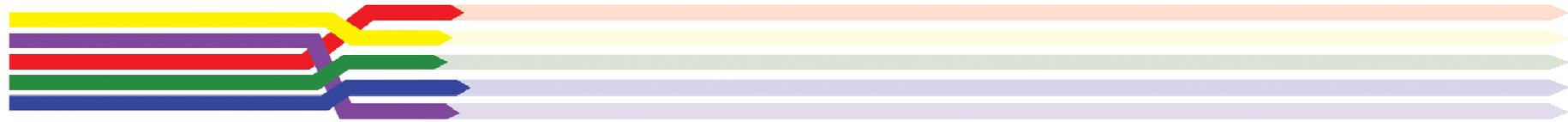


BRAIN INJURY AUSTRALIA – REPORT ON ACTIVITIES, 2013-2014

During the reporting period, Brain Injury Australia (BIA):

1. worked, through its “NDIS Reference Group”, with its Full Member organisations (FMOs) to enable them to become “Plan Facilitation Providers” (PFP) - to assist people with an ABI: access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS); identify those services and supports best qualified to meet the specific needs of people with an ABI; prepare and manage their personal, goal-based “plan”; and communicate with the NDIS and its agencies. This work included: preparation of “plain English” materials and Powerpoint presentations for the FMOs to assist their local consultations; developing a ‘business case template’ that would enable individual FMOs to apply for PFP development funding, with assistance from BIA if required;
2. in partnership with its QLD FMO, finalised BIA’s ‘Practical Design Fund’ (PDF) project – the development of an Australian-first assessment tool for adult Indigenous Australians with an ABI - and worked with the James Cook University to both propose a follow-up validation study and identify potential validation sites (i.e. e.g. the Barkly region “trial site” for the NDIS in the Northern Territory);
3. worked with its NSW, Victorian, South Australian and Northern Territorian Member organisations to recruit cohorts of young people with an ABI as part of BIA’s partnership with researchers at the University of South Australia, the University of Adelaide, Flinders University and Victoria University in a \$3 million project funded by the Australian Government’s Department of Education, called “Digital Enterprise”, the project “aims to foster personal initiative, reduce isolation, develop entrepreneurial skills and promote participation in further education and employment” through “high-tech computer learning programs, game-making, technology competitions and digital design activities”. It will involve four groups of children and young people – aged between 10 and 20 years



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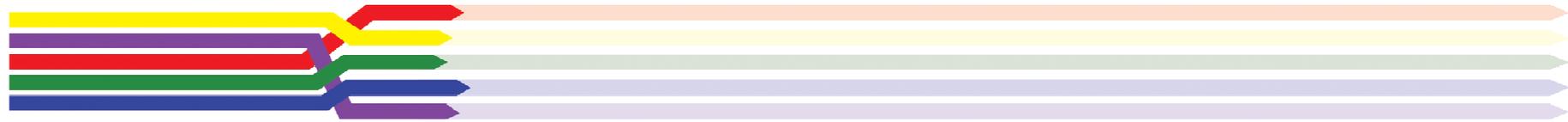
in Darwin, Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne - with autism spectrum disorders, acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy or other physical disabilities.

4. via its Members, distributed surveys to people with an ABI/ carers/ family members, Disability Employment Services providers, and employers/ employer groups as part of a then Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations-funded work “to help improve the delivery of Disability Employment Services (DES) and better link these services with DisabilityCare Australia[sic].”

5. combining with work undertaken by Member organisations developed a business case for BIA’s Board on options for expanding BIA’s membership and proposals for two new projects to underpin full implementation of the NDIS - an ‘Accreditation Scheme’ for ABI-capable services and supports, and a ‘Research Utilisation Service’.

During the reporting period, BIA delivered conference and other presentations:

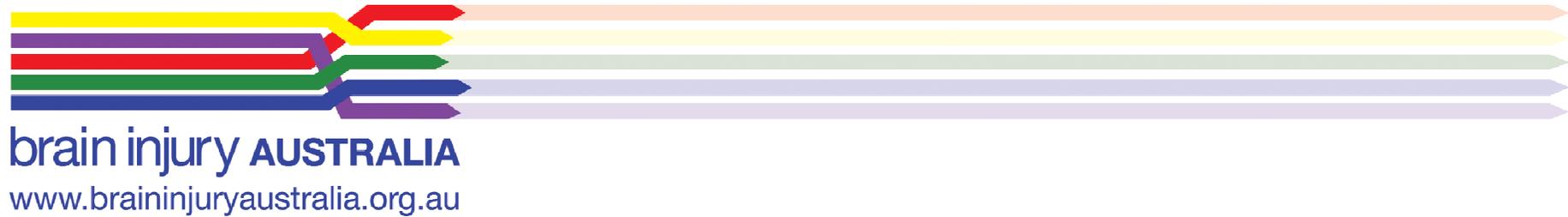
- i. on the NDIS to ABI service providers in Geelong, Victoria;
- ii. on general ABI awareness to a Victorian Centrelink conference, Melbourne July 13th;
- iii. on ABI in the NDIS to “Managing Complexities of Self-Directed Approaches” conference in Sydney 26th July;
- iv. on ABI and employment to the Disability Employment Australia conference, Adelaide 7th August;
- v. on ABI awareness as training to staff of Uniting Care Wesley Port Adelaide, Adelaide 8th August;
- vi. to the national launch of 2013 Brain Injury Awareness Week, Geelong August 12th;
- vii. to the Australian Capital Territory launch of 2013 Brain Injury Awareness Week, Canberra August 13th;
- viii. to a Brain Injury Awareness Week function, Epworth Hospital, Melbourne August 15th;



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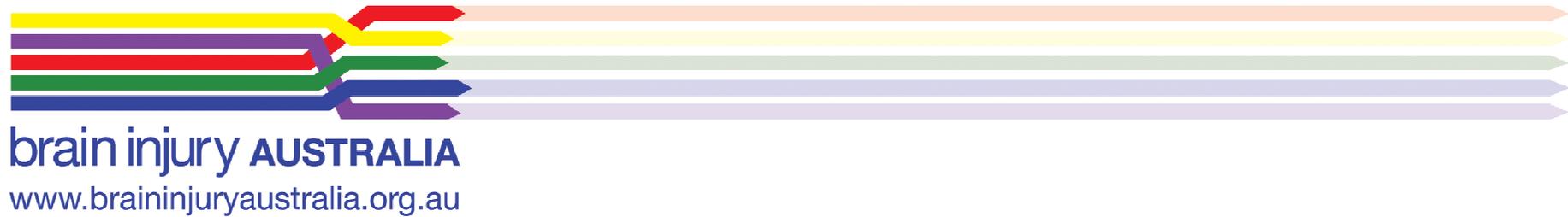
- ix. to Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney Brain Injury Unit “Wall of Fame” function, Sydney August 16th;
 - x. on falls-related traumatic brain injury in older people, Australasian Association of Gerontology Annual General Meeting (SA/NT), Darwin 28th August;
 - xi. on falls-related traumatic brain injury to staff Alice Springs Hospital, Alice Springs 29th August;
 - xii. on falls-related traumatic brain injury to Centre for Remote Health, Flinders University Alice Springs 29th August;
 - xiii. chaired the inaugural ABI “summit”, September 26th and 27th Melbourne;
 - xiv. presentation on NDIS to Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA), Brisbane 1 November;
 - xv. on concussion in sport to NSW Brain Injury Rehabilitation Programme Research Forum, Sydney March 10;
 - xvi. on ABI and the NDIS to the 5th Annual National Disability Summit, Melbourne 17-18 March;
 - xvii. on ABI in Indigenous Australia to the National Disability Services NT conference, 26–27 March Alice Springs;
 - xviii. on the consumer experience of ABI to conference dinner of the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment, 9 May Fremantle; and
 - xix. on alcohol and other drug-related ABI to the Alcohol and other Drug Forum of the Northern Territory, 17 June Darwin.
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- During the reporting period, BIA delivered a two-day paid consultancy on implementation of an NDIS “trial site” to people with an ABI to Maureen Sheehan Executive Coordinator ACT National Disability Insurance Scheme Community Services Directorate 27-28 May



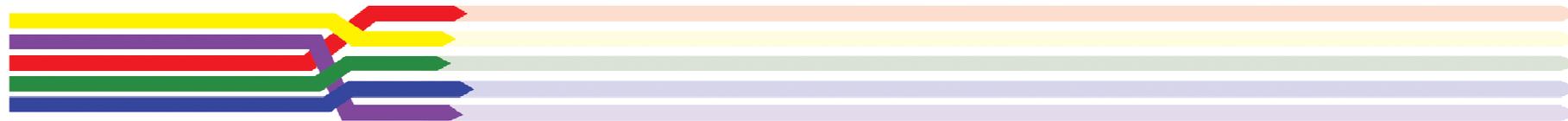
During the reporting period, Brain Injury Australia represented the national interests of people with an ABI at meetings of:

- the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations' (AFDO - BIA's Executive Officer serves as a Director of AFDO);
- the National Neurological Alliance (an alliance of not-for-profit peak national organisations representing adults and children living with progressive neurological and neuromuscular diseases in Australia);
- the Victorian Neurotrauma Advisory Committee;
- the Executive of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Directorate of NSW Health;
- the National Trauma Research Institute (including its Neurotrauma Evidence Translation Steering Committee);
- the Digital Enterprise Reference Group (see above);
- the Disability Advisory Committee of the Australian Electoral Commission;
- Telstra's Disability Forum;
- Monash University Institute of Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research's Behaviours of Concern Working Group; and
- the Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre

During the reporting period, Member organisation engagement, as for any federated body, remained BIA's greatest ongoing challenge, particularly when Member organisations are small and their energies are largely spent managing their own operations, delivering their own services.



1. During the reporting period, to reflect the revolutionary changes promised by full implementation of NDIS, BIA continued – as per the above - helping its Member organisations prepare to deliver "Plan Management Provider" and "Support Coordination" services under the NDIS.
2. During the reporting period, BIA's Board also resolved to move from a federated association to a company [limited by guarantee] structure. This will allow for, among other things, consolidation of "back office" operations, a more unified awareness-raising and communications strategy – inclusive of potential mergers between BIA and its Member organisations. In order to advance such resolutions, BIA held a combined face-to-face meeting of Directors of BIA and the Chief Executive Officers and Executive Officers of BIA's FMOs from every State and Territory, where the determinations of BIA's Board were discussed and ratified, and a "Business Model Working Group" - comprising Chief Executive Officers and Executive Officers of BIA's Full Member organisations - was formed to advance planning for the new structure. The work of that Group is now completed and BIA's Board is now moving to enact the necessary constitutional and other changes.
3. Though not part of its funded remit, BIA continues to provide an information and referral service (in response to around 300 emails and phone calls received annually from its constituents). BIA's default referral mechanism is to relay the request for information or services and supports to its Member organisation in the State or Territory from whence the request derives. This enables Members not only to engage with people with an ABI, family members, carers etc. from their jurisdiction but also often provide supports and services to them as well.



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4. During the reporting period, BIA has been able to add significantly to the suite of pro bono legal supports offered to Member organisations. In addition to its long-standing relationship with national law firm Ashurst (formerly Blake Dawson) BIA has also been able to secure pro bono legal support for Members on insurance and superannuation matters from Maurice Blackburn and in personal injury from Slater and Gordon.

Professor Roger Chung
President

Kerry Stafford
Vice President