

2013-14 ANNUAL REPORT

“Tasmania is going to go from having one of the worst systems in the nation for assisting people with head injury to one of the best”

(Announcement made by Premier Michael Field and Health Minister John White 1991 – cited in Thompson, K.M 1999 Independent Study B Paper: What is available In Tasmania for people with Acquired Brain Injuries?)

“We realise it is an area where we have to do more but it is just a matter of funding”

Health Minister the Hon Judy Jackson MHA – Wednesday 6 June 2001
Estimates Committee

‘91

‘92

‘01

“Currently the provision of long term care for people with brain injury.....is grossly inadequate”. The brain injury program will see the development of a state of the art inpatient rehabilitation unit to care for the post-acute in-patient rehabilitation of people with traumatically acquired brain injury”

Health Minister the Hon Roger Groom MHA - Hansard 4 June 1992

'07

"The Liberals believe there remains a need for a holistic government response and strategy for brain injury"

The Hon Will Hodgman MP

"The current levels of unmet need reflect chronic under investment by successive governments in the supports and services required to meet the needs of people with acquired brain injury."

'Neglected not Forgotten' Campaign Newsletter – TCASP July 2007

'14

'10

2015

???

"However there is still more to do. Labor accepts that the service system for people with acquired brain injury in Tasmania requires reform. "

"The Liberals acknowledge the needs for better outcomes, improved supports and services for people with acquired brain injury in this State, and believe that significance change must occur at the policy, program and service delivery area."

CONTENTS

PAGE

| | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 05 | About BIAT |
| 07 | President's Report |
| 09 | Executive Officer's Report |
| 12 | Strategic Directions |
| 13 | The Year In Review |
| 17 | Brain Injury Australia Report |
| 18 | Treasurer's Report |



The Brain Injury Association of Tasmania works to address systemic issues which impact on people living with or affected by acquired brain injury (ABI) both at state level and through membership of the national body Brain Injury Australia.

BIAT also works to promote awareness and understanding of the impact of acquired brain injury to families, communities, and service providers through training, education and resources.



ABOUT BIAT



The Association has four key objectives:

Position the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania as an effective, relevant peak body in the eyes of government, industry service providers and the general public;

Promote and advance the rights of Tasmanians living with or affected by acquired brain injury;

Actively facilitate the ongoing development of a service system that is responsive to the needs of people living with acquired brain injury; and

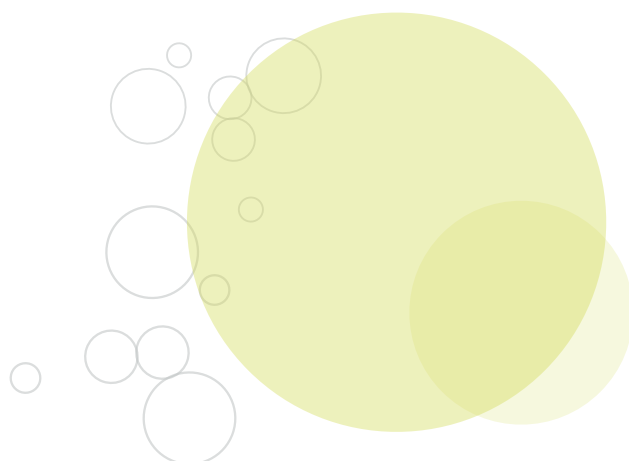
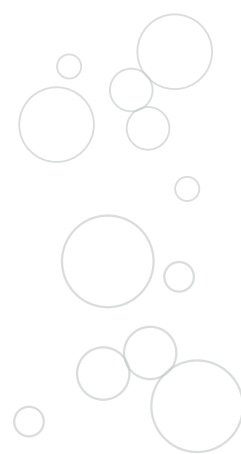
Play a key role in activities that contribute to a community that is more informed about acquired brain injury.

BIAT is a source of contemporary information on service delivery models and innovations for service providers and other key stakeholders, and a recognised source of up-to-date, relevant and appropriate information on acquired brain injury in Tasmania.

Its role is to provide neutral, all-encompassing information about services and other resources that may be available rather than to recommend particular services. There are specialist ABI services provider organisations in Tasmania and these organisations are independently incorporated organisations in their own right rather than part of BIAT.

BIAT is NOT a direct service provider organisation other than through the provision of information and training. It is important to recognise that BIAT exists to promote the best possible range of choices for people with ABI and their families and social networks.

All people accessing the organisation, whether financial members or members of the public receive the same level of services. It is not required that people be members to receive a service from BIAT.



This year the disability services sector continued to undergo change with further developments in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and further information issued concerning how it will operate at a practical level.

Those changes, which will continue to come into effect over the next few years, represent a fundamental shift in the way in which services will be provided to Tasmanians living with brain injury, and how the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania (BIAT) and other brain injury service providers provide those services.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During the past year both the BIAT Committee of Management and staff have been working hard to ensure BIAT not only continues to provide quality support and services to its members, key stakeholders and the community, but that it is also in a position to adapt to the changes that are being made in the disability services sector and respond to those changes in a manner that delivers the most sustainable outcomes for people living with or affected by brain injury.

The extent of change in government policy towards disability sector funding has created a significant strategic vacuum for sector service providers and particularly for BIAT. The state's funding support for BIAT was initially made uncertain as a result of the State Government's Review of DHHS Funded Peak Bodies.

Despite a compelling case being made by National Disability Services (NDS), the future of block funding remains uncertain and we continue to await clarification on the current government's future intentions. The introduction of the NDIS and its funding models, coupled with the around Disability Support Organisation funding has further made identifying future directions for BIAT difficult. A similar difficulty has been encountered by our national peak body Brain Injury Australia (BIA) and its member organisations in other states.

The Committee of Management has adopted a scenario planning approach to try to ensure our plans, people and processes are appropriate and flexible. Over the coming year we will adjust our strategic focus in order to meet the challenges facing not only BIAT but also the Tasmanian brain injury services sector.

Brain Injury Association of Tasmania staff and Committee of Management members should once again be proud of the achievements of the past year, many of which have been detailed in the Year in Review section of this Annual Report.

In November BIAT moved office to co-locate with Association for Children with Disability (ACD) Tas, Speak Out Tasmania and Veranto. In addition to the efficiencies realised through decreased overheads and sharing of resources, equipment and infrastructure, co-location has provided for greater organisation effectiveness through mentoring, and opportunities for collective work to be undertaken for improved client outcomes.

The organisation is now settled in its new office, which provides a better environment for staff and a great location to hold events for members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Committee of Management members for their contributions this year; sharing your wealth of knowledge has contributed immensely to the organisation. On behalf of the BIAT Committee of Management, I would also like to thank BIAT's Executive Officer Deborah Byrne and other members of staff for their consistent performance over the past year.

I am honoured to continue to be associated with BIAT as its passion for helping those who need critical advocacy is outstanding. This passion is what continues to drive BIAT to position itself as an effective, relevant peak body in the eyes of government, industry service providers and the general public.

Dario Tomat
President

The past year has seen continued change in both the disability services sector as a whole and the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania (BIAT) as an organisation. Our continued focus has been on positioning BIAT for the future, so that we can be responsive to the needs of all Tasmanians living with or affected by brain injury and provide the best service possible.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) continues to be an exciting development that will provide a sustainable platform for the future and our emphasis has been on preparing BIAT for its full implementation.



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT



The Association continues to be active in the areas of systemic advocacy, community education, and professional support and training. BIAT's links with mainland colleagues remain strong particularly through participation in the national Brain Injury CEO/EO Network. The Network is a valuable source of peer support and an opportunity for collaborative work to strengthen state and/or national projects.

BIAT is committed to ensuring people living with brain injury have choice, control and certainty around the services they receive. We recognise that people living with brain injury differ in relation to not only the degree and nature of their impairment, but more importantly in relation to their individual circumstances, capacities and skills. They are not a homogenous group and do not have the same needs; treating them as such only adds additional barriers and contributes to their exclusion.

Our priority is to continue to advocate for a service system that places people with brain injury at the centre of decision making about the supports and services they receive; to lobby for services that are developed in response to the needs and aspirations expressed by the person with ABI, their families and carers, and are flexible in how they are planned and delivered.

The Year in Review provides a more detailed insight into some of BIAT's achievements over the past year. In brief, Brain Injury Australia member organisations met in Sydney at the end of January engaging in some very frank and open discussions on the future role of BIA and its member organisations in the changing disability landscape. In summary, there was a strong and consistent message that a united and collaborative national ABI voice is required, and that collectively BIA member organisations wish to explore various models to achieve this. A Working Group was established to progress options.

This year BIAT partnered with BrainLink, a specialist acquired brain disorder Victorian based service, to apply to a number of Foundations for funding for an Acquired Brain Injury Community Liaison Officer, working 3 days a week, supporting families impacted by brain injury at the point of patient diagnosis/treatment in the neurological ward of the Royal Hobart Hospital through to post hospital discharge and into community care, to ensure maximization of best outcomes for patient and family.

Despite a demonstrated need for this service, it is extremely disappointing that to date we have not been able to secure the funding to implement this service.

Engaging our members continues to be a priority, and often a challenge, for the Association. During the year BIAT held consultations aimed at informing and engaging members, while also offering them an opportunity to interact with each other. Issues of note raised by consumers during the consultations included:

- The invisible nature of ABI and the lack of community understanding
- Difficulties with Centrelink and the need for training for Centrelink staff
- Lack of cognitive rehabilitation following stroke with the focus being on physical rehabilitation, and assessments focussing on speech, IQ and literacy
- The need for case management, pre NDIS services and more information for families
- The need for education for other people, particularly friends and families to avoid feelings of embarrassment over problems such as difficulty controlling emotions
- The need for GP training
- The need for both general and specialist services for people living with or affected by ABI

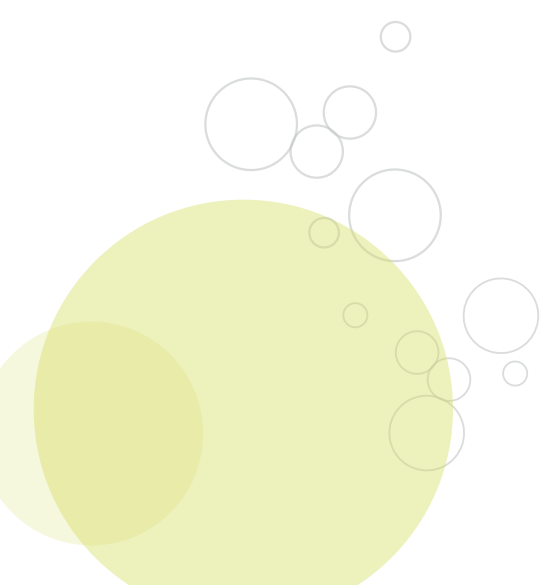
The MAIB funded Synapse project continued during the year with the delivery of a range of workshops across the state by Mark Lamont, US Neurobehavioural specialist Dr Tim Feeney, Dr David Manchester and Warwick Brewer. BIAT prides itself on delivering high quality and innovative training. The range of workshops offered are particularly essential for anyone who is charged with the support of someone who is affected by brain disorders, acquired brain injury, or complex and challenging behaviours.

In preparation for full roll-out of the NDIS, I attended a number of workshops offered by National Disability Services and TasCOSS during the past year including:- Smart Stewardship and Collaborative Innovation for Non Profits, NDIS Organisational Readiness Toolkit, Collective Impact, Adaptive Leadership, Outcome Measures, The Change Room and Person Centred Organisations.

I would like to thank Lynda and Alf for their support of the work undertaken by BIAT during the past year. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the BIAT Committee of Management during the past year; I sincerely appreciate their support and contribution and look forward to the next year, working together to achieve greater outcomes, reaching more people and communities.

I remain confident that BIAT is well positioned to take on our future, its challenges and opportunities, and look forward to continuing to work with Tasmanians living with or affected by brain injury in ensuring they have the resources they need to have their voices heard.

Deborah Byrne
Executive Officer



“Our priority is to continue to advocate for a service system that places people with brain injury at the centre of decision making about the supports and services they receive; to lobby for services that are developed in response to the needs and aspirations expressed by the person with ABI, their families and carers, and are flexible in how they are planned and delivered”.

01

Community Engagement and Public Policy

Community-driven public policy change realised

02

Professional Support

Active broad workforce understanding of ABI

03

Sharing Knowledge

A community that is informed about ABI

04

Organisational Capacity

Strengthen our infrastructure, and build our resource base and skills, to deliver on BIAT's purpose

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

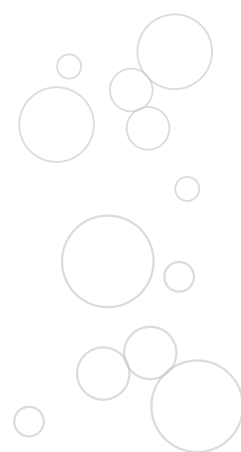
National Brain Injury Awareness Week

We were honoured to have the Minister for Human Services, the Hon Cassy O'Connor MP, launch National Brain Injury Awareness Week in Tasmania in August 2013. The week, which incorporated the national BANGONABEANIE campaign, focussed on both the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and on creating greater community understanding and awareness of acquired brain injury (ABI).

Whilst BIAT welcomed the launch of the NDIS, acknowledging it has the potential to maximise recovery, improve outcomes, promote social integration, and meet the support needs of the many Australians who are living with acquired brain injury, it did express concerns that people living with ABI could be disadvantaged due to their disability.

>

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Ongoing cognitive disability, such as poor memory, concentration and impulse control, and a reduced ability to learn, plan, organise and problem solve, could result in people experiencing difficulties in navigating the new world of the NDIS or exercising control and choice over their individualised funding.

A highlight of National Brain Injury Awareness Week 2013 was the launch of the contemporary arts project Angels of our Better Nature Art Teller Machine at the Hobart Town Hall. Since late 2012, five professional artists from Kickstart Arts worked with 21 people living with ABI, their partners, parents, friends and carers to produce Angels of Our Better Nature.

The Art Teller Machine, a 2.3 metre tall, steel plated sculptural object features stunning digital art exploring the unique life experiences of people living with acquired brain injuries.

Another feature of the week was the opening of the Tasmanian Acquired Brain Injury Services (TABIS) Art Exhibition in Launceston by Mr Geoff Lyons MP

Synapse Training

In addition to raising the profile of the organisation, as evidenced by the Financial Report Synapse Training has continued to be a good source of income for the organisation. BIAT facilitated four (2 Hobart & 2 Launceston) one-day How to Really Motivate Clients workshops and one 1/2 day.

Motivational Interviewing Booster workshop with Dr David Manchester, and 3 x ½ day workshops on working with aggressive clients with A/Prof Warwick Brewer. Mark Lamont continued to provide ABI training across the State to a diverse range of organisations and services including Ashley Detention Centre, Presbyterian Care, the Office of the Anti-discrimination Commissioner, Prison Health Service, the National Disability Insurance Agency, and the Magistrates Court. As always, a workshop by US Neurobehavioural Specialist Dr Tim Feeney in Launceston in September 2013 proved very popular and we look forward to his return to Tasmania.

BIAT continued to 'sponsor' Mark Lamont to provide supervision sessions for Court Liaison Officers (CLOs) in relation to defendants who were referred to the (Pilot) Cognitive Impairment Diversion List. The CLOs found the sessions to be enormously beneficial with each discussion resulting in the CLOs having a better understanding on how to progress with a difficult assessment or treatment plan.

The CLOs were in agreement the sessions increased their understanding of working with people with brain injury, provided a better understanding of the various treatment providers, and resulted in concrete actions for them to pursue. "There is no doubt that those sessions have surpassed our expectations."

Funding Submissions

Funding submissions: - In partnership with TABIS and Headway rebuilding lives (HrI), BIAT submitted an application to the MAIB IPMF for funding for a feasibility study into a state-wide brain injury service. BIAT also developed a submission to the MAIB IPMF and the Tasmanian Community Fund for funding for a part-time Hospital Liaison position to support families impacted by brain injury at the point of patient diagnosis/treatment in the neurological ward of the Royal Hobart Hospital through to post hospital discharge and into community care.

"I think the BrainLink Liaison Support Person is a wonderful concept which I fully support. In my experience family members are often so overwhelmed by the unfamiliar nature of the situation and environment as well as by their emotional reactions that they are unable to process all the information with which they are presented. Although families are routinely given written information regarding community support services, because it is not immediately relevant to them, it gets put aside and either lost or forgotten. Consequently patients and families struggle once discharged and fall through the net for follow up. However, in cases where families have had a dedicated staff person to liaise with during the hospital stay they often contact that person after discharge and are then more receptive to information. To have someone carry the burden of information for them during the most stressful times and follow them through into the community would mean fewer patients being lost to follow up and greater support for all concerned during the important early rehabilitation phase of a patient's recovery." Dr Janine Martin, Neuropsychologist, RHH

BIAT also applied to the NDIS Sector Development Fund for Disability Support Organisation - Capacity Building Strategy Funding to support and facilitate a state-wide network of local support groups that are distinctive insofar as they are designed to focus on – or be inclusive of – the needs of all Tasmanians living with an acquired brain injury, including their families and carers. Successful applicants were to be notified prior to the end of the 2013-2014 financial year; this was subsequently postponed to the end of August and as yet (October 2014) an announcement is yet to be made.

Information and Referral

BIAT's Information and Referral Service acts as a point of contact for people living with brain injury, carers, service providers and the general community, responding to enquiries on all issues relating to ABI. BIAT has been working with Domin8 Designs during the year to develop a more contemporary website. The new website has made it easier and faster for people to access the information they need. Our quarterly mail-out to members, which includes the national bridge magazine, and regular e-bulleting to a database of over 700 individuals/organisations plays an integral part in keeping our members and stakeholders informed.

Information and Referral

A major role for BIAT is to promote community awareness and understanding of acquired brain injury, in terms of both prevention and the impact of ABI on the lives of individuals, families and the broader community. For young people in our community, BIAT fulfils this role across 3 key programs:-

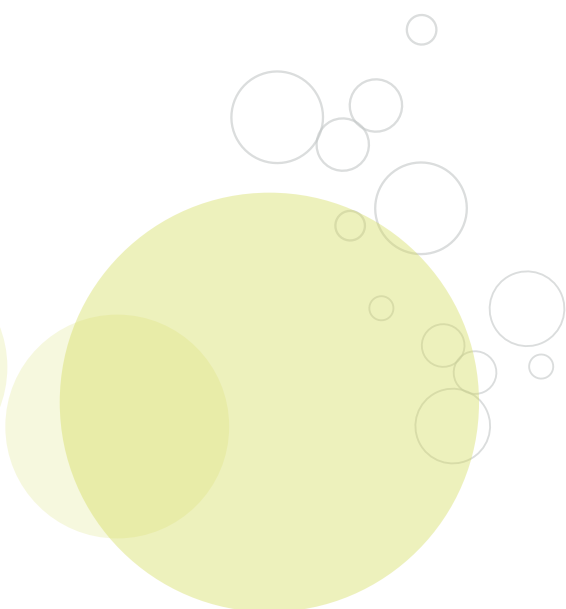
Heads Up 2 Brain Injury – Sessions continued to be delivered by Lynda Moss (Hobart) and Paul Mansfield (Launceston) to high school students across Tasmania, predominantly to schools familiar with the program rather than 'new' schools. The feedback received from both students and teachers certainly reflect the quality of this program; the poor uptake of this program by schools therefore continues to be a source of disappointment to BIAT.

Paul and Lynda continue to market this program to schools while also looking for other promotion/delivery opportunities. *"It shows how bad it can get from just bumping your head & the effects of having brain injury"*

"I got to learn what could happen when I hit the boy". Custody for Life continued to be delivered on a bi-monthly basis (rather than monthly) in both Hobart and Launceston during the year with participants referred either via the Community Youth Justice Conferencing, or Tasmania Police formal caution process.

“Dear Alf I would like to take this time to personally thank you for coming in to talk to us. You were very inspiring and I now know how badly your life can be affected by speeding. What I take from your talk is to never take life for granted and to not take stupid risks that will only end with you getting injured or killed. Because we are not bulletproof like we may think.”

New Town High School student.



BRAIN INJURY AUSTRALIA REPORT



Brain Injury Australia (BIAT) has recognised the human services sector is going through a period of unprecedented change, particularly with the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). To help our member organisations prepare for these changes and the potential impacts that they may have upon member activities, we have undertaken extensive consultation and prepared documents to assist members in exploring opportunities under the NDIS.

In reviewing the challenges facing BIA in the evolving disability sector, the BIA Board have determined that the organisation's governance structure and lack of resources make it difficult to appropriately position BIA for this new environment. Accordingly, through consultation with member organisations, BIA has developed a new business model for the future, which identifies the following key areas:

- a new model of governance, to allow the organisation to rapidly and appropriately adapt to the changing disability sector;
- financial sustainability in the short, medium and long term, with decreasing reliance upon government funding;

- a centre of information excellence, learning and development;
- systemic advocacy;
- influence with government; and
- research.

These areas reflect the needs that have been identified in the sector from our member organisations, and other organisations in the ABI and disability sector. Further, in light of uncertainty in future government funding, this future path for BIA seeks to be focussed upon activities that will support the ongoing viability of the organisation.

The first step towards BIA's restructure is the move from a federated organisation to a company limited by guarantee. This process is currently underway. I take this opportunity to thank BIAT for their contribution as a longstanding and valuable member of BIA for a number of years. I give a special thanks to Deborah Byrne, who has provided tremendous intellectual advice and support to BIA over a number of years.

Dr Roger Chung
President
Brain Injury Australia

I have pleasure in presenting the audited Financial Statements for the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania (BIAT) for the year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

The Financial Statements for this year show BIAT has maintained a sound financial position with a positive operating result of \$6 339.99 after taking into account all income and expenses. Income, provided by DHHS and MAIB, increased slightly from \$155 869 to \$160 090; the Balance Sheet shows net assets of \$222 486.46.

As indicated last year, it should be noted that whilst included in BIAT's Financial Statement, the Heads Up 2 Brain Injury income and expenditure is only administered by BIAT and essentially does not form part of BIAT's accounts. Members will also note:-

- A reduction in Program Support income relating to administration of the Heads Up to Brain Injury Program; the funding for this program has now been fully acquitted.
- Profit on sale of Motor Vehicle reflecting change over of the BIAT vehicle.
- An increase in Advertising expenses relating to the decision to purchase 5 x 12 month advertising spaces in hospital/GP clinic waiting rooms across the state.

- An increase in Motor Vehicle Expenses relating to repairs to the previous BIAT vehicle and the purchase of 2 x car spaces at 83 Melville Street.
- An increase in Office Expenses relating to the move to 83 Melville Street in November 2013
- A decrease in Room Rental, Salaries and Superannuation relating to apportioning the relevant component of these expenditure items to the Heads Up 2 Brain Injury and Synapse Training programs
- A decrease in Printing, Stationery, and Postage expenses relating to the introduction of more BIAT e-Bulletins versus mailed newsletters

We thank both the Motor Accident Insurance Board Injury Prevention and Management Foundation Charities Committee and the Tasmanian State Government (Disability Services) for their support of BIAT, and entrusting us with the financial resources to assist numerous people living with or affected by brain injury. We take financial stewardship very seriously and ensure that the funding we receive is administered in a prudent way.



TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

Continued.

Through sound financial management and good governance, BIAT is exposed to very little risk.

I would like to express my appreciation for the work the Executive Officer has done in assisting to administer the accounts and for the judicious day to day management exercised over BIAT's expenditure. The BIAT Committee of Management is conscious of their fiduciary duty in allocating the limited resources of the organisation. The Brain Injury Association of Tasmania remains able to meet future trading commitments.

Helen Mulcahy
Treasurer

