

# CHAMPION FOUNDATION TRUST

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ANNUAL REPORT

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YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022

CHARITIES COMMISSION CC39895  
PRIVATE BAG 4708 CHRISTCHURCH 8140

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REPORT BY CHAIRPERSON

## **PURPOSE OF THE TRUST**

To benefit children with intellectual or other mental or physical disabilities compromising their development with specific focus on early intervention programmes and therapies by, including and not limited to, providing financial assistance to the Christchurch Early Intervention Trust incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 so long as it remains a charitable trust in New Zealand.

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

June 2022

## **Major Donors:**

Thank you to the following regularly supportive Donors for their donations again this financial year:

Hickman Family Trust - \$50,000

Sir William & Lady Manchester Charitable Trust - \$10,000

Spanbild - \$10,000

Clive and Suzy Davidson - \$40,000 to be put towards the Assisted Technology Programme at the Champion Centre.

Kirby Trust - \$5,000

In addition to the above donations, we have also received the following bequests.

Anonymous - \$20,000

JR Milligan - \$5,000

We wish to thank all our supporters and donors for their contributions throughout the financial year which enables us to continue to support the Champion Centre and ensure the Centre will be around for future children and their families.

## **Total Capital:**

The Foundation records since inception, show the non-audited estimate of the total capital raised, dividends and interest earned totals \$2,921,346 which estimate may provide an additional perspective to these accounts. Please note we must stress **this is very much an approximate non-audited figure.**

**News:** It seems appropriate while recall is fresh to include in this report, a summary of news of the last calendar year rather than just to the end of the financial year ending in June 2022, and accordingly such now follows:

## **Board Appointments and Trustee News:**

Andrew Tait, a partner of Rhodes & Co, Solicitors, and

Laraine Sharr who has had an extensive and prestigious background in Education were appointed as Trustees in July and October 2022 respectively.

Bridget Frame, Mike Norris, Jeremy Crang, Patricia Champion and Celia Barker continue as Trustees.

## **Sir Bill English & Impact Lab**

On 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022 the Foundation held its long Covid delayed function at the Christchurch Club to launch the Impact Lab Report prepared by Impact Lab. Although after 30 June financial year end, this event has been some time in the making. To see an overview of the report please go to [www.championfoundation.co.nz](http://www.championfoundation.co.nz). It was a very successful evening with Maria English (CEO of Impact Lab) and Sir Bill English in attendance to present the findings of the report. Approx 90 Foundation supporters and some new potential supporters attended the event to hear Maria English speak, which she did in amazingly glowing terms. It was clear from her findings that any donor would know their money is being effectively used to create real impact in the lives of the children who attend, thereby creating social good for the whole community. Guests also heard from Bella Lammers (a Champion Centre alumni)

about her busy and happy life. As she said “I love my life”. Her father Coen Lammers did a masterful job as MC for the evening. Georgia Heard a recent former parent whose son Ollie attended, gave a moving talk from her perspective as a parent, explaining how wonderful her experience with the Champion Centre had been and how it had positively changed the lives of her, Ollie and her family.

### **Impact of Covid-19**

The effects of Covid-19 continued through the financial year with no fundraising events being able to be held due to government restrictions and the uncertainty created by those restrictions as well as the nationwide lockdown in August 2021.

### **Jarden New Zealand**

As referred to in last year’s report, Jarden New Zealand (Matthew Rose and Johnny Cochrane) was selected as the fund manager for the capital fund of the Champion Foundation Trust. Other than a Bank account to meet budgeted contingencies, funds have now been moved under their management. They have taken an active interest in our work and attended the Impact Lab Launch. They were complimentary about the evening and have subsequently met with several of our team.

### **Premature Children’s Book- “Earlybird”**

We were delighted when the Wright Family Foundation renewed their commitment to the Earlybird book by agreeing to fund the reprint of Earlybird as stock levels had run low. Another 6500 books are being printed in Taiwan (6,000 in English and 500 in Te Reo). Once again 5,000 books have been allocated as free copies to be distributed to families with a premature baby, in one of the six NICUs throughout New Zealand. The additional books will again be sold with the profits going to the Champion Centre. Mainfreight have kindly agreed to continue the free delivery of books to the NICUs and SCBUs around New Zealand.

Further Ben Bridge of nationwide firm Ezystor, specialising in high security self-storage units based in Christchurch, has generously offered to provide storage for our stock of Earlybird books at no cost, and Ezystor has been very helpful with their advice as to the logistics involved.

Our huge thanks to the Wright Family Foundation, Mainfreight, Ezystor (Ben Bridge), and the Little Miracles Trust (formerly Neonatal Trust), for their support and commitment to ensuring this invaluable resource for parents and caregivers of premature babies, continues to be available.

Once the reprinted books have been received, the intention is to begin marketing the book overseas. Due to Covid, marketing to the international market has been delayed for some years.

### **Memorandum of Understanding between The Christchurch Early Intervention Trust and The Champion Foundation Trust.**

This was under discussion for many months during the 2022 financial year and has since been completed in the current financial year ending June 2023.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 the Foundation Trustees and Christchurch Early Intervention Trust trustees entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which sets the parameters for a new path going forward, outlining the way both trusts will work together; in order to functionally align their fundraising and philanthropy work. It states that a strategy is to be agreed, setting out how best to fundraise for both trusts, the goal being to ensure there is a joint Trusts approach for all fundraising, donation, philanthropy and relationship development.

It provides that a joint fundraising committee is to be formed, with two Trustees from each Trust, who meet regularly to set a fundraising strategy, agree on the allocation of funds raised, consistent with the operational needs of the Centre, and of course, to follow the wishes of donors. This joint fundraising committee will oversee the liaison between the Centre's Funding & Marketing Coordinator and the Philanthropy and Development Manager, who will work in tandem, to achieve the strategy agreed by the joint fundraising committee.

This arrangement has started, strategy agreed and much of the new strategy is now in place. This we are very pleased is already proving beneficial to both trusts.

In addition, as part of the Memorandum of Understanding the Foundation made a commitment to annually offer the CEIT a payment, which is a proportion of the income of the Foundation's capital fund.

### **Brooksfield Townhouses: Refurbishment of Centre**

Earlier in the year Brooksfield, through the agency of one of our donors Clive Davidson we were introduced to the directors of Brooksfield, Oliver Hickman and Vincent Holloway. Brooksfield builds classically designed architectural homes in a sustainable style; and their aim is to shape the city of Christchurch into the future. The directors have together with their very able Development Manager Hamish Cochrane been responsible for the staged refurbishment of rooms at the Centre, and it is still continuing. They have with huge generosity footed the entire bill, which includes the cost of all the tradesmen, cleaning (outside sun roofing), the cost of materials to repaint rooms, new curtains, new joinery, carpets and new plumbing fixtures, such as a low basin which therapists can use, as an experiential learning tool with the children.

Such an extensive renovation has given a great lift of spirits to the centre staff and families, and we are further extremely grateful that Brooksfield have advised they plan to continue to support the Centre, even when the renovation work has been completed.

### **Paper on Prematurity in New Zealand by Dr Alison Gray**

This piece of work, paid for by the Foundation with a grant for the purpose, has been in progress for some years; and has been completed with considerable assistance from Dr Patricia Champion. The release of the paper is planned for 2023. Launch logistics are under discussion, as it is important the paper is launched with maximum impact.

### **Lack of Research on Long Term Early Intervention Outcomes**

There is a lack of public or government held statistical information on the long-term impact of early intervention on life outcomes. This was highlighted by Maria English when presenting the Impact Lab report. Dr Patricia Champion is working on setting up a qualitative data study to obtain and collate data from about alumni as to their life outcomes, which hopefully can be used to prove the effectiveness of early intervention to those who make funding decisions. Patricia is currently in discussions with the School of Health Sciences at the University of Canterbury.

### **Fundraising Committee**

The Trustees have agreed that following the appointment in mid-2022, of Emma Newman as our Philanthropy and Development Manager we currently do not need a standing Fundraising Committee. When events require volunteers, we can coopt as we need, and there is a core of volunteers who we are confident will assist.

### **Philanthropy & Development Manager:**

We were delighted to extend Emma Newman's contract as our part-time Philanthropy and Development Manager for a further year. Emma is super-efficient, and a very positive and enthusiastic addition to our team; working with trustees to make contacts and meet people who may be able to assist as donors or in introducing us to new contacts so we can interest them in supporting the Champion Foundation Trust or the Centre directly. We are very much enjoying the energy and enthusiasm she is bringing to helping the Foundation achieve its goals.

The September Impact Lab launch event provided some excellent opportunities and connections some of which have already come to fruition, with new donations to the Foundation, and some which have provided useful direct assistance to the Centre.

### **Administrative**

The Foundation continues to be fortunate to have the services of Stephanie Burdon as its administrator. She has yet again over the last calendar year dealt with the logistics in respect to the reorder of the new reprint of Earlybird. This has meant considerable liaison with the Wright Foundation, trustees Dr Patricia Champion and Bridget Frame, update edits, correspondence with and payment to printers, shipping agents, etc, and additionally the organisation of reprinting of posters and flyers for the NICU's. Meanwhile she continues to efficiently handle all correspondence, banking, and board papers associated with our meetings. She is a very much appreciated support to the Trustees.

### **Accountant**

Nicola Brownlee has now for a fifth year generously donated her time and expertise to assist with preparation of our accounts, which has included liaison with our administrator during the year, and with our auditors. Her assistance has meant that our accounts have been so well done, that our auditors have had few queries.

### **Auditors**

Our specialist charity auditor is Community Capacity Accounting. They have just completed a 2<sup>nd</sup> audit for us.

### **Trustees**

I want to thank our Trustees sincerely for their work over the last few years. It has been a challenging time with the long-term effects of Covid. The trustee team has been focused and engaged, and has again worked hard this year, in so many ways, some of which have been mentioned above. They have worked especially hard in respect to the extremely successful Impact Lab Launch event, providing names for the guest list and following up with replies, and assistance on the night. We are indebted to Mike Norris for his wide contacts, and knowledge. He was instrumental in Sir Bill English attending and speaking at our event. It is no small effort for him to travel from Akaroa to meetings, and that he does so willingly, is appreciated. There were also various meetings with our trustee subcommittee with the other members from CEIT and their Board Chair, to agree and finalise the Memorandum of Understanding. Particular thanks are due to Jeremy Crang of Craigs SIP for his work in this regard, and further for his strategic thinking, in leading the Fundraising Committee to set and implement its strategy. At the time of signing the Memorandum of Understanding by the Chair of both Trusts, there was a get together of trustees with the executive directors and Fundraising Coordinator of the Centre; together with our Philanthropy and Development Manager. It was important for introductions and relationship building, as there have not been previous occasions to do this. Craigs SIP generously hosted this signing event. Bridget Frame continues to provide insights into the Charitable Sector which is her specialist area, and she also gives us unfailing support of both her advice and time, and her fine writing skills, as well as admin support and in a considerable variety of other ways. Dr Patricia Champion has as usual been unflinching busy with all things which can or might be able to support and increase the capital fund of the Foundation, and in addition there has been the time-consuming finalisation of the Prematurity Paper, the Earlybird reprint, and initial talks about the possibility of a qualitative research project by the University of Canterbury. We have in the last half of 2022 been delighted to welcome two new trustees, Andrew Tait and Laraine Sharr,

both of whom are in the early stages of getting to know us, and the work of the Foundation and Champion Centre.

Celia Barker, Chairperson, Champion Foundation Trust

**Champion Foundation Trust**

**Private Bag 4708**

**Christchurch 8140**

**A registered charity, established by a Trust Deed dated 30 September 2008**