



Annual Report 2016 - 17



“Our voice Our choice”





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 and faithfulness to clients and staff.

Goals

- 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

call toll free: 1800 552 272

(Ararat office only)

ARARAT (head office)

2/32 TUSON ST

PH: 1800 552 272

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

(membership forms, Annual Report and newsletters available online)

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
Finance
Ararat Office

Trudy Joyce
Advocate
Horsham/Stawell

Fiona Tipping
Advocate
Ballarat

Judith Smith
Advocate
Ararat

Kaylene Howell
Advocate
Daylesford/Clunes

GdA BOARD OF GOVERNANCE 2016-17

CHAIRPERSON Jenni Starick
Ararat 13 years



VICE CHAIRPERSON Kay Timmins
Ballarat 6 years



SECRETARY Julie McDougall
Ararat 8 years



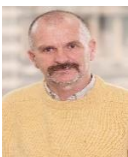
TREASURER Steven Harmer
Ararat 9 years



ORDINARY MEMBERS



Mark Thompson
Ballarat 6 years



Norm McMurray
Daylesford 5 years



Bernadette O'Shannessy
Horsham 1 year

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 the organization.



GdA Board of Governance

Chairperson
Jenni Starick
(*chair since 2004*)

Grampians disAbility Advocacy staff and board members welcome our members and community to this, our 21st Annual General Meeting.

As usual we rotate this meeting between our major towns and for this year we chose Ballarat.

GdA has had another very busy year, not just with advocacy but with helping people through their planning meetings and the external review processes with the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

This scheme is well under way within our area of Central Highlands in Ballarat, Bacchus Marsh and Ararat districts, having started here in January this year, and transitioning to our Wimmera area of Stawell and Horsham in October 2017.

As a Board, we are committed to effective governance. As required by the National and State funding bodies (DSS and DHHS) we comply with external audits which ensures GdA meets the relevant State and National Disability Standards.

Also, with policy development and reviews, inter-agency meetings, training days, conferences and various other meetings all staff and Board members keep up to date with new and innovative ideas to help our clients with issues to improve their quality of life.

With Systemic Advocacy, our Self-Advocacy group has been going for over four years now.

There are also other peer support groups set up within our catchment areas.

Today we have a guest speaker, and today's topic is "Global measures to uphold the rights of people with a disability."

At end of the meeting we hope you will stay and enjoy the social aspect of the day, with a cuppa and a chat.

Thank you for your attendance today.



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 and the people we serve across the Central Highlands. Much of our combined energies in 2016-17 was dedicated to sharing our understanding of the National Disability Insurance Scheme with our clients as they began to negotiate the new and complex system. The Central Highlands rollout commenced in January 2017 and contributed to a significant increase in workload for GdA's Ballarat, Daylesford and Ararat offices. Our role expanded to include education, support and reassurance for people with a disability who were confused and/or nervous about the continuation of their supports. Wherever possible we met requests from our clients to attend planning meetings.

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.

Combined GdA and A4A Statistics for 2016-17

(Ararat Rural City, Northern Grampians Shire, Horsham Rural City, Yarriambiack Shire, West Wimmera Shire, Hindmarsh Shire, Ballarat City, Pyrenees Shire, Golden Plains Shire, Hepburn Shire, Moorabool Shire)

Individuals assisted	307	
Most common disability	Intellectual	69
	Psychiatric	67
	Physical	49
	Acquired Brain Injury	31
	Autism spectrum disorder	30
	Neurological	22
	Other	39
Most common issues		
	Legal	63
	Health	56
	NDIS	45
	Accommodation	42
	Finances	32
	Abuse and Neglect	22
	Other	47

To coincide with the rollout of the NDIS in Central Highlands, GdA was selected by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services to deliver NDIS Appeals support in Central Highlands and Loddon regions of Victoria. This funding is specifically to assist people who disagree with a decision made by the National Disability Insurance Agency. Most commonly these are people who have been denied access to the NDIS, or have been given plans that don't fully fund their support needs. We appreciate the confidence shown by DSS in the ability of GdA advocates to guide people through the appeals process.

We thank both our funding bodies for their continued support of our organisation, now in its 21st 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. On the last day of the 2016-17 financial year the Victorian Government Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing Martin Foley announced that GdA was one of the successful recipients of a grant from the \$1.5 million Disability Advocacy Innovation Fund. This grant is earmarked to develop GdA's Wimmera Indigenous Program, focusing on building a sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship with the Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-op in Horsham. The Wimmera Program will complement the established Ballarat Indigenous Program which has been successfully operating for almost seven years.

The 2016-17 statistics in the table above are testament to the return for money provided by GdA to our funding bodies. Each individual is assisted with their issue/s for an average of \$1484 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. In some instances it can take a year or more to achieve a result with an advocacy client. 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 facilitating the monthly meetings.

This year GdA underwent a full external audit for the Department of Health and Human Services and a surveillance audit for the National Disability Standards, and gained dual accreditation as a result. Preparation for the audit and the process itself provides an opportunity to examine all aspects of GdA's performance, and opportunities for improvement were identified and addressed by the Board during the year.

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. This year I have served as President of VicRAN. Thanks to GdA Chairperson Jenni Starick for attending VicRAN meetings with me and providing valuable input and support.

GdA 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 pursued the lack of facilities and access to the Regent Cinema in Ballarat all the way to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. As a result significant improvements to access were made. Thanks goes to Placido Belardo from Disability Discrimination Legal Service for taking on this discrimination case for GdA and the people of Ballarat.

The Wimmera Regional Advisory Group reconvened in Horsham thanks to the enthusiasm of our Wimmera advocate Trudy Joyce. The group of committed members identified priority issues for people with a disability in Horsham and surrounds.

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 team of Judi Smith, Fiona Tipping, Trudy Joyce and Kaylene Howell 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. Congratulations to Judi Smith for reaching the 10 years milestone this year.

This year we welcomed Bernadette O'Shannessy to the Board. Bernadette was formerly an advocate for GdA in Horsham and now works in dispute resolution. We look forward to Bernadette's contributions for many years to come.

My sincere thanks also go to our Admin Assistant Angie McKew and Finance Officer Ingrid Blanch, who combine their skills to ensure everything runs smoothly in the Ararat office and appropriate support is given to our remote sites. I acknowledge the many hours of work Ingrid spent to prepare the end of financial year reports. 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 at today's AGM.



Judi Smith

Advocate
Ararat Office
(with GdA since 2007)

Advocacy and the National Disability Insurance Scheme appeals work has brought with it a steep learning curve and many new challenges this year. The majority of my work has been around Disability Support Pension and NDIS applications. The intensity of the work is on the increase given the demand for assistance with internal reviews of decisions made by the National Disability Insurance Agency. All of Australia is learning while on the job and this is not always the best recipe for success.

The work I have engaged in this past year involves an expansion on previous years. While the NDIS is one area of expansion, so too is my involvement with the Disability Advocacy Resource Unit. I am a new member of the DARU Governance Board and this gives me a far greater overview of where advocacy sits in the disability sector at this stage. I am able to work with well known identities within the framework of the disability sector and this will add to the general strength of the work of Grampians disAbility Advocacy.

I have also begun work with Women With Disabilities Victoria. My involvement revolves around setting up and running a Leadership Program for women with a disability in the Ballarat area. Meetings, marketing, selection panels and program attendance are a part of the role I will be fulfilling for the remainder of 2017. This has allowed for an expansion in the networking of our organisation and the growth in the impact our advocacy is having in this area of the State.

My professional development this year centres around the internal advocacy for our team with teleconferences on a regular basis at two levels. One group is our own advocates working for GdA. The other group is the wider group of advocates who undertake NDIS appeals work, and the sharing of our understandings and ideas for successful outcomes.

External professional development was focused on the NDIS journey. A viewing of the documentary "Defiant Lives" made me very proud to be a part of a highly motivated group of advocates across the world. From the early activism of the 1950s where the world was slowly awakening to the idea that disability was not something to be hidden and then, by the 21st century, to be celebrated. Australia is a leading light in disability rights and Victoria is held as the forerunner for positive change in the world of disabilities. But of course we still have much work to do.

The pace of work is becoming frantic with the increasing demands of the NDIS as well as an array of other issues encountered by our clients, many of which relate to the Disability Support Pension. The fundamental work of advocating for those with a disability will always be our core focus and the reason we come to work each day. I celebrated 10 years as an Advocate this year and I am proud of it.



Fiona Tipping

Advocate
Ballarat Office
(with GdA since 2010)

The year 2016/17 has been an extremely busy one dominated by events leading up to and following the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Ballarat and GdA's funding for NDIS Appeals Support.

Disability Support Pension issues continue to dominate in the new financial year, but were quickly overtaken by NDIS issues where most of the work involved was advocacy rather than appeals support. It became apparent that many of the issues surrounding the NDIS were similar to those surrounding the DSP in terms of transparency, language and politics. Advocacy requests more than doubled for the Ballarat office as people sought assistance to navigate the NDIS system. In political terms it became apparent to me that the original intent of the NDIS to be based on the human rights of people with a disability to have equality in their community appeared to have been watered down by the need to be 'sustainable' and 'cost effective'. The welfare or charity model adopted in the past seem to have overtaken the original intent of the scheme, which has reinforced the need for robust advocacy to continue to ensure individual human rights are respected.

Feedback from our clients regarding the NDIS was that the roll out was "rushed", and that they were being pressured into having pre planning meetings via phone, when there was limited capacity for understanding or relaying their needs adequately. This was an issue addressed by GdA in the media and much advocacy work was done by liaising with managers at the National Disability Insurance Agency. Face to face meetings with supports has now become the accepted practice.

Our work in NDIS Appeals support is on the increase, but it cannot be provided without advocacy support, so it is important that all levels of Government recognize the value of advocacy accordingly.

I have attended many forums and workshops about advocacy and the NDIS this year. I was a guest speaker at the Speak Up forum hosted by Pinarc Support Services. I have also participated in monthly telephone share information and provide support. This has proven to be very useful in addressing common and systemic issues.

Thanks to my wonderful work colleagues, Trudy, Judi, Kaylene and of course our Executive Officer, Debbie. It continues to be a privilege to work with like-minded people. Thanks also to the GdA Board members and the Central Highlands Regional Advisory Group who continue to be valuable contributors to advocacy.



Kaylene Howell

Advocate
Daylesford Office
(Hepburn and Moorabool Shires)
(with GdA since 2014)

I would firstly like to personally thank and acknowledge all the people who volunteer their time to participate on our board. It is your dedication to Grampians disAbility Advocacy that makes our position in Advocacy in Victoria possible. Your time is given voluntarily and it is appreciated. Once again throughout the year, you have supported us well in our roles as advocates.

I believe strongly that It requires many people to bring about significant social change in the disability sector and we all do our part bringing about that change. I also would like to thank all the other advocates from our organisation who continue to support me in my role, including our administration team Angie and Ingrid.

In Hepburn/Moorabool Shires, GdA has been assisting clients with a variety of issues. Disability Support Pensions still remain one of the issues that require our support and we have had successes for our clients which has been a positive outcome.

Access to the community remains a focus in our area, and increasingly accessing supports for the NDIS proves a difficult task at times due to a lack of service providers.

This year saw the introduction and the roll out of the NDIS and this has created an increase in our workload, but fortunately we have secured funding for our NDIS appeals support roles which helps in some way to stay on top of demand. I have been requested to attend many NDIS pre-planning meetings and have given as much support and direction as possible to ensure an effective transition to the NDIS.

The beginning of this year has been busy with the NDIS. I have initiated information meetings and was a guest speaker at a Windarrang Forum. Windarrang is a service provider which came into Daylesford to provide support previously provided by the Planned Activity Group auspiced by Council. The group participants had trouble accepting the change and I spent time with them to ensure they understood what was happening. Some of the participants were not receiving supports through the Department of Health and Human Services so had to apply to be a participant in the NDIS to continue participating in the group.

I continue to participate in our training days throughout the year which give the opportunity to share information and skills with the other advocates. Our monthly teleconferences continue to be beneficial for sharing what is happening within the organisation.

I meet periodically with Leonie Dillon from Assert for All and with Bev Watson who is the Rural Access worker for Moorabool Shire, which is always great for staying connected. We discuss any issues that I might need to be aware of relevant to my role in the Moorabool shire.

I look forward to another challenging year in advocacy.



Trudy Joyce

Advocate
Horsham 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 five years, within the areas of Northern Grampians, Horsham, West Wimmera, Yarriambiack and Hindmarsh Shires.

The past year all submissions to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse have been finalized, and a lot of positive change has occurred from the shared experiences of all who participated.

I am continuing my work with consumer/employee meetings on a monthly basis at Grahams Bridge Rd, Cooyinda (Nhill), Woodbine in Warracknabeal and Greenfingers Nursery in Stawell.

A lot of discussion and support has been around the National Disability Insurance Scheme arriving within my areas of coverage in October 2017.

This year recurring issues within my area are lack of information on services and support systems, education equality for children with a disability and Disability Support Pension referrals, as the public try to tackle the complex system of Centrelink processes.

In April this year I participated in the Victorian Disability Advocacy Network's "NDIS for Advocates" conference with my GdA colleagues. Other training sessions I was involved in were Victoria Legal Aid Discrimination training, Person Centred PATH training with Annette Axen from VALID, Australian Federation of People with a Disability and the Disability Services Commissioner training on NDIS Planning and Support. I found the AFDO session was the best I have attended as it was very relevant, and AFDO has a great understanding of the information needs of the community regarding the new NDIS system.

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

I would like to thank our Executive Officer Debbie Verdon and the GdA Board for their amazing support and guidance, and to thank all my fellow advocates for the inspirational work they do in advocating for people with a disability.



GdA Board of Governance

TREASURER
Steven Harmer
(*treasurer since 2012*)

As treasurer of GdA I have been keeping a discerning eye on our finances. We still received our grants from DHHS and DSS, and other one off grants. We have our grant for NDIS Appeals Support so we were able to employ one part time staff member to handle this and various other miscellany around the office.

Our advocates have had an extra workload this year with NDIS cases on top of advocacy, but we have been able to offer them more hours because of this same funding.

Ingrid is still managing our regular payments and bookkeeping.

The future is looking good for GdA, our reserves are healthy, so we will still be here advocating for you into the future.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Harmer'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'S' and a more formal 'Harmer'.

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 Association 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, 2017.”

Signed: J Starick

Date: 5 OCTOBER 2017

Signed: SHARMER

Date: 5th - OCT 2017

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc

ABN 19 253 808 264

Independent Auditors Report to the Members

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes In Equity, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Certificate by Members of the Committee for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc

ABN 19 253 808 264

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Opinion

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

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards.

Signed on :



Ellen J O'Connell CPA
7 Crebbins Lane Ararat

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association Inc

ABN 19 253 808 264

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Income		
Grant - Department of Social Services	286,440.33	256,070.41
Grant - NDIS	98,000.00	
Grant DHS Audit	4,262.40	
Grant - Depart of Health & Human Service	169,293.37	151,119.20
Grant - Westpac		8,869.08
Grant - Local Government		2,246.27
Interest received	2,209.87	3,567.59
Sister Rocks	831.06	
Other income		6,029.07
Profit on sale of property, plant, equip	(659.72)	
Total income	560,377.31	427,901.62
Expenses		
Accommodation	979.11	911.23
Accounting & Audit Fees	1,111.50	1,930.00
Advertising and promotion	1,891.96	1,372.60
Advocacy - Bacchus Marsh	63,264.06	60,423.80
Audit fees	9,728.99	7,886.33
Bank Fees And Charges	98.78	189.52
Catering	848.93	501.16
Computer Software & Supplies	4,453.61	3,556.51
Conference/Workshops	1,320.63	
Consultants fees	359.44	
Depreciation	11,974.00	13,062.00
Electricity	1,237.92	1,478.27
Expenses NDIS	20,482.03	
Hire/rent of Plant & Equipment	342.27	131.00
Hospitality	518.96	598.16
Insurance	810.50	936.86
Journals & Newspapers	108.15	96.42
M/V car - Fuel & oil	6,255.18	5,473.35
M/V car - Lease	5,778.96	5,883.00
M/V car - Rego/Insurance	3,766.33	2,843.24
M/V car - Repairs	1,100.09	1,596.59
M/V car - Other	1,582.30	1,281.92
Postage	1,394.43	750.79

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 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Printing & stationery	3,900.18	8,280.72
Prizes & Gifts	50.00	118.85
Provision for Annual Leave	1,336.74	1,110.28
Provision For Long Service Leave	1,973.22	(9,399.00)
Rent	21,730.51	21,956.60
Repairs & maintenance	45.00	1,374.85
Staff training	1,907.27	6,176.00
Subscriptions & Registrations	3,058.54	5,122.71
Sundry expenses	70.00	894.35
Superannuation	24,879.10	23,543.03
Telephone	13,330.04	14,232.13
Travel Expenses	4,310.09	5,136.39
Wages	266,527.32	251,095.10
Workcover	771.89	1,610.16
Total expenses	483,298.03	442,154.92
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax	77,079.28	(14,253.30)
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net profit attributable to the association	77,079.28	(14,253.30)
Total changes in equity of the association	77,079.28	(14,253.30)
Opening retained profits	111,193.04	125,446.34
Net profit attributable to the association	77,079.28	(14,253.30)
Closing retained profits	188,272.32	111,193.04

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 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash assets		207,618.95	119,242.85
Total Current Assets		207,618.95	119,242.85
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment		54,999.74	42,500.14
Total Non-Current Assets		54,999.74	42,500.14
Total Assets		262,618.69	161,742.99
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payables		1,903.72	
Current tax liabilities		18,195.89	7,098.67
Provisions		7,485.52	
Total Current Liabilities		27,585.13	7,098.67
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions		46,761.24	43,451.28
Total Non-Current Liabilities		46,761.24	43,451.28
Total Liabilities		74,346.37	50,549.95
Net Assets		188,272.32	111,193.04
Equity			
Retained profits		188,272.32	111,193.04
Total Members' Funds		188,272.32	111,193.04

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 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	558,827.16	424,334.03
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(447,527.61)	(459,308.18)
Interest received	2,209.87	3,567.59
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2)	<u>113,509.42</u>	<u>(31,406.56)</u>
Cash Flow From Investing Activities		
Payment for:		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(51,676.00)	
Proceeds from disposal of:		
Proceeds from sale of property	<u>26,542.68</u>	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(25,133.32)</u>	
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	88,376.10	(31,406.56)
Cash at the beginning of the year	<u>119,242.85</u>	<u>150,649.41</u>
Cash at the end of the year (note 1)	<u><u>207,618.95</u></u>	<u><u>119,242.85</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Systemic Advocacy at GdA



DISABLED PATRONS WELCOME IMPROVED ACCESS AT REGENT CINEMA

People with a disability are benefiting from a major upgrade to the entrance and interior of Ballarat's Regent Cinema thanks to the sustained advocacy efforts of Grampians Advocacy and its Board and members. After many years of lobbying GdA took the issue to the Human Rights division of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, where the Cinema management and Ballarat City Council came together to design significant improvements to the footpath and roadway.

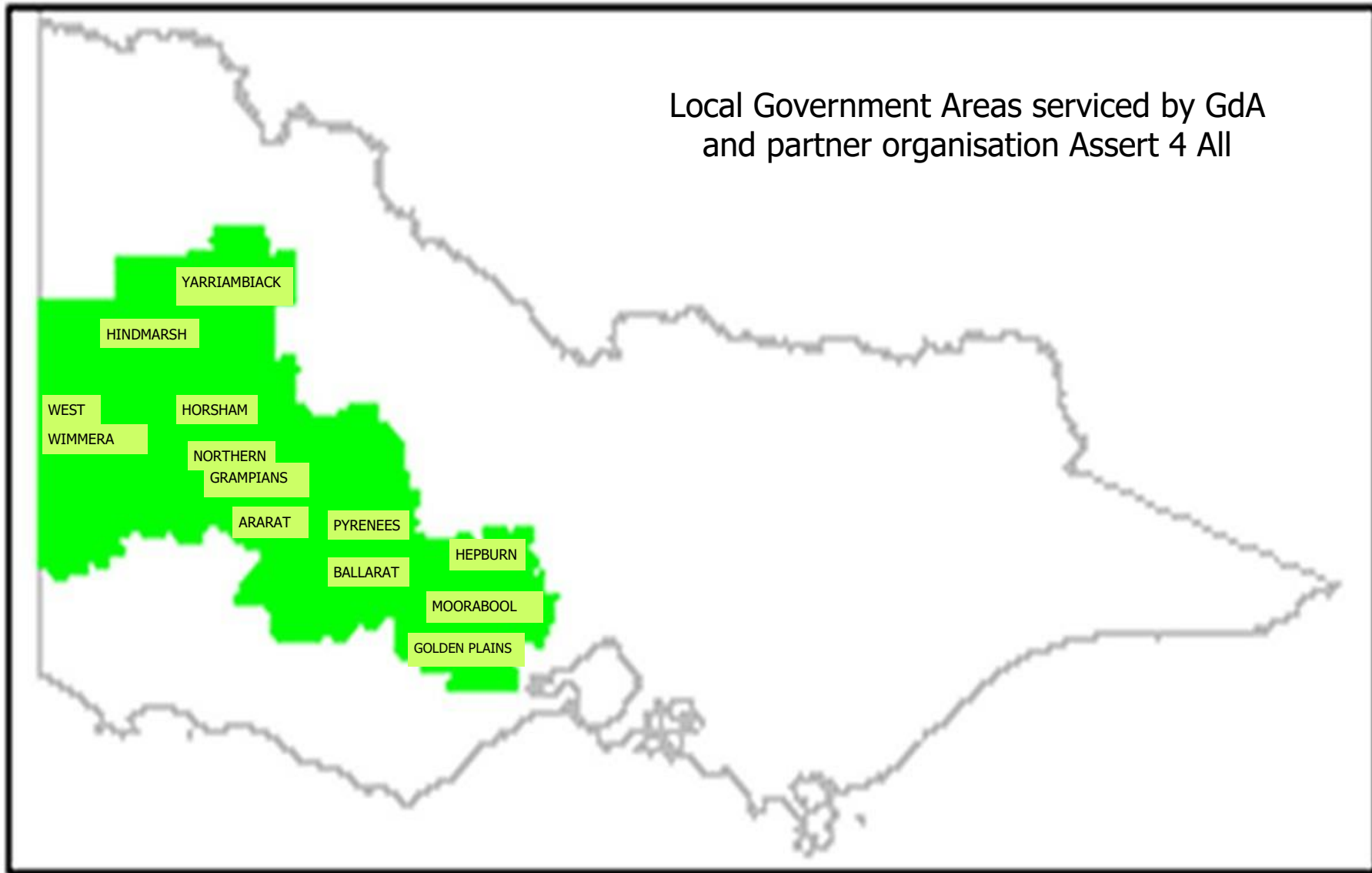
Fully accessible toilets are now also installed in the Cinema. Door handles have been lowered to allow some people with a disability to enter the building independently. GdA thanks Disability Discrimination Legal Service for its expert advice and assistance in taking the matter to VCAT for the benefit of all.

SISTER ROCKS SAYS ADVOCACY MATTERS

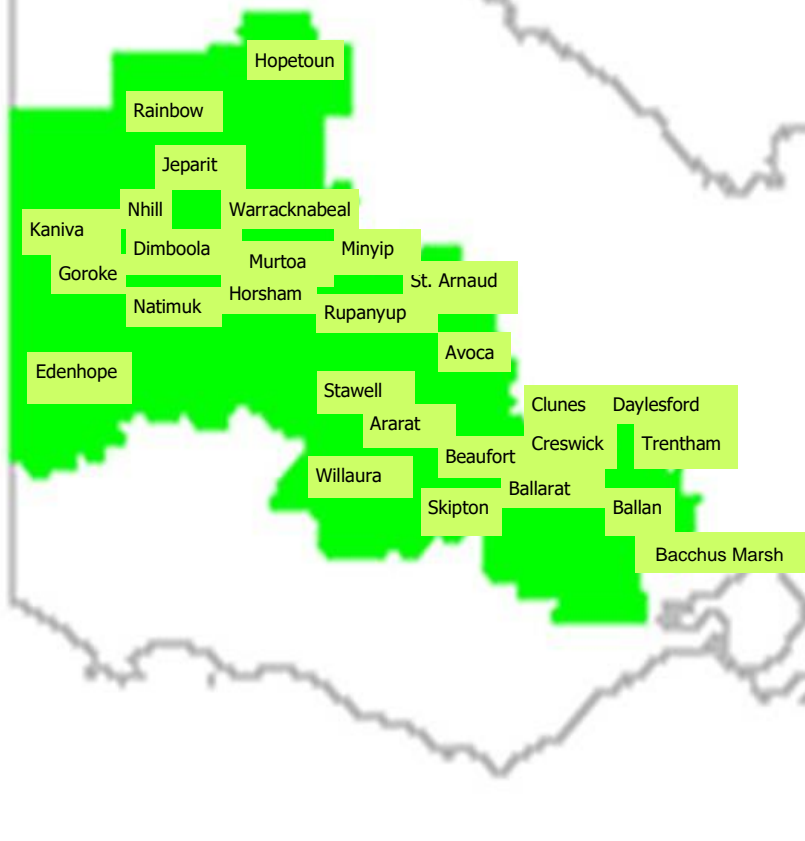


Sister Rocks Self Advocacy Group has celebrated four years of providing peer support and social opportunities in Stawell and Ararat. Members are pictured saying what advocacy means to them.

Local Government Areas serviced by GdA
and partner organisation Assert 4 All



Major cities and towns in the GdA
and Assert 4 All catchment area



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
- Sports Central
- 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



Phone 1800 552 272 or email asas@netconnect.com.au

Disagree with a National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) decision?

Assistance is available for people seeking to appeal

How do I apply for a review of a National Disability Insurance Agency decision?

If you are unhappy with a decision made by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) you can request an internal review of the decision by the NDIA.

If you still disagree with a decision after the internal review has been completed, you can appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). An appeal is an independent assessment of an NDIA decision. The types of decisions that can be reviewed include, but are not limited to: whether you are eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS); or what has or has not been approved for your plan.

An internal review must be conducted first by the NDIA before you can go take the issue to the AAT.

What help can I get if I apply to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal?

Help is available from an NDIS Appeals support person to:

- assist you to navigate the internal review process
- prepare documents needed for the appeal
- assist you to apply for legal assistance to pursue an application to the AAT
- provide you with advice and skills so that you can better represent yourself at the AAT, if you choose to do so
 - attend AAT conferences and hearings with you, and help with putting your case to the AAT.

The NDIS Appeals Support person is funded by the Australian Government, and is independent from the NDIA and the AAT. **There is no charge for this service.**

Where can I find an NDIS Appeals Support person?

Grampians disAbility Advocacy provides NDIS Appeals Support in Central Highlands and Loddon regions

NDIS Appeals support people are available in every NDIS site and to all AAT applicants.

For a full list of locations and provider details go to www.dss.gov.au/ndis-appeals

NDIS Appeals Support is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services

For more information and support from the AAT go to www.aat.gov.au or call 1300 366 700

For more information about the NDIS go to www.ndis.gov.au or call 1800 800 110