

# Having a Say Conference Program 2025



**Our Lives, Our Voices!**

**Australia's largest conference for people with disability**

**Deakin University | Geelong**

**Waterfront Campus | 28th - 30th January 2025**

# Sponsors

Having a Say conference organisers would like to thank ...

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# Partners

Having a Say conference organisers would like to thank ...

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**GEELONG & THE**  
**BELLARINE**

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# Welcome

## Local Reference Committee (LRC)

My name is Kate Grant-Foley and I have a disability since I was seven and went into the wheelchair about ten years ago. I live independently in Geelong. I am passionate about advocacy for people with disability and making sure this is a place where everyone has the opportunity to live happy and healthy for years to come. Having a Say conference is the largest conference for people with disabilities within Australia where people can find their voice, so I welcome you all.



Thanks Kate Grant-Foley

## Aims of the Having a Say Conference

The Having a Say Conference empowers people with disability to:

- **Have a say** about issues that affect their lives
- **Celebrate** ability and achievement
- **Help** plan and run a national conference
- **Be heard** by politicians, government and service providers
- **Meet people** from around Australia and the rest of the world
- Be supported to **share ideas** and talk about issues and recommendations made at the conference



### A team you'll love and trust

We build your disability support team with you. It's about being supported by people who get you. People you like and want to spend time with.

Meet us at VALID! Stand 5 in Costa Hall Foyer.

**Call 1800 INLIFE (1800 465 433)**

If you're using the National Relay Service start by calling 1800 555 727

[inlife.org.au](http://inlife.org.au)

View our services



InLife client Elza and Coordinator Ash



# History



The first Having a Say (HaS) Conference was held in Maryborough in the year 2000. There were almost 190 people involved and the enthusiasm generated, inspired those involved to do it again the next year.

Since then the conference has grown and from 2011 it has on average had 1000 people participating each year until COVID came along.

HaS conference has always been different. It is a conference for people with disability not for service providers. People with disability have always been a vital part of the planning and delivery of the conference.

## Barbara Donovan & Sarah Guifoil Art Competition

The Art Competition has been named in memory of Barbara Donovan who was a Life Member of VALID and other Geelong organisations. She volunteered at the Having a Say conference for over 10 years. She also worked with people with disabilities over the last 50 years.



Sadly Barbara's daughter Sarah Guilfoil passed away in May 2020. Sarah has won the Art Competition several times. The HaS Art Competition is now named in remembrance of both Barbara and Sarah.



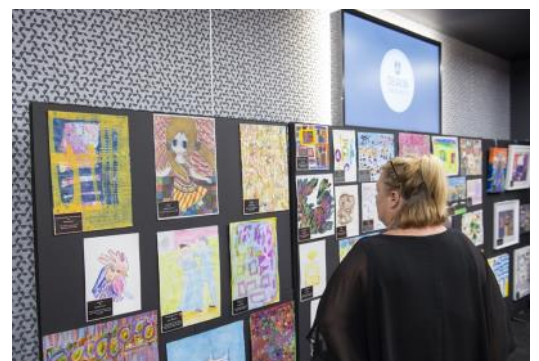
The Art Competition is proudly sponsored by the **Victorian Senior Practitioner**.

Under the Disability Act 2006 (Vic) the Victorian Senior Practitioner's role is to protect people with disability and make sure staff and services provide good quality support.



Make sure to check out the **artwork displayed** in the small foyer between the pink and grey rooms (opposite the registration desk).

The five **winning entries will be announced** and presented with their certificate during the Closing Ceremony on Thursday 30th at 12pm. (Note: prize money is sent later)



# Supporting you

## Information and Help



If you need any help or info please come to the Registration Desk.

The Registration Desk is located in the Costa Hall foyer.



People on the Registration Desk can help you find info or assistance



Attendant care



First Aid



Help with a problem



Information

## Attendant Care Support



Attendant Carers will be available during the conference and the conference dinner disco.

The attendants can provide short-term personal care and meal assistance to people who are attending the conference independently (i.e. without staff/family support).



It is important for you to be aware that this support needs to be shared with other delegates attending the conference. Support cannot be provided to assist people who need it for long periods of time, such as for a whole session.

An **accessible toilet with sling hoist** and a change table are available.

In addition the Uni has built a new **Changing Places facility** as shown on the map (see page 43). Ask at the registration desk.



## Catering



Morning and afternoon teas are included in the registration fee. Lunch is NOT provided on any day.

There is a Café at Deakin University which is located on Level 1 and is accessible via the main lifts.

# Parking and Transport



## Parking around Deakin Waterfront Campus

Carparking is available at good rates in the Deakin University carpark on the corner of Smythe & Cavendish Streets for ordinary cars.

**Accessible vans** that are too high for multi-storey car parks, can park on the ground level & also in bus parking on the waterfront - **map will be sent** to group leaders.



We would recommend using public transport when you can.

There are all day carparks nearby and multi-storey carparks for ordinary vehicles:

<https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/parking/article/item/8cb86481f530eba.aspx>



## Taxi

Geelong Taxi Network provides both a general and multi-purpose taxi service in the Geelong Region.

We advise that you **book Maxi Taxis in advance** especially for the disco.



Phone: 131 008

Geelong Maxi taxi phone: (03) 5278 5785

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# Be who you want to be with Scope

Come and visit the  
Scope stand to find out  
how we can support you.



# Photography and Media



## Photographs

During the conference you will see someone walking around filming activities. This film is used to make the Conference DVD. Photographs will also be taken.



If you **DO NOT** want to be on the video or in the photos of the conference please **tell the camera person** and the photographer.

Some people have already told us that they don't want to be in the photos or video and they will have an **orange lanyard on.**

## Conference DVD



One **FREE** DVD of the conference will be sent to all groups who attend the conference along with the Conference Report.

The DVD has memorable footage that includes conference events and activities, the Dinner Disco, presentations and workshops, HaS's Got Talent Faces Competition, Opening Ceremony and Come and Try activities. The DVD will go for over an hour.



If you would like to buy an extra copy of the DVD for yourself, please fill in the order form at the Registration and pay by the 30th March 2025

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# Special Sessions

## On the couch with Heather (open microphone)

**Tuesday and Wednesday in 3 - 4 pm session**

Open microphone is an opportunity for people to go on stage and share their experiences of the conference.

Costa Hall (Auditorium)



## Changes to the NDIS by Villamanta

A lawyer from Villamanta legal service will provide info on the changes to the NDIS & answer questions. Wed 1.30pm Green room



## Changes to Employment services

Tuesday 28th 3pm Blue Room—**Australian Disability Enterprises (ADE's)** to open employment

Thursday 30th 10.45am Pink Room - How **Disability Employment services** are changing



## Housing: What does a 'home' look like to you?

Grattan Institute - Thur 9.30am Grey Room

**Summer Foundation** is surveying people with disability about what you want from accommodation Tue 1.30pm Pink Room



## Health care for people with disabilities

Cancer Council & VALID - **cancer screening** saves lives Tue 3pm Green Room

**Healthy discussions** project - Office Public Advocate Wed 11am Grey Room



## Learn How to Make Complaints

Workshop by the **Victorian Disability Workers Commission (VDWC)** on how to get support, your way?

**Tuesday 28th at 1.30pm in the Yellow Room**



What does the **NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission** do, and how to make a complaint.

**Wednesday 29th at 1.30pm in the Yellow Room**



# Opening Ceremony

## Welcome to Country

## Welcome to Having a Say 2025

**Professor Iain Martin**

**Vice-Chancellor, Deakin University**



Professor Iain Martin has been Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University since July 2019. Prior to taking up his appointment as Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University, Professor Martin was Vice-Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University in the UK.

The Vice-Chancellor role leads the University and determines the strategic and academic vision. He also plays a major role in cultivating and sustaining Deakin's relationship with our many key external stakeholders.

## Welcome to Geelong

**Cr Stretch Kontelj**

**Mayor of Geelong**



First elected in 1998, Cr Kontelj has recently been elected as the Mayor of City of Greater Geelong. He has a long history of working with the community, including ethnic communities.

## Keynote Speaker

**Dan Stubbs**

**Victorian Disability Workers Commissioner**



As Commissioner, Dan is responsible for regulating the conduct of all Victorian disability workers. He responds to complaints about all disability workers and has the power to ban unregistered workers from the sector for breaching the Code of Conduct.

Dan has a disability; he has a sight impairment. He has an understanding of the reliance people have on disability workers and the need to ensure services are safe and high quality.

Dan is passionate about the rights and entitlements of people with disability. Previously he worked in the community legal sector as a lawyer and in various leadership roles. He has also worked extensively in developing countries where he led work on disability. Dan also has a long history of leadership in Australian disability systemic advocacy organisations

Dan is committed to advancing the rights and safety of people with disabilities. He is also more fun and interesting than this bio suggests.





## Presentation

**Christina Ryan, CEO Disability Leadership Institute**



In 2016 Christina Ryan took one of the most radical steps in her long career of activism and change making: she put the two words disability and leadership into the same sentence. Her next step was founding the Disability Leadership Institute.

Now governments and major corporations use the term “disability leadership” and Christina shares her experience and leadership knowledge with disability leaders all over the planet.

The Disability Leadership Institute is now Australia’s largest professional network of disability leaders, supporting each other through a community of practice and member groups.



As a specialist leadership coach, Christina now uses her decades of expertise built through frontline disability rights activism, community sector management, systemic advocacy, working at the United Nations, and mentoring to build more disability leaders.



### [See Me Sing Choir performance](#)

The group will perform a song in Auslan .



## Special Presentation

**Rosemary Kayess**  
**Human Rights Commissioner**



Rosemary Kayess’ five-year term as Disability Discrimination Commissioner began on Monday 29 January 2024.

Ms Kayess was one of the drafters of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). She is serving her second term on the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as Vice-Chair. She was awarded the Human Rights Medal in 2019 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Ms Kayess is a current and former member of a number of disability focused councils and committees. Current memberships include the NDIA Independent Advisory Council and the Australian Discrimination Law Experts Group. Former memberships include the Strategic Engagement Reference Group for the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.



# Wednesday Plenary



## Special Presentation

### Judy Huett, Self Advocate Leader

TOPIC: 'Growing as a Strong Self Advocate – from local to international'  
Judy lives in Burnie, Tasmania with her husband Peter. She was born and raised in a small, isolated community on the West Coast of Tasmania where she attended primary and high school.



Judy is a skilled leader who is admired and respected by people from all walks of life. In 2013 she was part of the Australian Civil Society delegation to the United Nations in Geneva to report on the UN CRPD. In 2019 she returned as co-lead of the Australian delegation.

Judy's long-standing commitment to promoting the human rights of people with intellectual disability and developing self-advocacy skills in others resulted in her receiving the Tasmanian Disability Community Achievement Award in 2010 and 2020, and the Tasmanian Individual Award for Human Rights in 2012.

## Key Note Speaker



### Louise Glanville, NDIS, Quality and Safeguards Commissioner

Louise Glanville will address the conference on the high value the Commission places on the voices of people with disability for both its day-to-day operations as a regulator and for proposed reforms that will strengthen its powers to protect the safety of NDIS participants.

Commissioner Glanville will outline the impact of regular consultation with people with disability through the Commission's Consultative Committee and other forums, the breadth and importance of input from NDIS participants into Supported Independent Living (SIL) Practice Standards development and other regulatory reform consultation, and the Commission's efforts to uplift the accessibility of its communications.

Commissioner Glanville and Associate Commissioner Natalie Wade were appointed to the NDIS Commission on 1 October 2024 and both are committed to leading an organisation that earns and maintains the trust of people with disability to share their views and experiences knowing they will make a difference.







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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](http://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.

# Closing Ceremony

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## Pentland - Banfield Award

### Deakin University



Doug Pentland and David Banfield were 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 the contribution that both Doug and David made to promoting the rights of people with disability. A self advocate leader is chosen who has continued to follow in Doug and David's footsteps, by speaking up for themselves and others. Sponsored by Deakin University.



## Sir Robert Martin Award

### Sir Robert Martin MNZM

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.



VALID sponsors the annual Robert Martin Award. A person with a disability will be selected during the conference who has had a significant impact on behalf of others with a disability and who speaks up about issues that are important to people with disability.

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## Art Prizes



Don't miss the display of artworks located in the foyer between the pink and grey rooms.

The **top 3 delegate and 2 non-delegate** entries have been selected and the winners will be awarded cash prizes and a certificate at the Closing Ceremony on Thursday 30th January 2025 at 12.00pm.



## 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. Sponsored this year by Life Without Barriers.





## Come and have some fun and learn about Melba. Visit us at the Expo and the Main Hall.

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# Visit the Our Choice Disability Expo

Tuesday 28th & Wednesday 29th January 2025

9.30am - 3.30pm

Deakin University Waterfront Campus

Information about your rights, advocacy, community activities and services.



It's 'your choice' what services to use:

- Do you know all your choices?
- Do you want to do more things in the community?
- What else is out there that you might not know about?

Exhibits with a range of services for all ages, including equipment, community and disability supports.

Thanks to our Expo sponsor



Supporting our clients to access safe, high-quality treatments and services.



**TAC** Transport Accident Commission

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**Amaze**

- Drives systemic change, acceptance and inclusion at all societal levels
- Elevates the voices of Autistic people
- Engages in advocacy and policy influence
- Shapes policies impacting the Autistic community



# Having a Say's Got Talent (HGT)



## Auditions at Sphinx Hotel

7pm Wednesday 29th January 2025

2 Thompson Road, North Geelong (See Map on page 42)



If you wish to purchase a meal, there are two options:

1. **Bain-marie** available at the entry to the function room and NO need to book. Drinks can be ordered at the bar in the function room.

OR

2. **Bistro Menu**. Bistro opens at 5.30pm. Bookings phone 5278 2911



## HGT Finals

Three Finalists from the auditions will perform at the HGT Finals during the Conference Closing Ceremony [Thursday, 30th Jan. 2025](#).

Thank you to the HGT sponsor InLife Independent Living **InLife**

**care AU**  
health & community

### Disability & Mental Health Support Services

- Home and Living (SIL/MTA/STA-Respite)
- Community Nursing (Inc. Continence Assessment)
- Mental health & Behaviour Support
- Development of life skills
- Home support/ Personal Care
- Community participation

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Get more from your plan with Plan Management from Plan Partners.

**Plan Partners**  
Together, it's possible

# Disco & Dinner

**Tuesday 28th January, 6.30pm**

**Club Italia, 515 Bellarine Hwy, Moolap** (map on page 42)

Come early and get your photo taken under the **Balloon Arch** as you enter the venue

Please collect your ticket (in white envelope) and your Conference Bag when you arrive to register at the Registration Desk at Deakin. Please **bring your ticket** with you so you have your table number. The meal will be served from 7pm.

Please note that drinks are not provided but will be available for you to buy from the bar. If you look young it might be good to bring some photo ID (identification) just in case the bar staff ask you for it.



## Theme

The theme this year is **'Dress to Impress!!'** so dress up in your best outfit, or your most impressive costume! Then let your hair down and enjoy a night filled with fun, food and dancing! Live music provided by Un-Limited.

## Thank you

VALID and the Local Reference Committee thank the Victorian Disability Worker Commission (VDWC) for their generous support in sponsoring the Having a Say conference dinner.



**Please note:**

You can drop people off at the front door and then park your vehicle in the large carpark of the venue (no cost).



Attendant Carers and First Aid Officers will be available if you need assistance during the dinner.

## Guest Speaker

Zane McKenzie, President Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service



**Topic:** Meaningfully including people with disabilities in organisations:  
What needs to Change?

Zane McKenzie began his working life as a freelance public speaker and disability advocate in Geelong. His dedication to enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities stems from both his professional commitment and own lived experiences.

He was first employed as a Community Educator at the Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre (CIRC). His career has progressed into full-time employment, including spearheading the creation of Scope's Client Advisory Panel – fundamentally transforming client involvement in strategic decision-making processes at Scope.

Today, as Scope's Workforce Strategy Lead, Zane has shifted his focus to ensuring the organisation implements future-focused workforce initiatives. This includes the Disability Inclusive Workforce Strategy, which focuses on creating meaningful employment and increasing representation of people with disabilities in senior and decision-making roles.

Zane currently also serves as the Chair of the Board at Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service. A dedicated husband and father, Zane performs as a singer and musician in his spare time.

Grab your friends and take a photo in the accessible photo booth



Photo booth sponsored by The Cliq Collection



### The Dinner Disco Band

The **Un-Limited** enterprise is brought to you by Daniel Agius & Alyssa Comito; two enthusiastic, accomplished, and highly sought after entertainers based in Melbourne, Australia. They both live and breathe music, and share a passion for their band which has grown to extreme





# Tuesday, 28th January 2025

9.30am **Registration** in the **Costa Hall Foyer** and then go visit the café and the **Our Choice Expo** in **Main Foyer** and the **Gallery**

10.30am **Having a Say Opening Ceremony** **Costa Hall**


**Welcome to Country:**

**Official Opening:** Prof. Iain Martin, Vice-Chancellor, Deakin University

**Welcome to Geelong:** Mayor, Cr Stretch Kontelj, City of Greater Geelong

**12.00pm Lunch**

1.30pm to 2.30pm

<p><b>Performance</b></p> <p>Costa Hall</p> <p>TBC</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b></p> <p><b>Yellow Room</b></p> <p>‘What does Quality support mean to you?’</p> <p>(VDWC - Victorian Disability Worker Commission)</p>	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Blue Room</b></p> <p>Self-advocate course: learning how to become ‘researchers’ (Scope)</p> <p>Our Voice Committee: national issues for people with intellectual disability</p>	<p><b>VALID Stream</b></p> <p><b>Green Room</b></p> <p>‘Being part of your Community’ (VALID Community Development team)</p> 
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**2.30pm Afternoon Tea, Costa Hall Foyer**

3.00pm to 4.00pm

<p><b>Open Microphone</b></p> <p>Costa Hall</p> <p>‘On the couch with Heather’</p> <p>* your chance to get up on the big stage and have a say on the open Microphone</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b></p> <p><b>Yellow Room</b></p> <p>Dreams and Aspirations</p> <p>- come and talk about or draw your dreams and goals for your life</p>	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Blue Room</b></p> <p>Inclusion Australia’s Employment Project transitioning from Australian Disability Enterprises (ADE’s) to open employment (Inclusion Australia)</p>	<p><b>VALID Stream</b></p> <p><b>Green Room</b></p> <p>Cancer screening &amp; early detections saves lives (VALID &amp; Cancer Council Victoria)</p>
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**6.30pm - 10.00pm Disco & dinner at Club Italia see page 18**



**Keynote Speaker** Dan Stubbs, Victorian Disability Workers Commissioner

**Performances:** by See Me Sing Choir, 'Our Lives! Our Voices!'

**Presentation:** Christina Ryan, CEO Leadership Institute

**Special Presentation:** Rosemary Kayess, Disability Discrimination Commissioner

**Open Microphone**



## Check out the Our Choice Expo

### Individual Stories

#### Grey Room

Leah Scott - Leah's Voice

Speakers Bank

- Aaron D'Altera

- Kathryn Tomkins

- Riki Domagalski

(Annecto)

### Come and Try

#### Meet in Courtyard

Badge Making

Hair & Make-Up

Gentle Tango

Self-advocacy Bingo

#### Meet Out Front

for Harley Rides

#### Online Only

Trivia Quiz



### Presentation

#### Pink Room

What might better housing and support look like for you?

(Summer Foundation)

A website for All - Easy Read website design

(Access Easy English)



## Check out the Our Choice Expo

### Presentation

#### Grey Room

Becoming a Leader  
(SACID - South Australia Council on Intellectual Disability)

Voice at the table - Be Heard!

(Voice At The Table)

### Come and Try

#### Meet in Courtyard

Art - Painting

Colouring for Adults

Hair & Make-up

Jewellery

#### Meet Out Front

for Harley Rides

#### Online Only

Yoga



### Rights Information

#### Pink Room

Being Safe online - build skills & confidence with digital  
(Down Syndrome Aus)

Be heard - Your Voice is Important  
(Victorian Electoral Commission)



Theme: Dress to Impress!

# Wednesday, 29th January 2025

8.30am **Registration** Costa Hall Foyer and Our Choice Expo in Main Foyer

9.30am **Plenary session:** Costa Hall

**Special Presentation:** Judy Huett, Self-Advocate Leader

Memorial for Sir Robert Martin and presentation of his annual award

10.30am Morning Tea, Costa Hall Foyer

11.00am to 12.00pm

<p><b>Performance</b></p> <p>Costa Hall</p> <p>‘Scope The Musical: Working 9 to 3’ (Scope - Ballarat)</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b></p> <p>Yellow Room</p> <p>Club21 and FirSkills21 at DSV (DSV - Down Syndrome Victoria)</p> <p>Goal achievers: setting goals &amp; making them happen (Sarah &amp; Cailan)</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b></p> <p>Blue Room</p> <p>National Disability Data Asset (NDDA): what is it and why is data important for people with an intellectual disability and families? (Inclusion Australia)</p>	<p><b>VALID Stream</b></p> <p>Green Room</p> <p>What the heck is VALID Connect? - an exciting update on VALID’s new team ‘VALID Connect’</p>
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12.00pm



Lunch Have lunch with friends



12.15pm

to

12.45pm

Live entertainment

1.30pm to 2.30pm

<p><b>Performance</b></p> <p>Costa Hall</p> <p>Silent Voices (We are Vivid)</p> <p>Our creative life has amplified Our Voice (Allycia &amp; Mitchell)</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b></p> <p>Yellow Room</p> <p>What does the NDIS Commission do? (NDIS Quality &amp; Safeguards Commission)</p> <p>Come and talk to Deakin &amp; Women with Disabilities Victoria</p>	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p>Blue Room</p> <p>The changes to the NDIS and what it means for you! (Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Centre)</p>	<p><b>VALID Stream</b></p> <p>Green Room</p> <p>‘Let’s get creative’ Hear ideas &amp; stories about finding joy in developing their creative side (VALID Community Development Team)</p>
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If you arrive early Deakin has a café you can visit. Plan your day.

**Presentation:** Louise Glanville, NDIS Quality & Services Commission

**Performance:** 2024 HaS's Got Talent Winner


Melba Support Services presentation: Intimacy looks different to everyone

Check out the Our Choice Expo

<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Grey Room</b></p> <p>Healthy Discussions Project - Self-Advocacy presentation (Office of Public Advocate)</p>	<p><b>Come and Try</b></p> <p><b>Meet in Courtyard</b></p> <p>Badge -making Colouring for Adults Karaoke Mates &amp; Dates</p> <p><b>Meet Out Front for Harley Rides</b></p> <p><b>Online Only</b> Music Trivia</p> 	<p><b>Individual Stories</b></p> <p><b>Pink Room</b></p> <p>Our lives, Our Voices, Our Home! (genU)</p> <p>How my life has changed (T&amp;K Services)</p> <p>My Journey (Dawn Whitehead)</p> <p>Stories from the Top End (Down Syndrome NT)</p> 
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Check out the Our Choice Expo

ent by Genu Connections TV in the Courtyard

<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Grey Room</b></p> <p>The reimagining of intimacy (Melba Support Services)</p>	<p><b>Come and Try</b></p> <p><b>Meet in Courtyard</b></p> <p>Art - Painting Colouring with Adults Gentle Tango Craft with Wood</p> <p><b>Meet Out Front for Harley Rides</b></p> <p><b>Online Only</b> Self-Advocacy Bingo</p> 	<p><b>Presentations</b></p> <p><b>Pink Room</b></p> <p>My Home, My Work, My Life! (Inclusion Group)</p> <p>My Housing Plan (VALID Self advocacy team)</p>
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# Wednesday, 29th January 2025 **continued**

2.30pm Afternoon Tea, Costa Hall Foyer

3.00pm to 4.00pm

<p><b>Open Microphone</b> Costa Hall</p> <p>‘On the couch with Heather’</p> <p>* come ‘have a say’ and talk to Heather about your life, your achievements or whatever!!</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b> Yellow Room</p> <p>Dreams and Aspirations</p> <p>- come and talk about or draw your dreams and goals for your life</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b> Blue Room</p> <p>Disability Support Pension (DSP) and working in open employment</p> <p>(Inclusion Australia)</p>	<p><b>VALID Stream</b> Green Room</p> <p>My Health My Story! (Council on Intellectual Disability)</p> <p>Listening to your voices about health &amp; health services ’ (Nat. Ctre for Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health)</p>
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7.00pm - 10.00pm Ha’s Got Talent auditions at The Sphinx see page 17

<p><b>VALID Stream</b></p> 	<p><b>Online Program</b></p> <p>The VALID Stream <b>shaded in green</b> will be streamed online and features presentations about VALID Programs</p> <p>The pink room online stream features policy discussions and presentations.</p>	<p><b>Pink Room</b></p> 
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## Feedback

We welcome any feedback you have about the Having a Say conference. Please provide your feedback at the registration desk, or via our Facebook page.



## Check out the Our Choice Expo

Presentation	Come and Try	Individual Stories
<b>Grey Room</b> Using the law to make your voice heard (Victoria Legal Aid)  Supporting people with disabilities experiencing violence. What can I do? (Safe Steps)	<b>Meet in Courtyard</b> Craft with Wood Dream Catchers Karaoke Speed Friendship  <b>Meet Out Front</b> for Harley Rides  <b>Online Only</b> Yoga	<b>Pink Room</b> Journey to becoming an Employment Ambassador (Down Syndrome Australia)  Inclusive employment for people with disabilities ... our stories (Supported Life NZ)

Eat while you watch the performers - meals are available in the function room

### Come and Try activities



A Come and Try is a fun activity which you need to book in for except for the Karaoke on Thursday, where you can join in the fun.

Go to the Registration Desk to find out more.



Delegates attending can do one Come and Try activity each day.

If you would like to change your booking go to the Registration Desk after the Opening Ceremony.



If you need help with finding an activity or help in finding a location on Deakin campus please do not hesitate to speak with a VALID staff member or go visit the **registration desk** or ask a volunteer in a light blue t-shirt.



**Volunteers** will be roaming around the Deakin campus assisting with come and try activities. If you need help with anything, feel free to ask a volunteer to help you out.

# Thursday, 30th January 2025

8.45am Registration if you are new today in Costa Hall Foyer

9.30am to 10.15am

Performance	Workshop	VALID Stream	Presentation
<p><b>Costa Hall</b></p> <p>First Act: Jolly Jukebox Journey (Thumbs Up Band)</p>	<p><b>Yellow Room</b></p> <p>Making Safe Connections - Online and Offline (The Cliq Connection)</p> <p>Sexual Lives &amp; Respectful Relationships Program (Gippsland CASA)</p>	<p><b>Green Room</b></p> <p>Understanding Guardianship and Administration (VALID Advocacy Team)</p> 	<p><b>Grey Room</b></p> <p>What a home means to you? (Grattan Institute)</p>

10.15am—10.45am morning tea

10.45am to 11.30am

Performance	Workshop	VALID Stream	Presentation
<p><b>Costa Hall</b></p> <p>Second half: Jolly Jukebox Journey (Thumbs Up Band)</p>	<p><b>Yellow Room</b></p> <p>Dreams and Aspirations</p> <p>- come and talk about or draw your dreams and the goals for your life</p>	<p><b>Green Room</b></p> <p>VALID8 and Self Advocacy Networks (VALID Self Advocacy team)</p> 	<p><b>Grey Room</b></p> <p>Having our voices heard (Scope's Client Advisory Panel)</p>

11.30am—11.50am Brunch

12.00pm - 1.00pm



## Closing Ceremony



**Art Competition** Prize presentation:

Barbara Donovan & Sarah Guilfoil Art Competition sponsored  
by Victorian Senior Practitioner



## Check out the Sponsors Expo and have a cuppa

<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Red Room</b></p> <p>My right to choose employment (Council on Intellectual Disability)</p> <p>Better for all (Gerard Langridge)</p>	<p><b>Come and Try</b></p> <p><b>Meet in Courtyard</b></p> <p>Karaoke</p> <p><b>Online Only</b></p> <p>Self-advocacy bingo</p> 	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Pink Room</b></p> <p>'Living, dying and grieving well (Palliative Care Victoria)</p> 
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<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Red Room</b></p> <p>Don't be afraid of having a voice! (Nina Carr)</p> <p>My insights on disability workers (Timothy Wright)</p>	<p><b>Come and Try</b></p> <p><b>Meet in Courtyard</b></p> <p>Karaoke</p> <p><b>Online Only</b></p> <p>To be advised</p> 	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Pink Room</b></p> <p>Disability Employment Services: What is changing? (Inclusion Australia)</p> 
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**Awards:** Pentland-Banfield Award presentation  
Family Empowerment Award



**HaS's Got Talent competition** sponsored by InLife Independent Living

- Final performances by the three finalists
- Prize presentation



# Tuesday Sessions

1.30pm to 2.30pm



## Yellow Room

Victorian Disability Worker Commission (VDWC)

**'What does quality support mean to you?'**

Come and join this fun and interactive workshop hosted by the Victorian Disability Worker Commission and the Disability Services Commissioner about what quality support means to you.

Tell us what makes you feel happy, safe and respected by your support worker or when receiving services. Come along and share when you've asked for and received really great quality support.

## Blue Room

Scope Co-design Self-Advocacy Course

**Self-advocate course: learning how to become 'researchers'**

Some clients of Scope took part in a course that taught them about research and how to be co-researchers. Co-research means research that includes people with lived experience doing the research with researchers.

This presentation will be about what 'research is' and the course. It will also explain the research that they completed, about how people with disability can be supported to live independently. Co-research gives people a voice to explore the things that are important to them

**Presenters:** *Caroline Hart, Neil Buchanan, Marcus Plush, Geoff Steer*

**'National issues for people with intellectual disability'**

Our Voice is a governance committee who provide advice to the Board of Inclusion Australia. Our Voice members are people with an intellectual disability from across Australia. They will give a presentation about including people with intellectual disability in governance – why it is important and how to do it well.



## Green Room

VALID Community Development team

**'Let's get creative'**

Hear ideas, and stories from people with disability, who are finding joy developing their creative side of life

**VALID**



# Tuesday Sessions 1.30pm to 2.30pm Continued

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## Grey Room Individual Stories

### 'My Voice!'

**Presenter:** *Leah Scott* Leah will talk about having a voice in her life.

### Speaking out about invisible disability

**Presenter:** *Kathryn Tomkins*

### Finding my passion, despite adversity

**Presenter:** *Riki Domagalski*

### Living with ABI and how I got to where I am today

**Presenter:** Aaron D'Altera

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## Pink Room

### What might better housing and support look like for you?

For the past 30 years, the way people living in disability housing are supported has changed very little. It needs to change!

The Summer Foundation is working to make housing and support better. We believe better is possible. How can we make it better? By asking people with disability what is good and what can be improved. We are also looking at what works in Australia and in other countries. We will tell you what we learnt and what we are excited about.

Mostly - we are at this conference to listen. Come and find us at the Summer Foundation table at the Expo to have your say. We are happy to just have a chat. We can also help you fill in a short survey so you can have your say about new services and housing options.

**Presenter:** *Ella-Rose Minter*

### Access Easy English : A Website for All

We co-design a new website with people with low literacy. They all had to experience in using websites or no positive stories. The website design is what people said they needed. It is called [www.readee.com.au](http://www.readee.com.au) that includes a video. Come along & give us your feedback & suggestions about the website



# Tuesday Sessions 3.00pm to 4.00pm



## Costa Hall

### Open Microphone

#### On the couch with Heather

Come have a go on the big stage and tell everyone about your life or ???



## Yellow Room

### Dreams and Aspirations

The Dreams and Aspirations workshop is a place where people get to talk about their future and the things that they would like to do in their life. Achieving your goals.



## Blue Room

### Inclusion Australia

Inclusion Australia's Employment Project: transitioning from Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) to open employment.



## Green Room

**VALID**

### VALID & Cancer Council of Victoria

#### Cancer screening and early detection saves lives'

Screening is the most effective way to detect early signs of cancer. The earlier you find cancer, the easier it is to treat and hopefully get rid of cancer.

Not enough people with disabilities are doing or know about bowel and cervical screening.

VALID and Cancer Council Victoria have joined together to increase cancer screening awareness for people with disabilities.

This session will be presented by VALID's team members on the importance of doing regular bowel and cervical screening tests. The team will present information in an accessible matter on:

- What is cancer
- What is cervical and bowel cancer
- How to test for cervical and bowel cancer
- Signs of bowel and cervical cancer
- What happens during a cervical or bowel screening test
- How to prevent getting bowel and cervical cancer
- Where to get help.



## Tuesday Sessions 3.00pm to 4.00pm continued

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### Grey Room



#### SACID (South Australia Council on Intellectual Disability)

##### Becoming a Leader

Everybody can be leaders! In our presentation we will talk about ways you can be a leader. It will include: why it is important to be a leader, skills of a leader and we will share some of our resources. We can be leaders of our own lives. We can be leaders in the community.

**Presenter:** *Sarah Byrne & Mel Cheung*

### Voice at the Table

##### 'Be Heard'



Voice at the Table (VATT) supports people with cognitive disabilities to understand their rights and confidently share their voices. Our mission is to ensure that people with cognitive disabilities are meaningfully included in decision-making spaces such as boards, committees, and consultations

**Presenter:** *Jarrod Sandell-Hay, Julyne Ainsley*

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### Pink Room



Down Syndrome  
Australia

#### Down Syndrome Australia (DSA)

##### Being Safe online—build skills & confidence with digital

DSA has partnered with Good Things Australia (GTA) to bridge the digital divide. We increase awareness and skills of people with intellectual disability to stay safe online. It will introduce people to the program, explore online training modules and have a go at using the resources. You can keep learning at home using the free modules and resources. It also helps people be listened to and really heard - Our Lives, Our Voices

**Presenter:** *Eion Gibson and Elizabeth Willis & Sindre Bloch*



### Victoria Electoral Commission

##### Be Heard - Your voice is important

An interactive session for everyone. It will talk about your right to vote and be part of 'democracy' (electing a government). Key points:

- How does democracy affect our everyday lives?
- How many levels of government are there?
- How voting works
- Enrolling to vote
- Why it is important for people with a disability to vote
- Disability supports and communication tools available for participation on the day.

**Presenters:** *Lisa Frost & Alex Sencek*



Victorian Electoral  
Commission



# Wednesday Sessions 11.00am to 12.00pm

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## Costa Hall

### Scope (Ballarat)

#### 'Scope the Musical: Working 9 to 3'

It's a day in the life of Ballarat Scope clients. What they like to do and the choices they make

**Presenters:** *Madi Hunt, Jessie Dagleish, Alec Grant, Jonty Reeves, Michael Kattula, Dylan Troon, Taylor Kerry, Grace Geljon, Ashleigh Bykersma, Maggie Brugman*

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## Yellow Room

### Down Syndrome Victoria (DSV)

#### Club 21 and FitSkills21 at DSV

Down Syndrome Victoria are excited to have launched Club21 and FitSkills21 in Geelong! Matt O'Neil, DSV's Advisory Network Chair would love to share his experience of being a self-advocate and ambassador for the FitSkills21 program and a bit about the opportunities to get involved with DSV via their Club21 and FitSkills21 programs.

**Presenters:** *Matt O'Neil and Debby Fraumano*



#### Goal & achievers: setting goals and making them happen

Everyone has goals. Your goal might be to save money for something special, or plan a birthday party. You might even want to achieve something that feels really hard - like get over one of your biggest fears! We think we know how to make goal achieving easier.

Taking control of your goals just takes some planning. Finding the right people to help is important too. In our workshop you can learn how we do it, then you will be able to do it too!

**Presenters:** *Sarah Porter, Cailan Ford-Weinberg & Anna Brooks*



Inclusion  
Australia

## Blue Room

### Inclusion Australia

#### 'National Disability Data Asset (NDDA): what is it and why is data important for people with an intellectual disability and families?

The National Disability Data Asset (NDDA) is a project to connect information about Australians with disability in a new way. It will help us to better understand the experiences of people with disability and improve supports and services. In this session, we will talk about what the NDDA is and why it is important for people with an intellectual disability and families. We will also ask what information people want to know about data and how you think the NDDA can best communicate with people with an intellectual disability about the work it does.

Data - info about you





## Wednesday Sessions 11.00am to 12.00pm continued



### Green Room

#### What the heck is VALID Connect?

Join us for an exciting update on VALID's new team, VALID Connect! In this session, we'll tell you about what we do and what has been done since the last conference.

We will tell you about:

- focus Groups
- training
- Easy Read work
- how you can join our focus groups.

We will also give you an update on the Mental Health and Wellbeing project with National Disability Services (NDS) and the Right Direction project with Melbourne University.

Come and hear about how things are going

**Presenters:** *Jon Slingsby, Zoe Broadway, Deniz Akin & Tahlia Seedy and Keith McVilly*

### Grey Room



#### Office of the Public Advocate (OPA)

##### Healthy Discussions Project - self-advocacy presentation

OPA promotes people with disability having their dignity, autonomy and rights met. We believe the messaging of the Healthy Discussions Project encourage people with disability to feel confident in their healthcare appointments and to be able to exercise their decision-making rights to the greatest outcome possible. Key points of the presentation:

- Committee members about the work they have done with OPA.
- OPA's Lived Experience Advisory Committee will show new Supported Discussions project Decisions making: "A human right" video

**Presenters:** *Jane Rosengrave, Tarli Sali, William Ward-Boas, Michelle Wilcox*



### Pink Room

#### Individual Stories

**Our Lives, Our Voices, Our Home!** - genU - Kathy Blomeley, Bernadette Wood, Stephen Selwood, Jessica Moore

**How my life has changed** - T&K Services Heidi, Lucas, Deanna, Tammie, Michelle

**My Journey** - Dawn Whitehead

**Stories from the Top End** - Down Syndrome Northern Territory



# Wednesday Sessions 1.30pm to 2.30pm



## Costa Hall

### 'Silent Voices' by We Are Vivid

Silent voices use their sign language skills to communicate the words of songs **Presenters:** *Shaniah Greenhill, Leigh Coffey, Toni Barton, Brooke Ackland, Nathan Dri & Kate Michaels*

### Our Creative Life Has Amplified Our Voice by Allycia & Mitchell

A retrospective presentation by Allycia and Mitch sharing their journey as artists. A screening of *Luminosity* - Winner of the Focus On Ability Film Festival 2021. A short performance piece by the duo



NDIS Quality  
and Safeguards  
Commission

## Yellow Room

### NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission

#### What does the NDIS Commission do?

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (The Commission) will be presenting an overview of the functions of The Commission and how they support people with disability. There will be a question and answer session following the presentation



### Lead Your Way with Deakin & Women with Disabilities Victoria

Women with Disabilities Victoria and Deakin Disability and Inclusion team are presenting a workshop. It's called Lead Your Way and it's presented by people with disabilities.

We think people with disabilities are leaders. In this workshop we'll be looking at lots of different ways to lead. We'll talk about our skills and strengths, and how they make us great leaders.

The workshop will focus on the experiences of women with disabilities, but everyone is welcome. Please come along!

**Presenters:** *Rosie Granland, Liz Wright, Brigitte Stone, & Vanessa Davis*



## Blue Room

### Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service

#### The changes to the NDIS and what it means for you

Many people with disability and their families and supporters are worried about the changes to the NDIS rules. Opportunity to talk about what it means in real life and ask your questions

**Presenters:** *Naomi Anderson*



## Green Room

### VALID Community Development Team

#### Let's get creative

Hear ideas, and stories from people with disability, who are finding joy developing their creative side of life

VALID



## Grey Room

### Melba Support Services

**'The reimagining of intimacy:** where people with disability have the loudest voice at the table '

Intimacy and sexuality are an intrinsic part of human existence, contributing to emotional, psychological and physical well-being. Intimacy may not look the same for all of us and it may not follow the same pathway.

Does how intimacy looks to different people make it less important? Join us as we discuss a reimagined approach to intimacy. This approach puts people with disability front and centre of the conversation. Join us to develop our advocacy plan for the next 12 months.

Nothing is off the table, if it matters to you, we want to hear about it.

**Presenter:** *Kate Taylor*



## Pink Room

### Inclusion Group

#### **My Home, My Work, My Life!!**

It is becoming more important than ever for people to have a say, and choice, over how, and who they live with, and what they do for work.

This presentation will show videos of people with disability living their lives, working in jobs they are valued for (earning a good wage), and living in their own home - demonstrating what is possible when genuine, individualised and community support is provided as an alternative to living or working in groups. .

**Presenters:** *Leanne Pearman*



### VALID My Housing Plan team

#### **My Housing Plan**

Unfortunately, there is a huge gap when it comes to people being prepared with information about what they want & need prior to their NDIS planning meeting.

Often people have not had the time and opportunity to process and discuss important and lifechanging choices, one of these being housing and living options.

In this presentation you will learn about the 'My Housing Plan' project from the My Housing Plan co-design team. The project aims are to provide people with information and a roadmap around their housing & living options, so that people with disability can better direct their lives.



**VALID**

# Wednesday Sessions 3.00pm to 4.00pm



## Costa Hall

### Open Microphone

#### On the couch with Heather

Come have a go on the big stage and tell everyone about your ... life, job, achievements, favourite sport or whatever!!



## Yellow Room

### Dreams and Aspirations

The Dreams and Aspirations workshop is a place where people get to talk about their future and the things that they would like to do in their life. Achieving your goals.



## Blue Room

### Inclusion Australia

#### DSP - Disability Support Pension and working in Open Employment

The Disability Support Pension (DSP) is an important payment for many people with an intellectual disability. It also includes important concessions for things like healthcare and transport.

But it is hard to get good information about how the DSP works, and some people feel worried about earning more money from their wage in case it makes their DSP and other concessions stop.

In this session, we will talk about how the DSP works and why you will still be better off earning money in open employment and getting the DSP. We will also ask you what information you want to know about the



## Green Room

### Council on Intellectual Disability NSW

#### My Health, My Story

People with intellectual disability have the right to access and receive the quality healthcare they need & want, just like everyone else. At CID we have been advocating for better health outcomes for people with intellectual disability for many years. In this presentation Pamela Darling, project worker with intellectual disability, will reflect on her own experience with healthcare. She will share some examples of how she spoke up & what she did to have a better experience in her healthcare & help health professionals support her better. Pamela will share resources that can help people with intellectual disability in their healthcare.

**Presenter:** Pam Darling

[See next page for second presentation in the Green Room](#)





## Wednesday Sessions 3.00pm to 4.00pm continued



### Green Room CONTINUED

#### **NCEIDH - National Centre for Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health**

##### **Listening to your voices about health & health services**

This presentation is about the way the National Centre of Excellence is working to hear the voices of people with intellectual disability, families, carers and supporters. The Centre wants to hear about the health experiences and the health needs of people with intellectual disability. At this session you will hear from people with intellectual disability who are working at the Centre as 'Learn and Lead Group Members' and also how you can be involved

**Presenter:** *Ricky Kremer, Rebecca Biddle, Greg Bonyhady & Ray*

### Grey Room



#### **Victoria Legal Aid (VLA)**

##### **Using the law to make your voice heard**

The legal system is one way that people with disabilities can have their voices heard on issues important to them. Sometimes, the legal system can be intimidating & confusing. This presentation will explain how people with disabilities can get help from lawyers at VLA. It will explain how VLA lawyers advise and represent clients with disabilities, so they feel more confident to have their voices heard by government courts and tribunals, or other decision-makers .

**Presenters:** *Jacinta Moloney and Mark Tregonning*

### Pink Room



#### **Down Syndrome Australia (DSA)**

##### **My Journey to becoming an Employment Ambassador**

I am going to tell my story about how I gained paid employment & then an Employment Ambassador at Down Syndrome Australia.

**Presenters:** *Eoin Gibson, Catherine Gibson, Elizabeth Willis, Keziah Glenane*



#### **A Supported Life NZ (New Zealand)**

##### **Inclusive employment for people with disabilities... our stories**

The positives and negatives of employment when you have a disability. Discussing the barriers in finding and also during employment and how we overcame them. We will also discuss how we would like our voices to be heard within the workforce.

# Thursday Sessions 9.30pm to 10.15pm

## Costa Hall



### PART 1: Jolly Jukebox Journey by Thumbs Up Band

The show takes the audience on a colourful journey of discovery about each member of Thumbs Up. Historic personal and creative photos accompany individual songs which describe their unique lives, interests & personalities. Favourite cover songs have also been chosen by the band  
**Performers:** *James Alsop, Peter Church, Robbie Farquhar, Kylie Finlay, Tim Hunt, Cherise Jettner, Paul Kenny, Bruce Peitsch, Kevin Richardson*

## Yellow Room



### The Cliq Connection **Making safe connections—online and offline**

Want to learn how to stay safe while making friends, chatting online, or even dating? Join us for an interactive session where we'll share simple tips for talking to people, knowing what to share (and not share), and avoiding scams.



### Gippsland CASA (Centre Against Sexual Assault)

#### **Sexual Lives & Respectful Relationships Program**

Info and discussion on the SLRR program and having good relationships.



## Green Room

### VALID Advocacy Team

#### **Understanding Guardianship and Administration**

These legal roles are often mixed up, so what do they mean for you?



## Grey Room

### Grattan Institute **What a Home means to you?**

Getting more choice and support with housing and living supports to live independently. How the NDIS needs to change so that people with disability get more of a voice in decisions about where they live, who they live with and who provides their support.



## Red Room

### Council on Intellectual Disability (CID) **My right to choose employment**

CID is an advocacy organisation led by people with intellectual disability, for people with intellectual disability. This presentation will highlight the career pathway & the importance of peoples own voices in their own lives



### Gerrard Langridge - **Better for all**

Better way for workers with all abilities in work places.

## Thursday Sessions 9.30am to 10.15pm continued

### Pink Room



#### Living, Dying & Grieving Well, Palliative Care Victoria

Palliative Care Victoria in collaboration with the VALID team prepared peer to peer sessions for people with intellectual disability living in group homes to encourage conversations with their carers and families about how they want to live, die and grieve well. Talking about death and dying is still a taboo. In some cases, family or staff actively decide not to inform individuals with ID that they are dying or that a housemate is dying. Their voices needs to be heard. They have a right to be informed .

**Presenters:** *Heike Fleischmann including self-advocates Celeste Rattray-Wood & Gregory Tucker*

## Thursday Sessions 10.45am to 11.30am



### Costa Hall - PART 2: Jolly Jukebox Journey by Thumbs Up Band

See info at the top of previous page



### Yellow Room

**Dreams and Aspirations** workshop is a place where people get to talk about their future and the things that they would like to do in their life, like getting a job or a new home.



### Green Room

**VALID**

#### VALID8 and Self Advocacy Networks

Self-advocacy is learning the skills and confidence to become empowered and to speak up about things that are happening in your life.

This presentation focusses on the importance of self advocacy and how people are empowered to speak up for themselves through VALID programs including Self Advocacy Networks and VALID8.

The Self Advocacy Networks empower members to speak up about things that are important to them and provide opportunities for members to speak up in their community.



### Grey Room

#### Scope's Client Advisory Panel

#### Having our voices heard - our experience on Scope's Client Advisory Panel

Members of Scope's Client Advisory Panel will share their experience of being a part of the Client Advisory Panel. As one member has said about her experience 'I didn't know people with disability had a voice until I joined the Panel'. Members want to share what it means to them to be a member, to be heard, how being a member has helped them grow, and how it feels to have the organisation listen and act on their insights and experience.



## Thursday Sessions 10.45am to 11.30pm continued

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### Red Room

#### Nina Carr - **By us For Us!**

Don't be afraid to have a voice and find an avenue with purpose for your voice. All of us deserves to be recognised as an essential voice and you can make changes happen

#### Timothy Wright - **My Insights into disability support workers**

I used my voice to join the Multicap Haven group to present my views to around 200 support workers I provided insights to my life with disability and things I would like workers to consider.

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### Pink Room

#### Inclusion Australia

#### **Disability employment Services (DES): what is changing?**

The Australian Government is making a new disability employment program. This will be ready in July 2025, and it will replace the current Disability Employment Services (DES) program. Inclusion Australia has been working hard to make sure the new program works well for people with an intellectual disability.



In this session, we will share what we know about how DES will change. We will also ask what you would like to know about the new program, and how you think the Australian Government should communicate with people with an intellectual disability about this change.

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## Thank you to

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

- **Latrobe CHS (Barwon LAC)** - for providing volunteers
- **DFFH** - for providing volunteers
- Plan Partners - for registration bags
- **NDIA** - Barwon and National Offices for volunteers supporting the conference
- **Senior Practitioner** - for sponsoring the Art Competition and volunteers
- **Sphinx Hotel** - HaS's Got Talent auditions
- **Club Italia** - for supporting the Dinner Disco
- **Tourism Greater Geelong** and the Bellarine - lanyards & welcome banner
- **Un-Limited** - entertainment at the Dinner Disco
- **Upstage Sound** - the disco light and sound show
- **Video Essentials** - Conference DVD



# Thank you to the

## Local Reference Committee



### Community Members

Angus Bannister  
Eliza Charters (Vice-Chairperson)  
Kate Grant-Foley (Chairperson)  
Lynne Foreman  
Nicole Spehar  
Simone Stevens



**VALID Inc.**  
Christine Scott

Thank you to the **State government** for supporting people with disabilities with no other supports to attend the conference through it's grant.



Thank you also to our Platinum sponsor VDWC for their sponsorship of the disco to enable people with disability to afford to attend.

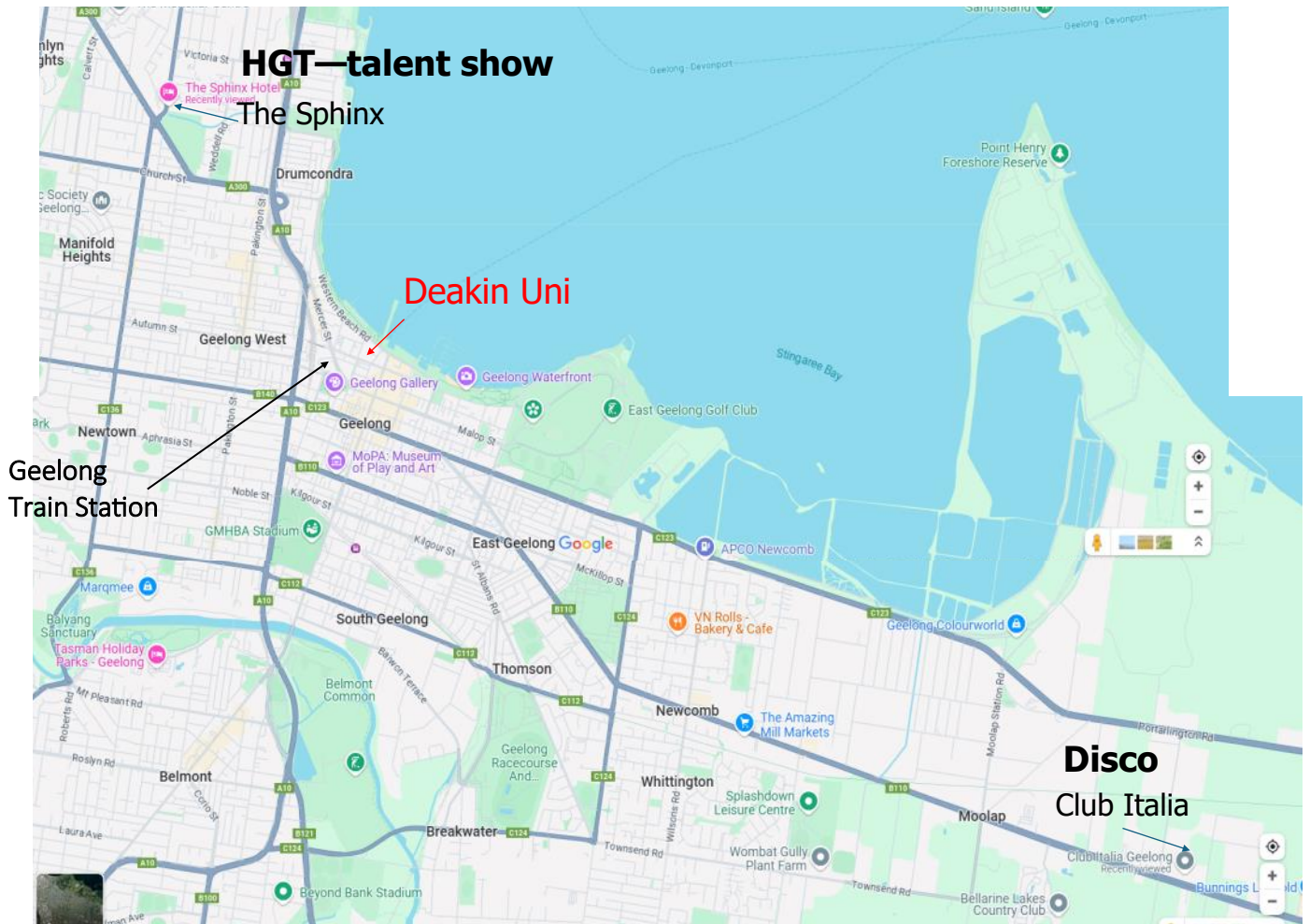


## VALID thanks all of the facilitators and volunteers

for their support in making this year's Come and Try activities:

Art - painting	Kimberlee Pearce	Mates & Dates	Melba Support Servs.
Badgemaking	Pauline Risoli	Self Advocacy Bingo	Anthony Risoli & Katy Gagliardi
Colouring in for Adults	Jess De Grandis	Speed Friendship	Community Team (VALID)
Craft with Wood	Stephen Scott		
Dream Catcher	Mel Fletcher	<b>Online activities</b>	
Gentle Tango	Pam Jarvis & Leigh Rogan	Music & Trivia Quizzes	Heather Forsyth,
Hair & Make-up	NDIA volunteers	Yoga	Katie Fox
Karaoke	Volunteers		

# Map of venues



## Having a Say Conference T-Shirts

**On sale for \$15**

at the t-shirt sales desk.

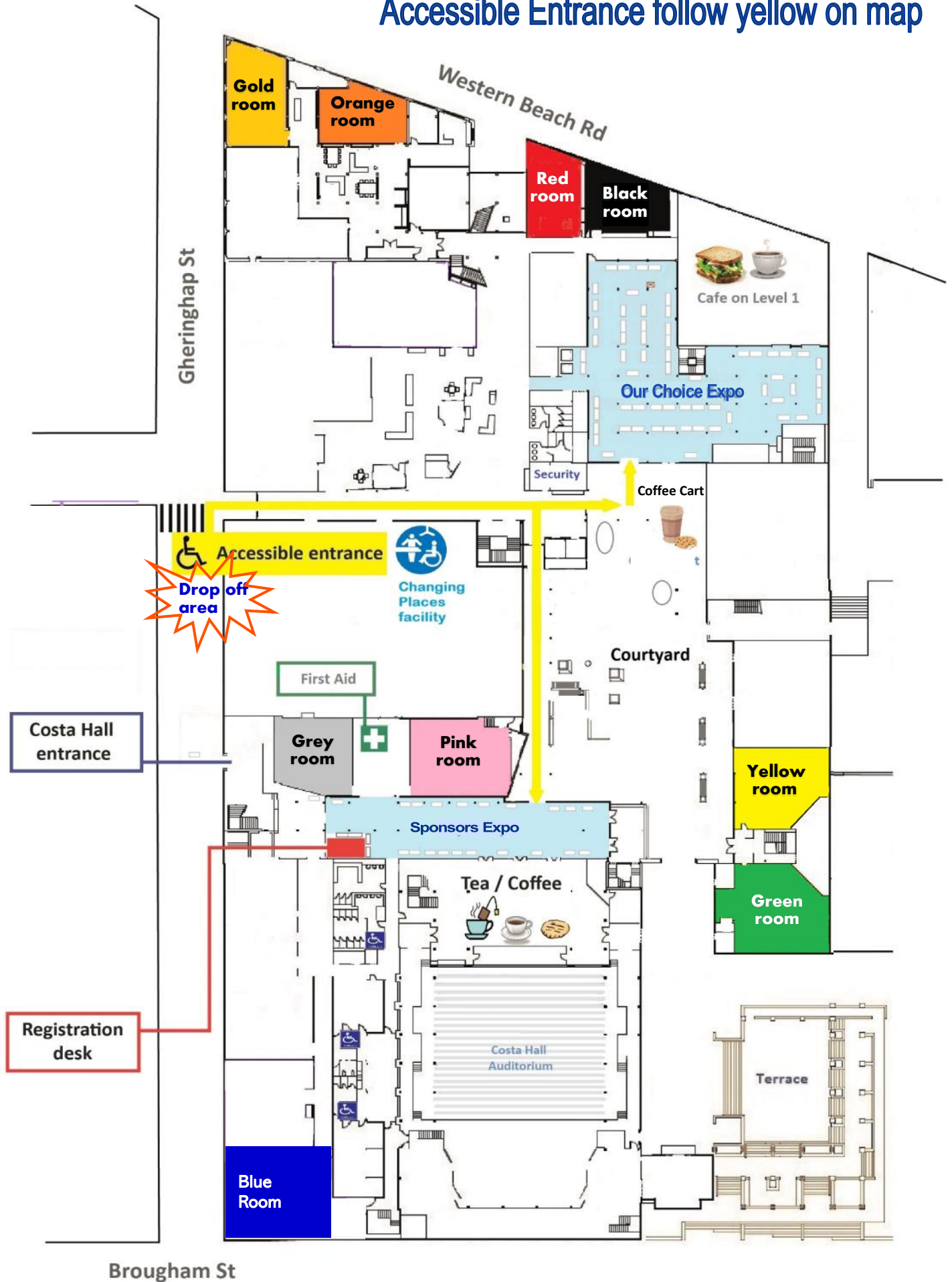
Many sizes available.

**T-Shirt sales** will be from the **VALID table in the Foyer**



# Deakin Uni Waterfront Campus

Accessible Entrance follow yellow on map



# VALID

VALID is a not for profit organisation managed by a committee. Committee members include people with disabilities and parents.

It 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.

## VALID Represents Your Rights - Become a Member

VALID represents the rights of people with disabilities at a State, national and International levels. Become a member and support our efforts to make sure the voices of people with disabilities and their families are heard.



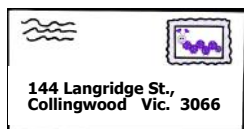
## For more information contact VALID:



Telephone: 03 9416 4003



0475 698 884



Post: 144-152 Langridge St, Collingwood 3066



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

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



Having a Say: [havingasay@valid.org.au](mailto:havingasay@valid.org.au)

Visit the Having a Say conference



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