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# VALID

Advocacy

Training

Community

## **VALID e-newsletter issue #40** **27/05/21**

**VALID's CEO, Kevin Stone, has released another strong statement against NDIS Independent Assessments. In the statement, VALID calls on the Minister for the NDIS, Linda Reynolds to:**

- 🚩 Stop the Independent Assessments debacle before it causes further damage. All the problems they tell you it will fix are only going to be made worse, so cut your losses while you still can;**
- 🚩 Cancel the Independent Assessment contracts and put those hundreds of millions of dollars back into the Scheme to do the job it is intended to do;**
- 🚩 Release the data – the raw numbers – on what is happening with the NDIA's budget. Commission independent research to understand the problems;**
- 🚩 Sit down with the representative bodies, engage in objectively identifying the problems and testing the solutions, and co-design the improvements that people with disabilities and their families are entitled to;**
- 🚩 Sack the CEO, and sack the rest of the content-free executives, who know everything about banking and insurance products, but nothing about people with disabilities or their families. Ditch the consultants. And while you're at it, replace the NDIS board. They have betrayed our trust and lost our confidence. You need to ask – how could they get this so wrong?**

[rallies-against-ndis.../](#)

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## Having a Say Conference



The Having a Say Conference is going virtual! This year you can join in online, attend sessions and have your say! Online Registration is now available. Concession \$25 per day and full rate \$40 per day and you can pay at the end of registering. You can register [here](#).

You can find out more about the conference [here](#).

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## Our Health Counts campaign



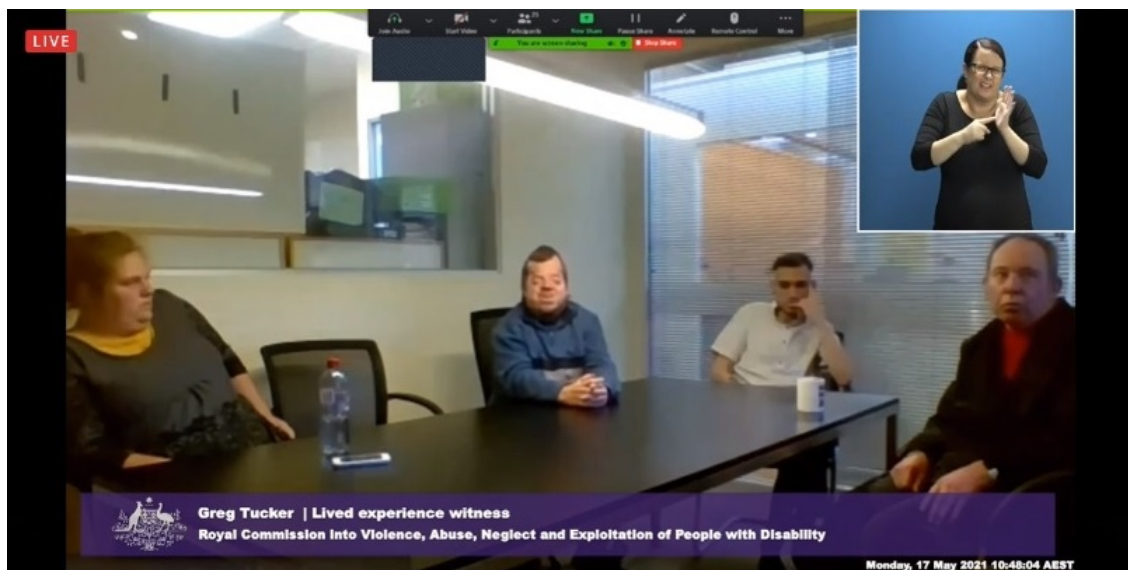
The Our Health Counts campaign advocates for the early release and steady implementation of a strong National Roadmap. The campaign is in partnership with Inclusion Australia and in collaboration with the Australian Association for Developmental Disability Medicine, Down Syndrome Australia and the Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry UNSW. Progress has been made on the campaign on the health

**\$6.7 million to improve the uptake and effectiveness of GP annual health assessments for people with intellectual disability.**  
**\$1.4 million for scoping and co-design of a National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health.**  
**\$4.6 million for development of curriculum on the needs of people with intellectual disability in tertiary education health courses.**

**You can find out more about the Budget 2021-2022 here**  
<https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/budget-2021-22-generational-change-and-record-investment-in-the-health-of-australians>

**You can find out more about the campaign here**  
<https://cid.org.au/our-campaigns/our-health-counts/>

## Disability Royal Commission



**VALID self-advocates gave evidence at the Disability Royal Commission this morning on COVID-19 vaccinations. These are some things they said:**

👉 **“I spoke to my treating health professional at a specialist hospital in Melbourne and they said, ‘Follow the government advice,’...And I asked my service provider and they said, ‘We don’t know. We’re waiting for the government.’”**

👉 **“What’s taking so long? We are a much smaller country than the United States and they’ve already had 200 million people**

📣 “Throw politics out the window...just give us the vaccine. I’m sitting here nervous not having it. I spent three and a half months locked in my unit for my own safety because I had four cases next door in my house. Throw politics aside...just do your job.”

📣 “Don’t underestimate our intelligence...give us the vaccine...give us the information...stop fighting and work together...We have the right to have the vaccine...You need to understand that when you’re talking to us about this it is stressful...Stop saying you’re going to do it...Just do it.”

You can find out more about the hearing here:

<https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/>

## Justice Matters



Self-advocate Justen Thomas from NSW has been working with VALID on our Justice for All project which is about people with intellectual disability involved in the criminal justice system. Justen has been giving us in Victoria his expert advice to help us make sure that Victorian people with intellectual disability also get their rights when they are involved in the criminal justice system.

The Justice Advocacy Service at IDRS is so important for people with cognitive disability. Read about why Justen thinks it is so important to save this service:

<https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2021/04/people-with-cognitive->

[disability/](#)

<https://m.facebook.com/NSWCID/videos/272535471262557/>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/justice-system-s-failure-to-consider-disability-can-lead-to-years-of-jail-and-homelessness-royal-commission-hears>

### **Listen to Justen talk about his journey**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-27/disability-royal-commission-justens-story/13197916>

### **Sign the petition to save the Justice Advocacy Service at IDRS:**

[https://www.change.org/p/please-give-people-with-cognitive-disability-a-fair-go-in-the-justice-system?](https://www.change.org/p/please-give-people-with-cognitive-disability-a-fair-go-in-the-justice-system?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=custom_url&recruited_by_id=96442c30-ecfd-11e6-b09c-25fb2ef154d7)

[utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=custom\\_url&recruited\\_by\\_id=96442c30-ecfd-11e6-b09c-25fb2ef154d7](https://www.change.org/p/please-give-people-with-cognitive-disability-a-fair-go-in-the-justice-system?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=custom_url&recruited_by_id=96442c30-ecfd-11e6-b09c-25fb2ef154d7)

## **VALID Membership**



**Are you a VALID member? Do you know if you become a member of VALID you can:**

- 👉 **Vote within the VALID Inc. Association**
- 👉 **Take part in working parties and sub-committees**
- 👉 **Receive a free Having a Say conference DVD.**

**And more!**

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<https://www.valid.org.au/support-us/membership/>

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