

Brain Tumour Alliance Australia Inc | Annual General Meeting 21 September 2014

Report from the Chair

Committee members during the year 2013-14 During the 2013-4 period between annual general meetings, the BTAA committee was comprised of Matt Pitt - Chair; Kelly Webster – Vice Chair, Susan Pitt - Secretary; Catherine Hindson – Treasurer; and four committee members Maryanne Rosier, Mark Dalliston, Denis Strangman and Jennifer Ley. The Assistant Secretary position was not filled.

Jennifer Ley was elected at the BTAA meeting in December 2013 to fill the vacant committee position, and stepped down from the committee in March 2013. The position then remained vacant. Jennifer made an important contribution to the development of the educational grants for brain tumour care coordinators.

Principal activities in 2013-14

*The principle activities of BTAA during the year were providing an 1800 Freecall number for brain tumour patients and caregivers to call and receive peer-to-peer advice and support. The total number of calls to the 1800 number was **456** over the 2013-14 financial year. The peak time for calls was between 11 am and 12 pm (14% of calls), and the peak day was Monday (22% of calls). The total 2013-14 call cost for the 1800 number was **\$1,214**. This service is provided by trained support volunteers, led by BTAA's MaryAnne Rosier.

*BTAA obtained additional copies of the American Brain Tumour Association 'Primer' on brain tumours and imported and mailed it as part of an information kit to around **250** patients and caregivers at BTAA's expense.

*BTAA obtained funding from the John James Foundation to enable the importation and distribution of a resource for paediatric brain tumour patients and their families and associated promotional materials.

*BTAA engaged in advocacy on behalf of the brain tumour community by submitting another pre-budget submission to the Federal Treasurer amongst other advocacy activities.

*BTAA contributed to a number of research grant proposals.

*BTAA Chair Matt Pitt attended the IBTA-hosted First World Summit of Brain Tumour Patient Advocates in November, at San Francisco, and shortly thereafter the joint Society of Neuro Oncology Conference (SNO) and 4th Quadrennial World Federation of Neuro-Oncology in San Francisco, on behalf of BTAA. produced and published detailed reports for both events. , and published the former as an information item for patients/carers seeking the latest brain tumour clinical and scientific information.

*BTAA committee member Denis Strangman stood down as Chair of the International Brain Tumour alliance after organising the First World Summit of Brain Tumour Patient Advocates, in conjunction with SNO.

* BTAA also:

- distributed two newsletters to over **1,300** people to mark Brain Cancer Action Week and IBTA Week,
- continued with the two television community service announcements around Australia,
- conducted an advocacy and awareness campaign during International Brain Tumour Awareness Week,
- distributed **100** kits for the Wear a Hat for a Day for BTAA promotion,
- hosted the first National Summit of brain tumour support groups, following COGNO's 2013 ASM,
- conducted a range of liaison activities with a range of professional and consumer organisations,
- provided educational grants to allied health professionals , and
- auspiced the ACT Brain Tumour Support Network.

The Association's net profit and loss The BTAA finances for the 2013-14 year were a net operating balance of **\$62,893**, with record revenue of **\$114,128** and expenses of **\$51,235**. This compares with BTAA finances for 2012-13 of a net operating balance of **\$3,989** net and revenue of **\$53,435** and expenses **\$49,446**.