

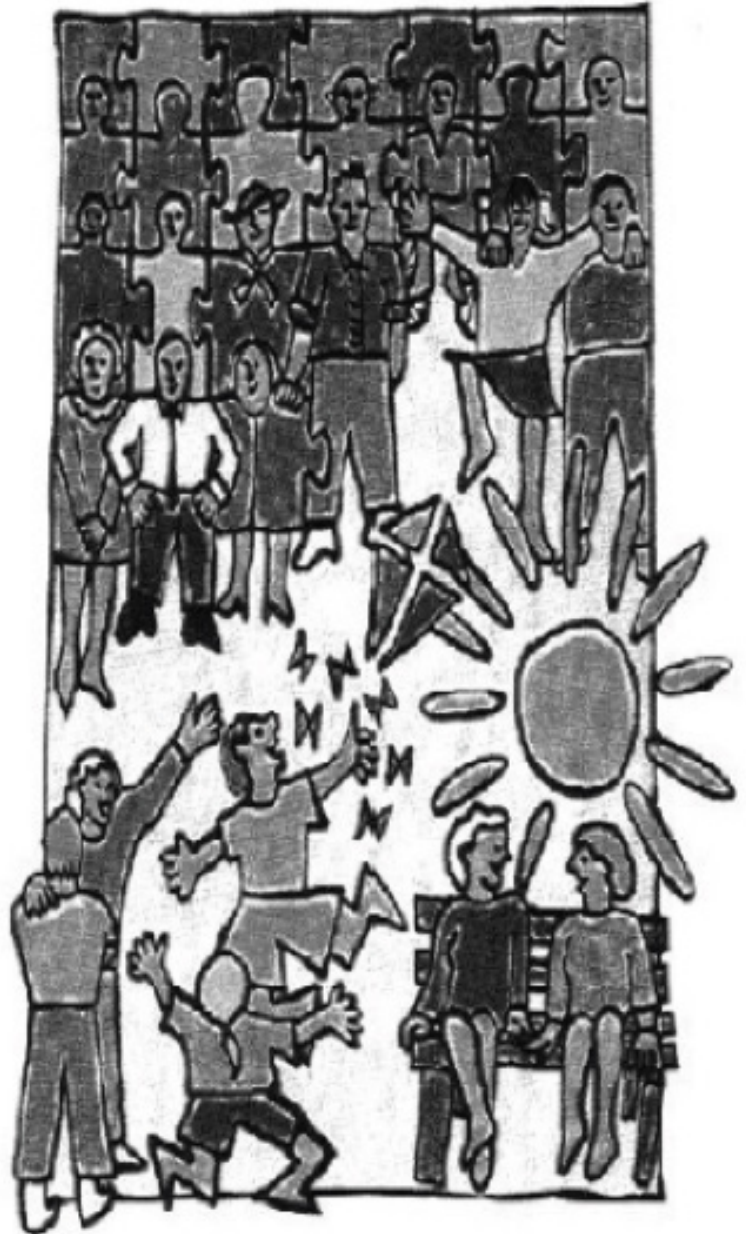


Southern
Disability
Advocacy

Newsletter

March 2024 - Issue #144

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From the Program Manager

Hello friends

The NDIS Review has landed, as has the Final Report from the Disability Royal Commission. These are significant events for the disability sector, although whether they affect you in your day to day life, I am not sure. Sometimes I reflect that these “high level” events and reports, although very important in setting the scene and having an influence on the lives of our clients, often the more immediate issues of getting good support workers or finding an occupational therapist to provide evidence for what you need to achieve a bit more independence will be taking up your energy and attention.

When the NDIS was introduced it was seen as a “once in a generation” change, just like the start of Medicare back in the 1970s. It is now a mature scheme but is still being changed and adjusted, and most of our work is in supporting clients to get to grips with the scheme, whether this is about trying to be accepted as a participant, or getting adequate funding for support or dealing with service providers. The NDIS Review found the Scheme has moved away from its original goals, and has made recommendations to bring it back to those origins, but also the years since the introduction of the NDIS has seen a significant downgrading of other services for people with disability. Not everyone with a disability is able to join the NDIS but services to assist that cohort have been significantly diminished, leaving people without much needed services. There are also services that cannot be funded by the NDIS, even for people who have been accepted into the Scheme, and yet we see and hear of participants being denied these other services with the rejection being a variation of “because you have a disability, the NDIS will pay for that”. The introduction of the NDIS was not intended to leave people without support but sometimes unforeseen and unintended consequences occur, and the Review has identified these concerns and attempted to address them.

It remains to be seen how the recommendations will be implemented, and more particularly, how they will impact on you. As always, we are here to talk through any issues that you may encounter, whether with NDIS related matters, or other barriers or concerns. We may be able to assist or we may suggest another course of action.

Please don't be shy to reach out if you have questions: we will do our best to give some guidance, or point you in the right direction.

Take care
Kerry McLinden
Program Manager

From the Program Advocate

Help with looking after your health!

Chronic Disease individual allied health services

Community Health Services

Sometimes our health care becomes more complex after an injury or when we are recovering from a serious illness or accident or simply as we age.

The cost of health care can be expensive, and this can cause many people to worry about how they will pay for the treatment they need, this is especially so for those on limited incomes who also live with chronic health conditions. There are government programs available that can assist with reducing some health care costs. The following explains what some of these programs are.

Chronic Disease Individual Allied Health Services

Medical practitioners can refer eligible patients with chronic diseases to allied health professionals. Allied health professionals are healthcare professionals who are not nurses, midwives, doctors, or dentists. There are many types of allied health professionals (diabetes educators, dietitians, exercise physiologists, occupational therapists, osteopaths, psychologists, podiatrists, physiotherapists). Allied health practitioners can then claim Medicare benefits for some services. This makes seeing an allied health professional cheaper. Eligible patients can use five services per calendar year. The five services may be either:

1. One type of service, for example five visits to a physiotherapy service
2. A combination of different types of services, for example one visit to a diabetes educator and four visits to a podiatry service.

There are specific rules allied health professionals must follow when delivering your treatment under a Chronic Disease Individual Allied Health Services plan. Ask your doctor to explain these to you.

Whilst this program does not cover all the expenses associated with seeing allied health professionals it does reduce some of the costs.

Your doctor needs to check if you are eligible. Doctors must check a patient's history to see if they meet the requirements and is then required to complete two forms:

1. General Practitioner Management Plan (GPMP); and
2. Team Care Arrangements (TCA's) plan.

From the Program Advocate

Once eligibility is determined your doctor will work with you to decide the type of allied health professionals that are best suited to treat your health condition. The doctor will complete the necessary referrals using the Department of Health and Aged Care referral form or a form that contains the same information. Patients need a separate referral for each allied health service type. So, if you are seeing a podiatrist and a physiotherapist the doctor needs to complete a referral form for the podiatrist as well as one for the physiotherapist.

Community Health Services

Community Health Services provide a wide range of services to support healthy living and social connection. Community Health Services use evidence-based practice to ensure that their services and programs achieve the best results for those who need them the most. Community Health Service services available may be different from one service to another, but they often have the following allied health professionals on staff:

- Endocrinologist
- Physiotherapy
- Chronic Disease Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Dietetics
- Dental Services
- Podiatry
- Diabetes Education and support

Your doctor will be able to explain the type of treatment available at your community health centre, whether you are eligible to attend and help you to identify the nearest community health centre for you. Some services are available to everyone, but priority is usually given to Health Care and Pension Card Holders. The cost of treatment will depend on your individual circumstances and the allied health service being accessed. Often the cost for a Health Care and Pension Card Holder is much lower than what people without a Health Care or Pension Card need to pay.

If you are worried about the cost of health care treatment speak to your doctor about your worry. Ask your doctor if you are eligible for the Chronic Disease Individual Allied Services or if it would be better for you to see allied health professionals at a Community Health Service. Ask your doctor about bulk billing. Receiving the health care, you need is important to both your physical and emotional wellbeing. Receiving the health care we need improves our quality of life.

Lisa Thomas
Program Advocate.

Would you like to receive the Southern Disability Advocacy Newsletter by email?

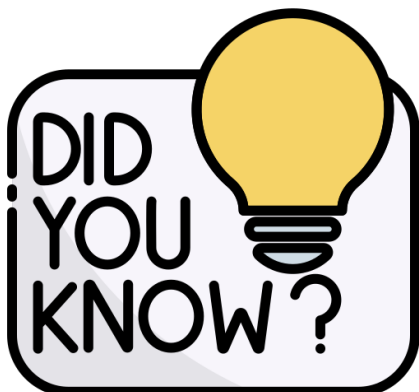


If so, just email us at kerry@southernda.org.au & we will happily place you on our e-list.

Did You Know?

Southern Disability Advocacy keeps a file on the work they do with you. The file contains the information that we gather in working with you, so we can support you. There is usually a paper file and a file on the computer.

All files are kept in a secure place and only the staff have access to them. If at any time you would like access to your file, we are happy to arrange it for you. When we have a quality assurance audit, your written permission will be sought before anyone can access the file.



Useful Information

Collective City Historic Photographs of Melbourne

Collective City showcases historic photographs of Melbourne from the state and federal government archives alongside images representing our city today. The exhibition is curated from submissions by contemporary street photographers. The exhibition explores the moments of joy and connection that happen in our public spaces between friends, family and strangers. It also highlights how people can feel disconnected or lonely in a crowd and the divisions created by the inequity of access to services and public spaces.

The exhibition will be at the PMI Victorian History Library up until the end of March 2024, open Tuesday to Friday 29th March, 10 am to 4 pm.

Closing date: Friday 29th March

Open days: Tuesday to Friday

Time: 10am to 4pm

Bookings: No bookings required

Where: PMI Victorian History Library, 39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran

Chatty Café – Prahran Place

Our Chatty Cafe is a relaxed way to meet new people over a cup of tea or coffee and some light morning tea. All community members are welcome, pop in we would love to meet you! If you enjoy a walk around the local neighbourhood, you can join our walking group that meets at 9.30am on Wednesdays, then pop in for Chatty Cafe at 10:30 am.

Day: Wednesdays

Time: 10:30am to 11:30am

Where: Prahran Place (Grattan Gardens Community Centre), 40 Grattan St, Prahran

Cost: Free

More information: hello@prahranplace.org.au or call 9510 7052.

Men's Social Group - Prahran

Our Men's Social Group provides an environment that is positive, supportive, and inclusive. Meet at Prahran Place (Grattan Gardens Community Centre) for a coffee, chat and to plan activities that may include local walks, coffee with guest speakers and outings.

Days: Wednesdays

Time: 1:30pm to 3:00pm

Where: Prahran Place – 40 Grattan St Prahran

Cost: Free

Register your interest: hello@prahranplace.org.au or call 9510 7052.

Create and Connect Craft Group

We invite you to join Prahran Place's Craft and Connect group, where you can enjoy the company of like-minded individuals and share your passion for knitting, crochet or sewing! The Craft and Connect group is an ongoing, friendly, and supportive weekly activity that provides an opportunity to connect with others while creating beautiful things. We can provide sewing machines, light refreshments, and even help you source materials to start your project. This is not just a craft club, but it's also a place to form long-lasting friendships, engaging conversations, and foster a sense of community. Register your interest now by contacting us, and we'll provide you with all the details about the upcoming sessions. Come and join us for a wonderful time and be part of our crafting community! We can't wait to share our projects and skills with you!

When: Mondays (except public holidays).

Time: 10am to Midday

Where: Grattan Gardens community Centre, 40 Grattan St, Prahran

Cost: Free

Register your interest: email hello@prahranplace.org.au or call 9510 7052.

Useful Information

St Kilda Community Gardens Club

St Kilda Community Gardens Club allows local residents to grow flowers, herbs, and vegetables. The St Kilda Community Gardens Club is a non-profit organization, subsidized by the City of Port Phillip and self-funded from membership fees which range from \$30 to \$90 p.a. and entitle our 37 members (and their families) to a personal garden plot and access to shared facilities.

The income from membership fees pays for essential running costs.

Club members also work as a group towards overall maintenance of the Gardens and improvement of the facilities. The Gardens are located at 1-5 Railway Place, a short walk from Balaclava train station. Membership is open to all residents of the City of Port Phillip, but there is a waiting list.

To register your interest email: stkidacommunitygardens@gmail.com

Elwood Farmers Market

The Elwood Farmers market is held in the grounds of Elwood Primary School and features the best of accredited Victorian producers. We run an onsite ATM for those tricky times when your wallet is empty or it's just too hard to get to the high street bank before you come. We are also proud that the managers are also onsite all the time ready to receive feedback or to point you in the right direction. The Elwood farmers market is firmly rooted in the community of the school, the local community and the community of Victorian farmers who improve all our lives by bringing their produce to market. Entry is free but a gold coin donation to the school would be appreciated.

Where: Elwood Primary School, 49 Scott St Elwood
 When: 2nd and 4th Saturday each month
 Hours: 8:30am to 1:00pm
 Cost: Free but a gold coin donation to the school would be appreciated

Dig In Community Garden

This garden is found at JL Murphy Reserve and consists of raised, vegetable garden plots and includes wheelchair-accessible facilities.

JL Murphy Reserve is a 12ha park, the largest Council-controlled park in the City of Port Phillip. The reserve is predominantly used for active sport though it is also used for a broad range of informal recreation activities.

JL Murphy Reserve is boarded by Williamstown Rd, Graham Street, and Plummer Streets in Port Melbourne and can be accessed from each street frontage.

For more information email reception@southportcc.org.au or call 9645 1476 or

Working bees: First Sunday of the month, from 10am.

Save the date - Stonnington's Pets in the Park

Pets in the Park is a celebration of Stonnington's animals and promotes responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. The annual event is firmly in the community's heart, with local pet owners and animal groups coming together to salute all things fur, fluff, and feathered.

Returning for its twenty-second year on Sunday 24 March 2024 from 11 am to 3 pm, Pets in the Park will be a furry-filled family day of demonstrations, workshops, performances, and stalls.

More information will be coming soon. To stay tuned with the latest events in the City of Stonnington, follow What's On Stonnington.



Useful Information

Water and greening Webinar

Learn how to integrate sustainable water systems into your home design, and how to create a garden that is climate-ready and water wise.

Want to create a comfortable, healthy home that's good for the planet and your budget?

This free webinar series will show you how to incorporate environmental sustainability and climate resilience into your new build or renovation.

Sessions will be led by a sustainability and energy expert from Renew, a not-for-profit organisation providing independent advice on sustainable homes. Each webinar includes time for audience questions.

When: Tuesday 23rd April

Time: 7pm to 8pm

Where: Online

Bookings: Online via https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kT-5KjgEQdqDBJLEAKGuYw#/registration

Boroondara Farmers Market

The market sells produce from all around Victoria. You can buy fresh fruit and vegetables, seasonal organic produce, meat, herbs, honey, eggs, bread, olives, cakes, dips and sauces, and wine and beer. If you care about food and the planet, then talk to the dedicated farmers and locals. They are passionate and learn about the ingredients and processes involved in the food they bring to market. It's a great way to shop in a community, reduce your food miles and support small Victorian primary producers. Bring the kids and your four-footed friends – everyone's welcome!

When: The 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday of each month

Where: Patterson Reserve, 484 Auburn Road, Hawthorn

Time: 8:00am to 12:30pm

Cost: \$2 donation



Preparing for Winter – Winter Comfort for rental properties

Find out practical ways to make your rental home more comfortable, energy efficient and cheaper to run. This session includes advice on reading energy bills and appliance upgrades and is relevant for both renters and landlords.

Want to create a comfortable, healthy home that's good for the planet and your budget?

This free webinar series will show you how to incorporate environmental sustainability and climate resilience into your new build or renovation.

Sessions will be led by a sustainability and energy expert from Renew, a not-for-profit organisation providing independent advice on sustainable homes. Each webinar includes time for audience questions.

When: Thursday 23rd May

Time: 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Where: Online

Bookings: Online via https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VicNcyiqQYC1FqjMYuwMjQ#/registration

Triennial

100 Extraordinary Projects

120 ARTISTS, DESIGNERS AND COLLECTIVES AT THE FOREFRONT OF GLOBAL CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE

ALL FOUR LEVELS OF NGV INTERNATIONAL ONE POWERFUL AND MOVING PORTRAIT OF THE WORLD TODAY

BROWSE A PROGRAM OF PERFORMANCE, TALKS, TOURS, EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, FILMS AND MORE.

WHERE: NGV INTERNATIONAL 180 ST KILDA ROAD MELBOURNE

WHEN: DAILY (CLOSING DATE 7TH APRIL)

TIME: 10AM TO 5PM

COST: FREE ENTRY

MORE INFORMATION: [HTTPS://WWW.NGV.VIC.GOV.AU/TRIENNIAL/EVENTS/](https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/triennial/events/)

Useful Information

National Sorry Day Sunday - Bentleigh

Small to medium indoor and outdoor event. A family-friendly event to recognise and celebrate First Nations people and to promote understanding, respect, and reconciliation. Includes Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony, storytelling, and activities.

When: 26 May 2024
 Time: 12pm–5pm
 Location: Bentleigh Library and Youth Hub,

ANZAC Day Commemoration Service

Held on the Sunday prior to ANZAC Day, this event will allow the community the opportunity to join together in remembering and paying tribute to those who have served our country, as well as those currently serving. This event is held in collaboration with local RSL groups, community groups, schools, and officials, and includes light refreshments for patrons at the conclusion of the service.

When: Sunday 21st April 2024
 Time: 2pm to 3pm
 Where: Cenotaph in Caulfield Park



Groove and Graze Saturday

A free family-friendly music and food festival held across lunch and dinner, which includes some of the best Melbourne food trucks, a pop-up bar and live music showcasing young and emerging local artists. This event will continue into the night, bringing the park to life with immersive light displays and roving acts.

When: 23rd March
 Time: 10am to 7pm
 Location: Halley Park, Bentleigh

City of Kingston’s Pet Expo

Kingston’s Pet Expo is back. Animal enthusiasts, pet owners and their four-legged friends are invited to join us for a day of pet competitions, kids’ activities, demonstrations and interactive talks—and to find out more about all of the pet-related services the City of Kingston offers its residents. We’ll also be giving all of Kingston’s pet owners the chance to win one of three great prizes on the day!

1st prize: iPad
 2nd prize: Hamper
 3rd prize: 2 x Gold Class movie vouchers
 All you have to do to go into the draw to win is:

1. Visit us at Pet Expo
2. Complete one of the following at the Pet Expo information desk:

- Option a) Sign up to receive your annual pet registration renewal notice via email
- Option b) Bring your registration renewal notice and pay on the day

Winners will be drawn on the day.
 Full event program coming soon! Keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook page for more information.
 When: Saturday 6th April
 Time: 9am to 1pm
 Where: Kingston Heath Reserve, Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham
 Cost: Free

Useful Information

Mordi Fest

Mordi Fest is Kingston's premier festival, showcasing big acts and upcoming local performers across four stages.

Featuring live music and DJ performances, delicious food, craft beers and wine and lots of kids activities.

When: Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd March 2024

Where: Peter Scullin Reserve Mordialloc



Spot Light on City of Kingston's Youth Services and LGBTIQ+ Inclusion

Kingston Youth Services is a free, confidential, and non-judgemental service. Our Youth Service staff work with young people (aged 12 – 25) who live, work, study and play in the City of Kingston.

They can help with accessing information, support, and referrals on a range of issues, including those experienced by LGBTIQ+ young people.

They develop, promote, and run programs, activities, and events while also providing counselling and individual supports.

Young people are encouraged to access specific programs and/or groups relevant to them, such as Queer in Kingston (12 – 17 years) or Pride Connect (18 – 25 years) which provide safe and supportive social spaces for young LGBTIQ+ people.

Our Youth Services team is well underway working towards Rainbow Tick Accreditation by having trained all staff in LGBTIQ+ Inclusive practice and awareness, reviewing their services for LGBTIQ+ inclusion opportunities and engaging with LGBTIQ+ young people in the development of programs and events. Kingston's Youth Services is also a member of the Welcome Here Project whereby they promote their environment and programs as LGBTIQ+ welcoming and inclusive. This is made known to young people accessing Kingston's Youth Services through the display of the Welcome Here sticker and charter on site and through the standard of service and cultural safety delivered by staff.



A Note on Language

City of Kingston note that LGBTIQ+ includes but is not limited to people who identify as/are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual or aromantic and more (+).

While we strive to be inclusive and mindful in the way we use language, we also understand that we may not always be able to achieve this. We acknowledge that:

- inclusive language is evolving and dynamic. As our lived experiences change, so does the language we use to describe ourselves.
- the labels we use may not cover the breadth of all people's lived experiences and we apologise for any unintended negative impact.
- we may not always get it right, but we are committed to being open to change, listening to experiences and continuing to learn to best represent our community and their diversity.

Useful Information

Bayside City Council Indigenous Coastal Trails

Bayside City Council has developed four affiliated trails stretching across the 17 kilometres of the coastline adjacent to Beach Road between Brighton and Beaumaris. The Bayside Coastal Indigenous Trail. The Bayside Coastal Indigenous Trail Signs and sculptures provide insight into the works and the social customs of Indigenous people.

Each of the Indigenous Trail Signs and sculptures are based on stories authored by Boon wurrung Elder, Carolyn Briggs. The Indigenous Trail Signs and sculptures demonstrate a direct relationship with the Indigenous people and the coastal environment and have been located in positions that enhance and complement this rich cultural heritage. For more information about the Indigenous stories, visit www.bayside.vic.gov.au or get the Bayside Walks and Trails App via Google Play or App Store.

Art Day South

Art Day South is an inclusive arts studio. Artists create experimental visual, performing, and digital art, working towards group and solo exhibitions across Metropolitan and South-Eastern Suburbs. Art Day South is for deaf and artists with a disability aged 18 and over.

Dates: Fridays during school terms

Time: 9:30am to 3:00pm (the studio is open for 5.5 hours including a 1 hour lunch break).

Where: Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre, 31B Marcus Road, Dingley Village. How to Join

If you would like to join Art Day South or would like more information please contact Madison Elrick (Coordinator, Creative Producer of the Art Day South and Geo Out! studios).

How to Contact Us

- Email Madison Elrick at artsservices@artsaccess.com.au.
- Phone AAV Reception 03 9699 8299 (voice only)/ 0401 224 864 (text or voice) and ask for Madison Elrick

Spot Light on Thomas Street Accessible Playground - A place for everyone to play.

The Playground

Thomas Street Playground is located at Thomas Street Reserve, Thomas Street, Hampton. The playground is a place where kids of all different abilities can play together. Not everyone will have the abilities to use all the equipment in the playground, but everyone will have a choice of a range of activities to ensure they have a chance to exercise their bodies and minds. The centrepiece of the playground is a timber castle, which carries forward the tradition of the original timber fort built on the site by the local community over 30 years ago. Designed as a village to be explored, the playground is complete with wheelchair trampolines, flying foxes, slides, a range of swings, a parkour course and a water play area. The flying fox has a sling clip for transfer for a child from a wheelchair. To use it you will need to bring your own sling.

The Sculptures

Within the playground are a series of playful creatures designed Art Day South, an inclusive arts studio run by Arts Access Victoria for Deaf and Disabled artists to make, experience and present art.



Useful Information

Toilets and Changing Places

The toilet block has two ambulant, accessible cubicles. The toilet block also has a 'Changing Places' facility which is larger than standard accessible toilet cubicles, extra features, and more space to meet the needs of people with complex disabilities. This facility includes an adult-sized change table, tracking ceiling hoist, privacy screen, peninsular-shaped toilet, shower, and a wide access door. If you plan to use the hoist, you will need to bring your own sling. To access the facility, you will need a Master Locksmiths Access Key (MLAK), which people with a disability or their carers can apply for. The key allows people with a disability access to dedicated public facilities throughout Australia. To apply for a key, download the form from the Master Locksmiths' website and have it signed by a doctor, a disability organisation or a community health centre.

Bayside Community Care

Bayside Community Care is the benevolent care arm of Bayside Church and provides support and relief through various projects in the bayside suburbs of Melbourne.

Bayside Community Care is the benevolent care arm of Bayside Church and provides support and relief through various community projects.

Bayside Community Care is strongly committed to reaching out to people in the community in a practical way.

The main services and programs include a community meals program operating two days a week in Cheltenham and Chelsea, providing a homestyle hot meal for members of the community struggling with finance and/or loneliness

Matt's Place

Longbeach Anglican Church, Thames Pde, Chelsea
Tuesday from 10:45am to 1pm
St Matthew's Anglican Church, Cnr Park Rod and Nepean Hwy, Cheltenham
Thursday from 10:30am to 1pm



Emergency Food Relief

Available throughout the year to individuals and families facing financial difficulties. With rising living costs, Bayside Community Care aims to relieve the burden by providing emergency food relief for anyone struggling financially and needing food supplies. Food hampers are accessible fortnightly by arrangement. Please call ahead of your visit. A Health Care Card or Pension Card must be shown to be eligible for a hamper. Hampers are currently only available for those living in the Kingston and Bayside council areas.

Cheltenham – Tuesday to Thursday weekly from 10am to 4pm at 99-101 Argus Street Cheltenham.
For more information: Sandra Cavallo connect@baysidecommunitycare.com.au or www.baysidecommunitycare.com.au or call 9585 2455

ANZAC Day 2024

ANZAC Day Dawn Service takes place on Thursday 25th April 2024 - 6am.

It was 109 years ago (1915) that our brave ANZAC sons landed at Gallipoli in an event that has gone onto shape Australia and its people.

ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those forces quickly became known as ANZACs, and the pride they soon took in that name endures to this day.

The 25th of April marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.



Useful Information

What does it mean today?

Australians recognise 25 April as an occasion of national commemoration. Commemorative services are held at dawn, the time of the original landing, across the nation. Later in the day ex-servicemen and women meet and join in marches through the major cities and many smaller centres. Commemorative ceremonies are held at war memorials around the country. It is a day when Australians reflect on the many different meanings of war.

Date: Thursday 25th April 2024

Times: Dawn

Where: Shrine of Remembrance, Corner St Kilda Road and Domain Road, Melbourne.

More information: 9661 8100

Explore exhibitions at the Shrine of Remembrance on ANZAC Day

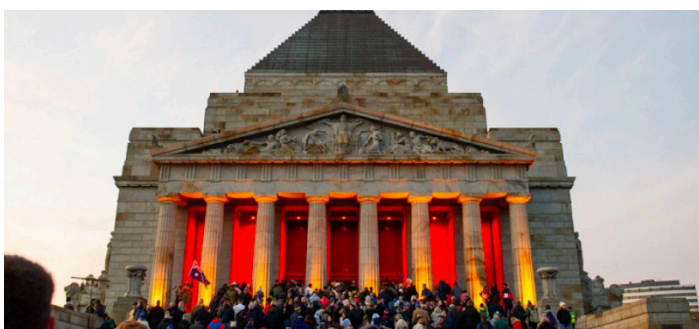
Journey around the Shrine and discover a range of permanent and special exhibitions. Learn the history and stories of LGBTQ+ people in service at Defending with Pride. Discover the history of First Peoples' service in the Australian Defence Force at For Kin and Country. And find out about entertainers on the front line in Tour de Force.

Opening Hours: 10am to 5pm (Last entry 4:30pm) daily except Christmas Day and Good Friday

Cost: Free (donations welcome)

Guided Tours: On the hour from 10am to 4pm except for 12pm.

Where: The Shrine of Remembrance, Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne.



Monster Truck Mania Live Melbourne 2024



Monster Truck Mania Live is back in 2024! Share with family and friends, and book tickets today to secure the best seats!

After wowing sell-out arenas nationwide in 2023, this huge army of massive machines are bounding back into Rod Laver Arena.

With action-packed weekend events in air-conditioned all-weather comfort, surrounded by giant screens & blazing floodlights there isn't a bad seat in the house!

Featuring Monster trucks 'Wicked', 'Buddy' 'Raptor's Rampage' 'Miss Mayhem' and many more performing:

- Back-flipping freestyle motocross
- Flame-throwing jet car
- Family-friendly support acts

Buckle up and get ready for a spectacular afternoon of family fun.

When: Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th May

Where: Rod Laver Arena, Olympic Blvd, Melbourne

Cost: From \$59.05 (adult silver ticket) to \$147.25 (VIP Pit Party Ticket)

See website for more information on pricing or to purchase tickets <https://premier.ticketek.com.au/events/MONMANIA24/venues/MPK/performances/ERLA2024739MO/tickets>

Summary of our Policies & Procedures

The Policies & Procedures are the documents that guide the work that Southern Disability Advocacy does for the people it supports. We review these from time to time, so that we can make sure we are doing a good job. Part of doing a good job is asking you about what you think of our work, and then changing our Policies & Procedures if it will make us a better advocacy agency.

If you would like to help us review the Policies & Procedures, please call us at the office: we will be really happy to talk about this with you.

The Headings of our Policies and Procedures are:

1. **Statement of Purpose:** this explains what all our work is trying to achieve and why we exist as an agency.
2. **Privacy, Dignity & Confidentiality:** explains what we do to keep your information private.
3. **Committee:** is the group of people who are the boss of Southern Disability Advocacy, and who make the big decisions about the agency.
4. **Occupational Health & Safety:** this is about how we keep ourselves safe and the people we work with.
5. **Financial Management:** describes how we keep safe and spend the money that we receive from the government to run Southern Disability Advocacy.
6. **Quality Assurance:** explains what we do to keep doing a good job for the people we work with.
7. **Accessing Southern Disability Advocacy Services:** describes how we decide if we can work with someone who might need our help and the steps we go through to work out exactly what we will do for them.
8. **Valued Status:** describes the work we do to make sure that we help people we work with to be valued and respected, by the community.
9. **Participation & Integration:** describes what we do to assist the people we work with to be part of the community.
10. **Support & Skill Development:** explains how we assist the people we work with to learn new skills, especially about advocating for themselves.
11. **Complaints, Disputes & Feedback:** describes how someone can make a complaint about us or tells us if they like or don't like something we have done.
12. **Data Management & Document Retention:** explains how we keep information and what we do with it when it is no longer needed.
13. **Staffing Matters:** describes the things relevant to the workers at Southern Disability Advocacy in their jobs.
14. **Media:** says what we do about communicating with the media

Feedback Survey

Southern Disability Advocacy always wants to get your views on the work we do with and for you.

This Survey is a chance for you to tell us anonymously and in writing if you think we could improve. We hope you will take the time to fill it out and post it back to us. It should only take a few minutes to complete.

1. Is the Newsletter helpful & interesting to you?
2. Tell us if there are topics or items you like us to include in future Newsletters
3. Do you feel comfortable asking us for help?
4. Do you find it easy to get support from us when you ask?
5. Do you feel safe with us?
6. Have we ever done something that upset you or made you angry?
7. Would you feel comfortable telling us if we upset you?
8. Do you know someone who could support you tell us if we upset you?
9. Can you think of anything to improve the advocacy work we do for you?

Thanks for your time. We will consider all the feedback we get and use it to improve the work we do.



Organisational Structure Southern Disability Advocacy

Committee of Management

Anat Green (Chairperson)
Evan Lowenstein (Treasurer)

Alsa Obarcanin (Ordinary Member)

Southern Disability Advocacy is managed by a community based Committee of Management that is elected annually. The Committee is responsible for overall strategic directions, policy development, financial management, risk management and the hiring and oversight of staff. The Constitution establishes the procedures for election of the Committee members. Membership of the Committee is open to all Members of the Association.

The constitution establishes the procedures for election of the committee members. Participation in elections to the committee is open to all members of Southern Disability Advocacy. The committee encourages people who are interested in contributing to the governance of the program to consider joining the committee. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Staff

Kerry McLinden (Program Manager)

Lisa Thomas (Advocate)

Staff are responsible for decision making processes and activities as outlined on their position description, and so are responsible for the day to day running of the program by putting into practice the decisions of the Committee.

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

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