



# March 2022

## Australian of the Year

### Congratulations Dylan Alcott

**Dylan Alcott OAM : Athlete, paralympian, philanthropist, media commentator and advocate**



As a teenager, Dylan Alcott hated being in a wheelchair because he didn't see anyone like him in mainstream media. Then sport changed everything. A gold medal at the Paralympic Games in wheelchair basketball preceded three more in Paralympic competition after a cross-code switch to tennis. Now, with 23 quad wheelchair Grand Slam titles and a Newcombe Medal, Dylan Alcott recently became the first male in history, in any form of tennis, to win the Golden Slam. Amid his training and competition load as a world-class athlete, Dylan notes that his most profound impact has come from beyond the field of play. He founded the Dylan Alcott Foundation to provide scholarships and grant funding to marginalised Australians with a disability.

He also authored his best-selling autobiography, *Able*, and co-founded Get Skilled Access. Further, Dylan's AbilityFest is Australia's first and only inclusive, fully accessible music festival. In realising his childhood dream, Dylan holds several high-profile media roles spanning TV, radio and podcasting. GdA congratulates Dylan!!!!!!!!!!!!

This article and picture above left was taken from the Australian of the Year website and the picture of Dylan with the flag was taken from the Paralympics Australia website



### Listen to a Podcast

Dylan Alcott, made history earlier this month by becoming the first Australian of the year with a visible disability.

His predecessor, Grace Tame used her platform as Australian of the Year to really shine a light on the issues facing survivors of child sexual abuse but will Dylan Alcott do the same now for those living with a disability? Guests: **Samantha Connor**, President, People with Disability Australia **Jordon Steele-John**, Greens Senator for WA

**Duration:** 12min 59sec

**Broadcast:** 2 Feb 2022, 7:06pm

Go to the ABC Radio National Program on the ABC website and google Dylan Alcott.



**Tool Kit: Domestic and Family Violence – A self-help resource to help people living with domestic violence:** This toolkit includes information for people living with family violence, For 24 hour phone crisis support call **13 11 14** or visit [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

## Increased funding to uphold the rights of people with disability

Disability representative organisations will receive more than \$5.3 million over two years, a new national advocacy secretariat will be established to streamline advice & increase sector collaboration, & counselling & advocacy providers will receive \$41.6 million to assist more people engage with the Disability Royal Commission. Minister for Families & Social Services said it was critical to ensure services continue to be available after the Disability Royal Commission was extended to September 2023. \$41.6 million funding boost will enable over 81 providers across Australia to continue offering advocacy as well as trauma-informed counselling to support the work of the Disability Royal Commission. Since October 2019, the services have conducted over 28,000 individual advocacy sessions & over 25,000 counselling sessions. 17 disability organisations would also share in more than \$5.3 million from the Morrison Government to provide systemic advocacy under the Disability Representative Organisation program.

Organisations to receive funding are:

- Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA)
- First Peoples Disability Network Australia (FPDN) –
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) – representing people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD)
- People with Disability Australia (PWDA)
- Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA)
- A consortium led by the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO)
- Inclusion Australia – representing people with intellectual disability.

To access counselling or advocacy support, contact the National Counselling and Referral Service on **1800 421 468** or click on or visit the following link

[dss.gov.au/disability-royal-commission-support](http://dss.gov.au/disability-royal-commission-support)



**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**



## Country Roads to Pride

Country Roads to Pride celebrates the journeys that some trans and gender diverse people make to feel at home. We live and thrive in many spaces outside the city, although that is where we may be most visible. We ask to be welcomed and affirmed wherever we grow and invite you to be part of our journey. Online launch of a photography exhibition celebrating rural trans, gender-diverse and no binary people. The exhibition featured people from Ararat and Ballarat as well as the rest of Victoria. To view the pictures

participate in a survey, follow the links:  
<https://tgv.org.au/country-roads/gallery>  
<https://tgv.org.au/country-roads/home>



## The National Assistance Card

includes key information about the cardholder, their brain injury related difficulties and ways they can be assisted.

The National Assistance Card can be used in any emergency or everyday situation where a cardholder needs assistance or support.

To apply for a National Assistance Card please visit:  
[www.nationalassistancecard.com.au/apply](http://www.nationalassistancecard.com.au/apply)

## Health and disability

Accessing Medicare and some health services at low or no cost. Help for people with disability or for if you are caring for someone. What to do when a loved one dies.

### Go to Services Australia

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/health-and-disability](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/health-and-disability)

Getting help during coronavirus (COVID-19)  
Payments and support if you're affected by COVID-19  
Help if you have lost your job or are in lockdown.  
COVID-19 vaccinations

How to get proof of your COVID-19 vaccinations, including help getting your COVID-19 digital certificate or immunisation history statement.

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/)

**BE COVIDSAFE**



**Where can you find out more about Covid-19 Testing Sites and Vaccination Clinics in your area?**

**Call 1800 675 398 or go to Corona Virus Website**

[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/)

if you are someone with a disability and cannot visit a vaccination clinic or testing site, it may be possible for you to have someone come to your home.

To enquire about this free service, call 1800 675 398 or email the Disability Liaison Officer  
**[DLOCoordinator@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:DLOCoordinator@dhhs.vic.gov.au)**

You can also book appointments via the following website:  
**[portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/](http://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/)**



## Ararat Disability Carers Craft Connection

Parents of children with disabilities rarely take time for themselves and can often become isolated from the community. These sessions will give you some time to do something for yourself and to connect other carers who can be great resources for strategies, information, friendship, and support.

**No art/craft skills necessary!**

The Pinarc Parent Support Program Coordinator will attend to provide information about carer and disability services.

New members very welcome.

### Group dates:

March 8 <sup>th</sup>	August 9 <sup>th</sup>
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	September 13 <sup>th</sup>
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	October 11 <sup>th</sup>
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	November 22 <sup>nd</sup>
	December 13 <sup>th</sup>

\*Venue not available in June

### Dates:

Each month on a Tuesday morning

### Times:

10.30 am – 12.00 pm

### Venue:

Ararat Art Gallery Studio Space

### How Much Does it Cost?

Free

### How do I register:

For further information, or to register, contact:  
Rebecca Paton,  
Parent Support Program Coordinator  
Phone: 5329 1361  
Email: rpaton@pinarc.org.au

If you want to know more about the services that Pinarc offer visit: [www.pinarc.org.au](http://www.pinarc.org.au)

The Pinarc Parent Support Program is supported by the Victorian Government.



P: 1800 PINARC (1800 746 272) | E: [admin@pinarc.org.au](mailto:admin@pinarc.org.au) | [www.pinarc.org.au](http://www.pinarc.org.au)



## What does 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 info about another agency that may be able to assist

### Provide

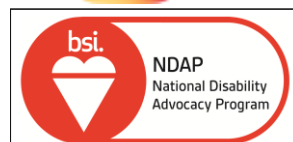
information on disability issue. Support people to advocate for themselves

## 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)  
Like us on Facebook.  
Follow us on Twitter or Instagram



## Ballarat Railway Station Update

1 in 5 people in Australia are living with disability, according to GdA Executive Officer Deborah Verdon. "Despite our best efforts and attempts to discuss the issue with local members of parliament and Department of Transport officials, there is just no advancement on response to our requests for improved disability access," she said. The state government said it had made significant improvements to accessibility at the station but conceded there was "more to do". A spokesperson said the government would "continue to work with operators and the community to ensure the precinct is safe and accessible for all Victorians". Heritage advocacy group Save Our Station said there could have been more consultation but praised the work that had been done. *(from the ABC News 8/2/2022)*