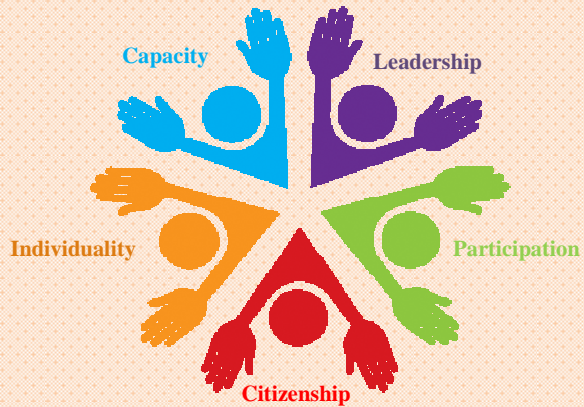


Having a Say Conference 2010

'Making it Happen'



VOLUNTEER INFO BOOKLET

Wednesday 10th to Friday 12th February 2010

Deakin University
Waterfront Campus, Geelong



VALID

235 Napier Street
Fitzroy VIC 3065

VOLUNTEER INFO BOOK



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DEAR VOLUNTEERS

Invitation

VALID and the local organising committee invites you to play a vital part in the upcoming Having a Say Conference at Deakin University Geelong Waterfront Campus from 10th to 12th February 2010.

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

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 (from list on page 8) 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

The Conference aims and information about the 2010 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'** at the end of this booklet as soon as possible.

More information is available at www.valid.org.au or contact VALID on 03 9416 4003
E-mail havingasay@valid.org.au

Regards

Christine Scott

On Behalf of VALID
& the Conference Organising Team



Who runs the Conference?

About VALID

VALID is a not-for-profit organisation that supports over 1000 people with intellectual disability and their families each year.

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 and
- Community Participation.

Aims

The VALID Advocacy Service aims to empower people with intellectual disability at a range of levels, from the individual to systemic. VALID aims to empower individuals with intellectual disability 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 to provide peak representation of adults with intellectual disability across Victoria and to operate an advocacy support service for adults with intellectual disability, their families/carers and advocates.

VALID supports people with intellectual disability, their families and carers each year through advocacy support to resolve difficulties they are facing, which include simple support to find appropriate information, assistance to resolve complaints and complex support.

National Affiliation

VALID is the agency member in Victoria for 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.



What is the Conference?

About Having a Say

What is it?

The Having a Say conference is held each year in a country area of 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. The 11th annual Having a Say Conference will be held in Geelong in February 2010.

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.



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 2010 we will have 'Come & Try' activities like drama, belly dancing, music workshops, Latin dancing, cricket 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 statewide 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 group not only assists with planning but it adds a 'local flavour' to the program.

The Conference Aims each year to provide people with a disability:

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



For more information contact

VALID ph. 03 9416 4003 or email: havingasay@valid.org.au
Or visit www.valid.org.au

General Information

Facts on 2010

Conference Theme

'**Making it Happen**' *Individuality, Capacity, Participation, Leadership, Citizenship*, is the theme for the 2010 conference. Join the celebration of people with disabilities taking charge, getting involved, being heard, leading the way and changing the world!

Local involvement

A range of agencies from the Geelong region support VALID to plan the conference, they include; *City of Greater Geelong, DRAS, Encompass Community Services, Gateways Support 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 from:

7pm to 10.30pm on Thursday 11th February.

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
- in the main conference will be people with different types of impairments (eg. visual, hearing loss) and disabilities (intellectual, acquired brain injury, physical)

Venues

Conference main venue

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

Disco & Conference Dinner

- Kardinia Heights Centre, Corner Ballarat & Anakie Roads, Bell Post Hill

Come & Try activities venues

- will vary according to the type of activity - some will be on-site at Deakin, some on the waterfront & others nearby

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 at the Volunteer Orientation or 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 (learning about) will be given a roster, uniform, Volunteer Coordinator contact details, maps of the conference venue and other important details. In addition for those volunteers *who wish to*, you will be able to gain a qualification.

For those who DO NOT wish to obtain the Certificate qualification a short Orientation will be conducted on **Wednesday 3rd February 2010 from 12noon – 1pm** (light lunch provided) at Deakin Uni in the Costa Hall Outer Foyer.

Certificate I in Volunteering

All volunteers will be offered the opportunity to gain a 'Certificate I in Volunteering'. This is courtesy of Encompass Community Services Training Division. To receive this Certificate, volunteers **must** attend the day Orientation & Training Session on the 21st **AND** volunteer at the Having a Say Conference.

The Certificate Orientation & Training Day will be held on **Thursday 21st January 2010**, from 10am to 3pm at Encompass, 400 Pakington Street, Newtown. Lunch will be provided.



Thanks!

VALID will hold a 'Volunteer Thank You' morning or afternoon tea after the conference (date to be advised). People who are able to attend this function will be given a Certificate of Appreciation for Volunteering at the 2010 Having a Say Conference. (if you are unable to attend this function your certificate will be sent to you by post).

VOLUNTEER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Having a Say Conference Geelong 2010

First Name: Last Name: Organisation (if applicable):

Address: Postcode:

Telephone:..... Mobile: Email:

<i>TASK</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Interested Y/N</i>	<i>Day/s Available W, T, F</i>
Come & Try	General supervision during activities. Assisting people with participation in activities, which may include art, dancing, sailing, cricket & jewellery making clinics.		
Facilitators	Facilitating small group discussions during workshop sessions, so that all delegates are included in discussion & 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.		
General Support	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 <i>Directing</i> delegates to sessions, come & try activities and other areas		
Hospitality	Tea & Coffee will be self-serve, but some delegates may require support with this. Overall we require assistance to ensure that supplies are maintained & areas tidied after each break		
Photographer	To take photos of the conference activities & delegates (Note: photo permission is given when registering)		
Room Coordinators	Look after a specific room including checking equipment, general tidy ups & maintaining signage		
Transport	Transport delegates to off-site Come & Try activities (using a hired Hiace Van)		

Any specific skills or qualifications that you think are relevant to the roles you are interested in:

.....

*Please list any **dietary requirements** you have: (ie. Diabetic, Vegetarian etc)*

**Please return this form ASAP
 or by the 13th of December, 2009**

For more information contact VALID
 Ph: 03 9416 4003
 email: havingasay@valid.org.au