

VALID in association with Inclusion Australia presents the

Having a Say Conference 2020

A Good Life - Are we there yet!

24th - 26th February

Deakin University, Waterfront Campus
1 Gheringhap Street Geelong



INFORMATION BOOKLET

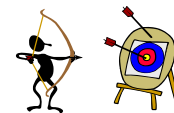
Australia's largest conference for people with disabilities

VALID



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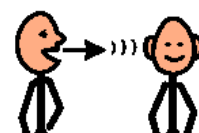
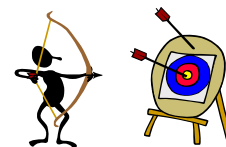
- 17/18. Maps



Aims of the Having a Say Conference

The Having a Say Conference aims to empower people with disability through:

- 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
- Being part of the planning and running of the conference
- Opportunities to be heard by politicians, government and service providers
- The opportunity to meet people from around Victoria, Australia and overseas
- Support to be part of developing strategies to address issues and recommendations made at the conference



Geelong

Geelong is a popular tourist destination, with beautiful beaches and the Great Ocean Road on its doorstep.

There are many great attractions around Geelong that make lovely afternoon or day trips.

If your group is coming up early or staying on after the Conference, you can get information about accessible tourist activities from the Tourism Greater Geelong & Bellarine Visitor Information Centre on 1800 620 888 or website: www.visitgeelongbellarine.com.au



Supporters of the Having a Say Conference



About Having a Say

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



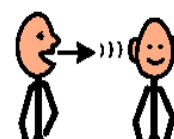
VALID is funded by the State Government to provide advocacy support to adults who have an intellectual disability, but also undertakes other activities to empower people with disabilities, such as self-advocacy training and the Having a Say Conference.



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.



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

The first Having a Say Conference was held in Maryborough in the year 2000. There were almost 190 people involved in the conference and the enthusiasm generated inspired those involved to do it again the next year. Since then the conference has grown each year, with over 1000 participants being involved in the 2018 conference.



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!

Many people come to the conference to have a say, such as open microphone to present or perform. We often get comments on the Evaluation Forms saying things like *"It was great I felt important because everyone listened to what I said"*.



The Having a Say Conference has been around for long time, because there is nothing else like it in Australia! As services change we need to get together to lobby about issues - until the 'system' is perfect out there!!! Apart from that there will always be a need for people to get together to share experiences and to celebrate our achievements. People also tell us that they want to keep getting together with other people from across Australia and now from overseas to network and learn different ways of doing things.

Conference Theme:

A Good Life - Are we there yet?



Across Australia, people with a disability are on the journey of their lives - where are they headed and how will they know when they get there?

Disability issues are high on the political agenda and never before has such attention been given to fixing the system. Does being an 'NDIS participant' or a 'service customer' necessarily make your life better? Whatever happened to the vision of community membership and citizenship?

In 2020, we invite delegates and presenters to share their visions and experiences of 'a good life'. Are we there yet?

Our Choice Expo

Part of the
Having a Say Conference in 2020

Monday 24th February
10.00am - 4pm

&

Tuesday 25th February
9.30am - 4pm



Take the opportunity to look at over 80 exhibits and see what is available to support you to get the best out of the NDIS.

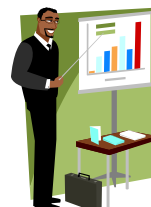
Free entry to delegates and members of the public.

Welcome from the Local Reference Committee

This will be the twenty first annual Having a Say Conference and the fifteenth one held in Geelong.

The workshops, presentations, performances, dreams & aspirations and the come & try activities provide fun and interactive ways to put the theme of the conference into practice. The Red Faces Talent Show auditions and the Dinner Disco are both fun and a great place to let your hair down, and celebrate the conference.

The Local Reference Committee would like to invite you to attend the Having a Say Conference and join in the celebrations and look forward to seeing you in Geelong, in 2020.



Conference Venue

Deakin University's Waterfront Campus in Geelong will be the main venue and is a great place to hold the conference.

Deakin University is located on Gheringhap Street and situated right in the heart of Geelong, with beautiful views of Corio Bay and the You Yangs. Deakin University's Waterfront Campus offers a welcoming and accessible venue for delegates to get together and have a say!



Parking is usually available in the Deakin University car park diagonally across from the conference. Parking is a reasonable cost & may be free (to be confirmed) during the conference, but do avoid parking in the marked Deakin Staff parking bays.



(Car park located on the corner of Smythe & Gheringhap Streets)

The VALID & Inclusion Australia Stream

The Having a Say conference is not just about self advocacy, it is also about current advocacy issues and building skills for people to be effective representatives for other people.



The VALID and Inclusion Australia Streams will bring together families, advocates, workers and other interested people who share the VALID Advocacy Mission.

There are a number of presentations at the conference with a focus on providing information to families /carers and workers in the disability sector.

Conference Dinner

Dinner Disco (*The Pier*)

The dinner disco will be held from 6.45pm—10.30pm at 'The Pier Geelong', located on Cunningham Pier with views of the bay, You Yangs and city lights. The conference Dinner Disco gives people the chance to let their hair down and enjoy a night filled with fun, good food and dancing!



The dress theme for the Dinner Disco is: **“Formal”** Dress up in your party best to celebrate 21 years of the conference.

The band 'Un-Limited' will be playing party anthems by the truckload including rock n' roll, funky hits and rarities of the 80's.



Dinner and Chat (*Wah Wah Gee Restaurant*)

As an alternative to the action packed Dinner Disco, a dinner and chat will be held in the Wah Wah Gee Restaurant.

People who attend the dinner and chat will be inspired by a Guest Speaker and have the chance to network and relax! You can also let your hair down and join in the fun at Dinner Disco.



Important things to remember:

- *The Dinner Disco is a very popular event which usually sells out quickly. To make sure that you don't miss out register early!*
- *Make sure you tick which event you would prefer to attend on your Registration Form. (Dinner Disco or Dinner & Chat)*
- *Drinks are not included in registration fee, but are available at bar prices*



How do you get to The Pier see the map on page 18, there is a map included in the Conference Program Booklet in your registration bag.



Parking

Parking on the pier will cost \$8 for the evening, there is free parking available along Western Beach Road.

You are also able drop to people off at the front of the venue (The Pier Geelong) and then park your vehicle. *See map on page 18*



What's on at the conference?

Highlights:

Day 1



Opening Ceremony
Welcome to Country
Open Mic



Presentations, Workshops and Performances
Dreams and Aspirations
Come & Try Activities (C&T)
Red Faces Talent Show Auditions (*see page 10*)

Day 2



Keynote Presentation
Presentations, Workshops and Performances
Dreams and Aspirations
Come & Try Activities (C&T)
Presentation of Awards
Dinner Disco (*see page 7*)



Day 3



Presentations and Performances
Open Mic
Closing Ceremony
Presentation of Awards including Art Competition
Red Faces Finals



Don't forget to check out:



HaS Expo is in the foyer & the Our Choice expo is held in the gallery area near the coffee cart
Art Competition display off the Costa Hall foyer (*see map*)

Come & Try Activities

Come & Try Activities (C&T's) are a popular feature of the conference, providing delegates with the chance to relax and have some fun and try something new.



Some people think the C&T's are what the conference is about, but they are really 'an added extra'.

C&T activities **should ONLY be seen as:**

- An alternative to workshops and presentations
- Providing an opportunity for social interaction and networking
- An opportunity to try new activities and learn new skills



How do I book my Come & Try Activities?

- A Come & Try booking sheet will be sent to you after VALID receives your registration form
- You will be able to download a Come & Try booking sheet when available from the VALID website: www.valid.org.au or email: havingasay@valid.org.au



How do I know what activities I have booked in to?

- A Come & Try confirmation letter will be sent or emailed to you
- Your Come & Try activities are also printed on the back of your name badge



How many Come & Try activities can I do?

- Delegates (*people with disability*) attending all three days of the conference get to do **two** Come & Try activities (*note: **not** 2 activities per day, 2 in total*)
- Delegates attending for one day only get to do **one** come & try activity

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1

What if I forget to book my Come & Try activities?

- You can book your Come & Try activities at the conference at the Come & Try desk next to registration

Note: *Many of the Come & Try activities book out before the conference so your choices may be limited*



Please note: *Activities may be cancelled by the Organisers due to unforeseen circumstances e.g. bad weather.*

Red Faces Talent Show



The Red Faces Talent Show will be held in the Luxor Lounge at the Sphinx Hotel, 2 Thompson Street, North Geelong on Monday evening, 24th February 2020 from 7pm.

If you want a meal in the Bistro, **booking a table** is recommended or you can have something from the Bain-Marie in the Luxor Lounge. Please note: No need to book at table if you are eating in the Luxor Lounge.

You can contact the Sphinx Hotel on ph: 5278 2911

The Red Faces Talent Show is a great night out full of fun and laughter. The audience are entertained by the many talented artists who sing, dance and sometimes do magic tricks. The 20 acts are judged and the 3 finalist of the auditions will perform at the closing ceremony on Wednesday, 26th February in Costa Hall.

If you would like to perform in the Red Faces Talent Show, you can download a copy from the VALID website or call the office on (03) 9416 4003

Red Faces Talent Show



Monday, 24th February 2020



All performers must sign up to audition by Friday, 10th February 2020
To sign up contact VALID
Ph: 9416 4003
E-mail: havingasay@valid.org.au

Please note: There is a limit of 20 places and registrations will not be accepted on the night.

Book early as places are limited

*Finalists of the Auditions will perform **at the RED FACES TALENT SHOW Finals** during the conference Closing Ceremony in Costa Hall
Wednesday, 26th February 2020*

Barbara Donovan Art Competition



The art competition has been named the Barbara Donovan Art Competition in honour of Barbara's 50 years of service to people with disability and ten years of volunteering at the HaS conference.

2020 is the tenth year of the Having a Say Art Competition sponsored by the Office for Professional Practice, Senior Practitioner. Experienced and budding artists are invited to enter their artwork.

The Art Competition is open to all delegates (*people with disability*) of the Having a Say Conference & for the first time, two non-delegate prize will also be awarded. The top 20 artworks will be on display in the Costa Hall foyer during the conference with the winners announced at the Closing Ceremony on Wednesday. The winning artworks are awarded cash prizes and certificates.

The art work is to be based on the conference theme: [A Good Life—Are we there yet?](#)

Entry forms and artwork must be handed in or sent to VALID by **Friday, 7th February 2020**. For more information or an entry form contact Brenda by email:

Conference Souvenir T-Shirts

Would you like to take home a souvenir from the
Having a Say Conference?

The T-Shirt display the conference logo on the front.

You can get an order form from the VALID website
or email: havingasay@valid.org.au

Souvenir T-Shirts will still be on sale in the foyer of
Costa Hall at the conference and are available in a
range of sizes and colours.



Volunteering

The Having a Say Conference needs your help. We are looking for volunteers to assist us with a variety of tasks. There is something to suit everyone's interests.

You can volunteer for a day or the whole conference, it's a lot of fun and you will meet a great group of people.

What is the conference about? It 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.



It's Australia's largest conference for people with disabilities, so why not volunteer?

- *It's fun*
- *It's unique*
- *It's inspirational*

All volunteers receive morning and afternoon tea and lunch. People volunteering for all 3 days of the conference have the opportunity to attend the dinner disco, providing there are places available.

Volunteers will also receive a complementary souvenir t-shirt.

For more information about volunteering at the Having a Say Conference phone VALID on 03 9416 4003 or email: havingasay@valid.org.au



Feedback from volunteers:

"Sharing the three days with both staff from VALID and the participants was a fantastic education and it has only reinforced to me that all people can contribute greatly including people with a disability!"

"Being a volunteer was a great way to be fully involved with the Conference and it gave me an opportunity to share a lot of great experiences."

"My volunteer experience for the Having a Say Conference was not only rewarding but gave me a much better understanding of people who have an intellectual and/or physical disability."



Program Timetable



Mon 24th Feb 2020	Activity	Venue
9.30am - 10.30am	Registration open	Deakin University
10.30am - 12 noon	Opening Ceremony	Costa Hall, Deakin Uni
1.30pm - 2.30pm	Conference Sessions	Deakin University
3pm - 4pm	Conference Sessions	Deakin University
7pm - 10pm	Red Faces Talent Auditions	The Sphinx Hotel



Tues 25th Feb 2020	Activity	Venue
9.30am - 10.30am	Plenary (everyone together)	Deakin University
11am - 12 noon	Conference Sessions	Deakin University
1.30pm - 2.30pm	Conference Sessions	Deakin University
3pm - 4pm	Conference Sessions	Deakin University
6.45pm - 10.30pm	Conference Dinner Disco Conference 'Dinner & Chat'	The Pier & Wah Wah Gee on Cunningham Pier



Wed 26th Feb 2020	Activity	Venue
9.30am - 10.15am	Plenary (everyone together)	Deakin University
10.15am - 10.45am	Break	Deakin University
10.45am - 11.30am	Conference Sessions	Deakin University
11.30am - 12 noon	Brunch	Costa Hall foyers
12pm - 1pm	Closing Ceremony	Costa Hall, Deakin

Conference DVD

You can order a copy of the Having a Say Conference DVD.

The DVD has memorable footage from all the main conference events and activities including the Dinner Disco, Presentations & Workshops, Red Faces Talent Show, Opening Ceremony and Come & Try activities. See if you can spot yourself or friends in the conference footage.

Please note: It takes about 4 months for the DVD to be completed.

*VALID members and groups of three or more people who attend the conference will receive one **free copy** of the conference DVD.*



Registration

To encourage people to register and pay early we offer an Early Bird price. The Early Bird price apply to those registrations received and paid for by the 29th of November 2019.



NOTE: It is important that you read the registration form before you fill in your details as it explains the prices and the conditions, what is included or not included with your registration.

Sponsorship

We are pleased to advise you that we have some limited sponsorship funding from the Australian Federal Government, Chris & Julie's Respite Farm and the Disability Services Commissioner for people who live in Victoria and a smaller amount is available to support interstate delegates.

For more information about sponsorship please read the Sponsorship application form at the back of the registration booklet.



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Chris & Julie's Farm Stays



Disability
Services
Commissioner

VALID Members Discount

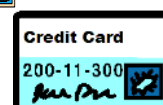
Current paid members (individuals and agencies) of VALID receive a 10% discount off their registration fee. To become a VALID member please contact the office or download a *Membership Form* off our website: www.valid.org.au

VALID

Registration Payment Methods

VALID accepts cheques, money orders and direct payments.

Credit Card facilities are available you can pay via the VALID website: www.valid.org.au or pay over the phone by calling VALID on 03 9416 4003



To make a direct payment to the VALID account

Make payment to:

Payee: Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability Inc

Bank: Commonwealth Bank Australia

BSB: 063 165

Account: 1002 0977



CommonwealthBank

Payer Reference: **Important** please quote your **2020 HaS Invoice number**

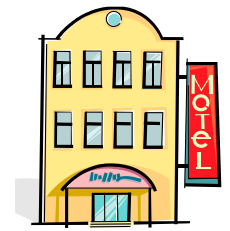


Details of any direct payment with invoice reference need to be faxed, mailed to havingasay@valid.org.au or attached to your completed registration form.

Accommodation

For information on a large range of accommodation please contact the Visitor Information Centre on 03 5223 2588

Websites: www.tourismgeelongbellerine.com.au
www.visitvictoria.com/geelong



Accessible Accommodation

Some accessible accommodation can be located through the Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine service, contact details above.



Catering

Please note this important information about catering.

- Morning and afternoon teas **are** included in the registration fee
- Lunch **is not** provided on any day, but a brunch on Wednesday is included
- Remember to list any special dietary needs on your registration form



Attendant Care

Attendant Care support is available for people who are attending the conference independently (ie. without staff, family support).

This support is **ONLY** for personal care and meal assistance during the conference and conference dinner.



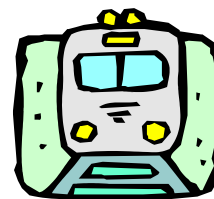
It is **important** for you to be aware that this support cannot be provided to people on a i.e. 1 to 1 basis for long periods of time during the conference.

If you are planning on attending the conference independently and have a higher need for support (i.e. require one to one attendant care support) please talk about your needs with your NDIS planner / services that you use. If you feel that information from VALID then please contact the HaS Coordinator Christine Scott, email Christine@valid.org.au to discuss how we can assist you.

Transport

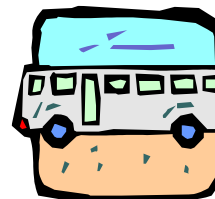
Trains

There are frequent train services between Melbourne & Geelong through V/line. The trip takes about an hour. V/Line buses also operate from other towns (e.g. Ballarat) directly to Geelong. People who require mobility assistance need to book with V/Line in advance. Timetables & more details are available at www.vline.com.au or call **1800 800 007**



Airport Transfers

Gull Bus service operates regular buses from Melbourne's Tullamarine Airport to Geelong and this currently costs about \$56 one way, per person. For **Bookings & Info** phone: **03 5222 4966** or www.gull.com.au

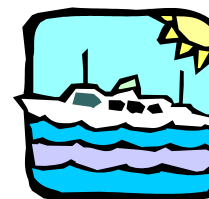


Avalon Airport, where Jetstar flies to, is only 15 minutes from Geelong. The Avalon Airport Shuttle will take you door to door to any motel/hotel in Geelong & costs about \$10 one way per person. For **Bookings & Info** phone: **03 5278 8788**.



Queenscliff-Sorrento Ferry

Peninsula Searoad Transport operate the car/passenger ferry service 7 days a week, departing each hour on the hour between 7am & 7pm. **Bookings & Info** phone: **03 5257 4500** or www.searoad.com.au



Taxi

Geelong Taxi Network provides both a general and multi-purpose taxi service in the Geelong Region. **Phone: 131 008**

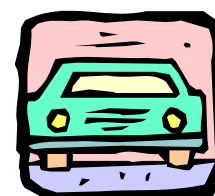
Maxi Taxi: We would **strongly advise** that you book in advance for a Maxi taxi (especially for Dinner Disco) up to 2 weeks prior to the conference.

Maxi Taxi Phone: 03 5278 5785



Parking

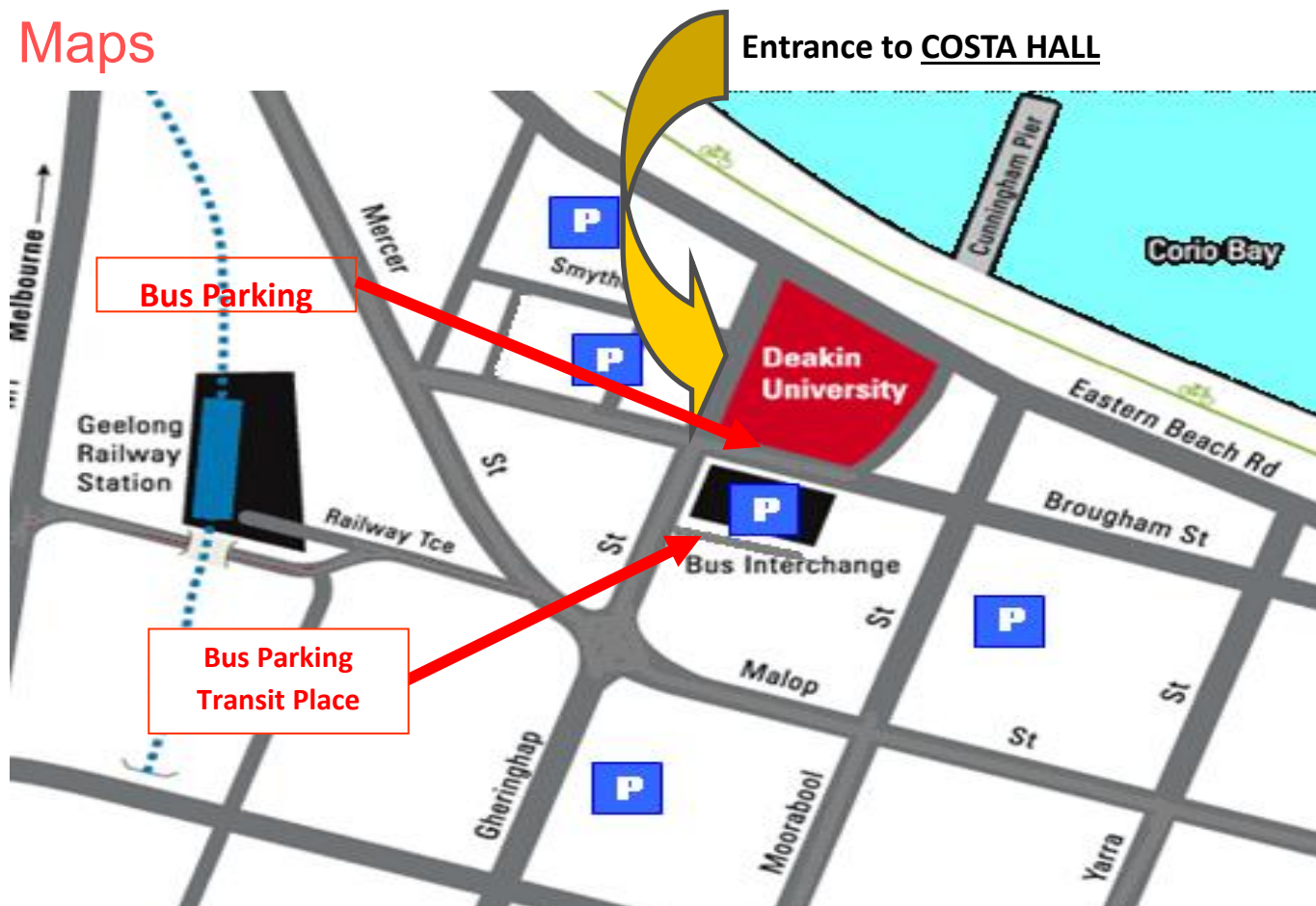
Parking is available in the Deakin University car park diagonally across from the Conference. Parking is usually free (to be confirmed) during the conference as long as you avoid parking in the Deakin Staff parking area. *(Car park located on the corner of Smythe & Gheringhap Streets)*



There are also metered car parking spaces at the conference venue. There are also many private car parks within walking distance from both venues. Mini Buses can park in the above mentioned car parks however there will also be designated Bus Parking in Gheringhap Street (outside Costa Hall) for Mini Buses with Disabled Stickers.



Maps



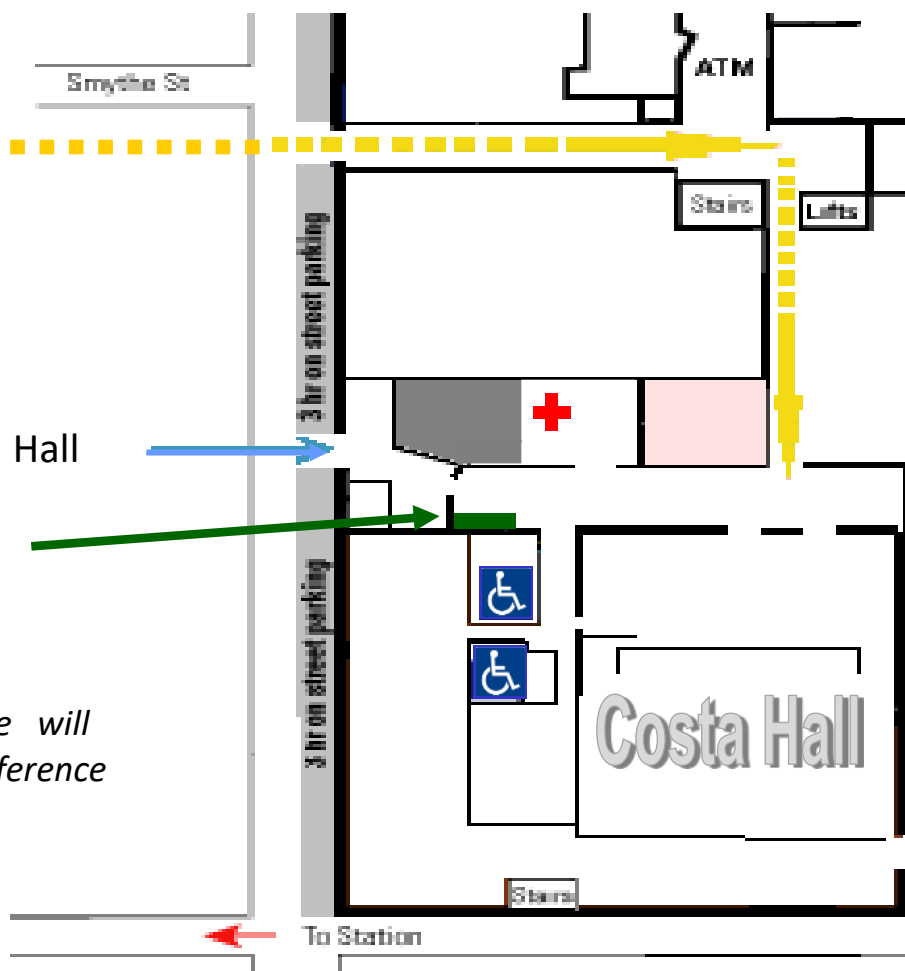
Deakin University Waterfront Campus

Accessible Entry

Main Entry to Costa Hall

Registration Desk

*A full map of the venue will
be included in the Conference
Program Booklet*



Conference Dinner Disco Venue

The Pier & Wah Wah Restaurant

Cunningham Pier, 10 Western Beach Foreshore Road, Geelong



Please note: Parking on the pier will cost \$8 for the evening, there is free parking available along Western Beach Road. You can drop people off at the front of the venue (The Pier Geelong) and then park your vehicle in a free parking area.



For more information, contact:

VALiD

VALID (Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability Inc.)



130 Cremorne Street, Richmond Vic 3121



Telephone: 03 9416 4003

Overseas + 61 3 9416 4003



Fax: 03 9416 0850



Email: havingasay@valid.org.au



Website: www.valid.org.au

