

# Having a Say Conference 2025



Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Deakin University, Waterfront Campus  
1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong VIC 3220

**with two online streams during the conference**

## Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

from people with disability and disability groups who wish to present or perform at the Having a Say Conference 2025

### Theme: 'Our Lives, Our Voices!'

People with disabilities have shared a lot about their lives in the last few years. Our voices have been put on record in reports, reviews and consultations.

But have we *really* been heard?

Will our voices *actually* make a difference?

Will we *continue* to be listened to as things change?

Is support going to be *safer*?

Will we be able to live ordinary lives like others – holding jobs, living with those we want to, enjoying our interests and being part of our communities?

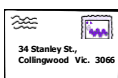
They're *our* lives, and we want our voices to be really listened to... not just recorded but truly respected.



### More Information

**VALID**

For more information about the conference, please contact the VALID Office:



34 Stanley St, (AFTER 1<sup>st</sup> Aug: 144-152 Langridge St) Collingwood 3066



Phone Chris: 0475 698 884



VALID Office: 03 9416 4003



Email: [havingasay@valid.org.au](mailto:havingasay@valid.org.au)



Website: [www.valid.org.au](http://www.valid.org.au)

## About the Having a Say Conference

The Having a Say conference helps people to find their voice, to speak up, to be heard and to be respected.

This is the conference where people listen to each other, not just to the speakers on stage. This is the conference where people respect each other's views and opinions and celebrate their common cause.

People enjoy coming to the conference for a range of reasons. Some are keen advocates for people with disability and want to debate about issues, others find the whole environment empowering and some just want to have fun!

Many people come to the conference to have a say.... maybe on open microphone or as a presenter or performer. We often get comments on the Evaluation Forms saying things like *"It was great, I felt important because everyone listened to what I said"*.

Having a Say has been around for long time because there is nothing else quite like it in Australia! People have fun, learn, gain info and cheer other people on for having a go and for their achievements.



## Aims of the Having a Say Conference

HaS aims to empower people with disability through the opportunity to:

- 'have a say' about issues that affect their lives
- celebrate ability and achievement
- be part of the planning and running of the conference
- be heard by politicians, government and service providers
- meet people from Victoria, Australia and overseas



## Priority

Priority (who gets in first) will be given to presentations/performances that:

- Involve people with disabilities in the planning and writing of the presentation
- Are presented/performed by a person/people with disability
- Relate to the conference theme (see page 1)
- Talk about the achievements and contribution of people with disability



**NOTE: we do not accept** EOI's that are just about what a service provider does, as this is a self-advocacy conference.

### Your Details (Applicant)



First name:

Last name:



Service name: *(if you are coming with a service)*

Address:



Postcode:



Telephone:

Fax:

Mobile:



Email:

### Things We Need to Know About Your Presentation ?

Will you present online (virtual) *circle* Yes / No or present in person *circle* Yes / No

What type of Presentation are you doing? (please select **ONE** checkbox)



Performance



Workshop



Presentation



Individual Stories

What is the **name** (*title*) of your presentation?



Please tell us **what topic your presentation is about** and how it works with the conference theme: **Our Lives, Our Voices!**

How will people with disability be involved in developing the presentation?





**Names of Presenters** – if you know *(for the conference program)*

**IMPORTANT:** A registration form is required for all presenters. There’s no fee for the day that you are presenting but for insurance we still need a registration form with your details.

**Presentation Length** - note you may not get the amount of time that you ask for.

Ideally, how much **time** do you need for your presentation? (please select) ✓

Please note **question time is included** within the time you are given.

*(e.g. 20 minute presentation, allow 5 – 10 minutes for questions)*

- Individual Stories 5 – 10                       15 minutes
- 30 minutes (for most sessions)             1 hour



**All rooms will have** a data projector, computer, microphones & DVD player. Audio/visual technical assistance will be available if needed. If you are bringing any electrical equipment with you, **it must be tested and tagged.**



**Equipment** needed in addition to what is listed above.

**Room set-up** (please select a checkbox)

- Workshop (table and chairs)     Theatre style (row of chairs)

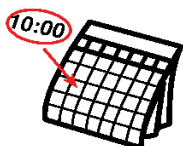


**Which day** is best for you to do your presentation?

Do you have a **preferred day (Tue, Wed or Thur)** and/or **time** of day?

No (Any day or time)

Yes (Day and Time) →



The Program Selection Committee will let you know if your EOI was accepted into the Program by the **end of September 2024**

Complete the form and send back to HaS - contacts on first page  
**Please submit by 30th August 2024** (extensions available on request)

