

Having a Say Conference 2026



27th – 29th January 2026

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

with two online streams during the conference

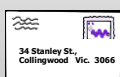
Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for HaS:2026

More Information

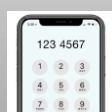


For more information about the conference,
please contact the VALID Office:

VALID



Level 1, 144-152 Langridge St) Collingwood 3066



Phone Chris: 0475 698 884

VALID Office: 03 9416 4003



E: havingasay@valid.org.au



W: www.valid.org.au

About the Having a Say Conference

The Having a Say conference helps people with disability to:

- build confidence to find their voice
- speak up
- be listened to
- be respected



People enjoy coming to the conference because:

- it's an empowering place with no pressure
- they can't get to present anywhere else



and also to:

- do something new
- meet with friends
- learn to advocate for others
- discuss the issues they are interested in
- learn new skills
- and yes, have some fun



Priority

Priority (who gets in the Program) 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 2)
- 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.

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

EOI are open to:

- people with disability
- disability groups

to present or perform or conduct a Come & Try
at the Having a Say Conference 2026



Theme for 2026:

25 years: 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.

HaS 2026 Expression of Interest for presentations

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: **25 Years: Strengthening Our Voices for a Better Future!**



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




HaS 2026 Expression of Interest



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. if you are allocated a 15 minute timeslot that includes question time)

☐ 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)

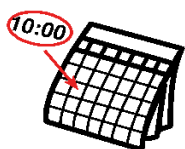
☐ Theatre style (row of chairs)

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 October 2025**

Complete the form and send back to HaS - contacts on first page

Please submit by **30th August 2025** (extensions available on request)

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