

Having a Say Conference Report **VALID**



10th - 12th February, 2016

Deakin University, Waterfront Campus, Geelong



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Minister Foley having a ball at the Having a Say Conference

The Hon Martin Foley MP was the Guest Speaker at the Dinner Chat. Minister Foley joined the Dinner Disco to speak to the delegates. Minister Foley told everyone that the work that VALID and the Government do is all about them and how important it was for them to have their say and to control their lives.

He also said that the Andrews Government was all about supporting VALID to make everyone's lives better. After his speech Minister Foley mingled with the delegates.

About the Conference

VALID

VALID is a not for profit organisation run by people with disabilities and family members.

VALID is funded by the State Government to provide advocacy support to adults who have an intellectual disability, but also undertakes other activities to empower people with disabilities, such as self-advocacy training and 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!

The conference gets fantastic support from local disability services, the Local Organising Committee, City of Geelong, Tourism Greater Geelong & Bellarine and local Geelong businesses.

Aims of the conference

Having a Say is an annual conference which aims to empower people with a disability by providing:

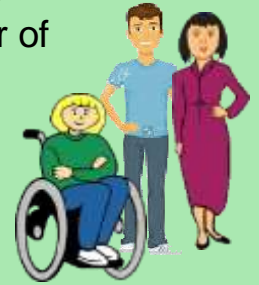
- the opportunity to 'have a say' about issues that affect their lives
- participation in an annual conference in a rural location of Victoria
- opportunities to celebrate ability and achievement
- participation in planning and running of the conference
- opportunities to be heard by politicians, government departments and service providers
- the opportunity to 'participate' and meet with other people from all over Australia and Overseas
- support to be part of developing strategies to address issues and recommendations made at the conference





Who came to the conference?

Each year the conference attracts a growing number of people with disabilities, carers, family members and other interested people from across Victoria, Australia and New Zealand.



This table provides a breakdown of the total registration numbers by category.

| Participants by Category | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Person with a Disability | 584 |
| Support Staff / Attendants | 187 |
| Parents & Family Members | 21 |
| Workers | 44 |
| Other: eg. Volunteers & Organisers | 203 |
| Exhibitors | 182 |
| TOTAL individual participants | 1221 |

Each year VALID aims to ensure that people who are experiencing financial difficulty are able to attend the conference. This year 301 people with disability received sponsorship to assist them to attend the conference.

Thank you to Karingal for sponsoring the come & try activities and tea & coffee for the Our Choice Expo.



Conference Theme

The conference theme gave people the opportunity to speak up about their dreams and aspirations, achievements and to share their stories about being part of the community.



Registration

Deakin University was buzzing with excitement as people arrived and registered to attend the 17th Having a Say conference.

After collecting their conference bag people moved into the foyer to catch up with old friends and have a cuppa before the Opening Ceremony began.

Opening Ceremony

Elica Petroska, Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee of the Having a Say conference 2016, welcomed all the delegates from across Australia and New Zealand to the conference and the City of Greater Geelong. She hoped they would have a great time and make this year's conference one they would remember.



Acknowledgement to Country was performed by Kym Monaghan from the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Operative.



Kelvin Spiller, CEO City of Greater Geelong welcomed everyone to Geelong and hoped everyone would have a great time, he also thanked Councillor Kylie Fisher who has supported the Local Organising Committee for the past 7 years.



Other features at the Opening Ceremony were:

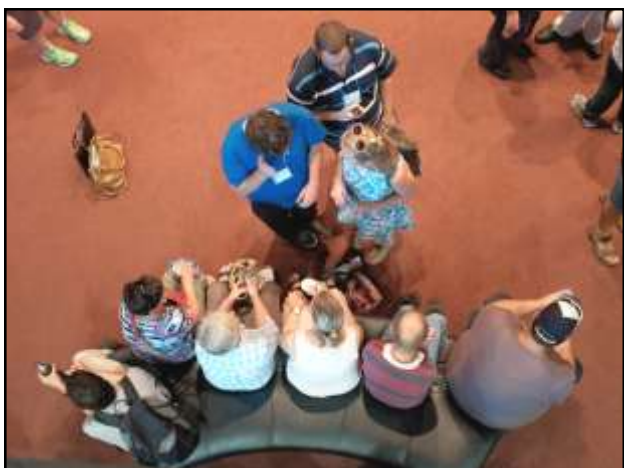
- Judy Huett from the Our Voice Committee, her presentation was about "Connecting Across Australia"
- Miranda Bruyniks, Acting Disability Service Commissioner, spoke about "Peoples Right to Speak Up"
- St Laurence did a performance: 'Connecting through Song, Dance & Theatre'
- 'The Opening Ceremony closed with people going on stage for 'Open Mic'



Deakin University, Waterfront Campus

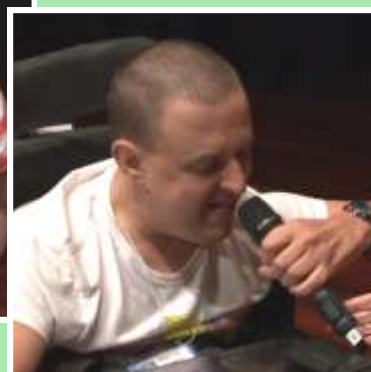


Registration



Open Mic

The 'Open Mic' session is an important part of the conference, it gives people the opportunity to go on stage to share their stories, their achievements, their experiences and how happy they are to be at the Having a Say Conference.



DINNER DISCO

It was another great night at The Pier Geelong with 580 people attending the disco. The dance floor was buzzing with excitement with the crowd dancing and singing along to the music.

Thank you to the band, 'Controversy' for another fantastic night, they had such a great time that they are coming back in 2017.



The theme this year was "Anything Goes" lots of people got into the spirit of the night by dressing up.

Pictured with Minister Foley is Elaine Valentine and Kevin Stone. Elaine was presented with an arrangement of flowers, in appreciation of all the hard work she does to make the dinner disco a special night for everyone.



Thank you to Laurie Harkin AM and the team from the Disability Services Commissioner for sponsoring the Dinner Disco.



Arriving at The Pier, Geelong for the Dinner Disco.



DINNER & CHAT



The Hon Martin Foley MP, Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Mental Health, Equality and Creative Industries was the Guest Speaker at the Dinner Chat.

106 people attended the dinner chat to hear the minister speak, the dinner was held in the Baveras Restaurant on Cunningham Pier.

“It’s a privilege to be here tonight at the *Having A Say* conference. What a spectacularly, glittery event, with suitably glittery stars in this room. Not only is this conference Australia’s largest conference for people with a disability, but its success is clearly that its designed, organised and run in the interests of people with disability. It’s the opportunity to connect with peers and have a say on issues that matter to you – None more so that the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Those rights are not something that sit in glorious isolation on statute books or policies. They are contested and nuanced every day. So I commend VALID, not just for this conference but for the work they do all throughout the year to empower people with a disability – operating through a focus on building rights into a framework and an advocacy system based on asserting choice and control by people with a disability. *Continued on next page*

No more so than when the rights of people with disabilities have long been fought for. No more so than in the vision and campaign for the NDIS which is now so close that you can almost touch it. They are rights that are built up over time through organisation and advocacy activists like VALID.

The nation transforming NDIS reflects that activism. It didn't happen by accident. It came about through campaigns led by people with disabilities and their allies. So reflect on your achievements tonight while you ponder the next challenge.

This conference neatly sums up what disability rights reform has been about for 30 years, and what the soon to roll out National Disability Insurance Scheme, in particular should mean. In December last year I announced additional funding of \$10 million to support Victorians with disabilities, their families, service providers and staff in the transition to the new scheme. VALID is a recipient of some of this support and it will provide practical and targeted information and resources for people with a disability, particularly around promotion of people's rights and empowering people to make choices that best fits their aspirations and goals and engaging families. I know that VALID will make good use of this.

The Andrews Labour Government shares VALID's focus on participation and opportunity and rights as being at the heart of disability reform – not just better services. Our vision is to create an inclusive community where people with a disability are supported and empowered to make choices that enable them to live a life they value – to bring to fruition in peoples' lives the promise of “choice” and “control”. A central task for all levels of Government in this effort is the delivery of the National Disability Insurance Scheme as promised.



Across Victoria, starting in July this year we will see participants in the North/ East of metropolitan Melbourne enter the scheme. Ultimately this will transform the lives of more than 100,000 Victorians with a disability, their families and carers as the scheme ramps up over 3 years.

NDIS

As you know, the NDIS represents the most significant change in the way disability services are provided in our history.

It's the greatest social policy reform since the introduction of Medicare. It is an opportunity for us to see social justice delivered to people long locked out of consideration for outcomes in so many walks of life.

Social justice built on the back of access to better – decent services.

It is about re-shaping Australian society into a better place, for people with disability for sure – but for all Australian's to give concrete meaning to “inclusion” – or perhaps how we bring our commitment to the Great Australian ‘Fair Go’ into a 21st century context.

It's a new deal.

To really place people at the heart of the NDIS system, we need a new relationship, one based on notions of rights and citizenship – not just consumers and markets – as important as they are. Strong, empowered, confident participants in a market, of course. But citizens, supported in their rights as well.

This new system we are on the verge of also needs a skilled, values based and well-paid workforce to support people with a disability in this task. It is the highest benchmark of outcomes, safeguards and quality we are looking for – not the lowest common denominator of minimum services.

And to do this, we need the Commonwealth Government to lead in the delivery of the NDIS as promised; based on the necessary pillars of a system that will make sure the system works.



The window for the Commonwealth to put these pillars in place – sustain them, fund them and secure them – is closing fast. And frankly we have a long way to go to achieve this in this short window.

So tonight I'm asking the Commonwealth Minister – who you might be seeing tomorrow – to sign up. Sign up to four pillars necessary to achieve the goals of the NDIS.

There are four pillars:

The first pillar is that of Advocacy and rights.

Pillar Two – A Fair Price

Pillar Three – Quality and Standards

Pillar Four – Housing and Capital Investment

For these Pillars to be delivered, voices like VALID's need to be supported.

The NDIS is now facing decisions that will set the standards and outcomes for the next 30 years.

We are on the cusp of a system that is capable of being enduring, high quality and truly bi-partisan, in the interests of people with disability driving the campaign.

I look forward to working with VALID to achieve that kind of an NDIS – an NDIS that delivers its promise.”

You can read Minister Foley's full speech on the VALID website.



Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony began with:

- Red Faces Finals performances and presenting the prizes to the three finalists
- Presentation of the Pentland - Banfield Award
- Presentation of the Family Empowerment Award
- Announcing the winners of the Art Competition



Time to say goodbye

The Having a Say conference was officially closed by Brooke Boyle, Vice-Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee for the Having a Say conference. She thanked everyone for coming and hoped that they had a great time and wished everyone a safe journey home and invited them to return in 2017.



The conference was coming to a close but the Our Choice Expo was in full swing in the foyer and mezzanine areas of Deakin University. Many of the delegates visited the 80+ exhibitors to gain valuable information from services and organisations about what they could provide under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.



Red Faces Talent Show



The Red Faces auditions were held at the Sphinx Hotel in North Geelong on Wednesday evening. The venue was buzzing with excitement as the acts performed. The audience enjoyed all the performances and were up on their feet dancing and singing along, it also gave people the opportunity to catch up with old friends.

Twenty acts of people with disability performed in front of a large audience. The judges at the auditions were Half Cat, Sadat-Jon Hassain & Brooke Boyle from the Local Organising Committee of the Having a Say Conference.

The three finalists performed on Friday at the closing ceremony in Costa Hall. The judges Sadat-Jon Hassain, Colin Hiscoe & Elica Petroska had a hard time deciding who would take out the major prize.

First prize was awarded to Josh Moorfoot from Pinnacle in Ararat for his fantastic performance.

Second prizes went to Meredith Smith from Mawarra Centre in Warragul for her burlesque routine with third place being awarded to Aaron Inglis from Geelong.

Thank you to the Geelong Football Club for allowing their club mascot 'Half Cat' to be a guest judge. A big thank you to Half Cat for another purrfect evening.



Thank you to the management and staff of the Sphinx Hotel for another great night.

Congratulations to everyone that participated in the auditions of the Red Faces Talent Show.



Awards

Robert Martin Award

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, VALID sponsors the Annual Robert Martin Award.

The Award is given to the person who most impresses Robert at the conference as having a significant impact on behalf of others with a disability, who speaks up about issues that are important to people with disability.

Robert presented the award to the Our Voice Committee for speaking up to the Government and going to other countries and giving keynote addresses and inspiring to see 2 young people on the Our Voice committee speaking up and being involved.

Our Voice Committee: Michael Sullivan - NSW, Chris Bergin - SA, Judy Huett - Tas, Kate-Lyn McKenzie - Qld, and Heather Forsyth - Vic

Family Empowerment Award

The Family Empowerment Award is awarded to a family member who:

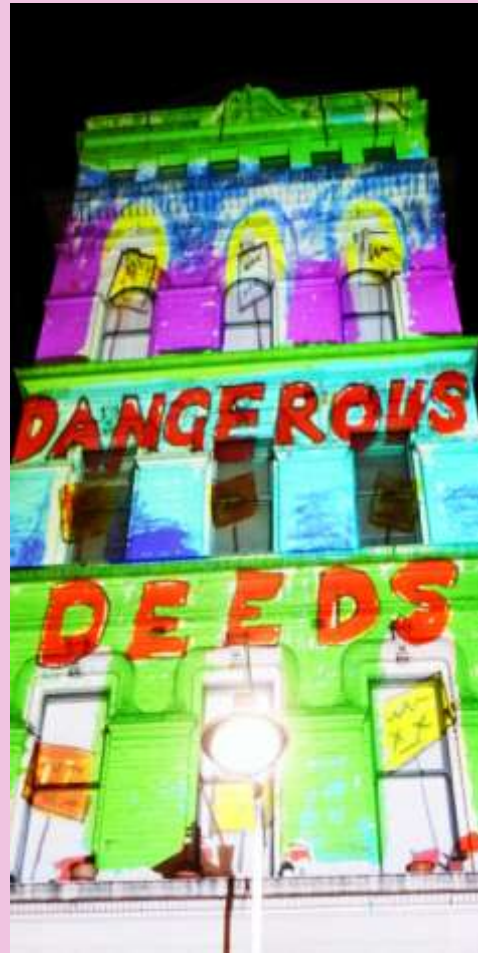
- has 'stood beside' their family member and advocated for their rights to appropriate support, community inclusion and a good life
- has provided support in a manner that has empowered their family member to take up these rights and realise their potential
- has ensured that their family member is heard loud and clear

The Family Empowerment Award was presented to Denise Leembruggen from Horsham for standing beside her son Tom to empower him to be a strong self advocate.

Doug Pentland - David Bandfield Award

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 passion and commitment for all people with an intellectual disability.

The Pentland - Banfield Award was awarded to a self advocate who speaks up about being part of the community. The award was presented to Andrew Prior from Moe life Skills.



Dangerous Deeds

Accessible Video Art Installation

The Dangerous Deeds display which features art developed by people with disabilities was on display in the foyer.

The display showed the way people explore their passions and tells the stories of their involvement in the disability, advocacy and self advocacy movements.

Presented by SARU
(Self Advocacy Resource Unit)

Art Competition

The Having a Say Art Competition is proudly sponsored by the Office of Professional Practice. All winning art works are on display in the foyer of the Office of Professional Practice.

The theme for this year's competition was "ready, set, CONNECT! There were 31 entries in the art competition which made it difficult to select the winning entries. The Senior Practitioner Frank Lambrick presented the winners with a certificate and cheque .



Happy Homes by James Barden

Strong relationships start at home, when you have the love and support of your family and community.

When you give that back you have the confidence to take on the world.



The Tree of Strength, Connections and sharing Our Voice by Jane Rosengrave

A tree that shares ideas, resources, rights and voice to others with an intellectual disability. It also represents the minority group of indigenous people with intellectual disability.



People by Brady Freeman

Brady is highly social with a reputation as a chatterbox. He never has a problem connecting with others as he likes a chat and is very interested in finding out about others. His work is always about people coming together in his own abstract way.

Connecting to Others by Steve Canning

My painting is a puzzle. I had a dream when I was painting the dots. I'm showing the important picture of some people who don't have vision. I was thinking about many people around the world who have a disability, people who are blind and needs help. My feeling of painting is a vision of miracles, to touch, to smell, to hear. A person with disability can achieve anything in life.



Art Competition Entries



Ann Small



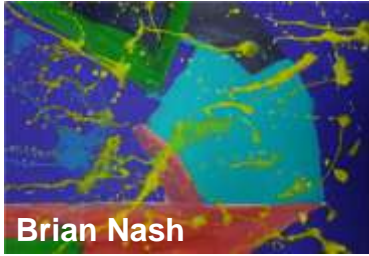
Barb Cole



Christine Wilson



Chris Adams



Brian Nash



David Rybak



Jackie Parson



Jessica Sabbo



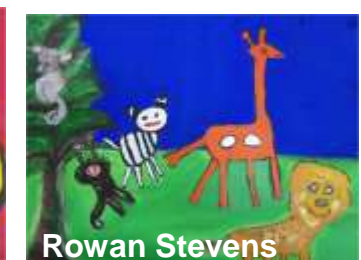
Jessica Tattersall



Fleur Allen



Illona McLeod



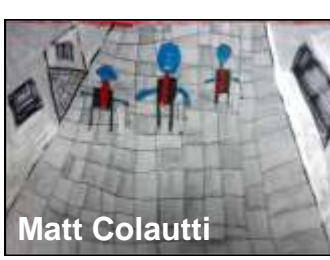
Rowan Stevens



Leigh Holloway



Lisa McLeish



Matt Colautti



Shane Williams



Sonja Van Buren



Sarah Veli



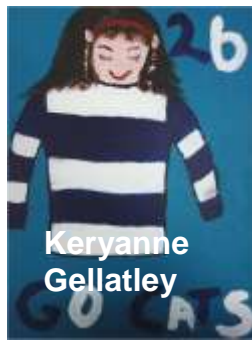
Rachel Tickner



Tim McCall



Kylie Gentle



Keryanne Gellatley



Sarah Guilfoil



Joyce Davies



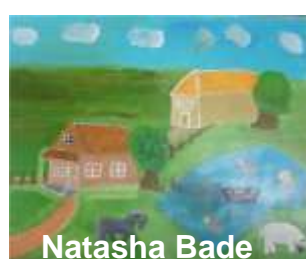
Michael Truong



Heather Smith



David Cotton



Natasha Bade



Tom Lembruggen



Cameron Veitch

Having a Say & Our Choice Expo's

The Having a Say Expo ran over 2 days of the conference giving people the opportunity to gain a large variety of information from disability services, state-wide and national services. Many of the exhibitors stayed on for the Our Choice Expo held at the conference on Friday.



The Having a Say conference hosted the Our Choice Expo which was held at Deakin University and focused on providing people with disability, their families, supporters and workers with accessible information on what is available and possible, through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Over 80 exhibitors attended the Expo and provided the Having a Say delegates and 500+ visitors with information about their organisation, the services they provide and equipment available. Information sessions ran throughout the day providing information about their organisation and the services that they could provide to support people with disability.

Some of the topics included how to prepare for transition to the NDIS, accessing equipment and aids and shaping the NDIS.

VALID would like to thank Karingal for sponsoring the tea and coffee for visitors attending the Expo.



Having a Say Conference 2017

8th - 10th February

Deakin University, Waterfront Campus
Geelong

A call for Expression of Interest from people with disability and disability groups to do a presentation or performance at the conference will be available mid July

Registration opens in September

For more information call VALID on 03 9416 4003
or email: havingasay@valid.org.au

VALID



Keynote Speaker: Rhonda Galbally AO

Presentation was about how important Peer Supports Groups are.

Rhonda Galbally is an Australian working in health development, disability, social and health policy in Australia. She was awarded honorary degrees in health and social science from RMIT 2005 and La Trobe 1999, and was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2001 in recognition of her service to the community. Rhonda is also on the board of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)



Rhonda's presentation talked about Peer groups and how they started in Australia in the mid 70's. A group of people came together and said things have to change. There were groups for people with disability and parent groups. Rhonda joined a peer support group in 1980, they fought for rights, the disability support pension, housing, jobs, transport and the right to go to school. The group supported each other to have a go and to speak up.

The group that Rhonda went to started to think about leaving home and joining community groups and play sport. The main focus that they had in the 80's was to close down the institutions and Rhonda wanted to acknowledge Alan Robertson who is still fighting hard to close down institutions. Alan was on a committee with Rhonda where he chased down a minister and told him you must close down the institutions in Victoria.

We had fun in our peer groups, we laughed, we danced and did some very bold things, Lesley Hall did a very brave thing she didn't like the Miss Australia contest so she got on to the stage and told them that we would decide whose beautiful not you.

Peer support groups are very important and if the NDIS is to succeed we need to have peer support groups, without peer support groups we wouldn't even have the NDIS, support groups were the back bone that campaigned "The Every Australian Counts" campaign. We campaigned for the NDIS to close the gap between a disability life and an ordinary life, we need the NDIS which gives people individual packages but we also need every government, every business and every non government to include people with disability.



Peer groups are essential as they help members to learn from each other about having a go and trying new ways of living, about being brave and giving things a chance, they empower members to reach for the stars and stretch their vision by being realistic about the steps you need to take to get there. *Continued on next page*

Keynote Speaker

Keynote Speaker: Rhonda Galbally AO (cont from previous page)

The groups fight for rights for decent people and rights for inclusion so when schools and clubs refuse to let you in the peer support group will go an fight for you to be included. The UK research showed that members of peer support groups choose more independent options, they choose to be brave, they choose to go in to the community and to make up their own mind. There are a few group homes in Australia where people can choose who they live with, who supports them and work and home are separate, so if you don't like your home or your worker you can choose to move or get a new worker. Rhonda feels that if peer group are supported they will help to make a difference in what is supplied in Australia because its the right services out there that help will help people to be full Australian citizens.



Every aspect of the NDIS need to be designed with the peer support groups and now is the time to make them even stronger

Nothing about us without us.

Connecting Across Australia Judy Huett, Our Voice

Judy Huett has overcome many hurdles in life to make an enormous contribution to advancing the lives of people living with disability. Despite having an intellectual disability, epilepsy and diabetes, Judy has dedicated her life to helping others.



Judy works with people with a disability in both a paid and voluntary capacity, and speaks for people with a disability at a national level in her role as a Tasmanian representative on the Our Voice Committee, a national self-advocacy committee. She is a member of the Premier's Disability Advisory Council of Tasmania, and volunteers for the Epilepsy Association of Tasmania and other charities. Judy is the immediate past president of the advocacy group, Speak Out. In 2013, Judy became the first person with an intellectual disability to represent Australia in Switzerland at a United Nations hearing into the rights of people with disabilities.

Judy talked about how the Our Voice Committee connects across Australia. Our Voice is a national self advocacy group supported by Inclusion Australia with members from across Australia. The Chairperson sits on the Inclusion Australia board. The committee talks to the Inclusion Australia board about issues that are important to them.

Connecting through speaking up together

Over three hundred people participate in the regular monthly client network meetings across metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong.

Members from the networks talked about the networks aim to assist members to:

- learn & use their self-advocacy skills
- be empowered to speak up about things that are important to them
- have a say in how services are run & develop a stronger client voice
- represent issues & interests of people with disabilities



VALID Peer Action Groups at Work

Why Join a Local Peer Action Group?

David Craig, Tully Zygier & Michelle Wilcox talked about how being involved in a Peer Action Group can assist people to prepare for and make the most of the supports offered through the NDIS. The presentation provided information about Local Peer Action Groups and how they will be supported. Participants Karen, Frank, Vicki and Lisa talked about their experiences.



Behaviours of Concern Peer Action Group

Dariane McLean and Janice Castledine are both parents with experience in trying to make a good life for their sons in the community. They shared information about how this group is going about the task of building a case for better supports for their family members with complex behavioural support needs.

Parents with Disabilities

A team from Families Inclusion Network presented information about their experiences as parents trying to access parenting supports from the service system. Denise Smith and 3 parents with disabilities from FIN (Families Inclusion Network) shared their stories.

Come and Try Peer Group Experience

If you would like to participate in a Peer Group experience to get a taste of how these groups work or join this session just to watch how a new group might go about a meeting contact David Craig at the VALID office for more information.

Would you like to join a VALID Peer Action Group?

The VALID Peer Action groups will help people to Network with other people experiencing the same situations, needs and issues.

Contact VALID on 03 9416 4003 or email: peeractiongroups@valid.org.au

Performances by people with disability

Connecting through song, dance and theatre: The group from St Laurence, My Path performed a song from Rent as a DVD plays in the background of life and friends connect through drama in a year.

Presenters: Sam Bade, Joan Black, Caleb Southall, James Beven, Michael Zevin, David Bailey, Mendin Miller, Belinda Humble & Ben Liv



Feral: Members from Ants Pantz Arts performance, was about the feral animal threat to Australia's unique, natural diversity.

Presenters: Salina Armistead, James Alsop, Leonie Clarke, Robbie Farquhar, Catherine Farrell, Greg Heinrich, Lorraine Henkel, Tim Hunt, Andrew Janssen, Jeremy Lang, Bruce Peitsch, Brendan Spenceley & Cherise Jettner



Hook Up: A presentation about the Boilover performance group

Mambourin Sunshine Choir: The choir sang a number of songs. Presenters: Kane Graham, Ben Superina, Ashley Becker, James Mallia, Trent Loveridge, Anthony Borg, Deborah Terrill, Andrew Parry, Chris O'Keeffe & Bernadette Nguyen



Ready, Set, Connect, ROCK: At some stages of our lives we dream of being rock stars. Through their performance Goulburn Option members connected as rock stars. Presenters: Richie Dirnbenger, Richie Firmin, Dianne Gallagher, Lucas Hall, Nathan Hall, Reece Hocking, Gavin Lane, Carol Scott & Rob Stutchbury

The Resolution Band: Participants from Northern Support Services sang their favorite songs. Presenters: Sarah, Melissa, Nhu, JJ, Pippa, Roger, Matt, Joshua & Enrico

Thriller Zombie Flashmob: Caden Bettle and members from Alkira along with people from their come & try activity entertained the crowd with a performance based on Michael Jackson's Thriller dance.



Ready, set, go yes, lets rock: Thumbs Up are an all abilities rock band from Colac, they have been performing for over 11 years and write their own songs about things that are important to them. Presenters: Salina Armistead, James Alsop, Peter Church, Leonie Clark, Claire Farrell, Robbie Farquhar, Lorraine Henkel, Kevin Richardson, Pete Wardrop, Joshua Venner & Cherise Jettner



Time to be the monster: Elisheva Jones-Resnik's performance showed that people with disabilities are capable of dancing and connecting with a broad audience through dance and photography.



Presentations by people with disability

A Good Life – Meeting people and making friends: Presenters shared their experiences of meeting people, making connections, making and keeping friends. They gave people ideas and tips on how to connect.

Presenters: James Muir, Lachlan Moyce, Leigh Creighton & Rachel Spencer from House With No Steps

Access for All Abilities Play Sport: The AAA Play team and the AAA Play Ambassadors hosted a workshop on accessing sport.



Be Yourself: Kathryn Bartlett talked about developing independence, the challenges and changes faced connecting to community in a deeper manner of citizenship. Being honest with yourself and supporting people who are gay.

Behind the Scenes: A behind the scenes look at a photography exhibition that Waverley Community Living Program members held

Connecting on Facebook: Northern Support Services talked about connecting safely with others on Facebook. Presenters: Daniel Bendle, Melissa Maglide, Nhu Lu, Penny Koutroulos & Anderson Lin



Using social media to enhance disability support: Grant Meredith's presentation outlined the growing support networks for disability support in social media by using stuttering as an example and discussed the dangers associated with freedom of speech.

The Digital Divide and your Digital Rights: David Turk talked about issues arising for people in the current environment of more things becoming electronic or digitalized and the potential barriers for people connected to various services, their community and the NDIS and strategies to overcome the barriers.

Connecting through awesome events: The St Laurence – My Path leadership group gets together once a week, the group works hard together to plan great events for the St Laurence community, family and friends. They connect with each other, peers, friends and family and the wider community. They plan dinners, discos and sporting carnivals. *Presenters:* Aaron Lucas, Steven Pullen & Nathan Murdie

Connecting to Community Through Sport: Athletes from Tri State Games provided a personal insight into how their inclusion in sport has allowed them to connect with their community in a more meaningful way. Presenters: Tim Miller, Tom Leembruggen, Marion Cameron & Maureen Cameron



Presentations by people with disability

Connecting to the NDIS: Simone Stevens & Peta Fensham-Cobb talked about how there is little information about the NDIS for people outside the trial sites. A series of forums & workshops have been delivered to help people to understand the NDIS & be more confident about planning & setting goals.

Connecting with the Community

My Experience in Employment: Gerard Langridge talked about his experience in employment to help other people to get confidence to get a job that suits their ability.



ABI Road Tour: Chris Rotering talked about being a member of the ABI Road Tour, and how the group connects with the students connect with people with an Acquired Brain Injury.

Gippsland Groovers Club: Glenn Van Dord talked about the group in Gippsland connecting with friends and family on social networks, sharing information.

Connecting, sharing and storytelling through public speaking:

Connecting and Storytelling through Public Speaking provides an overview of the work of Speakers Bank, a volunteer program of Annecto – the people’s network. Speakers Bank’s members are people with disabilities, and carers who are trained in public speaking and are eager to share with the community the story of their lives, their experiences and their challenges. Speakers present a positive image to the community providing information about the challenges older people and people with disability face in their daily lives. The presentation also adds a personal touch through the first-hand experiences and perspectives of two of its popular speakers, Kathryn Beaton and Storm Robbins.



Finding Your Strong Voice – Then and Now: The Our Voice Members, Judy Huett -Tas, Michael Sullivan - NSW, Chris Bergin - SA, Kate-Lyn MacKenzie - QLD & Heather Forsyth - Vic talked about connecting self advocates around Australia and updates from each State on how they became strong self advocates.



Individual Stories

Bobby Usas - My Life, My Independence: Bobby talked about his increased independence and involvement in education and training.



David Baker – The Power of Art to make Connections: David is passionate about the performing arts and is now living the dream. He works at Melbourne Arts Centre as an usher and is employed by Event Central & Merry Go Round Children’s Theatre as a stilt walker & balloon artist. He now has connections around Australia and across the world.

Presentations by people with disability

Individual Stories

Leah Scott: Talked about NDIS leadership, self advocacy clients having a voice and having a say. Speak up client committees across Australia connect clients to tell the government what they need in funding and support.

Leo Camaralla: Reconnecting and independence living in his own home again.

Mary Nickson - My Roles: Mary talked about the different roles that she performs throughout her week: being a daughter, sister, aunt, People's Committee member, Focus participant, gym and novelist.

Meghan Stewart-Snoad - 10 years on: 2016 marks 10 years since her very first HaS where she was invited to speak. The presentation is about what Meghan has done since then from further study to working (both paid and volunteer) to buying a house.

Roslyn Johnson: Roslyn talked about reconnecting with her community via independent living.

Tom Leembruggen: The Wimmera Whippets Football/Netball Experience
The formation of the Wimmera Whippets All Abilities Football Netball Club has connected the players, coaches and support crew to different communities through sport. It's been awesome.

Loud and Clear - Kate-Lyn MacKenzie

Since moving back to the Coast Kate-Lyn has made many new friends through her various interests including card making, drama classes, dancing and photography. Kate-Lyn loves organising and attending events including art exhibitions, trade fairs and advocacy meetings.

Kate-Lyn is assistant coordinator for the newly formed focus group 'Loud and Clear'. Her duties include presenting sessions and helping with the agenda for meetings. She is keen to learn all about being an advocate to help others have a voice.



Kate-Lyn is up for new challenges and is overcoming her nerves to speak publicly and is learning to conduct video interviews for promotional video about an art program at Spiral. She is proud to be chosen and ready to take on the role of Queensland Representative for Inclusion Australia's 'Our Voice' and attend committee meetings.

It comes with a lot of responsibility and even though Kate-Lyn is nervous, she is keen to develop new skills and to meet new people who are inspiring others to realise that they have a right to be listened to and have their voices heard. She is up for the challenge to increase public awareness within the community so people living with an intellectual disability are able to make the choices that affect them in their own lives. She is ready to make a difference.

Presentations by people with disability

My Family, NDIS and Disability - Jane & Lindy Crouch: This is a personal story of one families journey with disability and engaging those members who have a disability in the greater community and how e have used the NDIS to gain greater connections. It outlines the stresses that can be placed on the family as a whole and how important it is to remain connected with family and friends.

My Story of Empowerment - Clarke Bourizk: The topic was about Clarke's life, disability, hurdles, achievements and inspiration. How he is proud of him self and wanted to empower the crowd so they could take away some confidence.

No Strangers Here - Reinforce: Colin Hiscoe, Norrie Blythman, Jane Rosengrave, Susan Arthur, Julie Brasington & Luke Stone talked about how to write and record your own CD.

Speak Up Video Presentation - Distinctive Options: Speak UP! Members are learning to speak up and how to make films. They shared information about how they put these together to make a film about their rights and responsibilities.

Speaking up about things that work & don't work

Presenters: Clare Walker and Elvira Tarrant from the Disability Services Commissioner's office presented a role play. 'Bob isn't happy with his disability service.' Is it OK to make a complaint?

Spirituality: who gives a toss?

Andy Calder from Uniting Church and VALID Network members talked about a project based on the interviews with 14 VALID network members as part of PhD research, the talk shared their opinions about what spirituality means to them.



The Power of Peers - in the driver's seat on the road to the NDIS and living a good life

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) as part of their NDIS participant readiness work in Queensland have trained a team of 16 people with intellectual disability and other disabilities to as Peer Facilitators.

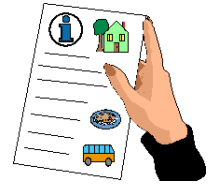
The presentation shared information about the program for peer facilitators, and the power of peer learning as a vehicle for change. It also share stories and information about the fun and interactive ways participants are learning, and the ways it is changing people's thinking and planning for their future.



Access Easy English

How to make written information easier to read

Each time a document is developed a critical step in the process is talking to people who need the information. You know what works best for you. We read the new information together. We listen to what you like and don't like about the way the information is written.



Clickability: How to give feedback and self advocate

Clickability is an online disability service directory that uses peer reviews to help people connect with service providers and peers. In the workshop you can practice rating and reviewing services and we will talk about why this important with the NDIS.



Connecting and Empowering Women with Disabilities at a Local Level

To be part of the community you first need to be part a community. You need to connect – The Hub is giving women with disabilities the opportunity to connect locally around issues that are specifically relevant to them and to discuss ways of having these issues raised on mainstream agendas. We are already talking about how we could become part of the International Women's Day event each year in Geelong.



Connecting through Communication

Connecting by communication, the ECD Scheme, Yooralla gets you a voice. How to get ready for planning to get a communication system to let you connect!

Come & Talk to Deakin

The Deakin University Disability and Inclusion team are a group of researchers and lecturers who are involved in work about many different things that are of interest to people with a disability, families and staff.

Their presentation was about the following programs:

- Using 'Picture My Future' to help you develop your plans with the NDIS and with others who you talk with about what matters to you.
- How to talk to Doctors and others who work in the health area to make sure you can say what is important to you and be safe in the health care system.
- Relationships and sexuality – learning from your peers in the Living Safer Sexual Lives program.

Presentations

Diversitat Training

An overview of Diversitat & Diversability. How they provide services to CALD & refugee background. They deliver courses to students with disability to be ready, set & connect with the community. The courses give them skills to pursue their own goals & be work ready.

Managing your Funding package

Manage It is a set of web based tools that enable people with disabilities and their families to become more independent and take control over their lives by managing their own funding and services. The presentation will demonstrate these tools for budgeting & managing staff.

Plan My Future - Uniting Care Life Assist

Based on the Plan My Future workshops which have been funded by a State Trustees Australia Foundation grant. The workshops are designed to prepare participants and families before they go into a planning session with the NDIA to equip them with the ability to self advocate and articulate what they want to achieve from their NDIS supports.

People's Rights to Speak Up

Miranda Bruyniks, Acting Disability Services Commissioner talked about people's rights to speak up and how it is OK to complain. You can call the Disability Services Commissioner and talk to them or they can arrange to meet you in a place that you feel safe so they can help you with your complaint.



Volunteering Scope St. Albans

Nick Warlond, Kurt Cabanilla & Alma Alagic talked about volunteering at Brimbank Bicycle education centre & providing access to various groups of people with disability in the wider community and Rotary and Lions Clubs.

What does Victorian Legal Aid do?

Wendy Gibbons from Victoria Legal Aid talked about the different types of legal problems they can help with? How can you connect in with them.



Speaking Your Mind

Deakin University, VALID, and Yooralla launched the 'Speaking Your Mind program'. 'Speaking Your Mind' is a rights and self-advocacy program for people with acquired brain injury. The main aim of this training program is to empower people with acquired brain injury through educating them about their rights and responsibilities, as well as how to advocate (speak up) for themselves and their peers.

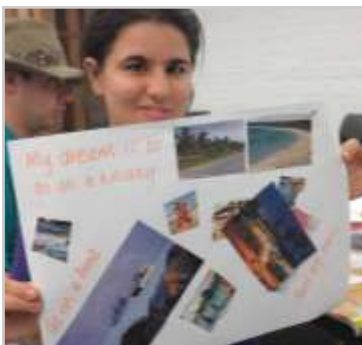
The program was developed in consultation with people with acquired brain injury and representatives from organisations that work with people with acquired brain injury. 'Speaking Your Mind' is designed to build an awareness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Victoria's Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, the guiding principles of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. We are now looking to do some research about how the program can help people with acquired brain injury to know their rights and how to speak up for themselves.



Cadeyrn Gaskin (Deakin) & Jon Slingsby (VALID) launched the program.

Speaking About Your Dreams and Aspirations

Knowing what you want in your plan is going to be really important when you are getting ready for the NDIS. Help identify what is important to you, your dreams and aspirations for what you want in your life. Dreams and aspirations is where you get to talk about your future and the things you would like to do in your life. Write or draw your future!!



Presentations

My Community

Katrina Sneath

VALID conference

"Having A Say"

Ready ,set CONNECT !

11 Feb 2016



Hello! My name is Katrina Sneath. Speaking today is a real privilege. First of all I am going to introduce myself. And in a minute I will talk to you about my four points that are relating to 'My Community'. I am so lucky to be a part of a caring and inclusive community. For me an inclusive community accepts me for who I am and acknowledges my values including my contributions, which helps me to participate in activities and take up opportunities. It is a community where I am treated with respect and like an equal. So I don't want people to bully me or patronise me. So when I think about a caring and inclusive community it means to me that 'I matter and I have a right to speak up. Other people in the community care about me.' I also want to make sure that other people with disabilities can have the same opportunities as me. Sharing my own experiences might provide some ideas and examples for others.

Now, I would love to introduce myself. I have just turned 20. As you can see, I have Down syndrome. I had a dream to get a job in Early Childhood. At my school, Onslow College in Wellington, support staff found an Early Childhood programme called PORSE. They found funding and support for me to do this programme for 2 years. I am currently looking for a part-time job in Early Childhood Education. I also want to be an advocate on behalf people with disabilities.

At Onslow College I was involved in stage challenge and I helped backstage. We had to construct and paint sets for the different dance scenes. In Glendowie College, in Auckland and Onslow College, Wellington I helped out in the school library. I ordered the books alphabetically, ensuring the books stood upright, sorting out the issues and sorting out the returns. The library staff were always helpful and supportive. They also gave me useful advice so I can make improvements with the skills that I have gained.



At Onslow I also became part of Peer Support. Peer Support is where the seniors are trained to help the year 9's transition from intermediate school to high school. We went to training and had a peer support camp during the holidays before the year nines started. I was pleased to be part of the peer support team with my senior friends.

Even when I was at school, I started to build community connections outside school. As part of the school PORSE programme, I went to 4 different Work Experience placements to gain practical skills for my desired occupation. I met lots of new staff members who are supervising small children in the local community.

Last year I found a job volunteering in the Salvation Army Family Store near home. I work mainly at the counter serving customers the goods that they want to buy. I also put the donated goods in the store room and helped to sort them so they can be well prepared and well organised before sale.

I am also involved in People First that is held in Wellington central town. We, the people who have disabilities run the meetings. We support people with disabilities and make sure their views can be heard on matters which are important to them. People First also helps produce information to support employment, such as easy read work place documents and contracts. There are also courses in a "Learn with Us" programme. For example about keeping safe, and learning to use money and a budget. A couple of months ago I was thrilled to hear that I was elected Vice President of the Wellington Branch of People First.



'Being part of the community and having a disability provides an opportunity to change perceptions in the community'. I am often surprised that through school and other experiences, there are so many opportunities to be involved in promoting achievements.

One of the most exciting opportunities I have been provided with is to be chosen by a Green Party MP, in Wellington, Mojo Mathers, to participate as her representative in Youth Parliament in New Zealand. My tenure runs from January until July this year. I have the opportunity to experience the role of an MP, engage with the community and to represent the youth on issues of importance. Mojo Mathers is a Member of Parliament who has profound hearing loss and has provided a wonderful opportunity through Youth Parliament to promote a positive image and community engagement for people with disabilities.



I believe people in the wider community notice and take an interest in these experiences, achievements and opportunities. Through these examples, I hope that people might search out activities that they can relate to and engage in. The community can see the wide variety of activities that people with "capabilities" can be involved in and make a meaning contribution to. Together we can change expectations and develop improved participation in the community. Everyone in the world is different, with different strengths and abilities. We all make a positive contribution in many ways.

Presentations



Having a Say 2016

Let's Be Friends ?! 😊



WHO ARE WE?

House with No Steps




As one of Australia's leading providers of disability services, we are dedicated to ensuring people with a disability have greater choice, control and freedom - we work hard to make sure everyone we support gets a fair go.

Human Rights Team



- We respect, protect and promote the human rights of everyone at HWNS,
- We make sure people know about their rights
- We make sure people can speak up for their rights



Meet our team



Kylee, Erica, Lachlan, Leigh & James

What is a friend






Let's Meet Each Other.



- Where do you live?
- What is your favorite TV show?
- If you had to sing on stage what song would you sing?



Now lets introduce our new friends

Movie Making Program

Northern Support Services

Matt Dunelli, Jonathan Adrianopolus & Campbell Vinson



It was a privilege for myself and Northern Support Services to be involved again at the VALID conference in 2016.

We had a wonderful time presenting our videos that have been created the last two years at Northern Support Services in our 'Movie Making' Program.

I came up with the idea for a movie making program at the end of 2013 and we commenced work the following year. I was supported and encouraged by my then manager Marcela and blessed to have the most creative and funny participants I have ever worked with. Our main aim in the program is to have fun at all times and above all else have lots of fun. In doing so it's been a privilege to assist in telling stories of those who have anything to say at all no matter how silly or crazy. Some of the movies we have made so far have been; a cooking show, a Werewolf movie trailer, a Super Hero called 'Bonkers Man' a Hip Hop Video clip, an ad for a drink called 'Phooff' (for men only) and a documentary about young man called David having fun.

I used the imovie app on the mac at work for editing and all films were shot on a small flip camera. I used my music background for soundtracks and theme music. It was great to meet with the guys weekly to try to devise what they might like to create but also a challenge to tell the story of those who have limited verbal communication. It's been such a joy to see the satisfaction on the participant's faces and the positive feedback from staff and families.

As a staff member it was a privilege to tell stories on behalf on someone in an honest and objective manner. It taught me to listen more, interpret and to observe and it was wonderful.

Thanks again for the opportunity to show our films at your conference.

Regards, Campbell Vinson.



Presentations



Respectful Relationships Gippsland

Hello! We are Alisha, Emily and Helen.

We are talking about human rights, about disability and about respectful relationships.

Living Safer Sexual Lives: Respectful Relationships Latrobe University pilot in Gippsland in 2009.

Peer educators (people who identify with having a mild ID) and co-facilitators (community sector workers) work together to deliver the program to people with intellectual disability.

We believe that all people have the right:

- To be safe
- To be sexual (as and when they choose to be)
- To be respected in an intimate and loving relationship



Our reasons ... And words from peer educators:

Ellie - the program makes me feel good, it's good, it's good to help people

Peter - peer educator have disabilities and getting the messages across is better that way. We use real life stories and talk about key messages.

Violence and abuse happens to women with disabilities more often and in more places. Violence can be stopped. Everyone has abilities.

Information, education and support can stop violence and improve people's lives.

The program focuses on the:

- Rights of all people, respectful relationships
- Connecting mainstream services to individuals and services for people with disability
- Real stories of people with intellectual disability
- Games about intimacy, rights and strengths



The program also works to educate people who could be involved in supporting people to access violence prevention services. This is a key area of need to ensure people with intellectual disability are able to receive the services and support they need and don't "fall through the cracks".

Respectful Relationships Gippsland

New Wave Self Advocacy, Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault (GCASA) and Rural Access.

- Round 2 of training in Sale in 2013
- 9 peer educators, about 20 co-facilitators (5 core)
- 11 programs with 7 peer educators

This is an important and continuing area of work.

Voices of women with intellectual disability are NOT being heard - we need to listen and act.

Violence Against Women Report recommended that:

- Governments need to listen to women with disability
- We need education about all people being equal
- Programs need to meet the needs of people with disability
- The sector need to work together better



Violence Against Women Report says:

- People who work with people with disability need to know about violence issues
- The Justice sector - police, courts need to consider needs of people with disability
- People with disability need access to information
- Violence prevention and housing support services have to meet the needs of people with disability, especially women and children
- We need to know more about violence against people with disability

Our program allows us to:

- Hear the voices of people with disability
- Make sure people know their rights and people should be treated equally
- Work together better - mainstream and disability services and alongside people with disability as experts
- Educate people who work in the sector
- Get information and support to people with disability who are experiencing violence or abuse



Presentations

Speakers Bank: Connecting, sharing and storytelling through public speaking.



Who are we?

- Speakers Bank - program of annecto, the people's network (volunteer and advocacy program)
- A group of individuals live a lived experience of disability (PWD) or are carers of people with disabilities
- Disseminate information on disability, advocate for people with disabilities to achieve an inclusive society
- Our mission is to educate the public about disability, ageing, being disadvantaged and the issues that surround it (e.g. Access, transport, employment, social aspects etc)



Kathryn Bartlett:

How I connect to others through Public Speaking.

Keys to Public Speaking

- Have an audience (thank you all for being here)
- Eye contact
- Read body language
- Be familiar with the room layout
- Remember the topic



Storm Roberts

My life as a public speaker, how Speaker Bank helped me.

Speakers Bank gave me the opportunity to:

- Get work experience / volunteer job
- Helped me to go about when doing speaking
- Helped me to connect to other people
- Share my story on bullying (from bullied to leader)
- Share my achievements on leadership
- Advocate for people with disabilities
- Make time for community work



What is your idea of a public speaker?

- For me being a public speaker means standing up for what I believe in and being able to be myself for a few minutes, not thinking about my disability

“A person with a disability is no different, and should be valued in the community too”



BarwonHub
leadershipnetwork

Womenwithdisabilitiesvictoria
empowering women

Connecting & Empowering Women with a Disability at a Local Level

What are the 6 P's?

- Perseverance and Practice Prevents Panic & Poor Performance
- Perseverance, Practice AND CONFIDENCE Prevents Panic & Poor Performance



Who are the Barwon Hub Leadership Network ?

- Women from the Barwon region committed to improving
 - awareness and outcomes around social issues that are important to us.
 - confidence, skills and technologies of members
 - self-advocacy and empowerment of members

Where did BHLN come from?

- 2014 Enabling Women Leadership Course Barwon
- 2014 WDV approached
- 2015 created BHLN



Presentations

Hello Everyone My Name Is Glenn Van Dord I am the media representative and I also look after the online social media for Gippsland Groovers Club.

We are Non Profit organisation run by people with disabilities for all abilities, a great way to meet new friends.



Feedback



- Thank you for your support and as a first timer to HaS my feedback is “what an amazing event, showcasing what having a say means ... everyone needs to get to Geelong and see it for themselves.”
Tom Bevan, Metro Access worker, Hobson Bay City Council

- Continues to be an excellent ‘coming together’ celebrating, exploring, challenging and exchanging between people . Brian Donovan

- I think the conference was absolutely excellent, I totally enjoyed myself as I do each year. *Leigh Creighton, NSW*



- Thought Friday expo was outstanding/amazing, thank you, very helpful. Thank you to all who had anything to do with organising this conference, looks a huge task but appreciated very much by our family

- We were very delighted to have participated at the conference and as a result of this, we have received some expressions of interest from some people to possibly apply and join as a speaker. We also have a potential collaboration with a local government unit. So thank you for that opportunity. *Mimi Laurilla, Speakers Bank*



- Fantastic, we enjoyed it, interesting, great atmosphere

- We had a wonderful time and really enjoyed it . It was really interesting and useful and I have made some really good contacts in Australia. *Katrina Sneath New Zealand*



- Thanks again for giving Starlight the opportunity to have a presence at the event on Friday. It was a really well organized event and we really benefited from being there for the networking aspect – well done! *Arielle, Starlight Foundation*



Volunteers

An extra special thank you to all the people who volunteered their time during the conference, especially those who took time off from their paid work so they could help out!



The Volunteers.....

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Peter Abbey</i> | <i>Robyn Flewell-Smith</i> | <i>Alannah Ogilvie-Moore</i> |
| <i>Natalee Anderson</i> | <i>Lynne Foreman</i> | <i>Geoffrey Parsons</i> |
| <i>Fay Agterhuis</i> | <i>Shana Forrest</i> | <i>Leanne Pearman</i> |
| <i>Will Baker</i> | <i>Sheridan Forster</i> | <i>Elica Petroska</i> |
| <i>Angus Bannister</i> | <i>Kerrie Hancox</i> | <i>Megan Pobjoy</i> |
| <i>Leanne Barnes</i> | <i>Thomas Harris</i> | <i>Mary Robson</i> |
| <i>Tracy Beaton</i> | <i>Dorothy Hartkopf</i> | <i>Nicholas Rhyder</i> |
| <i>Tom Betts</i> | <i>Sandra Hartkopf</i> | <i>Pauline Risoli</i> |
| <i>Alison Blackney</i> | <i>Brent Hayward</i> | <i>Joanna Ruiu</i> |
| <i>Mikayla Boxhall</i> | <i>Sam Hein</i> | <i>Chris Russell</i> |
| <i>Brooke Boyle</i> | <i>Amber Hermann</i> | <i>Tina Schepis</i> |
| <i>Peter Bright</i> | <i>Kevin Hewitt</i> | <i>Joyce Schroeter</i> |
| <i>Janice Buckland</i> | <i>Rhiannon Higgins</i> | <i>Marie Skiadas</i> |
| <i>Norma Bullen</i> | <i>Sally Hill</i> | <i>Jenni Slingsby</i> |
| <i>Paul Campbell</i> | <i>Ingrid Hindell</i> | <i>Prue Slingsby</i> |
| <i>Trevor Cantwell</i> | <i>Nicholas hopper</i> | <i>Kerrin Spataro</i> |
| <i>Julian Carr</i> | <i>Penny Jacobsen</i> | <i>Susan Stanford</i> |
| <i>Paula Cartwright</i> | <i>Janine Keating</i> | <i>Simone Stevens</i> |
| <i>Michael Chan</i> | <i>Susanna Keith</i> | <i>Adam St George</i> |
| <i>Eliza Charters</i> | <i>Madeleine Kreutzer</i> | <i>Brigitte Stone</i> |
| <i>Maddison Clark</i> | <i>Barbara Li</i> | <i>Reuben Stone</i> |
| <i>Jeremy Colebrook</i> | <i>Natasha Ling</i> | <i>Jenni Strauch</i> |
| <i>Sharyn Craven</i> | <i>Sandra Lovell</i> | <i>Stuart Thomson</i> |
| <i>Wendy Croft</i> | <i>Oliver Lynch</i> | <i>Charlote Van der Burgt</i> |
| <i>Jenny Crosbie</i> | <i>Nikita Mann</i> | <i>Glenn Van Dord</i> |
| <i>Angelica Daniels</i> | <i>Justin Middleton</i> | <i>Louis Vuillermin</i> |
| <i>Joel Darbyshire</i> | <i>Lynette Mikunda</i> | <i>Katie White</i> |
| <i>Barbara Donovan</i> | <i>Felix Neighbour</i> | <i>Amber Yarde</i> |
| <i>Peta Fensham-Cobb</i> | <i>Marie Nicholls</i> | |
| <i>Meg Field</i> | <i>Liam O'Hagan</i> | |
| <i>Cael Fisher</i> | <i>Bonnie O'Leary</i> | |

Volunteers

Below are some of our volunteers hard at work. The students from Point Lonsdale Primary School taking a break after a busy time helping with the catering.



Supporters

Thank you to everyone who supported the Having a Say conference to make it another great event!

Thank
You

The Supporters...

Barbara Donovan - Assisting delegates with info on accessible accommodation



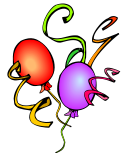
City of Greater Geelong - Supporting the Local Organising Committee

Dal - Delicious morning and afternoon teas and amazing catering staff



Deakin University Event Staff - Great support with running the conference

Elaine Valentine and team - Decorations for the Dinner / Disco



Geelong Football Club (Cats) - releasing Half Cat to judge Red Faces

Tourism Greater Geelong & the Bellarine - registration bags and publicity

Karingal - Supporting self advocates on the Local Organising Committee, sponsoring local delegates & supporting the catering at the Our Choice Expo

Controversy - Band at the Dinner Disco



NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency) - for providing volunteers

Office of the Senior Practitioner - Sponsoring major prizes Art Competition



Rural Access (City of Greater Geelong) - General support & publicity

Simone Stevens - Media representative & maintaining the Facebook page

Sphinx Hotel - Red Faces Auditions



The Pier Geelong & Baveras Restaurant

Tourism Greater Geelong & the Bellarine - Conference bags & Publicity

Upstage Sound - Disco light and sound show

VALID staff, Derek Scriven & Brenda Tranter - Administrative Management and Creative Design

Video Essentials - For filming the Having a Say Conference



Come & Try Activities

Thank you to the Come & Try facilitators

Thank
You

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Annecto Speakers Bank | - | Storytelling |
| Caden Bettles | - | Thriller Zombie Dance |
| City of Greater Geelong | - | Aerosol Art & Giant Games |
| Cian Johnson | - | All Abilities Massage |
| Distinctive Options | - | Printed Textiles |
| Dom Moollan & Peter Dibbs | - | Mazda Mx-5 |
| Donna Gabrielle | - | Hip Hop & Zumba |
| Eric Lovett / Gringo | - | Harley Ride |
| Geelong Bowling Lanes | - | Ten Pin Bowling |
| Jenni Slingsby | - | Jewellery |
| Jon Slingsby | - | Speed Friendship |
| Karingal | - | Sailing |
| Karingallery | - | Bag Art |
| Liz Collier | - | Scrapbooking |
| Natalie Hylard from Melba | - | Drama |
| Norma Bullen | - | Card Making |
| RIAC | - | Shout Out Self Advocacy Tree |
| Scope | - | Balloon Football & Creative Writing |
| St Laurence Community Servs. | - | Bike Riding & Surfing |
| Tina Schepsis | - | Art & Sports Games |
| Tri State Games | - | Track n Field |
| Uniting Care Life Assist | - | Community Noticeboard |
| Volunteers from Surf Coast | - | Fishing |
| WATCH | - | Woodwork |
| Woodbine | - | Drama / Clowning Around |



Local Organising Committee

Special thank you to the Organising Committee

Thank You!



ARCsupport

ARCsupport
Jacqui Pierce



Barwon Disability Resource Council Inc
Ingrid Hindell



Community Members

Sandra Hartkopf, Dorothy Hartkopf, Lynne Foreman,
Meg Stewart-Snod, Janice Buckland, Leanne Barnes
& Elaine Valentine



City of Greater Geelong
Councillor Kylie Fisher



Geelong Parent Network
Robyn Flewell-Smith



Karingal Community Living

Natalee Anderson, Peter Abbey, Elica Petrovska
(chairperson), Angus Bannister & Kerrin Spataro



St Laurence Community Services

Brooke Boyle (Vice-Chairperson), Jenni Strauch &
Maree Nicholls



SCOPE Barwon South West

Eliza Charters & Emmanuel Pimentel



VALID Inc

Kevin Stone, Zoe Broadway, Heather Forsyth, Rick
Ruiu, Christine Scott, Jon Slingsby, Simone Stevens
and Leah Scott



YOORALLA

Peta Fensham-Cobb

The organisers would like to thank all our sponsors for supporting the Having a Say Conference.

Thank You!

Principal Sponsors



Disability Services Division of the Department of Health & Human Services for its continued support for the conference through a grant that supports people with disabilities with the costs of attending the conference.



Disability Services Commissioner for Sponsorship of the Thursday conference dinner and disco at The Pier.



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

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