

**Having a Say
presents the –**



Barbara Donovan & Sarah Guilfoil Art Competition

27th – 29th January 2026 - Deakin University, Waterfront, Geelong

Theme: Strengthening our voices for a better future!



Having a Say (HaS) conference is celebrating 25 years of in-person conferences.

That's 25 years of promoting self-advocacy skills to strengthen the voices of people with disability.

That is thousands of people with disability who have:

- presented or performed at HaS
- had their voices heard
- found inspiration from their peers
- told their stories
- gained information to help them with problems
- had their achievements celebrated
- learned about their rights



This is a time when everyone's voice matters. HaS will keep equipping people to speak up and promoting the talents, achievements and voices of people with disability.



So, come and present, perform, volunteer or get involved so that your voice and your skills can be part of building a better future for people with disability.



Thank you to the sponsor of the Art Competition
the Victorian Senior Practitioner.



Barbara Donovan & Sarah Guilfoil Art Competition



Who can enter the competition?

- Three prizes will be awarded to people registered to attend the HaS conference
- Two prizes will be awarded to non-registered conference artists
- Entry is available only to people with a disability

Conditions of Entry

- The artwork is to be based on the conference theme: 25 years: Strengthening our voices for a better future!
- **Only one entry per person**
- We accept paintings and drawings but **not** photographs
- Put your name and contact details on the back of your artwork
- Entries **will not** be accepted at the Conference
- Artwork is to be about A3 size (**NO bigger than 40cm x 50cm**)
Please note: Large works of art may be photocopied and displayed in A3 format.
- You release VALID from liability for any loss or damage in relation to your artwork
- The prize money is a 'payment', so all winning artworks become the property of the conference sponsor (VSP) and the winning artists agree to give the Senior Practitioner exclusive rights to use the artwork in their publicity and promotional materials – for example, brochures, newsletters, etc.
- Artists give VALID permission to use their artwork in VALID publicity and promotional material and also to promote the art competition for future Having a Say Conferences
- VALID staff, family members and organisers of the Having a Say Conference, including the Local Reference Committee, are not permitted to enter the competition but may display their artwork
- Artwork will be on display at the conference as well as on our online competition.



About Barbara Donovan & Sarah Guilfoil

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 and worked for 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.

Sponsor

Thank you to the Victorian Senior Practitioner for their continued support of the Art Competition. 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.

Prizes



The five winning entries selected will receive a cash prize and certificate:



1. **Conference delegates** - The three winning entries will be awarded a cash prize of \$600 and a certificate
2. **Non conference entry** - The two winning entries will receive a cash prize of \$350 and a certificate
3. The winners will be presented with the prizes at the closing Ceremony in Costa Hall at the Having a Say Conference

When can you collect your Artwork?

- If your artwork did not win a prize at the conference, it can be collected after the Closing Ceremony on Thursday 29th January 2026.

Note: You cannot take your artwork from the display.

A VALID staff member will hand out the artwork to artists.

- All other artwork can be collected at the VALID office after the conference. **Note:** Artwork not collected by 3 months after the conference becomes the property of VALID



To enter – (you need to know about and do this):

1. Read and say yes to the conditions of entry (on page 2)
2. If your artwork is bigger than A3, you will need to say yes to have it photocopied for display
3. Know that **ALL winning artworks** will belong to the Art Competition sponsor Victorian Senior Practitioner's office
4. Give VALID permission to use your artwork in VALID Newsletter, Conference Report and in other papers and social media for VALID's Having a Say Conference.
5. I understand that if I do not win a prize and I do not collect my artwork from VALID within 3 months of the 2026 conference, the artwork becomes the property of VALID.



Name R. Smith
Address 224 West St
Manly
Phone Number _____

Application Form

Your Name:	
Address:	Postcode
Phone:	Email:
(Support) Contact Person:	
Phone	Email:

Tell us about your artwork

Title: (What do you call your artwork)
Description: (What is your artwork about)

Send VALID the following things:

- your artwork and a signed entry form (page 4)
- a short bio about yourself, including what you like about doing art

Send your application form **by 30th November 2025** to: havingasay@valid.org.au



Please tell us which prize you are entering by ticking ✓ **box 1 or 2:**

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Registered Conference Delegate (Going to HaS 2026) |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-registered (Not going to HaS 2026) |



I give **VALID permission** to use my artwork in the:
VALID Newsletter, Conference Report and in other papers and
social media for VALID's Having a Say Conference.

Signed:

Date:



VALID

More information and to drop off artworks:

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