

We're Still Here!



Having a Say Conference Report



Australia's largest conference for people with disability
Deakin University, Waterfront Campus, Geelong
20th - 21st February 2023

Sponsors

VALID and the Having a Say conference Committee would like to thank ...

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Office of Professional Practice

Major partners

Having a Say conference organisers would like to thank its major partners ...



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Opening Ceremony



Welcome to Country

With the sound of the didgeridoo playing in the background, Corrine from Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Operative performed the traditional Welcome to Country. She honoured ancestors, family and community and the spiritual connection. The didgeridoo was played by Norm.



Nicole Spehar

Chairperson Local Reference Committee

Nicole on behalf of the Local Reference Committee, welcomed everyone to the conference and hoped they would have a great time.



Mel Martinelli

Executive Director, Equity and Inclusion Deakin University

Mel welcomed the delegates to Deakin University and said how proud they were to be able to support the Having a Say Conference for the past 13 years. Mel talked about work at Deakin University to increase diversity and inclusion. Supporting HaS conference is a part of this work.



Anthony Aitken

Deputy Mayor of Geelong



The Deputy Mayor welcomed the delegates to the City of Greater Geelong. Cr Aitken was very pleased to be at the conference as he identifies as a person with a disability being a deaf person who has benefited from a cochlea ear implant. He proudly is now the Deputy Mayor and he encouraged all people with disability to strive to become leaders in their community.



Fionn Skiotis

VALID CEO

Fionn started as the VALID CEO in August 2022 and so he took the opportunity during the Opening Ceremony to introduce himself to everyone at the conference.



Messages of Support

Fionn (VALID CEO) read out a message from Minister Amanda Rishworth, Minister for Social Services who was unable to attend.

A video message from the Hon. Bill Shorten, Minister for the NDIS was screened.

Tracy Mackey

NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commissioner



We thank the Commissioner for making a special trip to attend Having a Say conference.

Tracy introduced herself as the new (due to COVID time has gone fast and HaS had a break during COVID) NDIS Commissioner.



NDIS Quality
and Safeguards
Commission

Tracy talked about the roles the Commissioner's office has including

- Registration of disability workers and of service providers
- Making sure that service providers uphold the Standards
- Working with everyone (participants, workers, services) to improve how participants are treated

More on the NDIS Commissioner can be found on page 20



Joshua Burns

Performer and VALID8 team member

Joshua entertained the audience singing 'Never Say'.



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Tuesday Plenary

Dan Stubbs

Victorian Disability Workers Commissioner



Dan talked about the Victorian Disability Workers Regulation Scheme. Once again Victoria is leading the way as the scheme is only available in Victoria. Registration is voluntary and workers need to meet the regulation standards. Registered workers will receive a certificate. There will be rules for disability workers to follow and will be consistent with the NDIS Worker Screening. You can make a complaint about any disability worker in Victoria. If they don't follow the rules they can be suspended. If you would like more information you can contact the Victorian Disability Workers Commissioner by email: info@vdbc.vic.gov.au



Ellie Blackney

Performer and Peer Action Group leader

Ellie played her ukelele and sang an upbeat version of 'This is Me!', which the audience greatly appreciated.

Sir Robert Martin MNZM

Disability Advocate & Member of Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN - United Nations)



Robert Martin is one of the leading international self advocates from New Zealand. He led the charge to close institutions in New Zealand and took the fight all around the world. In recognition of Robert's achievements, Robert was honoured for his services to people with disability with a knighthood in the 2019 New Zealand New Year honours.



Robert has been part of HaS conference for many years, attending when is able. This year he was unable to attend due to ill health, so he recorded his presentation for us.

Robert Martin Award

The presentation of the Robert Martin Award to Greg Tucker was made after Robert's presentation and there is more information about why Greg received the award is on page 8.

Closing Ceremony

Award Presentations

Family Empowerment Award

was presented to Maree Hewitt (more information on page 17)



Pentland-Banfield Award

Was awarded to Kathryn Bartlett (more information on page 17)

Art Competition

The announcement of the winners of the Barbara Donovan and Sarah Guilfoil Art Competition was made by Julie Daniel, Acting Senior Practitioner. Winners were presented with a certificate and cash prize (see page 10)



Red Faces Finals

The three finalists performed and the winners were announced. More details on page 12



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treated you badly or taken
advantage of you?**

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disability-royal-commission-support](https://dss.gov.au/disability-royal-commission-support)

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Australian Government

Dinner Disco

The Dinner Disco was held on the water at The Pier on the Tuesday evening of the conference. The theme for the evening was celebration and if you wanted to, come as your favourite singer. There were a lot of Elvis's in the building, a Sia, some 'Blues Bros' and many too hard to guess!! It was a fun-filled night with delicious food, amazing music and 100's of people dancing together.

As always the band 'Un-Limited' blew us away with great songs and perfect music. So, it was a fantastic night of fun and plenty of singing along too! Thanks again to the Un-Limited band members below.



Dinner and Chat

The 'Dinner & Chat' was held in the Wah Wah Gee Restaurant (part of The Pier complex).



The Guest Speaker was Arthur Rogers.

Arthur has worked in the Victorian disability sector for over twenty years. He has been in senior roles including head of the Disability Division and as Disability Services Commissioner.

Arthur spoke about the huge changes in disability over his time. Where used to be mainly only Day Programs available, there is now a large choice for participants. Key thing for Arthur was the commitment to close institutions in Victoria and improving the lives of people with disability.

Thank you to the Victorian Disability Workers Commission for sponsoring the Having a Say Conference dinner.



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Scan the QR code
for more information

If a disability worker does
something that doesn't feel right,

we're here for you.



The Victorian Disability Worker Commission can deal with your concerns about a disability worker's behaviour or quality of their work. Our complaints service is confidential, and we can take action if something isn't right.

Because people with disability deserve to feel safe.

For more information about complaints, or if you have concerns about a disability worker, contact us:

- Visit vdwc.vic.gov.au/complaints
- Call 1800 497 132
- Meet us face to face
- Via the National Relay Service, including for Auslan interpreters: call 1300 555 727 or SMS 0423 677 767



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

Art Competition

The Having a Say Art Competition has been named in remembrance of Barbara Donovan's work for people with disabilities over the past 50 years. Barbara passed away in 2019. Barbara was a Life Member of VALID and other Geelong organisations. She has volunteered at the Having a Say conference for over 10 years.



The Barbara Donovan Art Competition is proudly sponsored by the Office of Professional Practice. All winning art works will be displayed in the foyer and corridors of the Office of Professional Practice, DFFH.



There were five winning artworks selected, three conference delegates and two non-conference entries. The Senior Practitioner ??? presented the winners with a certificate and cheque.



Best Friends! by Tammy Smith



Untitled by Kristie Newcombe



After Everything COVID by Kylie Scott



Friends Give Love & Rainbows
by Shelley McMahon



True Friends by Matthew Lam

Art Competition

The artists:

Michael Bonyhady

Sam Brogan

Steve Canning

Roshni Chellaram

Ben Chew

Melissa Close

Cheryl Cutting

Dalia Elsuokmani

Marina Fam

Brianna George

Luca Giannessi

Melinda Hewitt

Simone Killender

Matthew Lam

Michelle Langbourne

Marie McLellan

Shelley McMahon

Anita Mikletic

Ruby Nankivell

Kirstie Newcombe

Susan O'Shea

Kylie N Scott

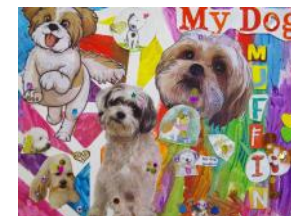
Tammy Smith

Vanessa Smith

Sonja Van Buren

Sarah Veli

Jason Vu



Red Faces Talent Show



The Red Faces Auditions were held at the Sphinx Hotel on the Monday night. The venue was buzzing with excitement as the eighteen acts performed, the crowd dancing and singing along. The judges at the auditions were, Nicole Spehar, chair of the Local Reference Committee.

The three finalists performed at the closing ceremony in Costa Hall. The judges had a hard time deciding who would be the winner.

First prize was awarded to Alycia Staples for her dance to the song '*We Got the Love*'.

Second prize was awarded to Libby Kyd for her dancing performance to *Like a Prayer* by Madonna.

Third place was awarded to BAM Arts Inc. for their performance of *SuperStardom*.

Thank you to management and staff at the Sphinx Hotel for another great night.

Thank you to the sponsor of Red Faces, InLife Independent Living.

InLife



Red Faces Performers

Name(s)	Type performance	Title of Act
1 st - Allycia Staples	Dance – Contemporary	‘We Got the Love’
2 nd - Libby Kyd	Singing and dancing performance	Like a Prayer (Madonna)
3 rd - BAM ARTS	Dancing performance	Superstardom
Ellie Blackney	Playing Ukulele	‘This is Me’
Catherine Rigoni, Marie Mclellan, Sally Bowler, Veronica Tocknell and Sue Steedman	Dancing to ‘Mickey Your So Fine’	Mickey Marvels
Gerard Langridge	Skit	‘Time Warp’
Mawarra Group Performance	Singing and Dancing	Shake a Tail Feather
Kevin Williams and Philip Conway	Singing with music and guitars	Boys from the Bush
Casey Petrie	Singing	‘Butterfly’
Margaret Willem Van Dyk	Singing	Good Luck Charm (Elvis)
Tempaney Dawson	Singing	Runaway Horses
Veronica Milicevic	Singing	‘I was made for loving you’ (Kiss)
Glenn Van Dord	Singing	Lucy in the sky with Diamonds
Shelley McMahon	Dance	Tribute dance to Van Gough
Marcus Schindler and Mary Nickson	Dancing	Disco Fever (Venus)
James Teeken	Singing & Dancing	‘My Way’ (Frank Sinatra)
Sonja Van Buren	Singing	Summer Holiday (Cliff Richard)
Tammy Smith	Dance	Jail House Rock



Tammy Smith, ‘Jail House Rock’



Sonja Van Buren, ‘Summer Holiday’



Glenn Van Dord, Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds

Our Choice Expo

The sponsors of Having a Say conference was located in the foyer of Costa Hall with the Our Choice Expo located in the mezzanine area across the Courtyard.

The Expo aims to provide information about services, rights, complaints, and the many choices available to people with disability.

Exhibitors

4GR	Leisure Options
AAA Play	My Choice Group
All Access Holidays	My Plan Manager
Aruma Support Services	Naitingel
Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA)	National Disability Support Partners
Barwon Child Youth & Family	NDIA Engagement team
Barwon Disability Resource Centre (BDRC)	NDIS partner - Latrobe Community Health Service
Care Choice	NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission (QSC)
Care I Wish	National Disability Services
Care Solutions Australia	National Organisation Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
Carers Victoria	Oncall
Carespace	Palliative Care Victoria
CFA - Country Fire Authority	PlanIt
Club Mates Travel	Plan Tracker
Connections Home Care	Positive Powerful Parents
Deakin University	Prestige In Home Care
DEC Housing	Public Transport Ombudsman
Dept of Health Victoria	RIAC
Dept. of Social Services	Safe Solutions Care
Down Syndrome Victoria	Staydry
Edge Community Services	Topcat Healthcare
eSafety Commissioner	Travellers Aid
Felicity Holistic Care	Tri State Games
Freedom Motors	Trusted Travel
genU	VALID and VALID Peer Action Groups
genU Enterprises	VDWC - Victorian Disability Workers' Commission
Great Ocean Stays	Victorian Legal Aid
Housing Hub	Villamanta Disability Rights
Inclusion Australia	WA's Individualised Services
InLife Independent Living	
Keeley's Cause	
Knoxbrooke	
Leisure Networks	



Thank you to our Expo sponsor genU



Disability Support Services

- Support Coordination
- Accommodation Options
- Employment Pathways
- Foundation Skills Training
- Individual Supports
- Occupational Therapy
- Respite Care
- Adventure & Fitness
- Applied Gaming

PHONE: 1300 558 368
WEBSITE: genu.org.au
EMAIL: contact@genu.org.au



Who was part of Having a Say?

Attendance		
Monday	Tuesday	Disco & Dinner
680	689	446
Attendance by Location		
Barwon South West region Victoria		164
National - NSW, WA, SA, ACT, NT, Tas, Q'ld		100
Metro Regions of Victoria		237
Rural regions of Victoria (excluding Barwon)		140

Participants by Category	
Person with a Disability	323
Support Staff	167
Parents & Family Members	31
Workers	114
Volunteers	81
Exhibitors	93
VALID staff, Committee & students on placement	27
Other: evaluators, facilitators etc.	13
Total individuals	849

Empowerment, Networking & Skill Development	
People with disability presenting in daytime program	92
Volunteers with disability	20
Chairpersons with disability	12
Red Faces performers	31
Art works entered in the Art Competition	33
Number of different agencies/groups involved	> 135

Awards

Sir Robert Martin Award

Sir Robert Martin is one of the leading international self advocates from New Zealand. He led the charge to close institutions in New Zealand and took the fight all around the world. In recognition of Robert's achievements, VALID sponsors the annual Robert Martin Award.

Greg was selected for his work advocating for the rights of people with disability to employment and to safety in their homes. As Sir Robert was unwell and unable to attend, the award was presented to Greg Tucker by Dan Stubbs, VDWC Commissioner.



Greg Tucker being congratulated by Dan Stubbs, VDWC

Pentland - Banfield Award

Doug Pentland and David Banfield were founding members of Reinforce which was the first self advocacy group in Victoria and Australia. Doug and David were pioneers of self advocacy and they both had a passion and commitment to see improved support for all people with an intellectual disability. VALID and Reinforce started this award at the conference to honour their contribution. Thank you to Deakin University who has sponsored this award for the past four conferences.

Colin Hiscoe from Reinforce and Louisa Smith from Deakin Uni Disability and Inclusion department spoke about the winner Kathryn Bartlett's long-term advocacy for people with a disability from the LGBTIQ+ community.



Kathryn Bartlett

Family Empowerment Award

The Family Empowerment Award is awarded to a family member who has 'stood beside' their family member and advocated for their rights to obtain appropriate support, community inclusion and a good life.

Maree Hewitt was presented with the Family Empowerment Award for her 40 years of advocating for her daughter Melinda to have an education, achieving independent living in her own home and establishing her own business.



Melinda and Maree with Award



VALID Community Development Team presenting on being included in the community (more on page 19)



Come and see us we are the ones in "green"

What services do we offer?

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- Assistance with Travel/
Transport
- Support Coordination
- Plan management
- Supported Independent Living
- Allied Health

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What makes us different?

Felicity Holistic Care bring together a team that walks beside you on your journey. We work with you, your family and entire care team to deliver the best result. We encourage and support all our clients to increase their capacity to make choices, direct their lives and plan for their future.

Our clients are wonderfully, individual and unique people. It brings our entire team great joy when our clients achieve a goal – big or small. The success of one is celebrated by many at Felicity Holistic Care.

Our adaptability and willingness to respond to unexpected situations, changes in need or urgent care allows us to confidently work with the most challenging of clients

Presentations

VALID Community Development Team

The VALID Community Development Team and Peer Action Group members thoroughly enjoyed the positive interaction and connection with other participants at the HaS conference.

The team met many people through manning the expo table, connecting with other people with a disability in workshops and over lunch or morning tea and certainly attending the disco on the last night.



On Monday at Having a Say, the Community Development team members presented a workshop on 'Creating Inclusive Communities: Active Citizens making a Difference'. *(presentation team pictured on top of page 18)*



The purpose of the workshop was to promote the benefits of people with disability leading change in their own communities.

Members shared their learnings and spoke of the things that the team has developed to:

- support leadership in community and
- self-advocacy through the community projects they had implemented.



The workshop also identified some of the challenges and positive strategies for building community leadership opportunities.



It was wonderful to see the confidence and wealth of experience and information that the presenters brought to the panel presentation.

For more information on VALID Peer Action Groups contact:
Michele Semmens E: michele@valid.org.au
T: 03 9416 4003



NDIS Commissioner Presentation

Tracy Mackey, the Commissioner of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, presented information about the NDIS Commission, and its role to make things better for NDIS participants.



The NDIS Commission is different to the National Disability Insurance Agency.

The NDIS Commission works to make sure NDIS participants can choose quality and safe services and supports that suit them. We want to protect participants' rights and help other people understand participants' rights.



We make sure that NDIS providers follow the rules and standards to keep participants safe and that providers are doing a good job. The rules for providers and workers are called the NDIS Code of Conduct and Practice Standards.



NDIS participants can talk to us if they have been hurt or treated badly or not given what they have been promised. If participants are not happy with their services, we can take action to make things better.



It is important for participants to talk to their NDIS provider first in case they can fix the problem. If participants do not want to do that or they are not happy with the provider's response, they can talk to us or use our website to find out more information.



Participants do not have to tell us their name or someone else can make the call for them. When you make it known, you make it better.

Please see links to our website and how to raise a concern and talk to us.



[What we do \(Easy Read\) | NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission](#)

[Easy Read information | NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission](#)

[Framework | NDIS Workforce Capability \(ndiscommission.gov.au\)](#)



VALID8 Program



The VALID8 Team

Working with a team and getting heaps of respect, feeling accepted and connected

What the Job is

Getting ready for work

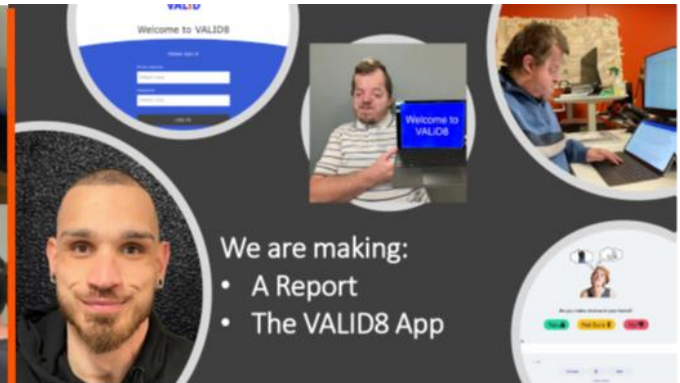


Dress code

Our Responsibilities

VALID's responsibilities to us

VALID

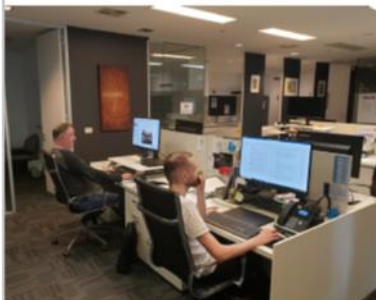


We do Group Home Visits

Our Experiences: talking to residents about their house and life



Working for VALID



Having a voice
Being treated equal
Leading by example
Creating diversity
Working with my team
Opportunities

VALID



Things Residents Said



Go to the pub



Pick their own meals at home



Go out more and go to the shops



Things that we liked, like someone having a pet



Make new friends

VALID

Self Advocacy

Empowerment

Disability Group Homes

Dealing about our own personal feelings

Importance of listening to the resident

Respecting each other



What the house was like

How it was presented

Things that we liked, like someone being given choices

Things we saw

What residents weren't happy about, like not seeing family (because of COVID), or not enough staff



VALID8

Resident Self Advocacy and Empowerment in Residential Services

Looks at service user empowerment in these areas:

- Support for decision making
- Person centred planning
- Wellbeing
- How I connect with my community
- Skill development opportunities
- Involvement in service decision making
- Organisational governance
- Input into quality processes



VALID

Because there is **no greater safeguard** than when people with disabilities speak up **for themselves**

...and we listen and act



Thankyou!

VALID

Inclusion Australia Stream

We also had lots of visitors to our table who joined in our advocacy to campaign for better pay for people with an intellectual disability.

Employment

- **‘More jobs, more choices, more pay’** – we heard about Inclusion Australia’s new inclusive employment plan for people with an intellectual disability. We also listened to two young people from South Australia talking about their own employment journeys.



Supported Decision Making

- **‘Making Decisions Your Way’** - a talk about making your own decisions with support.
- Inclusion Australia launched their new [Make Decisions Real](#) resources whilst representatives from CID, SACID, and WAIS talked about projects around Australia that are making it easier for people to be in charge of making their own decisions.
- **Workshop on Decision Making Conversations’** – led by CID about making decision



NDIS Review

- **‘The NDIS Review – have your say’** - people were invited to hear about the independent NDIS Review and how you can make a difference in the future of the NDIS. NDIS Review Panel member Kirsten Deane spoke to attendees and answered questions.



Disability Royal Commission

- **‘Disability Royal Commission – what happens next?’** Inclusion Australia led discussion about what has happened with the Disability Royal Commission and what happens next. People with an intellectual disability shared their experiences of talking to the Royal Commission and why they wanted to speak up.

Inclusive Practice

- **‘Include us in the conversation’** - Inclusion Australia’s Our Voice committee invited people to learn and share tips about being included in meetings and consultations including the NDIS Review.



More info: www.inclusionaustralia.org.au



- This is Peter Scott.
- The P.S. project was named after Peter to remember him and all of the other people who have lived in institutions in Victoria.

The things we wanted to do...



Connect with people who:

- Used to lived in Victorian institutions
 - Have no family
 - Only have paid services for support
- To find out if their life could be made better.

The things we did...

Connected with people by:

- Created a Community of Practice
- Looked at the answers
- Asked for help to find people
- Made lots of resources
- Asked people lots of questions
- Wrote a report

We asked people lots of questions



8 Good Life Domains:

1. Empowerment
2. Daily living
3. Relationships
4. Home
5. Health and Wellbeing
6. Lifelong learning
7. Work and volunteering
8. Social, community and civic participation

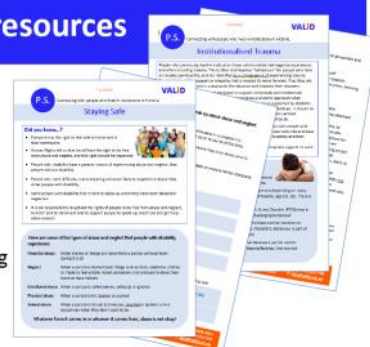
We looked at the answers



We made lots of resources

Tip Sheets: (9)

- Person Centred Planning
- Advocacy
- Supported Decision Making
- NDIS review planning



We made lots of resources

Tip Sheets: (9)

- Institutionalised Trauma
- Community Inclusion
- Staying safe
- NDIS QSC Complaints



We made lots of resources

Posters: (13)

- Planning
- Standards
- Speaking up about problems
- Complaints
- Rights and Responsibilities



We made some recommendations...



1. Staff training
2. Information and advice for staff
3. Collect peoples' stories
4. Database

We wrote a report...



Link for public version of report:

<https://valid.org.au/p-s-project-valid/>

VALID Self Advocacy Networks

The VALID Self Advocacy team and self-advocates from the Networks talked about what happens at the Network meetings.



Aims of the Network Meetings:

- To help people learn self advocacy skills.
- Give people a chance to speak up in their community and service.
- To connect with other people and services in their community.
- A forum where Network members can find out about new things.

If you would like to join one of the network meetings email Sara or Anthony for more information: sara.de@valid.org.au or anthony@valid.org.au



VALID Self Advocacy Networks



The VALID Self Advocacy Networks started in 2001



There are currently 4 Networks with over 250 members



Network meetings are held each month

VALID

Welcome



Apologies



New Members



VALID

Minutes from the Self Advocacy Network Meeting

• We talk about the minutes from the last meeting



Western Self Advocacy Network

The meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month at Maidstone Community Centre, 21 Yardley St, Maidstone from 1pm to 2pm

Self Advocacy Network

'Strengthening our Voices'



Western



Northern Self Advocacy Network

The meetings are usually held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Peters Church Hall Corner of Grimshaw St & Alma Rd, Bundoora from 10:30am to 11.45am

Self Advocacy Network

'Strengthening our Voices'



Northern

Southern Self Advocacy Network

The meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of the month at the Castlefield Community Centre, 505 Bluff Road, Hampton from 10:45am to 11.45am

Self Advocacy Network

'Strengthening our Voices'



Southern

VALID

Eastern Self Advocacy Network

The meetings are usually held on the third Monday of the month at Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood from 10:30am to 11.45am

Self Advocacy Network

'Strengthening our Voices'



Eastern

Guest Speakers

Every meeting we have a guest speaker to talk about a topic that we want to know more about, like:



Victorian Electoral Commission



Gallery



VALID



Gallery



Mawarra Group Performance 'Shake a Tail Feather'



Shelley McMahon, Tribute dance to Van Gough



Judges with the audience



Tempaney Dawson singing Runaway Horses



Boys from the Bush!! Kevin Williams and Philip



Good Luck Charm, Margaret Willems Van Dyk and friend

Feedback

It was a fantastic experience. Don't want to leave at all. Look forward to see you all in 2024. Make sure will have go cart riding. NSW delegate

My colleagues and I really enjoyed coming to the day session on Monday and got a lot out the speakers and presentations, so well worth the trip out to lovely Geelong and the Deakin campus Amaze

Damian

I really loved the conference, it was very awesome.

There was not enough performances at Costa Hall

My favourite part was listening to music and performances

The Expo was good.

There was a lot of tables from different companies with a lot of information – different disability providers and NDIS – what different services can give you.

I loved the come and try activities

I did karaoke and sang Mamma Mia

EVALUATION FORM

Questions asked

1. Did you enjoy the conference and learn new things?
2. What did you think about the presentations and workshops?
3. Did you go and see the Expo?
4. What did you think about the Come & Try activities?
5. What did you think about the Dinner and Disco?

People could choose from these **answers** and add their own comments?

- It was really good
- It was average
- It was disappointing, it needs to be improved
- Didn't go

Jordan

*It was very good, I loved it, it went too fast though.
I want it to be longer next time, more than two days.
The technology session was very interesting.
It was really good to chair the room. It was my favourite room (yellow).
Get to speak up about self advocacy (did open mike in opening ceremony)
I feel more confident getting up in front of people.
Dancing was pretty good, I liked the dinner. The band was very good.*

*There are a few new Come and Try activities like 'Self Advocacy bingo' and 'Art with Wood' that I liked. I hope for more new programs in 2026.
Awesome having the online Writers workshop in conjunction with the Dulcie Stone writers award.*

Judy

*I was happy to have a say and celebrate my ability and achievement. I a voice to be heard.
I make my own decisions*

Charlene



Jason

*Since the last time I went 5 years ago, it all went well.
I had a good response to my personal story. I really was impacted on by a story from one of the other people.
Dinner dance went well. The last song was very good, it completed the whole event well.
I learnt a lot from each of the talks I went to, which was really interesting.
Nothing could have improved, everything went well. I couldn't separate anything as the best, it was all done well.
Costa Hall was too big for presentations.*



VALID

**Be empowered
to speak up!**

Training and Consultations

Training

Courses for people with disability, family members and support staff.

Keys to Success

Is an empowerment training course that supports people with disability to speak up and have a say in their life.

Rights and Responsibilities, Self Advocacy and how to get your voice heard.

"It helped me to be more confident to speak up for myself."

"I was very happy with what we learned using our own books."

"It was good fun. I enjoyed it."

Staff Training

VALID works in partnership with services across Victoria to support people who are wanting to exercise their rights and responsibilities.

The training is designed to support staff to build the empowerment skills of individuals who are learning to lead their own lives and have a strong and confident voice.

Staying Safe

Is about what you can do if you are feeling unsafe in your home, when you are being supported or when you are in the community. The session includes videos, stories and examples of how to prevent different types of abuse.

Easy English

Is about making information more accessible and easier to read. VALID provides training in how to make Easy English documents and offers a document conversion service.



Consultations

These focus groups give people with disability and their family a chance to have their voice heard on different topics.

Focus groups also help organisations like the Government and other groups to get feedback on important matters.

Thank you to

all of the organisations and individuals that have supported us to conduct the conference

- **City of Greater Geelong** - supporting the Local Reference Committee
- **Latrobe CHS (Barwon LAC)** - for providing volunteers
- **DHHS** - for providing volunteers
- **NDIA** - Barwon and National Offices for volunteers supporting the conference
- **Senior Practitioner** - for sponsoring the Barbara Donovan & Sarah Guilfoil Art Competition and providing volunteers
- **Sphinx Hotel** - Red Faces
- **The Pier** - for supporting the Dinner Disco
- **Soda Pop Balloons Geelong**
- **T-shirt table** - thanks to Sheridan Foster and Peer Group members Mary and Marie for running the table
- **Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine** - conference bags and publicity
- **Un-Limited** - entertainment at the Dinner Disco
- **Upstage Sound** - the disco light and sound show
- **Video Essentials** - Conference DVD

Discover Disability and Inclusion

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Or contact Professor Angela Dew

angela.dew@deakin.edu.au

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B



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Thank you to our Volunteers

AN extra special thank you to all the people who volunteered their time during the conference, especially those who took time off from their paid work so they could help out!

The volunteers....

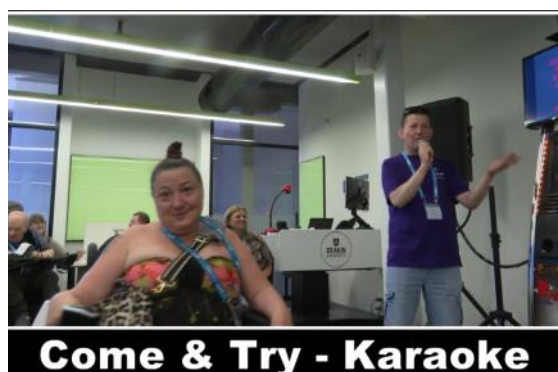
Adrienne Vandeneisen		Nina Whitton
Alain Nguyen	Josie Malley	Olivia Smith
Amber Ashby	Judy Hawkins	Pauline Hryniewiecka
Amelia Broughton	Karen Kerr-Chapman	Pauline Risoli
Ash Ward	Kate Bowman	Penny Harris
Ben Wilson	Katherine Rhodes	Peta Fensham-Cobb
Bernard Petter	Kathryn Egan	Peter Bright
Bianca D'Aquino	Kathy Cameron	Petrina Dakin
Brooke Johnson	Katie White	Philip Waters
Carolina Castillo	Kirra Pendlebury	Polly Holohan
Casey Robinson	Kulsin Siripaisankul	Rebecca Griffiths
Cate Mansfield	Laura Freak	Sam Hein
Cathy Stevens	Leanne Brown	Simone Stevens
Charli Sargeant	Leigh Kirby	Stephen Scott
Claire Mahney	Leith Condon	Tamara Reinisch
Dale Alsford	Lil Bowden	Tracee Stamboulis
Diane Hard	Maree Skiadas	Upasana Amatya
Elica Petrovska	Margot Symon	Vanessa Thomas
Eliza Charters	Marianna Codognotto	Virginia Wiggins
Erin Adams	Mel Fletcher	Vjay Dasam
Fay Agterhuis	Melanie Boswell	Yvonne Green
Frankie Gardner	Melissa Roma	
Ginny Eddey	Michael Brown	
Glenn Van Dord	Monique Santuccioni	
Gwen Coburn	Nat Fleming	
Jason Green	Natalie Raghaven	
Jen Jackson-Hall	Neva Law	
Jessica De Grandis	Nicole Kent	
Joanne Hall	Nicole Spehar	



Thank you, Come & Try Facilitators

VALID would like to thank all of the facilitators for their support in making this year's Come and Try activities such a huge success:

Art - painting	Wendy Walker	Self Advocacy	
Art with Wood	Stephen Scott	Bingo	Anthony Risoli
Badgemaking	Pauline Risoli	Speed Friendship	Jon Slingsby
Colouring in for Adults	Jess De Grandis	Online activities	
Creative Writing	Scope Australia	Quizzes (Music & Trivia)	Heather Forsyth, Derek & Liz
Dream Catcher	Mel Fletcher	Yoga	Katie Fox
Gentle Tango	Pam Jarvis		
Hair & Make-up	Pauline Risoli		
Karaoke	Volunteers		



Thank you to our Supporters

Thank you to all the individuals and organisations that supported the Having a say Conference to make it another great event!

- **City of Greater Geelong** - supporting the Local Reference Committee
- ***dal*** - delicious morning and afternoon teas and amazing catering staff
- **Deakin University Event Staff** - Great support with running the conference
- **DFFH** - for providing volunteers
- **NDIA** - Barwon and National Offices for volunteers supporting the conference
- **NDIS partners LCHS** - for providing volunteers to support participants
- **OPP** - for providing volunteers
- **Soda Pop Balloons** - discounting balloons for the disco
- **Sphinx Hotel** - Red Faces Auditions
- **The Pier** - for supporting the Dinner Disco
- **Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine** - conference bags and publicity
- **Un-Limited** - entertainment at the Dinner Disco
- **Upstage Sound** - the disco light and sound show
- **Video Essentials** - Conference DVD
- **Worksafe AFL Victoria Country** - supporting AFL Access for All Abilities activity



Reinforce group after doing their presentation

Thank You to the LRC

Local Reference Committee (LRC)

Special thank you to the members of the Local Reference Committee for all their hard work during the year.



Community Members

Angus Bannister (Vice-Chairperson), Eliza Charters
Elica Petrovska, Natalie Seymour
Simone Stevens, Nicole Spehar (Chairperson)



Women With Disability Barwon Group

Lynne Foreman



City of Greater Geelong

Allison Easey



VALID Inc.

Christine Scott

Having a Say Conference 2023 DVD

Can be purchased for \$12

order form was in your Registration Bag

Send in the order form to VALID and we will send you an invoice.

Send to postal address on the back page or email to havingasay@valid.org.au





VALID is a not-for-profit organisation managed by a voluntary Board. Board members include people with disabilities and parents. VALID is funded by the State Government to provide advocacy support to adults who have an intellectual disability.

VALID also runs programs to empower people with disabilities and families, such as self-advocacy training, peer action groups and the Having a Say Conference.

For more information contact VALID by:



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Web: www.valid.org.au



Email: info@valid.org.au



Having a Say havingasay@valid.org.au

Visit the Having a Say conference



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