



2022-2023

# ANNUAL REPORT



# THE VACSEEN PROJECT

Accessible, high-quality  
health care for all.

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The VacSeen Project acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. In particular we acknowledge the Turrbal and Jagera peoples on whose land our group is based. We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded. We will always strive to respect, acknowledge, include and celebrate the Indigenous peoples of this land and in our community.



# 1.0 OUR VISION

'Accessible, high-quality health care for all.'

## 1.1 OUR PURPOSE

- 1 Providing preventative health care services and treatment free of charge.
- 2 Establishing innovative programs and models for delivering health care, particularly in non-traditional spaces.
- 3 Collaborating and providing ongoing support to community members and organisations assisting in the provision of health care services.

### Respect

Treat people with dignity, pursue equity and act with compassion

### Meaningful Change

Evidence-based innovation

### Community

Build connections, combat isolation and find common goals

### High-quality care

Safe, patient-centred and convenient care



# 1.3 OUR STRATEGY

Towards the end of 2022, the executive team established a six point strategy to achieve VacSeen's charitable purpose. 2023 was VacSeen's first year of operations with this explicit strategy in place, which is summarised below.

1

## **Pop up vaccination clinics**

Conducting free pop-up influenza and COVID-19 vaccination clinics in spaces familiar and safe for people experiencing homelessness or other disadvantage.

2

## **Pop up general health clinics**

Conducting free pop-up general health care clinics in spaces familiar and safe for people experiencing homelessness or other disadvantage.

3

## **Pop-up mental health care clinics**

Conducting pop-up mental health care clinics in spaces familiar and safe for people experiencing homelessness or other disadvantage.

4

## **Developing key partnerships**

In the course of conducting the above clinics, partnering with other service providers in the homelessness space in order to target health care services more effectively and establish and maintain trust in the community.

5

## **Funding partner programs**

Where opportunities are identified, providing funding to partner health care clinics for programs targeting the prevention and control of diseases, particularly amongst vulnerable populations.

6

## **Advocacy**

Advocating for measures for greater health care accessibility for people experiencing homelessness and other disadvantage, particularly by:

- Lobbying state and federal governments to improve access to health care services for people experiencing homelessness, particularly by amending the National Immunisation Plan to entitle people experiencing homelessness to free influenza vaccines; and
- Raising awareness in the community of the barriers to health care faced by people experiencing homelessness



# 2.0 CEO REPORT



*Jeremy Hunt, co-founder and CEO, reflects on the last 12 months with The VacSeen Project and what the organisation has been able to achieve.*

2023 saw The VacSeen Project's third year of operations, a year in which VacSeen consolidated its progress to date, while still innovating with new and strengthened programs to break down barriers to effective health care.

When we founded The VacSeen Project in March 2021, we had a narrow, clear objective: of funding the purchase of influenza vaccines by local health organisations Inclusive Health and Brisbane Youth Service to enable them to provide free influenza vaccines to people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable groups. In late 2021 and 2022, our scope of operations significantly expanded, as The VacSeen Project commenced arranging and running outreach influenza and COVID-19 vaccination clinics. This year, we were fortunate to have Co-CEO (vaccine operations) Julia Bradford overseeing these vaccination programs, and she will outline how they were further developed in 2022-23 later in the report.

2023 also saw the expansion of our weekly general health clinic program; along with the continuation of the clinic held alongside Beddown in Spring Hill, The VacSeen Project established a regular Toowoomba clinic held alongside Tony's Community Kitchen. The student-run, GP-supervised clinics again provided a range of preventative healthcare solutions to many who would otherwise not have seen a medical practitioner, with a significant emphasis on continuity and frequent (rather than transient) access to care.



The VacSeen Project continues to develop and implement innovative preventative health models, and 2023 saw the launch of a new Mental Health Social Work Clinic model. This program, run in partnership with Brisbane North Psychologists, assisted more than 70 people in temporary accommodation to obtain housing, and included practical mental health support such as drug and alcohol rehabilitation referrals and anger management programs.

Our vaccination efforts also extended into advocacy, as we successfully lobbied Queensland Health to again allocate free influenza vaccines to organisations that support the health of people experiencing homelessness (including ourselves), so that uptake of vaccinations in this high-risk group wasn't subject to financial barriers.

*...continued overleaf*

The VacSeen Project also welcomed new policies adopted by the Queensland Government to allow all Queenslanders to access free influenza vaccines in 2024.

We would like to thank our supporters who have helped us make a positive impact this year, especially Australian Medical Association Queensland, The Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust, The Royal Queensland Golf Club, Brisbane Grammar School, Queensland Medical Students' Council and many others who donated amounts both big and small.

As a leadership group, we would also like to give special mention to our many volunteers, especially our local vaccination heads, clinic leads, media and communications team and medical staff, who alongside our 100+ person volunteer base, have made this year such a success.

Finally, we must thank all of those that have provided guidance and mentorship to us as a leadership group, of which there are simply too many to list.

2023 was an exciting year for The VacSeen Project, and we are even more motivated to positively impact communities through accessible preventable health programs in 2024.

We look forward to The VacSeen Project's future!



**Jeremy Hunt**  
Co-Founder & CEO



Pictured is The VacSeen Project board and Executive Team for the 2022-2023 financial year, absent Julia Bradford (from left) Michael Fielding (Secretary), Varun Karnik (Co-COO and Chief Research Officer), Pele Toussaint (Head of Partnerships), Jeremy Hunt (CEO), Lili Wackwitz (CFO), Jack Kelso-Ribbe (Chief Media Officer) and Hannah Bates (Co-COO).



# 3.0 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE



Although people experiencing homelessness tend to have substantially higher rates of illness than the broader population, they often lack access to effective healthcare services.

In line with the strategy set by the executive team outlined earlier in this report, in the 2022-23 financial year VacSeen delivered a variety of services geared towards improving health care accessibility.

## No. 01 — **Outreach Vaccine Clinics**



The VacSeen Project takes vaccines to where people feel most comfortable, and where they already are, in shelters, on the streets, and alongside other existing services. In 2023, we continued to conduct these pop-up outreach clinics to improve vaccine access and to facilitate conversations regarding vaccination and personal health more generally.

## No. 02 — **Outreach Healthcare Clinics**



In May 2022, we launched our first regular health clinic, entirely run by a team of medical students with the support of an experienced General Practitioner. In 2023, a second regular general health clinic was established in Toowoomba, which ran for three weeks each month.

## No. 03 — **Pilot Mental Health Clinic**



From March to June 2023, we partnered with North Brisbane Psychologists and Beddown to run a pilot mental health program delivering on-site support to residents of the Big Bird homeless shelter in Brisbane. The mental health social worker-lead program aims to address underlying behavioural health factors and helps patients to connect with outreach bulk-billed mental health services, government and health services, and build social and living skills to transition to lives in permanent accommodation. A further trial of the program is scheduled to take place later in 2023.

## No. 04 — **Con'TREAT'nuity Program**

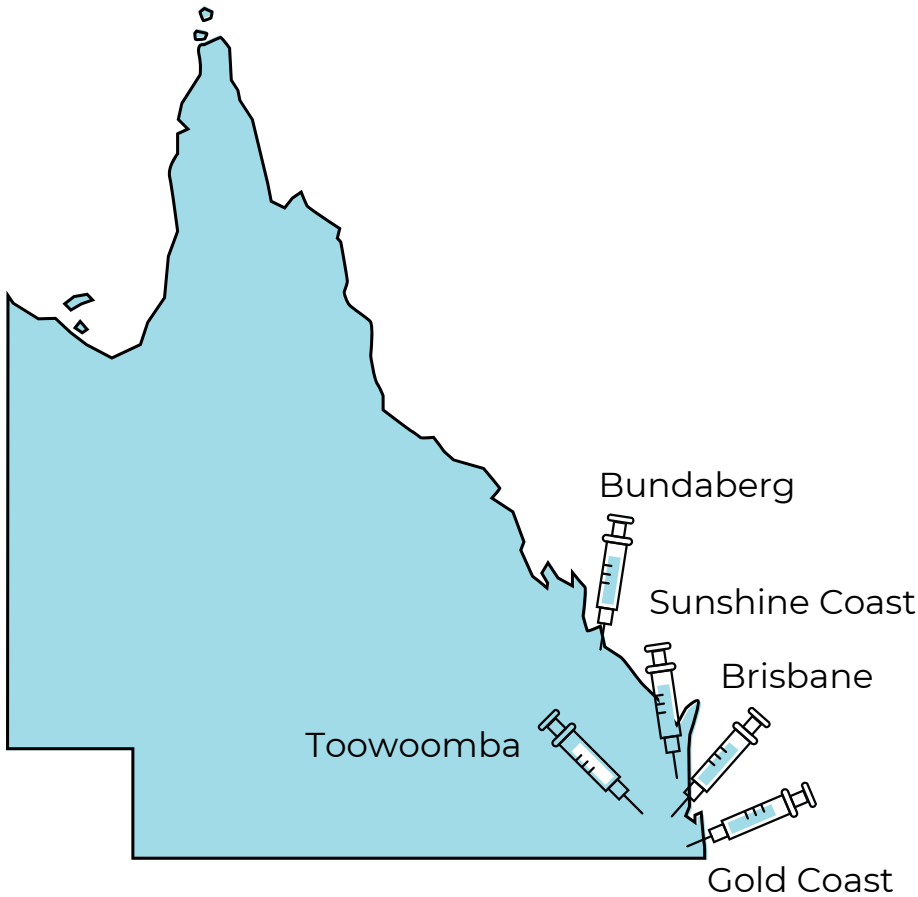


Our Con'TREAT'nuity program continued in 2023 and was incorporated into our outreach healthcare clinics, with eScripts sent to our partner pharmacy, who dispensed and delivered prescribed medications to patients experiencing homelessness. The VacSeen covers all costs associated with this initiative, so that patients are able to access necessary medications free of charge.



# 3.1 OUR IMPACT

Below is a quantitative snapshot of what we were able to achieve in 2022-23.



**109**  
clinics  
*59 vaccination, 50 general health clinics*



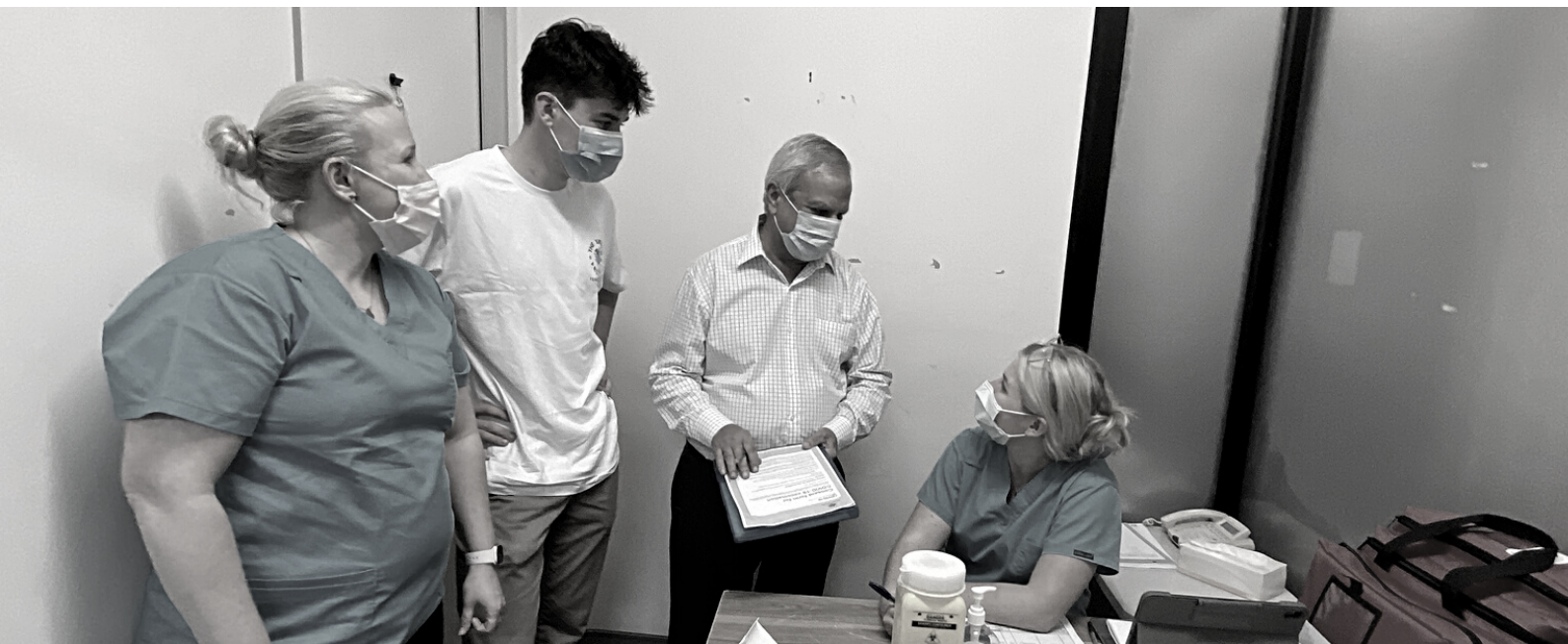
**70**  
residents  
*of temporary accommodation services supported in obtaining alternative housing*



**320**  
vaccinations  
*for Influenza & COVID-19 provided to our community*



**112**  
patients  
*at weekly outreach health clinics in Brisbane and Toowoomba*



# 3.2 YEAR IN REVIEW

## 5 Key Highlights from the 2022-2023 Financial Year

1

### Establishment of Mental Health Pilot Program

In partnership with North Brisbane Psychologists and Beddown, we launched a pilot mental health program which involved the attendance of a mental health social worker at a Brisbane shelter over a 10 week period. The initiative was conceived with the aim of (among other things) facilitating access to longer-term bulk-billed psychological care for people experiencing homelessness. Unfortunately, during the 10 week period of the pilot program, it was announced that the shelter where the trial was taking place was to close imminently. The goals of the project were accordingly amended to accommodate for the implementation of a crisis response strategy. However, this crisis support was key in supporting more than 70 residents to obtain alternative housing, and the pilot program delivered encouraging outcomes in client engagement, indicating the significant value of bringing care into familiar spaces.

2

### Continuation and Expansion of General Health Clinics

The VacSeen Project continued its regular general health clinic in Brisbane in the 2022-23 financial year in support of Beddown. In addition, a general health clinic was launched in Toowoomba at Tony's Community Kitchen. The weekly clinics are entirely run by teams of medical students with the generous support of General Practitioners, Dr Peter McKain, Dr Rachael Gray, Dr Elizabeth Flynn and Dr Laura Lee-Allison, and podiatrist Lisa de Jong.

3

### Generous Support From The Royal Queensland Golf Club

The VacSeen Project received an incredibly generous donation of \$22,530 from the Royal Queensland Golf Club raised through the Club's Golf Day. Thank you RQ!

4

### Recognition for our Co-Founder

In 2022, in recognition of his work with the VacSeen Project, co-founder Jeremy Hunt was recognised by Brisbane City Council as the 'Young Citizen of the Year' and was a finalist for the Queensland Young Australian of the Year. In 2023, Jeremy was named the 2024 Rhodes Scholar for Queensland. Well done Jeremy!

5

### The VacSeen Project Gala and our new mascot, Jabba!

In July 2022, we were thrilled to welcome partner organisations, volunteers, donors and other supporters of the VacSeen Project to our second annual gala. Held at Lightspace in Fortitude Valley, the gala served as a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our first year of operations, connect with and thank stakeholders, and raise some funds for our future operations. It was also a great opportunity to unveil our new mascot, named (by popular demand) Jabba (pictured right)! Designed by Sam Benjamin, Jabba is our friendly little guy on the move to break down barriers to health care.



## 3.3 PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: VACCINE OUTREACH

*-Julia Bradford, co-CEO (vaccine programs), outlines our key activities and progress in 2022-23 in our outreach vaccination program.*

In 2023, the VacSeen Project delivered 320 influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations across 42 dedicated vaccination clinics and 18 of our Toowoomba general health clinics. The vaccination clinics were held in Brisbane (24), Toowoomba (1), Sunshine Coast (2), Gold Coast (9) and Bundaberg (6).

Per VacSeen's strategy of connecting with partner organisations to provide health care in familiar and safe spaces, clinics were held alongside important services or at established hubs for people experiencing homelessness. This includes Wesley Mission, Orange Sky, Rosies, Beddown, Tony's Community Kitchen,

Dorcas Soup Kitchen and various community centres.

We are incredibly grateful for our dedicated volunteers who organised and operated all of our clinics this year as well as partner GPs and pharmacies who assisted in vaccine storage. We also thank Oceania Health, who provided immunisation nurses for some of our clinics and facilitated the delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations to the community.



**Julia Bradford**  
Co-CEO (vaccine programs)

## 4.0 VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



**Julie Anderson**  
Volunteer Immunisation Nurse

Julie Anderson is an immunisation nurse with a passion for equitable access to immunisation. Having worked in COVID-19 vaccination clinics during the pandemic (including with fellow community organisation Micah Projects), she saw firsthand how difficult it was for some people to access the vaccine.

While studying a Masters of Public Health and working part time as a clinical advisor, Julie volunteered as an immuniser with The VacSeen Project to continue her passion for helping to protect individuals and the community.

*"What I enjoy the most is the connections you make with people. Volunteering as an immuniser with VacSeen is more than just the procedure of vaccination. Listening to people's stories and experiences and challenging your own preconceptions is something that has been an unexpected highlight for me."*

Melody Ahfock first volunteered with VacSeen in 2022 as a clinic volunteer at VacSeen's Brisbane vaccination clinics. Having enjoyed her experience, Melody volunteered with VacSeen again in 2023, this time in an organisational role as the lead of our vaccine clinic operations in Brisbane. Currently studying medicine, Melody has played a key role in coordinating with doctors, immunisation nurses, volunteers and partner outreach organisations to deliver vaccinations to underserved populations.

For Melody, the highlight of her experience has been her genuine and meaningful interactions with the community.

*"It is a real privilege to be able to hear the stories of those who choose to share it, acknowledging the often vulnerable contexts that we operate in. From a health promotion perspective as well, I am aware that some of the people who engage with us may rarely have a positive interaction with healthcare, so it is encouraging that the experience they have with VacSeen may also offer them encouragement to access healthcare again in the future."*



**Melody Ahfock**  
Local Vaccine Clinic  
Head (Brisbane)



### **Toowoomba General Health Team**

Sophie Watson, Nipun Abeyratne  
and Jonathan Chung

Pictured (from left) Dr Rachel Gray (VacSeen volunteer GP), Tony Hurlle (Tony's Community Kitchen), Nipun Abeyratne, Jonathan Chung and Sophie Watson

All medical students at the University of Queensland, Nipun, Jono and Sophie have been a formidable team in Toowoomba. Having worked early in the year to establish a regular general health clinic at Tony's Community Kitchen, the team ultimately held 20 general health clinics in 2023, with vaccinations also offered at 18 of these clinics.

Each sharing a firm belief in accessible and free health care, working with the VacSeen Project presented a great opportunity to give back to the community. Now having spent a considerable amount of time volunteering for VacSeen, Nipun, Jono and Sophie have all enjoyed assisting grateful patients and have found the experience of witnessing tangible improvements to patients' health highly rewarding.

Along with the impact on the community, the team has valued the mentoring of volunteer doctors, including Dr Rachel Gray, Dr Elizabeth Flynn and Dr Laura Lee-Allison. Speaking on the team's behalf, Sophie says: *"it's a privilege to learn from our experienced and dedicated volunteer GPs, who are always very generous with their time and aim to making the experience a beneficial opportunity. Working with Jono and Nipun has been a blast too!"*

# 5.0 OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Our sincere thanks must go to all of the wonderful people and organisations that have continued to support The VacSeen Project in 2022 and 2023. We are truly grateful to all of our amazing sponsors and partners for their generosity. The VacSeen Project would not be the organisation it is without them.

## Key Sponsors

- Brisbane Grammar School
- Brisbane Girls Grammar School
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust
- The Royal Queensland Golf Club

## Pro bono assistance

- Minter Ellison

## Strategic Partners

- Cornwall Street Medical Centre
- Robina Medical and Dental
- Ochre Medical Centre Caloundra
- Toowoomba Day and Night Pharmacy
- North Brisbane Psychologists
- Aberdovy Clinic
- Dr Peter McKain
- Dr Rachael Gray
- Dr Elizabeth Flynn
- Dr Laura-Lee Allison
- Oceana Immunisation
- Gold Coast PHN
- Brisbane Youth Service
- BHC
- AMA Queensland
- Healthsave Everton Park
- Beddown
- Orange Sky Laundry
- Tony's Community Kitchen
- Lisa de Jong



# 6.0 OUR FINANCIALS

## Responsible People's Declaration

*per section 60.15 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*

The Responsible People, The VacSeen Project Board of Directors, declare that in the Responsible People's opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*.



Lili Wackwitz  
Co-founder and CFO  
The VacSeen Project

Responsible Person

Dated this 15th day of October 2023.



# 6.1 CFO REPORT



The CFO and The VacSeen Project's assisting members are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act 2012 and the Collections Act 1966. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The VacSeen Project Incorporated's financial statements have been prepared as required by the ACNC Act and ACNC Regulations and in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards set by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). The VacSeen Project keeps financial records in a way to properly record the associations income and expenditure, and dealings with its assets and liabilities. Comparative financial reporting from the 2021/2022 financial year indicates a 52.8% increase in revenue from donated funds and government grants and a 166.5% increase in net assets

Growth in both revenue and net assets has slowed comparative to the previous period. However, given the focus of the VacSeen Project has been on consolidating and improving operations and services, rather than building our marketing and engagement capability, this outcome is still a positive reflection of the organisation's financial performance.

As The VacSeen Project continues to reach more people, the organisation's ability to effectively deliver meaningful change and high-quality care has increased.

During the 2023 season The VacSeen Project was able to provide:

- Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines to over 320 patients at a cost of \$8 per dose;
- 59 General Health clinics at a cost of \$44 per clinic; and
- Social work and mental health support to 70 patients at a cost of \$65 per patient.

The more effectively and efficiently The VacSeen Project can deliver its services, the more vulnerable people the organisation can reach.

As a Board we are grateful for the support of our volunteers, sponsors and donors in 2023. This ongoing commitment of our community will support us as we continue to grow and adapt our services to fit the needs of people experiencing homelessness and other disadvantage. We look forward to what's next in 2024.

**Lili Wackwitz**  
Co-Founder & CFO



# 6.2 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS

Income Statement FY22-23		
<b>Revenue</b>	Donations	\$ 38,390.25
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	Vouchers - clinic incentives	\$ 1,080.00
	Clinic Equipment	\$ 6,002.22
	Medical Fridges	\$ 5,271.38
	Administrative costs	\$ 5,637.21
	Social Events	\$ 3,517.40
<b>Net Income</b>		\$ 16,882.04

# 6.3 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Balance Sheet			
	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023
<b>Current Assets</b>	-	-	-
<b>Cash at Bank</b>	\$ 2,746.53	\$ 10,138.52	\$ 27,020.56
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$ 2,746.53	\$ 10,138.52	\$ 27,020.56
<b>Non-current Assets</b>	\$ -	\$ -	-
<b>Current/Long Term Liabilities</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Net Assets</b>	\$ 2,746.53	\$ 10,138.52	\$ 27,020.56
<b>Working Capital</b>	\$ 2,746.53	\$ 10,138.52	\$ 27,020.56







## CONTACT

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