



# Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Annual Report 2017-2018

## *Our VISION for the future*

*A healthy, self-determined and respected Tasmanian Aboriginal Community*

## *Our central PURPOSE*

*To improve the circumstances and pursue the rights and interests of the Aboriginal community in Tasmania*

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2017-2020**



**1. Strong, safe, resilient community**



**2. Land, heritage and culture**



**3. Business and economic development**



**4. Strong, well-functioning TAC**



**5. External profile and influence**

## Chairperson's message

### Dave Warrener - Chairperson

It has been a pleasure to again Chair the TAC Board of Directors in 2017/2018 and to offer this annual report that highlights not only the size and complexity of our organisation, but also the innumerable achievements of our organisation. I acknowledge the ever increasing challenges faced by the governance team in managing what is now a multimillion dollar enterprise. On a positive note it was great to have at least one local council listen, with the Hobart City Council receiving our gift of the name nipaluna (Hobart) in Reconciliation Week. They now join the ever increasing number of non-government organisations which recognise and support us in being in control of our own affairs.

This year's unofficial theme was 'milaythina' (country). We celebrated our ownership of the wonderful Kings Run in the far west of the state with a community gathering, we celebrated with our festivals and community camps on our land at putalina, preminghana and at trawtha makuminya. Of note was the rrala milaythina- ti (Strong in country) program in which community visited all corners of Tasmania and demonstrated the importance of milaythina for our wellbeing.

This year I am pleased to report we again became reaccredited under both the Quality Improvement Council Health and Community Standards Accreditation Program (QIC) and our health services under Australian General Practice Accreditation Limited (AGPAL).

I am honoured to again serve as Chair of the Board of Directors for the coming year, and look forward to working with all the community members who have nominated to serve with me on our Board.

## CEO's message

### Heather Sculthorpe – Chief Executive Officer

2017/18 was a big year for our language and cultural programs. We are so pleased to remain at the forefront of reclaiming language worldwide and have been delighted at how well received our revived original names have been. Hobartians love nipaluna and pataway is gaining ground for Burnie. Thorough research gave us back tulaminakali – the Mersey River where Devonport is now situated. We renamed many more landmarks this year and will be working hard to get them back in use.

Our grant funding continues to increase each year. This does not always ensure sound planning for the long term as some grants are provided only yearly and very few have guaranteed funding for 5 years or more. Most of those long term grants are finishing and are being replaced by shorter term funding, despite the significant achievements of the programs.

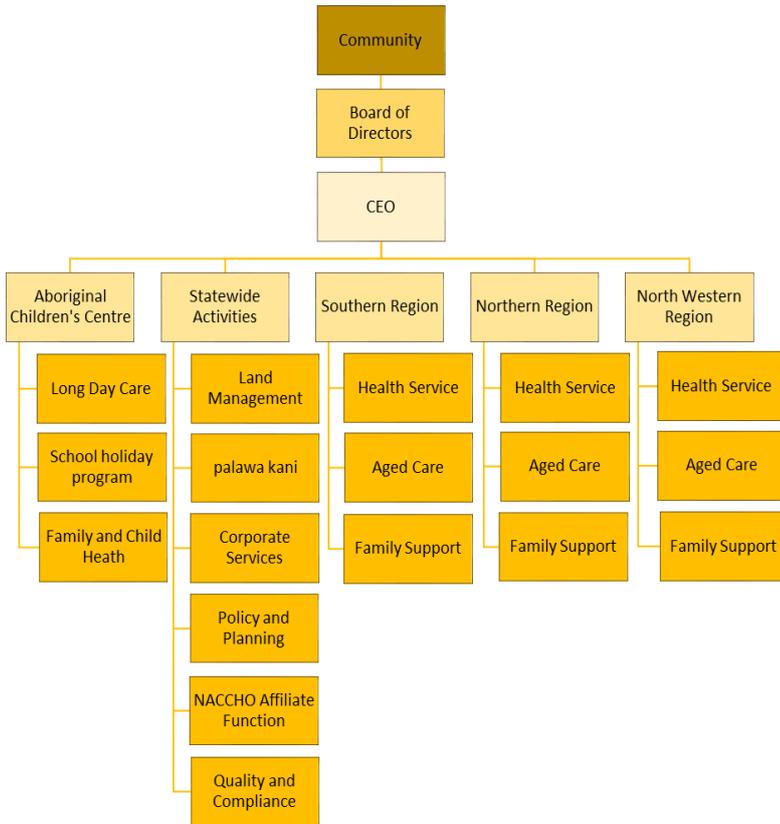
Some community objectives are not funded at all or remain severely under-funded. Enterprise development has been very slow to get off the ground in the absence of dedicated funding and the protection of our cherished areas within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area has been either ignored or taken over by government agencies. Community education about the real history of our island has been marginalised and the lack of a pro-active Aboriginal Legal Service has been sorely felt.

We continue to be disappointed at the lack of commitment by the Tasmanian Government in contributing to improved health outcomes for Aboriginal people in Tasmania. This is the only State or Territory in the Commonwealth that does not make a significant financial contribution to improving Aboriginal health from its own funds. In particular, we have not been able to make the State accountable for the dental money it receives from the Commonwealth.

We managed our first full financial year of registration with ORIC and we are pleased to report that our operations as well as our Board are taking the change in their stride. It takes some back room work to maintain compliance with all the new Rules but we are managing it with little inconvenience to clients or community.

As always, we are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our staff and for the voluntary work of our community elected Chair and Board of Directors. The continuing involvement of the Aboriginal community in our work ensures we have a great future ahead.

## Our Organisation chart



## Board of Directors

### Chairperson

Dave Warrenner

### Directors

Doug Mansell

Annette Peardon

Michael (Smokey) Beeton

Keith James (Jimmy) Everett

Thomas Riley

### Branch Representatives

South - Joanne James

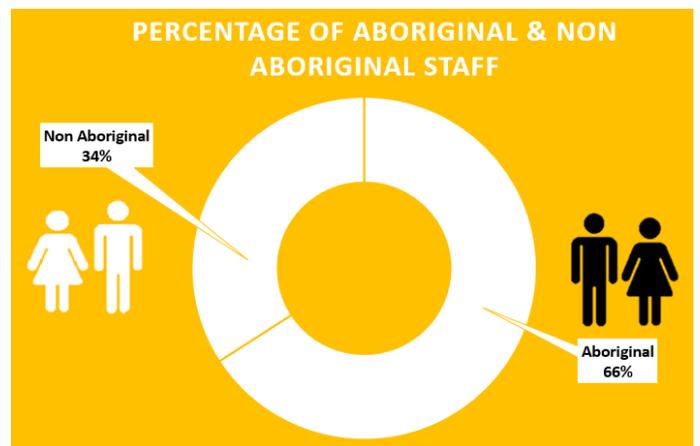
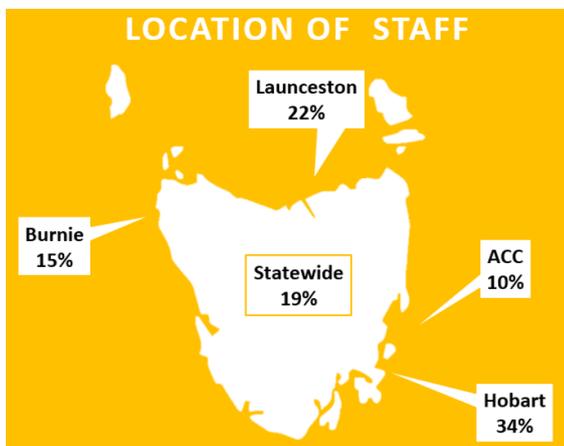
North - Shantelle Grice

North West - James (Jimmy) Donovan

## Our staff

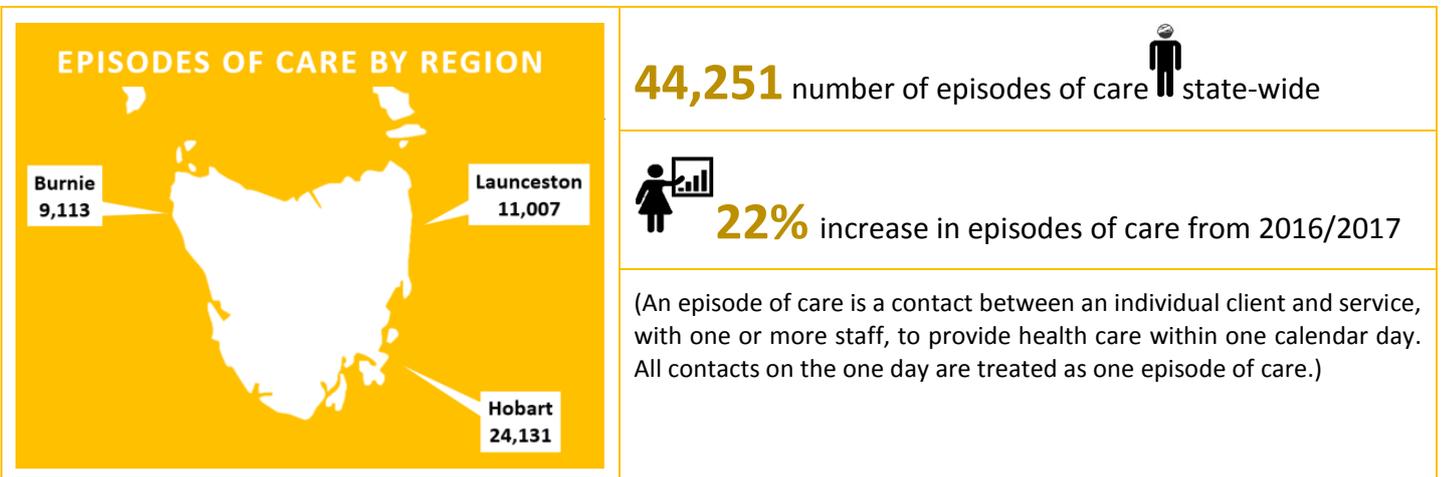
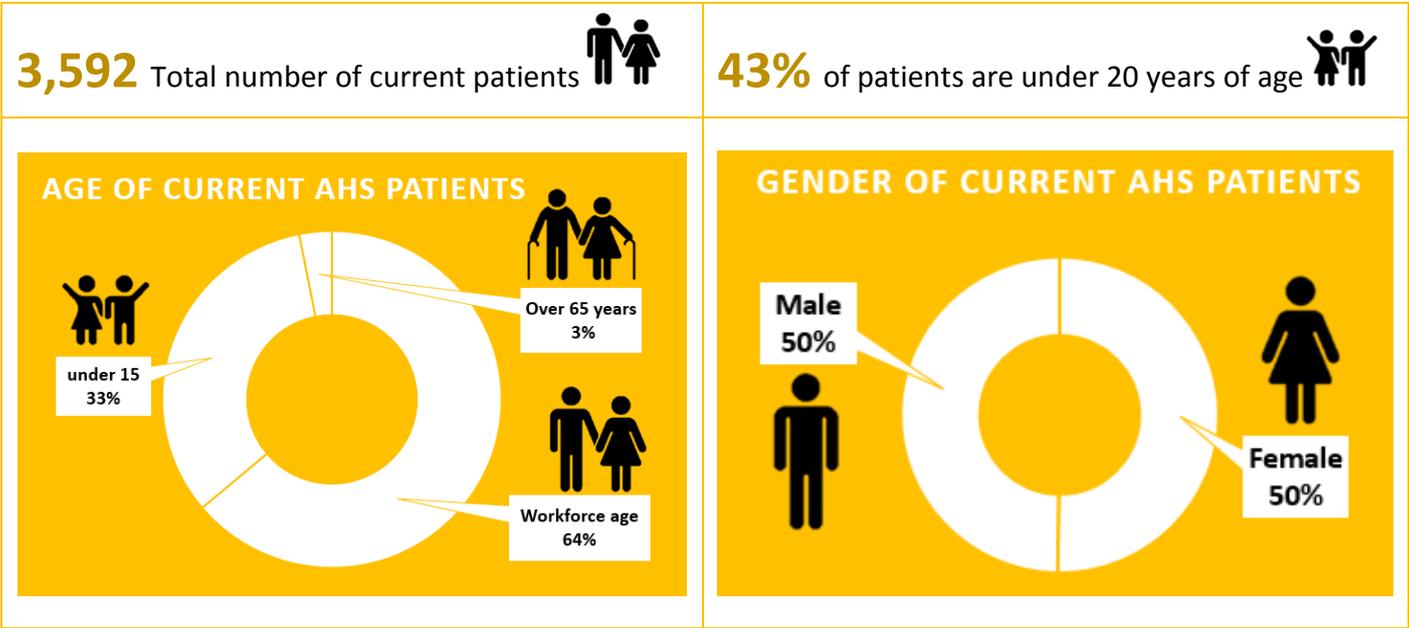
We employ **126** staff  across the state

**47** staff  are full time **67** are part time **12** casual



# Health

Our Aboriginal Health Service provides comprehensive and integrated health services to the Aboriginal community in all three regions of the state. Our health programs are designed to meet the needs of people of all ages and in all stages of health in our community.



**Total number of client contact**

**9,841** number of AHW  client contacts, which is a **29%** increase

**13,284** GP  client contacts which is a **13%** Increase

**99%** of children 12-72 months of age  are immunised

**88%** of pregnant women  receiving their first antenatal check in the first trimester

**74%** of adults over 55 years of age  received a Health Check (Item 715) in last two years

We transported  **6,483** patients  to appointments at the AHS and to specialist appointments

## Aged Care Program

The Aged Care Program is funded under the Commonwealth Government's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program. We are able to provide a flexible service to people who are ageing in our community. This includes both support to individuals in their own home as well as social and group activities.

The Aged Care Program supports **90** community members  to live independently in the community



**66** years & **4** months – the average age of our Aged Care clients

**420** hours – average number of hours delivered to all Aged Care clients per week

**4** Hours and **40** minutes – the average hours of service received by Aged Care clients each week

## Registered Training Organisation RTO

**528** individual training places were delivered to both TAC staff and external customers 

**375** cultural awareness training sessions to staff  from **56** agencies 

**38** new participants  in the Cert IV Alcohol and Other Drugs from around the state

## Aboriginal Children’s Centre – piyura kitina (Risdon Cove)

The Aboriginal Children’s Centre is a licenced Childcare Centre in Southern Tasmania.

<p><b>ABORIGINAL CHILDREN’S CENTRE LICENCED PLACES</b></p> <p>4 Nursery    5 Toddler room    20 3 to 5 Years room    25 Vacation Care</p>	Runs daily in three rooms for <b>29</b> children
	All rooms are consistently filled, a waiting list most of the year
	Cultural school holidays program caters for <b>25</b> children  daily

## Family Support

Our community support team offers a range of services to Aboriginal families throughout Tasmania.

Family Support Workers  worked with <b>197</b> different external services in supporting our families
Playgroup, Early Learning Home Visitor and Engaging with Schools programs supported <b>78</b> parents / carers  of <b>106</b> children  from <b>63</b> families
Playgroup, on average, had <b>22</b> parents and children  attending each week

## Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Our team of qualified Counsellors work to improve emotional and social wellbeing outcomes for the Aboriginal community by providing culturally appropriate counselling services and mental health support with case management for people with complex needs.

<b>494</b> Clients	<b>30</b> Case managed	<b>2278</b> Counselling Sessions
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## takamuna pakana (recreational and sporting assistance)

The takamuna pakana Program ensured that Aboriginal community had equitable access to sports participation in club and representative sport through the purchase of memberships and equipment. It was shown that the increase in participation in sport by children was matched with improved school attendance; increasing the sense of belonging and improving physical, social and emotional wellbeing. Simply not having appropriate footwear is a significant barrier to school attendance.

Support from the takamuna pakana program has resulted in the following successes:

-  A young community member, whose swimming career started with the support of the takamuna pakana Program in 2014, was selected for the 2018 Pacific State School Games. Her family said that this support was invaluable in realising her swimming talent.
-  Families who are in contact with the child safety sector also benefit from the program as it enables families' participation in physical and recreational activities. The result includes a reduced number of child safety notifications and an increased school attendance, plus an improved sense of self, wellbeing and identity.

<b>295</b> Aboriginal participants 	<b>52%</b> of participants were female 
Over <b>30</b> families purchased  sporting footwear for their kids	
<b>10%</b> related to elite/representational activities  (AFL, basketball, swimming, BMX, athletics & karate)	

## Integrated Team Care ITC

The Integrated Team Care ITC team provides care coordination to help community members who have chronic health conditions. We support patients in better access to health specialists as well as providing access to resources that normally would be inaccessible due to cost or wait-list times.

<b>228</b> patients <b>93</b> Males  and <b>135</b> Females 	<b>58</b> new patients 	<b>239</b> transports 
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# QUMAX

Quality Use of Medicine (QUMAX) program  covered the cost of **2,911** Dose Administration Aids (DAA)

**103** clients  accessed the funded pharmacies

**45** Pharmacies  participated

## rrala milaythina-ti (Strong in Country) project

rrala milaythina-ti project assisted Aboriginal community members to spend time on milaythina (country) around the state, on daytrips and over longer periods from three to seven nights. Community were provided with opportunities to explore and learn about heritage, cultural landscapes, build confidence and knowledge.

Participants  overwhelmingly reported improved social and emotional wellbeing by being on country.



**200** plus participants  on **27** strong in country trips 

## Land management



TAC have four land management crews, 1 on the west coast, 2 on the Furneaux Islands and 1 in the south. Much of the work is weed eradication, with infrastructure maintenance and heritage protection the other important tasks. Work is constantly needed maintaining tracks, airstrips and buildings to allow access to Aboriginal land by community.

 <b>Big Dog Island</b>	 <b>lungtalanana</b>	 <b>Chappell Island/ Hummocky</b>
<b>17.4</b> km tracks slashed and cleared	<b>296</b> gorse plants over <b>1</b> hectare cut or hand pulled	<b>8.9</b> hectares burnt over 2 areas
<b>24.3</b> hectares of muttonbird rookery burned covering 4 muttonbird leases	<b>47.5</b> km tracks slashed and cleared	<b>8.4</b> hectares of boxthorn infestation cut, pasted and burned
<b>25</b> hectares of mirror bush removed	Cat  monitoring and trapping program	<b>39</b> hectares boxthorn treated for regrowth
 <b>Preminghana</b>	 <b>Babel Island</b>	 <b>putalina</b>
<b>95%</b> of all gorse on property has undergone primary control work	<b>25</b> hectares of cut and treated boxthorn burnt	Facilities cleaned and monitored allowing for increased community use
Walking  track to major wetlands reopened	<b>1.3</b> hectares of boxthorn cut and pasted	Walking  tracks slashed and cleared
 <b>Kings Run</b>	 <b>Badger Island</b>	 <b>trawtha makuminya</b>
Fire  breaks on the property maintained and tracks slashed	<b>424</b> hectares burned, in patches, across the island.	<b>7</b> kilometres of new fencing erected
 <b>Piyura kitina</b>		
<b>4</b> methods of ground preparation for native species planting trialled		

## palawa kani

Our language team continued their efforts in reconstructing our language and sharing their knowledge with community members.

<p><b>178</b> words  were retrieved from the records, predominantly place names and names of tribal people. <b>83</b> words finalised</p>	<p>A small river <b>namuruwatim</b> located and spoken <b>186</b> years to the day that our ancestors had first shared the name with the European recorder</p>
<p>Over <b>600</b> people  from preschool age to Elders participated in palawa kani language activities across the state, including truwana/ Cape Barren Island</p>	<p>A new Virgin Australia plane  named <b>tinamirakuna</b> (Macquarie River), a Greening Australia/ Virgin partnership to name <b>2</b> planes after places where Greening Australia does its work</p>
<p>A first of its kind advertisement  spoken entirely in palawa kani in response to the Tasmanian Liberal government's push to allow 4WD access to tracks over Aboriginal cultural heritage in <b>takayna/ Tarkine</b></p>	<p>Over <b>70</b> adults  and children  wrote statements about '<b>palawa kani nayri mina-tu</b>' (palawa kani matters to me) during NAIDOC 2017 celebrating Our Language Matters</p>
<p><b>2</b> new and significant Antarctic research vessels  given palawa kani names:  <b>nupiri muka</b> (Eye of the Sea) an autonomous underwater vessel for research beneath polar ice  <b>nuyina</b> – southern lights/ Aurora Australis chosen by the Australian Antarctic Division for their new icebreaker</p>	<p>Quotes from community participants of on country trips  <i>'Using palawa kani while we are walking the country links together ourselves, our community &amp; our culture'</i>  <i>'The presence of a strong language speaker brought us together &amp; in country we could hear &amp; see the connections between country, language &amp; community'</i></p>
<p><b>7</b> places on the west coast important to our ancestors, for which there are no English names, were located  <b>wungkarim</b> – sandy beach north of preminghana  <b>riwa</b> - lagoon/river running NW of preminghana  <b>kawnritim</b> – lagoons at nungu/West Point  <b>lunituk</b> – lagoons at southern end of tayrim/ Mawson Bay  <b>namuruwatim</b> - small river running through Kings Run  <b>munrak</b> - place in scrub near bank of maytim/ Arthur River  <b>liwina</b> - small river south of preminghana</p>	<p>palawa kani script translation and dialect coaching for film 'The Nightingale' was continued to final stage of production; film launched at Venice Film Festival  The name <b>nipaluna</b> (Hobart) was gifted to Hobart City Council Mayor  in Reconciliation Week 2017  Over <b>8,000</b> people heard palawa kani spoken, sung or performed live by Aborigines &amp; many thousands more accessed information about our language through TAC's multimedia platforms</p>

## Partnerships

We work closely with many other organisations to increase the range of services available to our clients, to improve how mainstream services work with the Aboriginal community, to get extra support for the rights we’re trying to protect, and to learn more about things that improve our effectiveness.



This year our main partners included:

Drug Education Network (DEN) – jointly provided worker drug and alcohol training
Salvation Army Bridge Program – residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation
Inpatient Withdrawal Management Unit – specialist AOD withdrawal support
Second Bite – provision of food for clients in need
Relationships Australia – suicide prevention planning
Aboriginal Men’s Ochre Day – national conference planning and hosting
Tobacco Coalition – policy, planning and projects to reduce smoking
Breastfeeding Coalition – policy and practical support for breastfeeding
General Practice Training Tasmania – training and placement of GP Registrars
Children’s Commissioner – protecting children’s rights particularly in out of home care
Bob Brown Foundation – protecting our land and cultural heritage
Tasmanian Wilderness Society – protecting our land and cultural heritage
Kick Start Arts – production of films and videos
NACCHO and Affiliates – Aboriginal health policy and programs
University of Tasmania Medical School – cultural awareness training for students
Tasmanian Health Department – development of Cultural Respect Framework
University of Tasmania School of Natural Sciences – interaction of humans, fire and landscapes
Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies – exchange of specialist and professional knowledge
Tasmanian Land Conservancy – Midlands regeneration project
Bush Heritage Australia – environmental protection projects

We worked closely with many government departments and their consultants to improve program efficiencies and reporting. We accepted referrals from, and made referrals to, a great many non-government organisations including for emergency relief and specialist care of clients.

# Financial Report 2017/2018

## Income and Expenditure Statement

Income	
Grants	12,448,509
Gain on the Disposal of Assets	7,384
Fees & Other Income	2,314,570
Interest	235,292
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$15,005,755</b>

Expenditure	
Salaries and Employment Costs	8,415,322
Travel	352,375
Vehicle Costs	481,376
Resources, Materials, Supplies	587,892
Professional & Consultancy Costs	1,273,794
Miscellaneous Program Expenses	109,930
Utilities	470,937
Repairs & Maintenance	206,407
Insurances	112,963
Depreciation for the Year	273,143
Loss on Revaluation of Assets	608,110
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$12,892,249</b>

Asset Revaluation Reserve Movement	
Revaluation Increments	2,225,000
Revaluation Decrements	-2,049,749
<b>Total Asset Revaluation Reserve Movement</b>	<b>\$175,251</b>

<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>\$2,288,757</b>
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## Balance Sheet

Assets	
Current Assets	10,997,071
Non-current Assets	13,551,730
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$24,548,801</b>
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	2,889,359
Non-current Liabilities	486,220
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,375,579</b>

**TOTAL INCOME**  
\$15,005,755

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**  
\$12,892,249

**NET INCOME**  
\$2,288,757

