

September 2022



NAIDOC WEEK IN BALLARAT AND HALLS GAP



NAIDOC WEEK:

In July, GdA had the pleasure of participating in the NAIDOC week celebrations. These were held at the showgrounds in Ballarat, which was hosted by BADAC. Budja Budja Co-Op hosted an event in Halls Gap. Both events were well attended by local communities. Festivities included flag raising as well as the traditional smoking ceremonies and Welcome to Country. There was also Indigenous music, dance and song, storytelling, arts and crafts, food and children's activities. GdA was delighted to participate in the fabulous days and provide information about advocacy services. Due to COVID-19, it was the first time since 2019 that NAIDOC week could take place in person. *The photos (left) from the events at the Ballarat Showgrounds and Budja Budja. in Halls Gap.*



GdA Advocates Phil Cutts and Bernadette Duane



Uncle Les, Aunty Anne, Linda & GdA Advocate Fiona Tipping



The Band at NAIDOC Ballarat



Jayden Gunditjman Lillyst



Fiona Tipping & Trevor Barker



Ceremony at Budja Budja



Are you a GdA Member ?

Or would you like to become one?

Go to the Grampians Advocacy webpage and you can download a form or apply online.

www.grampiansadvocacy.org.au

Are you already a GdA member and receive the newsletters in the post?

If you have an email address and are happy to receive all correspondence by email, please get in touch.

GdA Annual General Meeting

Monday, October 10, 2022 at 2pm

Venue: Alexandra Oval Community Centre,

1 Waratah Ave Ararat

Or join via Zoom

Business: GdA's new Constitution will be presented to members for a vote. More details to come. Any queries?

Call 1800 552 272 or email

admin@grampiansadvocacy.org.au



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

Upcoming Hearings

You can find a schedule of the hearings (click>) [DRC website](#). Please remember to check the Disability Royal Commission's website for updates to the hearing schedule. It is currently subject to change for a number of reasons, including COVID-19 restrictions.

24 – 28 October, 2022:

Public hearing 29, **Melbourne**

The experiences of violence against, abuse, neglect and exploitation of people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Confidentiality Assured



Program Content Includes:

- Interpersonal and social skills for better communication
- Building healthy social and personal relationships
- Staying safe in my community
- Understanding my human rights
- Legal rights and tenants rights
- Contributing to my community through work and volunteering
- Managing my money through budgeting and goal setting
- Cooking on a budget
- Looking after my physical and mental health
- Special guests including police & CFA

Details:

When: one day a week, 10am to 2pm, over six months

Where: Local Neighbourhood House or Community Centre in the Wimmera, Central Highlands, Goldfields Grampians and Pyrenees regions

To book your FREE place call 1800 552 272

www.grampiansadvocacy.org.au



Funded by DSS

Independent Pathways and Living Skills

**Share
Learn
Grow**



Independent Pathways and Living Skills Program I-PaLS

The I-PaLS Program is designed to bring people with a disability together to build skills, confidence and independence.

A fun and supportive environment encourages participants to share, learn, grow, connect and make new friendships.

All people over 18 with a disability are welcome, with or without an NDIS plan.

By participating in this program, participants will:

Be encouraged and supported to speak up for themselves.
Be given an opportunity to grow their confidence and build their self-esteem.

Be provided with access to information and resources to help with decision making and problem solving.

To find out more call GdA on 1800 552 272



Programs are held in Local Neighbourhood Houses or Community Centres in the Wimmera, Central Highlands, Goldfields, Grampians and Pyrenees regions

CALL 1800 552 272 FOR MORE INFORMATION

NDIS Housing Options Webinar

Housing Hub are running free webinars about NDIS Housing Options. They are for anyone wanting an introduction to NDIS home and living supports.

This includes people with disability, families and unpaid carers, support coordinators, allied health professionals and support providers. They are led by people with direct experience. Dates include Sept 13, Oct 19 & Nov 15. Go to the website link below to register or select date of webinar.

<https://www.housinghub.org.au/news/ndis-housing-options-events>

New NDIS Plan Implementation Directory

The plan implementation directory links you to information on the NDIS website. It helps NDIS participants, their families, and carers make their own choices about how to use their NDIS plan.

Participants, their families, and carers have told the NDIS about the types of resources they need to support them to use their NDIS plan.

In response, the Agency has developed and launched the plan implementation directory. The directory will assist participants, their families and carers to find the right information to make the best use of their NDIS plan. The directory is an accessible platform that has links to key topics that participants have said are important to help use their NDIS plan.

Resources include:

- new and updated web content
- animations
- Easy Read guides
- tip sheets
- budget calculator
- supports organiser.

To learn more about the directory and find information on implementing an NDIS plan, go to> <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/plan-implementation-directory>

\$250 One-Off Power Saving Bonus

The \$250 Power Saving Bonus is a one-off \$250 payment for Victorian households to help ease cost-of-living pressures and encourage them to compare energy offers and save money. Applications are open between **1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023**. The Bonus is available to all Victorians households who visit the [Victorian Energy Compare](#) website or engage with an energy affordability service through one of our participating [community outreach partners](#). The \$250 Bonus is limited to one payment per eligible household.

Eligibility requirements:

- You must be a Victorian residential energy consumer (i.e. have a residential electricity account).
- You must be the account holder
- Only one payment is available per household
-

The application process will take five to ten minutes of your time, and you will need to have a recent electricity bill with you.

Visit the website link below:

<https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au/>

IGAP Project – Consultation Survey

The NDIA wants to hear from participants, nominees and people who have previously applied to the NDIS, about their experiences gathering information for access and planning. Feedback will help them better understand people's experiences and improve their processes. The NDIA is committed to co-designing a new person-centred model of information-gathering with people with a disability and the disability community. Co-design means people with disability and the disability community work with the NDIA. Together they can understand the problems and agree on how to create solutions.

This survey is one way that the NDIA will deliver on its commitment. They are starting this process by surveying NDIS applicants, participants and nominees.

They are asking about:

- Experiences collecting information about their disability when applying for the NDIS.
- Experiences collecting information for planning meetings.
- Feedback on how the NDIA can improve access and planning processes.

The survey takes about 20 minutes. (click>)[go to survey](#)



The graphic features a light orange background with decorative blue and white patterns in the corners. At the top left, a URL is provided: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/disability-sector/people-with-disability>. The main text reads "Book your COVID-19 vaccine booster dose". Below this, there is an illustration of two small blue vaccine bottles labeled "COVID-19 VACCINE" inside an orange circle, followed by a plus sign and a larger blue vaccine bottle also labeled "COVID-19 VACCINE". At the bottom right, the text "COVID-19 VACCINATION" is displayed with a checkmark icon.



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 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

Central Intake 1800 552 272

admin@grampiansadvocacy.org.au

www.grampiansadvocacy.org.au

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