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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...

It's hard to believe we are already in March and as this is the first newsletter for 2017 a Happy New Year to you all. The year began with the COM meeting in early February for our annual strategic planning day to review and outline the key objectives for the year ahead. As always the commitment and focus is to achieve the very best outcomes for our consumers and volunteers. The day generated new ideas and strategies determining future activities, inclusive of consumers and volunteers, as we strive to continually improve our services.

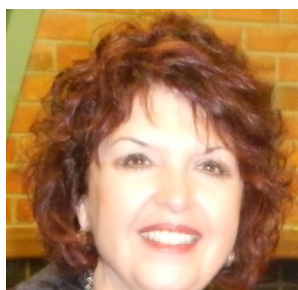
Our key areas of focus is to support staff to prepare for the roll out of the NDIS in the Eastern region, continue to increase our fundraising efforts, develop a new website, increase MEDA's profile and ensure our systems remain compliant.

The committee also participated in an independent performance evaluation in early March using evaluation tools developed by the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Non-profit Studies (ACPNS) at Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

The staff team are in full swing with many projects and reviews underway, expanding the short term Citizen Advocacy programme, ongoing recruitment and support of citizen advocacy volunteers, exploring and expanding community partnerships, networks and preparing for the roll out of the NDIS Eastern Region, is just a snapshot of what's high on the agenda for 2017.

On behalf of the MEDA community we thank you for your ongoing support as we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Kate Hollins President



Citizen Advocacy Partnership Updates

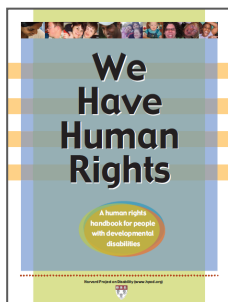
We are pleased to support the following new Volunteer Citizen Advocate matches.

Rose and Annette, Anja and Rosa, Garry and Andrew, Ryan and Shaun, Libby and Jodie and Deborah and Joy. We are sad to say goodbye to Volunteer Citizen Advocate Claire who has been with us for 5 years and Elly who has been with us for 3 years. Thankyou for your dedication and amazing commitment to your Citizen Advocate partners Joy and Matthew.

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MEDA is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social



MEDA Program Manager's Update

It has been a busy few months since our November Newsletter. MEDA celebrated our 2016 end of year event with 28 friends in attendance. Thanks to Degani Bakery Cafe Box Hill for their hospitality. There remains a high demand and request for both our individual and Citizen Advocacy programs. Year to date we have supported 74 consumers with 150 advocacy issues being addressed. We have also matched another 6 Volunteer Citizen Advocates.

MEDA's funding has also been extended for another 12 months until the end of June 2018 with DSS providing a small amount of additional funds to support MEDA in preparing and responding to NDIS.

We are most grateful to the Department of Social Services for the additional and ongoing funding to support the important business of advocacy.

In preparing for NDIS MEDA's Committee of Management have met to discuss MEDA's preparation and response to NDIS which will be introduced in November 2017. We are preparing with a plan to build workforce knowledge and understanding, developing further the short term Citizen Advocacy program and reflecting on our current and future core business. It is an exciting time that we need to remain relevant and vigilant to changes so that we can continue to safeguard people with intellectual disability.

We are also planning to review our web site, information material and continuing to strengthen our consumer communication options.

We have a big year ahead ensuring MEDA is well positioned around changes to the disability sector and that people with intellectual disability continue to have a voice.



We look forward to working alongside our participants, partners and communities in 2017.

Cheers
 Jan Mattrow
 Program Manager



Consumer Focused Feedback Question

From July to September 2016 the question "Can we improve our service to you?" was asked after each contact with a consumer, family or care provider. Of the 26 responses, 92% said "no, we can't improve the service", with 2 respondents indicating that they were unsure, "You have improved things for me", "so far good" and "great first visit". We will continue to ask and reflect on the learnings from these questions to strengthen service delivery and programs.

MEDA'S END OF YEAR EVENT

On Saturday 12th November 28 friends of MEDA celebrated the end of year at Degani Bakery Café in Box Hill. It was a great opportunity for people to come together to share stories of 2016 and to support each other. Thanks to Degani for their kind hospitality. Thanks to Christine and Jim for their art work for MEDA's Christmas card.





Warmly invites you to the...

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy 35th Anniversary Gala Night

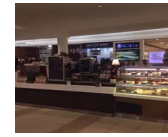
Thank you to our supporters, donators and sponsors



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 Artist - Richard Gleeson
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Appleby Family
 Abbott Family
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 Hollins Family
 Shepherd Family
 Victor-Quinn Family
 Wallace Family

MEDA's Consumer Group

Since our last newsletter MEDA's Consumer Group have met on one occasion discussing items around the Consumer Focussed feedback question, NDIS preparation and updates, reflecting on MEDA's end of year event and our continued work in strengthening communication options. We welcome to new Consumer group members Jodie and Eddie and welcome back Andrew, Jim, Carolyn and Kathleen.



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Your First Plan

Everyone who enters the NDIS will receive a first plan.

You have a right to ask for your first plan to be made with you face to face.



The NDIS funds reasonable and necessary supports. For a support to be funded it needs to be linked to an outcome you have identified in your plan. It must

- ◆ Be associated with day to day living and activities that increase your social or economic participation.
- ◆ Be a resource or piece of equipment to help you live an ordinary life ie, wheelchair, assistive technology
- ◆ Help you build the skills you need to live the life you want ie. Opportunities to work, further your education, volunteer or learn something new.

Goals in Your Plan

It's good to start talking to your family, friends, carers and advocate about what your goals might look like now and in the future to prepare.



(Information from
NDIS website)

The NDIS logo, which consists of the letters 'ndis' in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The 'n' and 'd' are white, and the 'i' and 's' are blue. The logo is set against a dark purple rectangular background.

Short Term Volunteer Citizen Advocacy Information Session

MEDA is recruiting for the short term Volunteer Citizen Advocacy role. We are planning to have a small team of citizen advocates that would be in a position to support people with their transition to NDIS or other short term advocacy issue. Please come along to hear more about the role and to express your interest.

When: Tuesday 11th April

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: MEDA office, Level 1, 79 Mahoneys Rd Forest Hill

RSVP: Monday 10th April ph. 98777 990

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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