

November 2015

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meda
melbourne east disability advocacy

*Melbourne East Disability Advocacy promotes and protects
the rights and interests of people who have an intellectual
disability.*

Greetings friends of MEDA...

Welcome to the MEDA November newsletter, as the end of year is fast approaching and the countdown to the festive season begins. It's a time to reflect on the years achievements and challenges, a time for joy, happiness, and sharing with friends and family.

Since the last newsletter we finalised our annual report and held the 30th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 21st October, I would like to extend sincere gratitude to our Patron Pete Smith, our members, staff and volunteers who continue to support MEDA each year. I would also like to introduce to you the newly elected Committee of Management (COM):

Catherine (Kate) Hollins – President

Mary Appleby - Vice President

Ainsley Corteling – Treasurer

Sylvia Victor-Quinn - Secretary

Merrilyn Shepherd, Evan Reedman & Carolyn Thomas – Committee Members.

and Robyn Taft - Public Officer

As we welcomed a new member to the committee Sylvia Victor-Quinn we also said farewell to one of our longest members of MEDA, Chris Howell. Many of you will know Chris as he has been a part of MEDA for some 18 years. Chris is well known for his positive, infectious can do personality, unfortunately for MEDA Chris decided not to stand for election for the coming year. Members present at the AGM acknowledged Chris for his years of service to the MEDA community that includes a long list of volunteer roles and the achievements in his 6 year tenure as President. A farewell celebration will be held for Chris in December.

Socially, we hope that consumers and volunteers are able to join in MEDA's end of year celebration on the 28th November. For more information see the invite on page 3. Finally, as this is the last newsletter for 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our supporters, volunteers, staff and committee and wish all the MEDA community a very joyous Christmas, a safe and restful holiday season, and a happy and personally rewarding 2016.



Kate Hollins President

Citizen Advocacy Partnership Updates

Since our last newsletter we welcome a new Citizen Advocacy partnership with Eleanor and Matthew. Congratulations

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MEDA is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services

MEDA Program Manager's Update

MEDA has now settled into our new premises at Whitehorse Community Resource Centre. We are making new connections whilst raising the profile of MEDA.

In August we held our 3rd Citizen Advocacy partnership event at our new office space. Citizen Advocates, their partners and friends of MEDA attended a forum on preparing for NDIS. A most valuable forum given the recent announcement of the roll out of NDIS across Victoria.

October also saw MEDA's 30th Annual General Meeting held. We welcome our incoming Committee, including a new member Sylvia Victor-Quinn and thank outgoing Committee member and long term supporter of MEDA, Chris Howells for his contribution and dedication to MEDA.

We remain busy responding to individual advocacy requests with an increase in requests for support around housing and future disability planning options. We feel honored that we continue to engage new volunteer citizen advocates whilst supporting the National Citizen Advocacy agenda and movement. Continuous improvement including the review of our suite of policies and procedures remains a focus to ensure our documents are current and reflect the advocacy sector, consumers and the changing disability environment.

We look forward to strengthening our position as a leading organization in advocacy whilst remaining responsive to industry changes.

Jan M



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Update & Announcement

Victoria now has a clear plan for how the NDIS will roll out across Victoria from July 2016 to January 2019.

The Victorian Government understands that this will mean a big change for people with disabilities, their families and carers as they transfer to a national scheme.

In November 2017 Inner and Outer East Melbourne Boorondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges will see the roll out of NDIS. Other regions and areas of Victoria will receive NDIS before and we will be watching and learning to see how we can adapt and support people through this transition.

National
disabilityinsurance
Scheme

MEDA's End of Year Event

Come and join us for morning tea to celebrate the end of 2015

Date: Saturday 28th November 2015



Time: 10am--11.30am



A light morning tea will be provided



When you RSVP please let us know about any dietary requirements.

Address: Chocolate Couture Café, 1069 Riversdale Rd, Surrey Hills

RSVP: By Wednesday 25th November, 2015

Phone: 9888 990 or email:

office@meda.org.au



We farewell Chris Howell from MEDA's Committee of Management



For the past 18 years Chris Howell has dedicated his time to MEDA. Chris gave 6 years as President of MEDA's Committee of Management and another nine years in other roles on the Committee. Chris has also served as a Volunteer Citizen Advocate for 10 years. All commendable and admirable milestones. We will miss Chris's positive input to MEDA. Chris has 3 children that are growing up quickly and Chris sits on many other committee groups where there interests lie. I am sure he will give as much to these committees and groups as he has for MEDA over the years. We will miss you Chris.

MEDA Consumer Group Update

MEDA's Consumer Group met again in August and October. A number of items discussed included the review of the State Disability Plan and the Multi-Purpose Taxi program,

The Consumer Group is always keen to have new members. The meeting will now be held at our new office location in Forest Hill.

Next meeting—December 1st 4pm for more information ph. 98777 990



Citizen Advocacy Partnership Event

Late August MEDA hosted another Citizen Advocacy Partnership Event. This time it was an opportunity for people to come together to hear more about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). How to prepare and plan for NDIS. Thankyou to presenter Christine Scott from VALID who provided an overview and personal insights into her NDIS experience.



Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser

Meda held the Bunnings BBQ at Box hill on 4th October. A special thanks to the staff at Johnson and Johnson, committee of management, staff and family who volunteered their time to assist us. It was a very warm day and not quite as busy as other years. I think people were recovering after grand final day and the long weekend. Meda were still able to make a good profit on the day.



State Disability Plan

The government wants to know what you think

The government wants to improve the lives of people with a disability so that they have the same choices and opportunities as everyone in our community.

You know what works best

We want to make sure that the plan is on the right track and is making the changes that matter to people with a disability.

That's why we are asking people with a disability who are over 18 and who live in Victoria to answer some questions.

Please call the Office for Disability if you:

- need to do the questionnaire over the phone
- would like a paper version of the questionnaire
- have any questions about the questionnaire



You can contact the Office for Disability

by phone on 1300 880 043

by email at statedisabilityplan@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Multipurpose Taxi Program Review

The Victorian Government is reviewing the multi purpose taxi program and considering how to improve transport for Victorians with limited mobility.

The Department of Economic Development will be holding workshops across Victoria throughout November 2015 to hear what you think about our ideas to improve the program

Have your say before Friday 4 December 2015 to ensure your views are considered

Attend a workshop

The Department of Economic Development will be holding workshops across Victoria throughout November 2015 to hear what you think. Workshops will be held in Traralgon, Wangaratta, Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, Sunshine, Ringwood East and in the Melbourne CBD. For more details about the workshops or to register to attend, please visit: economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au/mptp-review. We want to make sure that everyone can have their say during consultation. If you need support getting to or participating in a workshop, please let us know when you RSVP online or call us on 1800 064 887. We will aim to assist you with your requirements.

Complete the online survey

Have your say on what matters to you. Complete an online survey in about 10 minutes. economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au/mptp-review. If you have difficulty completing the survey call 1800 064 887 and a person from the Department of Economic Development will help complete the survey on your behalf.

Be a Part of MEDA

Become a member

Being a member of MEDA is one way of supporting MEDA's valuable work and keeping in touch with what is happening in the Advocacy sector and MEDA. Membership for an individual is \$20, concession \$5 and family



Become a Volunteer

Come and be a part of our valuable volunteer workforce. Support someone with a disability by being a Volunteer Citizen Advocate.

Follow MEDA on Facebook



Follow MEDA on Facebook. Like our MEDA Facebook page. Join in on the conversation that we are starting to build.

MEDA's Newsletter

If at any stage you are wanting to receive this newsletter by email or you are no longer wanting to receive this newsletter please let us know.



Phone 98777 990

Thankyou.

Contact Details:

Please don't hesitate to call or email us if you have any questions or comments about this newsletter. We welcome your contributions. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us.

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