



ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Board Members

Melanie Muir Leadership Plus	Chairperson
Esther Harris STAR	Treasurer/membership
Jan Ashford Communication Rights Australia	Secretary
Julie Phillips Disability Discrimination Legal Service	Systemic Advocacy
Deidre Griffiths Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc.	Board Member

Staff

Kerry O'Hagan	Administration
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Chairperson Report

Thanks to our members for their commitment and support to the values and work of Disability Advocacy Victoria (DAV). The demand continues to grow on advocacy agencies following the roll out of the NDIS across the state. Demand grows along with the delay of the NDIA in responding to matters of process.

Disability Advocacy Victoria continues it's representation on the following networks and committees:

ABN 15 557 421 367
4/3 Tuck Street, Moorabbin 3189

www.disabilityadvocacyvictoria.org.au

- Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU) Governance Group, governance is shared with VCOSS.
- Introduction to Disability Advocacy – online training tool complete (DARU)
- *Empowered Lives, Securing Change For Victorians with Disability* (VCOSS)
- Victorian Disability Advocacy Network (VicDAN), collaboration between disability advocates and legal service providers
- Victoria Police, working to improve the understanding of disability in the police force
- Law Institute Victoria Disability Law Committee
- DSP Working Group (SSRV)

National Disability Insurance Scheme NDIS

Continued and overwhelming numbers arising from plan development and delays. Members are having some difficulty keeping up with demand.

Safeguard framework to be operational July 2019

Participant Pathway review has resulted in some changes and a pilot to improve the experience of participants who present with some complexity.

Advocacy Funding

- NDAP (National Disability Advocacy Program) funded agencies contract takes them to June 2019
- NDIS Appeals – continues with 12 NDAP agencies across the state.
- Office for Disability (Vic State) funded agencies continue. There has been some difficulty for some agencies who received funding for Information Services as this funding has now ceased and flows into the NDIS budget. Disability Advocacy agencies continue to gear up for opportunities in the ILC funding round of the NDIS.

Education

DAV continued its systemic focus on education working alongside the VCOSS Consortium as well as utilising the specialist contacts DAV remains working with.

DAV Website

DAV works to keep it's website up to date and we are also keen to promote the important work of our member agencies. We encourage members to contact DAV so that we can highlight the scope of work being done in the disability advocacy sector.

DAV would like to pay our deep respect to Esther Harris who passed away this year following illness. I am driven to write rest in peace, even though I imagine Esther would be unlikely to approve . We miss you.

Melanie Muir

Chairperson