

Issue 3, 2017

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

Greetings friends of MEDA...

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Welcome to MEDA's last newsletter for 2017! In September we donned our aprons to cook up a storm at Bunnings BBQ Vermont raising funds for MEDA. Thanks to all involved for making the day fun, in particular the generosity of Peter and Mary Appleby for organising the event and for their significant donation that made the day a great success. Our second equally successful event was the Trivia Night held in October. Chris Howell was the quiz master for the evening together with our Patron Pete Smith, a fantastic fun-filled night. Congratulations to everyone for making the evening such a wonderful event, and a big thank you for supporting the night and to our donors and sponsors for the silent auction items.

In October we held our 32nd Annual General Meeting (AGM). We said farewell to Sylvia Victor-Quinn and thank her for the support and expertise she has given to MEDA over the past 2 years. 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
Will Elder -	Secretary
Robyn Taft -	Public Officer
Merrilyn Shepherd -	Committee Member
Carolyn Thomas -	Ex Officio Member (Host)



Kate Hollins—President

This is the final newsletter for 2017 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 2018.

Citizen Advocacy Partnership Updates

We welcome two new long-term Citizen Advocate matches Rachael and Maria and Cherry and Rosa.

MEDA's Short-term Volunteer Citizen Advocates are starting to be engaged to support people where an advocate is needed with the transition to NDIS or with short term advocacy issues.

We thank Julie for her recent time as a short-term Citizen Advocate.

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MEDA is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services

MEDA Program Manager's Update

Since our last Newsletter we are more engaged and involved in supporting people in transitioning across to NDIS. This work, alongside our busy individual and Citizen Advocacy Programs, is keeping us all on our toes. MEDA ended last financial year (2016—2017) supporting 82 consumers & managing 151 individual advocacy issues and fielding another 56 calls who were either referred on or the issue was resolved over the phone. MEDA also matched another 8 citizen advocate partnerships in the year.

MEDA's Annual General Meeting & Trivia Night



MEDA's October AGM sees the following Committee members in place for 2017-2018:- Kate, Mary, Ainsley, Will & Merrilyn, with Sylvia resigning and Carolyn remaining however as an ex-officio member. We also launched MEDA's new web site at our AGM. Thanks again to web designer Tom F for his support.

On October 13th we celebrated MEDA's first Trivia fundraiser night. A fabulous night of entertainment raising over \$3,500. Thanks to Chris H. for his work as the Quiz Master.

NDIS preparation and response:

We continue to engage our short-term volunteer Citizen Advocates to provide advocacy support for people transitioning to NDIS. MEDA continues to monitor NDIS developments, opportunities and involvement in lobbying for changes to NDIS that improve the experience for people with disability.

Communication Rights

MEDA hosted a workshop for our volunteer citizen advocates which was facilitated by Yooralla on communication rights. We continue to explore opportunities to strengthen our response to communication options and rights with our consumers.

Citizen Advocacy Program

We have hosted a partnership dinner in August and will be holding an end of year event in November.

Data Exchange (DEX)

MEDA continues to prepare for the use of DEX in 2018 as a requirement with our funding body DSS.
Jan M (Program Manager)



Preventing & Responding to Abuse

MEDA staff attended a forum on preventing and responding to abuse, hosted by Disability Services Commissioner's Office. Although MEDA has robust policies and procedures in place we are committed to continuing to reflect and strengthen our practice and processes to ensure that we continue to prevent and respond to abuse.

MEDA'S EVENTS BUNNINGS BBQ



Thankyou to Bunnings for allowing us to partake in the Bunnings BBQ on 25th September at Vermont South.

Thankyou to committee, friends and staff for volunteering your time on the day.

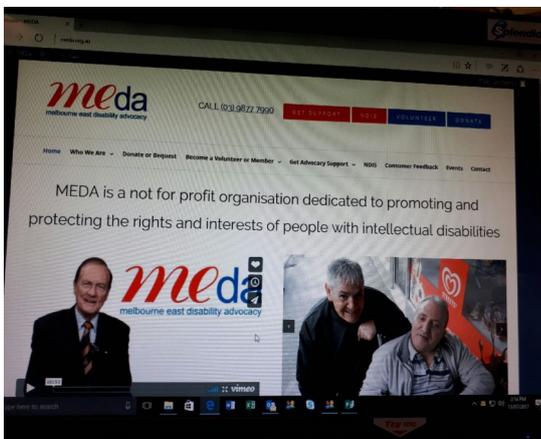
A special thankyou to Mary and Peter for donating all the produce for the day allowing MEDA to make a great profit.

The BBQ made over \$1300 for the day, making it a truly worthwhile event.

Thanks to everyone!

MEDA'S NEW WEB SITE

A big thankyou to Web designer Tom Frances for reviewing our website. Please all go and have a look at the new fresh look of MEDA. We launched the website at our AGM in October.



MEDA's Fundraising Trivia Night



MEDA held a fundraise Trivia Night on Friday, 13th October. What a fantastic evening was had by everyone on the night with good numbers that attended.

Thankyou to Chris Howell for donating his time and hosting the evening, Pete Smith our Patron who also ran several sections on the night and Merrilyn for the use of the church hall. Thankyou also to all the people that donated silent Auction items.

Thankyou to committee and staff alike for supporting the evening and bringing family and friends along to support MEDA. MEDA was able to make over \$3500 on the evening.

Winning Table



Silent Auction items



Games over the evening



Kathleen — consumer group member



We are pleased to introduce one of our Volunteer Consumer Group members - Kathleen .

Kathleen has been involved in MEDA's consumer group for about 2 years. Kathleen is in her mid 30s and lives independently .

What do you like about being a member of our consumer group?

"I like catching up with the people in the group. I like to have a say in things that MEDA does."

What do you do during the day with your time.?

"I enjoy attending groups at neighbourhood houses when they have interesting art classes."

What are your Interests?

"I am a mad AFL football supporter and love Hawthorn. I also love to support the local Box Hill Hawks Football Club, attending most games when I can. I also go to the local library where I can access the internet and use technology, learning to email and use face book."

What is one thing you would like the consumer group to do or achieve?

"I like attending MEDA functions and love to have input in these events."

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Advocacy Your Rights

From 1st November 2017 the Inner and Outer Eastern Metropolitan Regions of Melbourne saw the roll out of the NDIS. Despite this there have been a number of people before 1st November who were engaged around their first NDIS plan.

A number of positive changes have been made to the NDIS pathway due to people with disability, their families and the sector advocating for change.

These current and proposed changes include greater support of first plan face-to-face meetings, one point of contact within NDIS and an opportunity for people to see their first plan in draft prior to approval.

Remember you have a right to have an independent advocate present at your first plan.

MEDA Christmas & New Year

To our friends of MEDA. Thankyou for your continued support.

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful festive season and a very happy and safe New Year.

MEDA office will be closed from 21st December 2017 and will reopen 2nd January 2018.



Artist - Nicole Kelly

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 or our Web site

Follow MEDA on Facebook. Like our MEDA Facebook page. Join in on the conversation that we are starting to build. Go to MEDA web site www.meda.org.au

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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