

2022

REINFORCE INC

35TH ANNUAL REPORT

reinforce
self advocacy

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REINFORCE.ORG.AU

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Welcome from the President of Reinforce



Hello everyone and welcome to the AGM. I have had a really good year as Reinforce President. It has been good being president and thank you to Georgina, Annie and Chris for supporting me. It has been good to see some new members join and been good to keep working with old members. I really liked the Reinforce Conference and how we all had a say in how it was run. It was really good to see Eric and Georgia helping at the welcome table. VSAN, the Victorian Self Advocacy Network ran the afternoon session of the conference, I thank them for joining with us. It has been good this year to look at how Reinforce will work in the future. I hope everyone has a good time as we get to the end of the year and to Christmas and the New Year. I hope everyone comes back very happy and we have a good 2023 and I hope Reinforce keeps getting more members and more funding so we can keep doing the things we want to do.

John Slattery
Reinforce President 2022

Committee of Management



Amanda Millear



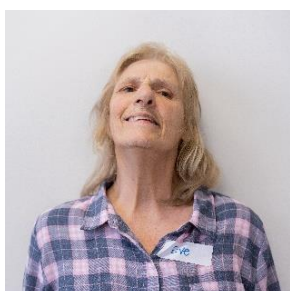
Colin Hiscoe



Chris Bolton



Colin Franks



Eve Kinnear



Heather Smith



James Teekan



Jane Rosengrave



Janice Slattery



John Slattery

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.

Reinforce has been able to employ Project staff for the past 3 years and will continue to do that over the next year.



Leonie Stork
Peer Worker



Edward Clark
Peer Worker



Heather Smith
Peer Worker



Georgina Mills
Project Co-ordinator



Chris Lowe
Support Worker



Annie Hooper
Project Worker



Pam Geoghegan
Support Worker

Treasurer's Report



This is my 19th year as Treasurer for Reinforce. I am the longest serving Treasure in Reinforce's 35 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. I have been keeping an eye on Reinforce's accounts and giving my Treasurer's report online using Zoom and in person when I have been able to get into the city. I have learnt new skills the hard way this year.

Next year will be the last year of the ILC project. This project has meant we have had a lot more money than before and has made my job harder.

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

I am still learning new skills with finances now we have a new system for paying for things.

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. As we now have a big grant, we have had to be audited for the third year in a row. 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 the books.

I would also like to acknowledge the work and commitment of Jane, Colin and John who have, with support from Pam and Chris, approved payments leaving Reinforce's accounts this year.

Now Reinforce has a financial group. We have 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, James, 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. Also, a big thank you for AMIDA staff who help us with finances.

Amanda Millear

Catering Report

I have been catering coordinator for 12 years now. As for catering I have done none. Thanks to Georgina and Annie who did the catering for committee meetings and other events throughout this year. Recently Georgina & I cleaned out the catering cupboard and now we have a new catering cupboard to replace the old one.

I have also continued to be part of Ross House's Green Focus Working Group this year. Next year I would like to keep helping Reinforce members learn more about recycling and looking after the environment.

Amanda Millear



Secretary's Report



I have been Secretary for some years and I'm really enjoying learning new skills. This year I have learnt how to do the minutes and the agenda for our committee meetings and how to send them out. We have also set up a new template for the newsletter so I am learning new skills about how to do this. The peer workers have been very busy this year going to places like Bendigo and Morwell. It has been really good to see the peer workers in action. On the 19th of October, our conference at Queen Victoria Women's Centre was a really good day. I hope you all have a good Christmas and break.

Janice Slattery

Farewell



This year Reinforce was saddened by the death of long time committee member and strong self-advocate Norrie Blythman. Norrie was always a big part of the Reinforce Office and we will remember him watching TV shows from the 1960s and 1970s on YouTube in the office.

Whenever we had a big event, Norrie was in charge of promotion for Reinforce. For example, during Melbourne Through the Eyes of a Friend project, he was so keen to promote the project he sold all of the CDs and DVDs.

Norrie also represented Reinforce for a long time on the SARU Management Group, he was a valued member of the 3CR radio program 'Raising Our Voices' and very much enjoyed going on trips with Reinforce like to the Having a Say Conference.

Reinforce would like to thank Norrie's family for allowing us to join in Norrie's funeral and we pass on our condolences to them for their loss. We will miss you Norrie.

What we have Done

ILC Project Report



Reinforce has had another successful year with the ILC Project. The ILC Project is funded by the Federal Government Department of Social Services and has been given an extension to run to 2024. We are very thankful to the department for this

opportunity to continue the work that has started.

In this report you will see the Self Advocacy Conference photos, the report about training from the SATU (Self Advocacy Training Unit) and the finance information about changes to the way Reinforce does things.

Thank you to Colin Hiscoe, Jane Rosengrave, Janice Slattery and John Slattery for their work on the Advisory Group which has helped steer the direction of the project.

The Committee of Management had a busy year with training sessions to increase their skills and our members have met for a series of three workshops and planning sessions called Future Dreaming, Future Planning. These have been a great way to make plans for the future of Reinforce. Thanks to Mark Sandon for his work with the project in this area.

My personal thanks also to Annie Hooper for such committed work with our wonderful Peer Workers; Leonie, Heather and Edward and to Chris Lowe for continued support in the office.



Self Advocacy Training Unit

Who Are We?

We are a team of Reinforce workers!

Annie Hooper (project worker), Heather Smith, Edward Clark, and Leonie Stork.



What we do

We have funding from the Federal Government to go around and do training for Reinforce Self Advocacy **BUT** that is not all we do!! We work in the Reinforce office on Thursdays from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

We do lots of different things as part of the Reinforce project.

Speaking Up!

In 2022, we wrote letters to politicians about the rights of people with disability. We also joined up with other self-advocates and marched in the city to SAVE OUR NDIS!



Our Training

We did a lot of training in 2022. After Covid lockdowns, we went out and did eight training trips! We are very excited to keep up the training in 2023.



We have three training workshops we offer:

1. How to be a strong self-advocate
2. My Life, I Decide!
3. Staff Training

If you would like to find out more about our training, have a look at the training workshops on the Website – www.reinforce.org.au
We can even come and visit your group, organisation or home.
We would love to hear from you!



Wednesday 19th October 2022
9:30am-3:00pm

**Limited
tickets!**

This year Reinforce ran a wonderful conference for the first time in many years. Together with VSAN (Victorian Self Advocacy Network) members met throughout the year to plan and prepare for the event in Melbourne.

Self-advocates from throughout Victoria came in person and also watched on Zoom.

There were many speakers throughout the day. Reinforce kicked off the day with speakers talking about Our History, Our Rights and then finished with Our future!

After a delicious lunch the members of various self-advocacy groups spoke about how important future funding is for our groups. It was a fantastic day where old friends could catch up and new friends were made. Everyone decided that this should be the first of many more!





We were very happy to have Todd Fernando, Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities as well as Naomi and Zoe, our ILC contacts at the Department of Social Services, join us at such an important happy event.



Self Advocacy Big Issues

NDIS

Twice this year Reinforce was involved with the huge number of people marching to save the cuts to NDIS.



Meeting with Politicians

Reinforce members had a very productive meeting with Ged Kearney, Federal Member for Cooper during the year. Christine Couzens, State Member for Geelong also met with Reinforce and other self-advocate groups. We thank both these politicians for taking the time to hear from self-advocates about the importance of self advocacy in Victoria.



Transport

During the year we continued to fight for accessible transport and joined with others to protest the lack of accessible tram stops in Melbourne.

SMG

Reinforce was represented at the SARU Management Group this year by Heather Smith & James Teekan.



Disability Royal Commission

Members of Reinforce prepared a group submission to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. This was an important time for members to tell their experience in their own words.

Raising Our Voices



The Raising our Voices radio show had their 35th Birthday show on the 17th August 2022 on 3CR. Amanda says the birthday show was a “Rip Snorter”. Happy Birthday to the Raising our Voices team.

This year Reinforce have kept working with Raising our Voices with Amanda Milllear, James Teeken and Jane Rosengrave and others going on the show in 2022. Talk to Raising our Voices if you would a copy of their 25th or 30th anniversary cds with their past radio shows.

Amanda Milllear

Acknowledgements

Thankyou AMIDA, Brenda Penaluna, the SARU team, Department of Fairness, Families and Housing, The Department of Social Services and all friends, supporters and members of Reinforce.

Finance Report – Easy Read

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 two jobs we pay him to do:

1. To check that Reinforce are doing our finances correctly.
2. To make a report that 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.




The Balance Sheet shows 2 things:

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





This is the balance Sheet at 30th June 2022.

Amount

The money Reinforce has **(Assets)**

	Cheque account	\$438,907
	Money owed to Reinforce	\$ 4,592
	New Wave Cheque account	\$ 13,130
Total		\$456,629

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

	Bills to be paid	\$ 6,137
	Grant Money to be used in 2022-2023	\$380,863
	ATO - GST	\$ 7,125
	Staff leave	\$ 28,046
Total		\$422,171

This Balance Sheet shows Reinforce had **\$456,629** in the bank on the 30th of June 2022 and we had **\$422,171** 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 **\$422,171** for our bills we would have **\$34,458** left in the bank. This amount left in the bank is called **equity**.

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 has available to spend right now.

Reinforce's **assets** are all money in bank accounts 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 does not give much new information from the balance sheet, since we do not own other kinds of assets but it does tell us how much cash we have available. The statement says we have **\$452,036** 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 because we have not got that right now to buy things with if we want to.






Part 4: Statement of Profit or Loss

“Income minus Expenditure”























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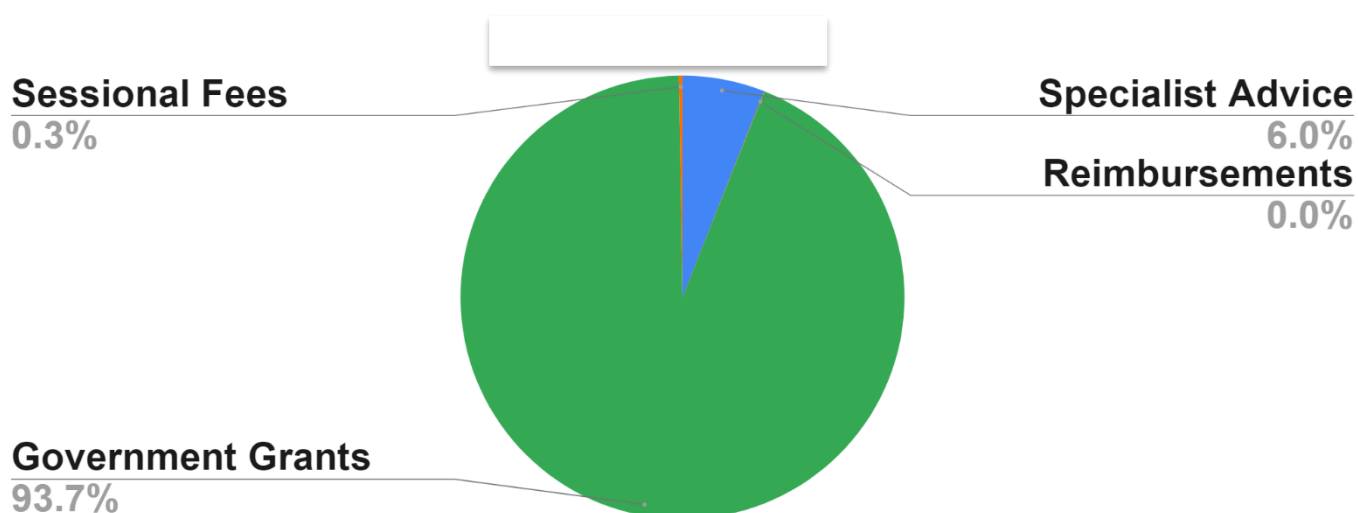
This part of the report shows the different ways Reinforce received and spent its money from **1st July 2021** to **30th June 2022**.

		Amount
Money Reinforce Received (Income)		
	Specialist Advice	\$ 16,627
	Interest	\$ 42
	Reimbursements	\$ 47
	Government Grants	\$ 259,859
	Sessional Fees	\$ 720
Total		\$ 277,295

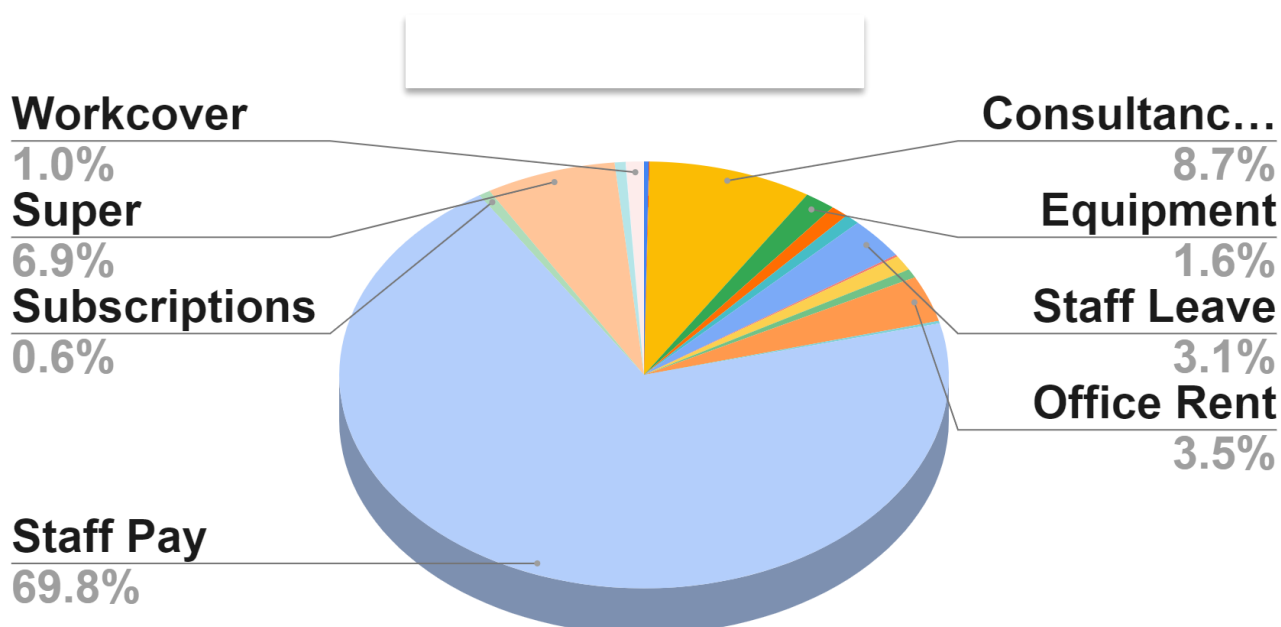
Money Reinforce Spent (**Expenses**)

	Auditor Fee	\$ 706
	Bank Fees	\$ 94
	Consultancy Fees for SARU and AMIDIA	\$ 24,139
	Equipment	\$ 4,533
	Cost of Hosting Meetings and Events	\$ 2,638
	Honorariums	\$ 2,195
	Staff Leave	\$ 8,671
	Postage	\$ 371
	Portable Long Service Leave	\$ 3,173
	Printing and Office Supplies	\$ 1,819
	Office Rent	\$ 9,679
	Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 495
	Staff Pay	\$193,572
	Cost to Advertise for New Staff	\$ 0
	Staff Training and Health of Staff	\$ 0
	Subscriptions & Memberships like Zoom or Ross House	\$ 1,714
	Superannuation (money paid to staff for when they retire)	\$ 19,190
	Telephone	\$ 1,575
	Traveling Costs	\$ 64
	Workcover	\$ 2,647
Total		\$277,295

Reinforce Income 2022




Reinforce Expenses 2022



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 actual 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Millear".

Amanda Millear

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Slattery" followed by a large 'X' mark.

John Slattery