

# September 2021 Newsletter

## GdA Community Reconnection Day in Ararat



Paul Kelly from Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation performed the "Welcome to Country" and smoking ceremony at Alexandra Gardens

GdA held an Indigenous Community Reconnection BBQ and get together at Alexandra Gardens in Ararat on May 19 as part of the Victorian Government's COVID-19 Aboriginal Outreach Program. The program is designed to provide opportunities for community members who became disconnected and isolated during the height of the pandemic to come back together. The gathering included a traditional Indigenous smoking ceremony and showcased the range of services available locally to community through GdA, Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership, NDIS, Jobs Vic, and Budja Budja Health Services. Ararat Lions Club cooked a bbq lunch that was enjoyed by all. Jayden Gunditjman Lilyist, an indigenous musician from Ballarat played a lot of great tunes throughout the day.

EO Debbie Verdon said the event was a good way to get people reconnected in the community after such a long time apart due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Ms Verdon said it was clear that people had become isolated due to the effects of the pandemic, especially those with a disability and significant health concerns.

*The above picture appeared in the Ararat Advocate 21 May 2021*



### Lisa Sansbury: 'This is My Story'

GdA receives funding from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services to assist First Nations People to make a submission to the Royal Commission into the Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability. GdA Indigenous Advocate Fiona Tipping worked alongside artist Lisa Sansbury to tell her story through a painting which detailed the trauma she had experienced. A short video was also commissioned to document Lisa's story and the explanation of the meaning of the artwork.

GdA sincerely thanks Lisa for the trust she has shown in having the confidence to share her personal story. The video was launched on August 19 at Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative. To watch: <https://youtu.be/VsrGWQvDZIM> or visit the Grampians Disability Advocacy Facebook page.

If you would like help telling your story phone GdA **1800 552 272**

## RAISING CHILDREN RESOURCES

Developed in collaboration with subject matter experts, the following articles sit within a broader suite of [NDIS related content](#) on [raisingchildren.net.au](http://raisingchildren.net.au)

\*Developing and getting an NDIS plan

\*How to develop NDIS goals

\*Options for managing your child's NDIS funds

\*How your child's NDIS support budgets work

\*NDIS access requests and plans: when you want a review

\*When your child's NDIS access request is unsuccessful

\*Support for children with disability not funded by NDIS

\*What to do if your circumstances change



C	P	S
A	S	O
N	E	M

How many words can you make of 4 letters or more? Each word must contain the centre letter, and each letter can only be used once. There is one 9 letter word to be found. *Believe it or not*, there are more than 200 words possible. Plurals are allowed. Have fun 😊😊

## Welcome to the Disability Gateway



The Disability Gateway has information and services to help people with disability, their family, friends and carers, to find the support they need in Australia. There is a wealth of information covering: Rights and Legal, Leisure, Housing Health and Wellbeing, Everyday Living, Employment, Transport, Education, Income & Finance, Aids and Equipment  
Also news and online seminar videos  
Go to [www.disabilitygateway.org.au](http://www.disabilitygateway.org.au)  
Call [1800 643 787](tel:1800643787) Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm

### NDIS INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS PILOT SCRAPPED

Between November 2019 and May 2021, the NDIS tested how proposed independent assessments might work in practice through the independent assessments pilot scheme. In July 2021, the Commonwealth, State and Territory Disability Ministers made the decision not to proceed with the introduction of independent assessments. This has been a welcome decision and a result of a robust national campaign driven by Every Australian Counts, with a huge amount of support across the sector. To read the media release, go to the NDIS website and search "Improving the NDIS: Agency releases Independent assessment pilot evaluation and consultation" or click on the following link: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/6604-improving-ndis-agency-releases-independent-assessment-pilot-evaluation-and-iac-consultation-outcomes>



**You can contact the DRC directly on 1800 517 199**  
If you would like an advocate to support you to engage with the Royal Commission, contact GdA on **1800 552 272**

To speak to the **Indigenous Advocate** call **1800 978 544**

This free service can help you understand how the Disability Royal Commission works and to tell your story.  
GdA can help you access free legal services & counselling  
**Confidentiality Guaranteed**

**Sports Central** promotes inclusive sport and recreation programs within the Central Highlands region through the AAA Play website. AAA Play connects people with disabilities to sport and recreation activities in Victoria. If you need support regarding inclusive sport and recreation or you wish to share information through this platform, or sign up to the newsletter, click link [HERE](#)



## “WE THE 15” WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN

Paralympians are leading the charge in a new worldwide campaign to end the discrimination faced by the 1.2 billion people with disability. Hailed as a major human rights movement, “WeThe15” represents the 15 per cent of people around the world living with disability. Ahead of the Tokyo Games, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has launched the campaign in partnership with major organisations from across the fields of sport, human rights, arts and policy. Using the profile of the Paralympics, “WeThe15” aims to change attitudes towards disability and increase awareness of accessibility. Tokyo swimmer Ellie Cole and Paralympian-turned-advocate Kurt Fearnley are two of the Australian ambassadors. It will run for the next decade. The campaign will focus on a different area of inequality each year, like education, employment and healthcare.

*(ABC News August 19/8/21)*

## GOLD MEDAL GLORY AT THE PARALYMPICS

On day one of the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, **Paige Greco** has **won the First Gold** medal on offer, breaking her own world record in the individual pursuit track cycling final in the 3000 metres. **Emily Petricola** secured the second Gold Medal in the individual pursuit track cycling 4000 metres. Then in swimming, **Ben Popham** won gold for 100 metre freestyle and **Rowan Crothers** took a gold medal for 50 metre freestyle. Next was **Victoria Davies** winning gold for the Grade II equestrian event, followed by **Sharon Jarvis** for the Grade IV equestrian event. What a brilliant start to the Paralympics. Congratulations and good luck to all the competitors and their fabulous support teams.

*(as at 26/8/2021 9.00 am at time of print)*

**PROVIDING GREAT QUALITY  
FOOD AND  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE  
WITH A DISABILITY  
TO LEAD HAPPIER  
AND HEALTHIER LIVES**

The logo for Able Foods, featuring the words 'able' and 'foods' in a red, cursive, lowercase font.

Able Foods is a registered NDIS provider that offers fresh Ready Made meal options, texture modified meals, snacks & fruit delivered straight to your door. The service is tailored for NDIS participants who are self, plan or agency managed.

**Call 1300 123 ABLE or email [info@ablefoods.com.au](mailto:info@ablefoods.com.au)**



## **FASHION THAT'S FUNCTIONAL**

CLOTHING DESIGNED WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IN MIND THROUGH SIMPLE ADDITIONS TO CLASSIC DESIGNS  
[hello@jamthelabel.com](mailto:hello@jamthelabel.com)  
[www.jamthelabel.com](http://www.jamthelabel.com)  
*(may be available through NDIS funding)*





## Violence Against Women with Disabilities

If you are experiencing family violence and are in a crisis situation, call Victoria Police on 000. For counselling and support, you can call 1800 Respect (1800 737 732) or Safe Steps (1800 015 188). Help is available for Indigenous, LGBTQI+ and Culturally And Linguistically Diverse women.

**In debt?** Get your finances back on track with these **step-by-step guides**.

The guides are based on the experience of financial counsellors who provide FREE information & advice.

They don't lend money or sell you anything and work only in your interest. Financial counselling is a not-for-profit service. It's always free & confidential. For more info go to [www.ndh.org.au](http://www.ndh.org.au) (you can click on the link to the left!)



**NATIONAL  
DEBT  
HELPLINE**  
1800 007 007

## Extended Crackdown on NDIS FRAUD

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is extending the NDIS Fraud Taskforce to crack down on dodgy providers and ensure participants get the supports they need. Minister for the NDIS, Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC announced the Taskforce will be extended indefinitely to protect the integrity of the Scheme and the participants it supports. Senator Reynolds said participants, their families and carers must feel confident that the NDIA is preventing, detecting, and responding to fraud. "This will now ensure participants are protected from illegal or unscrupulous behaviour and that illegal activity will be detected and met with the full force of the law," she said. State and Territory disability ministers met with Minister Reynolds and agreed that she would bring forward legislation in the next Parliamentary session to further protect participants from unscrupulous provider behaviour. Anyone with concerns that fraud is being committed against them and the NDIS should contact the NDIS fraud hotline on **1800 650 717**.

(from *Mirage News* 31/7/21 and featured in the *DARU* newsletter [www.daru.org.au](http://www.daru.org.au))



## What can GdA do?

- \*Help you write a letter or submission to represent your interests
- \*Make a telephone call with/for you or help get info to resolve a concern
- \*Find information about another agency that may be able to assist
- \*Provide information on disability issues
- \*Support people to advocate for themselves

## GdA Office Locations

- ❖ Ararat
- ❖ Horsham
- ❖ Daylesford
- ❖ Ballarat
- ❖ Clunes

**Central Intake 1800 552 272**

[admin@grampiansadvocacy.org.au](mailto:admin@grampiansadvocacy.org.au)

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

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