



# ANNUAL REPORT

2007-2008

ChildSafe Limited ABN 45 123 666 339

Chair's Report • CEO's Report • Financial Statements

# Vision, Mission and Values

**“ChildSafe is a Harm Prevention Charity, promoting the prevention and control of behaviour that is harmful or abusive to children and young people when in the care of an organisation.”**

- ChildSafe Limited Constitution Section 2.1

We have chosen to focus initially on “radically improving child safety among Australian Churches”, with a longer term broader vision to assist other sectors working with children and young people.



Our Constitution lists the following powers to be used towards our objective...

1. To resource and train the staff and volunteers of organisations in the implementation of quality safety management at the core of their organisation,
2. To promote and constantly improve the ChildSafe Safety Management System as a high quality system,
3. To facilitate collaboration between organisations in the sharing of systems for the safety and care of children and young people, reducing duplication of effort and creating more efficient use of community resources,
4. To establish and maintain a public fund to be called the ChildSafe Foundation Fund for the specific purpose of the promotion of the prevention or the control of behaviour that is harmful or abusive to human beings.

## VALUES

1. We are fundamentally motivated by the desire to protect and care for children and young people. Other considerations, such as legislative compliance, retaining insurances or protecting reputation are vital but secondary to this fundamental motivation. This value informs the approach we take to child safety resources.
2. We measure the worth of safety and care materials by their practical usability as well as the standards that they set. It is for this reason that we have developed a systems approach with targeted processes and materials.
3. We strive to operate ChildSafe Limited with the highest standards of integrity. We value the relationships with our partners and clients, and aim to be transparent and honest in our dealings with others.
4. ChildSafe is not a system developed in isolation – it has its origins in the development of safety and care process within Scripture Union. We continue to develop and evaluate ChildSafe within this specific context. In commending the system to other organisations, its origins and use within the organisation that ‘owns’ ChildSafe are important to us.

# Chair's Report

I am pleased to present this Annual Report on behalf of the Directors, and of the sole Member of the Company, Scripture Union Australia. This is the second Annual Report for ChildSafe as a Public Company Limited by Guarantee, but represents the sixth year of operations since the ChildSafe Project commenced within Scripture Union.

We have made substantial progress within the church sector over the past year, which is in line with our Strategic Direction and has seen a doubling in the number of organisations involved with us. We manage to do a significant amount with modest financial and human resource capacity.

ChildSafe is now well established in the church sector as a focus for collaborative activity around the issues of child safety. Our new *ChurchSafe* branding creates a link to a 'whole of church' safety focus, and aligns our work with the Safe Church Project of the National Council of Churches.

We see and hear evidence that our work is making a discernable difference to the safety of children and young people. The sector we are currently focused on is mostly resource poor, and we are well aware that our clients face a range of internal barriers as they seek to implement more rigorous safety processes. We are continually looking to find ways to make our resources as helpful as possible, and to provide what assistance we can in the implementation process.

Our growth keeps stretching us beyond our capacity, both financially and for our 3 part-time staff. To be effective we need to continue to grow our ability to service our clients, manage and improve our web system and continue to operate as a 'lean', well governed entity.

## MILESTONES

Edition II of the ChildSafe Safety Management System was published at the end of 2007, and has been very well received in the church sector. A number of new large church denominations have adopted ChildSafe during the past year, and are now in the process of implementation.

Significant progress has also been made with Safety Management Online, which has undergone a third phase of development and now has 26 subscriptions, representing thousands of people and programs.

The Commonwealth Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FAHSCIA) granted ChildSafe entry onto the Register of Harm Prevention Charities. This provides some recognition of the value of our activities, and allows us to operate a Deductible Gift Recipient Fund.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

The past financial year has seen ChildSafe create a modest surplus while achieving significant growth in activity. The accounts need to be viewed with the understanding that ChildSafe Limited only commenced operations in March 2007. Our activities, however, stretch back to 2002 when Scripture Union commenced a project that has evolved into ChildSafe.

As a young entity ChildSafe Limited is financially vulnerable, and reliant on sound management and consistent performance. We believe both of these have been delivered over the past year. Our primary assets are the Intellectual Property within our publications and web system, and both of these have been upgraded significantly in 2007-08.

Funding from grants continues to underpin our ability to build capacity and create effective resources. We are grateful to Ansva Insurance, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation and the Genesis Life Foundation for their support of our work.



**Safety Management**  
**Online**™ | a tool to manage people & programs  
provided by ChildSafe Limited

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board continues to provide sound oversight and governance. Tom Slater stepped down after assisting ChildSafe greatly with his wisdom and energy since the project's inception. Lachlan Colebatch (Safety and Risk Services, CGU Insurance) joined the board at the start of 2008, bringing a fresh perspective and professional expertise in Risk Management. David Ford (Partner, Emil Ford Lawyers) and Timothy Jack (Executive Director, Apostolic Church of Australia) have also joined the board, each bringing their expertise and personal commitment to the values and objectives of ChildSafe. We meet every two months with two of these meetings each year being in the form of day long face to face strategic planning days. The other meetings are conducted by teleconference.

## CEO

Dave Boldy has served the ChildSafe project with distinction from its initial development (LAPS) through until the present. He has advised us that he will not seek re-appointment upon the conclusion of his current contract at the end of January 2009. The Board are actively working on a succession plan to ensure the continuing effective management of the ChildSafe project. The incoming CEO will be backed by a competent and effective team, both staff and board, and we are confident of that ChildSafe is in a strong position to protect the wellbeing of children and young people and organisations that work with them

**-Lloyd Carter**

# CEO's Report

*Growth and Consolidation* would be the words I'd use to characterise the year's progress. We are starting now to realise our core objectives in earnest: improved child safety and reduced duplicate of effort among our clients.

## COLLABORATION WITH THE SAFE CHURCH PROJECT

Our focus continues to be primarily within the church sector, and over the past year we have made some major strides towards a closer relationship with what we would regard as the other major initiative within this sector – the Safe Church Project of the National Council of Churches. The majority of the major denominations are part of this project now, and a significant number of them use or intend to use the ChildSafe Safety Management System.

Given the overlap in purpose between ourselves, we have devoted time and resources to building partnership. This has included mapping our system against their standards, resulting in a modified *ChurchSafe* training package which is endorsed within the Safe Church Training Agreement.



## LOOKING AHEAD

There is much to be done within the church sector, and the potential to make some strategic steps towards expanding, particularly into the school sector. We now have a large client base, representing many tens of thousands of people working (mostly voluntarily) with children and young people. Many of our clients are at a point where they are addressing the internal organisational structures required to effectively implement our system. This is good news, as it implies that they are looking to put accountability and compliance processes in place that will make them safer. It is also a huge challenge, and one where our desire is to 'walk alongside' our clients through their implementation journey, assisting where we can. The major way we do this is by acting as a focus point for collaboration between clients, so that they learn from each other's experiences.

Safety Management Online is now a live and active web system that is breaking new ground – very few individual organisations would have the capacity to create such a system themselves, but as a shared resource many have now seen its potential. There are ever-bigger challenges for us in managing its use, responding to clients' desires regarding its functionality, and working to enhance its usability.

## STAFFING

David Urquhart joined our small staff team as ChildSafe Webmaster (part-time), enabling us to support the expanding client base for Safety Management Online, and to continue the challenging task of enhancing our web platform. Project Officer Owen Riley has been instrumental in expanding our networks among large church organisations and denominations, and as a result we have grown our client base by over 100% in the past 12 months.

We have been well served by people contracting to ChildSafe, in particular Jenny Cowley's work as Lead Writer for our Edition II Publications.

I am privileged to work alongside a talented and committed Board of Directors, and to them I express my thanks.

**- Dave Boldy**