

Southern Disability Advocacy Inc.

Thirty-Eighth Annual Report

2022-2023



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Southern Disability Advocacy Inc.

Agenda

Annual General Meeting
6.30pm Tuesday October 10, 2023

Online via videoconferencing

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirm minutes of Annual General Meeting 2022
4. Matters arising from Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022
5. Receive Reports
6. Election of Committee of Management
7. General Business
8. Meeting Close

Minutes
37th Annual General Meeting
Southern Disability Advocacy
Tuesday October 11, 2022

Meeting Opened: 6.15pm

Present: Anat Green (Chairperson), Aisa Obarcanin, Sharon Bergman, Evan Lowenstein, Alan Bergman, Kerry McLinden (Staff and Minutes), Lisa Thomas (Staff)

Apologies: nil

Welcome: Anat welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance at this, our thirty-seventh Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting: Moved Alan; Seconded Aisa.

Matters arising from the previous AGM: No matters arising.

Chairperson's Report

Anat thanked Lisa for the catering arrangements, as we were all present had been provided with individualized grazing boxes.

Anat presented her report commenting that it has been another year in which we have seen a constant demand for advocacy in the southern Melbourne metropolitan and Mornington Peninsula areas. We have seen at a local level that the risk of exploitation of people with disabilities is ever-present and requires timely and firm responses so as to minimise its prevalence and its impact. In addition, the risk of poor standards of service to people with disability and neglect of our client group is ever-present. Our work in relation to the Disability Royal Commission has highlighted people's experiences in this regard, likewise our work in advocating for individuals with disability has identified situations that should never be experienced by anyone.

We exist to advocate for people with disability across our catchment and to protect their rights and interests. This is a short sentence but it encompasses a lot, and as Chairperson I am witness to the work done by our staff. We see the continued growth in demand for advocacy year on year, and as an organisation we try to be agile and responsive. Our staff have been committed and energetic, offering quality advocacy in a dynamic environment, and I wish to offer my gratitude to Kerry and Lisa for their excellent work this year.

The Committee oversees the Program and provides support and guidance to the staff as they work with the clients. It is an honour to lead a group of skilled and committed people, who donate their time and expertise, in a governance and oversight role. I wish to offer a big thankyou to our Committee of Management for their ongoing support of staff and also their support to me as Chairperson.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and all it will offer in opportunities and challenges. We have stable staff team and Committee, and a solid financial position, and this gives me confidence that Southern Disability Advocacy is well positioned for 2022-23 and beyond.

Moved Anat; Seconded Evan.

Treasurer's Report

Evan noted that we are in a strong financial position with good liquidity. We have \$400k in assets, and we are looking to sell our JB Were investments and move to the more stable and secure banking sector for these funds. We have a strong net asset position and a surplus of about \$21k. Our costs are within our income, so the coming year is a picture of financial stability.

Evan noted the audit has been done and referred those present to the statement from the Auditor published in the Annual Report.

Moved Evan. Seconded Sharon.

The Committee resolved to attach to these minutes the Confirmation of Annual Statement as True and Fair, signed by Evan and Anat.

Acceptance of Auditor's Report and appointment of 2021-22 Auditor

The Committee thanked Christopher Falkingham of Balance Corporation for this year's audit and resolved to appoint Balance Corporation as auditor for 2022-23.

Moved Evan; seconded Alan.

Program Report

Kerry spoke to her report summarizing the advocacy undertaken for our client group, noting the diversity of issues and people seeking our assistance. Kerry also noted that we usually achieve good outcomes for our clients, even if sometimes it takes months to achieve this.

Lisa spoke to how the caseload has become more complex, largely as a result of the introduction of the NDIS which has a bureaucratic and legislative that requires considerable expertise to navigate on behalf of or with our clients.

Both Kerry and Lisa spoke to their gratitude to the Committee for their support over the year, as it allows us to be efficient and responsive to our clients.

The Program Report was accepted. Moved Anat; Seconded Aisa.

Election of Committee of Management and Delegation Authorities

All positions on the Committee were declared vacant.

Nominations for the Committee were received:

Member	Mover	Second
Anat Green	Kerry McLinden	Lisa Thomas
Evan Lowenstein	Anat Green	Kerry McLinden
Sharon Bergman	Anat Green	Lisa Thomas
Aisa Obarcanin	Kerry McLinden	Lisa Thomas

The Committee were re-elected unopposed.

The Committee elected Anat as Chairperson unopposed.

The Committee re-elected Evan as Secretary and Treasurer, and confirmed his decision to delegate authority to deal with Consumer Affairs Victoria to Kerry McLinden.

The Committee resolved to delegate to Kerry McLinden the authority to deal with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission, Australian Taxation Office and the Australian Business Register.

Chairperson: Anat Green. Secretary and Treasurer: Evan Lowenstein. Ordinary members of the Committee: Aisa Obarcanin and Sharon Bergman.

General Business

Alan talked about the issues associated with cases the NDIS at the AAT and the cost of this to government, and the success rate for participants shows that the NDIS is losing a high percentage of cases.

Alan also talked about the difficulties of having VCAT orders enforced, as the Tribunal does not have the power to enforce the orders and requires recourse to the Court system which is obviously prohibitively expensive for our client group.

Meeting closed 6.44pm.

**Submission of financial statements to annual general meeting –
incorporated associations**

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

Sections 94(3), 97(3) and 100(3)

I, Anat Green being a member of the committee of Southern Disability Advocacy
certify that –

“I attended the annual general meeting of Southern Disability Advocacy held on
October 11, 2022 and the financial statements of the association for the financial
year ending on June 30, 2022 were submitted to the members of the association at
that general meeting.”

Signed: _____



Date: _____

11-10-2022

**Extract from the Constitution of
Southern Disability Advocacy Inc
Statement of Purposes**

The name of the incorporated Association is **SOUTHERN DISABILITY ADVOCACY INCORPORATED.**

This incorporated association exists for the following purposes:

1. To provide an advocacy service for people with disabilities that represents and protects their rights and interests. To assist people with disabilities to overcome barriers, including abuse and neglect, that impact on their daily life and ability to participate in the community. To help people with disabilities access the freedoms, services and conditions enjoyed by other members of the community.
2. The Association intends to:
 - (1) facilitate, equity of access and participation in the community (for people with disabilities);
 - (2) educate people with disabilities about their rights;
 - (3) promote self-reliance amongst people with disabilities;
 - (4) provide a means through which the wishes and needs of people with disabilities are recognised by the rest of the community and are reflected in community structures and attitudes;
 - (5) provide orientation, resources and continuous support for people with disabilities;
 - (6) publicise the work and aims of Independent Advocacy and to develop interest in and support for those aims in the community at large;
 - (7) undertake community based education programs designed to promote public awareness of the issues faced by people with disabilities and to encourage public assistance with Independent Advocacy programs; and
 - (8) maintain appropriate links with other relevant organisations.

Southern Disability Advocacy Inc
Personnel & Support
2022-23

Committee of Management

Anat Green (Chair)

Evan Lowenstein (Treasurer)

Aisa Obarcanin

Sharon Bergman

Staff

Program Manager

Kerry McLinden

Advocate

Lisa Thomas

Bankers

Westpac

JB Were

468 Centre Rd

Melbourne

Bentleigh 3204

Auditor

Christopher Falkingham

Balance Corporation

PO Box 8502

Heatherton 3202

Primary Source of funds

Department of Social Services

Quality Assurance Auditors

SAI Global

Locked Bag 90

South Melbourne 3205

Chairperson's Report

It is my great pleasure to present the Chairperson's 2022-23 report for Southern Disability Advocacy.

The last 12 months continues the well-established trend of increasing demand for advocacy and increasing complexity of cases. Our staff are frequently dealing with situations of risk and exploitation of our client group, and this demands immediate attention to protect the rights and interests of individuals with disability. Further, another concerning theme that the Program has seen is poor quality service, where people with disability experience substandard care, which simply should never occur. The presence of advocacy can help reduce the effect of such situations, but it is very disappointing that vulnerable people are placed at further risk. The work done in this last year in relation to the Disability Royal Commission has further shown the way that our clients are uniquely vulnerable.

Our primary purpose is to advocate for people with disability and protect their rights and interests. The staff work with clients on this purpose, addressing issues of concerns, with the objective of resolving the particular issue but also fostering connections, skills and strategies to avoid future problems. Our staff have been committed and energetic, offering quality advocacy in a dynamic environment, and I wish to offer my gratitude to Kerry and Lisa for their excellent work this year. They go above and beyond, making sure our clients are safe and getting the best outcome possible.

The Committee oversees the Program and provides support and guidance to the staff. It is an honour to lead a group of skilled and committed people, who donate their time and expertise, in a governance and oversight role. I wish to offer a big thankyou to our Committee of Management for their ongoing support of staff and also their support to me as Chairperson.

It is with great sadness that I report that one of our committee members has passed away recently. Sharon, who has been part of our Committee for the past six years, who was always prepared for our meetings, always kind and pleasant to be around. Sharon always had valuable information and behind the scenes insights about the disability sector. You are deeply missed, Sharon.

I also wish to offer our condolences to Sharon's husband Alan, whom we got to know through the years, when he was joining our AGMs. Alan, a river of wisdom himself, together with Sharon made it their passion to better others life. On behalf of our Committee and our greater community, we thank you both.

I look forward to the year ahead and all it will offer in opportunities and challenges. We have a stable staff team and Committee, and a solid financial position, and so I am confident that Southern Disability Advocacy is well placed for 2024 and beyond.

Anat Green

Chairperson

Program Report

In writing my report for the Annual Report, it is an opportunity to reflect on the past year and our achievements and how we can improve on what we do, primarily individual advocacy for people with disability. Of course, supporting more people with quality advocacy is a simple measure of improvement and our statistics below show that we have achieved that, as well as expanding our catchment to include the City of Casey. I have been long concerned about the amount of requests for advocacy that we received for residents of Casey, that up until July 2022 we couldn't assist. However, we have now added Casey to our other local government areas of Port Phillip, Stonnington, Bayside, Glen Eira, Kingston, Frankston and Mornington Peninsula. In addition, we have set up a Self Advocacy Help Line, where people with disability and their informal supports can book an appointment to get guidance on how to advocate for themselves. We have also instituted an online client survey, to be completed when we finish working with a client, to get their feedback on our service.

We also have a regular quality assurance audit, conducted by SAI Global, and we undertook this in November 2022, with some opportunities for improvement identified but also very positive feedback from clients and the auditors. We have always welcomed the QA audit process, not as a hurdle or exam but as a way of getting objective, independent commentary on what we are doing and how we can do better.

A major project that is ongoing is the establishment of a new database, as our existing product was increasingly unsuitable for our needs. 2022-23 is the final year of us using Ivo, and time has been spent this year identifying our needs and engaging another provider, and negotiating a suitable product. I look forward to using Fixus and seeing how we can improve our productivity through this more modern facility.

I am forever grateful to our Committee, who are long term members and very committed to the program. Unfortunately, we lost Sharon Bergman and we offer our thoughts and condolences to her family. Her contribution to the program was valuable, given her family experience of disability, and we will miss her greatly. Anat, Evan and Aisa remain involved and give their time and attention willingly, allowing me to concentrate on the operational aspects of the Program. We are in a strong position for the coming year, in large part due to the Committee's oversight.

I also wish to thank Lisa Thomas, our Advocate, for her commitment to her clients and skillful advocacy on their behalf. Lisa has achieved significant outcomes for clients over this past 12 months, in a setting of complex advocacy issues. Indeed, the wide variety of advocacy cases that we have worked on this year reflects the challenges that people with disability face in their lives.

Naturally a significant part of our workload is matters related to the NDIS, whether this is about access to the Scheme, or appeals about planning decisions or concerns about the quality and safety of services funded out of someone's plan. In addition, we have dealt with issues that aren't in any way related to NDIS, including Guardianship, abuse and neglect, Centrelink matters and other financial concerns. We have also continued our work in supporting clients with the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. The publication of the report in September 2023 is should give all Australians and governments at all levels the motivation to do better to protect our most vulnerable.

The tables below summarise the work we have done over the last year in a quantitative manner. It doesn't convey the human side that we see, or our clients' stories. That is harder to convey, but the QA audit and our client surveys give me confidence we are making a difference.

Local Government Area	Number of Clients 2021-22	Number of Clients 2022-23
Bayside	12	7
Glen Eira	8	11
Kingston	10	7
Port Phillip	3	3
Stonnington	1	2
Casey	1	4
Frankston	7	14
Mornington Peninsula	20	25
Total	62	73

Primary Disability	Number of Clients 2021-22	Number of Clients 2022-23
Acquired brain injury	7	11
Autism Spectrum Disorder	6	12
Intellectual Disability	20	15
Neurological disability	7	9
Physical Disability	5	12
Psychiatric Disability	14	9
Sensory/speech	2	1
Other	1	4
Total	62	73

Advocacy Issue	Number of Issues Addressed 2021-22	Number of Issues Addressed 2022-23
NDIS implementing plan/accessing services	8	13
NDIS access/planning	18	22
NDIS internal review	4	10
Government payments	2	2
Disability services complaints	4	4
Community inclusion social/family	2	1
Access to non-NDIS services	1	0
Abuse/neglect	7	5
Accommodation	2	4
Discrimination or rights	2	2
Education	2	2
Finances/subsidies/entitlements	2	0
Health	1	0
Independent living	1	1
Legal	9	10
Services	2	2
Vulnerable/isolated	2	0
Other	1	0
Total	70	80

We look forward to 2023-24, as we believe we are well positioned to continue this good work in supporting our clients.

Kerry McLinden

Program Manager



**BALANCE
CORPORATION
ACCOUNTANTS**
Numbers +

Independent audit report to the members of Southern Disability Advocacy Inc .

Scope:

We have audited the attached financial report comprising the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet, of Southern Disability Advocacy Inc. for the year ending **30 June 2023**. The Southern Disability Advocacy Inc.

Committee of Management is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Southern Disability Advocacy Inc. constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of Southern Disability Advocacy Inc. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the Southern Disability Advocacy Inc.'s constitution. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia).

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

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Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial reports present fairly, in accordance with the Balance Sheet of Southern Disability Advocacy Inc. as at **30 June 2023** the Profit and Loss Statement for the period then ended.

Christopher Falkingham
Christopher Falkingham FCA & FCPA

25th September 2023

"Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation"

Balance Sheet

Southern Disability Advocacy As at 30 June 2023

30 JUN 2023 30 JUN 2022

Assets

Bank

Cash Reserve	193,530.25	218,715.72
Cheque Account	11,296.04	3,984.61
Gift Fund	181,452.78	10,625.14
JBWere Cash Trust	-	61,911.03
Total Bank	386,279.07	295,236.50

Current Assets

JW Were Franking Credits	-	(5,941.29)
Trade Debtors	-	145.09
Total Current Assets	-	(5,796.20)

Fixed Assets

JBWere Hybrid Securities	-	99,595.90
Total Fixed Assets	-	99,595.90

Non-current Assets

Bond - Balcolme Road	3,026.45	3,026.14
Bond for facility hire	400.00	400.00
Less: Accum Deprec on P&Equip	(19,327.39)	(19,327.39)
Plant and Equipment [17120]	19,327.39	19,327.39
Total Non-current Assets	3,426.45	3,426.14

Total Assets	389,705.52	392,462.34
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Liabilities

Current Liabilities

GST	(61.55)	(2,784.83)
Provision - Annual Leave	32,471.02	31,711.65
Provision - Long Service Leave	46,906.15	47,769.30
Provision for Sick/Personal Leave	62,862.39	52,225.00
Rounding	0.12	0.13
SDA - Kerry McLinden Credit Ca	1,206.33	2,681.13
Trade Creditors	1,614.55	2,962.53
Unpaid Expense Claims	-	(538.10)
Total Current Liabilities	144,999.01	134,026.81

Non-current Liabilities

ATO - Integrated Client Account	(9,039.00)	-
PAYG Withholding Payable	-	11,118.00
Provision - Bonus for K McLinden	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	961.00	21,118.00

Total Liabilities	145,960.01	155,144.81
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	30 JUN 2023	30 JUN 2022
Net Assets	243,745.51	237,317.53
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	6,427.98	21,289.18
Provision for Bonus	(10,000.00)	(10,000.00)
Retained Earnings	150,393.29	129,104.11
Retained Surplus/Accum Losses	96,924.24	96,924.24
Total Equity	243,745.51	237,317.53

Profit and Loss

Southern Disability Advocacy For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Trading Income		
Donation - IOOB Charity	3,380.00	-
Donations NON FAHCSIA	50.00	50.00
DRC Grant	141,626.55	130,000.00
Funds in Court	(131.89)	338.06
Grants (C'wealth) Operating	274,745.34	250,211.10
Interest Received FAHCSIA	-	2.45
Interest Received NON FAHCSIA	5,707.42	129.83
JBWere Dividends Received	998.07	2,358.46
Rental Income	50.00	-
Total Trading Income	426,425.49	383,089.90
Gross Profit	426,425.49	383,089.90
Other Income		
Profit on Sale of Assets	7,433.35	-
Total Other Income	7,433.35	-
Operating Expenses		
Annual Leave Expense	759.37	(13,368.02)
Audit Fees	1,225.00	-
Bank Charges	121.09	86.89
Board/Governance Expenses	350.00	45.36
Bookkeeping Fees	459.10	2,408.15
Brokerage Fees	707.62	-
Cleaning & Pest Control	85.62	-
Computer Expenses	14,429.57	3,711.79
Consultancy Fees	-	687.59
Credit Card Fees	13.90	3.06
DRC Expenses	121,290.70	19,137.71
DRC Grant - Wages Allocation	73,051.78	80,945.16
Employment Support & Supervisi	4,275.70	3,228.40
Fees and Permits	-	21.07
Insurance - PL, PI & Volunteer	3,084.54	3,028.82
Interest Paid	3.96	-
IOOB - Expenses from Donation	3,380.00	-
Long Service Leave Expense	3,421.82	5,352.62
Memberships and Subscriptions	3,338.65	3,880.99
Postage, Freight and Courier	147.17	322.46
Printing and Stationery	1,853.94	758.13
Property Supplies & Services	1,033.49	597.37
Publications and Info Resource	195.36	477.27
QA General Expenses	270.20	2,890.56

	2023	2022
Rates & Taxes	339.30	333.17
Realised Currency Gains	43.61	42.93
Rent	7,270.01	13,829.66
Repairs & Maintenance	-	262.09
Salary and Wages - General	164,862.11	154,180.56
Sick Leave Expense	-	52,225.00
Staff & Clients' Amenities	245.75	679.36
Sundry Expenses	-	41.27
Superannuation	10,604.22	15,063.06
Suspense	-	533.00
Telephone & Fax Charges	3,520.00	6,084.41
Training and Develop (Staff)	36.82	370.00
Travel Allowance - General	4,215.59	2,032.63
Travel and Accommodation	157.53	72.31
Utilities	93.21	65.59
Website and related expenses	225.32	-
Work Cover Levy	2,318.81	1,770.30
Total Operating Expenses	427,430.86	361,800.72
Net Profit	6,427.98	21,289.18