Annual Report

2025-2026



Connectivity
Traumatic Brain Injury Australia

www.connectivity.org.au

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Acknowledgement to Country

Connectivity acknowledges and respects the Traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Custodians / Owners of the land on which we work, live and build our lives, families and communities. We pay our respects to the First Peoples of this country, their cultures and Elders past, present and emerging.

From the Chair

This is my first report as Chair, having succeeded Professor Robert Vink AM FAHMS in June 2026.

It is an honour to step in as Chair of Connectivity at such a significant time with the growing awareness, understanding and importance of traumatic brain injury (TBI) for everyday Australians.

TBI is being picked up in the mainstream media, becoming a regular part of conversations, and research in the area is successfully gaining grant funding and momentum across a broad range of areas.

I thank Professor Vink and Professor Melinda Fitzgerald as the previous Chair and CEO for their outstanding efforts in building the foundations of the organisation to date.

However, if we are going to deliver on the vision and mission for the organisation and have a significant positive impact on the lives of Australians living with TBI, some change is required.

Over the course of calendar 2026, the Board has shifted gears and is now conducting quarterly strategic conversations about how we step up and engage differently with the various players in the ecosystem so that our role is clear, demanded and supported.

These conversations have reinforced that Connectivity delivers unique value, in particular:

Community Awareness and Education to Improve Outcomes - delivering high quality, practical awareness and education based on the latest evidence to medical and health professionals, as well as people living with or caring for people with TBI, or those managing mitigation and prevention activities (e.g. sporting coaches).

Connecting Community and Responsible Resourcing - connecting researchers to grants, entrepreneurs and with individuals with lived experience of TBI and with lived experience of mitigation and prevention of TBI.

Ultimately, it is about ensuring knowledge reaches the people who need it most.

These strategic conversations have allowed us to better define the three pillars of our refined strategic framework which will drive activity in future years, and are expanded on elsewhere in this report:

EMPOWER – supporting people living with TBI, their families and communities by providing trusted information, practical resources and opportunities to connect.

ENABLE – building national capability through evidence-based education, workforce development and improved access to best practice.

RESEARCH – supporting Australian research projects through promotion, dissemination, translation, and connection to lived experience and national networks to strengthen real-world impact. Increasing investment in TBI research by connecting programs with funding.

None of these pillars can be delivered by Connectivity alone, and therefore developing stronger relationships with other individuals and organisations in the ecosystem during 2026-27 will be critical to our future.

We should pause to celebrate the great achievements of 2025-26, including the continued demand for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific concussion resources, co-designed by Mob, for Mob; the release and success of **Concussion: Assessment, Diagnosis and Management -** the course for GPs; as well as the ongoing high demand for our Sport-Related Concussion Short Course, Concussion Short Course, the Combat Sports Concussion courses and Concussion in Older Adults Short Course, all of which are exemplars of great products that make a tangible difference to the choices people make.

The amount of work that goes into developing these courses cannot be overstated, and to maximise reach especially to those in low socio economic groups, these are not the type of products that we can or want to charge for.

This highlights the importance of securing ongoing and reliable funding, in particular through better connection to organisations who have a stake in ensuring education leads to mitigation and reduced incidence and severity of TBI.

True to our name, we promote collaboration across the TBI community, participate in workshops, ask questions, and promote conversations.

Board Matters:
I would like to thank the rest of the Board in trusting me with the responsibility of being Chair, and for their ongoing commitment through deep engagement.

I would additionally like to thank Bryan Cooke, Warren Land and Martin Wandmaker for their contributions to the Nominations and Remunerations committee over the past year.

Operational Matters:
Thank you to Naomi Fuller as incoming CEO who has stepped up and leads a small but dedicated team and is already looking at ways of delivering services differently.

Lastly I would like to thank all of our donors, fundraisers and corporate partners who believe in our vision and without whom we would not be able to grow and deliver the services we provide to improve the quality of life for so many Australians.



Denise Goldsworthy AO
Chair of the Board



From the CEO

One of the greatest privileges of my work at Connectivity is speaking with people who have experienced TBI and hearing their stories.

They share what has changed, what has been difficult, what has helped and what they wish someone had understood along the way. I am grateful for their openness.

These conversations stay with me. They shape every resource we create, every course we develop and every research project we support. They show how much it matters to be recognised, listened to and given clear, informed guidance when seeking care.

Behind every TBI is a person whose life has changed in an instant, with the impact often extending to their family, friends and loved ones. Helping people access reliable information and informed healthcare is central to Connectivity's purpose.

The major focus of our work in 2025–26 was creating **Concussion: Assessment, Diagnosis and Management**, our new online education course for Australian GPs.

With support from the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), we brought together researchers, clinicians, GPs and people with lived experience to translate the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) - funded ANZ Concussion Guidelines into practical education for primary care.

People with lived experience were integral to the course's development. Their experiences of concussion following road crashes, falls, sport and family and domestic violence helped ensure the course reflects the realities of seeking care and recovering from injury.

Finalised at the close of the reporting year, the course is a national resource, provided free of charge so that cost is never a barrier to learning.

Our next priority is national uptake: reaching GPs across metropolitan, regional and rural Australia, encouraging participation and understanding how the learning translates into clinical practice. The course's lasting value will come through its application in the care of people affected by concussion.

This year marked an important step in our research role. For the first time, Connectivity facilitated an independently funded research project, managing a competitive national selection process.

By connecting investment with independent research expertise, we helped establish a trial to evaluate whether GameGear headgear reduces the incidence and/or severity of concussion in athletes. This shows a further way Connectivity can contribute to the TBI ecosystem: creating partnerships that enable rigorous research into questions that matter to the community.

We introduced three pillars to guide our work: Empower, Enable and Research. They now appear on our refreshed website, and we are refining the priorities and deliverables beneath them. The GP course and the GameGear research partnership show this direction in practice, making evidence accessible and helping new research move forward.

Leadership changes took place in the second half of the period. Having served as Executive Officer, I stepped into the CEO role in June 2026, so the achievements presented here reflect a shared effort across the full year.

I thank Professor Melinda Fitzgerald for her leadership as CEO and her contribution to Connectivity's foundations. I also thank outgoing Chair of the Board, Professor Robert Vink AM FAHMS, for his leadership and commitment, and welcome Denise Goldsworthy AO as Chair.

To our small, dedicated team: thank you for the care, expertise and determination you bring to this work. What you achieve with limited resources is something we can all be proud of.

I sincerely thank Curtin University for its ongoing founding supporter partnership, leadership and commitment. We greatly value the relationship we have built and look forward to continuing our work together.

Finally, my thanks also go to our Board and Committee members, who volunteer their time and experience to guide Connectivity, and to our clinical and research collaborators, people with lived experience, volunteers, funders and supporters, for your trust, generosity and contribution.

Looking ahead, we will be working closely with our Board, partners and supporters to build the funding, partnerships and reach needed to turn this work into better recognition, better responses and better futures after traumatic brain injury.



Naomi Fuller
Connectivity CEO



About Connectivity

About Us

Connectivity is an Australian-wide not-for-profit organisation working to raise awareness of traumatic brain injury (TBI) including concussion in the community.

A TBI can range in severity from mild, to moderate to severe. Symptoms can be quite mild and quickly resolving or debilitating and life-changing. As such, a TBI can dramatically impact the lives of both the person involved and the people around them.

Our Goal

The core goal of Connectivity is to improve the lives of people and their families following TBI of all severities, including concussion.

Our Purpose

To promote the prevention and control of diseases and disease processes experienced by people with TBI, including from a physical, mental, neurological and functional perspective.

What we do

TBI is one of the most complex and under-recognised health challenges in Australia, with around 180,000 Australian's suffering a concussion annually.

Research is finding new treatments for traumatic brain injury but for most families, that knowledge never reaches them.

Connectivity is closing a critical gap – ensuring knowledge reaches the people who need it most.

Our Governance

Connectivity is incorporated as an Australian Public company limited by guarantee, and is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

Connectivity is governed by an independent Board of Directors who provide the experience and skill sets required to deliver the needs of the organisation and its governance.

The following committees contribute to the successful running of Connectivity:

- The Expert Committee
- The Nominations and Remunerations Committee.

The company is independently audited by:

Hall Chadwick WA Audit Pty Ltd

Who we are

OUR TEAM



Prof. Melinda Fitzgerald
Chief Executive Officer (Outgoing June 2026)



Naomi Fuller
Chief Executive Officer (Incoming June 2026)



Holly MacNeil
Marketing & Communications Manager



Shenane Hogg
Community Liasion Officer



Aleksandra Gozt
Research Associate (Outgoing January 2026)

OUR BOARD



Prof. Robert Vink AM FAHMS
Chair of the Board (Outgoing June 2026)



Denise Goldsworthy AO
Chair of the Board (Incoming June 2026)



John Higgins AO
Board Member



Jamie Shine
Board Member



Dr. Anthony Filippis
Board Member



Prof. Elizabeth Kendall AM
Board Member



Dennis Goldner AM
Board Member



Jeffrey Rosenfeld AM FAHMS AC OBE
Board Member (Outgoing March 2026)



Prof. Brad Murphy OAM
Board Member (Outgoing April 2026)

Our Strategic Deliverables

Community Awareness and Education

The national leaders in TBI education and information

Raise and increase awareness of concussion and more severe TBI in all communities, emphasising the benefit of protecting the head and seeking medical care

Educate communities on concussion and moderate to severe forms of TBI through courses and accessible content

Improving Outcomes

Facilitating nationally consistent, best-practice guidance for healthcare professionals

Educate all healthcare professionals on management of the full spectrum of TBI, based on current best practice and MRFF developed guidelines

Connectivity is the national source of TBI guidelines and healthcare pathways for all healthcare professionals

Connecting Community

Enabling and empowering the TBI community

Empowering people with lived experience of TBI to provide meaningful contributions to research and the broader TBI community

Support local area networks of researchers, healthcare professionals and people with lived experience collaborating on TBI initiatives

Collaborate with organisations that connect suitably qualified clinicians with people seeking management of TBI

Engage with multiple national stakeholders for support, collaboration and advocacy

Responsible Resourcing

Funding the future

Secure ongoing, long-term funding to support the continued operations of the organisation through strategic funding, focused grants and fundraising

Build a corpus of funds for research, to enable direct support of best-practice evidence-based TBI research in Australia



Photo: Stock image

Our Online Impact



Website

95,913 users visited the Connectivity website

The Connectivity website had **4,172** downloads

The Concussion Short Course page had **18,158** visitors

17,220 people viewed our concussion and TBI resources page

Social Media

1.55 million reached through Facebook

146k reached through Instagram

There were **8.6k** of content interactions

Over **27.9k** clicked through to the website from our social accounts

The Connectivity YouTube channel had over **84 hours** of watchtime

Courses

4,765 people enrolled in the Sport-Related Concussion Short Course

The Concussion Short Course had **1,629** enrolments

5,862 people enrolled in the NSW Combat Concussion Short Course

Photo: Laura Cass from the Concussion Short Course, and Concussion: Assessment, Diagnosis and Management Course for GPs.

Community Awareness and Education

Strategic Framework

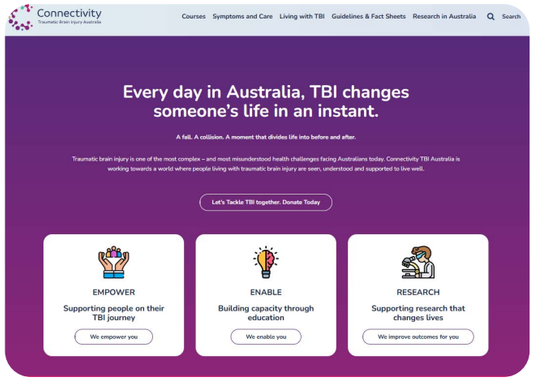
In May 2026, Connectivity refined its strategic framework to ensure our work remains focused on delivering the greatest possible impact for Australians affected by TBI, while strengthening our role as Australia's national TBI research translation organisation. This included updating Connectivity's website to encompass the new pillars of Empower, Enable and Research, and to allow an easier user experience. Information on these new pillars is as follows.

Empower

Supporting people living with TBI, their families and communities by providing trusted information, practical resources and opportunities to connect.

Enable

Building national capability through evidence-based education, workforce development and improved access to best practice.



Research

Supporting Australian research projects through promotion, dissemination, translation, and connection to lived experience and national networks to strengthen real-world impact. Increasing investment in TBI research by connecting programs with funding.

Fact Sheets

During the 2025-26 year nine of Connectivity's fact sheets were updated in-line with current guidelines. These are now available on the Connectivity website and include:

- **Concussion**
- **Persisting Post-Concussion Symptoms**
- **Sport-Related Concussion**
- **Concussion in Infants and Toddlers**
- **Concussion in Children and Teenagers**
- **Driving After Concussion**
- **Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE)**
- **Low-Level Blast**
- **Blast Related TBI**

In the Community

In February 2026, Dr Gill Cowen conducted a community engagement presentation on concussion and its management to the WA Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport, on behalf of Connectivity.



Photo: Dr Gill Cowen

Creating Awareness



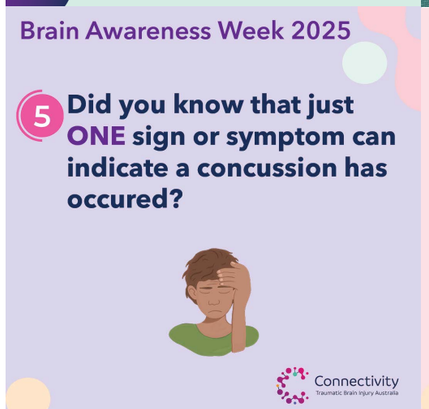








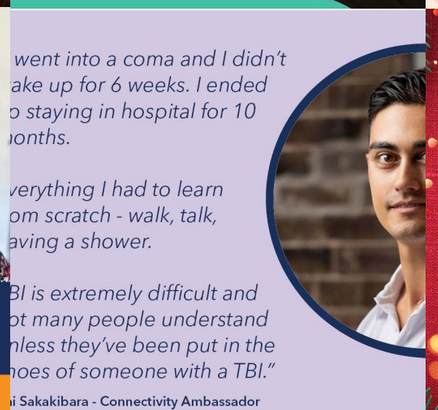


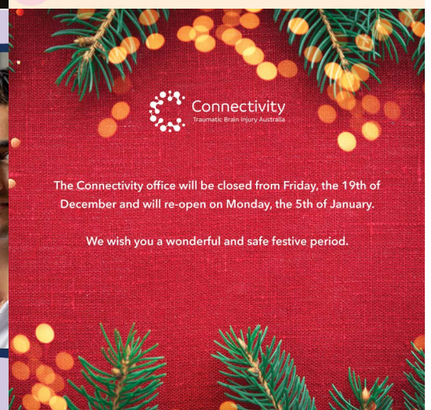










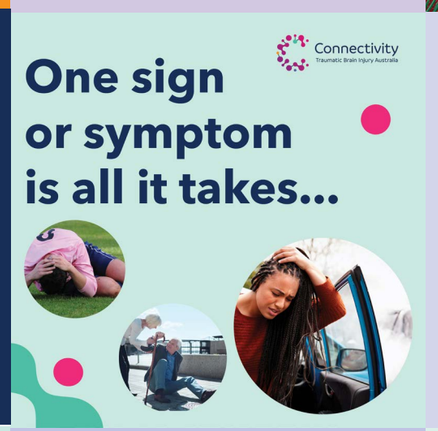












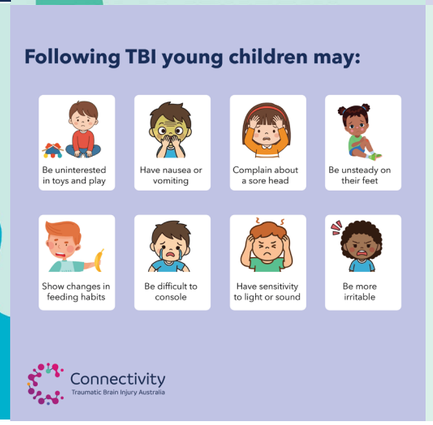














Photos: A selection of imagery from the Connectivity Instagram grid

Ambassadors and Advocates

Throughout the year, Connectivity utilised ambassadors and partnerships to promote and raise awareness of traumatic brain injury of all severities.

Kai Sakakibara

Connectivity continued to work alongside ambassador Kai Sakakibara throughout 2025–2026. During the year, we filmed an updated version of Kai's story, showcasing his remarkable return to cycling following his traumatic brain injury.

Kai featured in our Tackle TBI campaign, launched in June alongside other TBI advocates. Together, they helped raise awareness of traumatic brain injury and inspired Australians to 'Tackle TBI' together.

To date the results of working alongside Kai in the 2025 - 26 year have seen:

- Over 250,876 views on Instagram collaborations
- 4,695 reel interactions on Instagram
- 1.4K interactions with the Connectivity website article
- 1.1K views of Kai's video on the Connectivity YouTube page

Concussion Cruise 2025

In September 2025, Jack Corcoran and Sam O'Connor once again took on the 'Concussion Cruise' in support of Connectivity. This time, their challenge spanned continents.

Jack kicked off the campaign in Europe, running an incredible 600 kilometres from Switzerland through six countries to Croatia. He completed the epic solo challenge on Friday, 12 September.

Sam then took up the baton, running 400 kilometres from the New South Wales border to the NRL Grand Final, crossing the finish line on Sunday, 5 October.

With every kilometre, Jack and Sam sparked conversations about concussion and traumatic brain injury and inspired people to take action.

Together, they raised $10,055. We couldn't be prouder or more grateful.

Thank you, Jack and Sam!



Photo left: Kai Sakakibara filming in QLD

Concussion Courses

Concussion Short Course

Our updated Concussion Short Course launched in July 2025, replacing the previous Concussion Short Course which amassed **5,992 enrolments** and **909 certificates** over its three year lifespan. To 30 June 2026 the newly updated Concussion Short Course received **1,629 enrolments** and **449 certificates** purchased. This takes the combined total of the original and updated courses to:

7,621 enrolments and 1,358 certificate purchases

Sport-Related Concussion Short Course

The Sport-Related Concussion Short Course continued to attract a large number of enrolments over the course of the 2025 - 2026 year. To 30 June 2026 the Sport-Related Concussion Short Course has amassed:

13,054 enrolments and 2,550 certificate purchases

Concussion in Older Adults Short Course

The Concussion in Older Adults Short Course was originally created for and delivered to the Arcare Foundation. The course is available publicly on the Connectivity website for those who work in an aged care setting.

To 30 June 2026 the Concussion in Older Adults Short Course has had:

593 enrolments and 47 certificate purchases

Concussion in Combat Sports Courses (NSW and WA)

Connectivity was commissioned by the NSW and WA Combat Sports bodies to deliver two Combat Sports Concussion Short Courses which were delivered in June 2025.

These courses have now seen a considerable uptake.

The NSW course has had:

5,862 enrolments and 565 certificate purchases

The WA course has had:

651 enrolments and 72 certificate purchases



Photo: Stock image

Improving Outcomes

Concussion: Assessment, Diagnosis and Management

With support from the TAC, Connectivity continued the development of **Concussion: Assessment, Diagnosis and Management**, an evidence-based education course for Australian GPs aligned with the ANZ Concussion Guidelines. The course was created in collaboration with leading researchers and clinicians, including Professor Karen Barlow, Professor Melinda Fitzgerald, Dr Gill Cowen, Dr Mark Ralfe, Dr Jaina Chauhan and Dr Parbodh Gogna.

During 2025–26, course content was finalised, presenters and filming locations were secured, and filming and post-production were completed. Interactive clinical scenarios incorporating AI technology were also developed, with the completed course built, reviewed and refined within Connectivity's online learning platform.

Consultation with GPs was embedded throughout the development process to ensure the course was practical, relevant and responsive to the needs of Australian primary care. Following completion of the initial course build, a second round of GP consultation provided further feedback to refine the content and overall learning experience.

Importantly, lived experience was also embedded throughout the course. People who had experienced concussion through road traffic crashes, accidents, sport, and family, domestic and interpersonal violence contributed their perspectives and reviewed course material. Their insights highlighted the importance of improving concussion knowledge and care, while bringing valuable real-world perspectives on seeking medical assistance, navigating healthcare and recovering from concussion.

The course has now been accredited by Australia's leading GP education providers, **the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine**, and provides 2.5 hours of Educational Continuing Professional Development.

Through accessible, evidence-based and practical education, the course aims to support Australian GPs to deliver consistent, high-quality concussion assessment, diagnosis and management, while improving the care and recovery experience for people affected by concussion. **The course will be available to complete from August 2026.**

RACGP Check Program

The RACGP approached Connectivity to partner on its first check program dedicated to TBI. Supported by the TAC, Connectivity coordinated five GPs to author TBI case-based scenarios spanning all severities, to help GPs further manage and support patients through recovery. The project included an independent evaluation with Australian GPs to assess its clinical relevance and practical application, strengthening the connection between research and everyday patient care. **The program will be released by the RACGP in October 2026.**

Photo: Dr Jaina Chauhan from Concussion: Assessment, Diagnosis and Management

Connecting Community

Connectivity continues to play an important role in connecting researchers and research projects with people who have lived experience of traumatic brain injury of all severities. By facilitating these connections, we help ensure lived experience perspectives inform research priorities, design and outcomes, supporting research that is relevant and responsive to the needs of people affected by traumatic brain injury.

Connectivity was approached to support an additional **17 research projects seeking funding and other opportunities, including 12 applications to the MRFF.** This reflects our growing engagement with the research sector and our commitment to supporting high-quality research that advances understanding, care and outcomes for people affected by traumatic brain injury.

Together, these activities strengthen Connectivity's role as a bridge between researchers, people with lived experience and the broader traumatic brain injury community.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

Highlights of our work include:

Social Brain Toolkit ABI Communication Lab - Uni Syd.
Aboriginal reference group convened and TOR endorsed and accepted by members.

Online presentation with FNNAV CoP - presented online to mob working across DFSV.

First People Disability Network FPDN - Elevating Yarns Podcast.

Presentation to PICC Palm Island Community Company and lunch and learn with Palm PCYC Staff and Local Hospital.

Engagement with following orgs around TBI and Deadly TBI resources:

- Yiliyapinya
- Yuri Yunga Aboriginal Medical Service Halls Creek
- Walama Court List
- NSW magistrates Court
- Uniting Care Dubbo
- Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service AOD Staff
- DV NSW
- Womens Community Shelters NSW
- WOSCCA Mparntwe



Responsible Resourcing

Connectivity is committed to increasing investment in TBI research that has the potential to improve the lives of people affected by it. The first half of 2026 marked an important milestone, with Connectivity facilitating its first independently funded research project.

On behalf of GameGear Holdings, Connectivity managed a national Expression of Interest process to appoint an independent research team for a world-first study investigating the effectiveness of innovative protective headgear in reducing concussion and head impacts.

The two-year study will involve 600 athletes across multiple states and sporting codes, strengthening evidence for concussion prevention in real-world settings.

This milestone marks an important step towards Connectivity's vision of supporting research that changes lives, demonstrating our growing role as a trusted, independent facilitator connecting industry, funders and researchers to address critical evidence gaps and improve outcomes for people affected by TBI.

During 2025–26, Connectivity also finalised two research projects: **Understanding Australian health professionals' knowledge of concussion: a cross-sectional nationwide survey** and **Results of a cross-sectional nationwide survey to understand Australian community members' knowledge of concussion**.

The first study examined the current state of concussion knowledge among Australian medical, nursing and allied health professionals, providing valuable insight into areas of strength as well as potential gaps in knowledge and education.

The later sought to understand concussion knowledge held by community members across Australia. A nationwide survey of 230 participants was conducted looking at causes, symptoms and the need for medical care.

Work is now underway towards national publication of both study findings, helping to contribute to the broader evidence base for concussion education and care in Australia. The publications will recognise Professor Melinda Fitzgerald, Naomi Fuller, Dr Aleksandra Gozt and Shenane Hogg from Connectivity, as authors.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate Connectivity's expanding contribution to the Australian TBI research landscape – from generating new knowledge and translating evidence into practice, to creating partnerships that enable high-quality independent research.

In June 2026, we launched our '**Tackle TBI**' end of financial year fundraising campaign using a new platform - Funraisin.

A targeted multi-channel strategy saw the campaign feature on the Connectivity website, social media channels and issued via eDMs. The campaign raised $7,249 for Connectivity.



Photo: GameGear

Financial Summary 2025

Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026 $	2025 $
Revenue	543,506	446,170
Other Income	10,418	11,250
Employee benefits expense	(332,342)	(375,763)
Marketing expenses	(104,878)	(70,182)
Other expenses	(281,290)	(129,130)
Grants made and funding granted	(2,500)	(6,318)
Current year deficit before income tax	(167,086)	(123,973)
Income tax expense	-	-
Net current year surplus/(deficit)	(167,086)	(123,973)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	-	-



Photo: Stock image

Financial Summary 2025

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2026

	2026 $	2025 $
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	271,812	414,760
Trade and other receivables	7,512	18,641
Prepayments	2,166	2,166
Total current assets	281,490	435,567
Non- current assets		
Computer equipment	656	2,691
Total non-current assets	656	2,691
Total assets	**282,146**	**438,258**
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	24,195	20,313
Deferred revenue	14,551	-
Provisions	12,538	27,272
Total current liabilities	51,284	47,585
Non- current liabilities		
Deferred revenue	7,275	-
Total non-current liabilities	7,275	-
Total liabilities	**58,559**	**47,585**
Net assets	**223,587**	**390,673**
Equity		
Retained surplus	223,587	390,673
Total equity	**223,587**	**390,673**



Connectivity
Traumatic Brain Injury Australia

Contact Us

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How to get involved

Support us - donate or fundraise

Speak up - join our lived experience advisory group

Leave a legacy - include a gift in your will

Cover yourself - check your brain health during health check ups

Stay informed - subscribe to our newsletter

Help with progress - connect to Australian TBI research projects

Our Supporters

Founding Supporters

Curtin University

Supporters

TAC Transport Accident Commission

Information Partner

healthdirect Australia | Health information funded by the governments of Australia

Photo: Stock image