

A network for people who grew up  
in Australia's orphanages,  
Children's Homes  
& in foster care



[www.clan.org.au](http://www.clan.org.au)

## Annual Report 2009-2010

**Care Leavers Australia Network**

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# **INTRODUCTION**

Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN) is an incorporated, non-profit organisation. CLAN is funded by memberships, donations and grants from State and Federal Governments.

## **OUR VISION**

CLAN is an independent national support and advocacy network for all Australians that grew up in children's Homes, missions and orphanages or were fostered as children. Our members include people raised in every state of Australia and overseas orphanages, former child migrants, stolen generation and foster children.

## **OUR PURPOSE**

CLAN's objective is to raise community awareness of Care Leaver issues and to campaign and lobby for justice, national redress and services to be provided in each state of Australia for all Care Leavers.

## **OUR MISSION AND VALUES**

Being raised without a family has lifelong implications that require lifelong support services. CLAN can provide information, understanding and emotional support. CLAN also aims to:

- Listen, hear and believe
- Advocate on every level for justice, peace and healing
- Identify specific and individual strategies which will deliver positive life-changing outcomes to heal the past and give Care Leavers a chance of healing and closure
- Document Care Leavers history through their personal stories and CLAN's National Orphanage Museum

CLAN aims to provide a network where Care Leavers throughout Australia can communicate with each other and share their experiences. From our work, we know that many people who grew up in 'care' feel alone, believing the traumas of their childhood years were somehow their fault.

CLAN has and continues to raise public awareness of Care Leavers' childhood in 'care' and its affects. CLAN hopes that society can acknowledge the abuse and trauma of state wards and Home children, and that it becomes as well known as the experiences of the stolen generation, child migrants and adoptees.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



What a momentous year it has been since the last Annual General Meeting (AGM). So much has been happening to keep CLAN well and truly busy. First of all, the CLAN committee is very pleased to bring the 2010 AGM to Victoria. Hopefully in the coming years the AGM will be able to visit all states.

Well, we must start off by mentioning perhaps the most significant event to come out of the last year. On the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009 the former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd and former Opposition Leader, Malcolm Turnbull gave a long awaited and overdue apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. What a day it was! CLAN had the difficult task of choosing only 80 members to go to Canberra for the apology. CLAN thanks both leaders for their bi-partisan apology and support of our issues.

After the apology, CLAN was inundated with calls, emails and letters from people who had no idea that a support group like CLAN even existed. However, it is disappointing to note that we are still receiving calls from people who have just found out about CLAN and the majority of these people thought that our apology was either to the Child Migrants or the Stolen Generation. This just highlights that there is much more work to be done to raise awareness of Care Leavers in the community and the issues that we deal with on a day to day basis.

In an attempt to raise the profile of Care Leavers, CLAN has attended a number of events, meetings and made submissions to relevant departments around Australia. CLAN was invited by the National Trust of Australia – Geelong branch to do a display at the Geelong Heritage Festival in April. CLAN presented Geelong's orphanage history with many visitors from the general public and CLAN members travelling from as far as Melbourne to view the display.

CLAN also spoke in Sydney at both the Australasian Social Welfare History Workshop where I presented the paper 'Did you Ever Find your Family?', and the ACWA 10 Conference where we presented the paper 'Meeting the Needs of Older Care Leavers – But how do we know what their needs are?' – This paper was taken from a part of our survey results.

CLAN also made the following submissions to the Senate on:

1. Suicide and how this relates to Care Leavers
2. Review of Government Compensation Payments

3. Victorian Justice Department about the Appointment of Judicial Officers, and the need of anyone appointed as an official to understand the varied and complex needs of Care Leavers.

For further information and if you would like to view these submissions please check our website.

This year CLAN also conducted another survey which has been a major task. The 16 page survey was drawn up in an effort to gain a better understanding of our members, including their past experiences in 'care', their experiences using support services, as well as what are their current needs? After the survey was first sent out in April to 995 members we received a tremendous 80 surveys back in the one day! An overwhelming 575 members filled out their survey and currently the report of the results is being compiled. A big thank you goes to Frank Golding – Vice President of CLAN and Benita – CLAN staff member for all their work with the survey!

CLAN also continues to represent and support our members with government departments. CLAN writes letters of support for our members who particularly need assistance with priority access to housing or accessing disability pensions. We are also trying to get a meeting with NSW Housing Minister Frank Terenzini to discuss priority access to housing for Care Leavers. CLAN hopes that by making advances in one state that it will flow onto all states of Australia.

By the end of June this year CLAN also hit the 1000 member mark! Hopefully this is a sign that Care Leaver's issues are receiving more publicity and that there is greater awareness in the community. Due to this greater demand for support services CLAN put on another staff member, Natalie to do counselling and administration. Redress WA also used our service to provide counselling, support and information to Redress WA applicants.

CLAN also tendered for the NSW Care Leaver Service but our application was unsuccessful and the tender was won by Relationships Australia. CLAN has recently hosted a training workshop for seven employees for the new NSW service at the CLAN office. It was good to information share and meet the new employees. The new NSW service will be based at a very pleasant site in Harris Park, NSW.

Similarly, CLAN was part of a six-month advisory group where we have met and offered advice to Open Place, the Victorian support agency. As such there have been a number of meetings between CLAN and those running these new services. CLAN will continue to work for competent and effective management of these services to ensure that the processes of using these services are as painless and accessible as possible for Care Leavers.

And how can we forget CLAN's 10th Anniversary? This was a huge success with over 200 CLAN members attending over two days from all states. Not only did CLAN members get the opportunity to attend workshops but there was also a wonderful dinner on the Saturday night with lots of raffle prizes won. We also received many donations from our members, past providers

and the public for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Thank you to Pat Griffiths who organised a silent auction during the weekend which raised \$3,000. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets, the raffle raised \$1,500. I hope everyone who came had a wonderful time, and to those who couldn't attend we were thinking of you!

As many of you are aware, in the National Apology by the former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd mentioned that Care Leavers will be a special needs group when it comes to Aged Care. As such, CLAN has had meetings and given talks to a number of Aged Care providers and services in order to educate those who will be providing services for Care Leavers. To ensure that special consideration is given to Care Leavers, the government has hired a consultancy firm called Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) to establish a National Education Package for Aged Care services. CLAN has assisted HMA to get a better understanding of Care Leavers by attending focus groups and we have also made our counselling service available in the Sydney focus groups.

Besides the many projects that I have already mentioned, CLAN is also assisting the National Museum of Australia with their 'Life in a Children's Home' exhibition and the National Library of Australia with their Oral History Project. CLAN will be assisting in distributing the National Library of Australia by sending out oral history brochures in 2011 to all our members. The National Library and National Museum also visited CLAN's office and also the National Orphanage Museum in Bankstown, NSW. CLAN has been represented on the Find and Connect consultancy group as well as the 'Who am I?' project run by the Centre of Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Victoria in conjunction with Melbourne University. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 'Who am I?' project on winning the 2010 "Engagement Award". We have also attended the ACWA meetings in NSW and we have written to the Victorian Ombudsman to push for an inquiry into historical abuse of children in state care. Unfortunately the Ombudsman has not taken up the opportunity hold a Victorian Inquiry into historical abuse.

After much consultation and many meetings with the Salvation Army, they have agreed to publicly apologise to those children who were in their 'care'. This is a significant milestone as it took a lot of persistence, hard work, and commitment to bring this about. This is the first time in the world that the Salvation Army is issuing a public apology. Special thanks go to Jim Luthy a QLD CLAN member. The apology has been scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> December in Canberra. The Salvation Army chose CLAN as the organisation to take all the RSVP's for them and to later send out the invitations when needed. The Salvation Army and CLAN have worked well together to bring this event to fruition.

CLAN is continuing to gather the history of Australia's 600+ Orphanages, Children's Homes and institutions. CLAN placed an advertisement in the Daily Telegraph (NSW) asking for anyone with information regarding the history of Orphanages and Children's Homes to please contact us. As a result we

received a number of phone calls as well as some donations of items for the museum including photographs from St Vincent's, Westmead.

Recently I have also been to Tasmania to get some history and learn more about the orphanages there. Whilst in Tasmania, we had two socials, one in Launceston and one in Hobart. We do try to schedule socials whenever CLAN travels interstate.

The last few months saw the Kiama, NSW memorial as a huge success, in a local park and there was a good turn out of CLAN members. Thank you to the Kiama Council and the Mayor of Kiama, Sandra McCarthy for the support of this local memorial. This was followed by the Victorian memorial of which CLAN committee members Frank Golding, Phyllis Exell-Cremona and I were on the working party for. Still to come later this year is the Western Australian memorial as well as the first anniversary of the apology. These are both special events and we hope all that attend have a wonderful time and benefit from attending. Whilst speaking of the National apology, a very exciting documentary will be airing on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010 on SBS at 8:30pm. This documentary covers the journey of CLAN and along with that the journey of Care Leavers and Forgotten Australians.

The silent protests in Victoria are still happening every month as we continue to pressure the Victorian government outside the front offices of the Department of Human Services. The Victorian CLAN members have decided to hold a silent protest every Friday in November in preparation for the Victorian election and we will be conducting the protests on the steps of Parliament House, Melbourne.

We have attended the Public Hearings of the Senate Inquiry into Government Compensation with CLAN members Jane Wangmann and Graham Rundle who gave evidence regarding compensation on 2nd November.

An Election Forum was just held in Victoria on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> November to give the three parties a chance to discuss Care Leaver justice and redress issues. CLAN is also assisting FaHCSIA with the celebrations which have been planned for the first anniversary of the National Apology.

I would also like to say a special thank you to those who have made substantial donations to CLAN. Thank you to a NSW Clannie for their donation of \$5000 and to an ACT Clannie for their donation of \$2000. Thanks to Malcolm Turnbull for his donation of \$5000 and Steve Irons for his donation of \$1000. Also thank you to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd for their donation of \$1000 and the Department of Human Services Victoria for their donation of \$2000. We would also like to say a big thank you to all of those who have given us a donation as these donations are essential for CLAN's survival. With CLAN ready to close its doors last year, every little bit helps us to keep going.

Thank you to the CLAN committee, to its many volunteers – Anthony Sheedy, Vlad Selakovic, Ray Prosser, Gay Brown, Jenny Bosanquet, Amelia, Karen Gurney and Geoff Meyers.

This has been a huge year with many achievements. However, there is still much more to do. CLAN will continue fighting and will not rest until we can achieve Justice and Redress and services for all Australian Care Leavers in all states of Australia.



# 2009/2010 HIGHLIGHTS

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HAS MOVED

For the first time in CLAN's 10 years the AGM has moved to another state and this year we are hosting the AGM in Melbourne, Victoria.

We hope that with further funding we can have the AGM in different states to reach as many of our wonderful members.

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## THE NATIONAL APOLOGY

In 2010 CLAN was a part of an incredible achievement for all Care Leavers with the National Apology by former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd and former Opposition Leader, Malcolm Turnbull who stood united to say sorry for what happened to us as children.

A significant day, 16th November 2009 will go down in history as a day that former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd acknowledged as *"a turning point in our nation's story, a turning point for shattered lives"*.

CLAN was inundated with reactions from members of CLAN and members of the general public with mixed feelings. CLAN's oldest member, Vera Fooks, who sadly died in March 2010 at 98 years, felt so elated when hearing about the apology and gladly said *"that's great news! He is going to say sorry that's really something to make you feel good about"*.

Most were thrilled that at last the pains of their childhood had been finally acknowledged by the public and was felt it was especially illustrated when former Opposition Leader, Malcolm Turnbull said, *"We believe you"*.

Some felt it was too little too late, however, the majority felt an overwhelming sense of relief and regarded the apology as the first step in our healing process.

At long last many felt acknowledged by their country.

Four main initiatives were announced on the day of the apology:

- **Aged Care Services** – Former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd said that Care Leavers/Forgotten Australians would be identified as a special needs group for aged-care purposes and this would help aged-care providers offer appropriate support services
- **Two History Projects – Oral History Project and Museum Project** – These two projects will help provide a historical record of the

experiences of Care Leavers/Forgotten Australians and former child migrants to help provide awareness and understanding and a remembrance of what happened as children. These projects will share first hand memories and voices, items, pictures and other historical information from this time.

- **National Find and Connect Service** – Along with FaHCSIA, there will be a national database of agencies that hold personal records of Care Leavers and with assistance from case managers there will be a service to help access these records.
- **Funding for Support Groups** – CLAN and Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) will receive \$300,000 over a 2 year period to help provide services and support, raise awareness and educate the general public and consult and collaborate with other services to provide efficient services to Care Leavers/Forgotten Australians.

CLAN thanks the Federal Government for their funding and assistance for allowing us to continue our work and keep our doors open. However more needs to be done to achieve Justice and Redress for all Australian Care Leavers regardless of which state they grew up in or whether they were a state ward or Home children.

Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd concluded *“today, and from this day forward, it is my hope that you will be called the ‘Remembered Australians’”*.

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## **CLAN’S 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

CLAN embarked a milestone by celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and celebrated by holding a weekend event at Bankstown Sports Club in July 2010.

The anniversary allowed CLAN and its members from all states of Australia to share and support each other. It was also a time to come together and to look back on what CLAN and its members have achieved together.

In the first 4 years of CLAN’s establishment, the term *“Forgotten Australians”* did not exist. It was only in August 2000, after the Senate Inquiry Report that the words Forgotten Australians came into use.

Over 200 CLAN members from around Australia gathered for two days of workshops, information sessions, presentations, guest speakers, an exhibition from the National Orphanage Museum, an art exhibition and of course celebrations.

There were many people to thank for their wonderful efforts towards the celebrations:

- **Will McMahon** who flew out from England to tell us what our sister group Care Leavers Association (CLA) was doing in the UK. Thank you to the Federal Government for funding Will’s trip.

- **Steve Walkerden** and **Ed McMahon** for an information session on Aged Care Services
- **Penny Savidis** of Ryan Carlisle and Thomas for her presentation on legal rights of Care Leavers
- **Senator Claire Moore** (Labor Senator for Queensland) for the launch of CLAN member, **Charlie Walker's** biography – *Charlie the Ratbag Orphan*
- A writing workshop by **Vikki Petraitis**
- A stress and relaxation workshop by **Graham Hercus**
- An art workshop by **Liz Moore**
- A singer and song writing workshop by **Leanne Hawkins** with **Lianna Rose**
- **Linda Burney MP** – Minister for Community Services and Member for Canterbury for her visit to the National Orphanage Museum
- **Greg James QC** for the inspiring speech after dinner
- **Connie Fierravanti-Wells** (Senator for New South Wales) for opening the art exhibition hosted by CLAN member **Robert House**
- A special thank you to CLAN's patrons **Richard Marles MP** - Member for Corio and Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs for launching the display of the National Orphanage Museum and **Jason Clare MP** Member for Blaxland and Minister for Defence Materiel for participating in the political lobbying presentation.

Richard Marles, Jason Clare and Claire Moore also attended the dinner and we thank them for their wonderful ongoing support.

**A very big and a very special thank you to all the volunteers and CLAN members who attended and helped make this a successful event.**

During the weekend it was clear that CLAN – like its name suggests, is like a family and we would not be where we are without the great support from our wonderful members and our generous patrons and supporters.

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## **SBS DOCUMENTARY**

On the first Anniversary of our apology (16<sup>th</sup> November 2010) there will be a documentary on Forgotten Australians/Care Leavers and the story of CLAN.

This documentary looks at the journey of CLAN and the important events that have taken place over the last 5 years. It documents the trials and tribulations of Care Leavers and the achievements to get Care Leavers to where they are now and the hard work that still needs to be done to achieve justice and redress for all Australian Care Leavers.

Nicola Woolmington, writer and director of the documentary, explains that:

*“This is the story of CLAN and two women that took over ten years to take their silent history to Canberra and Australia. It’s an untold story shared by more than 500,000 children who were placed in institutional homes in*

*Australia from 1930 to 1980. Leonie Sheedy and Joanna Penglase were both raised in care and grew up in a loveless system. They formed a support and advocacy group, called CLAN, for people like themselves. Their combined talents gave them the courage to overcome indifference and finally be heard.*

*This is the long awaited documentary which took five years to make and followed some of their struggle to where they are today.”*

CLAN thanks **Nicola Woolmington – Director** and **Nell White - Producer** and all involved in this history making documentary.

Special thanks to Nicky for sticking to our story when she came up against so many brick walls.

Thank you to SBS for showing this important social justice documentary on national television. At long last the Australian society will be aware of this history.

# SUPPORT TO CARE LEAVERS IN ALL STATES

CLAN is a national support and advocacy network that aims to assist all Care Leavers in Australia and has done so with a wide range of socials, reunions and other events in all states.

Many new members attended their first social or reunion and were encouraged to share their experiences by writing a piece for the newsletter. Feedback from new members showed that they were made to feel welcomed and offered new understanding of Care Leavers/Forgotten Australians in a social setting.

**We offer our special thank you to all our members involved in hosting and attending socials.**

In **QUEENSLAND** CLAN members had many successful get togethers and we would like to thank CLAN member **Jim Luthy** for his efforts in hosting the socials and our Queensland members for their assistance in making the socials and reunions a great success.

In the **NORTHERN TERRITORY** we will hold a social in January 2011 and we thank CLAN members **Heather** and **Janice** for organising this.

In **SOUTH AUSTRALIA** many CLAN members and other South Australian Care Leavers/Forgotten Australians witnessed the South Australian memorial in June 2010. Four huge stainless steel daisies were unveiled in the Adelaide parklands as a symbol of hope and healing for the thousands of children who suffered as a result of past child welfare practices. CLAN was represented at the South Australian memorial.

The unveiling was five years after the damning *Senate Inquiry Report on Forgotten Australians*.

South Australia held two socials hosted by CLAN member, **Priscilla**. CLAN gives a very special thank you to Priscilla for organising the socials and we look forward to hearing about many more successful socials for the newsletter.

We have advertised for feedback on South Australian socials and reunions and hope to add them to future newsletters.

In **TASMANIA** we would like to thank CLAN members, **Kris** and **Marie** for hosting socials in Launceston.

With funding from the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Leonie visited Tasmania twice this year to research some history

and learn more about the orphanages in Tasmania and help bring awareness to a hidden history.

In **VICTORIA** CLAN members continued to hold silent protests each month at both the Parliament House and outside the head office of the Department of Human Services.

Each Friday in November 2010 there will be a series of protests outside Parliament House in Melbourne for the impending Victorian state elections on 27<sup>th</sup> November. The protests are a great way to put pressure on the Victorian Government for justice and redress but it is also a great way to meet other Care Leavers and share stories.

There have been many meetings in Ross House within the past year and it has been host to workshops;

- Our great supporter, **Angela Sdrinis** of Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers who has helped Care Leavers understand their legal rights
- The Find and Connect scoping study was to help all Care Leavers/Forgotten Australians have their say about the impending service
- Greens MLC **Colleen Harland** and **Mary Wooldridge MP** – Member for Doncaster came to speak to the CLAN members.

During the past year Victorian CLAN members have held 6 socials and according to the feedback received were successful.

In April 2010, CLAN was apart of the Geelong Historical Festival and showed items from the National Orphanage Museum and received a lot of great attention. Thank you to CLAN member **Vlad** for his assistance. You can see photos from the festival on the member's section of the CLAN website.

Victoria also unveiled a memorial in Melbourne's Southbank on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010. CLAN committee members **Leonie Sheedy, Phyllis Exell-Cremona** were part of the working committee and **Frank Golding** was the chair for the memorial. Thank you to all members of the working party.

Many CLAN members attended the memorial and some were even involved in the unveiling of the memorial including; **Vlad**, 83 year old **Ray Prosser** and committee members Phyllis and Leonie where Leonie also gave a speech for the unveiling.

Ross House will once again be host to another CLAN event, with the Election Forum to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> November. The forum will hold a discussion between Care Leavers and political parties to discuss policies on Victorian Care Leavers and Justice and Redress issues. The forum will include **Lisa Neville MP** – Member for Bellarine and the Victorian Minister for Mental Health, Community Services and Senior Victorians and **Colleen Hartland** a member of the Victorian Greens. We hope to initiate a great discussion between Care Leavers and political parties.

We are hopeful that a representative from the Liberal Party will attend.

CLAN would also like to thank CLAN member **Jenny Bosanquet** for sending out birthday cards to our wonderful members who are on her list. Also, to CLAN member **Marty Camm** for all his *Wardywear* work and his wonderful CLAN clock which is currently in our office.

In **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**, CLAN welcomed Redress WA applicants to receive with three sessions of counselling services by CLAN's counsellor, Natalie. As a part of this service Natalie provides counselling, support and information to Redress applicants.

Within the past year there were no socials and reunions in Western Australia but we will be holding a social in Perth in December of this year. We encourage our WA members to host socials or reunions for the coming year.

CLAN looks forward to the long-awaited memorial for Western Australian Care Leavers in early December this year. There will be representative from CLAN at the memorial and a social to be held about that time.

CLAN member **Bob McGuire** has been active along with others in getting a memorial for the children buried in unmarked graves at Parkerville. We are hopeful the memorial will be done in the same week as the Western Australian memorial.

In **NEW SOUTH WALES**, over the last 12 months several CLAN members hosted successful socials and reunions. There were a total of 15 socials and reunions all around New South Wales and ranged from CLAN's Bankstown office to as far as Tamworth.

CLAN would like to thank CLAN members, **Maureen, Derek, Geoff** and **Kathy** for organising the socials.

Special thanks from the CLAN staff to CLAN member, **Geoff Meyers** for travelling from Wollongong to the CLAN office in Bankstown to volunteer every Tuesday with sorting and archiving newspaper clippings. Thank you Geoff your wonderful sense of humour and presence is truly appreciated in the office.

In September 2010, NSW was the host to a memorial in Kiama with an unveiling of a plaque by the Mayor of Kiama, Sandra McCarthy. CLAN wishes to thank Mayor Sandra McCarthy and Kiama Council for being the second town in Australia, after Goulbourn, to do a memorial to Care Leavers. CLAN also wishes to thank Debra Plowright for her help in initiating the memorial.

CLAN placed an application for a new service for NSW Care Leavers but was unsuccessful in winning the tender. However, we congratulate Relationships Australia (NSW) for winning the service and hope they can support NSW Care Leavers with practical specialist services.

# CLAN'S PATRONS

We are truly lucky and grateful for CLAN's wonderful patrons; **Jason Clare MP** – Member for Blaxland and Minister for Defence Materiel and **Richard Marles MP** – Member for Corio and Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs.

CLAN would like to congratulate our patrons on retaining their electoral seats and wish to thank them for their continued support to CLAN and its members.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the following supporters:

- **Senator Claire Moore** Labor Senator for Queensland
- **Steve Irons MP** – Member for Swan
- **Tony Stewart MP** – Member for Bankstown
- **Lisa Neville MP** – Member for Bellarine and Minister for Mental Health, Community Services and Senior Victorians
- **Linda Burney MP** – Member for Canterbury and Minister for Community Services
- **Malcolm Turnbull MP** – Member for Wentworth and Opposition Leader (at the time)

It is wonderful to have bipartisan support for CLAN and Care Leaver issues.

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# CLAN'S COMMITTEE

CLAN would like to acknowledge and thank our wonderful voluntary committee members, who give up their family time to come to committee meetings every month.

**Frank Golding**, CLAN's vice-president has been a fantastic asset to a busy, hard-working team and CLAN would like to thank Frank for taking on the role as editor of the Clanicle over the past year.

Frank's assistance and effort has been greatly acknowledged with CLAN staff when assisting with submissions, tenders, reports, surveys and other projects and his work is truly appreciated. We thank Frank for being the CLAN representative on the Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA).

This year Frank will resign from the committee and we wish Frank all the best in his future endeavours and his new book he is writing.

**Phyllis Exell-Cremona** for her ongoing support and commitment to Care Leaver issues and the support to Leonie and the staff.



Phyllis and Frank also worked together with Leonie and a committee of Care Leavers for the recently held Victorian Memorial.

**Pat Griffiths** has taken on a new role as Public Officer of the CLAN committee as well as her role as the Secretary and for tirelessly doing the minutes during the committee meetings. Pat has been associated with CLAN for 6 years.

**Gaye Brown** our wonderful volunteer who has covered every single book of the CLAN library.

**Lindal Sambrook** took on the role of Treasurer last year and has greatly assisted the committee with financial information and thank you for your efforts with CLAN's limited budget.

**Sarah Breen** was a great asset to the committee, but has resigned for this year due to other commitments. We wish Sarah the best in all her endeavours.

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## CLAN'S STAFF

CLAN's office has grown over the past year with two more employees.

Our amazing office manager, **Julie** has handled the office incredibly well with the wide array of work ranging from administration to financial processing. CLAN and its staff truly appreciate all the hard work that she does and her commitment to making sure the office runs smoothly.

**Benita**, our project officer has been busy collecting information and completing the survey report to be launched sometime later this year and has continued to expand and update the website on a daily basis.

CLAN employed **Natalie** late last year and in February she extended her role as CLAN's counsellor. CLAN thanks her for her understanding and empathetic work and commitment to Care Leaver issues. *Read Natalie's counselling report on the next page.*

You may have noticed a new voice answering the phones. **Carla** joined the team in June 2010 over the anniversary period on a casual basis, 2 days a week to assist with various administration tasks. CLAN would like to thank Carla for her great assistance and wish her the best on her future endeavours.

# COUNSELLOR'S REPORT

I just wanted to start off by saying Hi to all members and to tell you all how much I have enjoyed my role as the CLAN counsellor.

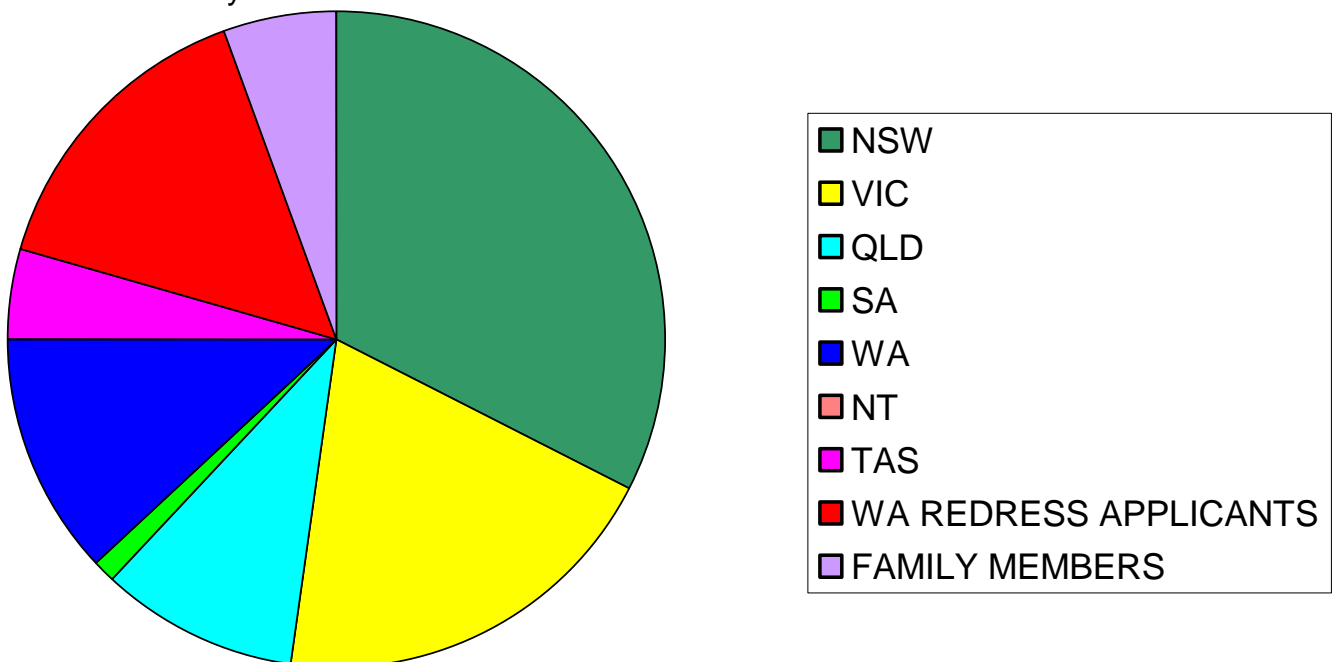
I have now been here for about 8 months and have had the pleasure of speaking to a number of you. At the moment I am here on Mondays and Fridays and have recently started counselling on Wednesday morning as well, due to more members using the service.

We have also been asked to provide for those who have applied to Redress WA with counselling, support and information. At present CLAN has helped 14 Redress WA applicants and we want to encourage all Clannies as well as Redress WA applicants to use this service.

There are times when we all need a little extra support and just for someone to listen to us when we feel no one else will. So if you ever feel like things are getting too much and you need that little bit of help and support to get through it, please don't hesitate to call us and make an appointment to speak with me. Unfortunately appointments are necessary due to availability so please give the office a quick call.

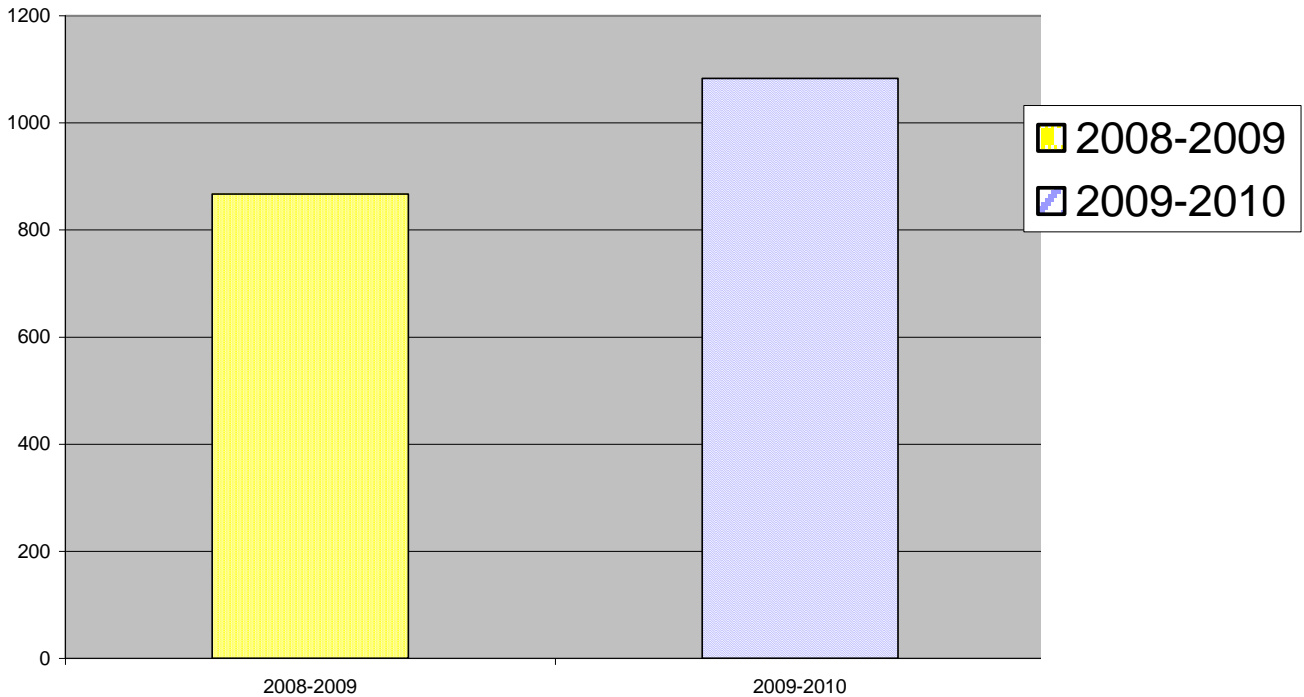
I also want to take this opportunity to say that those Care Leavers I have talked to so far have been so wonderful and I admire your courage and spirit to keep going in the face of adversity. It truly is my pleasure to speak with you and help you where I can.

We have included a graph below for you to have a look at and see where most of the Care Leavers I have spoken to have been raised and the amount of people I have spoken to. Many of these people have become regular clients and I look forward to our chats every week. I hope to hear from many more of you soon.



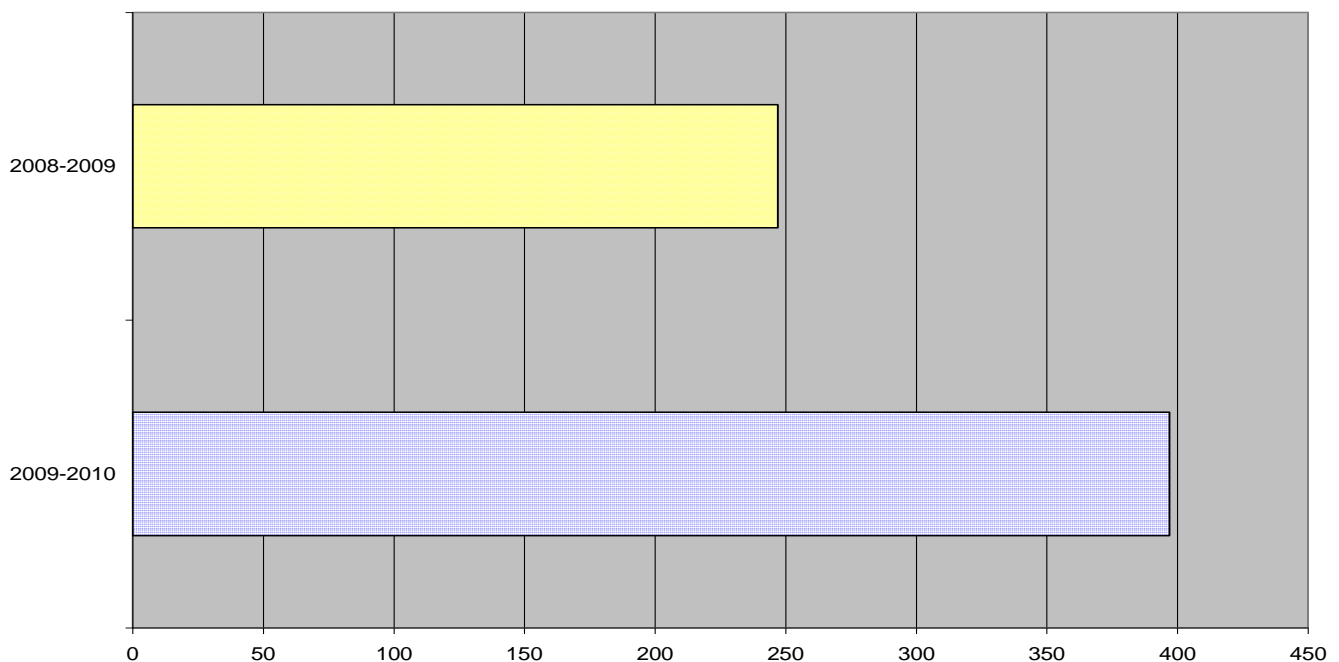
# MEMBERSHIP

Many factors may have been the reason for the 20% increase in the 2009-2010 period as compared to the 2008-2009 period. As stated in the President's Report, CLAN hit the 1000 member mark in June 2010 and currently has 1069 members.

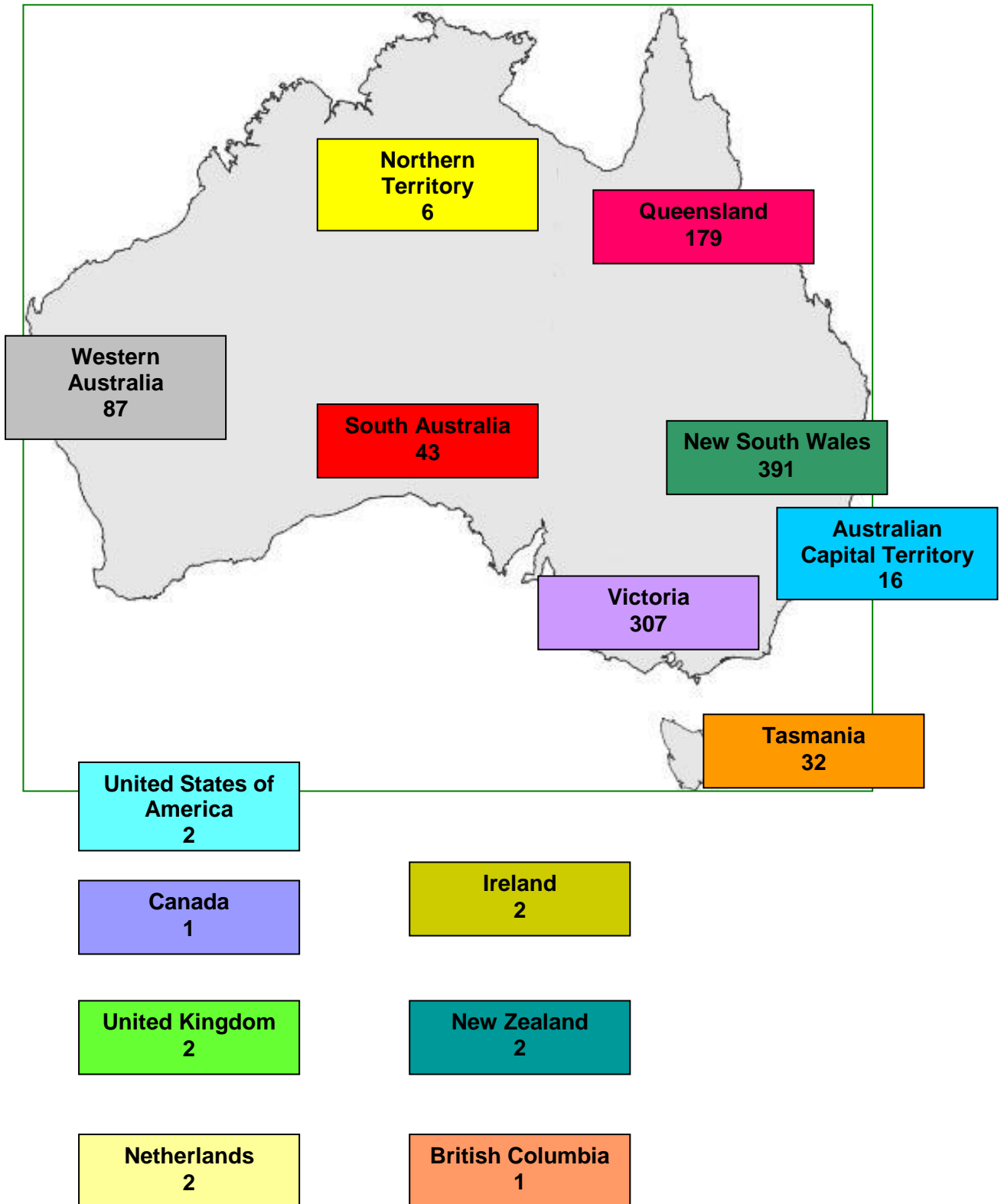


Possibly the most obvious and significant factor for the increase in members could have been the National Apology as many new members said they had not heard about CLAN or any other support groups before the apology.

There was a 38% increase in new members from the 2009-2010 period as compared to the 2008-2009 period.



**CLAN MEMBERS ACROSS AUSTRALIA AND OVERSEAS  
A TOTAL OF 1069 MEMBERS FROM THE 2009-2010 PERIOD  
INCLUDING CARE LEAVERS, FRIENDS, RESEARCHERS AND PAST  
PROVIDERS**



# **CLAN'S WORK**

## ***INFORMATION PACKAGES:***

CLAN staff was inundated with phone calls, emails and letters shortly before and after the National Apology.

It is disappointing to note that we still receive calls and emails from people who did not know about CLAN and for those people who felt the National Apology was to the Stolen Generation and Child Migrants.

CLAN aims to raise awareness of Care Leavers and Care Leavers issues in the community and a total of 180 information packages were sent out over the last year.

The information packages include information about CLAN, an old newsletter to let new members know what CLAN does (we like to call it an oldie but a goodie) and a copy of the Senate Inquiry into Forgotten Australians (2004).

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## ***SUPPORT:***

Over the past year we had 99 members and non-members visit the CLAN office.

Reasons for visits to the office ranged from finding out what CLAN can offer to search for parent's war records, visiting the National Orphanage Museum, face-to-face counselling, borrowing library resources and general support.

CLAN also sent out letters of support to members or non-members who sought assistance with urgent matters regarding government departments such as receiving disability pension, application for priority housing, medical and dental services and general support.

In total CLAN has provided:

- 17 letters of support to Department of Housing in various states
  - 13 letters of support to Centrelink for disability pensions
  - 2 letters of support for medical and dental services
  - 2 letters of support for general assistance
- 

## ***NEWSLETTER ON CD:***

CLAN has recently introduced an initiative to help those members that have difficulty reading or visually impaired by putting the newsletters on CD.

The last newsletter, *Clanicle* 60 was the first audio recording. Thank you to Natalie and Benita for getting this service out to members.

CLAN staff has sent out 15 newsletter CDs to members all over Australia.

If you know of a member who may need this please contact the CLAN office.

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### ***MEDIA - DAILY TELEGRAPH ADVERTISEMENT:***

An advertisement was posted in the *Daily Telegraph* in October 2010 asking for any information, articles or items to be donated to the National Orphanage Museum.

The advertisement proved successful with CLAN receiving approximately 30 phone calls about the advertisement. The oldest being 82 years who called in and many people that called in were not aware that CLAN or any other services for Care Leavers existed.

Some items donated were photographs from St Vincent's Westmead and St John's Goulburn.

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### ***A-FRAME/SANDWICH BOARD:***

CLAN purchased frame boards to be put outside the CLAN office to help the general community know more about the issues and work of Care Leavers. CLAN advertised the child migrant apology in February, the National Orphanage Museum and we will advertise the upcoming documentary soon.

Over 20 people have showed great interest and visited the National Orphanage Museum since the purchase in March 2010.

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### ***EMAILS:***

Because of the great amount of emails received to CLAN about support, membership enquiries, website assistance and newsletter items we have introduced new email addresses to make it easier for staff to assist with enquiries.

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### ***WEBSITE:***

The CLAN website has been running successfully and has grown with new sections.

### **Memorial:**

As many CLAN members are aware, the last newsletter paid tribute to those Care Leavers that have since passed.

Although this part of the website will be developed sometime later this year, we hope to establish 3 memorials on the website so we can remember those who have died.

The memorials will be for:

1. To those who died while in 'care'
2. CLAN members who have died
3. The people raised in orphanages and died serving our country WWI and WWII

If you would like to place a name on anyone of these memorials please contact CLAN.

After the last newsletter on a memorial to those Care Leavers who have passed away we have received some wonderful feedback from our members including;

- CLAN member, **Dennis** of VIC – *“received my copy of Clanicle today. Could not be more moved by the partial number of children that died while in ‘care’”*

### **Salvation Army Homes Section:**

With the upcoming Salvation Army apology, all children's Homes and orphanages that CLAN is aware of have been put in the menu bar of the website and is organised by each state.

Please note that we are not aware of all children's Homes, orphanages and institutions and if you feel that we have left out an institution that you know of than please contact CLAN and we will put information on the website when possible.

### **Privacy Agreement Page:**

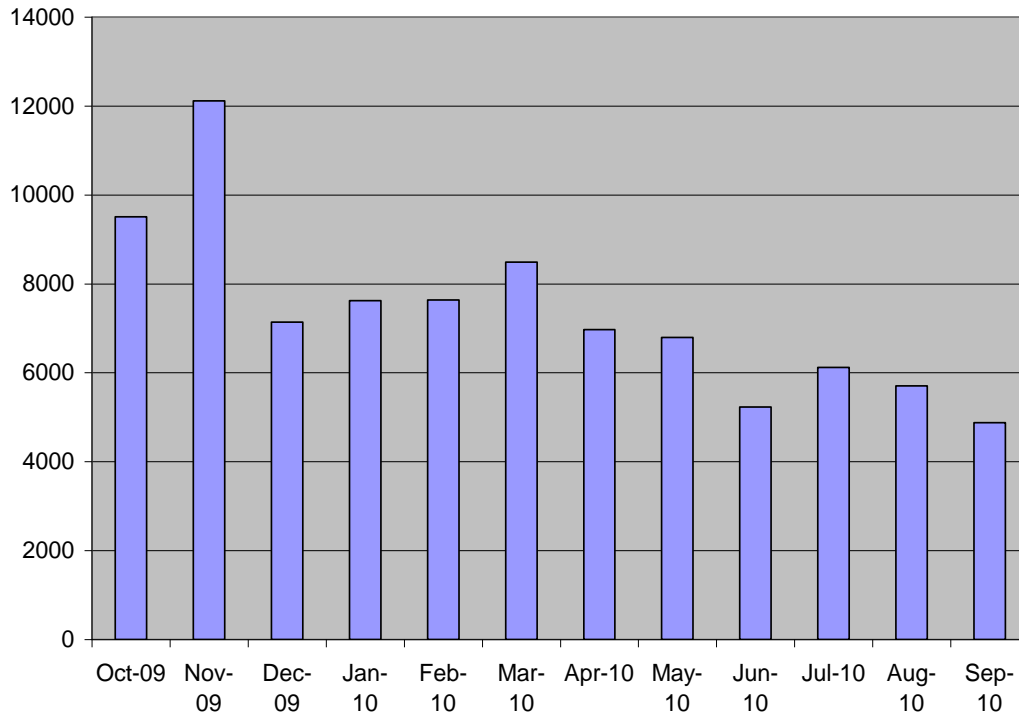
You may have noticed that there has been a change when you logon to the member's section of the website, with the introduction of a privacy and confidentiality agreement page on the website.

CLAN aims to respect the privacy of all CLAN members and one way to ensure this is to only allow Care Leavers that are CLAN members to access this important part of our website.

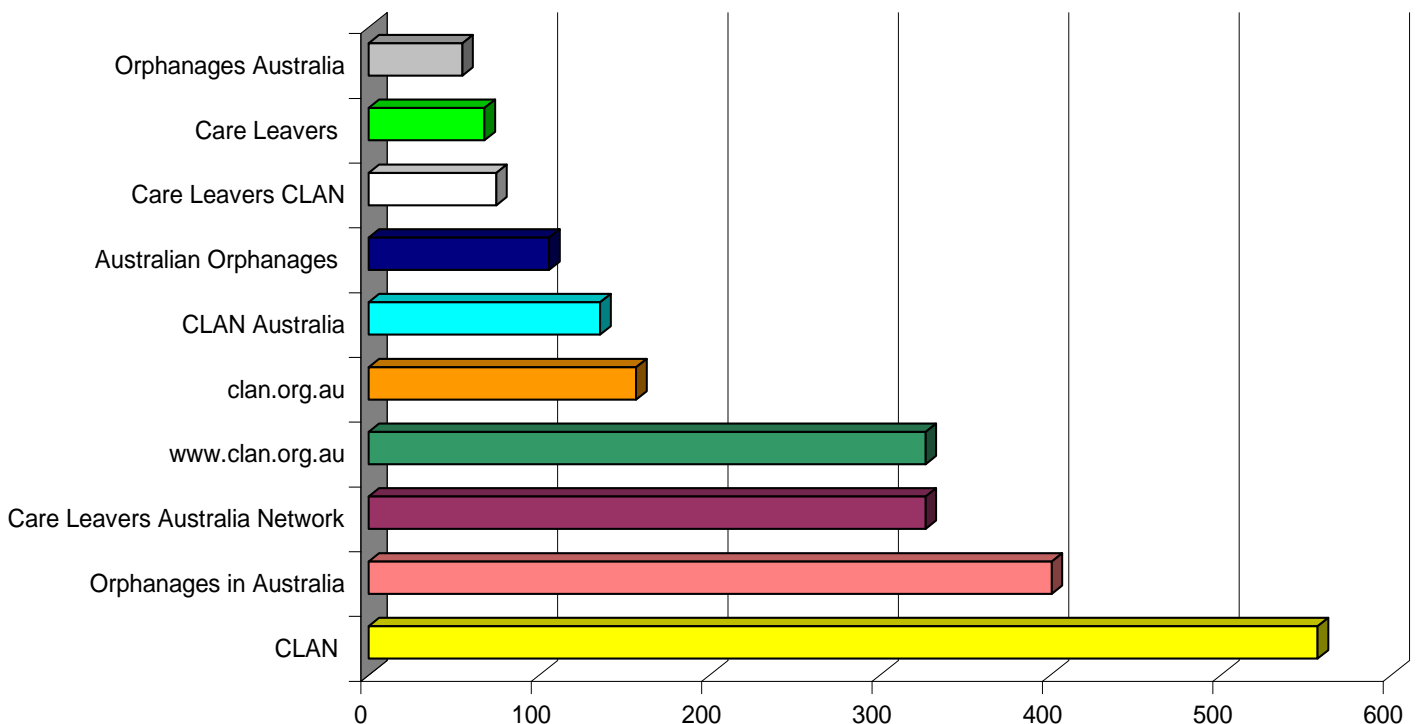
Currently there are 241 CLAN members that are logged onto the members section.

## WEBSITE HITS:

Compared to the last annual report, the CLAN website has become more popular and steadily increasing as shown in the graph with its website visits. November 2009 illustrated the highest visits to the website and this may be attributed to the Federal Apology.



Over the past year the most searched words relating to the CLAN website are shown in the graph below:





# TREASURER'S REPORT

At the commencement of the financial year (July 2009), CLAN held only \$87,773.15. At the end of the financial year (June 2010) CLAN held \$299,682.06.

## **Financial Statement of Accounts:**

The 2009-10 accounts are currently being audited by *Cross Accountants & Financial Advisers*. The 2010-2011 budget was created on MYOB and accepted by CLAN's Management Committee on the 6th October 2010.

The biggest change to CLAN's budget has been the \$300,000 grant from the Federal Government which is to be spent over 2 years (2009-2011). If it had not been for this grant, CLAN would have ceased operation.

With this grant, CLAN was required to complete certain conditions such as funding reports, which has created more work for the staff in the office. The committee decided that one of the best ways to utilise this grant was to employ a counsellor part-time who would provide face to face and telephone counselling. A counsellor was employed in February 2010 and CLAN now has three full time employee and one employee who cover two roles one as counsellor and administration assistant.

The NSW Government has also agreed to fund CLAN \$35,000 each year over 5 years, from 2010-2015 and funded CLAN \$25,000 for 2009-2010. Other Government funding received over the financial period includes - VIC (\$15,500), ACT (\$3,000), SA (\$15,000), and TAS (\$25,000). We still do not receive funding from the QLD or WA Governments.

This year WA has agreed to pay for counselling for WA Redress applicants with three sessions of counselling per applicant.

## **Memberships and Donations**

There has been a slight increase in memberships to CLAN, with the amount of money growing from membership fees from \$19,544.12 in 2008-2009 to \$20,935.04 in 2009-2010.

A large amount of the donations were received for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations with \$10,000 from our members and past providers. We also fundraised for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, with raffles and silent auctions and collected \$4,500. FaHCSIA funded \$3,000 towards Will McMahon's travel, accommodation and expenses from the UK and the Department of Human Services (VIC) donated \$2000 towards the celebrations.

CLAN's expenses have generally remained steady with most of CLAN's expenses coming from rent, salaries and telephones. The biggest changes have been the costs for printing and postage for the newsletter as postage has increased and Jason Clare's office is no longer available for CLAN to use their printing facilities.

In conclusion, 2009-2010 has been a great year for CLAN; however without continued funding from the Federal Government, CLAN will have to cease operating.

**Care Leavers Australia Network**  
**Compilation Report to Care Leavers Australia Network**

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*The Responsibility of the Directors of Care Leavers Australia Network*

The Committee of Management of Care Leavers Australia Network, are solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements and have determined that the significant accounting policies adopted as set out in Note 1 to the financial statements are appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

*Our Responsibility*

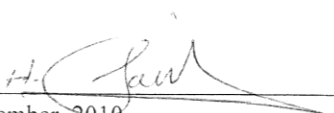
On the basis of the information provided by the Committee of Management of Care Leavers Australia Network, we have checked the income and expenditure statement provided. Our task involved checking some of the expenses against their source documents and verification of samples of the expenses.

Our procedures use accounting expertise to collect, check the financial information which the Committee of Management provided. No audit has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

The special purpose Income and expenditure statement were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the Committee of Management of Care Leavers Australia Network. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of this special purpose report.

Suite 2 / 12 Bankstown City Plaza  
Bankstown NSW 2200

Cross Tax & Accounting Services

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
24 November, 2010

# CARE LEAVERS AUSTRALIA NETWORK

P.O. Box 164  
GEORGES HALL NSW 2198

## Balance Sheet

As of June 2010

26/11/2010  
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Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash On Hand		
Account Balmain	\$24,969.44	
Account - Term Deposit	\$205,460.00	
Maxi Interest Account	\$73,567.14	
Petty Cash	\$150.37	
Total Cash On Hand	\$304,146.95	
Pledges Receivable	\$100.00	
Inventory		
Orphans of the Living	\$581.63	
Total Current Assets		\$304,828.58
Other Assets		
Expenditure Museum	\$239.73	
Total Other Assets		\$239.73
Total Assets		\$305,068.31
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	\$324.35	
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	\$1,274.80	
GST Paid	-\$4,296.00	
Total GST Liabilities	-\$3,021.20	
Payroll Liabilities		
Payroll Accruals Payable	\$9,370.54	
Total Payroll Liabilities	\$9,370.54	
Total Current Liabilities		\$6,673.69
Total Liabilities		\$6,673.69
Net Assets		\$298,394.62
Equity		
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	\$219,110.86	
Historical Balancing	\$79,283.76	
Total Equity		\$298,394.62

**CARE LEAVERS AUSTRALIA NETWORK**

P.O. Box 164  
GEORGES HALL NSW 2198

**Profit & Loss Statement**

**July 2009 through June 2010**

26/11/2010  
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Income	
Donations	\$55,039.51
Membership \$10	\$9,621.77
Membership \$20	\$4,872.25
Membership Friend \$25	\$2,509.38
Membership Researchers \$50	\$318.17
Membership Past Providers \$200	\$8,090.98
Membership Funded Groups \$100	\$1,459.10
Library Fees \$10	\$2,140.73
Orphans of the Living \$25	\$582.57
Grants	\$500.00
Government Funding	\$300,000.00
Raffle	\$1,597.00
Fund Income	
Docs NSW	\$25,605.00
DHS - Victoria	\$15,000.00
Dept Health Disability ACT	\$2,727.27
Govt SA	\$15,000.00
DHHS - TAS	\$25,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,274.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$471,337.73</b>
Cost of Sales	
Freight	-\$70.00
Orphans of the Living	\$98.79
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>\$28.79</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$471,308.94</b>
Expenses	
Supplies	\$3,189.40
Dues & Subscriptions	\$62.73
Bank Fees	\$35.25
Expenses - Anniversary	\$8,000.16
Insurance	\$4,853.94
Legal & Accounting	\$330.00
Printing	\$6,199.45
Employment Expenses	
Staff Amenities	\$514.62
Superannuation	\$13,061.11
Wages & Salaries	\$152,210.18
Consulting	\$1,103.90
Workers' Compensation	\$1,554.36
Leonie - Meals	-\$29.72
Leonie - course	\$255.00
Leonie - travel (bus & train)	-\$88.44
Miscellaneous Exp.	\$3,303.54
Expenses - Gifts	\$497.75
Expenditure Museum	\$169.00
Expenditure Library	\$229.45
<b>Total Employment Expenses</b>	<b>\$172,780.75</b>
Postage & Shipping	\$9,565.87
Norton Design	\$480.00
Netregistry	\$1,093.82
Rent	\$27,039.96
Internet	\$657.56
Interstate Accommodation	\$590.56
Telephone	\$7,723.25
Big Pond	\$656.81

CARE LEAVERS AUSTRALIA NETWORK

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2009 through June 2010

26/11/2010  
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Travel & Entertainment	\$8,312.42
Mobile Telephone	\$7,764.76
Services	
Electricity	\$1,621.82
Petrol	\$206.62
Total Expenses	<u>\$261,165.13</u>
Operating Profit	<u>\$210,143.81</u>
Other Income	
Interest Income	\$8,967.05
Total Other Income	<u>\$8,967.05</u>
Other Expenses	
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>\$219,110.86</u>

# CLAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Presented below is the current CLAN committee until the date of this report

**Leonie Sheedy**- President



**Frank Golding**- Vice President



**Phyllis Exell-Cremona** – Committee Member



**Pat Griffiths**- Secretary/Public Officer



**Gaye Brown** – Committee Member

**Lindal Sambrook** – Treasurer