

VALID Annual Report 2024–2025

Plain English highlights

This document shares the main highlights from VALID's Annual Report 2024–2025. It is written in Plain English so information is clear and easier to understand.

This document is for people with disability, families, supporters and community members who want a simple overview of our work.

Who is VALID?

VALID supports people with intellectual disability to:

- Speak up
- Know their rights
- Make their own decisions
- Be included in the community

Our work is led by people with lived experience of disability.

Big highlights this year

In 2024–2025, VALID:

- Helped hundreds of people through advocacy and self advocacy
 - Launched new projects and programs
 - Ran two conferences led by lived experience
 - Grew our team and moved into a new office
 - Finished the year in a strong financial position
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Individual Advocacy

Individual advocacy means standing beside someone and helping them deal with problems.

This year:

- 195 people received individual advocacy support
- Around 40 people contacted us each month for help
- The most common issue was the NDIS

People asked for support with:

- NDIS planning and reviews
- Unsafe or unfair service providers
- Housing problems
- Family violence and justice issues

We also supported:

- 44 people with acquired brain injury (ABI)

This work helped keep people safe and supported their rights.

Self Advocacy

Self advocacy means speaking up for yourself and making your own choices.

This year:

- People with disability helped design and run programs
- Self Advocacy Network meetings continued across Victoria
- Projects focused on housing, health and human rights

Key achievements:

- Funding secured for 100 workshops across Victoria
 - Workshops will cover complaints, safety, abuse and neglect
 - Strong partnerships with Inclusion Australia and other organisations
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VALID8 and ACTIV8

VALID8 was a project where people with disability worked as paid peer auditors.

Over six years:

- 170 group homes were visited
- More than 30 people with disability were employed in paid roles

In 2024–2025:

- VALID8 finished
- A new project called ACTIV8 began

ACTIV8:

- Builds on the VALID8 model
- Works with day programs, workplaces and respite services
- Is led by people with lived experience

VALID Connect

VALID Connect is a not-for-profit business owned by VALID.

It helps organisations be more inclusive.

This year:

- VALID Connect completed its first full year
- Over 30 organisations received Easy Read information
- Training and consultations were delivered across many sectors

Easy Read helps people understand important information.

Community Development

Community Development helps communities be more inclusive.

This year:

- Projects ran across metro, regional and rural Victoria
- New projects supported multicultural communities

Key projects included:

- In This Together – working with local communities

- I Can Decide in My Language – supporting decision making
- Power Through Knowledge – learning about disability rights

VALID also:

- Restarted the LGBTQIA+ Q Group
 - Continued sharing lived experience stories through Diverse City
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Conferences

Having a Say Conference

- 3-day conference held in January 2025
- 974 people took part
- Over 100 presenters with lived experience

People talked about:

- Housing
- Employment
- Relationships
- Safety
- Health

Advocacy in Action Conference

- First winter conference
 - Over 250 people attended
 - More than 30% were people with lived experience
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Money and finances

VALID finished the year in a strong position.

- Total income was about \$3.6 million
- Money was spent on staff, programs and projects

- VALID ended the year with a surplus

This means VALID is stable and able to keep supporting people.

Thank you

Thank you to:

- People with disability
- Families and supporters
- Staff and Board members
- Funders and partners

Together, we are strengthening voices and creating change.

Want to read more?

You can read the full Annual Report on our website:

www.valid.org.au