



STaR Association

# Annual Snapshot 2019



# About STaR

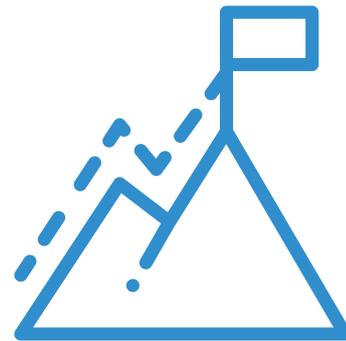


## OUR VISION

With the right support,  
all children can learn  
together

## OUR MISSION

To achieve  
access, opportunity  
and acceptance  
for all children



## OUR VALUES

**RISE**

Respect, Integrity,  
Social Justice, Empathy

# Comments from the Board



## Valentina Borbone – President

The outcomes for 2018-2019 are well aligned with STaR's 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. Our reputation as being experts in special education has been strengthened this year through increasing our social media profile and presentations by our Founding Board Member, Dr Coral Kemp and staff at national and international conferences. Whilst special education remains undervalued, our resolve to change this mindset is ever-present as we build our partnership with InSpEd (Institute of Special Educators).

We continue to deliver evidence-based best practice support and training under our strategic pillars: Educating Educators | Supporting Children and Families | Informing and Involving Communities.



## Stephen Fox – Treasurer

STaR has achieved a balanced budget with a moderate surplus this financial year. Given this consistency over the past few years, and with a secure capital base, STaR has a strong sense of future.

Fortunately, unlike many organisations in the disability sector, our financial viability has not been challenged by the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The STaR Board is vigilant in monitoring and maintaining financial viability to ensure long-term solvency and financial transparency to stakeholders. The modest expenditure on administration is a pleasing result.



## Margaret Meaker – General Manager

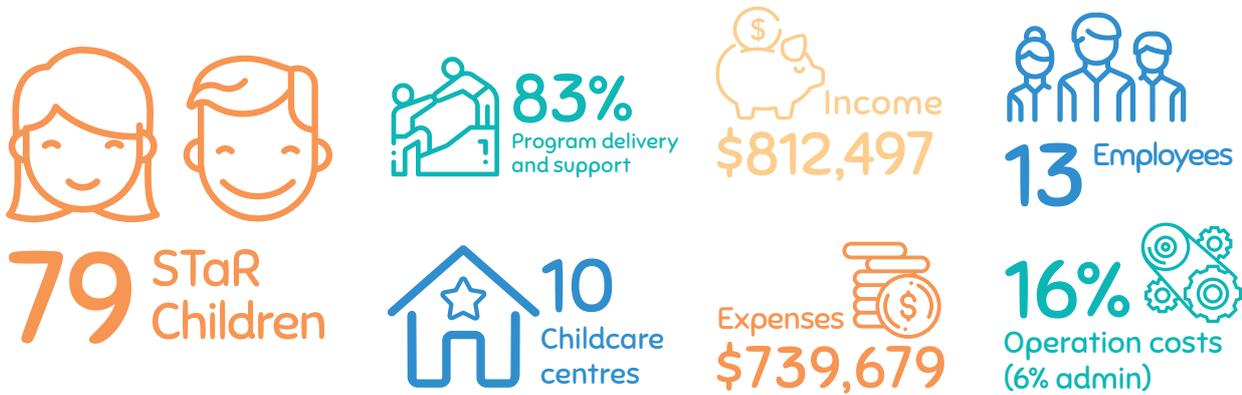
A strong focus on the key initiatives set for 2018/2019 has resulted in progressive outcomes this financial year.

Recognising its importance, STaR has always been committed to providing ongoing family support and as a result has maintained ongoing contact with families whose children are now young adults.

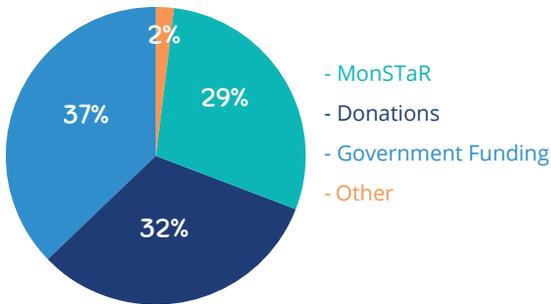
Anecdotally we know that the quality of their learning experiences usually becomes diluted as they grow older. We suspect that educators' and carers' low expectations and lack of knowledge and skills in special education are a barrier, and we recognise that this needs to be addressed across all learning settings. STaR is working to strengthen its partnership with The Institute of Special Education (InSpEd) to facilitate quality, meaningful lifelong learning for people with disabilities.

Collaboration with the Department of Education (DoE) has led to STaR delivering Sector Capacity Building training and support to 19 Pre Schools across Western Sydney. Through this, STaR Education has significantly increased its reach this past year and with a strong sense of purpose and future a key focus is increasing the profile of special education nationally.

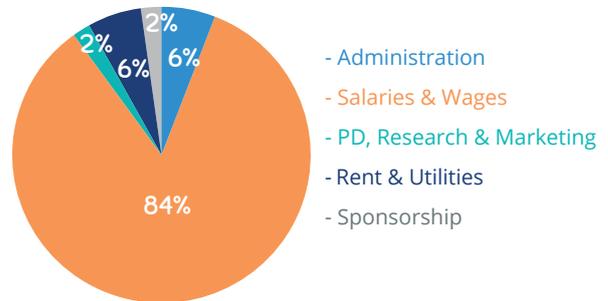
# STaR by the numbers in FY 2018–2019



Where the funds came from  
STaR Income for FY 2018–19



Where the funds go  
STaR Expenses for FY 2018–19



## Strategic Goals

Effective learning for children with additional needs, their families, their educators and the wider community.

**1 INDUSTRY LEADERS**  
Be leaders in research-based early special education

**2 BE ADVOCATES**  
Be advocates for family centred practice

# STaR Strategic Pillars

## Educating Educators

### Providing quality research-based training and mentoring

Our NESA-registered professional development courses cover a range of essential topics. These equip educators with the knowledge and skills they need to teach and include children with disabilities and additional needs in childcare, preschool and family day care settings.



## Supporting Children and Families

### Building resilience through supportive networks

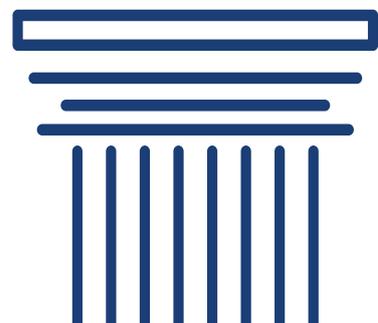
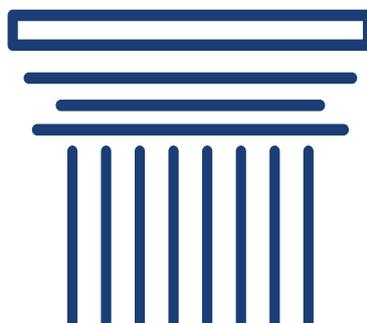
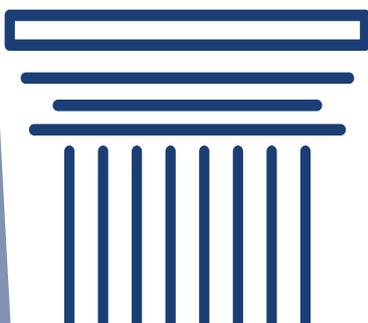
We provide families with access to our affiliated childcare centres and, once enrolled, STaR families receive support, information, resources and workshops. The centre educators receive support to develop and implement an Inclusion Plan for each STaR child. Under the NDIS we provide early childhood supports to eligible children and their parents.



## Informing Communities

### Providing information about best practice to a range of audiences

We are passionate about sharing what we know about how young children with disabilities, and additional needs, learn best.



# Outcomes Achieved 2018–19

## Educating Educators

### Providing quality research-based training and mentoring

- Delivery of five course subjects to childcare and preschool staff across North and Western Sydney.
- Developed and piloted an additional 3 courses to be registered with NESAs.
- An agreement with The Department of Education was secured to deliver Sector Capacity Building training and support to 19 Preschools across Western Sydney.
- An Education Manager with a PhD in Special Education was appointed in October 2018.

## Supporting Children and Families

### Building resilience through supportive networks

- Support was delivered to 10 STaR-affiliated centres, 79 children and their families. Additionally, a comprehensive performance review of all childcare centres resulted in discontinuing operation in 2 centres and commencing in 3 new centres.
- The Family Support model has been reviewed and as a result the core components have been formally embedded into the childcare support program.
- Family capacity building courses were redeveloped and piloted.
- STaR was established as an NDIS service provider.

## Informing Communities

### Providing information about best practice to a range of audiences

- All STaR publications, all marketing and presentation material was redesigned to ensure consistent branding.
- Social media engagement has increased significantly through regular postings with a focus on family support and best practice.
- STaR Board and staff members presented at national and international conferences profiling the STaR model.
- Research conducted in collaboration with Macquarie University was published in an international journal.
- STaR is recognised as a support partner of InSpEd.





"My friends are learning sign language too!" – Felix

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# We acknowledge

## Our partners and sponsors



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services



Education

**Banter**  
GROUP

**MonSTaR**  
FOUNDATION  
Together we can make a difference

**InSpEd**  
Institute of Special Educators

**ASF** AUSTRALIAN  
STOCKBROKERS  
FOUNDATION



# Contact Us

## Our Office

Unit 8/22 Hudson Ave, Castle Hill NSW 2154

**Phone:** 02 8850 1269 | **Email:** [office@star.org.au](mailto:office@star.org.au)

**Mail:** PO Box 209, Thornleigh NSW 2120

## Connect with us online

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The STaR Association is a **registered charity**.  
By donating to STaR, you're helping a child who faces challenges to get a better start in life. All donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible.  
<https://star.org.au/support-us/donate-now/>