

Annual Report 2026.



Australian
Association for the
Education of the
Gifted and
Talented

Prepared By Secretary :

Rhiannon Lowrey

Annual Report 2026.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

The Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented (AAEGT) is excited to share its 2026 Annual Report with our members.

Whilst it is impossible to share all our work with you in a single document from the past year, we hope you enjoy reading these highlights.

Directors

Jae Jung (President) - NSW
Lynda Lovett (Vice President) - SA
Sarah Bond (Treasurer) - QLD
Rhiannon Lowrey (Secretary) - VIC
Melanie Hinze - QLD
Bohdan Balla-Gow - NSW
Kate Aster - WA
Helen Baber - ACT
Stacey Green QLD
Neeti Puri - NT
Hayley Kuperholz - VIC

Consulting Members
Monique Werda - (QLD)

President's Report

2025-2026 Overview

Treasurers Report

Journals Report

Gifted Awareness Week
(GAW)

Communications Report

Membership

Our Amazing Board

Financial Reviewers Report



Presidents Report

As President, I wish to thank all members of the Australasian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented (AAEGT) for another tremendous year! We have gone from strength to strength, not only in our membership numbers but also in the quantity and quality of the events and activities we have organised and hosted, and in our financial position as an organisation. In particular, I am proud that we now have a full AAEGT Board representing a very diverse coalition of members from across the country to lead the national agenda in gifted education. Our Board members include Rhiannon Lowrey, who has worked tirelessly as our secretary to ensure we comply with numerous legal and other regulations and as the coordinator of Gifted Awareness Week. I am also highly appreciative of the work of Sarah Bond as Treasurer, Lynda Lovett as Vice President, and Melanie Hinze as Communications Director. Thank you also to our new directors, including Stacey Green, Helen Baber, Bohdan Balla-Gow, Hayley Kuperholz, Neeti Puri and Kate Aster, for their eagerness to support the AAEGT, and for contributing their unique perspectives to our organisation.

The AAEGT had several highlights this year. These included:

- **2026 AAEGT Board Retreat:** In February 2026, almost all AAEGT Board members participated in the retreat in Brisbane. We engaged in many important discussions regarding the AAEGT, including developing a formal mission statement for our organisation. The AAEGT Board is continuing to develop and refine this statement to guide our future direction as an organisation.
- **Gifted Awareness Week 2026:** This annual event, first started in 2015, was held during 18-24 May 2026 under the theme of "Varied voices, shared future". To raise awareness of the needs of gifted students and celebrate the dedication of those who make a difference in the lives of gifted students, various events were held in six states/territories across the country to make this a truly national event. These included presentations/sessions hosted by the NSW Department of Education; a gifted education reading group discussion in Victoria; a picnic in the park co-hosted with Mensa in Western Australia; a poster competition in Tasmania; a gifted education symposium in the ACT; and a state gifted education conference in Queensland. During the week, we also organised the first-ever national Gifted Awareness Week Online Symposium. We plan to hold this highly successful national event every two years in the future.

- **Australasian Journal of Gifted Education:** The Australasian Journal of Gifted Education continues to go from strength to strength in terms of subscriptions, international contributions, and citations by scholars. This is reflected in the substantial increase in revenue generated from the publication, as reflected in the Treasurer's Report. Thank you also to the work of several AAEGT Directors in making this possible, including Stacey Green and Helen Baber, who have devised a new process to streamline journal subscriptions. I am also very grateful to Bohdan Balla-Gow, Stacey Green and Kate Aster for volunteering as Assistant Editors of the journal.
- **AITSL Review of the Professional Standards for Teachers:** The AAEGT has been an active participant in the ongoing AITSL Review of the Professional Standards for Teachers through: (a) an official AAEGT submission on the review (also published on the AAEGT website), (b) an expert consultation session between the AITSL Review Panel and AAEGT Directors, and (c) the preparation of guidance to AAEGT members on how to make a contribution to the review process. I was also delighted to be appointed to the Project Reference Group, which reviews the progress of the AITSL review, and provides advice on project risks and issues.
- **ACARA Gifted Education Network Group:** Over the past year, four members of the AAEGT Board have become members of the ACARA Gifted Education Network, which represents another formal avenue to support gifted students in Australia. Helen Baber, Stacey Green, Lynda Lovett and I are grateful to be members of the network, and look forward to being active in this group.
- **2026 Early Learning Australia Funding and Resource Guide:** Melanie Hinze and Rhiannon Lowrey contributed important information about gifted education to the 2026 Early Learning Australia Funding and Resource Guide, to support gifted students in the early learning space.
- **2026 Asia Pacific Federation on Giftedness:** Helen Baber and I represented the AAEGT at the 2026 Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. We both presented our research and practice in gifted education at the conference.

Thank you, once again, for your support of the AAEGT. The year ahead promises to be even more exciting and successful!

Jae Jung
AAEGT President

2026 Overview

AAEGT • 2026 ANNUAL IMPACT

A stronger national voice for gifted education

Advocacy • connection • evidence • professional learning



GIFTED AWARENESS WEEK

National reach, shared understanding

600+

participants across live and online events

- Connected educators, families and advocates
- Built momentum for the 2027 "Wonder Walks"



AITSL REVIEW

Evidence into national standards

- Coordinated member consultation and feedback
- Advocated for explicit recognition of gifted learners
- Strengthened the profession's evidence base

NATIONAL POLICY INFLUENCE



VARIOUS VOICES

24

presenters sharing diverse expertise

Keynote: Susan French PSM

12 months of on-demand access

ACCESSIBLE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



ADVOCACY

A clear, collective voice

- Represented member priorities
- Translated research into action
- Kept gifted education visible

EVIDENCE • EQUITY • EXCELLENCE



CONNECTION

A genuinely national network

- Linked state associations
- Amplified varied voices
- Shared practice nationally

COLLABORATION WITH PURPOSE

THE 2026 STORY

From awareness to influence

AAEGT connected the sector, elevated gifted learners and turned collective expertise into meaningful national advocacy.

Treasurers Report



I am pleased to report that the AAEGT is on strong financial footing at the conclusion of the 2025–2026 Financial Year. The continued strength of our reserves held in term deposits (total = \$78,842) signifies financial stability for the AAEGT. During the 2024–2025 financial year, to offset rising costs, the AAEGT Board closed one term deposit valued at \$11,879, resulting in a net loss for the period. In contrast, during the 2025–2026 period, the AAEGT had a net gain of \$10,396.77 (+\$145.55 (main account), +\$641.79 (business account), and +\$221.96 (term deposits)). This is mainly due to strong performance by the journal, growth and retention of individual memberships, affiliate fees, interest, and the successful 2026 GAW Symposium.

The Australasian Journal of Gifted Education continues to be a strong source of income for the AAEGT, with \$14,476.02 in journal income from our Copyright Agency; this refers to income from electronic access to the journal. This is an increase of 36% (\$3832) from 2024–2025 (\$10,644). The Journal continues to deliver a strong return on investment and serves as an invaluable resource for the gifted education community through its research.

We also had strong financial support from memberships, with \$1,659,64 in individual membership fees, an increase of 64% (\$4554.164). This is due to both retention of existing memberships (73% retention rate) and an increase in new memberships. We also had income from affiliate fees (AGATE \$5550), although it was lower in 2025–2026 (\$250) than in 2024–2025 (\$5085) due to 2025 affiliate and journal fees (GT CASA, VAGTAC, and Gifted WA) being paid out at the end of the financial year and will be reflected in the 2026–2027 budget. We continue to have no active affiliates in QLD, NSW, ACT and NT. This reflects a downward trend in the number of volunteers, as fewer Australians engage in voluntary work (Volunteering Australia, 2022). A reduction in volunteers may also play a strong part in the increase in new memberships. In 2025–2026, we gained 152 new members, an increase of 97% from 2024–2025 (77 new memberships). The journal provides an important benefit to our members, and this is a key driver of subscriptions for the AAEGT. We extend our thanks especially to Dr Jae Jung for his outstanding work in this area.

In addition to enhanced revenue, we experienced reduced everyday operating costs in 2025–2026. Journal printing costs were reduced by 6% (FY25–26 total = \$11,831.76) despite overall inflation of 3.5% in the 2025–2026 Financial Year (Australian Bureau of Statistics). The redesign of our web-based workflow for capturing journal/non-journal memberships has resulted in a more streamlined and efficient process in 2025–2026 and beyond. Captivate expenses decreased by 49% (FY25–26 total = \$1,980), as our redesign last year was a one-time event. Office expenses (Mailchimp, Memberspace, Xero, CrossRef, SurveyMonkey, Zoom, Facebook) were reduced by 23% (FY25–26 total = \$2942.31, a decrease of \$782.01), mainly due to the cancellation of Xero.

The expanded Board met in person in Brisbane to plan for the 2026 GAW Symposium and map out a successful year ahead. The cost of the retreat for the expanded Board was \$8828.88, which was in large part offset by the new revenue for the highly successful GAW Symposium, which raised an impressive \$5467.49. The GAW Symposium utilised TryBooking for ticketing, with 141 full price tickets sold. The Symposium was also likely a key driver in our enhanced number of new and retained memberships. Kudos to the planning team, and especially to our Secretary Rhiannon Lowery, for their outstanding efforts in this area.

Interest resulted in a gain of \$880. Reduced operating costs and enhanced revenue meant that we had no need to access or use existing term deposits in the 2025-2026 year and were able to benefit from strong interest rates during this period.

As in previous years, our greatest sources of income this year have been Copywrite Agency fees (\$14,476), membership fees (\$11,659.64) and affiliation fees (\$2950), with the addition of the GAW Symposium (\$5467.49). These funding streams, in collaboration with careful stewardship of existing funds positions the AAEGT strongly now and into the future.

Looking forward to the future in 2026-2027, the AAEGT will continue to uphold our strong financial position, while providing exciting benefits for our members. In accordance with the current AAEGT constitution and exceeding the legislated requirements for an organization the size of the AAEGT, a qualified accountant has undertaken a review of the financial statements.

Sarah Bond, EdD





Journal Report

The Australasian Journal of Gifted Education has had another great year. Not only is it a sought after outlet for the publication of research in gifted education from around the world, as demonstrated by articles from scholars based in Malaysia, Malta and Saudi Arabia (i.e., the June 2026 issue and the upcoming December 2026 issue), it has again featured strongly in the latest international rankings of academic peer reviewed gifted education journals. Specifically, its CiteScore is tracking at 2.50 (which is only 1.40 below the second ranked journal in gifted education internationally), its SCImago Journal Rank is now 0.223, and its SNIP is 0.553. These rankings place the journal above many other more established international journals in the field of gifted education.

The articles published in the last three issues of the journal are listed below:

- Wood, D. (2025). A story of inquiry over time. *Australasian Journal of Gifted Education*, 34(1), 5-19. <https://doi.org/10.21505/10.21505/ajge.2025.0002>
- Thraves, G. (2025). Understanding Australian Aboriginal experiences of giftedness through the lens of a case study. *Australasian Journal of Gifted Education*, 34(1), 20-28. <https://doi.org/10.21505/ajge.2025.0003>
- Scarparolo, G. (2025). Gifted students' learning experiences in mixed-ability (inclusive) classes in Australian primary schools. *Australasian Journal of Gifted Education*, 34(1), 29-44. <https://doi.org/10.21505/ajge.2025.0003>
- Delaune, A. (2025). Infant giftedness: What does the research say so far? A scoping review of literature 1982-2024. *Australasian Journal of Gifted Education*, 34(2), 5-26. <https://doi.org/10.21505/ajge.2025.0012>
- Judd, B. F., Chaffey, G. W., & Walsh, R. L. (2025). Coolabah dynamic assessment: Achieving the visibility of very high learning potential. *Australasian Journal of Gifted Education*, 34(2), 27-40. <https://doi.org/10.21505/ajge.2025.0013>
- Harper, A. (2025). University study through a gifted education lens. *Australasian Journal of Gifted Education*, 34(2), 41-49. <https://doi.org/ajge.2025.0014>
- Menon, P., Binti Rahim, F. A., Seigar, I. S., Woon, Y. H., Kanapathy, S., Hamuzan, H. A., ... & Hazir, N. M. (2026). Exploring the connection between gifted students' interest in pharmaceutical sciences and their career pathways. *Australasian Journal of Gifted Education*, 35(1), 5-17. <https://doi.org/ajge.2026.0002>
- Walker, D. (2026). Gifted education in New Zealand: Why policy initiatives keep failing lessons from three decades of fragmented support. *Australasian Journal of Gifted Education*, 35(1), 18-33. <https://doi.org/ajge.2026.0003>
- Wellisch, M. (2026). Giftedness: Is there a case for neurodivergence? *Australasian Journal of Gifted Education*, 35(1), 34-47. <https://doi.org/ajge.2026.0004>

We also had interviews of Dr Denise Wood of Charles Sturt University, Dr Letchmi Devi Ponnusamy of the National Institute of Education at Nanyang Technological University Singapore, and Professor Ching-Chih Kuo of National Taiwan Normal University.

Thank you to the many supporters of the journal, including the members of the Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented, along with all associate editors, reviewers and subscribers to the journal from Australia, New Zealand, the Asia Pacific region, and around the world.

Jae Jung - Journal Editor

Gifted Awareness Week 2026



**Varied Voices,
Shared Future.**
18-24 MAY 2026



Gifted Awareness Week 2026 brought together educators, families, researchers, advocates and gifted young people from across Australia. Through face-to-face and online events, professional learning, community conversations and shared resources, more than 600 participants engaged with the week's activities.

The national program reflected the strength and diversity of gifted education across Australia. State and territory associations developed locally relevant events while contributing to a shared national message: gifted learners exist in every community and deserve to be recognised, understood and appropriately supported.

A major feature of the week was the 2026 Various Voices Symposium. The symposium brought together 24 presenters from three countries and three time zones, with 135 registrations. Dr Susan French PSM delivered the keynote address, contributing her extensive experience and insight to a program that intentionally included varied professional, personal and lived-experience perspectives. Twelve months of recording access extended the event's value well beyond the week itself.

Our sincere thanks go to our technology partner, Crimson Global Academy, which generously donated its team's expertise, time and digital platform to host the satellite symposiums. This support enabled presenters and participants to connect across locations and time zones, making the program more accessible to the national and international gifted education community. Crimson Global Academy's contribution was instrumental in the successful delivery and expanded reach of the 2026 symposium.

Other highlights included the ACT symposium, contributions from state and territory associations, updates from education systems including the NSW Department of Education, online professional learning, community events and the sharing of practical resources through the national campaign. These activities created opportunities for people at different stages of their gifted education journey, from families encountering giftedness for the first time to experienced practitioners and researchers, to learn from one another.

Gifted Awareness Week continued to strengthen the visibility of gifted education nationally. Importantly, the campaign promoted a more inclusive understanding of giftedness by recognising learners from diverse cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic and geographic backgrounds, as well as twice-exceptional students whose abilities may be masked by disability, learning difficulty or disengagement.

The week's success was made possible through the generosity and expertise of presenters, volunteers, partner organisations, state and territory associations and the AAEGT Board.

I particularly acknowledge the people who contributed their lived experiences. Their willingness to speak honestly helped ensure that the national conversation remained grounded in the realities of gifted learners and their families.

Planning has commenced for Gifted Awareness Week 2027, to be held from 17–21 May under the theme Wonder Walks. This theme will invite schools, families and communities to notice curiosity, creativity and potential in the places around them, while continuing to advocate for evidence-informed identification, appropriate challenge and meaningful support.

Gifted Awareness Week is more than a series of annual events. It is a growing national movement that asks us to look more carefully, listen more closely and respond more effectively. The progress achieved in 2026 provides a strong foundation for an even broader and more connected campaign in 2027.

Rhiannon Lowrey

National Gifted Awareness Week Director



Communications Report



Communications activity in 2025–26 centred on Gifted Awareness Week and on building a body of first-person writing about giftedness for the AAEGT website. The Association communicated through its website, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Threads and membership emails, and reached a wider education audience in print. Its social media audience grew over the year, and its content reached substantially more people outside the existing follower base than within it.

Gifted Awareness Week 2026

Gifted Awareness Week was held from 18 to 24 May 2026 under the theme Varied Voices, Shared Future. AAEGT promoted two events during the week: the online Gifted Awareness Week Symposium, and the Gifted Awareness Week Symposium held in Canberra. Eight new blog articles were published to support the theme, contributed by parents, gifted young people and educators. First-person writing proved to be the Association's strongest-performing content across the year.

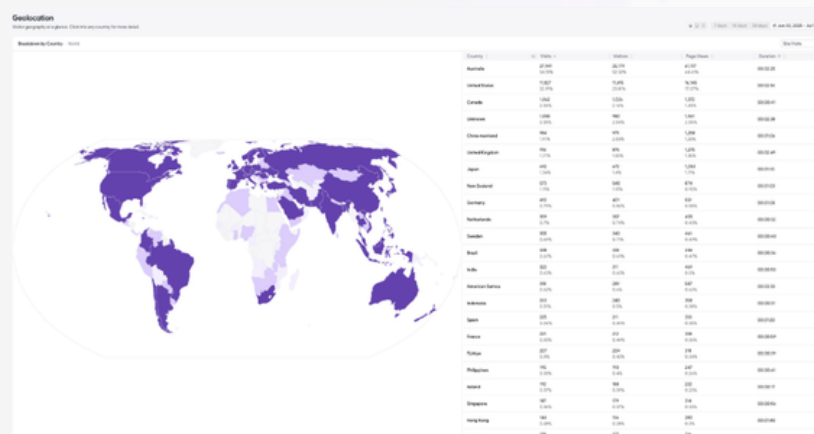
Publishing and media

A two-page article by AAEGT was published in Education Australia magazine in March 2026, with a circulation of 14,800 copies. This placed the Association's work directly in front of an education-sector readership well beyond its own channels.

Website

The AAEGT website recorded 94,668 page views from 51,570 visits by 48,586 unique users. Visits and unique users were each down 17% on the previous year. The article, Giftedness Is Not What I Thought It Was drew 39,659 page views and held readers for an average of four minutes. The home page recorded 16,113 views, the resources section 7,921, and the About Giftedness page 5,406. Search and direct traffic each accounted for 46% of visits, with referrals making up a further 5%. Australian visitors made up 54% of traffic and visitors from the United States 23%, with the remainder spread across Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, China, Japan and a long tail of other countries. This international readership is largely attributable to the blog articles being found through search.

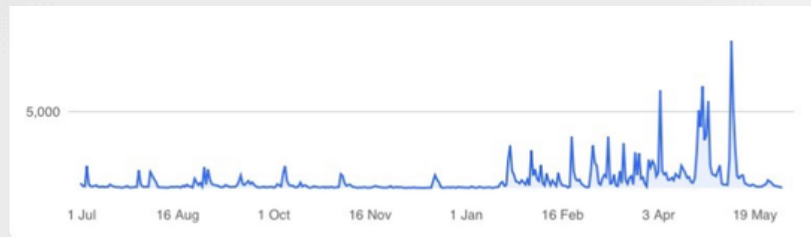
Website visitors by country



Facebook

The Association's Facebook page recorded 183,239 content views over the year, 53.8% of which came from people who do not follow the page. Follower numbers grew by 9.1% to 5,587 — a net gain of 456 followers against 104 unfollows — and page visits rose by 12.8% to 8,376. While the majority of views came from people outside the follower base, 71.4% of engagement came from followers. This means content is reaching new audiences, but the established community responds to it. Second, photographic posts accounted for 73.6% of views and 68.8% of engagement.

Facebook visits across the year



LinkedIn

The Association's LinkedIn page held 843 followers at the close of the year, having attracted 144 new followers over the preceding twelve months. All of this growth was organic: no LinkedIn content was sponsored or promoted at any point during the year.

Across this period, AAEGT published 23 posts, generating 16,049 impressions, 942 clicks, 306 reactions, 16 reposts and 10 comments. Total engagement accounted for approximately 8% of impressions — a higher rate of interaction than the Association achieves on Facebook, with a far smaller audience, though the two platforms measure reach differently and the comparison is indicative rather than exact.

LinkedIn showed most clearly how thoroughly Gifted Awareness Week shaped the year. The three best-performing posts of the year were all Gifted Awareness Week posts. During Gifted Awareness Week itself, the channel recorded 1,918 impressions across seven days — around 12% of the period's total impressions in under 3% of its days.

Instagram and Threads

AAEGT also maintained active accounts on Instagram and Threads, publishing at matched volume across both. Platform analytics were not available for this report.

Observations for 2026–27

Long-form, first-person writing is the Association's most effective communications asset. The results of this year support continuing to commission writing from parents, young people and educators. LinkedIn is performing above its size. It reaches far fewer people than Facebook but delivers a higher engagement rate, and it reaches a professional rather than a parent audience. The decline in Facebook engagement coexists with growth in followers and page visits and may warrant attention. Finally, the reach generated by website articles did not translate into movement through the site: 85% of readers who arrived there left without visiting another page. Clearer pathways from high-performing articles to membership information and resources are the most immediate opportunity available.

Melanie Hinze
Communications

Members

AAEGT • CONNECTED ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Our affiliate network

Local expertise. National connection. One strong community.



360

DIRECT MEMBERS

Connected directly with AAEGT

1,300

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Linked through state associations

1,660

NATIONAL REACH

A growing Australian community

OUR AFFILIATES

State-based strength, national impact

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Gifted WA

Supporting gifted learners in WA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GTCASA

State connection and advocacy



VICTORIA

AGATEVic + VAGTC

Two valued Victorian affiliates

TASMANIA

TAG

Connecting Tasmania's community

Together, our reach is greater.

AAEGT and its affiliates connect educators, families, researchers and advocates to strengthen gifted education across Australia.

Our Amazing Board



Unable to attend Dr. Sarah Bond (Treasurer)

Financial Reviewers Report

PETER FRANKLIN

7 Gurney Court Phone 0427 284 889
Lenah Valley 7008 Email peterfranklin@aussiebroadband.com.au



Auditing for Community Groups

**Australian Association for The Education of The Gifted and Talented
For the year ended 31 May 2026
Summary of the Financial Report**

The operations of Australian Association for The Education of The Gifted and Talented for the financial year has resulted in a surplus of \$10397.

Income for the year totalled \$37991 and expenditure was \$27595.

At the beginning of the financial year the value of members equity in the Australian Association for The Education of The Gifted and Talented stood at \$83905 and after including the operating results for the current year ended 31 May 2026 of \$10397, the equity stands at \$94302

I have examined the records of Australian Association for The Education of The Gifted and Talented for the period and have received sufficient information to form an opinion on financial records. I have only looked at the financial records and supporting documents. It is my opinion that the Income and Expenditure Statement and the Fund Summary are drawn up to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the organisation.

A check of invoices was carried out to satisfy the validity of payments. This was done on the basis of a sample of transactions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Franklin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Franklin Auditor
3 October 2026

Australian Association for The Education of The Gifted and Talented
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 31 May 2026

	<u>2026</u>	2025
Income		
Memberships	17,768.19	12,170
Interest on Investments	3,095.96	3,698
Symposium	5,467.49	-
Journal Subscriptions	11,659.64	10,645
Total Income	<u>37,991.28</u>	<u>26,513</u>
Expenditure		
Affiliations & Memberships	1,199.52	640
Banking Fees	60.37	122
Board Retreat	8,828.88	4,904
Operating Expenses	4,704.04	8,435
Insurance	919.94	1,099
Journal Production & Postage	11,881.76	12,677
Total Expenditure	<u>27,594.51</u>	<u>27,877</u>
Net Surplus/Deficit for year	<u>10,396.77</u>	<u>-1,364</u>

Australian Association for The Education of The Gifted and Talented
Statement of Funds
As at 31 May 2026

Group Funds	<u>2026</u>	2025
Fund Balances Brought Forward at 1 June	83,905.06	85,270
Net Surplus/Deficit for year	10,396.77	-1,364
	<u>94,301.83</u>	<u>83,905</u>
Represented by		
NAB Account	6,468.74	4,691
NAB Account	8,990.67	2,588
NAB Term Deposit account	12,611.58	12,081
NAB Term Deposit account	12,616.21	12,131
NAB Term Deposit account	33,614.63	32,415
NAB Term Deposit account	20,000.00	20,000
	<u>94,301.83</u>	<u>83,905</u>

Audit Statement

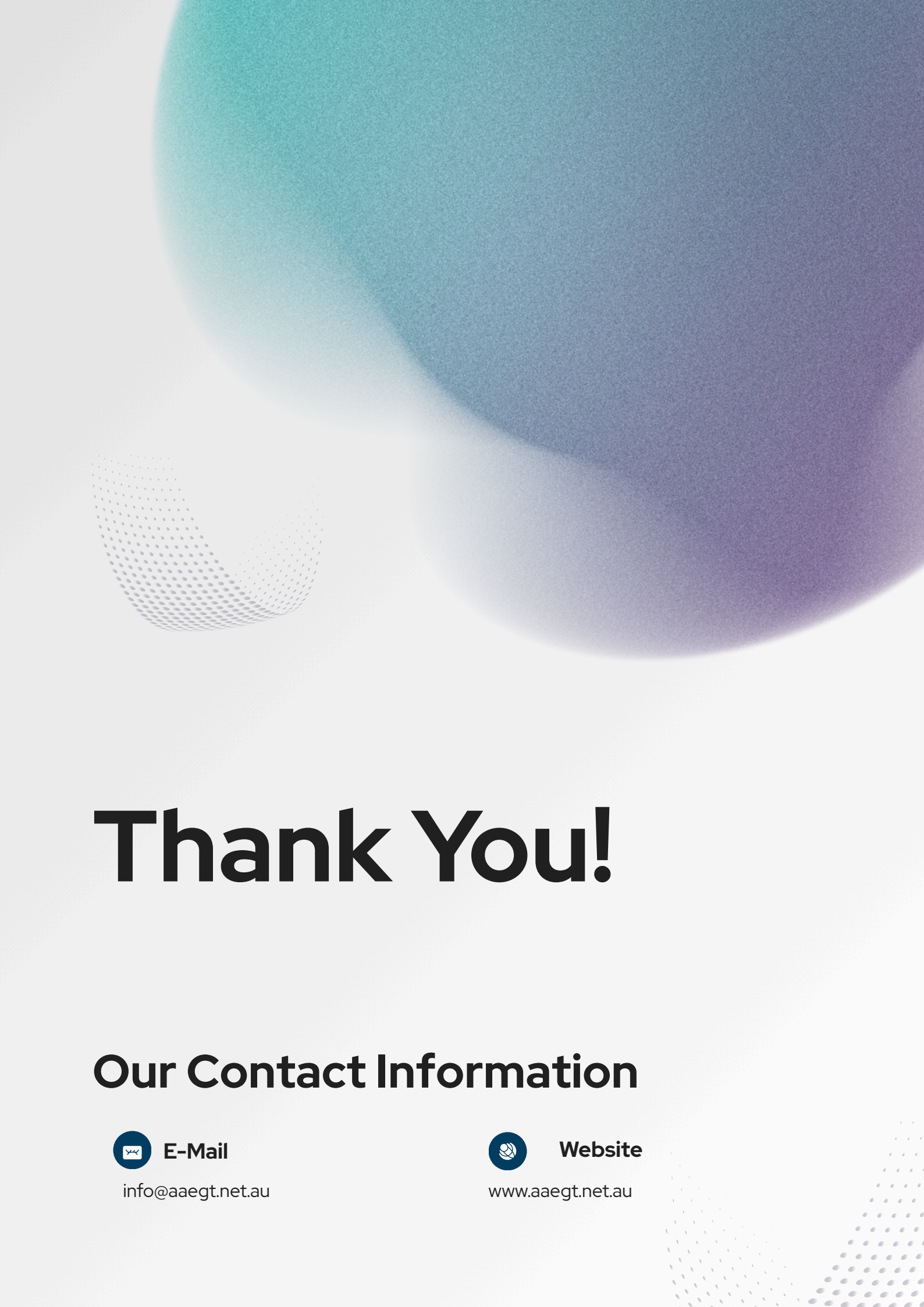
Australian Association for The Education of The Gifted and Talented

I have examined the records of Australian Association for The Education of The Gifted and Talented for the period ending 31 May 2026 and have received sufficient information to form an opinion on financial records. The examination was limited to the amounts recorded in the books.

It is my opinion that the Income and Expenditure Statement and the Statement of Funds are drawn up to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the organisation according to the information and explanations received. The rules relating to administration of the funds have been observed.



Peter Franklin Auditor
3 October 2026



Thank You!

Our Contact Information



E-Mail

info@aaegt.net.au



Website

www.aaegt.net.au