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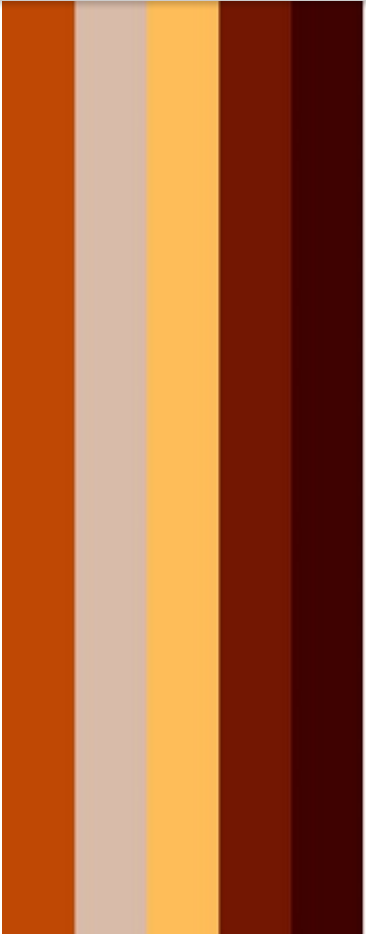
VALID e-newsletter issue #53
24/07/23

Dulcie Stone Writers Competition



Today, we honor disability advocate Dulcie Stone, as VALID launches its Dulcie Stone Writers Competition! Through her work championing people with intellectual disabilities and writing, Dulcie showed us all how creativity can make a difference. We invite all writers with an intellectual disability to participate in this incredible competition. Apply here <https://lnkd.in/gCctp9gg>

VALID's Statement in support of a Voice to Parliament

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 <p data-bbox="774 152 1093 219">First Nations voice to Parliament</p> <p data-bbox="726 271 1141 432">VALID notes The Uluru Statement from the Heart calls for the establishment of a First Nations Voice to Parliament, enshrined in the Constitution.</p> <p data-bbox="710 477 1157 638">Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people believe that a Voice will empower them, and allow them to take their rightful place in their own country.</p> <p data-bbox="726 683 1141 808">We acknowledge and deeply appreciate the invitation from the First Peoples of Australia to walk with them for a better future.</p> <p data-bbox="710 853 1157 1050">We recognise the importance of listening to the voices of First Nations people, including those among VALID's staff, members and partners, and support a YES vote in the upcoming referendum.</p>			

VALID notes The Uluru Statement from the Heart calls for the establishment of a First Nations Voice to Parliament, enshrined in the Constitution. We recognise the importance of listening to the voices of First Nations people, including those among VALID's staff, members and partners, and support a YES vote in the upcoming referendum.

Learn more about the statement on our [website](#).

Having a Say Conference 2024



Having a Say Forever!

Having a Say Conference 2024

5th & 6th February 2024

Theme: *to be announced*

Have your Say: Help us choose a theme for the Having a Say Conference 2024. As the NDIS Review is underway and the Disability Royal Commission is coming to an end, your opinion matters. Comment below with your theme suggestions - let's make sure your voice is heard. Send in your ideas into havingasay@valid.org.au or find out more [here](#).

Disability and Inclusion Film Festival



Seeing the Banyule/Darebin Peer Action Group members and so many people come together to celebrate the Fantastic Flicks Festival was fantastic. It was a great reminder of the power of art and highlighted the incredible work being done in the disability community. Twenty-five people came together at the Jika Jika Community Centre to enjoy morning tea and a range of short films performed by people with disability or about them - unlocking a whole new world of storytelling and creativity.

celebrate the power of disability and disability representation in media.

If you would like to attend one of these events or join a Peer Action Group, find out how [here](#).

Nothing about us without us



Recently at VALID's Strategy Planning day, VALID8 Project Worker, [Uli Cartwright](#), talked about the importance of people with a disability being leaders in the disability sector.

Leadership within the disability sector is vital, and the principle of "nothing about us without us" is at the core of our advocacy.

We believe that individuals with disabilities should have a say in decisions that directly affect their lives. Their voices and experiences are invaluable in shaping policies, programs, and services that truly meet their needs.

By promoting and supporting leadership opportunities for people with disabilities, we aim to ensure that their perspectives are included in all discussions and decision-making processes. This includes representation in organizations, committees, and boards that focus on disability issues.

Join us in promoting leadership within the disability sector and ensuring that the voices of individuals with disabilities are heard and respected. Together, we can work towards a more inclusive and equal society for all.

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How do we fix the NDIS?



We all know the NDIS has changed the lives of many Australians in the past ten years – but what does the next decade hold? Our friends at The ABC are investigating the current state of the NDIS and areas for improvement, and we need your help! Share your stories and insights to help build a better future for the NDIS. You can share your story [here](#).

AFSA - Search for Committee of Management members



The Autism Family Support Association (AFSA) is a volunteer, Victorian based self-help group operating since 1985. It has 300 registered members and a strong history of representation and systemic advocacy. AFSA members represent the lived experience of autism and is the collective voice for autistic people with severe and profound support needs and their parents, carers and families.

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management members presents a unique opportunity for fresh eyes, new skills and new management to take the association forward.

Expressions of interest are currently being sought from suitably skilled people interested in supporting AFSA to be part of the executive leadership and general committee teams.

Email secretary@afsconnect.org.au for an information kit.

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