



ANNUAL REPORT

To support, educate and advocate
for adults with
acquired brain injuries
and their families; and to
increase community awareness
about acquired brain injury



For the year ended March 31, 2018

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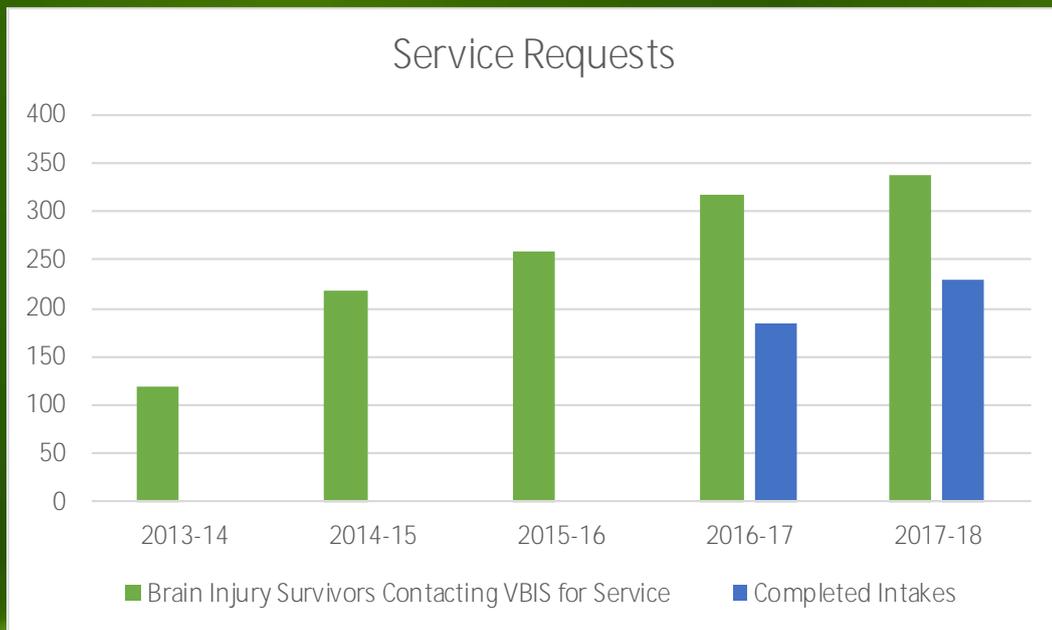


Yvonne Blum-Gabel
Director at Large

ACCESSING SERVICES

In 2017/18, 337 individuals with an acquired brain injury contacted Victoria Brain Injury Society (VBIS) and 229 individuals completed an intake. The number of individuals contacting VBIS for service and going through the intake process has risen as shown by the chart below.

Victoria Brain Injury Society's triage process ensures that the majority of clients are seen swiftly. The mean length of time between a client first contacting VBIS and being seen by our Intake Coordinator is 15 days and the majority of clients were seen within 11 days.



RANDY'S STORY

One blizzardy night while he was driving to visit his children, Randy's life changed dramatically. A semi roared by on the highway, immediately obscuring his vision. The last thing he remembers is the fire department freeing him from his totaled car. Randy found out about Victoria Brain Injury Society after he and his wife relocated to Victoria. The Society occupies a very special place in Randy's life: "I didn't feel alone, and I wasn't embarrassed because I couldn't remember a name." After years of confusion and misdiagnoses, he was relieved to meet people with both emotional understanding and knowledge of brain injury. Being involved in a community has made a huge difference to Randy's life. Randy says that he finds it so helpful to know that "anything I need I can come here" and people will support me. In turn Randy supports VBIS by collecting bottles and cans to donate to our bottle drive.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Victoria Brain Injury Society provided 19 different services to brain injury clients, providing a range of support to reflect the diverse needs of brain injury survivors. The table below details the number of individuals served by each program provided by VBIS in 2017/18.

Program	Program Objective	# of visits	# of individuals
Individual Case Management	Individual support and advocacy	1672	330
Family Case Management	Family support and advocacy	58	20
Acquired Brain Injury 101	Educational introduction to brain anatomy and brain injury	139	39
Awareness, Education, Choices	Support group for those experiencing difficulties related to substance use	93	10
Bus pass recipients	Support transportation	91	21
Butterfly Box	Support for individuals with no fixed address	N/A	9
Chair Yoga	Improve health, balance & coordination	80	7
Coping Strategies Program	Strategies for daily living	510	37
Creative Arts Program	Improve and enhance physical, mental and emotional well-being	195	25
Family Support Group	Support for family and friends	28	12
Mindfulness	Increased skills in dealing with anxiety	371	28
Music Therapy Program	Improve and enhance physical, mental and emotional well-being	242	20
Neuropsychiatrist consultation/assessment	One-off consultation with a neuro-psychiatrist	75	68
One-off workshops	Workshops on a range of topics	79	59
Peer Support Program	Peer support, education, and referrals to community resources	2139	260
Returning to the Workplace	Training to build skills required to be self-supporting	39	13
Walk & Run Program	Increase overall health and coordination	167	12
Yoga	Increase overall health, balance & coordination	126	16
VGH	Support for hospital patients and family members on transitioning from hospital to home.	N/A	38

FEEDBACK

We encourage everyone who is part of the VBIS community to let us know how we're doing. Whether it's as part of our appreciation week, a note in our comments box or someone popping in to let us know how we're doing and how we could improve. Here are some of our clients' comments from this year:

"So glad that mindfulness group exists; leave me relaxed and energized thanks!
Feel welcomed in peer support"

"VBIS: to be believed, to be considered, to have freedom from fear"

"Being supported by the peers and staff here makes me appreciate being a part of the good work that goes on here. A heart-felt THANK YOU :)"

" I was having a very frustrating day until I able to cool off at VBIS "

"Our peer support is really like pier support - holding you up"

"You think you're imagining things – it's comforting to see the impact of brain injury written out – it makes it less scary."

"I come away from <coping> feeling good when I had been feeling bad."

In a week-long survey we got the following results from our clients:

100% of clients reported that they felt supported by their visit to VBIS that day.

97% felt that their visit had increased their sense of community.



VBIS in the Community



This year we have attended 39 community workshops and events to provide community members and organizations with information on brain injury. Our website and social media continue to be an important source of information for brain injury survivors. In total 5,337 people checked out our website looking at combined 19,968 pages and 783 people liked us on Facebook.

VBIS VOLUNTEERS

As the Victoria Brain Injury Society continues to grow in numbers, and expand its services and resources, so the volunteer team continues to grow and broaden their scope. This year 127 volunteers provided nearly 6700 hours of support to VBIS. With just six permanent staff, we need every one of those volunteers on our team! We have a truly amazing, talented, resourceful and diverse volunteer team – and we rely on them to work with us in ensuring the entire operation continues to run so smoothly, and to expand and flourish. They are serving in every part of VBIS, from reception to administration, from peer support to fundraising initiatives, from working one-to-one with clients to looking after all our workshops and doctor clinic needs, from working and playing in community awareness initiatives. It is especially rewarding and heart-warming to give brain injury survivors the opportunity to volunteer here, and then to walk with them as they figure out how their new brain is working, expanding and blooming into their respective roles.

To you all: thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you do for us.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2016/17	2017/18
REVENUE		
Brain Injury Program—Island Health	139,022	141,844
Grants	156,382	188,533
Fundraising	36,662	50,597
Donations	21,459	34,557
Contract Funding	440	140
Rental	3,045	5,213
Advertising and memberships	5,058	2,374
TOTAL	362,068	423,258
EXPENSES		
Advertising and Promotion	2,066	392
Amortization	3,453	3,646
Bad debts	1,500	79
Contract Facilitators	6,345	9,675
Dues, Fees and Licenses	400	440
Endowment Fund	0	7,500
Fundraising	15,108	1,194
Insurance	2,980	2,993
Interest and Bank Charges	2,050	1,693
Office	24,814	31,809
Professional Development	2,134	3,557
Rent and facilities	50,637	53,315
Repairs and Maintenance	1,648	1,945
Program Support	991	503
Telephone	3,176	2,851
Wages and Benefits	209,961	262,384
TOTAL	327,263	383,976
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF (LESS THAN) EXPENDITURES	34,805	39,282

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The generosity of our supporters is the lifeblood of the Victoria Brain Injury Society. All of our programs, as well as the personal growth and recovery of our clients, are dependent on the continued support we receive from the community. We thank you!



BRAIN INJURY ALLIANCE

Brain } A Personal Challenge
Injury } A Community Response

[Allen and Loreen Vandekerkhove Family Foundation](#)



A huge thank you to Colliers International for holding a golf tournament to raise funds for VBIS.

Throughout the year our clients and volunteers helped us fund-raise in all sorts of different and fun ways:

- Andy sold a joke book to friends and family
- Clients and volunteer dropped off their bottles and cans for recycling
- People used their Thrifty smile cards to donate while they shopped
- People hosted bake sales and car washes
- Local businesses donated food and equipment for our events

We have some wonderful people who donate—whether it's a monthly direct debit, an annual donation or a Christmas gift we're so grateful to all our community for their help!