

The Advocacy Brief

What matters this month in disability advocacy, curated by DARU



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DARU Dispatch

FROM THE DARU TEAM

Welcome to the very first edition of the new refreshed DARU Newsletter, The Advocacy Brief!

We hope you enjoy the new refreshed edition and find it a useful resource for your advocacy toolkit.

Advance Your Advocacy Practice session on Successful Grant Writing

presented by DARU, People with Disabilities Australia and the National Disability Research Partnership.

Session details:

- 📍 Online via zoom webinar
- 📅 Wednesday 17th June
- 🕒 10am-11am
- 🆓 FREE

Registration link [here](#)

Join DARU for an engaging Advance Your Advocacy Practice session on successful grant writing with People with Disabilities Australia and the National Disability Research Partnership.

Disability Advocates undertake vital work for people with disabilities upholding their rights and access to services and supports. Yet disability advocacy services remain stretched and drastically underfunded in Victoria and nationally. Developing and honing your skills in how to write successful grants can provide vital funding to sustain and expand the capacity of your organisation. People with Disability Australia and the National Disability Research Partnership will present this *Advance Your Advocacy Practice* session, where our focus will be on upskilling you in how to seek out grants, work out if they are a good fit for your organisation, how to build key partnerships and write grants with confidence and purpose.

About the presenters:

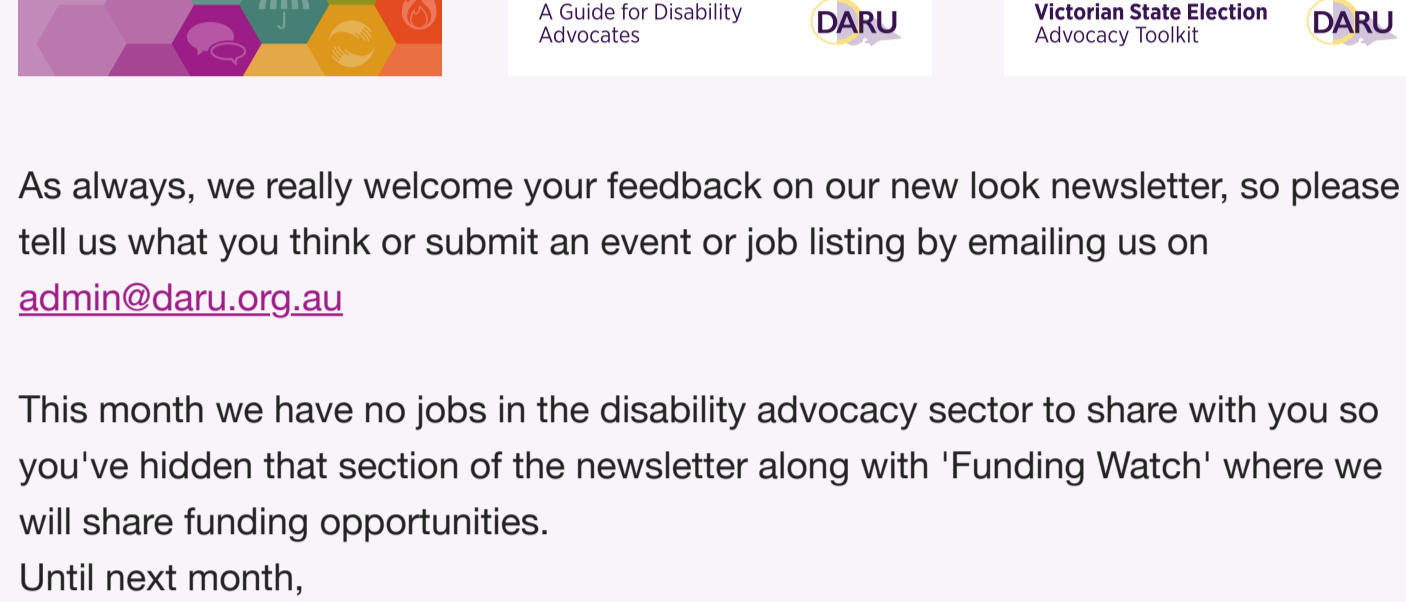
People with Disability Australia (PWDA) is a national peak disability rights and advocacy organisation made up of, and led by, people with disability. **Simone Tunbridge** (she/her) is the Director of Strategic Projects and Training at People with Disability Australia (PWDA). She leads a team dedicated to delivering strategic projects and training initiatives that drive positive change for people with disability. Simone is an experienced leader with a background in program management, diversity and inclusion, and learning and development. She has successfully managed large-scale campaigns and projects and has designed and facilitated impactful leadership development programs and mentoring initiatives to support personal development and foster inclusive workplace cultures. Simone is committed to creating spaces where diverse perspectives are valued and influence meaningful change.

The National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP) facilitates collaborative and inclusive disability research, so we have better policy and practice for people with disability in Australia. **Sue Tape** (she/her) is the Deputy CEO & Head of Evidence to Action at The National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP) where she leads efforts to mobilise evidence in ways that genuinely support people with disability, families, policymakers and communities. She brings a strong background in advocacy and research translation, informed by her work at Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) leading inclusive education initiatives and ensuring disability-led research informs policy and practice, and to building systems that make evidence accessible, practical and meaningful for end users.

Please note: this session will be Auslan interpreted (if requested) and recorded. The recording will be available on the DARU website after the session along with the PowerPoint presentations and any additional links or materials provided as part of the session.

DARU's new resources for disability advocates:

1. **Tip sheets from DARU's Advance Your Advocacy Practice sessions: Understanding the Victorian Child Protection System** [here](#)
2. **Recording of DARU's Advance Your Advocacy Practice session: Understanding gender-based violence and disability through an intersectional lens** [here](#)
3. **DARU's Disability Leadership in Advocacy Resource** [here](#)
4. **Influencing Government Decisions in Victoria: A Guide for Disability Advocates** [here](#)
5. **DARU's Victorian State Election Advocacy Toolkit** [here](#)



As always, we really welcome your feedback on our new look newsletter, so please tell us what you think or submit an event or job listing by emailing us on admin@danu.org.au

This month we have no jobs in the disability advocacy sector to share with you so you've hidden that section of the newsletter along with 'Funding Watch' where we will share funding opportunities.

Until next month,
The DARU Team.



In Focus

Fuel and Cost of Living Crisis- Impact on People with Disability and Disability Advocacy

As the war in the Middle East progresses, and the fuel and cost of living pressures intensify worldwide, people living at or below the poverty line are facing many challenges-particularly in relation to food security and cost of fuel.

For people with disability, these pressures are not just financial pressures, they are reshaping access to essential services, social participation and mental health and wellbeing.

One of the most immediate impacts is on reduced access to disability support services. Many services rely on travel, and rising fuel costs are forcing providers to scale back. This means fewer face to face sessions, in person supports and outreach.

People with disability are also being impacted by increased transport barriers. While free and subsidised transport in Victoria is welcomed it is not universally accessible. Services are often at capacity, and infrastructure does not meet accessibility needs. People who require priority seating or mobility access may find themselves unable or unwilling - to assert their rights in crowded conditions.. In rural and regional areas, the situation is even more challenging with limited or non-existent transport options restricting access to education, employment and essential services. Advocates have warned that this could have long term consequences, particularly for young people with disability whose participation in TAFE, training and work placements is already at risk

To manage rising costs, many disability advocacy organisations are reducing face to face engagements where possible in face to face or virtual meetings. While this may improve efficiencies, it creates new barriers. Some clients, especially those with communication needs, cannot effectively engage with out in person support.

There is a risk that the rising costs will lead to social isolation parallel to what we saw in Victoria with COVID-19 lockdowns. As fuel cost limit community interactions, social outings and activities, individuals may become increasingly isolated, heightening risks of declining mental health. There is also a risk to families of children with disability reducing access to specialised health and education services due to the cost of travel, placing additional strain on their wellbeing.

Disability advocacy organisations are feeling the strain as well. Current funding models do not adequately account for rising operational costs, limiting their ability to provide outreach and respond to increasing need- particularly for rural and regional communities.

Further Reading:

[Dialogue Summary Fuel and Cost of Living](#)

[National Fuel Security Plan](#)

On the Agenda

CAMPAIGNS

The DRC Still Matters

In September 2023, the Disability Royal Commission (DRC) handed down 222 recommendations intended to prevent violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability.

More than two years on, progress has been slow, and in many areas, inconsistent.

With the Federal Budget handed down this week, there will be renewed attention on disability, funding and reform. What the budget says matters, but so does what **actually happens** after the announcements are made.

The DRC Still Matters has released their independent analysis of what the Queensland and Federal Governments have (and haven't) done to implement the DRC, as well as officially launching the campaign for our DRC Tracker, which will bring all 222 recommendations into one place so people can easily see what's really changed over time, and help hold our governments accountable. To see the launch of their report, and to keep up to date with their campaign, please use the link below to sign up for campaign updates.

The campaign and tracker are initiatives of the Queensland Independent Disability Advocacy Network (QIDAN).

How you can be involved:

- Follow along as we unpack the DRC and its implementation volume by volume
- Share the campaign with your networks
- Engage with the campaign by sharing with us what issues matter most to you
- Use the information for advocacy and accountability work
- Support the work by donating, if you're able, to help keep this monitoring independent and up to date.

[Sign up for campaign updates here](#)

RESEARCH PAPER

CYDA's Key Statistics Report-Snapshot of children and young people with disability in Australia

[Have you ever struggled to find recent information or statistics about children and young people with disability in Australia?](#)

CYDA's Key Statistics Report brings together the latest data about our community from a wide range of sources, covering 10 key topics including education, health, employment, the NDIS and more.

The goal? To improve data visibility, understanding and accessibility, and highlight the areas for which data is currently missing.

This is vital because accurate information helps decide who gets listened to, what gets funding, and what gets fixed.

The [Key Statistics Report](#) is a central resource that will be updated regularly as new data and evidence become available.

It is free to download in multiple formats, including Easy Read and Plain Language, [on the CYDA website](#).

Resource Radar

New video series: Deaf Tips

Deaf Victoria is excited to share our latest video series - Deaf Tips! Many deaf and hard of hearing people face barriers daily. That's why we've put created these short videos. They show you small tips and tricks you can use to make communication and access a little bit easier. You can access them [here](#).

Analysis of the Federal Budget

The Federal Budget was a difficult one for NDIS participants and the sector, with \$37.8b less funding allocated to the Scheme over the next 4 years. Sara from DSC has gone through the Budget with a fine-tooth comb to help you understand what it means for the NDIS, foundational supports, and the sector. [Read more here](#).

Women with Disabilities Victoria's Anti-Ableism pocket guide

This guide explores what to do when you realise that you have done or said something ableist. It's a Community Pocket Guide to Accountability & Repair. You can read different accessible versions of it on Women with Disabilities website [here](#).

Events Briefing

Women with Disabilities Victoria's Preventing Violence against LGBTIQ+ People with Disabilities Resource Launch

Beyond Pronouns and Wheelchairs: Preventing Violence against LGBTIQ+ People with Disabilities Resource Launch

📍 Online

📅 Wednesday 24th June

🕒 11am-12.30pm

🆓 Free

Registration link: <https://wvdy.wildapricot.org/event-6685487>

Women with Disabilities Victoria are pleased to invite you to Beyond Pronouns and Wheelchairs, a FREE online event launching new workforce development resources focused on preventing violence against LGBTIQ+ people with disabilities.

These resources have been co-designed with a lived experience group and are grounded in real-world insight, expertise, and leadership.

These resources are designed to support workers across disability, health, LGBTIQ+, and violence prevention sectors to strengthen inclusive, accessible, and safe practice.

Code of Conduct webinars for disability workers

📍 Online

📅 23 June

🕒 10am-11am

🆓 Free

Registration link: <https://events.humanixit.com/dwc-code-of-conduct-webinar-series>

A Series of upcoming online webinars on the [Disability Service Safeguards Code of Conduct](#) for disability workers across Victoria.

The Code of Conduct clearly outlines how disability workers must deliver safe, quality services to people with disability – regardless of how those services are funded.

Through this free webinar series, we aim to build workers' understanding of their legal responsibilities and strengthen their ability to provide safe, respectful and high-quality care.

Each session will explore a key element of the Code:

26 May, 10 am – Element 5: Promptly take steps to raise and act on concerns about matters that may impact the quality and safety of supports and services provided to people with disability

23 June, 10 am – Element 6: Taking all reasonable steps to prevent abuse, violence, harm, exploitation and neglect of people with disabilities.

VALID 2026 Advocacy in Action Conference

📍 Novotel Hotel Function Centre

📅 June 22nd & 23rd 2026

🕒 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

💰 \$100-\$200

Registration link: <https://valid.org.au/event/advocacy-in-action-conference/>

The Advocacy in Action conference is going to be an amazing opportunity to dive into important discussions about disability advocacy and key issues impacting people with disabilities. We'll have a fantastic lineup of topics, including:

- Perspectives on the changes to the NDIS
- Disability issues and the Victorian State Election
- Funding systems in the disability sector
- Health care for people with intellectual disability

Speakers will include:

- Kevin Stone, VALID Founder
- Sara Goldberg – Disability Services Consulting, Editor-in-Chief
- Iwan Winters MP – Parliamentary Secretary for Disability
- The new Victorian Public Advocate, Dan Stubbs
- Naomi Anderson – Villamanta, Legal Practice Manager
- Rod Carracher – NDIS Commission, Deputy Commissioner
- Julia Hawkins, National Centre for Excellence in Intellectual Health

New Local Community Leaders Program for Neurodivergent LGBTIQ+ young Victorians 18 to 25 years old

📍 Online and at the YDAS office, level 14, 242 Exhibition St, Melbourne

📅 Workshops run 2 July to 3 December 2026.

🕒 Thursdays from 4:30pm to 6:30pm

🆓 Free

Application form:

<https://youthdisabilityadvocacyservice.snapforms.com.au/form/local-community-leaders-program-application-form>

Child and youth safeguarding: A safety and wellbeing officer will attend each workshop and we provide follow up support afterwards.

Our free leadership program is for Victorians who are:

- Aged 18 – 25
- Live in Victoria
- Identify as neurodivergent and LGBTIQ+.

Applications close **Thursday 4 June 2026 at 5pm**.

Application form is [here](#) or go to ydas.org.au/youngleaders for more info email: youngpeople@ydas.org.au or phone or text: 0472 635 607 or 0447 678 653

My House, My Home, My Rights Project

📍 Ross House, 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

📅 Wednesday 10th of June

🕒 10.30am-12pm

🆓 People with intellectual disabilities will be paid \$150 to attend. Places are limited.

Lead by people with intellectual disability, this project by Reinforce self advocacy is for people with intellectual disability living in supported accommodation.

Please call Robyn 0481 585 289 or Email: robyn@reinforce.org.au to find out more and or join in the session

You can update your preferences at any time.
(You could also [unsubscribe completely](#), although this would make us very very sad.)

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