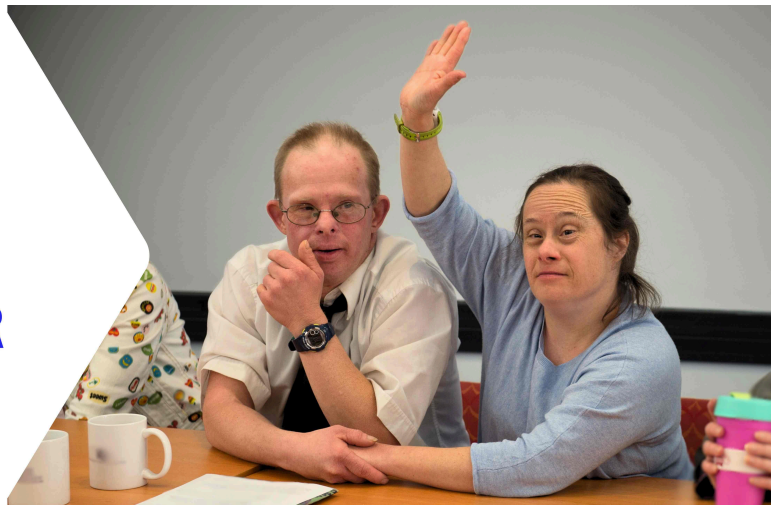




ADVOCACY IN ACTION NEWSLETTER



Message from the CEO

Welcome to 'Advocacy in Action', VALID's newly titled and redesigned e-newsletter, which we'll be sending out regularly (not too often) with lots of news and views from VALID and the sector.

The disability field remains for now in a state of significant change, or the potential for change. My sense is that a general feeling of optimism, or at least hope, that followed the Disability Royal Commission and NDIS Review, is being rapidly eroded by concerns about a lack of clear direction (particularly on responses to the DRC and Review recommendations), inadequate communication and consultation, a problematic NDIS Bill and concerns about funding for many if not most advocacy groups.

Now really is the time for the Federal and State Governments to step up on disability matters, first and foremost by talking to and engaging with people with disabilities in genuine and open consultation and co-design on the way forward. Proper consultation takes time, lots of open communication, and adequate resources for people with disabilities and their representative bodies to take part. What we seem to be getting instead are rushed processes, a lack of communication and inadequate resourcing.

All is not yet lost, but it will take a significant change in direction and approach on the part of all Australian governments to get it right. If there is simply more of the tired old ways we've seen previously from governments, in which key decisions are made at the highest levels and eventually filter down, and people with disabilities are kept guessing about matters of critical importance to their lives, I expect all sense of optimism post-DRC and Review will disappear, and people with disabilities and their allies will give voice to their

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If you haven't yet done so, please subscribe to *Advocacy in Action* and look out for future issues with updates, guest editorials and more.

Fionn Skiotis
VALID CEO

'Stay off your phone!': New VALID resource contains valuable advice for support workers.



VALID and Advocacy WA have partnered to create a new resource for support workers to help people with disabilities. The project started with a local Peer Action Group addressing barriers to participation for individuals with disabilities. They found that support workers often provide inconsistent or poor assistance when people are out in the community. The group wanted support workers to understand what kind of help is useful in different situations, like job interviews or community events. The resource is led by peers and focuses on people's real-life experiences, rather than just information from professionals.

You can find the resource [here](#).

Dual Disabilities Peer Action Group

VALID was recently funded by DFFH to set up and facilitate a self help / self advocacy group for people with dual disabilities (that is, intellectual disability and mental health issues) and their family members / carers.

The group will meet regularly for discussion, information sharing and mutual support and will be facilitated by Stephanie Mortimer. If you're interested, or know someone who might be, please



be in touch with details of the group's first meeting.



NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce Submission

Community inclusion makes everyone safer. VALID thinks the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission shouldn't regulate illegal activity; that's for the legal system. But if people with intellectual disability can't access legal help, that's a problem to address. Check out [VALID's submission](#) to the Taskforce about NDIS provider registration for more details.

Federal Government funding announcement

We are thrilled to announce that VALID has been chosen as one of the 60 organisations to receive Federal Government funding for our "In This Together" project! Our goal is to make inclusion and participation a sustainable reality for people with intellectual and other cognitive disabilities in two Victorian locations. Congratulations to all the other recipients! Check out more details [here](#).



VALID Board member is on a mission!

We are so proud to share that our very own Self Advocate and VALID Board Member, William Ward-Boas, has achieved his goal in raising the money, with YOUR help, to attend the UN Headquarters in New York for the 17th Annual Conference of State Parties Conference (COSP17) with AFDO.

As an autistic person with an intellectual disability, Will is breaking barriers and proving experts wrong. His journey to this incredible opportunity has been nothing short of incredible.

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Are you taking care of someone with a disability? VALID is offering a course for family members and caregivers. It covers planning for the future, finding the right support, legal and financial planning, and making sure your loved one has the right support. Contact Christine for more info at Christine@valid.org.au



Advocates in Action

Meet Zoe Broadway! She's a valuable member of the [Training and Consultations team](#), where she creates accessible information and leads empowerment training. Zoe has been connected to VALID for 20 years and employed with us for 14 years. She loves the variety of her work and collaborating with great people. Her free time is spent with family, and friends, and running at her local Park Run every Saturday.



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