



Friends of Brain Injured Children

FRIENDS OF BRAIN INJURED CHILDREN (ACT) INC

(ABN 45 110 116 611)

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

FRIENDS OF BRAIN INJURED CHILDREN (ACT) INC – PROFILE

Friends of Brain Injured Children is a not-for-profit organisation, which has operated in the ACT and local region for twenty-five years, and has been incorporated since 1988.

The organisation currently provides support to thirty families who have a child with a brain injury. The families provide an early, intensive therapy program for their children at levels far beyond that available through the general system. To this end we seek financial sponsorships for the children and engage in fund-raising to help pay for this important therapy.

Friends of Brain Injured Children also offers information about a wide range of useful therapies and offers parents support and encouragement.

The organisation strongly promotes its philosophy of providing early, intensive therapy for babies and young children who have suffered a brain injury in order to reduce future physical disability.

Our office is in the SHOUT office, Collett Place, Pearce, 2607. The phone is (02) 6290 1984 and the website is www.fbic.org.au.

COMMITTEE

President	Ngaire Kinnear
Vice President	Libby Steeper
Treasurer	Terry Watson / Waqar Anwar
Secretary	Rory Mulligan
Committee	Jim Sharrock Fiona West Peter Leek Gabi Monus Lindsay King John Andrews

STAFF

Office Administrator	Mandy Hudson
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ANNUAL REPORT

Annual General Meeting

22nd September 2014

The Committee year 2013-2014 has been a year of rapid developments for FBIC, for the whole Disability Sector and indeed the whole Community Sector in the ACT, as the introduction of the NDIS into the ACT approached and arrived. Definitely a year for adjustments in all sorts of directions, and as a year I think we can safely say that it was a year of uncertainty, as we and our families tried to find our way through what little sound knowledge of the NDIS was available.

We lost the security of our Disability ACT funding as priorities inevitably and necessarily shifted across the Sector, yet to settle, but this was not unexpected and is almost certainly not irrecoverable, should we lose the funding in the long term. Although of course, there will be a good deal of competition for alternative funds from other organisations in our position, so things could go a little tough until some hoped-for New Philanthropy culture eventuates.

From a variety of sources we learned that the coming landscape for the Community Sector will be characterised by high standards of rigour in governance, business-focused management to support self-funding opportunities, and increasing collaboration between organisations for mutual support, efficiency and innovation. The clear message for example from the ACT Community Services Directorate launch in March was that it is no longer sufficient to “gather together with good intentions”, that it is imperative that we have strong processes in place to support both our effectiveness and our accountability, that we need to systematically value the work that we do, to the extent that we can, for the benefit of our organisation but more importantly for the benefit of our clients.

To these ends we have spent considerable time and effort this year developing our Governance culture, and seeking collaborations, alongside our usual range of activities.

- We ran a new kind of planning day in February with the very kind and skilful facilitation by Lynne Singe of KPMG,
- We joined ACTCOSS and undertook some of their training,
- We have introduced a range of new policies which will assist us to work cohesively on our scant labour and time resources, so that we can focus on our main task of assisting families,
- We applied for and have been granted a \$20,000 Governance and Financial Management Reform Package for consultancy from the ACT Government’s Community Sector Reform Program, which should give us an accelerated development in this area. We have chosen Deloitte from the panel as we have an existing relationship with them, and in particular with Alexandra Spark who will be undertaking the work,
- We sought and have begun exploration of a formal collaboration with Queensland’s The Developing Foundation, a very exciting organisation with a vast range of innovations, methods and opportunities. The next phase of work on this is to be advanced by Libby Steeper and Rory Mulligan making a visit to meet with TDF in the very near future,
- On a smaller scale, we had the great privilege to collaborate with Occupational Therapy student Julia Myrtle, in a placement through University of Canberra. Julia provided some outstanding work and in return gained a great deal of insight into various aspects of the Disability Sector, from organisational operation to the on-the-ground reality for a family caring for a child with brain injury,

- Our membership of SHOUT continues to be of irreplaceable benefit to us, and this year they have continued to find ways to enhance their offer to their members. Notably, SHOUT have now negotiated a deal with Volunteering ACT which allows access to their services for all SHOUT members, which should be of enormous help to us in finding the skills that we need to make FBIC as effective as it can possibly be.
- We held an event for our families which brought together three other organisations in the Sector to discuss their responses to the changing landscape under the NDIS – a terrific success.

Then there was the range of activities we usually undertake throughout the year:

- Therapist workshops – Jason Barritt - Chiropractic, Yoga for Children, Advanced Biomechanical Rehabilitation and Mr Mengde Yu – Specialist Physiotherapist.
- Grant applications for a number of innovative and viable projects – Hyundai, Honda, St George, Australia Post, NIB, Medibank Private, Westpac, Southern Cross Club & Snow Foundation.
- Family Parties, including one new model for these which was held just yesterday (or planned to be at the time of writing), where we are granted full use of a cinema for an afternoon at Tuggeranong Community Arts Centre, for a showing of a movie that all the kids (and the mums and dads) can enjoy,
- Smaller fundraising ventures such as the Bunnings BBQ,
- The Walkathon, fast becoming a fixture and extremely successful for those who participated fully. We anticipate that this year's participation rate will be really good, and have also decided as a Committee, if we're not walking for our own relative, to raise funds for FBIC administrative costs, so that it's a versatile event too. The collaboration with KPMG was very strong again last year, and we hope it will be again this year.

As this is my last report as a member of the Management Committee, I would like to say a very warm farewell to FBIC which has been a big part of my life over the last 9 years. I have been very proud to serve the organisation over that time, and wish the very best for all the families, the children, and of course my fellow Committee members.

I hope it is not unrealistic to hope that the NDIS, however inadequate at first, will gradually change the very paradigm of disability that our society holds; from a paradigm of quick-fixes and prognoses designed to dampen hope, imagined fixed deficits of ability that need to be charitably supplied by society at large, contingent on soft-heartedness, pity and generosity; to one of patience, therapy and innovative living, to maximise capability, independence and fulfilment consistent with decent principles of human dignity. And above all, I hope that because of the work of organisations like ours, more and more parents will be able to create a demand for therapies that take the fullest possible advantage of the wonderful capacity that the amazing human brain has to recover function from injury.

Ngairé Kinnear
 President of the Management Committee (2012-2014)
 Friends of Brain Injured Children ACT Inc.