

November 2016

Issue 3, 2016

Phone: 9877 7990
c/o White Horse
Community Centre,
Level 1, 79 Mahoney's Rd.
Forest Hill, VIC 3131
office@meda.org.au
www.meda.org.au



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 last newsletter for 2016, so far November has provided much excitement as members of the MEDA community their families and friends came together to celebrate the milestone of reaching 35 years of service to the community. The Gala night and fundraising event was a spectacular success. Life member Chris Howell took the helm as the Master of Ceremonies (MC) for the evening and did a splendid job together with our Patron Pete Smith. Fine food, music and dancing created a brilliant atmosphere, and Chris ensured the fundraising auction created enthusiasm, excitement, fun and competition raising a total of \$5,800 on the night. Congratulations to everyone for making the evening such a wonderful event, and a big thank you to our donors and sponsors as listed inside pages 3 & 4 for supporting the Gala.

In October we held our 31st Annual General Meeting (AGM), I introduce to you the newly elected Committee of Management (COM) for the next 12 months:

Catherine (Kate) Hollins -	President
Mary Appleby -	Vice President
Ainsley Corteling -	Treasurer
Sylvia Victor-Quinn -	Secretary
Robyn Taft -	Public Officer
Merrilyn Sheppard -	Committee Member
Will Elder -	Committee Member
Carolyn Thomas -	Committee Member



This is the final newsletter for 2016, and as the end of year is fast approaching the countdown to the festive season begins. It's a time to reflect on the year's achievements and challenges, a time for joy, happiness, and sharing with friends and family. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our members, supporters, consumer group, volunteers, staff and committee and wish all the MEDA community a very joyous Christmas, a safe and happy holiday season, and a personally rewarding 2017.

Kate Hollins—President

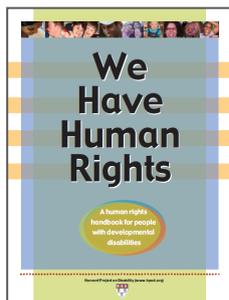
Citizen Advocacy Partnership Updates

We are currently matching Annette and Rose, Rosa and Anja, Andrew and Garry and Seitze and Alan. We look forward to finalizing these matches to welcome these Citizen Advocate partnership into the MEDA family.

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MEDA is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services



MEDA Program Manager's Update

Since our July Newsletter a lot has been happening within MEDA.

Since the start of July 2016 MEDA continues to support through our individual and volunteer citizen advocacy programs 69 consumers whilst managing or addressing 118 issues.



MEDA continues to get valuable feedback from our consumers through our Consumer focused feedback question. In 2016 we have run and had feedback on two questions "Have I helped you today" and "can we improve our service to you?" Feedback provided enables us to reflect on our practice and enhance our service.



We were successful in securing a small grant from the Whitehorse Community Chest (\$1,500) to strengthen our work with the "Talking Mats resources and program



and a small value in kind donation from "Our Community Grants" (Australia Post) for training & postage.

MEDA placed a submission into the review of the National Disability Advocacy Program and jointly into the Department of Health and Human Service's Strategic Plan.



MEDA was represented at the DARU Strengthening Disability Advocacy Conference in September "Putting Rights Centre Stage"

We held our Annual General Meeting on October 19th where the 2016-2017 Committee of Management members were nominated. & accepted.



We held a Talking Mats Training session for our Volunteer Citizen Advocates

Finally we celebrated MEDA'S 35 Year milestone through a Gala Dinner and Fundraise event on November 5th where many friends of MEDA came together to acknowledge MEDA's past achievements whilst raising funds to support future opportunities.

Consumer Focused Feedback Question

From February to May 2016 the question "Have I helped you today" was asked after each contact with a consumer, family or care provider. Of the 64 responses, 100% said yes we have helped. "I feel relieved", "Sometimes you are the only one", "You were so quick", "You have made a big difference in my daughters life", "don't know what we would do without you". We will continue to ask and reflect on the learnings from these questions to strengthen service delivery and programs.

35TH ANNIVERSARY GALA NIGHT

On Saturday 5th November MEDA held it's first ever Gala Fundraising event to both celebrate MEDA's 35 year milestone and to raise funds for MEDA.

Friends of MEDA were in abundance to both celebrate but to also raise funds to support MEDA's much needed advocacy programs. Thankyou to our MC for the evening Chris Howell who passionately delivered an entertaining and engaging evening for all of our guests.

A special thank you to our donors and sponsors in particular Channel 9 for donating tickets to the 2017 Footy Show and Johnson and Johnson for their continued support of MEDA.





Warmly invites you to the...

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy 35th Anniversary Gala Night

Thank you to our supporters, donators and sponsors



Wildlife photographer
Nalini Scarfe



Hamper World
Steve Accardio



My Coffee Lab
Peter & Sharon Wu



Thaispa



Hair & Beauty



Jane Hurt



David Owen



AMF Bowling
Forest Hill



Sandy Keomany



Fit N Fast Gym
Forrest Hill



Pete Smith
MEDA'S
Patron

Phillips & Wilkins Solicitors
 Mattrow Constructions
 Greenscapes Nursery - Bernie Lennox
 Quilt Designer – May Callister
 Artist - Christine Ewert
 Artist - Jim Vemis
 Artist - Richard Gleeson
 Arbonne Consultants Matt & Catherine O'Kane

Appleby Family
 Abbott Family
 Elder Family
 Hollins Family
 Shepherd Family
 Victor-Quinn Family
 Wallace Family

MEDA's Consumer Group

Since MEDA's last newsletter MEDA's Consumer Group have met on 2 occasions discussing items around MEDA's 35 year Gala event, MEDA's end of year event, results and discussion around the Consumer Focussed feedback questions, MEDA's membership fee review, MEDA's AGM and consumer feedback and Talking Mats tools and resources. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Consumer Group members, Andrew, Jim, Carolyn and Kathleen. We look forward to more consumers joining us in 2017



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Your First Plan

Everyone who enters the NDIS will receive a first plan.



Your first plan will identify the reasonable and necessary supports you require to meet your immediate needs and start to identify and achieve your goals.

Once completed your first plan will provide you with individualised funding that you control and choose how to use.



Most people's first plans will be completed over the phone, if you are not able to complete your planning conversation over the phone you can request other arrangements.

Once in the NDIS your plan will be reviewed every 12 months or if your circumstances change you can request to have your plan reviewed.



(Information from
NDIS website)

2016 End of Year Event

When: Saturday 26th November

Time: 10am—11.30am

Venue: DeGani's Box Hill Sth

RSVP: By 23rd November phone 98777 990 or email office@meda.org.au



Be a part of MEDA

Become a Member

Do you know you can be a member of MEDA?

Membership enables individuals to vote, to receive updates and support MEDA's purpose.

Membership is \$30 individual, \$5 concession and \$50 for an organization.

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.

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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