

Acquired Brain Injury Program

About one-third of the people in Spectrum's services are adults who have sustained a traumatic brain injury. Most of these individuals live in their own homes or with their families, and receive support from Spectrum staff to re-learn or maintain specific lifeskills. If an individual requires residential service, we will work together with the funder to develop a suitable resource.

ABI Lifeskills Program:

The majority of referrals are for focused, one-to-one lifeskills support that assists people to maintain the highest level of independence following their injury. Often this involves learning new strategies to cope with the complex physiological, cognitive and emotional changes people are experiencing.

Each person is carefully matched with a support worker, and together they set up regular meeting times to follow through on the individualized support plan. The plan is tailor-made to meet the person's unique needs, and may include a variety of activities such as physical rehabilitation therapy, vocational support, organizing appointments, and basic lifeskills such as banking and shopping.

Causes of Acquired Brain Injury:

Acquired brain injury may be caused by a variety of circumstances, including:

- traumatic force to the head – eg. motor vehicle injury, fall, assault, hemorrhage
- stroke
- bleeding in the brain as a result of intra cranial surgery
- lack of oxygen to the brain from anoxia/hypoxia, near drowning, cardiac arrest or drug overdose
- infections to the brain (meningitis, encephalitis)
- toxic exposure (alcohol, other drug use, toxic inhalants)
- brain tumors

Funding:

Spectrum's ABI services are funded by provincial health authorities, ICBC, and private sources.

For more information:

For information on Spectrum's Acquired Brain Injury program, contact one of our ABI program managers (the A-Team!):

Amy Tutkaluke	amy.tutkaluke@spectrumsociety.org	(604) 323-1433 ext. 219
AJ Allan	aj.allan@spectrumsociety.org	(604) 323-1433 ext. 210
Allyson Rose	allyson.rose@spectrumsociety.org	(604) 323-1433 ext. 115