



VCASP Strategic Plan 2009 – 2011

The Victorian Coalition of ABI Service Providers (VCASP) is the representative body of public and private sector service, and individual providers who assist people with an acquired brain injury (ABI), their families/carers and others involved in their support.

VCASP advocates for the availability of appropriate services and resources, as well as information and research that can assist those experiencing the effects of an ABI.

This Strategic Plan describes the objectives, tasks and processes involved in achieving the Coalition's aims.

Overview of Objectives

Objective 1: Maintain and further develop relationships/ partnership with BIM, self advocacy groups, and other support groups, to assist people with an ABI/their families/carers to have their own voice.

Objective 2: To engage in strategic partnerships/relationships with key players/stakeholders to increase/promote research, evaluation and education in the ABI field.

Objective 3: To influence Governments, and other funding and policy bodies, by actively participating in the planning and development of improved services and facilities to meet identified needs of people with an ABI and their carers/families.

Objective 4: Work with relevant community and disability sector organisations to maintain and strengthen linkages to ensure that the specific needs of people with ABI and their carers/families are recognised, highlighted and supported.

Objective 1: Maintain and further develop relationships/ partnership with BIM, self advocacy groups, and other support groups, to assist people with an ABI/their families/carers to have their own voice.

Strategies	Tasks	Timeline	Responsibility	Performance indicators
<p>1. Implement strategies to support and maintain links with relevant groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BIM - Brainlink - Summer Foundation - regional groups, e.g. Gippsland Headway - SARU - Carers Association 	<p>Identify useful linkages and forums for discussions.</p> <p>Instigate discussions with identified organizations to determine and implement appropriate mechanisms to build on and, where appropriate, formalise the linkages.</p> <p>Formalise partnership with BIM / ACL / Summer Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement partnership agreement 	<p>2009</p> <p>2009 -10</p> <p>July 2009 On-going action with annual review (July 2010)</p>	<p>Policy officer</p> <p>Exec members</p> <p>Regional groups – designated VCASP contact</p> <p>Carers Association - Brainlink</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at identified forums • Clear links with identified organisations • MoU/partnership agreements with organisations identified for formal linkages
<p>2. Support effective advocacy in collaboration with groups and individuals with an ABI and their carers/families.</p>	<p>Support the active participation of individuals as self-advocates / in systemic advocacy, work in collaboration with advocacy groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BIA Board – strategic partnership with BIM - ACL - BIAW 	<p>On-going action with annual review</p>	<p>Members</p> <p>Exec members</p> <p>Policy officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gardenview – MCM, STR, Policy officer - YPINH – MCM, Yooralla, Policy Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCASP members' involvement in BIAW planning and activities • Active involvement and support of BIM involvement in BIA Board • Active collaboration with ACL on ABI issues, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gardenview - YPINH

Strategies	Tasks	Timeline	Responsibility	Performance indicators
<p>3. Identify and address areas of concern for isolated and marginalised groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - people with ABI and mental health and/or AOD issues - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with ABI - children with ABI - people with ABI involved in the criminal justice system - young people living in RAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form strategic partnerships with organisations addressing issues in the key areas of mental health, AOD, education, criminal justice, ATSI, YPINH in order to promote the voice of people with an ABI and their families / carers. • Support the VCASP sub-committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children & Young People - Criminal Justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health – from start of Cross-Divisional working group • Education – 2009 (in conjunction with BIAW theme) • ATSI – 2009/10 • YPINH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>mfm</i> Advisory Committee meetings throughout life of program (at least 2011) - YPINH Consortium - on-going with annual review <p>On-going through Quarterly meetings with annual review</p>	<p>Policy officer</p> <p>Exec members</p> <p>Members</p> <p>ATSI – in conjunction with Summer Foundation</p> <p>- YPINH – MCM, Yooralla, Policy Officer</p> <p>MCM Statewide Paediatric Coordinators</p> <p>Sub-committee members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant groups / organisations identified • Issues identified • Partnerships formed

Objective 2: To engage in strategic partnerships/relationships with key players/stakeholders to increase/promote research, evaluation and education in the ABI field.

Strategies	Tasks	Timeline	Responsibility	Performance indicators
1. Use and create opportunities to raise current strategic issues relevant to the ABI field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda a time at every quarterly meeting to identify issues. • Identify appropriate up-coming opportunities and organise specific forums / activities • Use strategic alliances and partners to organise action on identified issues. 	Quarterly / on-going as opportunities arise	Policy officer Exec members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion at quarterly meetings • Involvement in / organisation of forums / activities • Specific action on issues
2. Maintain links / support education and professional development across the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through membership provide information and speakers re ABI in response to identified need. • Promote availability of information through links on VCASP website. • Identify and maintain contact with key personnel in education and research facilities • Forge links with academic institutions: – student placements 	As required September 2009 with regular up-dating 2009 -11 2009	Exec members led by Brainlink, supported by Policy officer Admin. Officer Policy officer Exec members Policy officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info provided (data collection) • Speaking engagements (data collection) • Website up-to-date, links present, number of hits • Key personnel identified, liaison established • Student placements • Medium term –

Strategies	Tasks	Timeline	Responsibility	Performance indicators
	- promote inclusion of ABI info in course curriculums	2010 - 11	Exec members In conjunction with VBIRA (2009 through VCASP Chair)	consideration by academic institutions of inclusion of ABI info in course curriculums Long term - inclusion of ABI info in course curriculums
3. Seek opportunities to conduct and contribute to research that promotes the interests of people with ABI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in relevant evaluations / reviews • Develop VNI project proposal: articulating the need for specialist services • Engage in collaborative work with Summer Foundation 	As required 2009 2009 -10	Policy officer Exec members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review consultations attended / responses submitted • VNI proposal developed and funded • Collaborative work with Summer Foundation identified and happening
4. Explore strategies to enable capture & documentation of (real) numbers of people with an ABI in Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify data needs • Seek appropriate methods and resources to enable collection of data • Collaborate with existing organisations involved in data collection - AIHW, BIAQ project. 	By June 2010 2009 - 11	Policy officer in conjunction with Exec members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data needs identified • Data collection methods/resources identified and in use • Collaborative work occurring
5. Use data to support service development	Prepare reports and submissions supported by the collected data	As required	Policy officer Exec members	Data included in submissions

Objective 3: To influence Governments, and other funding and policy bodies, by actively participating in the planning and development of improved services and facilities to meet identified needs of people with an ABI and their carers/families.

Strategies	Tasks	Timeline	Responsibility	Performance indicators
<p>1. Continue to promote the role of VCASP as a representative of the ABI sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain sub-committees • Provide representation to relevant planning forums • Develop VCASP profile through support of regional networks, sub-committees and through promotional resources – website, brochures, use of media where appropriate 	<p>Quarterly meetings with annual review</p> <p>As required</p> <p>2009 -11</p> <p>Brochure – by June 2009</p>	<p>Statewide ABI paediatric coordinators, sub-c'ttee members, Policy officer, allocated Exec members</p> <p>Exec members Policy officer</p> <p>Exec members Policy officer Admin officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-committee operating effectively • VCASP represented at planning forums • Regional networks operating effectively <p>Website up-to-date</p> <p>Brochure finalised and widely distributed</p>
<p>2. Maintain process for providing ongoing advice to / developing partnerships with DHS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain communication with the executive team in Disability Services Division through formal meetings (e.g. Director Individual Support) • Maintain formal and informal regular discussion and planning with ABI Senior Program Manager. • Maintain communication and foster partnerships with other relevant DHS 	<p>Twice yearly meetings and on-going as required in response to issues identified by VCASP members</p> <p>Monthly meetings and as opportunities arise</p>	<p>Exec members and Policy officer</p> <p>Policy officer and Exec members</p>	<p>Engagement in formal meetings</p> <p>Advice provided</p> <p>Effective working relationship</p>

Strategies	Tasks	Timeline	Responsibility	Performance indicators
	<p>Divisions through Cross Divisional Working Party and related working groups: – slow stream residential rehab; - mental health – community accommodation, community support protocol.</p> <p>Maintain VCASP representation on relevant forums within DHS,(e.g. <i>mfm</i>c Advisory Group, Industry Plan Advisory Group) and gain access to other relevant policy and advisory forums, e.g Service Reorientation Advisory Group.</p>	<p>Twice yearly Working Party meetings and working group activity</p> <p>As per meeting schedules</p>	<p>Policy officer and Exec members</p> <p>Identified VCASP representatives: - Exec members - Policy officer</p>	<p>Engagement in Working Party and related working groups</p> <p>Partnerships developed</p> <p>VCASP rep attendance at identified forums</p>
<p>3. Engage organisations such as Department of Education, Dept of Employment and Workplace, Dept of Justice and compensable funding bodies to raise the profile of ABI issues and improve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite representatives of identified organisations to participate in relevant VCASP and regional network meetings, discussions and working groups. 	<p>2009 – 11 as opportunities arise</p>	<p>Policy officer and Exec members as identified</p>	

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opportunities for people with ABI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for VCASP participation in service and policy development Develop strategy for engagement with Education Department re: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - access to resources for integration support - access to vocational training • Engage with TAC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - case management* - accommodation 	<p>2009 -11 as opportunities arise</p> <p>Strategy development by August 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium term - Long-term <p>2009 - 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by Dec 2009 - by June 2009 	<p>Policy officer and Exec members as identified</p> <p>Policy officer and Exec members as identified</p> <p>Policy officer and Exec members as identified</p> <p>*MCM case management coordinator</p>	
4. Develop VCASP policy position on priority issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine priority issues through consultation • Develop draft position papers for discussion and endorsement by VCASP members. • Publish and promote finalised position papers. Make submissions to relevant reviews and inquiries 	<p>Agenda item at one quarterly meeting per year</p> <p>2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - slow stream residential rehab - mental health <p>Following endorsement</p> <p>As required / opportunities arise</p>	<p>Exec initially then VCASP members</p> <p>Policy officer Endorsement - VCASP members</p> <p>Policy officer Exec members</p> <p>Policy officer</p>	

5. Develop projects to address identified gaps in knowledge and services	Identify needed projects Develop proposals	2009 -11 as gaps identified	Exec members Policy officer	Projects identified Proposals completed
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Objective 4: Work with relevant community and disability sector organisations to maintain and strengthen linkages to ensure that the specific needs of people with ABI and their carers/families are recognised, highlighted and supported.

Strategies	Tasks	Timeline	Responsibility	Performance indicators
1. Develop and/or build on established relationships with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDS • BIA • Carers' association • VCOSS 	Maintain current representation and seek relevant input to other forums. Participate in work related to Carers Strategy to ensure the specific needs of carers of people with an ABI are represented Use opportunities related to Social Inclusion agenda	2009 with annual review after AGM 2009 – 10 2009 – 11 with annual review	Policy officer Identified Exec members Brainlink Policy officer Exec members	Continued representation & input to identified forums Engagement in Carers Strategy – ABI issues included in work Opportunities identified and acted on
Collaborate with advocacy sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop alliance with Action for Community Living – formalise working arrangements • Maintain and further develop relationship with OPA • Work collaboratively with 	2009 – 10 with review 2009	Policy officer Exec members Policy officer Exec members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involvement of ACL staff in VCASP forums - VCASP input into ACL work Active involvement of OPA staff in VCASP forums

Strategies	Tasks	Timeline	Responsibility	Performance indicators
	disability advocacy organisations to enhance their capacity to appropriately support people with ABI	2009 - 10	Policy officer Exec members Regional network representatives	Engagement with organisations through VDAN/DRV/VicRAN
Where relevant work with specific community or disability sector organisations to enhance service responses	Identify agency initiatives that may benefit people with ABI Engage identified agencies to ensure service development is inclusive of people with ABI	2009 -11 as opportunities arise	Policy officer Exec members	Opportunities identified and used