

Reinforce Inc. Annual Report 2021



reinforce
self advocacy

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Welcome from the President of Reinforce

Welcome everyone to the AGM.

I have had a good time being President. It has not been easy but I have some good people behind me like Chris, Georgina, Annie and Mark. I have really enjoyed speaking to people and working on agendas and meetings. It has been good to help and get other people's views to help make Reinforce better. I have had a good time being President and working with other committee members. I have talked to them and they have talked to me. It has been good listening to other people and getting their ideas. I am going to nominate for President again next year.

Although it has been a hard job I have really enjoyed it.

John Slattery

John Slattery
Reinforce President 2021

Committee of Management



John Slattery
President



Norrie Blythman



Amanda Milliar
Treasurer



Jane Rosengrave



Janice Slattery
Secretary



Colin Hiscoe



James Teekan



Chris Bolton



Shona Brown

About Us

Reinforce is a self-advocacy organisation run by and for people with an intellectual disability.

Reinforce is here to assist, support and encourage independence for people with an intellectual disability. We believe that people with an intellectual disability need to be treated like everyone else in the community.

We run training, speak at conferences and advise government.

This year we were able to employ staff to support our work.



Heather Smith
Peer Worker



Edward Clark
Peer Worker



Leonie Stork
Peer Worker



Chris Lowe
Support worker



Annie Hooper
Project Worker



Georgina Mills
Project Coordinator

Treasurer's Report

This is my 18th year as Treasurer for Reinforce. I am the longest serving Treasurer in Reinforce's 34-year history, since we became incorporated in March 1987.

It has been a very challenging year and awkward in lots of ways. I have found it hard doing stuff online from Melbourne and doing online meetings. We are still in lockdown at this time. I have been keeping an eye on Reinforce's accounts and giving my treasurer's report online using Zoom. I have learnt new skills the hard way this year.

As our ILC grant is ongoing we have still had a lot of money. This makes my role bigger than before as we have not had this much money at any time in the history of Reinforce. We finished our project with the Office of the Public Advocate. We also got extra money from the Office for Disability to support us during COVID-19.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Victorian Government Department of Families Fairness and Housing, Office for Disability, OPA, and the Federal Government for the money Reinforce has received this year.

When we get back to Ross House, I will be learning new skills again. This is another new planet for me.

I thank Chris for his support with his extra hours for assisting me in my role as Treasurer. Thank you to Brenda for all the work she has been doing on the books and dotting the i's and crossing the t's. Thank you and acknowledgment to Jane for her help as assistant treasurer although I'm now back in Melbourne. As we now have a big grant, we have had to be audited for the second time this year. This has been a big step for the group. I would like to thank the auditor Lionel Arnold from J L Collyer and Partners for his work on

the books. I would also like to acknowledge the work and commitment of Jane and Colin who, with support from Pam and Chris approved payments leaving Reinforce's accounts this year. The Reinforce Financial Sub-Committee, has met in person a number of times and also had many meetings on Zoom. These meetings are keeping an eye on the finances for Reinforce. These meetings are attended by myself, Jane, Colin, John, Chris and Georgina. I thank everyone who attends those meetings once a month. It has been another busy but upside down year thank you for having me as your Treasurer again.

Thank you to all the workers and the committee for working under the constraints of lockdown.

Amanda Millear
Treasurer



Catering Report

I have been catering coordinator for 11 years now. I did food catering for the committee of management meetings with Chris's support until we were suddenly knocked off our tree by the shutdown. There were 3 or 4 committee meetings and 1 coffee morning held at Ross House. A big thank you to Chris for helping me with the lunches at these meetings. I was not able to do catering for last year's AGM as it had to be on Zoom. This is a small report because we are still in the land of the lockdown

Amanda Millear

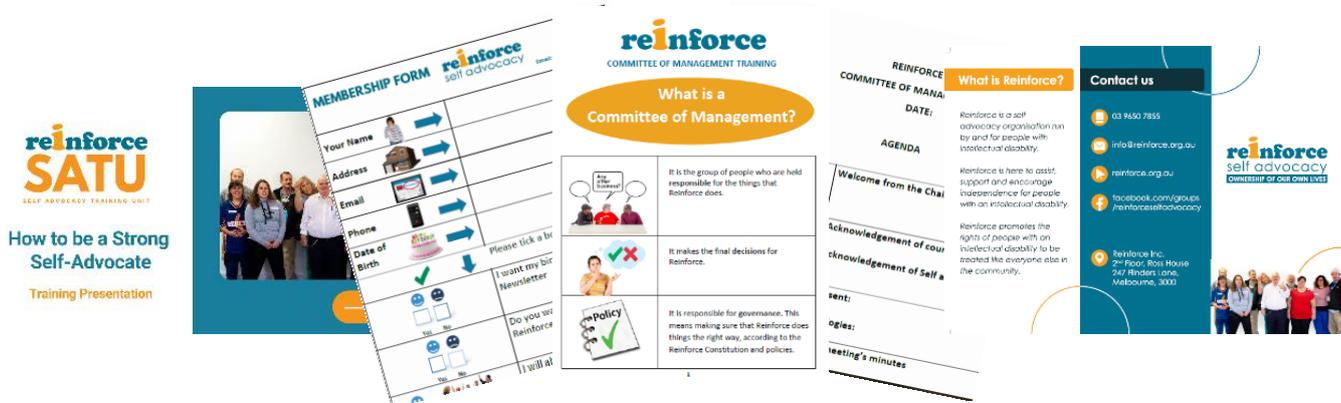
What we have Done - Projects

ILC

This project is the Self Advocacy Training Unit (SATU) which is funded by an ILC grant from the Department of Social Services.

The project will keep going until 2023 and we do 2 main things:

1. Train self advocate peer workers to run training themselves
2. Help the organisation to grow stronger with better policies and ways of doing things.



This year we have also made new documents, brochures and training resources in easy read and plain English formats. We have changed the way the office works, welcomed new members and employed new peer workers.

The SATU Advisory Group has been very active, meeting regularly throughout the year. We thank Mark Sandon for his work advising & supporting the project.



The peer workers have been guest speakers at Bendigo Have A Say, New Horizons and SARU Management Group. They have also led Skills Workshops for Reinforce members.

We have had a great year!

Royal Commission

We received funding from the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse and exploitation of People with Disability. As a response to the Royal Commission, we made a training film. Our hope is to build strong self advocates so these things will never happen again.

Our film is called: **The Top 5 Tips to Become a Strong Self Advocate**

OPA

Reinforce received funding from Office of the Public Advocate to work on a health project that helped doctors and nurses understand people with disabilities.

SMG

Reinforce is represented at the SARU Management Group by Norrie Blythman & James Teekan.

International Self Advocates Meeting

We had 2 meetings with People First Keighley & Craven, from the UK. It was great to be able to share experiences with another self advocacy group. Thanks to Colin Hiscoe for his work on this project.



Self Advocacy Big Issues

At our regular Members Get Together Meetings we talked about these topics and wrote letters to government asking for change.

NDIS

In June, Reinforce held an important meeting about NDIS assessments. Members SPOKE UP against independent assessments. Reinforce told the Government that we did not want the changes to NDIS assessments!

Transport

In August, Reinforce held an important meeting. We talked about transport. Members SPOKE UP about accessibility and safety on transport.



Covid-19

Reinforce ran two big meetings about Covid-19 in September and October. Members SPOKE UP about QR Codes, Vaccine Certificates and making sure people with intellectual disabilities are not being left out! Members wrote a letter to the Victorian Government about lockdown and opening up.

The Future

How it looks from the Peer Workers

“I would like to be working on a new project every couple of years and get the funding that we need. More members and new blood! I would like to do more training with other self advocacy groups around Australia.”

Heather (Peer Worker)

“What I would like Reinforce to do in future is to have more activities & skits acting out speaking up for yourself situations to be able to show other self advocacy groups, in person or online.”

Leonie (Peer Worker)

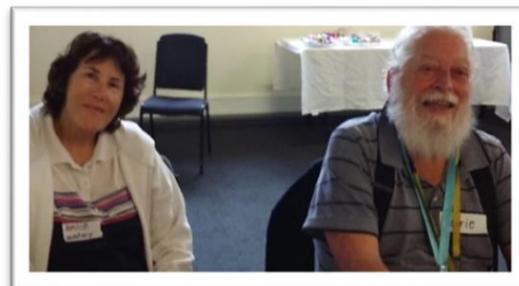
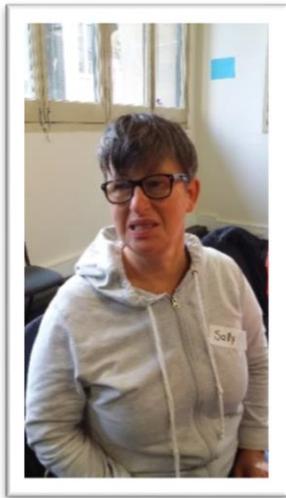
“I would like more of what we have been doing. Helping out and more training.”

Eddie (Peer Worker)



Our members would like to get more funding so we can:

- Do more fun activities in person
- Have more peer workers
- Do more self advocacy training
- Connect with more groups
- Do more systemic advocacy
- Run more events



Financial Statement - Easy Read Version



Why does Reinforce need an Audit?

Reinforce has a lot of money at the moment because of the ILC project so Reinforce needs to have our finances audited. Reinforce is also a registered charity so we need to follow the rules the government make for charities. The person who does the audit is called auditor

What do we pay the Auditor to do?

The auditor has 2 jobs we pay him to do:

1. To check that Reinforce are doing our finances correctly.
2. To make a report the talks about our finances in a way that shows we have followed all the rules made by the government.

The report we got back from the Auditor has 4 main parts.

Part 1: The Balance Sheet

"Money We Have and Money We Owe"



The **Balance Sheet** is part of the audit report. Brenda worked out the balance sheet at the end of the financial year and showed it to the committee before sending it to the auditor.

The Balance Sheet shows 2 things:

1. The money Reinforce has
2. The money Reinforce owes to other people.

This is the balance Sheet at 30th June 2021.

		Amount
The money Reinforce has (Assets)		
	Cheque account	\$331,388.88
	Term Deposit	\$46,637.53
	Cash	\$620.90
	Money owed to Reinforce	\$3,872.25
	New Wave Cheque account	\$1,701.35
	New Wave Term Deposit	\$11,405.93
Total		\$395,626.84

The money Reinforce has to pay (**Liabilities**)

	Bills to be paid	\$770.44
	Grant Money to be used in 2021-2022	\$336,368.83
	ATO - GST and PAYG	\$8,672.69
	Staff leave	\$19,374.64
Total		\$361,169.22

This Balance Sheet shows Reinforce had **\$395,626.84** in the bank on the 30th of June 2021 and we had **\$361,169.22** of money we would we need to pay. This means that Reinforce can afford to pay all its bills.

Part 2: The Statement of Equity "The Money Left over"

The next part of the report is the **Statement of Equity**

After we have paid the **\$361,169.22** for our bills we would have **\$34,457** left in the bank. This amount left in the bank is called **equity**.

The report shows Reinforce have **\$447 less equity** than last year. This means more money was taken out of our accounts than went in. This is because New Wave took **\$447** out of their account and did not put more money in.



Part 3: The Statement of Cash Flow

"How Much Do We Have to Spend"

The next part of the report is the **Statement of Cash Flow**

This statement gives us an idea of how much money Reinforce have available to spend right now.

Reinforce's **assets** are all money in bank accounts or term deposits and that is what the auditor calls cash. An example of an asset that is not cash would be something like a car because we would have to organise to sell the car before we had money to buy something else.

So, this part of the report is not really useful for us because it does not give much new information from the balance sheet since we do not own other kinds of assets. However, it does tell us how much cash we have available.

The statement says we have **\$391,754** cash.

This is the same as the money in our bank accounts shown on the balance sheet.

The total is smaller than the total of our **assets** on the balance sheet because it does not include the money owed to Reinforce.

Part 4: Statement of Profit or Loss

"Income minus Expenditure"

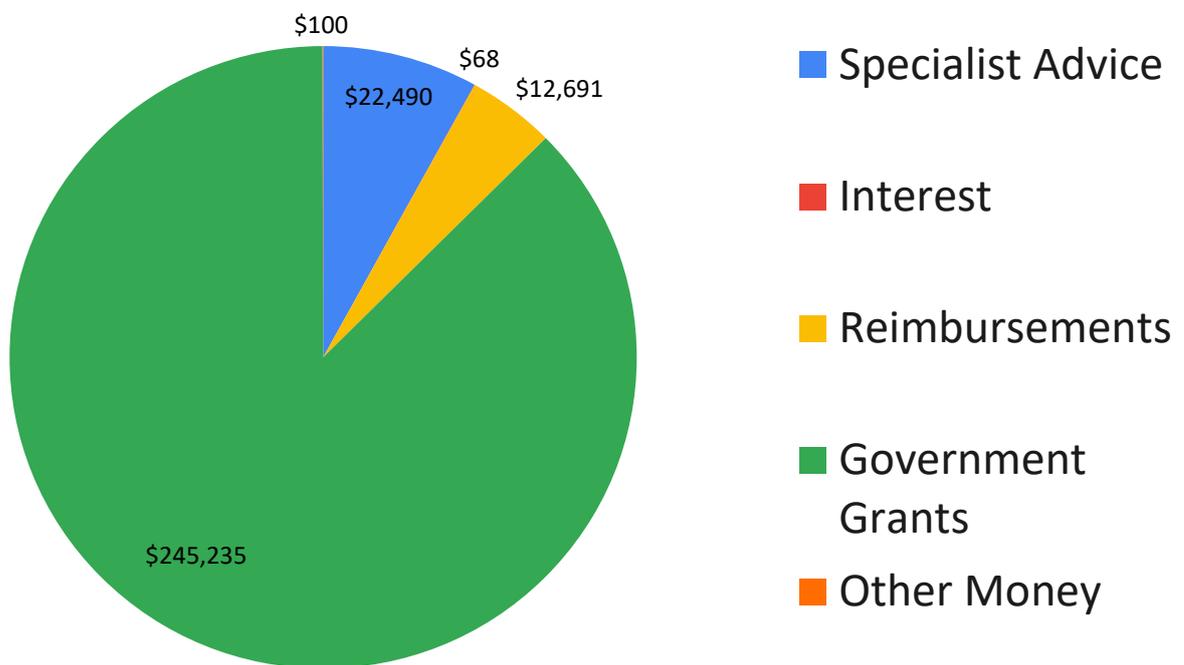


This part of the report shows the different ways Reinforce got and spent its money from **1st July 2020** to **30th June 2021**

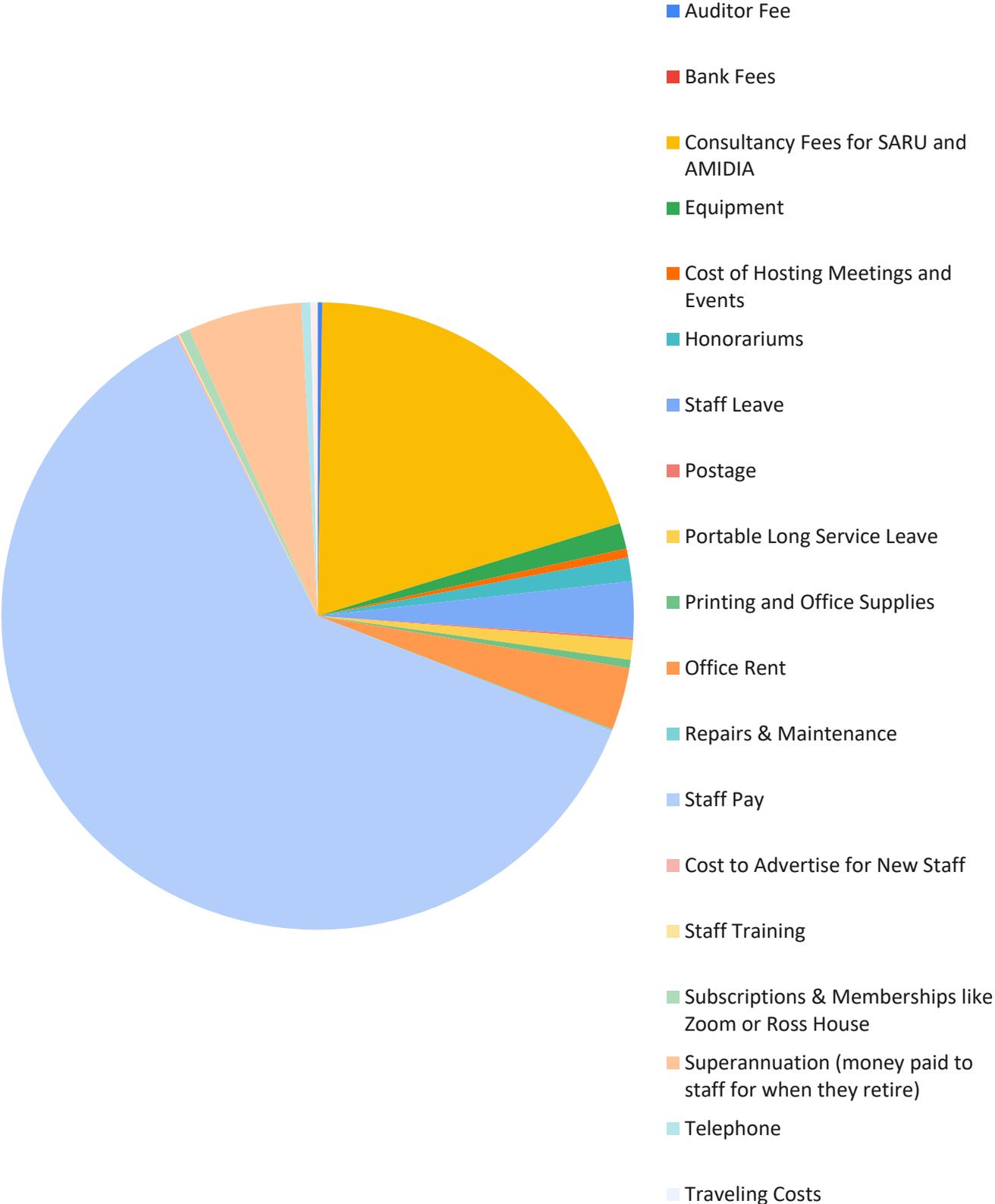
	Amount
Money Reinforce Got (Income)	
 Specialist Advice	\$22,490
 Interest	\$68
 Reimbursements	\$12,691
 Government Grants	\$245,235
 Other Money	\$100
Total	\$280,584

<i>Money Reinforce Spent (Expenses)</i>	<i>Amount</i>
 Auditor Fee	\$645
 Bank Fees	\$42
 Consultancy Fees for SARU and AMIDIA	\$56,175
 Equipment	\$3,726
 Cost of Hosting Meetings and Events	\$1,312
 Honorariums	\$3,395
 Staff Leave	\$8,062
 Postage	\$354
 Portable Long Service Leave	\$2,855
 Printing and Office Supplies	\$1,194
 Office Rent	\$9,067
 Repairs & Maintenance	\$227
 Staff Pay	\$173,307
 Cost to Advertise for New Staff	\$276
 Staff Training	\$236
 Subscriptions & Memberships like Zoom or Ross House	\$1,543
 Superannuation (money paid to staff for when they retire)	\$16,393
 Telephone	\$1,301
 Traveling Costs	\$95
 Workcover	\$926
Total	\$281,031

Reinforce Income 2021 - 2022



Reinforce Expenses 2021 - 2022



If you take our total expenses and take away our total income you can see, we spent **\$447** more than we got this financial year. This matches the number from the **Statement of Equity** section.

To finish the auditor says that he thinks Reinforce have followed all the government rules about finances for registered charities and that it looks like Reinforce is telling the truth about our finances.

John and Amanda need to sign the audit report to show that they agree with what the auditor said and they think the report shows that Reinforce is able to pay all its bills.



Amanda Millear
Treasurer



John Slattery
President

End of Financial Statement

Thankyou

To the following for your support throughout this year



Brenda Penaluna



Dean Dadson



Mark Sandon



Pam Geoghegan

- SARU
- AMIDA
- Ross House
- OPA
- DSS – ILC funding
- DFFH

