54,970
Total Kits for District	613,200	572,140	434,140	1,619,480

Images from Zonta International Convention, Brisbane



CLEAN BIRTH KIT PROGRAM & PARTNERSHIPS



Mercy Oloo
Programs Manager

OVERVIEW

During the 2023-24 period, the Clean Birth Kit (CBK) program distributed 92,400 birthing kits across 11 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Pacific. BKFA had 31 active partnerships in DR Congo, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Haiti, South Sudan, Tanzania, Ethiopia Kiribati and Papua New Guinea.

Demonstrations of Birthing Kits to pregnant women in Kaduna, Nigeria - October 2023



Image: Pregnant women with Clean Birthing Kits in Delta, Nigeria. Photo via Hacey Health Initiative.

HACEY HEALTH INITIATIVE, NIGERIA

One of the field partners that received 15,000 Clean Birth Kits during this period is **Hacey Health Initiative**.

As part of their distribution activities, training was carried out by a qualified health care professional targeting pregnant women in their second and third trimester, to equip them with relevant knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their maternal health and improve their financial capacity to provide essential resources required during their antenatal and postnatal period.

The health sessions led by health educators covered topics such as safe care practices during pregnancy, family planning and postpartum care. In addition, pregnant women were educated on the importance of prioritising their health, common pregnancy complications and tips for maintaining a healthy pregnancy.

They were also trained on the “six cleans” of safe birth: clean hands, clean perineum, clean delivery surface, clean string/clip for tying cord, clean cloth and clean cord care.

The health educators used teaching aids such as training manuals, posters, and props to educate participants on the importance of attending antenatal clinics, engaging in safe exercise and eating nutritious meals.

After the training, the pregnant women were each given a birthing kit. The program carefully explained the use of the safe birthing kits and pregnant women demonstrated the use of the birthing kits during the question and answer session led by the health educators. The sessions ensured that the beneficiaries were well-informed about the correct procedures and techniques for utilising the contents of the birthing kits.

CBK DISTRIBUTION TABLE

ORGANISATION	LOCATION		KITS SENT	MADE IN-COUNTRY
Redefined Ministries	DR Congo	Ituri	10,000	-
Women Glory	DR Congo	South Ubangi	7,000	-
Women's Health to Wealth	Ghana	Ashanti Region	12,000	-
Caris Foundation International	Haiti		10,000	-
Reitan Ainen Kamatu	Kiribati		1,000	-
Diocesan Health Initiative	Nigeria	Niger State	5,800	-
Divine Act Charitable Trust	Nigeria		1,000	-
Hacey Health Initiative	Nigeria	Oyo State, FCT Abuja, Delta State, Ogun State, Kaduna State, Osun State, Ondo State, Ekiti State	15,000	-
Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health	Nigeria	Kano State, Kaduna State, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Ondo State, Enugu State	8,000	-
Safer Hands Initiative	Nigeria	South-West Region	2,000	-
Living Child Inc.	Papua New Guinea	East Sepik Province	2,000	-
Reef & Rainforest Research Centre	Papua New Guinea	Torres Strait Region (PNG Treaty Villages)	400	-
SDP Health	Papua New Guinea		500	-
Wantaim PNG	Papua New Guinea		800	-

Better Health Care Organisation	South Sudan		6,000	-
Community Responsibility Plan	Tanzania		3,600	-
Beaton Foundation Initiative	Uganda	Eastern Region	3,000	-
Egoli Africa	Uganda	Eastern Region		2,500
Hope for Sustainable Development Uganda	Uganda		1,000	-
Love Mercy Foundation Ltd	Uganda		-	3,500
Ounganda	Uganda		-	300
Partners in Community Social Action (PICSA)	Uganda		1,300	3,700
Rotary Club of Makindye	Uganda	Eastern & Central Region	-	2,000
Supporting Opportunities for Ugandans to Learn Foundation	Uganda		-	8,608
Think Humanity	Uganda	Western Region	-	800
Uganda Australia Christian Outreach	Uganda	Central Region	-	4,200
Aid for Africa Down Under	Zimbabwe	Masvingo Province	2,000	-
		TOTAL	92,400	25,608

ETHIOPIA

Dullassa District, located in Zone 3 of the Afar Region, is characterised by its isolation and the minimal support it receives from both the government and NGOs. Ongoing conflicts in central-western Afar, along with tensions between the Afar and Issa Somalis in the south, have diverted much-needed attention from this area.

As a result, Dullassa has been heavily impacted, with the local population suffering significant losses, including an increase in widows. Now in its fifth year, the “Strengthening the Rural Health Network to Improve Reproductive, Maternal, and Newborn Health in Dullassa” project continues to face challenges due to weak governance and limited assistance outside of the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia (BKFA) initiative.

The lack of essential healthcare infrastructure, such as ambulance services, has contributed to maternal deaths in the district. Despite efforts to enhance maternal health through training and support, persistent issues like anaemia and delayed medical intervention remain. Among the key achievements of the project are the training of 8 women extension workers, 8 literacy teachers, and 40 traditional birth attendants (TBAs), who have supported 514 deliveries.

However, maternal and newborn mortality rates continue to be a major concern, with five maternal deaths reported in the project’s first quarter. Awareness campaigns have reached over 41,000 people, addressing critical topics such as health, hygiene, and gender-based issues. Additionally, literacy and numeracy programs have benefited 1,322 individuals, with a strong emphasis on advocating for women’s rights and combating harmful traditional practices.

One of the prominent advocates emerging from this effort is Kamiisa Seeko, born in Iddeli Kebele of Dullassa. Beginning her training as a women’s extension worker supported by BKFA at the age of 18, Kamiisa, now 26, serves as the Head of Women’s and Social Affairs for a community of 42,000 people. Her path to this role has been fraught with challenges, including being twice deceived by marriage partners.

Women extension workers reviewing their activities. Photo from APDA.



UGANDA

In February 2024, BKFA received great news that The Charitable Foundation would renew their support for the In-Country Kit Production project in Uganda. During the 2023-24 grant period UACO assembled 25,608 clean birth kits and worked with Egoli Africa, Rotary Club of Makindye, Think Humanity, Love Mercy Australia, Kyampisi Children’s Ministry to distribute the kits across Uganda.

In the rural community of Kisozi Kamuli district Uganda, pregnant mothers faced significant challenges in accessing clean birth kits, leading to increased risks of infections and complications during delivery. However, with the introduction of clean birth kits from Australia, the narrative began to change.

Irene Kisakye, a 25 year old expectant mother who lives in Naikesa village, faced the same challenges of many expectant women in community. With the birthing kit program, Irene’s experience was transformed as she received a clean birth kit and skilled health services at Kisozi Health Centre. The program’s impact was evidenced in the significant reduction in infections and complications during delivery; the community embraced the change and many are now seeking medical services from the health facilities.

By June 2024, UACO had commenced the second year of its kit assembly program, and started the distribution of 7,000 Clean Birth Kits. Earlier in the year, they received a visit from **The Charitable Foundation** leaders Peder Pederson and Steve Killelea, who were excited to see the continued impact of the kits and the success of the program.



This photo, taken by Namwanjje Zaujah, a health centre nurse on February 3rd 2024 at Kisozi health centre, shows a smiling new mother, Irene Kisakye holding a healthy new baby in a clean and healthy environment. The image highlights the impact of the birthing kits program for both the mother and her new child.



Peder Pedersen and Steve Killelea visit UACO in Kampala Uganda in March 2024. Photo via UACO.

SOUL FOUNDATION

S.O.U.L. Foundation also secured support for the Antenatal Education Care (AEC) project, which commenced in June 2024.

During this month a total of 80 participants gathered to register for the AEC classes in Namagera village, Butagaya Sub-county, Jinja District.

Pre-tests were administered to all participants to gauge their knowledge levels on the various topics covered in the curriculum. SOUL received 4,300 Clean Birthing Kits from UACO.

The continued distribution of clean birthing kits was conducted in partnership with area health facilities in Jinja and Bugweri.

During June, a total of 114 expectant mothers received clean birthing kits (84 in Jinja and 30 in Bugweri). This achievement was made possible through the ongoing collaboration with local Village Health Teams.



This page: Distribution of Clean Birthing Kits to expectant mothers by S.O.U.L Foundation, Uganda
Opposite page: Pregnant women of Kibenge community after receiving birthing kits. Image by Hope for Sustainable Development. Medical students pack Clean Birthing Kits at an Assembly Day in Adelaide, South Australia.



CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a concept generally understood to mean that corporations have a degree of responsibility not only for the economic consequences of their activities, but also for the social and environmental implications.

More companies are recognising this responsibility, with the establishment of CSR goals, programs and teams.

Clean Birth Kit assembly days are an excellent way for companies to meet some of these goals, through the donation of funds and by enabling staff to volunteer time usually dedicated to work.

One such company is Thermo Fisher Australia. In late 2023, Thermo Fisher hosted assembly days in their offices in five states across Australia, and at their Auckland site in New Zealand, assembling 1,500 Clean Birth Kits (CBKs). Their mission is to help their customers make the world healthier, cleaner and safer - a perfect alignment with the work of BKFA.

Following the success of these assembly days, BKFA have created a new partnership with Thermo Fisher's head office in the United States, with the potential to reach their 150 sites on six continents and help them meet international CSR objectives. A total of 4000 CBKs will be assembled internationally in the current agreement period. In addition, the Australia and New Zealand sites have an-



Adrian Harris
Business and Operations
Manager

ranged for 1,500 CBKs to be assembled again in 2024.

The BKFA was also selected as a charity partner for the South Australian team at Pernod Ricard's 2024 Responsib'all Day on 20 June, where 18,000+ staff globally donated a day to support CSR objectives. The day was widely shared across social media, increasing awareness of our mission and the CSR endeavours of Pernod Ricard as a company. These events offer a fantastic avenue for growth in CBK assembly and will be the target of marketing activity over the next financial year.

With interest from groups in the USA, United Kingdom, Europe and Asia, some revision to our business model was required, offering kits to be assembled at a cost of US\$5 outside of Australia. Reaching new corporate groups, international service clubs (such as Zonta and Rotary) and expanding CBK assembly capabilities internationally will expand BKFA's global impact, getting us closer to achieving our vision of a world where every woman and girl has access to a clean and safe birth.



These events offer a fantastic avenue for growth in CBK assembly and will be the target of marketing activity over the next financial year.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Future Directions Committee makes recommendations to the BKFA Board to determine target audiences, future programs and partners. Its role is to find work with specialists who have entrepreneurial, technological and creative experience to explore future options for BKFA, including new fundraising models.

NO KIT APPROACH

A new direction being taken by BKFA is to address the issue of how to make birthing safer in areas where there are no clinics or birthing kits available.

The BKFA does not have the capacity to supply a birthing kit for every woman who is birthing in a developing country. Clean birthing kits are also often

not available due to a lack of supply, border shutdowns or transport issues.

To address this challenge, we are working with a field partner in DR Congo to finalise a graphical poster/handout and video outlining how to provide a safe birthing environment when a birthing kit is not available. This can then be adapted for regional and cultural differences.



Image: Mother and baby at MHCD Hospital in Luvungi, DR Congo. Supplied by MHCD.



Image: Assembly Day at Studio Safari, Adelaide.

CORPORATE

A second direction being developed and implemented by BKFA is to have birthing kits funded and assembled by personnel in offices of International Corporations both in Australia and internationally. This model is being piloted with Thermo Fisher International whom through their Corporate Social Responsibility programs have engaged with BKFA initially in Australia, and now through head offices in The United States of America, thus allowing assembly of kits internationally.

Through changes to the BKFA business models birthing kits are assembled internationally by personnel in United States of America, United Kingdom, Europe, and Asia. The new business model is to send prepacked BKFA boxes with the supplies to the office outside of Australia that is funding and assembling the birthing kits. This facilitates for the kits after assembly to be put into the BKFA boxes supplied and sent directly to the recipient partners.

This model is being adapted for BKFA to promote and instigate with international Zonta Clubs. We continue to work with the Zonta BKFA Ambassadors and Champions from each of the three Australian Zonta Districts. They supported BKFA to promote and hold two birthing kit assembly sessions at the International Zonta Conference in Brisbane in June 2024.

This has increased the exposure of funding and holding birthing kit assembly days to the whole of Zonta International. The objective is to increase the number of birthing kits funded and assembled by involvement of Zonta Clubs globally.



Edward (Ted) A'Bear
Director

THE NEED FOR KITS

Do we think kits are still needed? The short answer is yes.

The last UN Maternal mortality stats, provided in 2020, indicated that 10% of the 289,000 maternal deaths each year are due to infections.

Countries like Somalia, Niger, South Sudan and Afghanistan have the greatest incidence of maternal infection,

however this figure is now less than half that of 1990.

Infection including Tetanus is still a significant issue for neonates. 20,000 newborns died from Tetanus in 2015 (this is a 90% reduction compared to 1990).



Dr Joy O'Hazy OAM
Deputy Chair

Clean birthing kits have contents that reduce the chance of birth acquired infections.

BKFA had been able to supply 220,000 kits in a year in the past (pre COVID). However, given that 25 million births each year are not supported by a skilled birth attendant, there is still a great need.

BKFA is now also exploring the concept of "What to do when there is no birthing kit". This will potentially benefit many more women than can be accommodated now.

But we know that it is very hard to find a suitable safe glove substitute in rural areas.

So the BKFA will still be providing kits for a while yet.

Image: Beds at MHCD Hospital Mulimbalimba in Luvungi, DR Congo.

Clean birth kits are useful for:

- Mothers who don't have the financial resources to pay for facility births.
- Mothers in their 3rd trimester that live very remote from any health care facility. For example, in the highlands of PNG, or a small village in rural DR Congo (potentially a 2 day walk to a clinic) in case they deliver at home.
- Globally 28% of women deliver at home. 78 % of women in Chad have home deliveries. The percentage is generally higher in women living in rural areas and those with less years of education.
- Women who present to a clinic or hospital where they may be expected to provide the required items themselves or they are not seen.
- Women who have HIV. The gloves in the kit protect the birthing attendant from infection.
- Birthing Attendants who can keep kits available for when they attend a birth either at home or in a clinic.
- COVID or civil unrest / war times where pregnant women are not able to move about safely, or facilities are destroyed, increasing the chance of delivering at home.



Rows 1 & 2
Rotary Club of
Walkerville (SA)
Assembly Day.



Rows 3 & 4
Students at Melville High
School (Kempsey, NSW)
Assembly Day, supported by
the Zonta Club of
Port Macquarie.



Fatemeh Afzali
Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the audited financial statements of the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia (BKFA) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

I also acknowledge the work of our partners and the support of the donors and the benefactors (funding of \$191,066) during the financial year.

The fundraising activities are slower than the years prior to COVID-19 due to long lasting impact of the pandemic and the high living costs.

Fundraising activities raised \$578,638 from kit-making donations (last year \$551,481). Whilst there has been a steady increase post COVID-19 pandemic, the activities are not back to the pre-pandemic level due to cost of living crisis. Major benefactor funding made up 24.8% of the income while last year this was 34.4%.

The income is predominantly spent on the cost of birthing kits (55.7%) and community development program costs (21.1%).

The result for the year was a loss of \$3,866 (last year surplus of \$38,773).

I acknowledge the continued support of Zonta Clubs throughout Australia, countless service clubs, schools, universities and individuals who took upon themselves to fundraise for BKFA by participating in Assembly Days. This continued generosity and support ensures more women will have access to safe, clean birthing practices and resources.

BKFA summary financial reports comply with standards set out by ACFID Code of Conduct.

BKFA full financial report statements are available upon request at info@bkfa.org.au.

Image: Participants at the maternal health outreach, Odo-oba community, Oyo state in May 2024. Photo provided by Safer Hands Initiative.

EXTRACT FROM
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) (a company Limited by guarantee)
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
for the financial year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue and other income		
Donations	769,704	840,827
Membership fees	1,500	1,810
Finance income	11,358	1,273
Total revenue and other income	782,562	843,910
Other expenses		
Community development program costs	(166,176)	(155,899)
Fundraising and marketing	(3,697)	(6,346)
Cost of birthing kits	(438,343)	(461,717)
Administration and accountability	(174,372)	(179,709)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(3,840)	(1,466)
Total expenses	(786,428)	(805,137)
(Loss) / surplus for the year before income tax	(3,866)	38,773
Income tax expense	-	-
(Loss) / surplus for the year after income tax	(3,866)	38,773
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total comprehensive (loss) / income for the year	(3,866)	38,773

Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) (a company Limited by guarantee)
Statement of Financial Position
for the financial year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	488,517	390,680
Trade and other receivables	11,305	20,261
Inventories	69,804	57,112
Other assets	9,328	3,940
Total current assets	578,954	471,993
Non-current assets		
Intangible assets	5,553	7,594
Total non-current assets	5,553	7,594
Total assets	584,507	479,587
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	37,772	32,759
Employee benefits	61,365	51,572
Other liabilities	140,880	49,190
Total current liabilities	240,017	133,521
Non-current liabilities		
Employee benefits	6,374	4,084
Total non-current liabilities	6,374	4,084
Total liabilities	246,391	137,605
Net assets	338,116	341,982
Equity		
Accumulated surplus	338,116	341,982
Total equity	338,116	341,982

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Birthing Kit Foundation Australia (BKFA) is committed to achieving best practice in corporate governance for non-profit organisations.

Corporate structure, compliance and tax status

The Foundation is an Australian public company limited by guarantee, registered under the Australian Corporations Act 2001, and complies with the requirements of the Act.

The Foundation is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission (ACNC). BKFA has the benefit of tax concessions as a Health Promotion Charity, and the Foundation's Maternal Health Gift Fund has been declared as a developing country relief fund under subsection 30-85 (2) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, making donations to the fund tax deductible in Australia.

As of 1 December 2016, registered ACNC charities are exempt from requiring a fundraising licence in South Australia and ACT. Where required BKFA holds fundraising licences in other states.

Corporate governance and financial accountability

Under the Constitution, the Board of Directors is responsible for the overall management of the Foundation. Directors are elected by the membership of BKFA and are unpaid.

The Board structure, numbers and processes for appointment are set out in the Constitution, which is available on the BKFA website. The Board meets monthly, with additional meetings for strategic planning, including the annual budget process. Financial performance reports are prepared by the Treasurer and are reviewed by the Board at each meeting.

Audited financial statements are provided to the ACNC, and to other regulators required by law. A summarised version of these statements is included in this Annual Report. A copy of the full audited statements is available on request.



Photo from Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health, Nigeria



Erica Osborn
Company Secretary

Work Health and Safety

There were no workplace injuries or incidents reported in the 2023/2024 year.

Complaints

There were no complaints reported in the 2023/2024 year.

Complaints about the performance or conduct of BKFA may be lodged via the link on our website, emailed to us at info@bkfa.org.au or addressed to: Chair, Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia), P.O. Box 330, Belair, South Australia 5052.

Company Secretary

Erica Chairs the Risk and Compliance Committee supporting risk management and policy review.

Erica has previously worked in a variety of roles within BKFA and has extensive experience in corporate and community strategic planning and stakeholder engagement working with local government, community service providers and the not-for-profit sector.

Erica brings to BKFA key strengths in strategy, governance, and compliance and is passionate about community development and evidence-based social impact.



The BKFA Board and Staff hosted An Evening with Valerie Browning, founder of Field Partner the Afar Pastoral Development Association.



OUR BOARD AND TEAM



Jennifer Weaver OAM
Chairperson
Board meetings attended: 11/12



Dr Joy O'Hazy OAM
Deputy Chair
Board meetings attended: 12/12



Dr Julie Monis-Ivett OAM
Director
Board meetings attended: 11/12



Edward (Ted) A'Bear
Director
Board meetings attended: 9/12



Madhumita Mazumdar
Director
Board meetings attended: 10/12



Fatemeh Afzali
Treasurer
Board meetings attended: 9/9



Angelina Arora
Director
Board meetings attended: 6/9



Russell Westmoreland
Treasurer (Retired)
Board meetings attended: 7/9



Erica Osborn
Company Secretary



Adrian Harris
Business and
Operations Manager



Hilary Carruthers
Assembly Day
Coordinator



Mercy Oloo
Program Manager



Kate Dyer
Engagement and
Marketing Coordinator



Our Clean Birth Kits are simple and effective tools for basic infection prevention and first-line childbirth care.

Each component has been selected to support the 6 principles of cleanliness at birth for mothers, newborns, and birth attendants in high-risk and emergency settings.





**A world in which all women and girls
have access to a clean and safe birth.**