



Grampians
disAbility
Advocacy

*“Our Voice,
Our Choice”*

Annual Report

2017 – 18





MISSION: This advocacy service listens to, takes direction from, and stands beside people with a disability, from the Central Highlands to across the Wimmera, in their interactions with organisations and the community. We help people to learn about and act on their rights to achieve the best possible result.

Values:

- *integrity*
- *fairness*
- *respect*
- *self-determination*
- *social justice*
- *commitment to human rights*
- *faithfulness to clients and staff*

Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide advocacy for people with a disability and those who support them• eliminate discrimination and abuse• increase the awareness of the general community to the rights of people with a disability• increase the awareness of individuals and/or groups of people with a disability of their rights and responsibilities• support individuals or groups to represent themselves• provide systemic advocacy• lobby organisations, government and policy makers about the needs of people with a disability• apply the principles of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights

Where to get help from GdA

Toll free: 1800 552 272 (Ararat office only)

ARARAT (head office)

2/32 TUSON ST

PH: 5352 2722

admin@grampiansadvocacy.org.au

BALLARAT

20 EASTWOOD ST

PH: 5333 7344

ballarat@grampiansadvocacy.org.au

DAYLESFORD

13 HOSPITAL ST

PH: 5438 3350

daylesford@grampiansadvocacy.org.au

HORSHAM

17 McLACHLAN ST

PH: 5381 2400

horsham@grampiansadvocacy.org.au

STAWELL

111 MAIN ST

PH: 5358 2164

horsham@grampiansadvocacy.org.au

Website: [www. grampiansadvocacy.org.au](http://www.grampiansadvocacy.org.au)

(membership forms, Annual Report and newsletters available from the website)

Grampians Disability Advocacy





GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
elects Board of Governance

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE (eight members)
at least 50% people with lived experience of disability

Deborah Verdon
Executive Officer
Ararat Office

Angie McKew
Administration
Ingrid Blanch, Sue Horvath
Finance
Ararat Office

Trudy Joyce
Advocate
Horsham/Stawell

Fiona Tipping
Advocate
Ballarat

Judith Smith
Advocate
Ararat

Kaylene Howell
Advocate
Daylesford/Clunes

Bernadette Duane
NDIS Appeals
Support Officer

GdA BOARD OF GOVERNANCE 2017-18

CHAIRPERSON

Ararat



Jenni Starick

13 years

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Ballarat



Kay Timmins

7 years

SECRETARY

Ararat



Julie McDougall

19 years

TREASURER

Ararat



Steven Harmer

10 years

ORDINARY MEMBERS



Mark Thompson

Ballarat 7 years



Norm McMurray

Daylesford 4 years



Bernadette O'Shannessy

Horsham 2 years

Board Charter

The Board provides effective leadership and collaborates with the Executive Officer to:

- articulate and exemplify the organisation's Mission, Vision, Values and Strategies
- develop strategic plans and order strategic priorities
- maintain open lines of communication between Board and management
- develop and maintain an organisational structure that supports the achievement of strategic objectives
- appoint the Executive Officer and monitor her/his performance against agreed performance indicators

Members and staff of Gda appreciate the voluntary work the Board does for advocacy.

This year the Board engaged two Year 11 students from Marian College to provide a youth perspective to its deliberations.

*They are Jae Pinniger and Emma Blackie from Ararat.
The Board sincerely thanks Jae and Emma for their valuable contribution and looks forward to working with them into the future.*



GdA Board of Governance

Chairperson
Jenni Starick
(*chair since 2004*)

I would like to welcome everyone, on behalf of our staff and Board of Grampians disAbility Advocacy, to this our 22nd Annual General Meeting.

Again, this year we have helped many people with advocacy and issues around the NDIS, following the rollout in January 2017 in the Central Highlands areas of Ballarat, Bacchus Marsh and Ararat, and our Wimmera area of Stawell and Horsham nine months later.

As a Board, we are committed to effective governance. Through external audits we ensure GdA meets the National Disability Standards.

Also, with policy development and reviews, meetings, training, conferences and other learnings, all staff and Board members are kept up to date to improve our clients' quality of life. Staff and Board members had a Strategic Planning Day in early September 2017 to rework our plan for the next three years. During the strategic planning process and Board review we identified we were lacking a youth voice in our deliberations. We are pleased to say we now have two wonderful young women from Marian College attending part of each monthly Board meeting to give a youth perspective to our discussions. We would like to thank Jae and Emma for giving up their lunchtimes to join us at the Board meetings, and we look forward to many more opportunities to work with them in the future.

We have also had media training. Today media is not only newspapers, but Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and many other social media platforms that are on offer. In this environment we need to have checks and balances in place to stay safe as a person as well as an organisation. Our Self-Advocacy group "Sister Rocks" has been going for more than five years now. We meet monthly and discuss a variety of subjects and concerns to our members, as well as doing some project work. There are also other peer support groups set up within our catchment areas run by other local organisations.

In September 2017 we were fortunate to have Bernadette Duane join us as a NDIS Appeals Support Officer in a role funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. Our entire advocacy team also assists people to challenge NDIS decisions they disagree with.

We have welcomed Sue Horvath as our new finance officer after Ingrid Blanch retired.

We are meeting again in the Ararat Town Hall, but in a new space since it has been refurbished. You are all welcome to stay for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat after the meeting. We thank Angie for the variety of home-made treats on offer today and for all the work she put into preparing for the AGM.

Jenni Starick
Chairperson



Executive Officer

Deborah Verdon
(with GdA since 2000)

I am pleased to present this EO's report at the conclusion of another significant year for GdA in assisting people with a disability across the Central Highlands and Wimmera.

Much of our combined energies in 2017-18 was dedicated to aiding our clients to navigate the National Disability Insurance Scheme in regards to eligibility and their first NDIS plan. At times the new and demanding process presented major challenges for clients, their families and advocates. Thankfully from 2017 to 2020 the Commonwealth Department of Social Services is funding GdA to provide support to people who disagree with a decision made by the NDIS. During the past year our NDIS Appeals Support Officers have been inundated with requests for assistance from people across the wider region who are dissatisfied with a range of NDIS decisions that significantly impact their lives. It has been troubling to see a scheme that promised such hope come under fire consistently for the way it has been administered, but we remain optimistic about its future as pressure is applied in the right places to bring about improvements.

In May GdA NDIS Appeals Support Officer Bernadette Duane and I participated in a roundtable discussion with the Hon Dan Tehan, who was Minister for the NDIS at that time. A range of concerns were raised by advocates, allied health professionals, architects and disability service providers in the sincere hope that suggested improvements would be implemented. Some changes for the better have been observed, but there is still a long way to go.

Over the past year GdA has provided advocacy support through our outlets at Ballarat, Ararat, Daylesford, Clunes, Horsham and Stawell. A long-standing partnership arrangement with Geelong-based Assert 4 All has delivered advocacy also in Bacchus Marsh and Golden Plains Shire, funded by the National Disability Advocacy Program. Our thanks goes to Assert 4 All, its Board and Executive Officer Carol Okai, and advocates Kate Carroll and Leonie Dillon, for working with us to deliver quality advocacy in Moorabool and Golden Plains Shires.

We thank our funding bodies for their continued support of our organisation, now in its 22nd year. They are the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (Office for Disability) and the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. Our thanks go to the project and contract managers in each of these departments for their advice and assistance throughout the year.

In 2017-18 GdA launched its Wimmera Indigenous Program with a grant from the Victorian Government's Disability Advocacy Innovation Fund. The focus of the Program is the establishment of a sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship with the Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-op in Horsham. The Wimmera Program complements the established Ballarat Indigenous Program which has been successfully operating for almost eight years without any specific funding. We are pleased to announce that the one-year Wimmera grant has been extended for a further 12 months to allow GdA to continue relationship building and employ an Aboriginal advocate to work within community in Horsham.

The statistics we provide to our funding bodies each year are testament to the return for money provided by GdA for the investment made in advocacy. Each individual is assisted with their issue/s for an average of approximately \$2000 per person. In many cases the assistance received leads to major changes in a person's life in the areas of financial support, housing, employment, independence, family relationships and safety. Problems solved by the intervention of an advocate can also save Government and the taxpayer many dollars in the long run.

A small portion of our DSS funding is devoted to systemic advocacy. This is the way large scale change is made that can improve the lives of many people.

GdA has also greatly benefitted from the invaluable support and assistance provided by the State Government funded Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU) and the Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU). Both these units provide practical advice, training and networking opportunities to keep us energised and focused in the professional delivery of independent advocacy support. SARU has been particularly supportive of the Sister Rocks Self-Advocacy Group in Stawell, which is auspiced by GdA. Special thanks go to Jenni Starick for organising and facilitating the monthly meetings, and to Angie McKew for the times she has come along to lend a hand.

GdA has continued to benefit from membership of the Victorian Rural Advocacy Network (VicRAN), with peer support, information sharing and training opportunities a feature of this pivotal network. Thanks to GdA Chairperson Jenni Starick for attending VicRAN meetings with me and providing valuable input and support.

Grampians Advocacy greatly appreciates the time committed to the ongoing development of the advocacy service by the members of the Central Highlands Regional Advisory Group. This group has been informing the work of the GdA board for many years, ensuring knowledge of what is happening regarding systemic issues in the largest community in our region - Ballarat. The group continues to work hard to improve access for all who live in that area. GdA is currently engaged in legal action against Public Transport Victoria and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources regarding the lack of appropriate disability access at Ballarat Railway Station. We are working in collaboration with Save Our Station Ballarat to bring about the standard of access that people with a disability are entitled to under the law. Thanks goes to Placido Belardo and Disability

Discrimination Legal Service for taking on this discrimination case for GdA and the people of Ballarat and the wider region.

On a personal note, I cannot give enough thanks to my colleagues at GdA - staff and Board members. What a magnificent group of dedicated and enthusiastic people. All are diligent in the way they perform their duties, with Board members giving unselfishly of their time for the sake of the agency and the disadvantaged and vulnerable in our community. Thanks to the office bearers who take on extra responsibilities for the organisation.

GdA's advocacy and NDIS Appeals team of Judi Smith, Fiona Tipping, Trudy Joyce, Kaylene Howell and Bernadette Duane are to be congratulated on the standard of work they provide for GdA, day in day out. Working in isolated one-person situations presents many challenges, all of which they handle with aplomb and professionalism. Exit surveys reveal the extent to which they are valued by their clients, and the Board and management thank them for their continued efforts.

My sincere thanks also go to our Admin Assistant Angie McKew and Finance Officers Ingrid Blanch and Sue Horvath, who combine their skills to ensure everything runs smoothly in the Ararat office and appropriate support is given to our remote sites. I also would like to thank Angie for her tireless efforts in making sure everything was in place for today's Annual General Meeting.

Thank you for your attendance.



Judith Smith

Advocate/NDIS Appeals Support
Ararat Office
(with GdA since 2007)

This has been an extremely busy year at Grampians disAbility Advocacy.

So much of our work this year has been focused on government agencies. Whether the NDIS or Centrelink, the issues remain the same. Our challenge is to create a line of paperwork which is acceptable to all concerned and this includes the ever changing landscape in which documents can be used and accepted by the relevant agency. It is a process which is almost impossible to follow unless you have a lot of experience in this area. The idea of giving control to the individual users with such concepts as “My (insert name)” would assume that our clients have access to a computer and/or can understand the language associated with its use. The philosophy sounds good but the access is highly questionable.

While the old stalwarts of education, DSP and debt issues remain of some significance, by far the overwhelming workload is with the NDIS or Centrelink. The issue of accessing information for and/or about our clients can often be an area of frustration. We have, however, had some wonderful success stories when we intervened on behalf of our clients.

A disturbing feature of the work in advocacy this year has been around the issue of ‘who you know’ as an access point for information and this does worry me greatly. This information should be freely available to all advocates but it is not.

A section of my work this year saw the attendance at professional development sky rocket as it is also increasingly obvious that we need to be seen as an organization who is in with the big players. I now attend DARU Governance Group meetings and will continue to do so. I attended the VCOS Conference and the DARU Conference where we are now working with a deliberate political platform, given it is an election year. This has proven to be very stimulating and we have certainly increased our public profile in the State.

My work with people with a disability in the Prison and Correctional Systems continues and the only limit to this work is how much time we have as an organization to do it. Again, we are working in an area undertaken by few, if any, other organisations and so we are seen as being unique in this way. This does present us with a range of frustrations as our clients are not accessible at easy notice. Working in this area has certainly introduced new experiences such as working with the Equal Opportunity Commissioner over the course of the year.

It has been a challenging year with a range of unique experiences and many more to come. This is all balanced with the usual expectations such as giving talks to local groups and at the University of Ballarat around the area of disability and services offered.

A great year and another one to come no doubt.

Judith Smith



Fiona Tipping

Advocate/NDIS Appeals Support
Ballarat Office
(with GdA since 2010)

The 2017/18 year has been extremely busy, dominated by NDIS advocacy and appeals with a plethora of challenges presenting.

Disability Support Pension issues ran a close second in domination, particularly in the second half of the year. There appeared to be an overall increase in people struggling with both the DSP and NDIS which was cause for some concern as it meant having to deal with multiple issues at the same time. What was also of concern was the similarity between the NDIS system and Centrelink operations. Surprisingly whether someone is on the DSP or not is apparently used as part of the NDIS assessment tool even though this is not meant to be the case. Again the NDIS is utilising similar strategies as Centrelink in rejecting claims for inclusion as a participant, to the great distress of our clients.

Many meetings were attended with key stakeholders within the NDIS, as well as politicians to improve relations and lobby for improved services for our clients. I continued to attend Central Highlands Regional Advisory Group (CHRAG) meetings to work on systemic issues. I also attended various NDIS training opportunities in Melbourne that were extremely useful in assisting my day to day work in the appeals area.

With numerous Administrative Appeals Tribunal or NDIS external review submissions came more collaboration with Victoria Legal Aid lawyers. This gave me a much better insight into NDIA law and the AAT workings. Some lawyers went above and beyond their role in assisting my clients with their various appeals, including DSP appeals. A special mention needs to be given to VLA lawyer Miles Browne, who has managed the majority of my NDIS appeals as well as one DSP.

One of the major changes that seems to have happened in the latter half of the year is the use of the complaints system for both the NDIA and Centrelink. It appears that both systems are crisis driven and the only way to battle unacceptable backlogs and tardy decisions is through the complaints process.

I am looking forward to the 2018/19 year with the hope that systems and practices will improve and our jobs will become a lot easier. I hope to continue to build on relationships in organisations such as Centrelink and the NDIA, especially in order to provide better outcomes for my clients.

Thanks to my wonderful work colleagues, Bern, Trudy, Judi, Kaylene and of course our EO, Debbie. It continues to be a privilege to work with like-minded people. Thanks also to GdA Board members and CHRAG who continue to be valuable contributors to advocacy.

Fiona Tipping



Kaylene Howell

Advocate/NDIS Appeals Support
Daylesford/Clunes Office
(Hepburn and Moorabool Shires)
(with GdA since 2014)

I would like to begin my report by thanking and acknowledging all the people involved in keeping GdA an active and contributing organisation in the Disability Advocacy Sector. It has been a productive and busy year which presented me with rich, diverse and challenging cases.

The NDIS continues to have a growing impact on our workload and still features highly in our client advocacy work, along with Disability Support Pensions.

We continue to share a partnership with “Assert for All” who provide advocacy in the Moorabool Shire, and this has been an ongoing collaboration which seems to be how the future of advocacy in Victoria will unfold.

We are further developing and maintaining our relationships within Hepburn Health Service where the Daylesford and Clunes offices are located. HHS has been building its services with visiting contractors including DHHS, Centrelink, Australian Hearing, Ballarat Mental Health, QEC Continence Nurse, CAFS, WRISC, CASA and many more, which is a rich resource for my role and I am assisted greatly by having these professionals working alongside me.

Funding for the RuralAccess program in Daylesford area has raised concerns over the past year. When funding for the role was transferred from Hepburn Health Service to Hepburn Shire Council, the lack of a visible RuralAccess worker at HHS impacted on clients. It also sadly meant the end of the Hepburn Access Committee, which was a successful regular meeting resource when I first stepped into my role. Fortunately since the RuralAccess role has been performed by Deb Westin there have been immediate responses to access concerns, leading to better outcomes for our clients in the local area.

I attended forums held in several locations to update the DAIP (Disability Access and Inclusion Plan) for Hepburn Shire Council. I am excited that we will now have a Disability Access Committee (DAC) again in our area and some former clients of GdA will also be joining the committee.

We had a new service provider “Amicus” located in Daylesford offering a choice in NDIS supports and providing local employment for trained disability support workers. We have had discussions about a collaborative forum inclusive of Hepburn Health, Amicus and Hepburn Council to provide the community with improved knowledge of disability specific services in the area.

I have been to training in Autism Awareness and (CALD) Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, supported by DARU and VCOSS.

With my GdA colleagues I attended an NDIS Appeals Forum held in Melbourne which was hugely beneficial to our roles as NDIS Appeals Support Officers.

I was given the opportunity to make a contribution to an online advocacy training video for DARU. The video was by Sarah Barton, director of the documentary “Defiant Lives”.

Thanks again for all the support and I look forward to the next chapter in my role as an advocate for GdA.

Kaylene Howell



Trudy Joyce
Advocate/NDIS Appeals Support
Horsham/Stawell Office
(Horsham, Yarriambiack, West Wimmera, Hindmarsh &
Northern Grampians Shire)
(with GdA since 2012)

I have now been working for Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association for just over six years within the areas of Northern Grampians, Horsham, West Wimmera, Yarriambiack and Hindmarsh Shires.

The past year has seen a major social change occur with the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in my support areas of the Wimmera and Northern Grampians. The NDIS is difficult to navigate but I have definitely seen an increase in the number of people that are now funded under this system with supports in place.

Many people require support to understand the complexity of the NDIS and value the support they can obtain from an independent advocate in navigating the system, especially when it comes to Internal Reviews and External Reviews with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

I am continuing my work with consumer/employee meetings monthly at Grahams Bridge Rd program in Horsham, Cooida in Nhill and Woodbine in Warracknabeal.

This year other issues experienced by my clients relate to eligibility for the Disability Support Pension, and navigating the complex system of Social Security. Referrals have come from West Wimmera Health Service, Horsham Mental Health Services, La Trobe Community Health, Axis Employment, Western District Employment Access Worx, NDIS Support Coordinators and people who have friends/family that have used the advocacy service before.

Training has included the first ever National Disability Online Conference, Ability Seer NDIS Appeals workshop and VACCHO/DARU Cultural Awareness Training. In the area of the Wimmera GdA commenced working with Goolum Goolum Co-op through a grant from the Disability Advocacy Innovation Fund, establishing a strong connection between our two organisations in supporting people with a disability.

I continue to enjoy my work as an independent advocate and look forward to the next year of advocacy for people with a disability.

I would like to thank Debbie Verdon and the GdA board for their amazing support and guidance and to thank all my fellow advocates for the inspirational work they contribute to advocating for people with a disability.

Trudy Joyce



Bernadette Duane
NDIS Appeals Support Officer

(with GdA since Sept 2017)

I would like to begin by thanking the GdA Board and its EO, Deborah Verdon, for giving me this opportunity to work for such a dedicated, rights-driven and empowering organisation for people with disabilities. All at GdA have been so welcoming and helpful. Thankyou.

The NDIS rolled out in the Central Highlands in January 2017. There was much hope and anticipation surrounding the introduction of the NDIS. It was the hope that the choice, control and assistance that people with disabilities were wanting, and needing, would finally be delivered.

As with any new system and the implementation of change - the introduction of the NDIS has not been without its challenges.

As an NDIS Appeals support officer I assist clients with Internal and External Reviews of reviewable decisions made by the NDIS. This assistance can range from guidance and advice over the telephone, to collating the required evidence with a client and lodging documentation, to support at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

To date there has been a steady influx of enquiries. Referrals have come from a wide range of sources - disability providers, word of mouth, Local Area Coordinators and GPs.

During the year I made presentations regarding our appeals support service to various support groups throughout the region as well as to service providers PINARC, McCallum, Karden, BRI, and other disability groups.

Initially most referrals were regarding access, i.e. people who were deemed unable to meet the access criteria for the NDIS. I am pleased to say that 90% of the review requests lodged were successful and access was granted.

Internal reviews regarding the level of funding are on the increase. Currently most are requests for:

- home modifications
- therapy
- assistive technology
- increased funding in general
- assistance animals

When assisting clients with their appeals the key problems identified are:

- poor response times of NDIS, lack of action and transparency
- lack of open NDIS communication channels with a consistent point of contact with reliable information
- lack of assistance to clients completing their access requests so that they are seeking appropriate specialist reports that meet the NDIS report requirement
- difficulty for clients to get assessments and access services in a rural location in a timely and affordable manner when there are time frames for appeals.

These issues were raised at a roundtable meeting with The Hon Dan Tehan when he was Minister for Social Services and Mark Sweeney from the NDIA.

The rates of referrals for NDIS appeals has not declined and the matters are becoming more complex in nature, e.g. the interface between NDIS and health/mental health.

Bernadette Duane



GdA Board of Governance

TREASURER
Steven Harmer
(*treasurer since 2012*)

TREASURER'S REPORT

As treasurer of GdA I have been keeping a vigilant eye on our finances and assets. We continue to receive grants from DHS, DSS, and other small grants to fund advocacy. One significant grant was to fund our Indigenous Program.

We continue to receive funds for NDIS Appeals Support, although this will be substantially decreased over the next couple of years. Despite the cut back we are still getting high numbers of people wanting NDIS Appeals Support. Our staff have been doing a terrific job coping with the increasing demands of the role.

We welcome Sue Horvath to our fabulous team this year when Ingrid decided it was time to retire. Sue is now managing our bookkeeping and regular payments, with our auditor also reviewing our accounting processes and procedures annually to ensure all is well.

The immediate future is looking good for GdA, with budget goals being met. Our accounts are healthy as can be seen in our Income and Expenditure report, so we will still be here advocating for our clients with guaranteed funding to at least mid 2020.

Yours Faithfully

Steven Harmer
Treasurer

Schedule 1

Regulation 15

Form 1

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

Sections 94 (2)(b), 97 (2)(b) and 100 (2)(b)

**Annual statements give a true and fair view of financial performance and position
of incorporated association**

We JENNI STARICK and STEVEN HARMER being members of the
committee of the GRAMPIANS DISABILITY ADVOCACY certify that –

“The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial
performance and position of the above named association during and at the end of
the financial year of the association ending JUNE 30, 2018.”

Signed: J Starick

Date: 1 - 10 - 2018

Signed: Steven Harmer

Date: 1 - 10 - 2018

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc

ABN 19 253 808 264

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) that the financial records kept by the association are such as to enable financial statements to be prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are 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 our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The committee of the association is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the association's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2018, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Victoria under the Associations Act 2012 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc

ABN 19 253 808 264

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our 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, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We 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 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 association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's 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 association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association 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.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc

ABN 19 253 808 264

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Signed



Ellen J O'Connell Certified Practising Accountant
7 Crebbins Lane Ararat

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc

ABN 19 253 808 264

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Income		
Grant - Department of Social Services	300,788.60	286,440.33
Grant - NDIS	93,600.00	98,000.00
Grant DHS Audit		4,262.40
Grant - Depart of Health & Human Service	243,304.17	169,293.37
VICRAN	911.78	
Interest received	2,877.33	2,209.87
Sister Rocks	4,089.44	831.06
Profit on sale of property, plant, equip	100.00	(659.72)
Total income	645,671.32	560,377.31
Expenses		
Accommodation	1,316.91	979.11
Accounting & Audit Fees	1,111.80	1,111.50
Advertising and promotion	1,902.25	1,891.96
Advocacy - Bacchus Marsh	75,192.00	63,264.06
Audit fees		9,728.99
Bank Fees And Charges	112.29	98.78
Catering	531.93	848.93
Computer Software & Supplies	4,770.16	4,453.61
Conference/Workshops	1,665.91	1,320.63
Consultants fees	1,156.52	359.44
Depreciation	14,235.00	11,974.00
Electricity	1,394.70	1,237.92
Expenses NDIS	51,533.58	20,482.03
Hire/rent of Plant & Equipment		342.27
Hospitality	1,247.34	518.96
Insurance	1,098.11	810.50
Journals & Newspapers	92.20	108.15
M/V car - Fuel & oil	5,157.67	6,255.18
M/V car - Lease	7,927.87	5,778.96
M/V car - Rego/Insurance	2,814.98	3,766.33
M/V car - Repairs	2,385.73	1,100.09
M/V car - Other		1,582.30
Postage	1,393.68	1,394.43
Printing & stationery	2,952.85	3,900.18
Prizes & Gifts		50.00

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc

ABN 19 253 808 264

Income and Expenditure Statement**For the year ended 30 June 2018**

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Provision for Annual Leave	11,954.01	1,336.74
Provision For Long Service Leave	14,881.49	1,973.22
Rent	23,762.10	21,730.51
Repairs & maintenance	100.00	45.00
Staff training	1,817.67	1,907.27
Subscriptions & Registrations	1,868.72	3,058.54
Sundry expenses	538.00	70.00
Superannuation	33,026.75	24,879.10
Telephone	15,477.20	13,330.04
Travel Expenses	10,424.93	4,310.09
Wages	355,028.10	266,527.32
Workcover	2,326.24	771.89
Total expenses	651,198.69	483,298.03
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax	(5,527.37)	77,079.28
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(5,527.37)	77,079.28
Total changes in equity of the association	(5,527.37)	77,079.28
Opening retained profits	188,272.32	111,193.04
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(5,527.37)	77,079.28
Closing retained profits	182,744.95	188,272.32

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc

ABN 19 253 808 264

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash assets		228,631.47	207,618.95
Receivables		31,257.49	
Total Current Assets		259,888.96	207,618.95
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment		55,912.60	54,999.74
Total Non-Current Assets		55,912.60	54,999.74
Total Assets		315,801.56	262,618.69
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables		30,780.03	1,903.72
Current tax liabilities		23,058.60	18,195.89
Provisions		9,174.81	7,485.52
Total Current Liabilities		63,013.44	27,585.13
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions		70,043.17	46,761.24
Total Non-Current Liabilities		70,043.17	46,761.24
Total Liabilities		133,056.61	74,346.37
Net Assets		182,744.95	188,272.32
Equity			
Retained profits		182,744.95	188,272.32
Total Members' Funds		182,744.95	188,272.32

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc

ABN 19 253 808 264

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
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Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	611,436.50	558,827.16
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(578,253.45)	(447,527.61)
Interest received	2,877.33	2,209.87
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2)	<u>36,060.38</u>	<u>113,509.42</u>
 Cash Flow From Investing Activities		
Payment for:		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(15,147.86)	(51,676.00)
Proceeds from disposal of:		
Proceeds from sale of property	<u>100.00</u>	<u>26,542.68</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(15,047.86)</u>	<u>(25,133.32)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	21,012.52	88,376.10
Cash at the beginning of the year	<u>207,618.95</u>	<u>119,242.85</u>
Cash at the end of the year (note 1)	<u><u>228,631.47</u></u>	<u><u>207,618.95</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc

ABN 19 253 808 264

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
Note 1. Reconciliation Of Cash		
For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.		
Cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:		
Commonwealth Bank Cheque A/c	9.58	79.58
Commonwealth Bank Fuel A/C	1,034.78	406.76
Bendigo Bank - Social Investment	121,387.48	119,563.30
Bendigo bank - Transaction a/c	75,339.64	30,442.07
Bendigo Bank NDIS	30,476.88	56,703.19
Cash on hand	80.55	424.05
Visa Debit card	302.56	
	<u>228,631.47</u>	<u>207,618.95</u>

Note 2. Reconciliation Of Net Cash Provided By/Used In Operating Activities To Operating Profit After Income Tax

Operating profit after income tax	(5,527.37)	77,079.28
Depreciation	14,235.00	11,974.00
(Profit) / Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	(100.00)	659.72
Changes in assets and liabilities net of effects of purchases and disposals of controlled entities:		
(Increase) decrease in trade and term debtors	(31,257.49)	
Increase (decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	322.96	1,903.72
Increase (decrease) in other creditors	28,553.35	
Increase (decrease) in employee entitlements	1,689.29	7,485.52
Increase (decrease) in sundry provisions	28,144.64	14,407.18
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>36,060.38</u>	<u>113,509.42</u>

Systemic Advocacy at GdA

Save Our Station Campaign



Ballarat Railway Station

This year GdA has spent the majority of its available systemic advocacy resources on a collaborative campaign with SOS Ballarat to ensure disability access to an acceptable level is developed at Ballarat Railway Station. The station precinct is being redeveloped, yet at the same time the station itself remains inaccessible to many people with mobility or vision impairment.

GdA has made an application to VCAT that will bring Public Transport Victoria and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources to the table to map out a plan and a process to make this important transport hub accessible to all in Ballarat and the wider region. Stay tuned to GdA's Facebook page, Twitter, local media or our newsletter for the latest news on the campaign. Or give us a call on 1800 552 272 to find out more.

Sister Rocks Self-Advocacy



SISTER ROCKS SELF ADVOCACY GROUP STAWELL

Meets each 3rd Thursday at the Stawell Health & Community Centre 4- 6pm

For more information about joining a group of individuals with a disability who:

- Stand up for themselves
- Support each other to make choices
- Discuss problems and talk about big issues and learn new things
- work on projects together

Phone **GdA** on **1800 552 272** to find out how to join **Sister Rocks**

Thank you to those that have worked with GdA over the past year

- All our members, clients and advisory group members
- AED Legal Centre
- Ararat Neighbourhood House
- Ararat Psychiatric Services
- Assert 4 All, Geelong, Golden Plains and Bacchus Marsh
- Axis Employment
- Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative
- Ballarat City Council
- Commonwealth Department of Social Services
- Cooina, Nhill
- Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre
- Disability Advocacy Network Australia
- Disability Advocacy Resource Unit
- Disability Discrimination Legal Service
- Disability Services Commissioner
- Eastwood Leisure Centre
- Ellen J O'Connell C.P.A.
- Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative
- Grampians Community Health
- Grampians, Central Highlands and Wimmera RuralAccess
- Health Services Commissioner
- Hepburn Health (Community Health Centre)
- Ian and Jocelyn Chegwin
- Karkana, Horsham
- La Trobe Community Health
- Mental Health Complaints Commissioner
- Moorabool Shire Council
- National Disability Insurance Agency
- Office for Disability (DHHS)
- PINARC, Ballarat
- Pinnacle Inc.
- Powerhouse Stawell
- Self Advocacy Resource Unit
- Stawell Health and Community Centre
- VALID
- Victoria Legal Aid
- Victorian Department of Health and Human Services
- Victorian Rural Advocacy Network
- Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service
- Wimmera Disability Access Forum
- Wimmera Regional Sports Assembly
- Woodbine, Warracknabeal