

Artwork by Tim Archer, BIM Member

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Brain Injury Matters

www.braininjurymatters.org

Brain Injury Matters

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Well, here we are after another year, and I can say that I am proud of the way that Brain Injury Matters fights to stay current in this situation of uncertainty within the community sector. We have, in the previous year, seen a couple of other community organisations within the hallowed walls of Ross House collapse due to funding shortfalls but we are holding on despite the current climate.

Peer Support Groups

The Brain Injury Matters Peer Support Groups continue to be a source of pride for the organisation. The groups provide an outlet for members to come together with others to share experiences and allow for interactions where sometimes, this wouldn't otherwise occur. Nick, Poppy, Nat, Yannick, Rhino, Sally, Fiona, Troy, Ross, Andrew and Peter are all the ones that you can pat on the back for your respective groups. We are endeavouring to locate funding sources to allow us to continue to grow the Peer Support Groups in regional and rural Victoria so if you find a spare dollar in the back of your lounge chair, send it our way.



Partnerships

It has been a bit of a tough year for BIM, with our organisation submitting proposals for funding but very little has come back in the way of positive outcomes. We were successful in one, however this was not a funding submission as per the normal requirements, but a proposal to the NDIA to gather information on what people with an acquired brain injury think about changes to the NDIS. Other disability cohorts are involved as well. This project will run until July 2026.

We have been busy with other submissions, but as I mentioned above, most have been unsuccessful for one reason or another. One good thing about working on these submissions is that some excellent projects are designed by BIM and our partners. We worked hard on one particular application with Monash University that would have involved research and skill-building in professional relationships between people with ABI and their support workers. We will now keep this very worthy project on the backburner until the right funding opportunity comes along.

BIM ABI Wise app and website

Yannick is involved with constantly updating the Brain Injury Matters website with information too, so that when you are in need of something, you can access that and be updated at any time of the day. Our ABI Wise app, which was launched over 10 years ago, is a source of pride for the organisation and we thank past members for their initiative in creating the app, which is the first of its kind in the world. It always amazes me when I report on its use to the Committee each month, and look at the places that it has been downloaded, it is safe to say that BIM's reach is now global.

BIM Newsletter

The newsletter is also something which has a large reach, going out to all members each month and we thank the people involved with putting this valuable resource together, primarily Sally Helm. The newsletter contains a member of the month profile, and much more information in relation to the organisation and the sector in general.

Membership

The Membership of BIM is looking very healthy, with many people connected to the organisation in one way or another. BIM's Membership of people with an ABI along with

Friends of BIM (carers, health professionals, support workers etc) has now grown to 1124 people and this figure grows every week! If we add in social media followers and app users, we are regularly connected with over 3700 people in the brain injury community. Our social media is another area with strong engagement too, with Instagram leading the way, and Facebook coming in a close second. We are launching our LinkedIn social account soon.

Looking Ahead

Finally, I would like to thank the workers, committee members, and the BIM members for making this organisation what it is, a thriving network of people who are all one when it comes to advocating for people with an acquired brain injury.

Cheers



Col Brokenshire
November 2025



BIM's Mission is to support and empower people with brain injury to advocate for themselves and enhance the lives of other people with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI).

TREASURER'S REPORT



It is my pleasure to present the 2025 financial report to you as also my 7th Year as Treasurer. You will find the Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2025, along with the accompanying Statement of Financial Position as of 30 June 2025, on the following pages. These statements were audited by our independent auditors, Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd (Frederik R. L. Eksteen).

This year, we were presented with complexities that during my time, BIM had not previously experienced. We had to make choices that fit the landscape as follows:

- Secure further funding for a sizeable grant we were expecting that unfortunately did not eventuate.
- This left us with an excellent team of people that honestly, we did not have enough funds to continue to pay for.
- We did not want to lose the experience, loyalty and knowledge of our staff particularly as we could reapply or seek other methods of securing funding. To go to market and recruit is both expensive and puts us on the "Back Foot" when we apply for future grants.
- Our choice was either to "restructure" or use capital to continue to fund our staff.

In view of the above and the capital that BIM had in reserves, the Committee of Management made the decision to continue to fund our people throughout this financial year. Albeit, we had to reduce hours and additional requirements to lessen the impact on our core financial position and balance staffing requirements where we possibly could.
These factors therefore represent the basis of the following results.

Financial Performance Overview

Our 2025 results show both a 96% decrease in revenue, driven by both government funding and grants. As mentioned, we also managed costs tightly, but we couldn't manage them downward (-49%) as quickly as funding just wasn't coming through. This result is demonstrated by:

- Cost to Income Ratio now $2.50 / against $0.83 cents the year (2024) before. i.e. for every dollar that is paid to BIM, it costs us $2.50 in operating expenses.
- Our cash position also has fallen since the last AGM by $21K. Corresponding to this, the equity held also fell from $216,747 (2024) to $90,948 (2025)

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2025, we ended the year with $176,189 held in our accounts. DFFH, AMIDA, and SARU funding continued solidly throughout the year. These funds are primarily allocated to employment coverage and some office costs.
Operating expenses decreased by -$203,479 (49.3%) from the previous year, without immediate reduction as per the aforementioned.

Costs for Every Dollar Received

YEAR	COST TO INCOME RATIO
2024-2025	$2.50
2023-2024	$0.83
2022-2023	$1.06
2021-2022	$0.86
2020-2021	$0.81
2019-2020	$1.01
2018-2019	$1.02

Our Income & Expenditure

Income decreased by $419,777.72 with no further grants being awarded to us throughout the year. The major revenue driver was: "DFFH General Funding" through Victorian Government's VDAP (Victorian Disability Advocacy Program).
Conversely operating expenses reduced by $203,479.95 due to reduction of staff operating hours across BIM and closer management of staff work allocations and duties.
However, our income still wasn't sufficient throughout the year to cover costs, resulting in a deficit of $192,338.50. We also needed to invest in our digital communications. Donations made to BIM from a variety of sources were very much appreciated with total funds of $6,215.26 donated.

What does our future look like?

INCOME:

We have been successful in developing relationships with universities to further research into brain injury which is resulting in expanding our net for funding and strengthening capacity of delivering. Future funding may be through reduced increments and more focused as to requirements. Of course, we are particularly exposed to many items outside our control such as the economy, and political environment but we demonstrated our ability to retain staff who have a huge knowledge base and capacity to deliver. Our ability to react and prioritise when opportunities arise is also a positive and we are looking forward to increased support from research partnerships through universities and the NDIS.

EXPENSES:

We will continue our strong payroll: freeze hires, limit overtime, align roster to funding cycles. Smoothing funding: negotiate predictable instalments with major funders. For Information Technology expenses - capitalize or amortize major upgrades and negotiate vendor terms. Cut meeting/event gifts and consolidate providers to reduce variability. Improve strategies to convert one-off donations/interest ("AU$4,545.45", "AU$1,847.03") into recurring donor programs.

Regulatory Compliance

Brain Injury Matters has complied with all the requirements under the ACNC Act and its obligations to provide copies of relevant financial statements.

Acknowledgements

I want to personally thank the Committee of Management for your support throughout the year. I also extend my gratitude to all our staff and volunteers for their tremendous efforts over the last 12 months and for your continued support and loyalty to Brain Injury Matters.

Roger Astell
Treasurer
November 2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Profit and Loss Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	2025 $	2024 $
INCOME		
DFFH General Funding	66,591	64,324
NDIS: Community Inclusion Capacity Development Funding	-	370,686
AMIDA / SARU Grant	8,194	7,902
Donations	6,215	7,896
Interest Received	1,847	2,380
Miscellaneous Income	502	773
Other Grants	-	39,393
Workcover Reimbursements	-	7,507
	83,350	500,861
EXPENDITURE		
Annual Leave Expenditure	(3,348)	4,896
AWSABI	-	2,500
Bank Charges	42	58
Bendigo Neighbourhood House	-	2,273
Bookkeeping Fees	2,025	2,050
Computer Expenses	5,248	2,614
Consulting Fees	-	1,750
Depreciation	3,481	3,903
General Expenses	-	119
Honorarium	-	500
Insurance	2,428	4,429
Meeting Attendances	17,592	24,361
Office Expenses	3,970	8,456
Office Supplies	1,219	2,182
Portable Long Service Benefits Scheme Levies	2,250	4,604
Rent	8,819	9,956
Superannuation	16,466	31,140
Telephone	330	575
Training	100	7,615
Travel/Meals/Accommodation	4,038	13,077
Wages and Salaries: Staff	144,488	285,568
Wages and Salaries: Contractors	-	2,494
	209,148	415,120
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	**(125,799)**	**85,741**

Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2025

	2025 $	2024 $
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	95,297	223,695
Accounts and Other Receivables	(687)	(1,673)
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**94,610**	**222,022**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Office equipment - at cost	11,026	11,026
Less: provision for depreciation	(8,164)	(7,436)
	2,862	**3,590**
Computer equipment - at cost	16,287	16,287
Less: provision for depreciation	(11,922)	(9,168)
	4,365	**7,119**
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**7,227**	**10,709**
TOTAL ASSETS	**101,837**	**232,731**
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	96	198
Accrued Expenses	3,631	6,355
PAYG Withholding Tax Payable	340	(3,555)
PLSA Levies Payable	614	1,290
Superannuation Payable	1,218	3,359
Provision for Annual Leave	4,990	8,337
	10,889	**15,984**
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**10,889**	**15,984**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**10,889**	**15,984**
NET ASSETS	**90,948**	**216,747**
EQUITY		
Accumulated Funds	90,948	216,747
	90,948	**216,747**

PEER SUPPORT GROUP PROGRAM

Brain Injury Matters currently has 6 Peer Support Groups running weekly. These groups are based in Frankston, Northcote, Ringwood, Footscray and we have two weekly groups that meet online. The online groups attract a range of people including some from regional towns in Victoria, Queensland, and NSW. We also hold the Women's Group that meets on the first Monday of each month in the Melbourne CBD and are endeavouring to support the continuation of peer groups in Bendigo and Albury-Wodonga.





Despite a lack of funding for the past few years, our groups have been growing and thriving. Every week we get referrals for new members from health professionals looking to help find community for people. We often hear people say, “It’s so good to meet up with others who understand what I’m going through and who are not paid to hang out with me.” The table below shows the number of individual members who attended groups at least once in the last financial year.

Number of individual attendees at BIM Peer Support Groups *1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025*	
North Metro PSG	36
South Metro PSG	38
Online - Brainwave	20
West Metro PSG	23
East Metro PSG	47
Online Coffee Morning	37
Women’s PSG (monthly)	21
Total	**222**



When meeting at Neighbourhood Houses, our groups have had guest speakers from the Victorian Disability Workers Commission, Metro Trains, the National Assistance Card and researchers from Monash Uni. We've had trivia quizzes, games days, watched videos and had discussions about the challenges of daily life with brain injury.

Community outings have included many BBQs in parks and coffees in cafes. Some groups have been 10-pin bowling, sung karaoke, watched movies, and visited art galleries, museums and zoos.



A highlight of the year was a short video made by members of the online and East Metro peer support groups about why peer support groups are so important. It was used for our end of financial year appeal and received plenty of great feedback.

What BIM Members had to say about peer support groups…

“Brain injury is an extremely isolating and challenging experience.”

“Peer support is essential to my survival.”

“I like the brain injury group because it helps me communicate with other people.”

“It gets me out of my bedroom.”

“The companionship is just great!”

"Brain Injury Matters is like family."

"Everyone is very encouraging."

"Without this group, I don't reckon I'd be alive anymore to be honest."


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STAY BAD









We want to thank all our peer support group facilitators for their tireless efforts to come up with activities, send out emails and deal with the complexities of running groups. Thank you also to all members of our peer support groups for attending and creating such welcoming environments.

Andrew, Fiona, Fraser, Nick, Peter, Poppy, Sally, Ryan, Ross, Troy & Yannick