



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Long Time Healing Mob

The symbols at the top represent people with disabilities. The next symbol represents the long hard journey that they have been on to finally arrive at the Royal Commission. The Elder symbols represents the head of Court and below, the people before the Court during the Royal Commission process. The last symbols represent the healing of those people with disabilities that needs to take place after the Decision has been finally handed down.

Artist: Paula Wooton

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Our Vision

A society that values the rights of all people, building inclusive and compassionate communities.

"Disability Rights are Human Rights"

Our History

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy is a community program that began in 1981 as Citizen Advocacy Inner East and is managed by a volunteer committee of management, independent of government and the human services sector. It is primarily funded at a Federal level by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy is a not-for-profit community program that provides advocacy support alongside people with intellectual disability. Support is provided directly by our professional paid staff. It may also be provided by volunteer citizen advocates where a person with intellectual disability who is at risk of social exclusion is matched to a dedicated volunteer, called a 'citizen advocate'.

There are similar programs throughout Australia including both Federal and State funded programs in Victoria covering both metropolitan and rural areas. Our organization provides services to the Boroondara, Monash, Manningham, Maroondah, and Whitehorse municipalities in accordance with Federal and State disability standards.



Mission Statement

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy is dedicated to supporting, promoting and defending the rights of people who have an intellectual disability and to ensure that they are empowered to maximise their potential to participate in decisions affecting their lives.

Our Values

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Committee of Management, Staff and Volunteers uphold the following values:

Respect

We recognise each person's individuality, acknowledge diversity and promote self determination.

Compassion

We care about the needs of others and acknowledge, accept and understand and have empathy for their circumstances.

Inclusiveness

We strive to empower consumers to contribute and participate in everyday decisions relating to their life.

Accountability

We respond to the needs and wishes of our consumers in an informed manner, without prejudice, uphold justice and accept responsibility.

Person Centred

Our relationships enable consumers to shape and lead their own lives and challenge the status quo.



Our People

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2022-2023 OFFICE BEARERS

President

Edward Elder

Vice President

Mary Appleby

Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer

Lachlan Evans

Ordinary Members

Eddie Clark

Debbie Orr

Ken Nakagawa (joined April 2023)

Natalie Jarosch (joined May 2023)

Akanksha Bhatia (joined July 2023)

EMPLOYEES

Executive Officer:

Jan Mattrow

Senior Disability Advocate:

Honi Brasher

Disability Advocate

Mike Wells (Aug 2022 - June 2023)

Business Support Officer:

Mel Dannock-Price (joined Jan 2023)

Bookkeeper:

Jun Wang (joined July 2022)

Inclusion Support Worker:

Garry Neeman

DRC Coordinator / Advocate:

Bron Emmerson

PUBLIC OFFICER

Robyn Taft

PATRON

Pete Smith OAM

Minutes of 37th Annual General Meeting

19th October 2022

MELBOURNE EAST DISABILITY ADVOCACY, INC.
Minutes of 37th Annual General Meeting
held on Wednesday 19th October 2022
by face to face & Zoom at 7.00pm

PRESENT : Will Elder (President), Mary Appleby (Vice President), Lachlan Evans (Treasurer), Eddie Clark (COM), Debbie Orr (COM), Edward Elder (COM), & Robyn Taft (Public Officer).

IN ATTENDANCE: Jan Mattrow (Executive Officer), Bron Emmerson (DRC Coordinator / Advocate), Mike Wells (Disability Advocate), Pete Smith (Patron), Robyn Taft (Public Officer)

1. **Welcome**

Will Elder opened the meeting at 7.15pm and thanked everyone for attending the 37th Annual General Meeting with acknowledgement to Country and Disability given. Also special welcome to our Patron Pete Smith & Public Officer Robyn Taft.

2. **Apologies** were received from: Marilyn Shepherd, Kate Hollins, Vickie Vivian-Taylor, Tom Francis, James Tulloch, Kathleen Bluhm, Emily Dillon, Beryl Power, Tina Chandler, Jun Wang, Garry Neeman, Honi Brasher, Ainsley Corteling, Jim Vemis, Matthew Lyburn & Alan Dockery.

3. **Minutes of 36th Annual General Meeting** held on 20th October 2020 were read. Minutes were accepted as a true record.

Moved: Mary A

Seconded: Eddie C Carried

REPORTS: (See Annual Report)

4. **President's Report** presented by Will Elder. As available in MEDA's Annual Report.

Moved: Will E

Seconded: Carried

5. **Executive Officers Report** presented by Jan Mattrow.

Advocacy stories shared, operational report presentation provided. As available in MEDAs Annual Report

Moved: Lachy E

Seconded: Will E Carried

Minutes of 37th Annual General Meeting

19th October 2022

- 6. Treasurer's Report** presented by Lachlan Evans. As available in MEDAs Annual Report. Audited statements

Moved: Edward E

Seconded: Ali G Carried

- 7. Appointment of Auditor for 2022-2023**

A new auditor is being sourced and will be confirmed by COM

Moved: Lachy E

Seconded: Will E Carried

- 8. Appointment of Public Officer**

Robyn Taft has agreed to continue in her role of Public Officer.

Thank you

Moved: Edward E

Seconded: Debbie O Carried

- 9. Election of Committee of Management**

All Committee positions were declared vacant. nominations for Committee Members were received from:

Mary Appleby

Edward Elder

Lachlan Evans

Debbie Orr

Eddie Clark

President Nomination: Edward Elder

Nominated by: Edward E

Seconded by: Mary A Carried

Vice President Nomination: Mary Appleby

Nominated by: Mary A

Seconded by: Lachy E Carried

Secretary (minutes). No nominations

Nominated:

Seconded:

Minutes of 37th Annual General Meeting

19th October 2022

Treasurer: Lachy E
Nominated: Lachy E
Seconded: Edward E Carried

General Committee members were un-opposed and were automatically re-elected.
Debbie Orr and Eddie Clark
Carried

Thanks to Will for his 1 year term as President and 3 years on Committee.

10. Volunteer Awards

A number of volunteers have been recognized for a volunteer service award.

Presented by EO / President to volunteers present

Greg Johnson

Libby Hetherington

Ali Goodall

Eddie Clark

Will Elder

Mary Appleby

Acknowledged awards to other volunteers not present

Vickie Vivian-Taylor

James Tulloch

Tom Francis

Emily Dillon

Ainsley Corteling

Jim Vemis

Matthew Lyburn

Alan Dockery

Kathleen Bluhm

The Meeting was declared closed at 8.20pm

Signed as a true record.



Edward Elder

President

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



It is with great pleasure that I, on behalf of the committee of management, present the 2022-2023 annual report. This report will provide an update to members on the advocacy work undertaken by MEDA throughout the year.

MEDA's management and staff have continued providing outstanding advocacy service to our community. We have provided advocacy support alongside 102 consumers with 43 new consumers with abuse and neglect, the NDIS and discrimination and rights being the top three individual advocacy issues for this time period. Pleasingly, with the ability to move on from some of the restrictions imposed by the global pandemic our team was able to reduce the number of consumers on the waitlist to no or very low numbers at different points throughout the year. The committee thanks the MEDA staff for their professionalism and support of the organisation and its community.

MEDA's staff should be proud of the significant work they did in assisting individuals in providing information to the Disability Royal Commission during the nearly five years that it ran. Our community has been well represented and can be thankful of the work by our staff in supporting this. With the Disability Royal Commission being completed during this financial year there have been changes to MEDA's funding and sourcing new sustainable funding will be a key priority of the committee and MEDA team moving forward. I would like to acknowledge the Department of Social Services for their support of MEDA's work.

The committee is grateful for the generosity of our volunteers, donors and supporters who play a crucial role in MEDA's success. The EOFY campaign raised significant funds with many of our members contributing generously. These funds will assist in providing training to our Community Advisory Group as well as supporting MEDA's operations.

We are looking forward to the return of MEDA's famous Trivia night, in person, for the first time post-COVID in late October.

In adapting to a post-pandemic world, it continues to be a challenge to recruit and find matches for new Citizen Advocates. MEDA has been trialing a variety of new methods for reaching out to the community and will look to continue innovating in this space. Looking forward, with the recent release of the final report into the Disability Royal Commission a key action for the next year will be to investigate how MEDA can support the key recommendations released in this report.

I would like to thank the other committee members for their work throughout the year. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Ken Nakagawa, Natalie Jarosch and Akanksha Bhatia who all joined as ordinary members throughout the year and have been great contributors to the running of the committee. In early September our Executive Officer, Jan Mattraw, celebrated 10 years of service to MEDA. MEDA is incredibly fortunate to have someone of Jan's esteem leading the organisation. Her intelligence, hard work and generosity is felt by all of us at MEDA. On behalf of the committee I deeply thank Jan for her incredible contribution to MEDA over this time.

EDWARD ELDER

MEDA President



Year in Review

>\$7818

donated through fundraising, partnerships, memberships & gifts

Disability Royal Commission

MEDA supported over 60 people to be heard over the duration of the DRC. 22% from CALD & ATSI background



102 NDAP consumers
104% over target



128 NDAP Individual
advocacy
issues.



284 enquiries

TOP 5 advocacy issues

Abuse / Neglect

NDIS

Discrimination

Accommodation

Vulnerable / Isolated



28 members

1 Gold, 1 Platinum
& 10 Life Members



Year in Review

Disability Royal Commission



电话: (03) 9877 7990

网站: www.meda.org.au

我们作为倡导者:

- 与智障人士一起工作
- 促进和保护残疾人的权利

"残疾人权利是人权"

人权
正义
公正

MEDA是由Department of Social Services 资助的免费服务



The Disability Royal Commission into the violence, abuse, neglect & exploitation of people with disability was in its final year in 2022-2023. MEDA invested in a Multicultural liaison officer to further engage with our CALD communities. A huge thankyou to Cindy and the Louise Multicultural Centre for their support. MEDA continued to provide advocacy support for people wanting to understand, access and engage with the Disability Royal Commission (DRC). During the 2022-2023 year MEDA assisted 21 people to tell their story. Over the life of the DRC over 60 people were supported to engage with the DRC, with 22% coming from CALD or ATSI background. The final report now released has provided a substantive number of recommendations to be adopted & supported by Government.

For MEDA advocates we commend the courage and strength of people with disability to share their story and only hope that this will lead to significant change as we continue to support a zero tolerance to abuse.

Case Study

CALD Engagement

MEDA with support from the Louise Multicultural Centre appointed a Multicultural Liaison Officer to further engage our local Chinese Communities to raise the profile of the DRC, advocacy and MEDA. During the 3 months there was engagement with over 5 organisations and 200 people. The development of resources in accessible language was also a focus to assist in raising the profile and understanding of the Royal Commission.

MEDA倡导者致力于促进和保护智障人士的权益

MEDA是一项免费的宣传服务, 由Department of Social Services 资助, 旨在帮助人们了解他们的权利并说出他们的需求

残疾人权利是人权



Case Study

As a man with physical and intellectual disability, living in supported accommodation, I shared my experience of physical abuse from a house mate and the inadequate safeguards within my home to protect me from this abuse. I shared information with my advocate about my fear of continued abuse and how this effected my safe and free access within my own home. My advocate supported me to submit my story in writing to the Disability Royal Commission along with my recommendations and hopes for improved safety for people living in group homes.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT



Over the last year MEDAs individual and citizen advocates have worked alongside people with disability to ensure they are heard, to take action around issues of abuse, discrimination and exploitation and to assist people in navigating systems and ensuring the individual's will & preferences are raised & respected. Request for individual advocacy remains high and advocacy issues complex.

MEDA continues to be funded by the Department of Social Services (DSS) to deliver services under the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) and the Disability Royal Commission (DRC). We thank the Department for this funding, without which MEDA would not be able to provide much needed advocacy. In particular, thanks to Funding Arrangements Manager David Garland & Erica Lopez.

MEDA provides disability advocacy support in the form of Individual, Citizen & Systemic Advocacy in the local government areas (LGA) of Boroondara, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash and Whitehorse.

During the reporting period, individual advocacy support was provided alongside 102 people with disability, which exceeded our funding and service agreement target by 104%.

MEDA's individual advocates have managed 128 individual advocacy issues.

The top 5 individual advocacy issues addressed included abuse / neglect, NDIS, discrimination, vulnerability & isolation & accommodation.

In addition, advocates fielded another 284 calls from consumers or organizations who were then either referred on or the issue was resolved after short term advocacy advice or support.

In the *Volunteer Citizen Advocacy Program* we were delighted to match 2 new partnerships with Martin and Daniel & Robyn and Tracey. We have also farewelled during this time 5 Citizen Advocates - James T, Robbie S, Helen B, Jaslyn F & Marcia H. Thank you for your dedication and commitment.

Systemic Advocacy

MEDA continues to be committed to 10% advocacy resources to systemic advocacy some priorities and initiatives have included "Volunteer Citizen Advocates Capacity Building" Including the offering of on-line training around Supported Decision Making, Will & Preference & invitation to the National Citizen Advocacy conference.

Proactive Systemic Advocacy

MEDA proactively contributed to key issues in the sector including the National Advocacy framework, supported decision making & Disability Inclusion Bill consultations.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

Zero Tolerance to Abuse

MEDA Advocates also invested time in visiting Disability Employment organisations and Supported Residential Services to raise the importance of disability rights, advocacy and speaking out about abuse.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

NDIS access, planning, internal reviews and complaints remain one of our top advocacy issues.

Continuing to support people with disability to navigate the NDIS system and to have a voice which captures their will and preference continue to be key features of our work.

MEDA contributed also to the Every Australian Counts NDIS campaign, NDIS survey on people's experience of the NDIS, NDIS Quality & Safeguards forum with advocates & the NDIS Appeals review consultation.

MEDAs work within the NDIS environment remains focused on highlighting issues of discrimination and supporting people to understand and take action around their rights.

Quality Initiatives

MEDA continues to both explore & invest in continuous quality improvement. Some quality projects have included:

2 Consumer focused feedback surveys, investment and work in increasing access & engagement with our local LGBTIQ+, ATSI & CALD communities and a range of other initiatives which strengthened our individual advocacy practice eg home & community risk assessment & disclosure of abuse flow chart.

Voice to Parliament

MEDA also took the step to make a stance around the Voice to parliament. In consultation with our local First Nations community, MEDA developed a statement supporting the Voice to Parliament. (see MEDAs website)

MEDA's Consumer Advisory Group

MEDA's Consumer Advisory Group members continued to meet both in person and on-line monthly. Group members have reviewed and tested the Consumer focused feedback questions, provided feedback on the Disability Inclusion Bill & features of best practice advocacy. We welcome to the Group Jane. We thank Eddie, Jason, Kathleen, Jim, Kirsty, Annette & Heidi for their continued involvement and commitment.

Staff Overview

This year we farewelled our Systemic Advocate Miranda and our Business Support Officer, Tina and welcomed our new Business Support Officer Mel & Bookkeeper Jun. We also welcomed and farewelled Disability Advocate, Mike W. MEDAs other Team members Honi, Bron & Garry continue their invaluable work alongside people with disability.

Committee of Management (COM)

MEDA's COM continue to be committed to the work of MEDA. We welcomed new members Ken N, Natalie J & Akanksha B and continue to acknowledge current members, Edward E, Lachy E, Eddie C and Debbie O. I thank Committee for their continued support.

JAN MATTROW

Executive Officer



Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th June 2023

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc.

ABN 84 708 313 472

STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc.

ABN 84 708 313 472

Statement of the Treasurer for the Year ended 30th June 2023.

**MELBOURNE EAST DISABILITY ADVOCACY INC.
ABN 84 708 313 472
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 11, satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:

- 1 a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the association; and
b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc. as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

President



Edward Elder

Treasurer



Lachlan Evans

Dated this

day of 12 October 2023

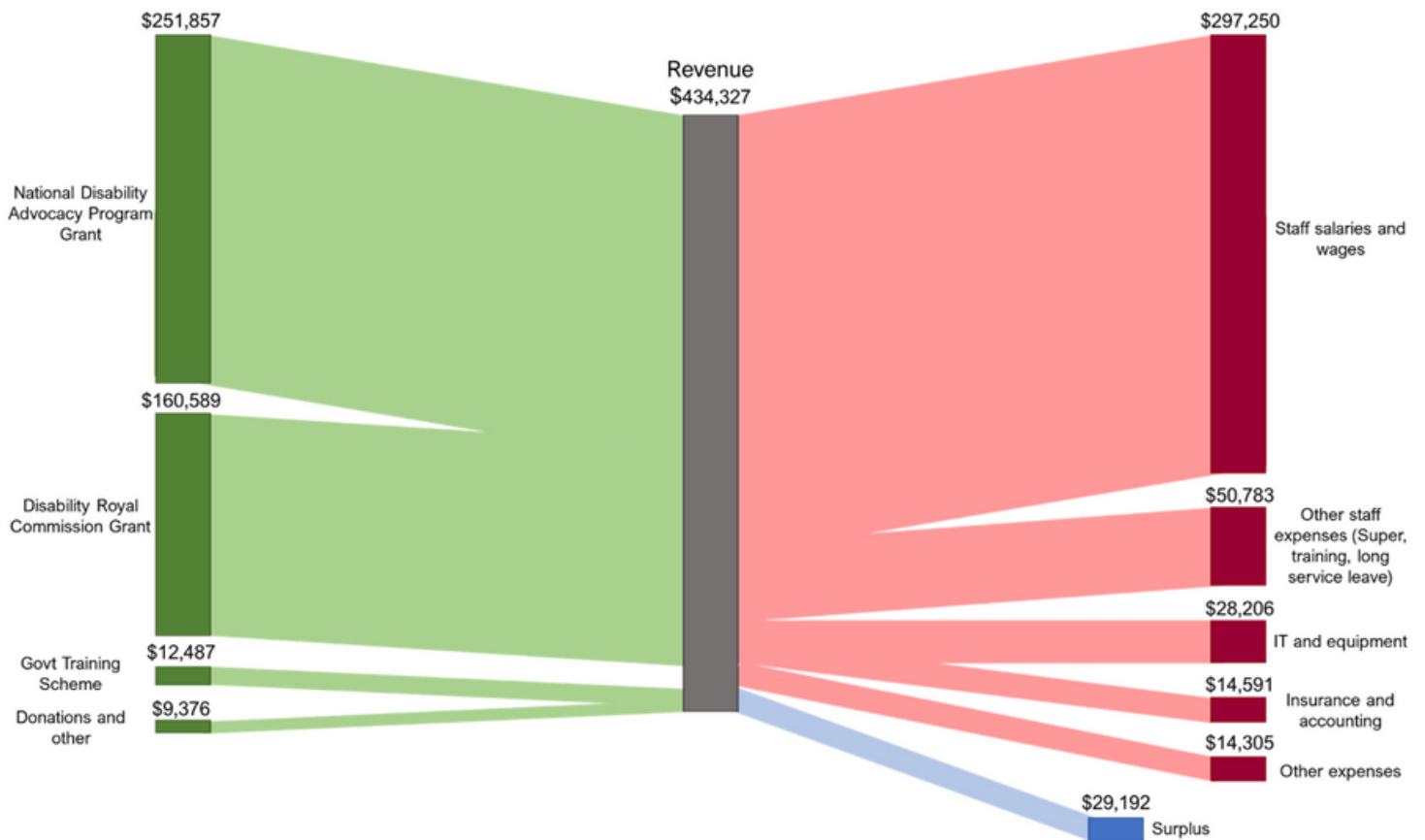
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc.

ABN 84 708 313 472

Independent Auditor's Report for the Year ended 30th June 2023.

MEDA FY23 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc.

ABN 84 708 313 472

Independent Auditor's Report for the Year ended 30th June 2023.

MELBOURNE EAST DISABILITY ADVOCACY INC. ABN 84 708 313 472 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023		
	2023 \$	2022 \$
INCOME		
Operation Funding Income	412,464	341,960
Department of Social Services - National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP)	251,875	174,863
Department of Social Services - Royal Commission Grant	160,589	162,597
Department of Social Services - Volunteer Grant	-	4,500
Other Income	21,863	25,323
City of Whitehorse Grant	-	1,000
Donations Received	2,124	1,201
Fundraising Income	-	3,718
Government Training Scheme	12,487	13,332
Interest Received	1,558	1,146
Membership Fees	-	1,845
Other Income	5,694	3,081
TOTAL INCOME	434,327	367,283
EXPENDITURE		
Administrative and Operational Expenses	57,102	62,831
Accounting and Bookkeeping Fees	7,500	1,099
Advertising & Marketing	294	-
ATSI Project	-	5,292
Audit Fees - QA	-	6,616
Audit Fees - Financial Audit	-	1,100
Bank Charges & Fees	90	433
Computer Expenses	10,360	11,732
Equipment Purchases (under \$1,000)	14,007	1,517
Event Expenses	313	-
General Expenses	3,611	700
Gifts	35	242
Insurance	7,091	4,349
Photocopy Hire	-	4,051
Postage & Shipping	240	607
Printing and Stationery	1,460	1,759
Purchases	-	2,749
Rent	2,526	1,247
Subscriptions- IVO, QBO, DANA	5,612	1,104
Sundry Expenses	(662)	7,329
Telephone & Internet Expenses	3,839	6,718
Travel Expenses	22	3,881
Volunteer Grant Expenses	764	306
Staff Related Expenses	348,033	296,755
Salaries and Wages	297,250	246,938
Superannuation	30,125	25,454
Annual Leave Expense	(4,444)	4,967
LSL Expense	4,263	11,425
Staff Amenities	704	342
Employee Expenses	1,985	-
Police Checks	430	636
Professional Development & Training	9,084	1,625
Recruitment Expenses	165	761
Work Cover	8,471	4,607
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	405,135	359,586
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	29,192	7,697

BALANCE SHEET

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc.

ABN 84 708 313 472

Year Ending 30th June 2023

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

MELBOURNE EAST DISABILITY ADVOCACY INC.

ABN 84 708 313 472

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	173,585	183,475
Prepayments		5,462	8,611
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		179,047	192,086
TOTAL ASSETS		179,047	192,086
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other creditors	3	38,595	19,886
Grants in Advance - Royal Commission Grant		-	60,759
Provisions	4	19,125	23,569
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		57,720	104,214
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	4	29,808	25,545
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		29,808	25,545
TOTAL LIABILITIES		87,528	129,759
NET ASSETS		91,519	62,327
EQUITY			
Accumulated funds		91,519	62,327
TOTAL EQUITY		91,519	62,327

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc.

ABN 84 708 313 472

Year Ending 30th June 2023

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

MELBOURNE EAST DISABILITY ADVOCACY INC.
ABN 84 708 313 472
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Accumulated funds \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 July 2021	54,630	54,630
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to the Association	7,697	7,697
Balance as at 30 June 2022	62,327	62,327
Surplus/ (Deficit) attributable to the Association	29,192	29,192
Balance as at 30 June 2023	91,519	91,519

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

MELBOURNE EAST DISABILITY ADVOCACY INC.
ABN 84 708 313 472
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from government funding		351,705	327,018
Receipts from other sources		20,305	24,176
Payments to employees & suppliers		(383,458)	(349,012)
Interest received		1,558	1,146
Net cash generated from/ (used in) operating activities	(i)	(9,890)	3,329
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		-	-
Proceeds on disposal of property, plant and equipment		-	-
Net cash (used in)/ provided by investing activities		-	-
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash held		(9,890)	3,329
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		183,475	180,146
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	(ii)	173,585	183,475

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc.

ABN 84 708 313 472

Year Ending 30th June 2023

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**MELBOURNE EAST DISABILITY ADVOCACY INC.
ABN 84 708 313 472
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS**

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc. (the Association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2023, and the income and expenditure statement, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Board.

In my opinion, the financial report of the Association is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (Victoria), including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1, the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria).

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. I am independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc. to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS CONTINUED

Melbourne East Disability Advocacy Inc.

ABN 84 708 313 472

Year Ending 30th June 2023

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.

Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that I identify during my audit.

Name of Auditor: Frederik R. L. Eksteen
Address: Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd
127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011
Date: 5/10/2023

IN MEMORY

Carolyn Thomas

In 2023 we sadly farewelled Carolyn.

Carolyn was born in 1946 and passed away in April 2023.

Carolyn was connected with MEDA formerly Citizen Advocacy Inner East in 1999 through the Citizen Advocacy Program.

Volunteer Citizen Advocate Merrilyn S became Carolyn's Citizen Advocate and life long friend.

Carolyn always greeted everyone with a smile and incredible energy and wanted to share her life joys, interests and passions including her family & her work at the kindergarten. Carolyn also loved her home at Alkira and lived with one of her best friends Junith.

Both Carolyn and Merrilyn are Life Members of MEDA and are recognized for there important service as volunteers & Carolyn as a member of MEDAs Consumer Advisory Group, Committee of Management and in the Citizen Advocacy Program.

We celebrate and will always remember Carolyn.



Robyn Kent

Robyn was born in Melbourne in 1945 and from age 5 spent the next 30 years in institutions. At the age of 35 Robyn moved into supported community accommodation and began working as an assistant at a local kindergarten. Robyn formed a strong relationship with the kindergarten teacher and her family, one of the co-tenants of the community accommodation and connected with MEDA formerly Citizen Advocacy Inner East when the program started.

It was then that Marcia began as Robyn's Volunteer Citizen Advocate, a partnership that spanned 42 years. During this time Robyn bought her own flat in Richmond, worked at various cleaning jobs and became a valued member of the Richmond community. Robyn's zest for life & independent living, sense of fun and passionate support of the Richmond Football club ensured a fulfilling life. Robyn made a lasting impact on the lives of many people. The support of MEDAs Citizen Advocacy Program and her Citizen Advocate was the catalyst in ensuring Robyn was treated with respect and dignity.

Robyn passed away in April 2023. Robyn's legacy of personal achievement and growth, when presented with the opportunities to showcase her abilities, remains an inspiration to us all.

You will be sadly missed Robyn. Thankyou for our life adventure together.

Marcia H Volunteer Citizen Advocate



OUR SUPPORTERS

MEDA wish to acknowledge our members, donors, supporters, community partners, volunteers, consumers and friends in appreciation of their support during the year.

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A special thankyou to **MEDAs Consumer Advisory Group** members:

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MEDA's 2022 Movie Afternoon Fundraiser

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ME DA MELBOURNE EAST DISABILITY ADVOCACY

**MEDA's Friends & Supporters
Movie Afternoon
FUNDRAISER**

Sunday
16 October 2022
Commencing
3pm-4pm
TBA
Waverley Cinema
Pinewood Shopping Centre
Blackburn Road Mt Waverley

AMSTERDAM

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Disability Rights are Human Rights
MEDA promotes and defends the rights of people with intellectual disability
With your support, we can make a difference in the
lives of others in our community.

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