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VALID

VALID e-newsletter issue #28

18/12/19

This is our last e-newsletter for 2019. The VALID office will be closed from Friday 20 December until Monday 6 January. The entire VALID team would like to thank you for your support throughout the year. We wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

It has been a couple of exciting months here at VALID as we have started two new projects – the VALID8 project and Growing Employer Demand. Both of these initiatives focus on employment of people with intellectual disabilities within the broader community. The VALID8 project (team pictured below) trains self-advocates to develop their skills and lead the review of empowerment practices within residential services. We welcome 7 new staff members and we look forward to hearing about their work in 2020!

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The VALID Self-Advocacy team continue to collaborate with organisations to develop Easy English resources and our Families as Planning Partners team has been on the road running training throughout Victoria and Gippsland. The Staying Safe and Keys to Success programs have provided significant outcomes for participants, engaging with participants to help achieve their many individual goals.

The Having a Say conference is coming up in February 2020 and you can keep up to date by reading the Having a Say conference e-newsletter [here](#). If you find our e-newsletter interesting you can [forward it to a friend](#) or they can [subscribe here](#).

See you all in 2020!

Thanks,
The VALID team

[Disability Royal Commission](#)



VALID was at the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability this month. CEO Kevin Stone presented with Alan Robertson, and Advocacy Manager Sarah Forbes was presented alongside a panel of advocates. The panel talked about how people in group homes should have choice in who they live with, where they live, and should have independent support for decision-making. The panel also told the Commission about the abuse that happens to some people in group homes.

You can watch the whole week of the public hearings [here](#) and you can read the transcript [here](#).

Royal Commission

International Day for People with Disability



For sybil attended from *Substituted to Supported Decision-making, Human Rights, the Law and Everyday Practice* at the University of Melbourne, facilitated by Dr. Keith McVilly, Professor of Disability and Inclusion. The event was opened by Keynote Speaker, Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Dr. Ben Gauntlett. Heather was part of a panel discussion alongside Dr. John Chesterman, Victorian Deputy Public Advocate and Dr. Jennifer Fitzgerald, CEO, Scope Australia, and spoke about her life, what it felt like having decisions made for her and how being empowered helped her make decisions.



VALID celebrated International Day for People with Disability at the annual Inclusion Access Awards in Ballarat. VALID and the Ballarat Peer Action Group (PAG) announced the winners of the 2nd Shane Everard and Matt Mattson Award for Inclusion to Ballarat Wildlife Park. Congratulations again to Ballarat Wildlife Park for being such an inclusive organisation, as voted by the local community!



The Pakenham Peer Action Group (PAG) celebrated their achievement of a successful campaign to install a pedestrian crossing on Station Street in Pakenham. Over 50 people from PAGs across Pakenham, Cranbourne and Frankston met on Thursday 12 December, to celebrate their victory on International Day of People with Disabilities. You can read about the day and their success in the local Gazette [here](#).

What's on at VALID

Having a Say Conference

[Geelong](#) (24 February to 26 February 2020)

Our Choice Expo

[Geelong](#) (Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 February 2020)

Families as Planning Partners

[Tecoma](#) (Day 10, 17, 24 31 Tuesday March 2020)

[Tecoma](#) (Evening 10, 17, 24 and 31 Tuesday March 2020)

[Pakenham](#) (Day 11, 18 and 25 Wednesday March and 1 Wednesday April 2020)

Dulcie Stone Writers Competition



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