

ANNUAL REPORT

18
19

The Brain Injury Association
of Tasmania

www.biat.org.au



“Although the dream may be ambitious and failure is a possibility, most people would rather try and fail than not have the opportunity to try at all. And often the journey results in many positive developments, even if the dream is not realised in exactly the way it was envisioned.”

Cathy Ludlum, NDIS Participant, WA

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About BIAT

Established in 1998, the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania (BIAT) provides a public voice for all Tasmanians impacted by brain injury.

BIAT is recognised as having specialist knowledge and experience of brain injury, and its effects on individuals, families and communities. The work of the Association includes provision of brain injury specific information, referral, training, education, representation and systems advocacy. During the 2018- 2019 financial year these activities were delivered by BIAT's Executive Officer and part-time Project Officer, and governed by a 6-member (volunteer) Committee of Management (COM).

BIAT's membership comprises people with brain injury, family members/ carers, individuals interested in brain injury, and organisational members; it is not a requirement that people be members of BIAT to receive a service. BIAT respects the wisdom and knowledge held by its members and utilises this in the deliberation of problems and solutions, ensuring opinions and ideas are articulated in a strong and united voice.

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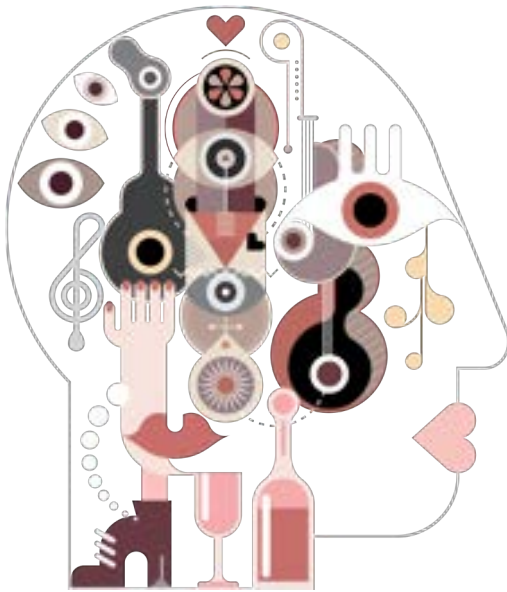
BIAT supports the view that people with brain injury have a right to be fully participating citizens on an equal basis with others.

Operating under a community development philosophy, BIAT actively facilitates the ongoing development of a services system that is responsive to the needs of people living with brain injury. In broad terms this means BIAT aims to provide the many thousands of Tasmanians impacted by brain injury with access to information, resources and services that encourage them to develop skills, and make choices, which allow them to build community support networks and control their own lives.

Defining Brain Injury

Generally, brain injury is defined as damage to the brain that occurs after birth. The term brain injury often refers to any type of brain disorder or neurological disruption which is acquired, rather than developmental.

Primary causes of brain injury include:



Trauma

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is caused by external force and/or acceleration/deceleration injuries, e.g. car accidents; falls; sporting accidents; repeated knocks to the head or concussions; assaults; domestic violence.

Hypoxic/Anoxic Injuries

Lack of oxygen to the brain from stroke, near drowning, heart attack, drug overdose, strangulation, severe asthma, accidents involving anaesthesia, carbon monoxide inhalation and poisoning.

Degenerative Diseases

Dementia; Alzheimer's;
Parkinson's; Multiple
Sclerosis; Huntington's.

Infections & Diseases

Meningitis; Encephalitis; brain tumours: brain cancer.

Epilepsy

Epilepsy can cause neural damage and is a risk factor for a traumatic brain injury through a fall or violent convulsion. Epilepsy can also result from a brain injury.

Stroke/Aneurysm

Blocked blood vessels bleeding in the brain.

Alcohol and/or Drug Misuse

People who misuse alcohol and drugs are at risk of brain injury due to their intake as well as high-risk behaviours. Long term abuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances can result in brain injury, often affecting cognition, memory and perception. Damage can be temporary or permanent.

Acknowledgements

BIAT would like to acknowledge and thank our funders, the Motor Accident Insurance Board (MAIB), the Department of Communities (Disability and Community Services) and the Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF) for their contribution to our accomplishments during the year.

‘Scrunch_iz’ Fundraising Initiative

In February 2019 Bianca Elliot advised BIAT her 10 year-old daughter Izzy had set up a fundraising initiative to benefit BIAT. Under the trading name ‘Scrunch_iz’, Izzy has been busy making and selling hair scrunchies to raise money for the Association in memory of her Uncle Brodie. Izzy sells the scrunchies for \$3, with \$1 from every scrunchie sold donated to BIAT. Brodie, who sadly passed away in 2016, sustained a brain injury at the age of 14 as a result of a near drowning accident.

Although outside of the 2018-19 reporting period, BIAT would like to express its sincere appreciation for the \$1,000 cheque Izzy presented to BIAT during the 2019 Brain Injury Awareness Week launch. This impressive figure represents funds raised by Izzy between January and August 2019. BIAT is very grateful to Izzy and her support crew for their generous initiative, which is not only raising funds for BIAT, but also awareness of brain injury in the community.

Image: Article from 25 February 2019 edition of the Mercury Newspaper



President's Report



BIAT has had a successful 2018-19 year with two exciting funding achievements in the closing quarter that will help to progress capacity building amongst stakeholders and within the brain injury sector in the 2019-20 year.

Hopefully the impressive outcomes BIAT achieves from these projects will reflect in a more certain funding cycle in the future.

It has now been over four years that I have reported to you that the future of funding for BIAT services has remained uncertain and that it has posed significant fiduciary concerns for the members of the Committee of Management's (COM). While the organisation continues to be solvent, the COM is conscious that missing out on a grant or other funding opportunity may at any time reverse BIAT's fortunes.

The NDIS is still providing insufficient certainty of pathways for accessing funding; the grant application process is time consuming and un-funded, with submissions often unsuccessful on competitive grounds.

Fortunately, the Tasmanian Department of Communities (Disability and Community Services) extended BIAT's funding agreement to 30 June 2019, and BIAT also received a small grant from the State Government to develop organisational capacity to engage in the ILC grants bidding processes; the COM wishes to express its sincere thanks to the Department of Communities for their support of BIAT. At the time of writing a further extension of funding has been provided by the Department.

While some grant bids have been successful and will allow us to increase effort and resources devoted to specific projects in 2019-20, the finite term of such assignments means that a large unfunded overhead task has been imposed on staff and particularly the Executive Officer to pursue these grants.

President's Report Cont.

In such an uncertain environment, the COM has been impressed by the continued focus of our staff on ensuring the needs of people living with brain injury and/or their families/carers are understood and promoted.

Promotion of awareness through Brain Injury Awareness week again resulted in production of an 'in-house' video – Nick's Story - by Domin8 Designs. For Brain Injury Awareness Week in 2018, BIAT also hosted a panel discussion titled "Parenting after brain injury - implications for child safety and family violence services". The video of the panel discussion, uploaded to BIAT's website, did much to continue the development of understanding of the effects brain injury can have on a family.

Rosie Mooney has continued in her permanent part-time Project Officer position. Rosie has continued to expand BIAT's research and policy development functions, assisted in the delivery of services, and very capably grown BIAT's social media presence. Communications and marketing have continued under capable input from Domin8Designs and Domin8Media. Dom's creative input has continued to contribute to the professionalism of BIAT's electronic and publishing presentations.

In 2019-20 success with grant funding will allow the team to be further expanded. Executive Officer Deb Byrne leads our small, dedicated team, and continues her passionate advocacy and representation of BIAT within government, at NDIS consultations, and throughout the sector locally and nationally. All Committee of Management members thank the dedication and professionalism shown by our team.

Finally, I thank the Committee of Management for their continued engagement in guiding BIAT through these challenging times.

Dario Tomat

President, BIAT

Executive Officer's Report



The 2018–19 year again started out with funding uncertainty for BIAT as we commenced preparations for the introduction of Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) jurisdictional grants.

These grants had been provided to NSW, SA and ACT the previous year and were scheduled to commence in Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland on 1 July 2019.

Well into our preparations BIAT discovered that not only had the ILC goal posts been moved, we were now playing an entirely different 'game'. Feedback provided to the NDIA, (which coincidentally mirrored what they had been told during the initial consultations around the establishment of ILC) resulted in the ILC program being re-focussed at the end of December 2018.

With ILC funding comprising only 0.06% of the NDIS budget (to support the estimated 89% of Australians with disability who will not be eligible for an Individualised Funding Package), valuable time and resources had been lost as the NDIA finally agreed with the sector that:-

- annual grants are administratively burdensome;
- one-year grants provide too short a time to make a difference;
- a more strategic approach should be taken;
- programs should be nationally scalable;
- outcomes from programs should be measurable; and
- the capability of the organisations involved in the ILC program should be enhanced.

Unfortunately, there are still significant problems with the 'new game' and the goal posts continue to move. As detailed in a BIAT Talking Point opinion piece in the Mercury Newspaper in May 2019, the ILC program is still inherently flawed, is not fit for purpose and will not be the lifeline that organisations like BIAT need.

Executive Officer's Report Cont.

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“Chances are that the vision will not be reached in a one-year grant cycle, and the funder may or may not appreciate the value of enhanced relationships, increased self-esteem, having fun, making mistakes, and growing together in a struggle to make life better.” Cathy Ludlum, NDIS Participant, WA

Over the past year BIAT has continued to highlight the failure of the Tasmanian Government to develop a strategy to address the gaps and unmet need that will arise where ILC-type organisations are not successful in what are now nationally competitive grant rounds.

The NDIA continues to argue that NSW, ACT and SA do not have a competitive advantage. BIAT begs to differ as jurisdictional grants in these states/territories provided organisations with the opportunity to pilot projects and gain the evidence base needed to support further projects. By contrast, continual underfunding by successive Tasmanian governments has resulted in Tasmanian ILC-type organisations not having the resources needed to capture data, and therefore unable to provide the evidence needed to demonstrate the effectiveness of, and need for, the services they provide. This has certainly played out with Synapse recently being awarded an ILC National Information Program grant to build on their Brain Injury Information Hub project, piloted with NSW Jurisdictional Grant funding.

ILC grant money cannot be used for costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation. With ILC grant applications taking upwards of 60 hours to complete, organisations struggle to resource the grant application process. More importantly, ILC grant money can only be used “to pay for the portion of operating and administration expenses directly related to the project as per the grant agreement”. Without infrastructure funding to exist, organisations will not be in existence to apply for ILC funding. As one BIAT Committee of Management member so aptly described, “ILC grants are like getting a new shiny garden shed... but you can't live in your house because it has no roof and is falling down.”

Executive Officer's Report Cont.

As indicated in the newspaper opinion piece the major flaw of ILC is that it is project based. Projects are primarily single focus and time limited; whether one year or three years is purely semantics. BIAT however is not a single function, single focus organisation; it is the community's safety net for people living with or impacted by brain injury, responding to need and providing a wide range of supports and services.

Throughout this state of flux and change, as an organisation, BIAT has continued to build on its solid reputation throughout the past year, with our work continuing to be very much in demand.

Brain injury has a profound and underestimated impact on society. It touches every demographic and culture, every age and occurs in every region. In her report prepared for BIAT, Alison Smith defined brain injury as a 'wicked problem' – its cause-effect relations are complex and solutions, whilst urgently needed are unclear. Its magnitude is hard to estimate and there is no simple solution.

Known as the 'invisible disability' because there are often no physical signs of injury, BIAT has continued to work to raise the visibility of brain injury and its impacts across Tasmania. Over the past 12 months BIAT has partnered with stakeholders across Tasmania and Australia to work to reduce the social, economic and emotional costs of brain injury to individuals, carers, families, communities, organisations and society across people's lifespan.



Article from 8 May 2019 edition of the Mercury Newspaper

Executive Officer's Report Cont.

BIAT continued to engage with its members through a variety of avenues. We understand that this has not always 'hit the mark' this year as we have been immersed in ILC and our ongoing viability. We will continue however to look at the best ways to engage with, and represent the views of, our members and all people living with or impacted by brain injury in Tasmania. Our work, directly with individuals and families, providing information, referral and support, is a two-way learning process. BIAT maximises this learning to influence and feed back into the formal system, both at a state and national level.

During a year with such an intense focus on the future sustainability of the organisation, BIAT has ensured it didn't lose sight of the fact that, although for many people funding and services are necessary to support them to live good lives, they are not the only things required to have good lives. A good life is also about citizenship, home, freedom, purpose, life, love, accessibility etc. BIAT continues to ensure that whilst individualised funding is one element of being able to choose and direct the life people want and need, with supports to make it happen, we don't lose focus on the fact that funding is not the single answer to achieve this.

As the financial year ended, BIAT was successful in obtaining a 12 month Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grant – comprising two components – organisational capacity building (OCB) and individual capacity building (ICB); BIAT is committed to the co-design, with Tasmanians with a lived experience of brain injury, of this project.

Although BIAT will continue to seek to secure funding that enables us to do our work, BIAT is also exploring our future as an organisation and how we can be sustainable and continue to support the work, not just through grants, that is requested by people living with or impacted by brain injury.

We will continue to strategically explore how we can:-

- maintain the intention and influence of BIAT in the future;
- strengthen sustainability to enable BIAT to continue its valuable contribution to the Tasmanian community;
- foster collaboration and relationships to expand our social impact; and
- enable more people impacted by brain injury and from a broader cross-section of society to be reached.

Executive Officer's Report Cont.

BIAT is not afraid to take on complex and difficult issues – the issues that have a profound effect on large numbers of people impacted by brain injury; the issues that affect our society and local communities, and the issues that lead to a cycle of disadvantage and marginalisation.

Whether the issue centres around the impacts of brain injury on housing and homelessness, justice and corrections, employment, domestic and family violence, rural and remote communities, or addictions and mental health BIAT will continue to advocate for system change and provide support, services and a voice for people impacted by brain injury.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge MAIB for their continued support of BIAT work. Our partnership has extended across many years now, and MAIB's support is invaluable.

Thank you to BIAT's project office , Rosie, who has worked hard to support members, deliver project outcomes and organise events during the year. I am acutely aware of the toll an uncertain future can have on people and Rosie's continued commitment is deeply appreciated. Finally, a big thank you to the Committee of Management who have remained committed to BIAT and its objectives despite the past few years being a period of significant change.

BIAT is acutely aware of the challenges that lie ahead however I feel confident that the Committee of Management and the BIAT team have both the skills and drive to land BIAT where it needs to be in the future.

Please read on to find out more about our achievements in 2018-19.

Deborah Byrne

Executive Office , BIAT

Brainlink Ltd and BIAT
work on ILC Family
Resource Project



Our 2018–19 Achievements



National Disability Insurance Scheme

With the cessation of block funding of disability service organisations by State Government on 30 June 2019 and uncertainty around Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Strategy timelines, a key focus for BIAT during the 2018-19 financial year has been actively exploring alternative funding opportunities.

This involved attending a series of workshops run by Disability Services Consulting (DSC), and a DSC consultant working with the BIAT Committee of Management around the Organisation's strengths, opportunities, aspirations and results (SOAR). Through a small grant made available by the Department of Communities (through a Community Inclusion and Capacity Development (CICD) grant), BIAT worked one on one with a consultant in the development of a report on how BIAT undertakes its activities, and the changes it could consider to be competitive under the NDIS ILC Grant Program, or for seeking funding through other sources.

Subsequent to the completion of that report, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) advised it was changing its approach to ILC investment, and how and when new programs would be implemented. A document Strengthening Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) – A national strategy towards 2022 was released at the end of December 2018.

In March 2019 BIAT met with Disability and Community Services to be told (a) as per the Bilateral Agreement with the Commonwealth Government, the State Government has committed all disability funding to the National Disability Insurance Scheme with effect 1 July 2019. As such there would be no ongoing State Government disability funding; (b) that given the changed ILC timeframes, \$570K has been allocated to Tasmania for ILC bridging funding for the 18 organisations impacted by the changes; and (c) on behalf of the Department of Communities, thank you BIAT and BIAT staff for your service over the past 20 years.

National Disability Insurance Scheme Cont.

Block funding of ILC type disability organisations, including BIAT, by the state government ceased on 30 June 2019. Of particular note is funding also ceased for Tasmanian Acquired Brain Injury Services (TABIS) in Launceston, the brain injury program run by Wellways in the North West and the brain injury program run by LifeStyle Solutions in the South; effectively 'wiping out' all block funded specialist brain injury services in Tasmania. These services are the safety net for the many thousands of Tasmanians living with or impacted by brain injury who will not be eligible for an NDIS funded package but who still need support.

At the beginning of June 2019 some ILC type services, including BIAT, were advised they would receive bridging funding for the period 1 July – 2 December 2019. This timeframe was nominated on the understanding that all four National ILC grants rounds would be finalised by 30 November 2019. At the time of writing this report, further delays to the ILC grant process have resulted in additional bridging funding being provided for the period 2 December 2019 to 31 March 2020.

As previously mentioned, BIAT did apply for, and was successful in obtaining, a one-year interim CICD: Disabled People and Families Organisation (DPFO) ILC Grant to build the capacity of BIAT as a user-led organisation, and to strengthen the voice of people impacted by brain injury.

BIAT commenced program activities in July 2019 for this project which includes two components:-

- Individual Capacity Building, including establishing a Peer Support Program and State-wide Advisory and Consultative Committees (ACCS) comprising people impacted by brain injury; and
- Organisational Capacity Building, including developing a purpose-built referral database, establishing service agreements with organisations BIAT makes referrals to, and establishing state-wide reference groups comprising organisations BIAT has service agreements with.

National Disability Insurance Scheme Cont.

BIAT understands that we must deliver better outcomes for individuals with brain injury, but we know that to make real change we must make changes on a larger scale. By connecting individuals to support networks within communities and to the right organisations, we can create large-scale change where whole sections of society who are often disadvantaged, are provided with support services for the first time. The Organisational Capacity Building component of the DPFO project will assist BIAT to connect people to relevant and appropriate support networks.

BIAT respect that local community is the key ingredient to making a real difference. By bringing people together to think creatively and ask different questions, we can create new solutions and real change for people impacted by brain injury. The Advisory and Consultation Committees (ACCs) established under the DPFO project will bring people together to think creatively about the complex and hard to solve issues connected to brain injury so we can co-design new approaches and solutions.

BIAT also applied for (and was recently advised they were successful in obtaining) a one-year interim Economic Participation grant. This 12-month grant is for a co-designed 'Disclosure' project to support and empower people living with brain injury seeking employment to tell their story, their way.

The NDIS promises much for the future to us all, but the journey for a new system can be fraught with challenges. Getting it right requires tapping into, investing in, and building everyone's capacity – people, families, communities, service providers and funders to ensure that we are learning together and from each other.

Growing Networks

Brain Injury PeerLink Program

In 2018 the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania partnered with TABIS to facilitate PeerLink - a Brain Injury Peer Support program for family members and carers of people with brain injury. The aim of PeerLink was to provide a safe space for family members to talk together about issues and challenges associated with being a carer. BIAT gratefully acknowledge the support of the Tasmanian Community Fund in providing funding for this pilot project.

One PeerLink group met face-to-face in Launceston, and the other in Hobart, once a week for 5 consecutive weeks. The sessions gave family members the opportunity to share experiences, learn from other carers and build supportive relationships.

The premise of PeerLink is that if a family member is provided with support, information and services to build their resilience, they will be better placed to care for their family member with brain injury, other family members, and themselves. Enhancing family's understanding of brain injury and the services available to them has the potential to improve carer health and wellbeing through improved family relationships and connection to services.

One of the strengths of the PeerLink program was the emphasis on the participant led group agenda and outcomes. The weekly focus topics for each PeerLink session were developed in close consultation with the participants. Topics included: self-care; legal matters; coping strategies; connection to services; understanding brain injury; and self-advocacy.

At the end of the 5-week program participants were asked to complete an evaluation. Their feedback confirmed the extensive benefits of peer-led support in the brain injury area.

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“Caring for people with ABI has different challenges and consequences as a carer. There are specific behaviours and experiences unique to ABI – much like cancer carers or AIDS carers. It makes a difference absolutely to talk to people with shared experiences.”

(PeerLink participant)



Brain Injury PeerLink Program Cont.

Many participants disclosed this was their first opportunity to share their caring story, and all described a sense of belonging through shared lived experience. Reduced feelings of isolation and gaining insight into others caring experiences were noted benefits. The group environment also facilitated sharing of coping strategies, collective trouble shooting, and resource sharing.

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“One of the best things was discovering that I was not the only one going through what I’ve been going through. Until this program, although I had been told what I was going through was “normal”, I had not met anyone who had the same experiences. Then being able to talk about many of the experiences, and different aspects of the experiences, was good.”

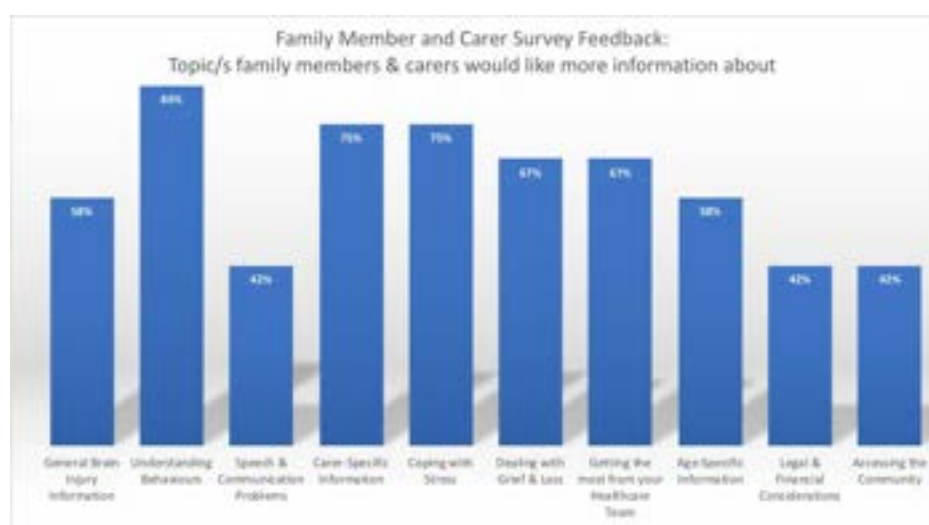
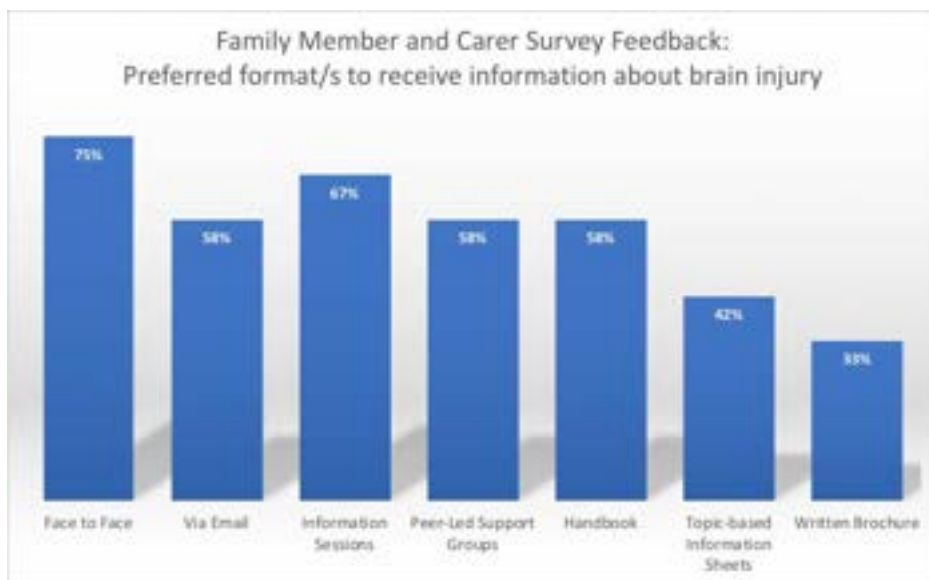
(PeerLink participant)

BrainLink Ltd (Victoria) Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Family Resource Project

BrainLink Ltd (Victoria) invited BIAT to partner with them in the delivery of a 12-month NDIS ILC project to develop a practical guide (in both printed and e-based formats) to assist family members and informal carers, particularly those in regional or remote areas, take on their role as carer of someone with a newly diagnosed brain injury or neurological condition.

BIAT worked with BrainLink to ensure the guide was also a useful resource for Tasmanian families. This included BIAT facilitating a survey with family members and informal carers on their experience and preference for brain injury information provision.

The survey found that over half the respondents had not received information about their family member’s brain injury/neurological condition when they first became a carer. For those who did receive brain injury information, it was provided by the hospital, their GP, medical and rehabilitation specialists, and BIAT. Many people, including some who were provided with information, found it difficult to obtain. Other survey results are detailed in the following graphs:



The Project resulted in the development of a practical guide to help family members better understand, manage and reduce the impact of their caring role for someone with an acquired brain injury (ABI) or degenerative neurological condition.

The guide includes a booklet titled - 'Let's talk about Brain Injury', and information cards - About Brain Injury; Carer Health and Wellbeing; Life with a Brain Injury; Rehabilitation; What to expect in hospital; and Grief and Loss - with QR codes linking people to a new Brain Injury Assist website. The new website (braininjuryassist.org.au) includes a series of topical, combined (family members sharing their journey and medical professionals providing their perspective) videos, produced by Domin8Media.

The resources were launched by BIAT at the 2019 Tasmanian National Brain Injury Awareness Week launch, and in Melbourne, by BrainLink, on 21 August 2019.

The Neuro Hub

Since December 2017 BIAT has co-located with Epilepsy Tasmania, Multiple Sclerosis Limited, and the Stroke Foundation (Tasmania) and, since February 2019, with Motor Neurone Disease Association of Tasmania, in a NeuroHub at the ABC Centre in Hobart. The NeuroHub provides BIAT with the opportunity to share information, knowledge and resources with the other organisations, and to partner with them on projects and submissions.

The Premier of Tasmania, the Hon Will Hodgman officially opened The NeuroHub in July 2018, with the event well attended by key stakeholders and receiving good media coverage.

Disability Voices Tasmania

Disability Voices Tasmania was a 12-month pilot project funded by the Department of Communities Tasmania to find ways for Tasmanians with disability to have a strong and united voice. The project focussed on 4 things:

- Finding out what people with disability and their allies think needs to be done to ensure people with disability have a strong and united voice.
- Looking at ways in which people with disability and their allies can work together on issues that affect the rights of people with disability.
- Looking at what training and/or resources people with disability feel they need to develop their skills and experience to have more choices in, and control over, their lives and to contribute to their community.
- Connecting people with disability in different parts of Tasmania to relevant training and/or resources.

BIAT's Executive Officer was on the Disability Voices Tasmania (DVT) reference group established to guide this project.

Neurological Alliance Tasmania (NAT)

Neurological Alliance Tasmania (NAT) is an alliance of 10 not-for-profit organisations representing or supporting the many thousands of Tasmanians living with or affected by neurological or progressive neuromuscular conditions. BIAT's Executive Officer continues to chair NAT.

Neurological Alliance Tasmania Cont.

Key issues for the Alliance during the reporting period included the impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) on people supported by NAT members, and the inequities that exist in neurology services across Tasmania.

Drawing on their August 2017 submission to the Legislative Council Inquiry into Acute Health Services in Tasmania, NAT members Deborah Byrne, Wendy Groot (ET) and Jen Lowe (MSL) delivered a presentation – Neurological Services in Tasmania – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly - at the Tasmanian Health Conference in August 2018.

Research shows people living with brain injury and degenerative neurological conditions are at increased risk of experiencing depression, other mental health problems, and suicide. In October 2018 BIAT was successful in obtaining a grant, on behalf of the Alliance, to hold a cafe conversation on neurological conditions and mental health as part of Mental Health Week 2018.

Facilitated by Wendy Groot (CEO Epilepsy Tasmania), panel members included Dr Helen Castley (neurologist), Dr Cynthia Honan (Clinical neuropsychologist), and Associate Professor Des Grahm (person with MS, MS board member). The Panel shared, with the 40 lunch attendees, their knowledge of co-morbidity in regard to neurological conditions and mental health, and discussed how people could look after their own mental health and well being.

BIAT is grateful to the Panel for volunteering their time and expertise, and to the Mental Health Council of Tasmania for their financial contribution to the event.





Raising Awareness

People living with or impacted by brain injury can interact with a broad range of services. These services typically have limited knowledge or understanding of brain injury, and inadequate processes for assessment and referral. Health and social services particularly often struggle to meet the complex needs of these individuals and their families. This creates risks of disadvantage and inequality for people with brain injury across many service sectors, with many people who have been impacted by brain injury further disadvantaged after adverse experiences while interacting with service systems.

National Brain Injury Awareness Week – August 2018

Brain Injury Awareness Week is a week-long campaign to raise community awareness of brain injury, and to assist in the reduction of the incidence of brain injury. In August each year the week provides an opportunity to shine a spotlight on brain injury and to highlight some of the often-hidden impacts experienced by people living with brain injury and their families/carers.

A brain injury can happen to anyone at any time, including significant numbers of people who have children. During Brain Injury Awareness Week 2018 BIAT facilitated a panel-style discussion focused on increasing community understanding of the implications of parental brain injury for child safety services. The insightful and thought provoking discussion was filmed by Domin8Media and is available to view on BIAT's website:- <http://www.biat.org.au/link-categories/videos>

2018 represented a significant milestone for the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania as we celebrated 20 years of supporting Tasmanians impacted by brain injury. To commemorate this important event BIAT held a morning tea as part of the launch of National Brain Awareness Week, and presented Honorary Life Membership to Nick Bailly, Alfred Archer, and Mark Lamont.

We were honoured to have Sue Hodgson OAM, one of the founders of the brain injury program in Tasmania, cut our birthday cake, alongside current BIAT Executive Officer of 16 years, Deborah Byrne, and BIAT Committee of Management President of 6 years, Dario Tomat. The cake was kindly donated by Lipscombe Larder, Sandy Bay.

National Brain Injury Awareness Week – August 2018 Cont.

Nick Bailly was awarded honorary life membership for his commitment to the Association reflected by his length of membership, and ongoing representation of people living with brain injury in Tasmania. Nick discusses his personal experiences of brain injury and his involvement with BIAT in a short video - <http://www.biat.org.au/link-categories/videos> - produced by Domin8 Media and launched during National Brain Injury Awareness Week. BIAT is grateful to Nick for sharing his story; in doing so he continues to raise awareness of brain injury across Tasmania and Australia.

Alfred Archer was awarded honorary life membership for his exceptional contribution to brain injury education and awareness programs over the past 20 years. Alf has generously shared his lived experience of brain injury with countless young Tasmanian's over the years through co-presentation of BIAT's education programs 'Custody for Life', 'Heads Up 2 Brain Injury', and the 'After the Crash' session of the RYDA Program.

The emphasis of each of these programs is brain injury prevention – giving young people insight into living with brain injury so they can make informed choices and good decisions. With young people aged between 15-24 years old making up over 40% of people who sustain a brain injury each year, the need for these programs is clear. BIAT produced a short video about Alf for Brain Injury Awareness Week in 2016:- <http://www.biat.org.au/link-categories/videos>

Outgoing Committee of Management member Mark Lamont was awarded honorary life membership for his significant contribution as a Committee of Management member, and for his commitment to delivering brain injury training programs in Tasmania.

BIAT offers a range of brain injury information and training options; we are currently in discussions with potential trainers to ensure the continuation of this much sought-after professional development program.

During the celebration we looked back at highlights of the past 20 years; a detailed history of BIAT can be found in our 2017-2018 Annual Report which can be viewed on our website: <http://www.biat.org.au/link-categories/biat-annual-reports>

Acquired Brain Injury identification card program

There has been a steady increase in demand for ABI ID Cards, both within Tasmania and interstate. BIAT is currently looking into the feasibility of rolling out the scheme nationally to meet demand. Eleven new ABI ID cards were issued during 2018-19 financial year, in comparison to two cards requested and issued during 2017-18 period; several of these were to people in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

Custody for Life

The Custody for Life (CFL) program continues to be run in conjunction with Tasmania Police and Community Youth Justice. Twenty-four young people attended a Custody for Life (CFL) session during the 2018-19 financial year. Most were referred for assault or traffic related offences, with many bringing a parent and/or friend with them, broadening the reach of the education program across the community. Engagement with this group continues to be challenging, however feedback received from participants and their families indicates a greater awareness of the impact brain injury can have on individuals, their families and the broader community.

“

“We use the Custody for Life session to refer as an undertaking for our formal caution process for youth that have committed an offence (i.e. assault or riding a bike without a helmet) to highlight the effects that their actions may have on others. If your sessions were to cease, then we would have to forgo this as an avenue for undertakings and as far as I am aware there are no other sessions like this we could use... It would be a shame to lose this resource.”

(Senior Tasmania Policy Youth Intervention Officer)

Brain Injury Information Sessions

BIAT is working towards increased mainstream capacity to understand the nature and implications of brain injury. Targeted brain injury information sessions were developed and delivered by BIAT EO, Deborah Byrne to: Department of Health Services Centrelink assessment staff; the Government's Alcohol and Drug Service; and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Centre.

Sharing Knowledge

Information, Advice and Referral Service (IARS)

BIAT continues to respond to an increasing number of requests for information, support, and referral from a variety of sources including people with brain injury, family members, service providers (disability specific and mainstream), and allied health providers. During the reporting period BIAT received several hundred enquiries; many enquiries involve a degree of complexity, with referral (support) still proving problematic for people who have multiple conditions, have complex issues, and/or are in contact of a range of services.

In response to a recommendation in the BIAT: Assessment of Current Activities and Opportunities Report compiled by Alison Smith, BIAT implemented a new Information, Advice and Referral Service (IARS) system to improve data capture and ensure efficient follow up procedures.

Tailored to BIAT's specific needs, the new IARS system enables BIAT to record and measure enquiries for brain injury information and referral, and subsequent referral pathways. Since mid-March (when the system became operational) and the end of June - over 30 referral sources, 61 contacts, and 64 enquiries had been recorded.

Website

BIAT has continued to develop its website – www.biat.org.au – working with Domin8 Designs to ensure content remains relevant and up-to-date. Recent work has included expanding the online resource component of the website including additional strategy documents, reports and newsletters produced by BIAT, and links to relevant external state and national organisations, publications and applications.



Newsletters

During the reporting period BIAT produced three E-news bulletins, circulating these (via email and post) to BIAT members and newsletter subscribers, a direct reach of around 600 people. The E-news are shared via social media platforms and are available for download from the BIAT website.

Social Media

BIAT continues to utilise its Facebook platform to raise awareness of brain injury and BIAT as an organisation, communicating with the online community and growing BIAT's social media audience. A minimum of 5 Facebook posts are uploaded each week, including local, national, and international brain injury related content:-

- keeping followers updated on brain injury news and BIAT activities;
- raising community awareness about the causes and consequences of brain injury; and
- highlighting resources that may be of benefit to people impacted by brain injury.

This consistent social media campaign has seen a steady rise in the number of people 'following' and 'liking' the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania Facebook page. At 30 June 2019 BIAT had 600 Facebook followers and 548 Facebook 'likes' – an increase of over 120 people during the reporting period.

Other Media

BIAT continues to raise awareness of brain injury through radio, television and print media.

Published articles written by BIAT Executive Office , Deborah Byrne during 2018-19 include:

- 'Decades of Disability work at risk' Article by Deborah Byrne published in Talking Point section of The Mercury Newspaper 8 May 2019.
- 'Brain Injury Funding Gap Risks Leaving Thousands in Limbo' Article by Deborah Byrne published in Talking Point section of the Mercury Newspaper, Friday 15 March 2019.

Published articles about BIAT include:

- 'NDIS funding leaves about 90,000 Tasmanians living with disabilities in limbo' Article by ANNE MATHER, Published in The Mercury Newspaper 2 May 2019

Other Media Cont.

- Funds from Homemade Hair Scrunchies Donated to Brain Injury Association of Tasmania, Article by CHANEL KINNIBURGH, The Mercury Newspaper, Monday February 25, 2019

Radio interviews conducted with BIAT include:

- 13 March 2019 Deborah Byrne - The future of BIAT under the NDIS National Disability Insurance Scheme was the topic of conversation between BIAT Executive Officer, Deborah Byrne, and Lucy Breden of ABC Hobart Radio Drive this afternoon [interview starts at 18.40 mins]: <https://ab.co/2HvwIXj>
- 20 August 2018 - Brain Injury Awareness Week 2018 - to mark the occasion Brain Injury Association of Tasmania Executive Officer, Deborah Byrne, spoke with Ryk Goddard on ABC Hobart Radio.

Television interviews given by BIAT Executive Office , Deborah Byrne

- 5 April 2019 ABC News Deborah Byrne, BIAT Executive Officer, interviewed by ABC News about BIAT's current funding situation - story starts at 17.40 minutes (<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/abc-news-tas>)



Creating Change



“Had we not had Deborah, and the support of BIAT, this situation would have escalated and put at risk an individual in our community, potential members of the public and our staff, I do not say this lightly...The work Deborah and BIAT does is easy to go unseen and unheard, however in critical and sensitive circumstance we found their service to be invaluable and respectfully protected a vulnerable member of the community, our staff and potentially saved taxpayers money being tied up in law enforcement unnecessarily. I truly hope services such as BIAT continue to be available in our community and are supported by our Government.”

Ana Cox
Head of Transformation
MyState Bank

Systemic Advocacy

Brain injury is often associated with inequality and disadvantage which can exacerbate existing problems and create further disadvantage. Poverty, alcohol and drug problems, poor mental health, homelessness, and engagement with youth and adult justice and family services are experienced more frequently for people with brain injury. Conversely, some of these factors increase the risk of sustaining a brain injury.

BIAT remains passionate about working alongside people, families and organisations, and strategically across government and the wider community to achieve policy and practice change to achieve greater awareness of and improved response to the over representation of people with brain injury in the Criminal Justice Sector and other service sectors.

BIAT's priority continues to be advocating 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.

ABI and Criminal Justice

BIAT continued membership of and regular attendance at monthly JusTas meetings. A format change at the beginning of 2019 resulted in the meetings becoming topic focused - the January meeting included a presentation by Onesimus Foundation on 'the hidden sentence' - the impact on children of having a parent/parents incarcerated, and the February meeting a health focus with a presentation by, and Q & A session with, Risdon Prison doctors. BIAT continues to ensure the intersection between brain injury and criminal justice is understood by JusTas members.

Diversionary Sentencing Options:- The cessation of State Government funding to TABIS, Lifestyle Solutions and WellWays brain injury programs means people with brain injury will no longer be able to be diverted to services in the community through the Diversion Court as these services will no longer exist. The issue has been raised with Government and the Equal Opportunity Commissioner and BIAT continue to pursue a satisfactory outcome.

ABI and Criminal Justice Cont.

In October 2018, BIAT partnered with TABIS/Li-Ve Tasmania to raise awareness of brain injury at the annual Risdon Prison Health and Wellbeing Expo at the Ron Barwick men’s minimum security section. One activity invited inmates to answer questions about previous head injuries and other life events. The anecdotal findings provided valuable first-hand information and supported BIATs hypothesis that there is a high level of brain injury (recognised and unrecognised) within Risdon Prison.

Of the 55 people BIAT/TABIS spoke with 8 stated they had a known brain injury. All but one person identified positively for one or more risk factor for brain injury. Forty people said they had lost consciousness or been dazed and confused following a head injury; 35 people said they had visited the hospital or GP as a result of a head injury; 18 people said they had 10+ years of heavy alcohol use; 16 people said they had 10+ years of heavy drug use; and 11 people said they had attempted suicide.

BIAT continues to be a member of the state government Throughcare Reference group; was invited to go to the Mary Hutchins Women’s Prison to talk about brain injury; and was on the organising committee for the National Reintegration Puzzle Conference held in Hobart in 2018.

ABI and Family Violence

Domestic and family violence is a key cause of brain injury. Research has shown that women who have a brain injury through domestic violence experience significant disadvantage and are a high-risk group for further marginalisation including poor health, homelessness, out of home care, mental health problems and contact with the criminal justice system.

BIAT’s Executive Officer represents BIAT and National Disability Services (NDS) on the Tasmanian State Government Family Violence Consultative Group, and participated in a workshop on the development of the Fourth Action Plan.

Brain Injury and Child Protection

As detailed above BIAT facilitated a panel discussion on Brain Injury and Child Protection as part of Brain Injury Awareness Week 2018. BIAT prepared a comprehensive background document for panel members and the facilitator (ABC radio presenter, Sarah Gillman). BIAT also partnered with the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies (UTas) on a project to research, raise awareness of, and provide better support and understanding on this issue.

National Disability Services (NDS)

BIAT's Executive Officer has continued as a member of the NDS Tasmanian State Committee. Prior to the March 2019 meeting BIAT requested the impact of change to the ILC strategy on organisational viability be added to the agenda and addressed at both a state and national level by NDS. At BIAT's insistence, this NDS meeting also discussed how best to hold the government to account for the Disability Justice Strategy.

Hansard

“

“I acknowledge the incredible, relentless tenacity and advocacy of Deb Byrne from the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania and her ongoing efforts to have government acknowledge the hidden impact of acquired brain injury on individuals as well as on our systems – our health system, our housing system, justice system and in our schools. Certainly, in the 11 years I have been in parliament, Deb Byrne has been one of the strongest and most tenacious advocates for a new way of looking at the impact of acquired brain injury an often hidden disability on individuals and services in Tasmania.”

Cassy O'Connor, Leader
of the Greens, Hansard,
22 May 2019

Hansard Cont.

In response to extensive lobbying by BIAT’s Executive Officer, the loss of BIAT’s government funding, and the flaws in the State Government’s response/argument that ILC grants would address the loss of this funding, was raised several times in Parliament and Budget Estimates, and documented in Hansard.

(NB: Please note the misrepresentation of BIAT’s ILC Grant by Minister Petrusma in Parliament has been raised by BIAT with the Minister’s advisor and Labor Opposition.

Prior to, and in response to the above, BIAT’s Executive Officer met with:

- The Minister to discuss funding concerns (April/May 2019);
- Minister Petrusma’s disability advisor Mel Brown and SeniorAdvisor, Will Joscelyne.
- The Hon Jo Siejka, MLC
- The Premier’s Senior Advisor, Sandy Wittison
- Secretary of the Department of Communities, Ginna Webster
- Labor MP, Alison Standen

Service Gaps

In addition to people with brain injury unable to be diverted to services through the Court Diversion Process, the ILC funding process and short term/loss of Government funding has impacted services BIAT would normally refer clients to. The inability of some brain injury specialist organisations to offer ongoing employment due to funding uncertainty, resulted in some long-term staff (and their extensive brain injury knowledge base) moving on to more secure employment. The difficulty in replacing these staff, particularly on short term contacts, reduced the capacity of the organisations to appropriately support people, resulting in them being unable to accept BIAT referrals.

These service sector gaps have been raised by BIAT in meetings with politicians and with the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Secretary of the Department of Justice.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Better Patient Pathway Project

BIAT's Executive Officer and Project Officer attended the first Steering Committee meeting of this project which is based in the Royal Hobart Hospital. The objective of the TBI Better Patient Pathways project is to ensure that all patients with a TBI who use the Tasmanian Health Service (THS) have access to evidence-based clinical practices to optimise recovery and facilitate a safe return to activities reducing the burden on services, carers and communities.

Community Services Industry Plan

The following email from TasCOSS CEO, Kym Goodes, was sent to BIAT following BIAT's Executive Officer's participation in the Community Services Industry Plan forum:

“

“I also wanted to say a huge thank you for your contribution to the Industry plan – last week at the forum but also longer term – your input is steeped in wisdom and experience and is framed so positively in the room – I really appreciate your commitment to seeing the sector develop and grow in the next ten years.”

Treasurer's Report



I have pleasure in presenting the audited Financial Statements for the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania (BIAT) for the year 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, and in confirming the financial performance for the fiscal year was in accordance with the budget approved by the BIAT Committee of Management.

BIAT's operations for the year ended 30 June 2019 realised a deficit for the year of \$28 881.92. This compares favourably to the prior year deficit of \$32 501.70. The deficit is again largely due to the decision by the BIAT Committee of Management to employ a part-time project officer to support the Executive Officer.

BIAT's equity position remains strong with net assets of \$132 366.07. Total revenue for the year of \$224 948.15 included the DHHS (now Department of Communities) grant, MAIB grant, a one-off Community Inclusion and Capacity Development (CICD) grant, and BrainLink Victoria project funding. The majority of non-grant revenue came from donations, fundraising and interest income, plus funding for Nick Baily's and BIAT's Executive Officer's participation to the Disability Voices Tasmania (DVT) Project. BIAT acknowledges with appreciation the Grant funds provided by the Department of Communities and the Motor Accident Insurance Board.

Expenses totalled \$246 203.23 with the majority of costs being employee and rental expenses and professional fees. The professional fees are associated with, and off-set against, the aforementioned CICD grant and DVT Project.

Notable variations include profit on sale of BIAT's 4 year old motor vehicle, purchase of a new vehicle, and associated depreciation increase; variation in employee entitlements with BIAT's Project Officer and Executive Officer using the majority of their annual leave in the 2018-19 financial year; and an increase in travel and accommodation expenses offset against the BrainLink project grant. The Tasmanian Community Fund PeerLink project grant has been detailed separately.

Treasurer's Report Cont.

Financial Position

BIAT's total assets at 30 June were \$391 146.16, a significant increase on the previous financial year. This increase is due to receipt of a National Disability Insurance (NDIS) Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Grant of \$176 665.56 for a 12 month project. Liquidity remains strong with \$125 377.24 in term deposits and \$241 435.04 cash at bank. Total liabilities at the end of the financial year were \$224 129.87. The major portion of liabilities is unexpended project grants and employee leave entitlements.

The BIAT Committee of Management review the Association's financial statements at each committee meeting. Whilst it is the Treasurer's role to monitor spending against budget and to report to the Committee of Management on our financial position, BIAT's day to day financial administration continues to lie with the Executive Officer.

Future Financial Position

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 is in a stable financial position and I am confident that the accounts are in a fit state to enable us to meet the aims of the Association in the foreseeable future.

Rebecca O'Halloran

Treasurer, BIAT

BIAT AUDITED FINANCIALS

2018/19 Annual Report



BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<u>INCOME</u>		
Subscriptions	680.00	535.00
Grants - MAIB	82 500.00	84 000.00
Grants - DHHS	114 104.05	93 865.81
Grants – Other	7 853.42	-
Project Funding	8 000.00	-
Interest received	3 371.21	3 537.51
Donations	354.00	1 473.75
BIAT Training Fees	1 750.00	4 120.00
Fundraising Activities	70.00	878.00
Heads Up 2 Brain Injury Program	-	180.00
Sundry Income	438.15	.16
Profit on Sale of Motor Vehicle	5 827.32	-
Total Income	224 948.15	188 605.23
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Audit Fee	1 800.00	1 800.00
Depreciation	6 534.08	2 657.56
Employee Entitlements	(3 446.95)	5 519.84
Fundraising Expenses	350.00	-
Furniture & Equipment (Loss on Sale)	-	755.01
HU2BI Expenditure	200.00	-
Insurance	5 530.25	5 620.29
Motor Vehicle Expenses	2 062.55	3 362.19
Office Expenses	6 731.96	9 384.27
Printing, Stationery, Postage	815.23	1 501.46
Professional Fees	24 458.94	-
Promotional Activities	2 219.20	3 177.61
Office Rental	14 760.34	13 000.60
Salaries	135 799.44	127 533.20
Superannuation	30 145.98	29 640.91
Subscriptions	1 304.55	938.17
Sundry Expenses	459.54	579.70
Telephone	3 980.57	4 790.97
Conference Attendance, Travel & Accommodation	10 170.28	4 883.60
Training	2 327.27	5 961.55
Total Expenditure	246 203.23	221 106.93
Sub-Total Surplus/Deficit For Year	<u>(21 255.08)</u>	<u>(32 501.70)</u>

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

TCF FUNDED PEERLINK PROJECT

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Tasmanian Community Fund Grant	16 364.00	-
Total TCF Project Income	16 364.00	-
EXPENDITURE		
Office Expenses	1 729.79	-
Travel/Accommodation		-
Contract Work	15 631.05	-
Salaries	6 630.00	
Total TCF Project Expenditure	23 990.84	
Sub-Total TCF Project Surplus/(Deficit) For Year	(7 626.84)	-
 SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	 <u>(28 881.92)</u>	 <u>(32 501.70)</u>

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
MEMBERS' EQUITY		
GENERAL		
Financial Contingency Reserve	126 171.00	135 684.00
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward	35 076.99	58 065.69
Add Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(28 881.92)	(32 501.70)
TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY	<u>132 366.07</u>	<u>161 247.99</u>
Represented by:-		
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Furniture & Equipment @ Cost	-	11 681.37
Less Provision for Depreciation	-	<u>(11 681.37)</u>
		0.00
Motor Vehicles @ cost	28 512.12	26 293.14
Less Provision for Depreciation	<u>(6 534.08)</u>	<u>(18 320.47)</u>
	21 978.03	7 972.67
Total Non-Current Assets	<u>21 978.03</u>	<u>7 972.67</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank - MyState	547.73	547.73
Cash at Bank – ANZ	46 191.19	3 433.97
Cash at Bank – Donations/Grants	194 696.12	12 364.00
Shares – MyState	10.00	10.00
Accounts Receivable	51.60	84.60
Undeposited Funds	-	-
MyState Shares	2 294.25	1 941.10
Investment - ANZ	<u>125 377.24</u>	<u>195 281.35</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>369 168.13</u>	<u>213 662.75</u>
Total Assets	<u>391 146.16</u>	<u>221 635.42</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
ANZ – BIAT Company Card	4 680.78	158.04
Trade Creditors & accruals	24 703.76	6 233.00

2018/19 BIAT Annual Report

2018/19 BIAT Annual Report

Annual leave provision	(519.98)	7 062.74
Tax Payable	(2 019.49)	(16.10)
Tax Payable PAYG	.30	71.30
Unexpended Grant – TCF Project	-	16 364.00
Unexpended Grant – BrainLink Project	13 118.94	-
Unexpended Grant – MAIB	7 500	-
Unexpended Grant – DPFO ILC – ICB	94 710.28	-
Unexpended Grant – DPFO ILC – OCB	81 955.28	-
Total Current Liabilities	<u>224 129.87</u>	<u>29 872.98</u>
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provision for long-service leave	34 650.22	30 514.45
Total Non Current Liabilities	34 650.22	30 514.45
Total Liabilities	<u>258 780.09</u>	<u>60 387.43</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>132 366.07</u>	<u>161 247.99</u>

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

AS AT 30TH JUNE 2019

President	Dario Tomat
Vice President	Helen Mulcahy
Treasurer	Rebecca O'Halloran
Secretary	Janine Martin

To the best of our knowledge and belief the above named comprised the executive of the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania Inc as at 30 June 2019.



Bentleys Tasmania Audit Pty Ltd
Registered Audit Company
Michael Ian Derbyshire
Director

Hobart this 2nd day of December 2019

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS
OF BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC
ABN: 42 686 820 819****Opinion**

We have audited the special purpose financial report of Brain Injury Association of Tasmania Inc (the Entity), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2019, the profit and loss statement for the year then ended and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion the financial report of Brain Injury Association of Tasmania Inc has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2019, and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The special purpose financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the responsible entities' financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of the Committee for the Financial Report

The Committee of the registered entity is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the registered entities ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Michael Ian Derbyshire
Director

2 December 2019

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC.
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the Committee the attached financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania Inc. as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
3. Grants received were disbursed for the purposes for which they were given.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:


.....
Committee Member


.....
Committee Member

Hobart this 2nd day of December 2019

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012. The financial report is prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the association in the preparation of the financial report:

a) PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Property, plant & equipment are recorded at cost. The depreciable amounts of capitalised fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives to the association, commencing in the year of acquisition. The straight line and reducing balance methods of depreciation are used. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to present values in determining the recoverable amount. The gain or loss on disposal of all fixed assets is determined as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of the disposal and the proceeds of the disposal, and is included in the operating profit of the association in the year of disposal.

b) PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

Provision is made for the associations' liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries and annual leave which will be settled after one year have been measured at their nominal amount.

c) SUPERANNUATION

Contributions are made to the employee superannuation funds in accordance with the requirements of the Superannuation Guarantee Levy.

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

d) INCOME TAX

The association is exempt from income tax and tax effect accounting is therefore not appropriate.

e) CASH

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash at bank and on deposit.

f) REVENUE

Operating Grant revenue is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

g) GOODS & SERVICES TAX (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are shown exclusive of GST.

h) LEASES

Lease payments under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

NOTE 2: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

Since 30 June 2019, no event has arisen that would significantly or may significantly affect the operation of the association, the result of those operations, or the state of affairs of the association in subsequent financial years.

NOTE 3: PRESENTATION AND DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The application of the relevant Accounting Standard has been considered, however the additional disclosure required, particularly concerning the fair value of financial instruments, would not be materially different to the disclosure already reflected in these financial statements.

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC.
COMMITTEES' REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of Brain Injury Association of Tasmania Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

D Tomat
C Ramsden
J Martin

B O'Halloran
L Whitney
H Mulcahy

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was to act as Tasmania's State peak body for people with acquired brain injury (ABI) and their families.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant change in the nature of this activity occurred during the year.

OPERATING RESULTS

The deficit from ordinary activities amounted to \$28 881.92.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Committee Member

Committee Member

Dated at Hobart this 2nd day of December 2019

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ANNUAL REPORT

The Brain Injury Association
of Tasmania

www.biat.org.au

facebook.com/braininjurytasmania
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“While organisations may disappear, the problem will not! A person with brain injury who does not receive the supports they need in the community, when they need them will, most likely, appear with multiple issues somewhere else in the system. As a result the economic costs to the Tasmanian Government will be significantly higher, and for the individual the social and emotion costs will be far greater.”

BIAT Executive Officer, Deborah Byrne