



in association with Inclusion Australia (NCID) presents the



Having a Say Conference 2025

Preliminary Program

as of 10th Jan. 2024

28th – 30th January 2025

Deakin University, Waterfront Campus
1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong



Having a Say Forever!

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.

Platinum Sponsors











More Information available:







www.valid.org.au

T: 03 9416 4003 E: havingasay@valid.org.au

Tuesday 28th January 2025

Open at 8.30am	Grab your Registration Package, get a Coffee & start planning your day!						
10.30am – 12noon	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Welcome to Country Official Opening, Prof. Iain Martin, Vice Chancellor, Deakin University</p> <p>Welcome to Geelong by Stretch Kontelj, Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong</p> <p>Keynote: Dan Stubbs, Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner (VDWC)</p> <p>Presentation by Christina Ryan, CEO Disability Leadership Institute</p> <p>See Me Sing Choir (Auslan Choir)</p> <p>Special Presentation: Rosemary Kayess, Disability Discrimination Commissioner</p> <p>Open Microphone</p> </div>  </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"><i>Costa Hall (Auditorium)</i></p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 5px;"></div>						
12noon - 1.30pm	 Have lunch with friends at 'The Common' Café or in the Courtyard and check out the Our Choice Expo						
1.30pm - 2.30pm	Performance TBC Costa Hall	Workshop 'Understanding the work of the VDWC' (VDWC - Victorian Disability Worker Commission) Yellow Room	Presentation Self-advocate course: learning how to become 'researchers' (Scope) & Our Voice Committee: national issues for people with intellectual disability Blue Room	VALID Stream 'Being part of your Community' (VALID Community Development team) Green Room 	Individual Stories Leah Scott - Leah's Voice Speakers Bank - Aaron D'Altera - Kathryn Tomkins - Riki Domagalski (Annecto) Grey Room	Come & Try  Badge Making Hair & Make-Up Gentle Tango Self-Advocacy Bingo <i>Meet in Courtyard</i> Harley Rides <i>Meet out front</i> ONLINE ONLY Trivia Quiz	Presentation What might better housing and support look like for you? (Summer Foundation) & A website for All - Easy Read website design (Access Easy English) Pink Room 
2.30 - 3.00pm	 Afternoon Tea break <i>Foyer</i>						

Tuesday 28th January 2025

3.00pm - 4.00pm	<p>Open Microphone 'On the Couch with Heather' (with Heather from VALID)</p>  <p>Costa Hall</p>	<p>Workshop 'Dreams & Aspirations' * come and talk/draw your dreams & goals for your life</p> <p>Yellow Room</p>	<p>Workshop Inclusion Australia's Employment Project: transitioning from Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) to open employment (Inclusion Aust)</p> <p>Blue Room</p>	<p>VALID Stream 'Cancer screening and early detections saves lives' (VALID & Cancer Council Vic)</p>  <p>Green Room</p>	<p>Presentation Becoming a Leader (SACID- South Australia Council on Intellectual Disability) & Voice At The Table - Be Heard! (Voice At The Table)</p> <p>Grey Room</p>	<p>Come & Try </p> <p>Art - Painting Colouring for Adults Hair & Make-up Jewellery <i>Meet in Courtyard</i></p> <hr/> <p>Harley Rides <i>Meet out front</i></p> <hr/> <p>ONLINE ONLY Yoga</p>	<p>Rights Information Being Safe online – build skills & confidence with digital.' (Down Syndrome Australia) & Be Heard - Your Voice is important (Vic. Electoral Commission)</p> <p>Pink Room </p>
6.30 - 10.00pm	<p>Disco Event</p> <p><i>Dress to Impress!</i> – get on your best outfit or costume! ...and dance to the music of <i>'Unlimited'</i></p> <p><i>Club Italia</i></p> 			<p>Speaker</p> <p>Guest speaker: Zane McKenzie Chair, Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service</p> 			

Thanks to our SILVER Sponsors:



InLife

LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS

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Thanks to our BRONZE Sponsors:



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Note: ONLINE Sessions

All sessions that have the Zoom symbol will be available ONLINE via a Zoom link - which will be sent to people who have registered the week before.











Wednesday 29th January 2025

Open at 8.30am	Grab your Registration Package if it's your first dayget a Coffee & start planning your day!							
9.30am - 10.30am	 NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission		Special Presentation: Judy Huett, Self-Advocate Leader Memorial for Sir Robert Martin & Annual Award Keynote: Louise Glanville, NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commissioner Performance by 2024 Having a Say's Got Talent winner – Casey Petrie Melba Support Services presentation: Intimacy looks different to everyone					
Costa Hall								
10.30am - 11 am	Morning Tea							
Foyer								
11.00am - 12.00pm	Performance Scope The Musical; Working 9 to 3 (Scope Ballarat)	Workshop Club21 and FitSkills21 at DSV (DSV - Down Syndrome Victoria) & 'Goal achievers: setting goals & making them happen' (Sarah & Cailan)	Workshop National Disability Data Asset (NDDA): what is it and why is data important for people with an intellectual disability and families? (Inclusion Aust)	VALID Stream 'What the Heck is VALID Connect?' * an exciting update on VALID's new team 'VALID Connect'	Presentation 'Healthy Discussions Project - Self-Advocacy Presentation' (Office of the Public Advocate)	Come & Try Badge Making Colouring for Adults Karaoke Mates & Dates Meet in Courtyard	Individual Stories 'Our Lives, Our Voices, Our Home!' (genU) 'How my life has changed' (T&K Services) 'My Journey' (Dawn Whitehead) Down Syndrome Northern Territory: stories from the top end	
Costa Hall	Yellow Room	Blue Room	Green Room	Grey Room	Harley Rides Meet out front ONLINE ONLY Music Trivia	Pink Room		
12.00pm - 1.30pm	Have lunch with friends or look at the Our Choice Expo or join in the fun in the Courtyard							
Courtyard			Live entertainment by Genu Connections TV. Have your lunch and join in the fun!					













indicates ONLINE sessions for people who have registered

Wednesday 29th January 2025

1.30pm – 2.30pm	<p>Performance ‘Silent Voices’ (We Are Vivid)</p> <p>Our creative life has amplified Our Voice (Allycia & Mitchell)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Costa Hall</p>	<p>Workshop ‘What does the NDIS Commission do?’ (NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission)</p> <p>Lead Your Way with Deakin & Women with Disabilities Victoria</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yellow Room</p>	<p>Presentation The changes to the NDIS and what it means for you (Villamanta Legal Service)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Blue Room</p>	<p>VALID Stream ‘Let’s Get Creative’ Hear ideas, and stories from people with disability, who are finding joy developing their creative side of life! (VALID Community Development team)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Green Room </p>	<p>Presentation ‘The reimagining of intimacy: where people with disability have the loudest voice at the table’ (Melba Support Services)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grey Room</p>	<p>Come & Try </p> <p>Art - painting Colouring with Adults Gentle Tango Craft with Wood <i>Meet in Courtyard</i></p> <hr/> <p>Harley Rides <i>Meet out front</i></p> <hr/> <p>ONLINE ONLY Self-Advocacy Bingo</p>	<p>Presentation ‘My Home, My Work, My Life!!’ (Inclusion Group)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&</p> <p>‘My Housing Plan’ (VALID)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pink Room </p>
2.30 - 3.00pm	<p style="text-align: center;"> Afternoon Tea break</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Foyer</i></p>						
3.00pm - 4.00pm	<p>Open Microphone ‘On the Couch with Heather’ (with Heather from VALID)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Costa Hall</p>	<p>Workshop ‘Dreams & Aspirations’ * come and talk/draw your dreams & goals for your life</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yellow Room</p>	<p>Workshop ‘DSP – Disability Support Pension and working in open employment’ (Inclusion Aust)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Blue Room</p>	<p>VALID Stream My Health, My Story (Council on Intellectual Disability NSW)</p> <p>Listening to your voices about health & health services (National Centre for Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Green Room </p>	<p>Presentation ‘Using the Law to make Your Voice Heard’ (Victoria Legal Aid)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&</p> <p>‘Supporting People with Disabilities Experiencing Violence. What can I do?’ (Safe Steps)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grey Room</p>	<p>Come & Try </p> <p>Craft with Wood Dream Catchers Karaoke Speed Friendship <i>Meet in Courtyard</i></p> <hr/> <p>Harley Rides <i>Meet out front</i></p> <hr/> <p>ONLINE ONLY Yoga</p>	<p>Presentation ‘Journey to Becoming an Employment Ambassador’ (Down Syndrome Aust)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">&</p> <p>‘Inclusive employment for people with disabilities...our stories’ (Supported Life NZ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pink Room </p>
7pm - 10pm	<p>Having a Say’s Got Talent (HGT) Auditions</p> <p>Contestants will sing, dance & entertain you as they audition (Note: finals on Thurs. 30th at 12.00pm)</p> <p>The HGT competition is sponsored by InLife Independent Living</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Sphinx</p>						

Thursday 30th January 2025

8.45 – 9.30am	Grab your Registration Package if it's your first day.....get a coffee & start planning your day! <i>Foyer</i>						
9.30am – 10.15am	Performance 'Jolly Jukebox Journey' PART 1 (Thumbs Up band) Costa Hall	Workshop Making Safe Connections – Online and Offline (The Cliq Connection) Sexual Lives & Respectful Relationships Program (Gippsland CASA) Yellow Room	VALID Stream Understanding Guardianship & Administration (VALID Advocacy Team) Green Room 	Presentation What a home means to you? (Grattan Institute) Individual Story TBC Grey Room	Presentation My Right to choose employment (Council Intellectual Disability) Better for All (Gerard Langridge) Red Room	Come & Try Karaoke  ONLINE Self-Advocacy Bingo Meet in Courtyard	Presentation 'Living, Dying & Grieving Well' (Palliative Care) Pink Room 
10.15am	Morning Tea  <i>Foyer</i>						
10.45am – 11.30am	Performance 'Jolly Jukebox Journey' PART 2 (Thumbs Up band) Costa Hall	Workshop 'Dreams & Aspirations' * come and write/tell/draw your dreams & goals for your life Yellow Room	VALID Stream 'VALID8 and Self Advocacy Networks' (VALID Self Advocacy team) Green Room 	Presentation Having our voices heard: our experience on Scope's Client Advisory Panel Grey Room	Presentation 'Don't be afraid of having a Voice!' (Nina Carr) My insights on Disability Support Workers (Timothy Wright) Red Room	Come & Try Karaoke  ONLINE TBC Meet in Courtyard	Presentation Disability Employment Services (DES): what is changing? (Inclusion Aust) Pink Room 
11.30am	Brunch  <i>Foyer</i>						
12.00pm – 1.00pm	CLOSING CEREMONY HaS's Got Talent Competition Final Family Empowerment Award 'Pentland - Banfield' Self Advocacy Award and the <u>Art Competition Prizes</u> sponsored by the Victorian Senior Practitioner <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">   </div>						
	<i>Costa Hall</i>						