KIDS HOPE AUS

Our Mission

KIDS HOPE AUS is a Christian ministry that partners with churches and schools to positively change the lives of vulnerable children through consistent mentoring relationships.

Our Vision

Hope in the life of every child

Our Values

Christian

In alignment with our Christian faith, KIDS HOPE AUS works in local communities, to bring hope and positive transformation to the lives of vulnerable young children.

Children

Children are our focus, because we believe that every child matters; that every child has the right to be valued and respected; and every child should feel supported in reaching their full potential.

Church

KIDS HOPE AUS seeks to assist churches to reach out to their local communities, by equipping, resourcing and supporting the development of an effective and successful mentoring program, in their local school.

Commitment

We value commitment and faithfulness in the relationships that mentors build with children, because we know that they build strong foundations of trust, and have positive impacts on children’s lives.

Our Year at a Glance

- 45 New KHAUS programs
- 11 Coordinator training workshops
- 2250 children mentored
- 90,000 mentor hours
- 345 active Affiliate churches
Kids Helpline

Over 25,000 calls last year were made by children aged 5 – 12 years. The top concerns were:

* mental health   * education
* family relationships   * bullying
* suicide-related   * child abuse
* emotional wellbeing
* friends/peer relationships
* self-injury/self-harm

What we do

KIDS HOPE AUS builds caring relationships – one hour, one child, one church, one school.

The aim of KIDS HOPE AUS is to provide care and support for vulnerable Australian children, through caring, long term mentoring relationships. These relationships support children’s emotional, social and academic development; enhancing their capacity to learn and giving them hope for a brighter future.

KIDS HOPE AUS is built on a partnership model between a local church and local school who partner to deliver KIDS HOPE AUS mentoring to students requiring additional support. Strong partnerships contribute to the development of more resilient children and communities.

And why we do it...

KIDS HOPE AUS builds resilience in children who may be facing issues such as; family violence, loss and grief, bullying and harassment, learning difficulties and social isolation.

Family Violence Statistics

In 2013-14, there were over 137,585 children suspected of being harmed or at risk of neglect or abuse. More than 54,438 notifications were substantiated and there were over 43,009 children in out of home care.

Hope in the life of every child
Chair’s Report

This year has been a difficult one for Kids Hope AUS with some significant financial challenges faced. Thank you to our churches and donors who have understood the challenges and have worked with us as we put in place some significant changes to our fee structure.

The Board is extremely grateful for the support we have received and believes that the significant changes we have been making and work we are currently doing on an organisational redesign will establish a strong organisation into the future. It has been wonderful to see the importance many churches place on the ministry of Kids Hope AUS and we are grateful to God for the support we have received.

It has been a challenging time for our staff and our new Chief Executive Officer. The Board wishes to extend our thanks to them for their work during the year. We believe that we have turned the corner and are praying that the refining process we have gone through this year will lead to new fruit and fresh growth in the years to come.

Through all the challenges we have had some amazing stories of children’s lives changing through the one on one support they receive from our wonderful mentors. It is the children that are the focus of our work with schools and with churches and we pray God’s blessing on each one of them for the coming year.

Thank you that you have walked with us again this year – your support have been so important to us.

There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”
— Nelson Mandela
CEO’s Report

It’s been a busy first seven months with KHAUS. I’ve heard so many heart-warming stories about the impact the program has had and is having on so many precious, vulnerable children. It’s been great to meet children, teachers, principals, mentors, coordinators and pastors who are clearly dedicated to the program. There is no doubt, KHAUS is making a major difference in the lives of children and the broader community. It is a great program.

The year has again seen an increase in the number of church affiliations with a total of 345 on-board at the end of June 2016. This of course translates into more children being mentored and more church communities serving and engaging with the largest community hub - their local schools.

It’s also been a time of great challenge and change. As with most not-for-profits, the goal of ensuring financial sustainability while maintaining and improving the quality of service has been a high priority for us, particularly since I came on board in November. Marylin Leermakers, our previous CEO, did a mountain of work to establish KHAUS as an independent organisation after initially introducing the program into Australia 12 years ago under the World Vision banner. She is now no doubt enjoying a well-earned rest in retirement. Both Helen Gribi and Wendy Jarrott-Smith also left KHAUS this year to pursue other interests. They also made a major contribution to the organisation. I thank them all for their dedication to the program.

Throughout the year the board and I have been working on key strategies to ensure; efficient operations and staffing expenses, fees that reflect the cost of establishing and supporting programs, as well as fostering alliances with like-minded organisations and funders. I have been enormously encouraged by our partner churches who have been so supportive during this difficult period of change and financial challenge. Thank you to all those who have gone above and beyond by praying for us, contributing to the grant affiliation fund so that less fortunate churches are able to pay their fee increases, running fundraisers and most importantly catching the vision of being part of a broader national impact.

With your on-going support we envisage a bigger and brighter future, not only for every child that is already being mentored, but for the KHAUS program nationally as it impacts the innocent and defenceless.

My thanks go to all our Affiliates, coordinators, mentors, financial supporters, volunteers, the KHAUS board and the staff – there are so many children who depend on you and who may never meet you or be able to thank you in person. I thank you on their behalf.

Hope in the life of every child
Program Development Report

2015/2016 has seen many more churches and schools commit to starting KIDS HOPE AUS programs around Australia. 45 new church programs have affiliated with us, attending 11 coordinator training events around the country. Victoria and Queensland keep producing the majority of new program growth with 76% and Baptist churches leading the denominational contribution with 29%.

It has been encouraging to receive ongoing enquiries about our program from churches and schools through our website, phone calls and other referrals or leads. Positive experiences and stories of impact plus the value of the Kids Hope program continue to drive most of our new leads and contacts.

Many of our new enquiries and leads are coming from schools. Either through a school chaplain, welfare/wellbeing staff member, a principal or teacher that has heard of the program and wants to investigate or implement KHA in their school. The schools are identifying the need for extra care and support for some of their children and recognising that mentoring and the one-to-one relationship that offers is incredibly valuable.

The year included some interstate travel to WA and SA for conferences and promotional trips, with productive meetings and information sessions held in each of those states. The conferences I attended included the ITEC Conference (National Christian Schools gathering in Melbourne), CSA Conference in Perth (Christian Schools Association), SMG Conference (Schools Ministry Group & Chaplaincy in SA), Passing the Baton Conference in Perth (Children’s Ministry Network) plus a regional training day in Warrnambool.

I have also presented and preached at 10 different churches throughout the year, promoting and presenting the program to new churches plus encouraging and celebrating with existing programs. The highlight was participating in 10th Anniversary celebrations with Wendouree Baptist and The Wave Baptist Church in Ocean Grove and hearing all the wonderful stories of the impact KHA has had on their church community and the kids in their partner school.

Another highlight has been the development of a relationship with the Mornington Peninsula Shire and being involved in the promotion of mentoring throughout the region. We have had 2 new churches and schools start Kids Hope programs because of the partnership and still a few more strong leads to work on. The shire has recognised mentoring as a major preventative initiative to assist with the social and emotional development of children in their municipality.

It is a privilege to talk to and sit with church leaders as they realise the simple partnership potential that KHA offers with a local primary school and to help them investigate, pursue and establish a KHA program for their churches. It is equally enjoyable to be able to engage with school principals and leaders to discuss how a Kids Hope mentoring program in their school can contribute to the welfare, development and individual care of their vulnerable students, giving hope to a child in need.

Tim Smith
Program Development Associate
Training & Development Report

The 2015-16 financial year witnessed significant change and development in the content and format of training and ongoing support to Coordinators across the country. These changes included a complete re-developed training package for both Coordinators and Mentors, and a different approach in the way in which we connect with the mentors.

There were 11 Coordinator training events facilitated throughout 2015-16: Victoria (4), Queensland (4) and New South Wales (3). The 87 people who attended these events represented 75 churches. Of these churches, 44 were new programs to KIDS HOPE AUS, whilst 35 were existing churches who were seeking to train a new Coordinator for their program. There were 5 people in total who came to training in the role of Chaplain or school personnel. In addition to this, there were two Conferences held in Brisbane (38 people in attendance) and Melbourne (78 people in attendance) on the theme of, “Their Name is Today”. We were blessed to have Terry Williams as our Keynote speaker who again provided excellent insight through his topic - Building robust character in our children influenced by the hope of the Christian faith.

We continued to provide program support including, coordinator support - particularly during the first 12 months of program establishment, phone calls to existing programs with the terrific volunteer support of Chris Wright, ongoing assistance and resources through quarterly updates, the monthly themed mentor hour, up to date information and resources on the website and updated policies and procedures. There was also a review of the Child Protection policy and procedures with Child Safe. This past year we’ve made a big effort to collect contact details of mentors to enable them to also utilise the many wonderful resources on the KIDS HOPE AUS website. Thank you to all the coordinators for your great help with this task.

A significant amount of time has been invested into reviewing and re-developing both the Coordinator and Mentor training materials. Both training packages now include an online learning component and this means there is only one day of face-to-face training facilitation required. The new package was delivered for the first time at the Melbourne training in June 2016. To develop training of this nature required a significant investment of time and was only achieved with the wonderful support of a John Erikson who volunteered his time to provide video editing expertise, as well as the training staff at KIDS HOPE USA who generously gave us permission to use some of their training resources and videos. It is interesting to note that KIDS HOPE USA has faced similar challenges in delivering training and came to the same conclusions in relation to on-line training delivery.

It was very sad to say farewell to Helen Gribi and Wendy Jarrott-Smith. Both ladies made an enormous contribution to the training area at KIDS HOPE AUS over the years they were with the program. We miss them both and wish them great success in their next career season.

Our plans for the coming year will include, consolidating the new Coordinator and Mentor training packages, reinvigorating the “Network Café” clusters in order for Coordinators to support each other in their geographical locations and to identify and equip trainers in other states to deliver Coordinator Training.
**Stories**

**Leading By Example**

Adam and Corrie were making chocolate slice the Principal walked in with Tom, a young student. She asked if she could leave him with them for a while, as he had become very angry in the classroom. Corrie who is in grade 6, said it would be okay as they were playing a game while the slice was setting in the fridge.

When the Principal slipped back into the room she found Tom quietly enjoying the game. She was very surprised by what happened next. Corrie said to Tom, “You know, I used to be angry when I was your age” and then, “it does get better but you need to learn to get rid of your anger.” Tom looked very surprised and said he would try and the two boys smiled and continued playing their game.

Later the Principal caught up with Adam, saying that it was the first time she had seen Corrie or any student mentor another student and give advice to change their behaviour. She went on to say that she was continually amazed with the things that are happening with the KIDS HOPE AUS program and the way that it is changing the children. How awesome!

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**Just One Hour Per Week**

It was so very easy to picture Brayden falling through the 'educational system' cracks as he had many, many issues he was dealing with - socially, emotionally, and academically - the list went on. However, over a three year period, his growth, confidence, improvement in schoolwork and personal development gave his mentor, Bill, real genuine and sincere hope for his future. “It wasn't an easy ride, in fact, there were times when I felt like giving up”, recounted Bill, “however it was so important, for both our sakes, to persist. And how incredibly rewarding it was when we spoke about his mum (who'd passed away several years earlier) for the first time and were able to get to a place where he could openly and warmly talk about his memories of her. Previously he wouldn't or couldn't even talk about her at all. It's certainly not all to do with KIDS HOPE AUS, however, according to his extremely thankful dad, it has been a significant, positive and invaluable influence. To get a 'big bear hug' and a sincere heart-felt thank you (in fact many thankyou's) from his dad certainly made it all so very worthwhile”.

“Being a KIDS HOPE AUS mentor has definitely been one of the best and most rewarding things I've ever done – and it works! To think that just one hour a week of committed care, time and attention can make such a real difference.
What do Churches say?

The only thing of importance when we depart, will be the traces of love we have left behind.

Albert Schweitzer

A Thriving Community Partnership

Now in their eleventh year, Norma shares, “The relationship our church has with the school is remarkable. The Principal is very community minded, loves our mentors and the partnership we have developed. Our church is affectionately called ‘The Church through the Gate’ because we literally have a gate to walk through to the school. Our mentors tell me they receive as much as what they give to the children they mentor. Our oldest mentor is now in her 80’s, having returned to mentoring after a break. She smiled and commented that she thought she might not be able to commit to mentoring a child for their whole time at primary school because that would mean she would be well into her 90’s”.

Volunteers providing office support

During January & February 2016 eighteen people volunteered to provide much needed office support. Six volunteers continue to provide ongoing skilled support in the following areas –

- IT consultation & expertise
- Pastoral care
- Mentor resource compiling
- Office administration
- Website maintenance

Volunteering is a priceless work of the heart
KHA Policy

KIDS HOPE AUS is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children in the program. We support the rights of the child and will act to ensure a child-safe environment is maintained at all times. We also support the rights and wellbeing of staff and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants.

- Churches and volunteers involved in the KIDS HOPE AUS program shall respect and value all students regardless of ethnic, religious, or cultural heritage. All parties agree that the mentoring relationship, which takes place at school and during school hours, serves to provide care and support to children and not to persuade children toward any particular religious belief or value system.

- KIDS HOPE AUS is a public benevolent institution charity dedicated to helping kids in need. Mentors in government schools respect the secular nature of education while being motivated to serve children by their Christian faith.

- KIDS HOPE AUS mentors do not contact or meet with children outside of school. Mentors receive training in acceptable guidelines for mentoring and undergo a strict regime of police checks and personal referee checks before they commence. Mentors give focused attention to one child for one hour a week and do not mentor multiple children. Feedback is actively sought from the school and a child's classroom teacher. Parents are provided with written information about the program and must sign a consent form prior to any mentoring relationship being established.

We want to protect children from unsafe relationships but also invest in their learning, confidence, resilience and growth, that comes from having an adult who cares about them.

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."
— Frederick Douglass, abolitionist and statesman

Hope in the life of every child
Partners

KIDS HOPE USA continues to license KIDS HOPE AUS to use the KIDS HOPE model in Australia. We are thankful for the great support and spirit of generous collaboration over the last 12 years.

With the nurture and support of World Vision, KIDS HOPE AUS has grown to become Australia’s largest mentoring program. KIDS HOPE AUS and World Vision Australia continue to have a strong partnership.

World Vision endorses, supports and promotes KIDS HOPE AUS as a highly successful and professional mentoring model. World Vision CEO, Tim Costello is the patron of KIDS HOPE AUS.

KIDS MATTER and KIDS HOPE AUS share the objective of improved quality of life, mental health and wellbeing outcomes for individuals and families.

KIDS HOPE AUS Board

Chair, Susan Bazzana
Dean of New College Village, University of New South Wales. Sue worked for World Vision Australia for 7 years where one of her roles was Head of Church Partnerships.

Secretary, John Altman
Lawyer, Anglican minister, Social entrepreneur who provides legal advice on setting up charitable organisations and for individuals planning to make social impact investments.

Dr Bob Mitchell,
Lawyer, Anglican minister, and CEO Anglican Overseas Aid. Bob was General Counsel, Director of Legal Risk and Governance and Chief of mission during his 3 years with World Vision. Prior to that he was a partner at PWC.

Sarah Cleaves,
Senior Research Officer, Telethon Kids Institute Perth. Sarah was the Manager of Baya Gawiy Children & Family centre. She has experience public policy, maternal and infant health and child friendly communities.

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