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VALID e-newsletter issue #36

16/10/20

Welcome to all our new subscribers! We hope that you find our e-newsletters informative and useful. Feel free to reply with any feedback and if you wish to stop receiving our e-newsletter, you can always [unsubscribe from this list](#).

As some of you are new to our organisation, we thought you might like to check out some of our resources:

[The top 10 things to know about NDIS SDA: VALID's plain language guide to NDIS Specialist Disability Accommodation](#) was developed to make it easier to work out how SDA (and SIL – Supported Independent Living) works in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

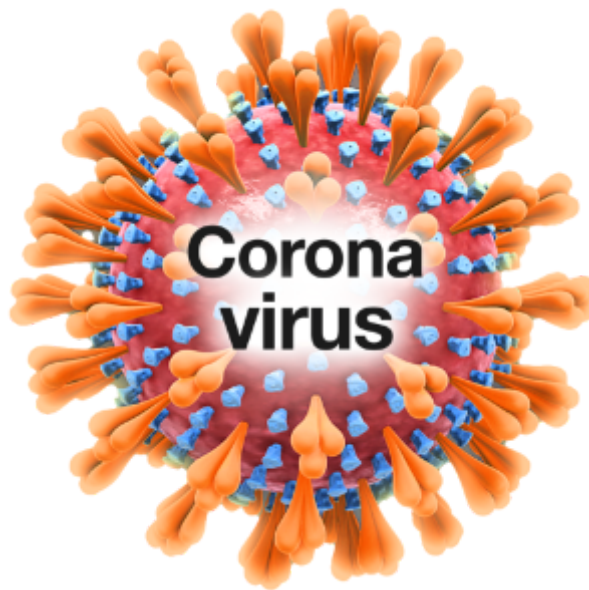
[10 steps to excellent NDIS therapy reports: VALID's guide to National Disability Insurance Scheme therapist reports for allied health professionals](#) is designed for use by therapists as they prepare reports for NDIS participants, but is helpful for participants, families, Local Area Coordinators, and Support Coordinators too.

On another note, The Disability Royal Commission has been running for over a year without offering full confidentiality to people with disability making submissions. People with a disability and their supporters are being asked to tell their personal stories of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, without a full guarantee that the perpetrators will never have access to the information they provide. Disabled People's Organisations Australia are calling upon our Attorney-General and our Federal MPs to #MakeItSafeToSpeak by passing

out how you can get involved.

Thanks,
The VALID team

Coronavirus Update



There have been a few changes to the lockdown in Metro Melbourne and the Self Advocacy team at VALID have updated the Easy English fact sheets [here](#).

[Victorian Department of Health & Human Services](#) has developed resources for people with a disability to help them during COVID-19. Some of the resources are:

- [A book about the financial help you can get if coronavirus has made things hard for you](#)
- [Two free short e-learning courses about staying safe from coronavirus are available for community service workers and volunteers](#)

Other accessible resources are being updated. These will be shared as soon as they become available. You can find the current ones

Having a Say Conference 2021



Having a Say Forever!

Having a Say Conference 2021

15th – 17th June 2021

Theme: *You're My Best Friend*

We will not be stopped, even by COVID-19!

So Having a Say Conference is on in 2021 from June 15th to 17th.

Theme: You're my best friend.

Having a Say will be a mixture of 'in person' (whatever government rules allow) at Deakin Uni Geelong and a new exciting way to join in the conference online. There will be lots of activities, performances, sessions and opportunities to catch up online with old and new friends.

[Download HaS First Notice for more information.](#)

National Carers Week

**Carers
Australia**
**NATIONAL
CARERS
WEEK
2020**
11-17 OCTOBER

VALID and Tandem Carers Support received a grant from the Victorian government for a Carers Initiative in January this year to recognise the needs of family members of people with a disability and/or a mental health issue in more isolated rural areas. We have been sending out Gift Packs to acknowledge and 'spoil' family members with a gift voucher to put towards their own choice of pampering or relaxation activity. We have also sent out a gift bag with practical and fun items, along with some 'hand made with love' items. In honour of National Carers Week we are still sending out gifts. Find out more [here](#).

Choice Mentor Program



The aim of the Choice Mentor Program is to train volunteers to support people with a disability to express their choice and control of their NDIS Plan. NDIS plans can be big and confusing. The mentors help participants to work out their goals and help them build their

are finding new ways to stay connected. Find out how [here](#).

Do you have a story to tell about disability in Australia?



Everyone has a story to tell, and in the lead up to the International Day of People with Disability on December 3, the ABC want you to tell your stories of life with a disability. To be eligible you must live in Australia, be over 18, have a disability and be available to work on your article in October/November. You do not need to have previous writing experience. You can pitch ideas for a digital article about disability — it can be about anything, as long as it's non-fiction and your original idea. Submissions close midnight October 18. You can find out more [here](#).

Get Social with VALID

Have you liked our [Facebook page](#)? Like our page to keep up to date with the latest news in the sector and important updates. You can also find out more by following us on [twitter](#).

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What's on at VALID

[Families as Planning Partners](#)

Multiple dates throughout October and November



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