

Members of the East Metro PSG

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Brain Injury Matters

www.braininjurymatters.org

Brain Injury Matters

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Gidday everyone, and thanks for picking up a copy of this year's report. Looking back on what we have achieved over the past year, it would be fair to say that we have well and truly punched above our weight. There is more detail about our achievements in the following sections, but it has certainly been another busy and productive year for Brain Injury Matters. In terms of funding, well, if you remember back to the last AGM, we wouldn't exactly say that we are rolling in it. However, we have had some successes in a number of areas, most notably the new peer support groups (PSGs). We have also applied for funding for a big—well, massive—project, details below.

Peer Support Groups

The peer support groups are now getting together at regular intervals, and from all reports, they are becoming bigger every time they meet. For some groups, this might actually be becoming a bit of a problem, as the spaces they meet in could soon be bursting at the seams! This year, we welcomed new peer support groups in Ballarat, Wangaratta and Bendigo. Shepparton will start soon and in time, and with more funding, we hope to see even more groups established around Victoria. As one of our members said recently: "peer support is life support" and we couldn't agree more! I would like to say a very big thank you to the people who put in the time, do the planning and, most importantly, keep rocking up every week to make the PSGs happen.

Partnerships

Brain Injury Matters continues to build partnerships with organisations for purposes of research and systemic advocacy. Partnerships this year have included Monash University, Latrobe University, CyberAbility, Brainlink, Synapse, Brain Injury Association of Tasmania, Brain Injury South Australia and Brain Injury Australia.

We continue to seek partnerships with other organisations to develop knowledge and understanding about acquired brain injury and to help educate the wider public about what it means to live with an ABI.



Boccia with the Ringwood Peer Support Group

I would like to especially mention BIM's first ever sponsor organisation – Femur Connect. Thank you to Shane and your team for coming on board to help support BIM as our gold sponsor! This commitment has been much appreciated. The organisation is also indebted to Nat Linke for managing this sponsorship process. Another thanks to Nat and also Fraser for their work setting BIM up on the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) where BIM can benefit as a charity when people recycle their cans and bottles – every little bit helps!

BIM ABI Wise app and website

There hasn't been a great deal of change to the BIM website this year, apart from the regular updates, with Yannick taking on responsibility for keeping things up to date. The ABI Wise app has had some new information added, including information about the National Assistance Card under the Resources button. If you haven't yet investigated the National Assistance Card, head into the ABI Wise app and check it out for yourself. You can also apply for one if you think it might assist you in your everyday life.

I would like to thank our Committee Member Nat and staff member Yannick for working with me to keep the BIM social media posts coming throughout the year.

BIM Newsletter

The BIM Newsletter continues to go from strength to strength, with our wonderful volunteer Anne now producing a news-filled edition every month. Sally Helm also puts in many hours on the newsletter

and our member Bernadette does an amazing job with her expert proof-reading. The newsletter has evolved into an in-depth digest of up-to-date information relevant to the sector and, more often than not, includes opportunities for our members to get involved in research. This is an important way for our members to stay informed about what is happening in the ABI space and to have opportunities to make their voices heard.

Membership

Our membership continues to grow, with BIM casting our net ever wider. With new peer support groups establishing themselves and existing groups continuing to grow, this can only be a good thing. For people living with an acquired brain injury, finding your place after becoming a member of the ABI club can take time. Having somewhere to connect with others who understand what it is like can make a real difference.

A Few Thank Yous

Thanks to the committee and executive members for their hard work over the year, Nia, Peter, Roger, Nat, Anat, Kelvin, Adrian and David. Thank you to AMIDA and SARU for their support – particularly Mel Keely and Luke Shein and their teams.

And thank you to the people who have positions within the organisation and have worked more than their allotted time in the respective roles, Poppy, Fiona, Sally, Yannick, Ross, Rhino, Troy, Nick, Sam in Wangaratta, Mark and Lara in Ballarat and Mary and Kathleen in Bendigo. Thanks also to Missy for your help setting up the Bendigo group before you left us to move to Tassie. These people are the ones that work to keep the peer support groups thriving.

Thanks also to Fraser and Georgia for their work with the committee, the finances, governance and admin – it's a small but dedicated team! Thanks again to our volunteer Anne and to our member Bernadette for their newsletter efforts. One person we want to acknowledge who consistently goes over and above for BIM is Sally Helm. So much of BIM's success at all levels is thanks to the intelligence and hard work of Sally and the whole BIM family is incredibly grateful to her!

Looking Ahead

So, what does the next year look like for BIM? Well, we are hoping to gather even more pace and launch ourselves into another sphere. Late this financial year, we submitted a grant application for a large project that could see BIM become a national force for ABI peer support groups, helping to support the development of groups in other states. That is a big ambition, but then again, we have

shown this year that we are capable of punching above our weight. And, of course, none of this happens without the people who keep this organisation afloat: the workers, the volunteers, the peer support group leaders and everyone else who gives their time, energy and experience to Brain Injury Matters.

A very big thank you to all of you.

Here's to another year.



Col Brokenshire
October 2026



From left to right: Adrian Jones, Peter Lester (Secretary), Anat Bigos, Nia Giddings (Vice Chair), Roger Astell (Treasurer), Kelvin Lim, Col Brokenshire (Chairperson)



David Moss



Nat Linke

TREASURER'S REPORT



It is my pleasure to present the 2026 Financial Report to you as Treasurer.

You will find the Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30th JUNE 2026 and the accompanying Statement of Financial Position as of 30th JUNE 2026 at the end of this Annual Report. These statements were audited by our independent auditors Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd (Frederik R. L. Eksteen.) The full report and Audit Statement can be viewed at the end of this document and will be available for viewing on our website.

The Committee of Management have voted and conclude, that the Statements reflect a "True & Fair" Financial Position of Brain Injury Matters Incorporated as of the 30th of June 2026.

Firstly, a personal thank you to the Committee of Management for your support throughout the year particularly when I was in hospital for 6 weeks. Especially the research and subsequent funding submissions conducted throughout the year. I'd also like to thank all our Staff & Volunteers for their tremendous efforts over the last 12 months and your continued support and loyalty to Brain Injury Matters (BIM). Another year for all of us keeping a close eye on both funding opportunities and our day-to-day spending and ensuring we can continue to provide services to our members and our funding partners.

Financial Performance Overview

Brain Injury Matters Inc recorded total income of $256,652 for the year ended 30 June 2026, an increase of $173,303 (208%) from $83,349 in the prior year.

The improvement was primarily driven by miscellaneous income of $158,469 which was timely and a relief and this source of income was comprised of the following: NDIS - $151,651, Sponsorship income - $5,000 and a grant from the Bendigo Bank - $1,818.

Total operating expenses were $276,925 up $67,777 (32.4%) from $209,148 in 2025. The largest expense was wages and salaries of $196,627, representing approximately 71% of total operating

expenses. Other material costs included superannuation ($23,232), meeting, event and hiring costs ($17,365), rent ($9,956) and computer expenses ($5,938 increased -$690). Apart from the last 2 expenses being more expensive than last year, the others had minor improvements where there wasn't any overspend. The organisation reported a net deficit of -$20,273 for the year. While the result remains a deficit, it represents a significant improvement compared with 2025's deficit of $125,799.

COST TO INCOME

This year our Ratio's almost came back to break even and a substantial improvement from 2025. This year for every dollar earnt, we spent $0.05 more than received where last year we overspent by $1.50. Obviously we still need to pull back our costs further to meet minimum of breaking even overall.

YEAR	COST TO INCOME RATIO Operating expenses ÷ operating income = cost-to-income ratio
2025-2026	$1.05
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

Key Financial Observations are as Follows:

Miscellaneous income increased substantially to $158,469 and was the principal contributor to the improved annual result. Core funding remained broadly stable, with DHS general funding increasing modestly from $66,591 to $68,688. AMIDA/SARU funding increased from $8,194 to $22,199. Donations declined from $6,215 to $4,168, while grants recorded were $1,818. Staffing-related costs remain the principal cost driver. Wages and salaries increased by $52,139 and superannuation by $6766, reflecting the need for close workforce-cost monitoring.

Some expense categories reduced or were contained, including travel, meeting/event costs, accommodation and office supplies. These controls have partially offset growth in staffing and operational costs. Operating expenses exceeded income by approximately 7.3%. A sustainable future operating position will depend on maintaining recurring income levels, carefully managing staffing commitments, and reducing reliance on unusual or non-recurring income.

Conclusion and Management Focus

The 2026 result demonstrates a meaningful improvement in financial performance, with the annual deficit reduced by more than one-third. However, the organisation remains in a deficit position. Management should prioritise confirmation of recurring revenue sources, review the drivers of miscellaneous income, maintain disciplined expenditure controls, and prepare a forward budget designed to achieve a sustainable break-even or surplus outcome.

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.



Roger Astell
Treasurer
October 2026

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Profit and Loss Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	2026 $	2025 $
INCOME		
DFFH General Funding	68,688	66,591
AMIDA / SARU Grant	22,199	8,194
Donations	4,168	6,215
Interest Received	1,310	1,847
Miscellaneous Income	158,469	502
Other Grants	1,818	-
	256,652	83,350
EXPENDITURE		
Annual Leave Expenditure	2,666	(3,348)
Bank Charges	47	42
Bookkeeping Fees	2,075	2,025
Computer Expenses	5,938	5,248
Depreciation	3,142	3,481
Insurance	3,142	2,428
Meeting Attendances	17,365	17,592
Office Expenses	3,425	3,970
Office Supplies	1,182	1,219
Portable Long Service Benefits Scheme Levies	3,250	2,250
Rent	9,956	8,819
Superannuation	23,232	16,466
Telephone	328	330
Training	1,250	100
Travel/Meals/Accommodation	3,557	4,038
Wages and Salaries: Staff	196,627	144,488
	276,925	209,148
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	**(20,273)**	**(125,799)**

Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2026

	2026 $	2025 $
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	73,726	95,297
Accounts and Other Receivables	63,153	(687)
Prepaid Expenses	468	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**137,347**	**94,610**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Office equipment - at cost	11,026	11,026
Less: provision for depreciation	(8,891)	(8,164)
	2,135	**2,862**
Computer equipment - at cost	16,287	16,287
Less: provision for depreciation	(14,079)	(11,922)
	2,208	**4,365**
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**4,343**	**7,227**
TOTAL ASSETS	**141,690**	**101,837**
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	670	96
Accrued Expenses	6,176	3,631
Grants Received in Advance	54,645	-
PAYG Withholding Tax Payable	1,108	340
PLSA Levies Payable	760	614
Superannuation Payable	-	1,218
Provision for Annual Leave	7,656	4,990
	71,015	**10,889**
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**71,015**	**10,889**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**71,015**	**10,889**
NET ASSETS	**70,675**	**90,948**
EQUITY		
Accumulated Funds	70,675	90,948
	70,675	**90,948**

PEER SUPPORT GROUP PROGRAM

We now have 10 peer support groups up and running at Brain Injury Matters. Two occur online and face to face groups are based in Ringwood, Frankston, West Footscray, Northcote, Melbourne CBD, Ballarat, Bendigo and Wangaratta. Next year we are hopeful to start one in Shepparton and one in the South Gippsland area.



In the last year, over 300 people across Victoria (and a few from interstate) have attended a peer support group. We have drunk coffee in cafes, had BBQs in parks, been ten-pin bowling, sung karaoke, been fishing and have laughed (and groaned) at Yannick's jokes. Guest speakers have included Villamanta, Monash Neuropsychologists, Travellers' Aid, VALID and Rod Chapman. Our Members have also given talks at BrainLink and Vision Australia Radio. We have had discussions about maintaining independence while getting support, things we are proud of, scams and how to make complaints.

We are finding it challenging given the lack of funding. The staff and facilitators are doing more than they're paid for and volunteers are working very hard, without the support that we wish could give them. But people keep turning up and telling us that peer support groups are life-changing and a place where they feel accepted and valued. The success of the peer support group program is a credit to all involved.

Sally Helm (PSG Team Leader) on behalf of all our amazing facilitators – Yannick, Poppy, Fiona, Nick, Peter, Andrew, Rhino, Troy, Ross, Mary, Kathleen, Mark, Lara & Sam

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Number of individual attendees at BIM Peer Support Groups 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026	
Brainwave online	36
Ringwood	64
Footscray	26
Wangaratta	3
Ballarat	7
Frankston	65
Northcote	38
Women's Group	16
Coffee morning online	44
Bendigo	7
Total	**306**





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).

BIM Members' Theme Suggestions for Brain Injury Awareness Week

- Don't forget...It's Brain Injury Awareness Week!
- Slow down and let me think about it.
- See us, respect us, let us teach you!
- We're still the same people. We all have challenges. It takes us a little more time.
- Everyone changes constantly. Why should we be treated differently?
- The brain's always adapting. Consistency is key.
- Wait a moment. Let me think.
- Brain injury is bewildering. It's like waking up in someone else's life.
- Brain injury, life changing but not life-ending.
- Brain exhaustion: life is tiring
- Brain injury: seen & unseen
- Put your thinking cap on: I have a brain injury
- We have brain injuries, we matter!
- Brain injury memory loss - what was I saying again?