

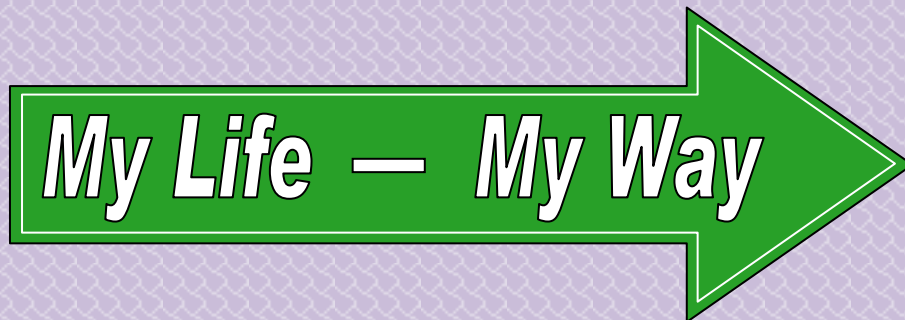
# Having a Say Conference 2012



Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th February 2012

Deakin University, Waterfront Campus

Gheringhap Street, Geelong



## Volunteer Information & Registration Booklet

**Volunteers**



**We NEED you**



## Dear Volunteers!

VALID and the local organising committee invites you to play a vital part in the upcoming 13th annual Having a Say Conference at Deakin University Geelong Waterfront Campus from 8th to 10th February 2012.

The Having a Say Conference attracts hundreds of delegates from across Australia and overseas. The conference provides opportunities for people with disabilities to experience new things, to participate, learn, present, perform and celebrate achievement. Being part of this conference is a wonderful experience for all involved.

The conference is not a profit-making exercise and we aim to run the conference at a low cost to participants. In order to do this we rely on the support of volunteers and local organisations. The Conference Organising Committee is looking for volunteers who are:

- available to undertake tasks/roles of their choice for whatever time they have available - a few hours, a day or the whole conference!
- able to attend a short orientation session prior to the Conference
- committed to furthering the inclusion of people with disabilities in the community

Information about the 2012 conference is included in this booklet, along with a list of potential tasks and relevant information for prospective volunteers. If you are interested in being part of the conference as a volunteer, **please return the 'Volunteer Expression of Interest' and Registration Form** at the end of this booklet as soon as possible.

More information is available at [www.valid.org.au](http://www.valid.org.au) or contact VALID on 03 9416 4003  
E-mail [havingasay@valid.org.au](mailto:havingasay@valid.org.au)

Regards

*Christine Scott*

On Behalf of VALID  
& the Conference Organising Team



# Who runs the conference?



## About VALID

VALID – Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability Inc. is a not for profit organisation that supports people with intellectual disability and their families.

### Mission Statement

The mission of the VALID Advocacy Service is, to protect and defend the human rights of people with an intellectual disability, and to champion their rights as citizens to:

- Community Presence
- Choice
- Respect
- Community Participation



### Aims

The VALID Advocacy Service aims to empower people with intellectual disability at a range of levels, from the individual to systemic to:

- exert control and influence over the decisions and choices which affect their lives
- inform and influence the policies, processes and practices of disability service agencies, governments and other authorities
- exercise their human rights and citizenship status within their local communities



### VALID Advocacy Support Service

VALID is funded by the Victorian State Government as a peak providing advocacy support for adults with intellectual disability and their families/carers across Victoria.

VALID's advocacy helps people resolve difficulties they are facing such as finding appropriate information or assistance to resolve complaints up to more complex support.

### National Affiliation

VALID is the Victorian member in Victoria of the National Council on Intellectual Disability (NCID) which is the recognised national peak body with a single focus on intellectual disability. NCID concentrates on affecting change at a national level on issues that affect the lives of people with intellectual disability and their allies, such as employment, accommodation and education.

NCID's mission is to work to make the Australian community one in which people with intellectual disability are involved and accepted as equal participating members.

# About the Having a Say Conference



## What is it?

The Having a Say conference is an international conference held each year in Geelong, Victoria. It aims to give people with disabilities the opportunity to not only attend a conference, but also to be involved in planning and running a conference.

## What Happens at the Conference?

The conference program is usually very busy, but it has choices for everyone and lots of time to meet people from around Australia and overseas.



The topics for speakers are based on issues of interest that people with disability have nominated. Some of the workshops or speakers held in the past include, Jobs, Relationships, Dreams & Aspirations, Self-directed Funding, Self-Advocacy and Leisure. Most sessions break into small group discussions so that everyone can have a say. If people need support to participate volunteers assist them to write or draw their comments.

There are also other activities that participants can choose and these are fun things that give people a chance to socialise and also to try something new. In 2012 we will have 'Come & Try' activities like drama, belly dancing, zumba, floristry and jewellery making. They are great fun and also break up the day in between workshops. The Conference Dinner and Disco is always a big hit.

## Who runs the Conference?



VALID Inc. is the organiser of the conference and runs the conference on a break-even basis (ie. not for profit). A Local Organising Committee is set up to support the planning and running of the conference. This Group comprises people with disabilities, VALID representatives, local services and other interested people.

## The Conference aims each year to provide people with a disability:

- the opportunity to 'have a say' about issues that affect their lives
- opportunities to celebrate ability and achievement
- to be heard by politicians, government and service providers
- the opportunity to participate
- support to be part of developing strategies to address issues & recommendations made at the conference



## For more information contact VALID



Phone: 03 9416 4003

email: [havingasay@valid.org.au](mailto:havingasay@valid.org.au)

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

# General Information



## Conference Theme

'My Life—My Way' is the theme for the 2012 conference.

For the past twelve years the Having a Say Conference has been supporting people to find their voice.

*To speak up. To be heard. To be respected.*

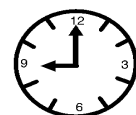
This is the conference where people listen to each other, not just to the speakers on stage. This is the conference where people respect each other's views and opinions, and celebrate their common cause.



## Local involvement

A range of agencies from the Geelong region support VALID to plan the conference, they include; *City of Greater Geelong, ARCsupport, Encompass Community Services, Geelong Parent Network, Karingal Inc., SCOPE Barwon Region & St. Laurence Community Services.*

## Times



The conference sessions will be held from:

*9.45am – 4pm Wednesday      9.30am – 4pm Thursday      10.00am – 12pm Friday*

The Conference Dinner & Disco will be held on Thursday 9th February from 7pm to 10.30pm.

## Participants in the Self-Advocacy Conference

Most of the self-advocacy conference participants:

- come from areas across Victoria, but some are from interstate
- will have a support person (either staff from service they attend or a carer) who has accompanied them to the conference
- will be people with a variety of disabilities (intellectual, acquired brain injury, physical including sensory)

## Venues

### *Conference main venue*

- Costa Hall, Deakin University, Waterfront Campus, Gheringhap Street, Geelong

### *Disco & Conference Dinner*

- The Pier Geelong, located on Cunningham Pier, Western Beach Foreshore Road, Geelong

### *Come & Try activities venues*

- will vary according to the type of activity - some will be on-site at Deakin, some off-site

## Program

The Self-Advocacy Conference Program consists of 3 main types of activities:

1. Presentations, Info Sessions & Workshops (mostly by people with disabilities)
2. Performances
3. Come & Try activities

# Things for Volunteers

## Perks & Quirks



### **Volunteer Uniform**

#### **Having a Say Volunteer T-shirts**

To make sure that volunteers are easily identifiable, all volunteers will be offered a t-shirt to wear while they are volunteering at Having a Say.

The t-shirts:

- are aqua in colour
- come in a range of sizes.
- will be available when you report for your first day at the Conference

We will need to use these t-shirts again next year so you will need to **return them** at the end of the conference. However, we will give people who volunteer for one day or more, a free conference T-shirt (these are usually sold for \$15).

#### **Having a Say Volunteer Caps**

Volunteers who will be supporting conference participants in outdoor Come & Try Activities will be offered a cap to wear. The caps are bright yellow and have *Volunteer* written on them. Please return the cap at the end of the conference.

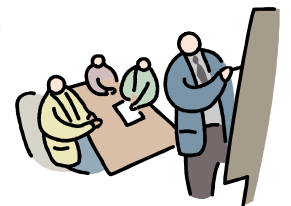
### **Orientation & Training**

**People who attend the Orientation** will learn about the conference details and be supplied with the Volunteer Coordinator contact details, maps of the conference venue, volunteer handbook and other important details.

#### **Volunteering**

All volunteers will be offered the opportunity to gain knowledge in becoming an active volunteer; this is courtesy of Encompass Community Services Training Division. To receive a Statement of Attainment volunteers **must** attend the day Orientation & Training Session on the 18th **AND** volunteer at the Having a Say Conference.

Volunteer Training Day will be held on **Thursday 18th January 2012**, from 10am to 3pm at Encompass, 400 Pakington Street, Newtown. Lunch will be provided.



For those who DO NOT wish to attend the training day at Encompass a short Orientation will be conducted on **Thursday 2nd February 2012 from 11 am– 12.30pm** followed by lunch at the Deakin Café, level 1 at Deakin University, Waterfront Campus, Gheringhap Street Geelong.

### **Meals**

All volunteers will receive lunch, morning and afternoon tea. People volunteering for **all 3 days**, have the option to attend the conference dinner disco at no cost on the Thursday night, if places are available.

Volunteers who are attending for one day may book into the conference dinner disco at the staff costs.

# VOLUNTEER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

TASK	What	Interest Y / N	Day/s Available W, Th, F
<b>Come &amp; Try</b>	General supervision during activities. Assisting people with participation in activities, such as art, dancing, jewellery making.		
<b>Facilitators</b>	Facilitating small group discussions during workshop sessions, so that delegates are included in discussion and a record of any relevant issues or questions is kept. In particular we require people for the 'Dreams & Aspirations' sessions, to assist delegates to express their goals in life & to write/draw them.		
<b>General Support</b>	A couple of people will be rostered all the time to support with general tasks as they crop up, eg: show speakers to the room they are in. Support self-advocate presentations if required. Directing delegates to sessions, come & try activities and other areas.		
<b>Hospitality</b>	Tea & coffee will be self serve, but some delegates may require support with this. Overall we require assistance to ensure that supplies are maintained & tidied after each break.		
<b>Photographer</b>	To take photos of the conference activities and delegates ( <i>Note: photo permission is given when registering</i> ) We would appreciate a copy of any photos that you take at the conference.		
<b>Room Coordinators</b>	Look after a specific room including checking equipment, general tidy ups and maintaining signage.		
<b>Transport</b>	Transport delegates to off site come & try activities (using hired Hiace Van) <i>Note: we will require a copy of your drivers licence</i>		

List any specific skills or qualifications that you think are relevant to the roles you are interested in: .....

.....

.....

# VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

First Name: ..... Last Name: .....

Organisation (if applicable): .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Telephone: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

<b>Do you have any special dietary requirements? Please list allergies (not dislikes) e.g. coeliac, vegetarian, diabetic etc</b>
.....
.....

I would like to attend the dinner/disco  
(see page 6)  Yes  No

I would like to volunteer at the dinner/  
disco  Yes  No

## Other information that may be helpful

Do you have a first aid certificate?  Yes  No

Do you have a current police check?  Yes  No

**Send volunteer EOI / registration form ASAP or by 9th December 2011 to:**

VALID, 235 Napier Street, Fitzroy 3065

**For more information contact VALID:**



Phone: 03 9416 4003 (Metro/Services)

Freecall: 1800 655 570 (rural clients/families)

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

