

Annual Report
2018-2019

This was a year of consolidation and development of our new process and increased bureaucracy outlined in the 2018-2019 Annual report.

Advice from Queensland GHADA indicated that due to the law's regulations we are ineligible for authorisation. All trainers working with an authorised organisation must be employees. We have a two-tiered system of independent contractors thus making us ineligible regardless of training standards.

Similar circumstances led to our application for membership of Assistance Dogs International being rejected. With hindsight this was probably a good thing. ADI does not advocate for positive force free training and there are Australian members who use aversives in training. This means that, ethically, we cannot be members.

The study *Psychiatric Assistance Dog Use for People Living With Mental Health Disorders* By Professor Janice Lloyd, Dr Laura Johnston and Julia Lewis was finally released in "Frontiers in Veterinary Science". It has proven to be an invaluable tool for establishing the positive effects of mindDogs. Being peer reviewed and published in a credible journal means that it goes some way towards building a genuine body of research on psych dogs.

Donations were healthy throughout the year. We will need to build on this for the coming period.

Numbers have increased putting a strain on resources particularly in Queensland where we only have two permanent assessors. Agi Herman has been travelling up from Sydney and carrying a substantial part of the Queensland load. This is unsustainable in the long term.

We have limited applications to six months of the year in two tranches — February to April, August to October.

NSW Transport has added mindDog to their approved training organisations list. This means that mindDog id cards are accepted without needing an extra card from NSW Transport.

All staff have put in substantial hours above their contracts. Sourcing sufficient funds in the coming year to provide adequate remuneration is a priority.

Yet again thanks go to all of our volunteers particularly Gina Dawson who has provided sterling support to our SA and NT clients.

And, of course, our directors have contributed enormously with outstanding efforts from Matt and Tom.

Cath Phillips
18/08/19