



**ST JOHN'S**  
LUTHERAN  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PRAISE LOVE SERVE

# Annual Report 2023



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## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

All schools and system authorities must make publicly available, within six months of the end of each program year, a report that includes information about the school. The legislative instrument by which recurrent funding from the Commonwealth Government is provided to independent schools is the Australian Education Act 2013 and the Australian Education Regulation 2013. One of the conditions for funding is the publication of information by schools. The purpose of the school Annual Report is to inform parents and the wider school community of the school's successes, activities, and achievements throughout the year, and to meet Commonwealth and State legislative requirements.

### HOW THE REPORT IS DISTRIBUTED

This report is a culmination report of the activities conducted by St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd in the year 2023. It is published on the school website [www.stjohnsportland.com.au](http://www.stjohnsportland.com.au) and on the Victorian Regulation and Qualification Authority (VRQA) state register. There are hard copies available at the school and the Portland-Heywood Lutheran congregation. This report is also a summary of reporting that is provided to the School Board, Portland-Heywood Lutheran Congregation, Independent Schools Victoria (ISV), VRQA, Lutheran Education VIC, NSW, TAS & ACT Ltd (LEVNT), Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) and the wider St John's school community. Broader data and reports are available in other forms such as newsletters, school magazines and additional written, electronic, and digital content made available to the wider community.

## CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

### SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION 2023

<b>NAME</b>	St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd
<b>SCHOOL SECTOR</b>	Independent
<b>TOTAL ENROLMENTS</b>	86 (August DESE census including 2 Special Considerations)
<b>YEAR LEVELS OFFERED</b>	Foundation to Year 6
<b>CO-EDUCATIONAL OR SINGLE SEX</b>	Co-Educational

<b>ADDRESS</b>	43-55 Trangmar Street, Portland, Victoria, 3305
<b>PRINCIPAL</b>	Tara Pritchard
<b>SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIR</b>	Stephen Rudolph
<b>BUSINESS MANAGER</b>	Hayley Bristow
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	03 5523 3833
<b>EMAIL</b>	admin@stjohnsportland.vic.edu.au
<b>WEBSITE</b>	www.stjohnsportland.com.au

## **SCHOOL PROFILE**

Pastor Ben Schwarz helped inspire Portland Heywood Lutheran Church to establish the “Feed my Lambs Fund” in 1975. Through the extreme generosity of members Mr Bert Porte and Mr Vic Mibus, a 10-acre block of land on Trangmar St was earmarked as the future site of a primary school. In 1978, a selected congregational committee agreed that the Lutheran school would commence in 1980. This decision ignited a lot of activity, and many hours were devoted to fundraising, clearing the land of pine plantations, landscaping the oval, and drawing up building plans. St John’s Lutheran Primary School did indeed open in 1980 with 36 students. God has grown and blessed this school ever since, enabling it to ‘feed God’s lambs’ and provide a wonderful Christian education to the children of the Portland district.

The school places significant focus on developing the whole child - intellectually, spiritually, socially, physically, emotionally, and creatively. This is supported by spacious classrooms, outdoor learning areas and specialist areas for Japanese, Music, Visual Arts and Physical Education.

The Pastoral Care of students continues to be supported by a Chaplain being funded by the National Schools Chaplaincy Programme.

All staff work together as a team to support the well-being of our students and their families. St John’s staff work hard to build positive relationships with our school community and most importantly, developing confident, resilient, and positive students in a caring, Christian environment.

*In all that we do we aim to Praise, Love and Serve.*

## **STRATEGIC INTENT**

The Strategic direction of St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd is endorsed by the Board after recommendations from the Principal, Business Manager, LEVNT, wider consultation with staff and representatives from the parent body and Portland-Heywood Lutheran congregation. When establishing this direction, the school mission statement and motto of Praise, Love, Serve remain as a focus. Lutheran schools are an integral part of the mission of the LCA and are supported by three Lutheran Education Regions and Lutheran Education Australia as described in the LEVNT Governance Charter (as amended from time to time). Through its schools the LCA deliberately and intentionally bears Christian witness to students, parents, teachers, friends and all who comprise the world of the school.

## **SCHOOL BOARD**

St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd has a governing board of elected representatives. The School Board consists of 5 Directors and 3 representatives who act as consultants. The key role of the School Board is governance, ensuring the ongoing viability of the school and maintaining the strategic direction of the school. This year we welcomed a new Board Chair, Mr Stephen Rudolph, who has extensive experience in Lutheran Education.

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

Throughout the 2023 year, several notable developments took place including:

- Redesigned School Logo.
- New Prospectus.
- New doors to four school entrances.
- Carpet replaced in Library and IT room.
- Renovation of library office area.
- Renovation of Year 3/4 classroom in progress.
- Junior toilet floors upgraded.
- Installation of new fence in junior playground by the Portland-Heywood Lutheran Church congregation.
- New shade sails installed in senior playground.
- New shade sails installed on top oval.
- ICT support and function managed by Southern Cross Computer Systems.
- Tutoring Learning Initiative.

- Strengthening of our school Playgroup.
- School organised and hosted the Portland community Music Festival.
- Our 'Getting Ready for School' Transition program for students enrolled in Foundation 2024 was facilitated in Term 4.
- Service-learning fundraiser to the hospital in Vanuatu.
- Service-learning fundraiser for the ALWS Gifts of Grace.
- A very successful Christmas Tree Exhibition organised by the P&F and enjoyed by the wider community.

## **CURRICULUM**

Our school recognises that a student-centred environment that supports diverse experiences and background knowledge best meets the needs of all students. Staff work hard to provide learning opportunities for students so that learning is relevant and purposeful.

We provide a place where, when students don't always get it right, they are encouraged to make positive changes. At the heart of every learning journey is the relationship between a teacher and student. This single factor has an incredible impact on the quality of teaching and learning that occurs at our school.

### **EARLY LEARNING**

The Early Learning Program provides a nurturing environment that makes the transition from home to school safe, exciting, and enjoyable. Our carefully structured curriculum builds a solid foundation that is essential for children in their learning journey.

Our Playgroup continues to be well attended by families with young children in the Portland community. Our Playgroup co-ordinator, Mrs Jess Cook, provides a rich learning environment with a music component. The Playgroup operates every Wednesday and Thursday mornings, with an average of 50 children attending per week.

In Term 4, we proceeded with the 'Getting Ready For School' transition program for kindergarten students who were enrolled in Foundation 2024. This enabled our youngest learners to engage in inquiry-based learning and wondering, alongside the development of key skills in literacy and numeracy. Students also became familiar with the school environment and towards the very end of the term were able to meet their senior buddy. We employed Mrs Olivia Coates and Miss Kylie Broadbent, both Victorian Institute Teaching registered and Early Childhood trained educators, to facilitate our program.

## **PRIMARY YEARS**

We provide a Christian education to students from Foundation to Year 6 and strive to nurture each student for a life of faith and service, through their intellectual, spiritual, physical, emotional, creative, and social growth. Through relevant and meaningful learning opportunities, collaborative work skills are developed, and the effort of each child is applauded. We strive for excellence in our quest to equip students for life in the 21st century.

Teaching and learning align with the Victorian Curriculum. Emphasis is placed on teaching core literacy and numeracy skills to equip students with the competence to succeed across the curriculum.

This year our curricular activities included our school athletics day, cross country, swimming program, swimming carnival, Portland Schools Winter series sport competition, Portland athletic sports, Year 3/4 camp to Allestree, Year 5/6 camp to Sovereign Hill, Budji Bim Cultural Landscape visit, Western Hub Lutheran Leadership camp, GRIP Leadership day, Performing Arts excursions and incursions, Music Festival, Art Alive, tree planting, Japanese school Ichiritsu visit, Book Week celebrations, fundraisers, and service learning such as supporting the Vanuatu hospital and schools through *The Melanie Jewson Foundation*, by bagging and selling sheep manure and the Australian Lutheran World Service *Gifts of Grace*.

## **LEARNING SUPPORT**

Learning Support and enrichment programs were provided to assist and extend students in their individual learning journey. This included implementing the Victorian Government Tutoring Program, therapy dogs, specialist support including Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists / Physiotherapists.

## **OUTDOOR FACILITIES**

In 2023 we installed a new junior playground fence, replaced the senior playground shade sails, installed a new shade sail area, and planted trees on our school grounds.

## **PASTORAL CARE AND WELLBEING**

We used a variety of resources to meet specific needs and were thankful to receive funding through Independent Schools Victoria (ISV). We implemented a number of initiatives that focused on addressing the social and emotional wellbeing of each student. This approach that focuses on each individual student, embeds qualities of respectful relationships, a strong sense of community and individual responsibility. Examples include our senior buddy system and Student Representative Council. Pastoral care is underpinned by an ethos of care and respect for all.



## **WORSHIP PROGRAM**

Worship is an important component of St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd. Throughout 2023, we continued to provide Chapel services every Friday morning which were led by the students and our senior leaders. Students began each day with a classroom devotion and staff also started the day with a devotion.

## **STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **CONTEXTUAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDENT BODY**

At the DESE Census in August, the school population of 86 students was comprised of:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>STUDENTS</b>	<b>% BOYS</b>	<b>% GIRLS</b>
<b>Foundation</b>	9	33%	64%
<b>Year 1</b>	19	42%	58%
<b>Year 2</b>	12	58%	42%
<b>Year 3</b>	10	30%	70%
<b>Year 4</b>	16	81%	19%
<b>Year 5</b>	8	75%	25%
<b>Year 6</b>	12	67%	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>56%</b>

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The whole school student attendance figures for 2023:

<b>Foundation</b>	88%
<b>Year 1</b>	89%
<b>Year 2</b>	88%
<b>Year 3</b>	92%
<b>Year 4</b>	88%
<b>Year 5</b>	86%
<b>Year 6</b>	87%

Parents or caregivers are expected to inform the school of absences either by email or phone by 10:00am on day of absence. This ensures that the school is aware of the whereabouts of children. If a pattern of extended or unexplained periods of absence occurs, teachers contact the parents or caregivers to determine an appropriate course of action to ensure learning is not compromised.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students in Years 3 and 5 participated in The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests in 2023.

Tests such as NAPLAN do not tell the full story of a school or indeed its performance and should not be used to judge a school or a cohort of students. Instead, tests provide a snapshot of performance over time and are designed to assist teachers to help individual students improve their literacy and numeracy proficiency. When reading these results, it is important to recognise that they are just one ‘snapshot’ of a child’s achievement here at St John’s. They need to be read in the context of school reports, other teacher feedback and past observations from not only teaching staff but by individual families.

These tests support a range of assessment tools that, when combined with teacher observations and other assessment tasks, help to inform each child’s performance and achievement. The tests also produce a large amount of data which allow us to review our teaching and learning.

The numerical NAPLAN bands and National Minimum Standards have been replaced with 4 levels of achievement: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs Additional Support.

Results from the Year 3 and Year 5 Student Group Summaries show most students performing above the minimum standards expected. Below is a summary of the 2023 NAPLAN results:

Learning Area	Year 3					
	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding	Participating students
Reading	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	80.0%	20%	10
Writing	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	77.8%	11.1%	9
Spelling	0.0%	10.0%	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%	10
Numeracy	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%	0.0%	10
Grammar & Punctuation	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%	0.0%	10

Learning Area	Year 5					
	Exempt	NAS	Developing	Strong	Exceeding	Participating students
Reading	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	25.0%	62.5%	8
Writing	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	62.5%	12.5%	8
Spelling	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	62.5%	12.5%	8
Numeracy	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	87.5%	12.5%	8
Grammar & Punctuation	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%	75.0%	12.5%	8

## STAFF INFORMATION

### TEACHER STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS

All teaching staff at St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd are appropriately qualified and hold registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. Below is a summary of the qualifications held by teachers at the school.

Qualification	Number Held by Staff
Doctorate	0
Masters	1
Bachelor	7
Diploma	0
Certificate	0
<b>TOTAL QUALIFICATIONS</b>	<b>8</b>

### PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

As members of a professional learning community, all staff at St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd are encouraged to access professional learning opportunities throughout the year. This year, many Professional Development opportunities were delivered including OH&S, First Aid including Anaphylaxis Management and Asthma, Child Safety, as well as Evacuation Procedures through Dynamiq. At the start of the year, staff engaged in a spiritual retreat lead by David Spike from Lutheran Education Victoria, NSW & Tasmania. Staff also engaged in curriculum professional development guided by Derek Bartels and Shane Paterson (LEVNT).

All teachers are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

## WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

In 2023, St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd employed 7 teaching staff, of which four of whom were full time. Students at St John's received specialist instruction in Physical Education, Visual Arts, Music, and Japanese. STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) was facilitated by the classroom teacher.

Student learning was also supported by non-teaching staff. Areas provided by non-teaching staff included Learning Support, Administration, Business Management, Maintenance and Cleaning.

No Indigenous staff member is employed at the school.

The composition of the work force at St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd is summarised below.

	Number	% of workforce
Full time teaching	4	41
Part time teaching	0.6	6
Part time non-teaching	3.8	39
Chaplain	0.4	4
Principal	1	10
<b>TOTAL STAFF</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>100%</b>

Not included in this breakdown are temporary replacement teaching and ancillary staff.

## PARENT AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (P&F)

Our P&F were actively involved in fundraising and building community. They provided special activities for students including the Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls, Fun Food Fridays, icy pole days, and hot milos over winter. They also organised a disco for the students and a very successful Christmas Tree Exhibition which was well attended and supported in the wider community. The P&F provided the Welcome BBQ at the start of the year and ran two BBQ fundraisers at Mitre 10. The P&F purchased many resources and equipment for all students including three gazebos, equipment for the kitchen, school signage, a coffee machine, and trailer.

# SCHOOL SATISFACTION

In 2023, a Parent Satisfaction Survey was conducted by Independent Schools Victoria. Our results were outstanding with every domain being above similar schools and Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) scores. Particularly high averages were obtained for the following questions:

- The school is a safe place in which to learn.
- The school provides an excellent environment in which to learn.
- Teachers stay up-to-date in the things they teach.
- Parents are made to feel welcome to visit this school.
- The school library/resource centre has outstanding resources for students.
- Teachers in this school know and care about my child.
- Students have access to high quality materials and resources that help them learn.
- Students are well prepared for the next stage in their education.

The following graph shows the overall satisfaction per domain compared to ISV benchmarks.

## Overall means per domain versus all schools and statistically similar schools

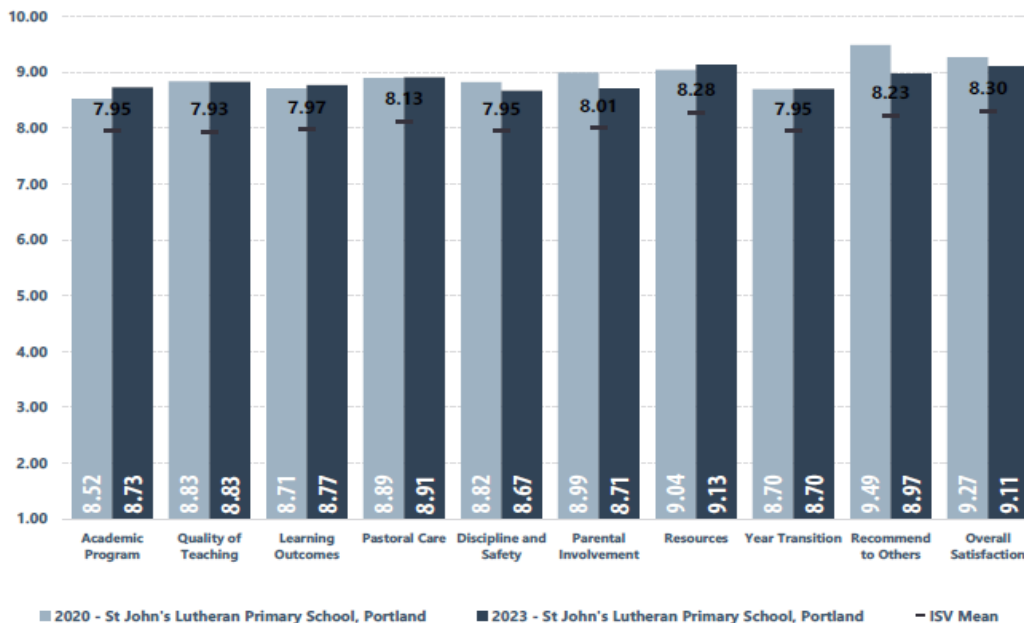
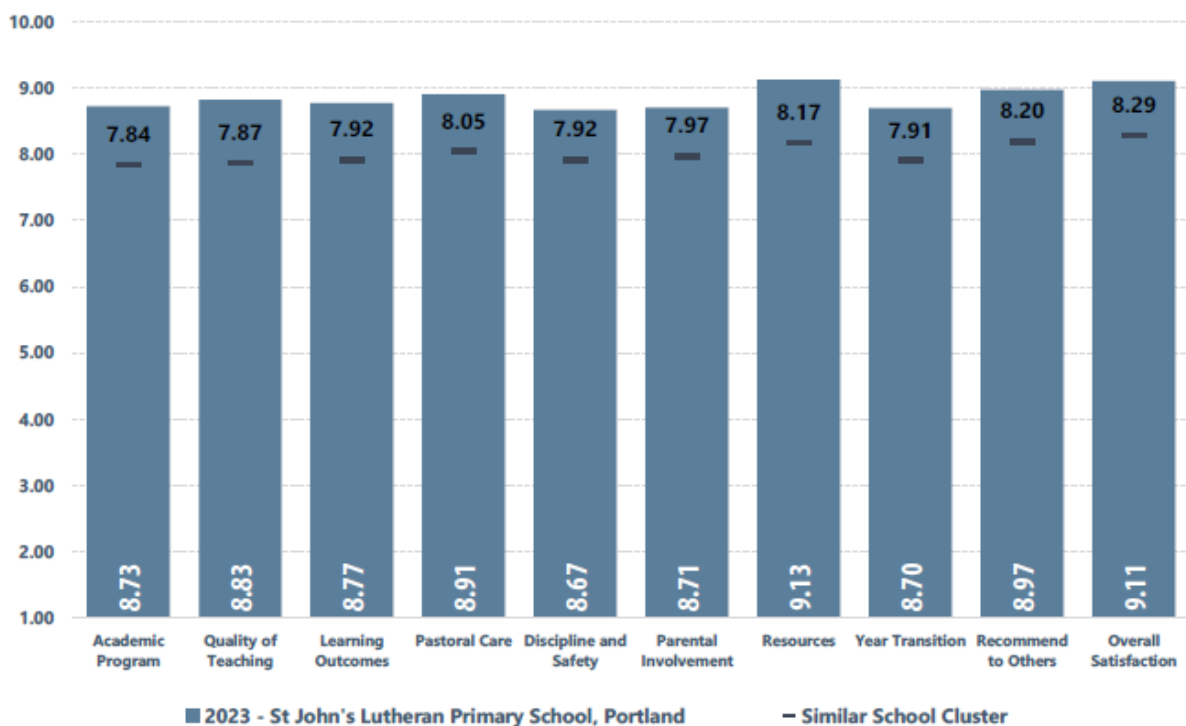


Figure 3: displays overall parent satisfaction per domain for St John's Lutheran Primary School, Portland compared to the ISV benchmark.

A Net Promoter Score indicates respondents who are likely to spread positive information and views about the school. Traditionally a Net Promoter Score of +50 or above is considered excellent. Our Net Promoter Score was +69.

The following graph displays overall parent satisfaction per domain for our school compared to statistically similar schools. St John’s Lutheran Primary School achieved above results compared to similar schools.



**Figure 4:** displays overall parent satisfaction per domain for **St John’s Lutheran Primary School, Portland** compared to statistically similar schools. **Please note:** your statistically similar school cluster number may change year on year as data on your enrolments changes. See the appendix to determine your statistically similar school group.

Parents were asked to select their top six reasons for choosing St John's Lutheran Primary School, Portland. The results were:

- Size of the school
- The emphasis on the development of sound morals, values, beliefs and attitudes
- The atmosphere of the school
- It suited the needs of the child better than other schools
- The reputation of the school
- The quality and commitment of the teachers

The section below provides an immediate overview of the school's current performance across a number of headline indicators. The dial in each figure below shows our school's average score for the question.



## St John's Lutheran Primary School, Portland headline indicators





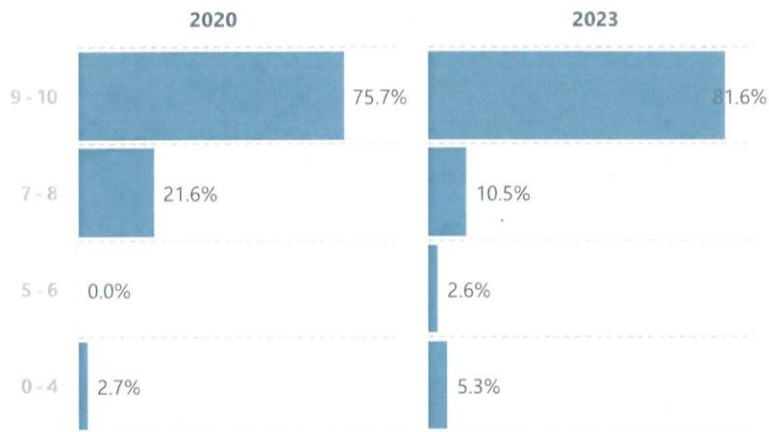
Figure 1: St John's Lutheran Primary School, Portland headline indicators 2023.

# OVERALL SATISFACTION

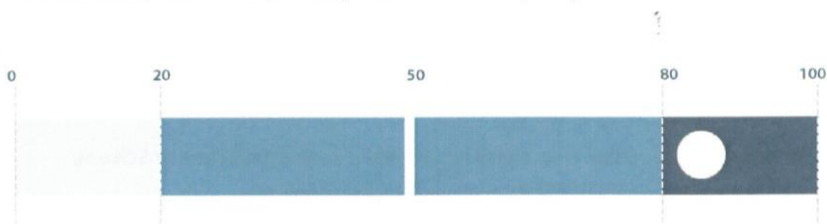
Overall Satisfaction is measured by asking parents to think about the school overall, and to rate their satisfaction level. High levels of

overall performance occurs when parents are very satisfied with their choice of school.

## School level results



**Figure 44:** shows **Overall Satisfaction** of parent's at **St John's Lutheran Primary School, Portland**. The panel graphs in this section show the distribution of scores across the 11-point satisfaction scale, where 0 = complete disagreement and 10 = complete agreement.



**Figure 45:** displays **Overall Satisfaction** against all schools. The mid coloured blue band represents the middle 60 per cent of all schools, with the light grey and dark blue on either end corresponding to the top and bottom 20 per cent. The white line represents the middle or the 50th percentile.

# SCHOOL FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

## STATEMENT OF INCOME

For Year Ended 31st December 2023

### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Income sources -

Net Tuition Fees	\$ 152,646	8.69%
Operating Grants	\$ 1,540,475	87.72%
Capital Grants	\$ 0	0.00%
Donations - Capital & Other	\$ 54,437	3.10%
Interest & other Income	\$ 8,602	0.49%
Interest from Related Entities	\$ -	0.00%
	<hr/>	
	\$ 1,756,160	100.00%