



Peak body for independent disability advocacy in Victoria

## Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc

### 2019-2025

#### **Vision**

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. (DAV) is an active participant in the creation of a fully inclusive society in which people who have a disability are included as equally valued and contributing citizens.

#### **Mission**

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. is the peak body responsible for representing a coalition of independent, community-based organisations that advocate with and for people with a disability.

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. will promote and defend the human rights and valued status of people with disabilities by supporting and promoting advocacy groups, actions and initiatives.

#### **Organisational Aims**

- To strengthen and promote the disability advocacy movement in Victoria
- To defend rights-based advocacy.
- To promote rights-based advocacy and the rights and needs of people with a disability.

## Guiding Principles and Values

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. is committed to operating in accordance with the following principles and values:

- control by people with disabilities is central to the success of the advocacy sector
- diversity of approaches to advocacy is necessary to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities
- responding to the diversity of needs, interests and aspirations of people with disabilities is a fundamental component of providing effective advocacy
- respect for the autonomy of individual member organisations is important
- Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. is most effective when all members are united
- member organisations have valuable experience and knowledge of the needs and rights of people with disabilities
- the role of advocacy is to promote and protect the rights and interests of people with disabilities and not those of other parties
- identifying and minimising conflict of interest is fundamental to the successful provision of advocacy services.

DAV members must endorse the rights of people with disability as set out in the UN Convention.

## **DAV Goals**

### **1. Disability Education Issues**

DAV aims to continue work to address equity in education for students with disabilities:

- represent our members on this issue directly to the Victorian Government
- worked strategically with like-minded organisations to form an effective lobby group to achieve change

### **2. Disability Advocacy Resource Unit**

The board will continue to represent Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. on the Governance Group of the Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU).

### **3. VicDAN**

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. is a founding member of VicDAN. Member organisations on the board of DAV will continue to represent DAV at the network with a view to:

- Build an understanding of advocacy/legal advocacy in the context of NDIS
- Improve access to people with disabilities to the NDIS
- Run a workshop in conjunction with VicDan to discuss with our stakeholders how best to achieve law reform of the NDIS Act.

#### **4. CAPACITY BUILDING**

DAV aims to increase lobbying and funding for advocacy agencies due to an increasing workload due to the NDIS.

#### **5. Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability**

Disability Advocacy Victoria aims to support its members and the sector during the Royal Commission. To best support the sector during this time DAV aims to:

- Investigate establishing a Royal Commission advocacy referral line in partnership with others in the sector

#### **6. Disability Advocacy into the Future**

DAV will:

- Strengthen the DAV board by numbers and skill  
Work together with the sector and like-minded organisations to ensure effective responses to advocacy issues and human rights concerns facing people with disabilities
- Investigate establishing a Royal Commission advocacy referral line in partnership with others in the sector
- Position DAV to ensure:
  - The independent advocacy sector retains its specialist expertise and independence;
  - DAV has a leading role in being key adviser to government on the future strategic direction of the advocacy sector.

**Schedule 1 DAV 2019-2025 Strategies and Measures**

**DAV Goal 1: DAV aims to continue work to address equity in education for students with disabilities:**

<b>Goal 1</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Measures</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1.a	Support an education coalition to lobby for a UN CRPD investigation into education for children with disabilities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pro Bono Law Firm found.</li> <li>2. National coalition of interested parties defined.</li> <li>3. Submission finalised and sent.</li> </ol>	DAV Board and Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. July 2019</li> <li>2. December 2019</li> <li>3. September 2020</li> </ol>
1.b	Support an Ombudsman's investigation into the Victorian Department of Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Investigation agreed to or rejected</li> </ol>	DAV Board and Administration	December 2019
1.c	Support and education coalition to lobby for a General Comment on Freedom of Expression on the right to communicate.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National coalition of interested parties defined.</li> <li>2. Submissions finalised and sent</li> </ol>	DAV Board and Administration	June 2020
1.d	Continue to lobby for improved educational outcomes for students of disabilities in Victoria.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Letters sent to Sec/Minister of Education throughout the year on issues as they arise.</li> </ol>	DAV Board and Administration	Ongoing

## DAV Goal 2: Disability Advocacy Resource Unit

Goal 2	Strategies	Measures	Responsible	Timeline
2.a	Continue membership on DARU Governance Group.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attend at least 4 DGG meetings per year.</li> <li>2. Ensure representation on annual advocacy conference</li> </ol>	1. Two DAV Board representatives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ongoing, each year</li> <li>2. Ongoing, each year.</li> </ol>

## DAV Goal 3: VicDan

Goal 3	Strategies	Measures	Responsible	Timeline
3.a	Maintain membership and meeting attendance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attend at least 4 DGG meetings per year.</li> </ol>	1. DAV Board Member	1. Ongoing, each year.
3.b	Lobby for changes to the NDIS Act	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Liaison with VicDan members to discuss law reform.</li> <li>2. Workshop running conjunction with VicDan to obtain sector feedback about possible law reform changes.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DAV Board Member</li> <li>2. DAV board member</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. December 2019</li> <li>2. March 2020</li> </ol>
3.c	Ensure Board meets regularly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold 10 meetings per year</li> </ol>	DAV Chairperson	Ongoing

#### DAV Goal 4: Capacity Building

Goal 4	Strategies	Measures	Responsible	Timeline
4.a	Contact State and Federal Ministers to lobby for increased funding for the advocacy sector, using data from members.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write to relevant State Minister.</li> <li>2. Write to relevant Federal Minister.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.DAV Board and Administration</li> <li>2. DAV board and administration</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. August 2019</li> <li>2. August 2019</li> </ol>

#### DAV Goal 5: Royal Commission into Violence Abuse and Neglect and Exploitation

Goal 5	Strategies	Measures	Responsible	Timeline
5.a	Establish a referral service for the forthcoming Royal Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborate with the sector to ascertain ideas for an effective referral service to support advocacy agencies and into their clients.</li> <li>2. Arrive at model.</li> <li>3. Request relevant government assistance to establish and maintain model.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.DAV Board Member And Administration</li> <li>2. DAV Board and Sector</li> <li>3. DAV Board</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. September 2019.</li> <li>2. September 2019</li> <li>3. December 2019</li> </ol>

## DAV Goal 6: Disability Advocacy into the Future

Goal 6	Strategies	Measures	Responsible	Timeline
6.a	Strengthen DAV Board	1. Recruit at least 2 Board Members from sector. 2. Successful completion of Goal 5.	1.DAV Board Member and Administration 2. See Goal 5	1. December 2019 . 2. See Goal 5
6.b	Increase membership of DAV through improved engagement with sector.	1. Increase in membership numbers from June 2019.	1. DAV Board Member and Administration	1. December 2019
6.c	Review Strategic Plan every 2 years and develop Business Plan	2. Formal monitoring & evaluation to have occurred.	1. Chairperson	1. November 2019
6.d	Facilitate involvement of DAV members in feasibility study into possibility of central referral services by DARU.	3. Attend DARU Governance Meetings and input in to terms of reference and collaboration.	2. DAV DARU Governance Group members.	2. Ongoing