

MDAA Annual Report 2021 - 2022



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

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and Commonwealth Department of Social Services



**Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association
of NSW Inc**

***ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022***

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MDAA's Vision:

A society where everyone, regardless of background or disability feels welcomed included and supported.

Who are we?

The Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW Inc. (MDAA) advocates for the rights and interests of all people with disability, and is considered the peak organisation for people from a non-English speaking (NES) /culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background with disability, their families and carers in NSW.

MDAA views culture and disability through the lens of diversity. We see diversity as a strength and promote this view in all our work.

Our three year Strategic Directions 2019-2022 will focus on three major goals. MDAA's goals and measures are set out in the Strategic Directions document which is on our website.

Our Vision:

A society where everyone, regardless of background or disability, feels welcome, included and supported.

Our Role:

MDAA is an advocacy organisation representing people from diverse backgrounds with disability, their families and carers in NSW.

Our Aim:

MDAA is a strong voice for people from diverse backgrounds with disability. We work towards the empowerment of people to actively participate in the community, speak up for their rights and have their rights respected.

Goals:

- The rights of people from diverse backgrounds with disability, their family and carers are safe and protected
- People get fair access to government and non-government services and get equally positive outcomes
- Increase the participation of people from diverse backgrounds with disability their family and carers in society

MDAA works towards achieving these goals through advocating for human rights, developing capacity, self-advocacy, building networks for marginalised communities, and creating culturally competent / responsive services and supports.

Our main areas of work

- **Individual Advocacy:** we provide free and independent, short to medium term advocacy support to people with disability, their families and carers from diverse and/or non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB). Capacity Building Support Officers (CBSO) support people to understand their rights and protect these rights if they have been or may be violated, as well as support individuals in reaching their goals.
- **Systemic Advocacy, Policy and Research:** we work towards positive, long-term transformations in policies, procedures, practices and service delivery in government and non-government agencies
- **Industry Development and Advocacy Development:** we provide training in cultural diversity and disability and work with services to increase their knowledge and understanding of our consumer base as well as the issues and challenges they face.
- **Organisational Development:** we work to make MDAA an organisation with strong community links and partnerships
- **Advocacy Development:** we provide information about changes to the service systems across NSW within the disability sector including the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- **Projects:** we receive funding to run capacity building and awareness raising projects
- **NDIS Appeals and Review Program:** we support participants in the NDIS to review NDIA decisions through the review and appeals process.
- **Disability Royal Commission Advocacy Service:** we provide free and independent advocacy support for people taking part in the Disability Royal Commission into violence neglect, abuse and exploitation of people with disability.





Governance Committee milestones for 2021-2022

This financial year has been a fulfilling and challenging one for MDAA and the Governance Committee (GC). As the chairperson I thank all of you for your ongoing support to the organisation. To take time out to be part of this means a great deal and highlights your recognition of the important role MDAA has in the community. Most importantly thank you to all fellow GCs, staff and volunteers for their precious time and engagement.

The year 2022 was successful at MDAA and this was due to several major events made possible by grants. This meant that MDAA has yet again proven to be a resilient organisation especially during the height of COVID pandemic and has kept true to its purpose yet still found innovation. This year marked MDAA's 27th year as an incorporated organisation. In the time since its inception, MDAA has expanded its advocacy very well with tremendous success of recognition by the funders from the State and Commonwealth Departments of Communities and Justice (DCJ) as well as Social Services (DSS) through its Disability Advocacy Future Programs (DAFP) and the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP).

The GC have played an important role in ensuring MDAA is run with sound leadership and strategic directions within the frame of law. The GC have held more than eight meetings in this financial year. Along with the GC meetings, the following GC sub-committees: Policy Review; Finance sub-committee; Human Resources sub-committee and Fund Raising sub-committees also met at various times. Also I happily inform you that we have increased the number of members of MDAA and have reviewed and updated all policies with the help of MDAA's systemic advocate. The GC had also made changes of constitution to present for approval by the membership.

As the chairperson, I participated in the external surveillance audit conducted out as per funders requirement in May 2022 and represented MDAA in many community and government events. In similar fashion to the past years, MDAA's tremendous work has again met and exceeded government standards; met its legal and contractual obligations such as the National Standards for Disability Services (NSDS). The GC will continue to work with management to complete its goals and these achievements so far are due to joint work and dedicated contribution of our valued members, consumers, GC members staff and management of MDAA.

As always the GC would love to hear from you with regard to recommendations, suggestions and feedback to allow the best development and success for MDAA. As I step down in my role as MDAA's chairperson, I continue to pray for the tremendous success of MDAA and again thanks for your attendance and support for MDAA.

Robina Yasmin
MDAA Chairperson



It's great to see so many members coming to MDAA's events and forums. As everyone is aware, the impact of Covid-19 on Australian society was severe and nowhere more so than for our membership comprising mainly people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Whether because of lockdowns or just to stay safe, people were unable to leave their homes. While Zoom, Teams and Facetime became increasingly important during this time for allowing communication to be maintained, they do not convey the warmth of personal contact. So, now that life has settled down a bit, MDAA looks forward to seeing you at our events.

Also, you will notice that some members are wearing name badges. We feel that these will help people mix better at members events and forums. When you renew your financial membership with MDAA you will automatically receive a name badge. (If you have a preferred name that is not the same as that shown on your membership form, let us know and we will put that on the badge).

Besides providing advocacy services, MDAA wants its members to feel they belong to the MDAA family. Our goal is that all members feel comfortable at MDAA events and see them as being a key part of their social life. So, keep an eye on the communications you get from us, whether by email, Facebook or other means and come and join in. We are sure you'll enjoy yourself and make new friends.

Paul Caesar
Treasurer



The following people were members of MDAA Governance Committee this financial year:

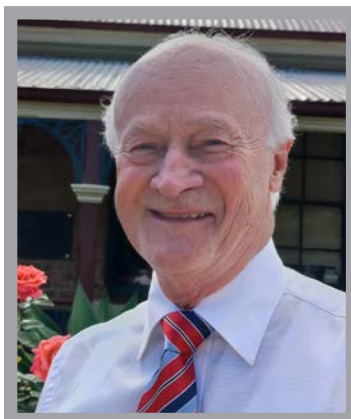
Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis, Mary Kumar, Robina Yasmin, Sarah Butler, Cathy Naing and Quang Nguyen, Paul Caesar, Edwin Ikwu and Arnold Agda.

Co-opted: Atiya-tur-Rehman, Norma Denicolay and Dr William Nketsia

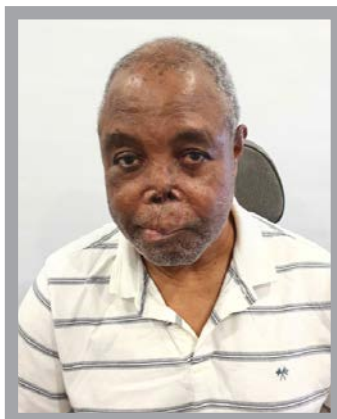
Thank you to all former and current Committee members for their contributions to keep MDAA's governance in line with the Constitution and legal requirements.



Norma Denicolay, Sarah Butler, Robina Yasmin, Arnold Agda, Quang Nguyen



Paul Caesar



Edwin Ikwu



Atiya-tur-Rehman



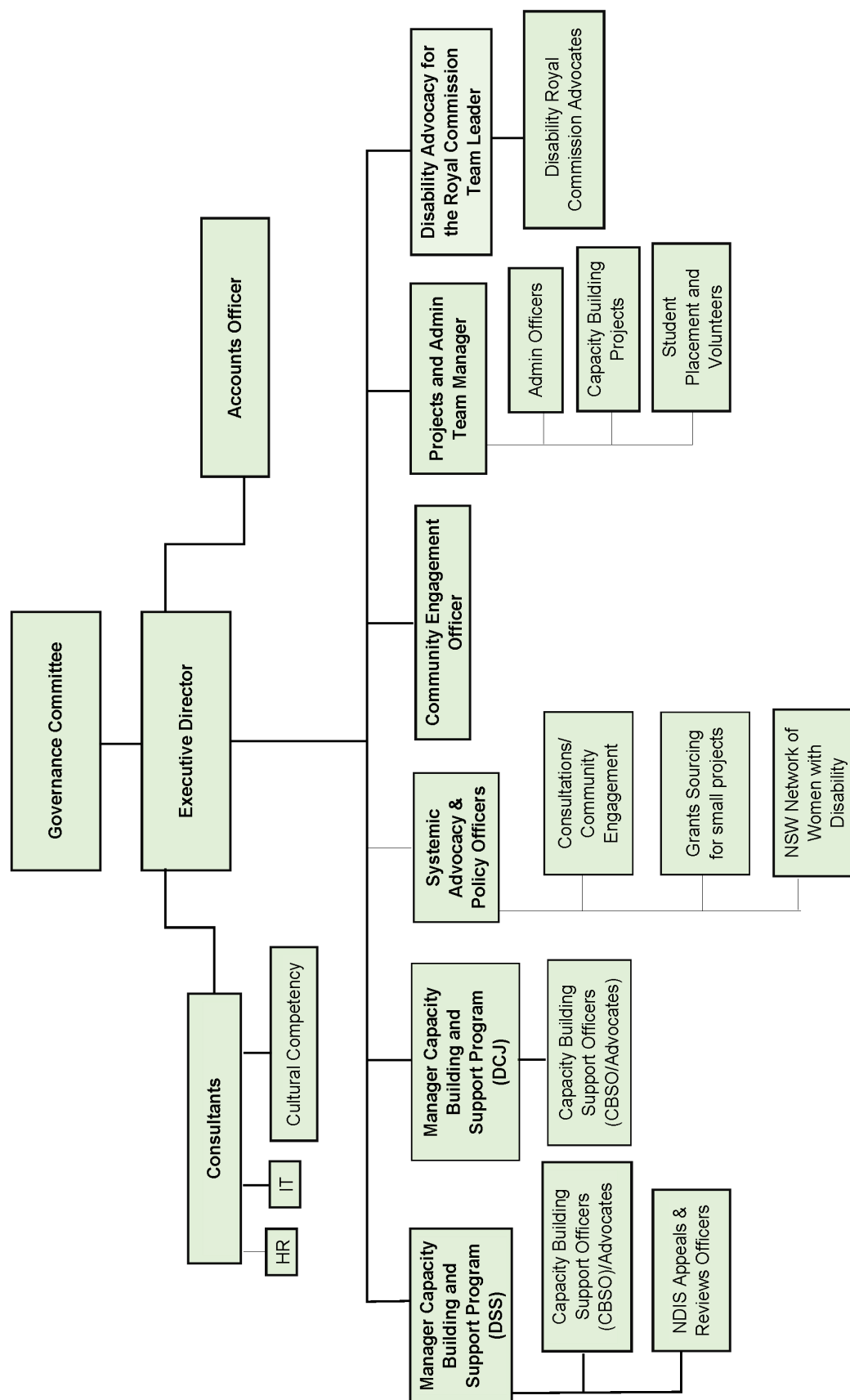
Dr William Nketsia

Structure of MDAA’s Committee

Committee	
Office Bearers	<p>Chairperson – Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis/Robina Yasmin</p> <p>Vice Chairperson – Mary Kumar/Edwin Ikwu Secretary – Arnold Agda</p> <p>Treasurer - Robina Yasmin/Paul Caesar</p>
Ordinary Members	Sarah Butler, Quang Nguyen, Cathy Naing
Co-opted Members	Atiya-tur-Rehman, Norma Denicolay and Dr William Nketsia

Policy Sub-Committee	<p>All Governance Committee as available</p> <p>Staff support/ex-efficio: Susan Laguna, Sera Yilmaz</p>
Finance Sub-Committee	<p>All Governance Committee as available</p> <p>Staff support/ex-officio: Susan Laguna, Vani Srikumar/Charry Cammarano</p>
Human Resources Sub-Committee	<p>All Governance Committee as available</p> <p>Staff Support/ex-officio: Susan Laguna</p>

Organisational Accountability Structure



Executive Director's Message



The financial year 2021- 2022 continued to be tough times for everyone around the world due to the on-going COVID pandemic. Knowing the needs of our community groups, MDAA stayed open even during the hardest of lockdowns managed by a small group of dedicated and brave staff members who persisted to provide personalised support to some consumers in need in the office and while others worked from home.

Difficult though it may be, MDAA is happy to share some considerable and meaningful wins. Towards the end of 2021, MDAA successfully received funding from the

Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) for a State-wide individual and systemic advocacy for people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background with disability. In early 2022 we also received three years continued funding from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS) for the Individual Advocacy, Disability Royal Commission (DRC) and NDIS Appeal programs. It is a proud moment for everyone at MDAA to be finally and officially acknowledged as a peak organisation representing people from CALD background with disability.

MDAA also received small grants from Multicultural NSW and other sources such as from local Councils for various projects related to COVID prevention; Harmony Day; Mental Health awareness; and skills development training (in using technology and a barista course). MDAA had its Active Citizens and its Encompass projects (MyAged Care Community Connectors) extended and has exceeded its targets and delivered activities which our people actively participated, learnt from and appreciated.

In May 2022, MDAA underwent a recertification audit and passed without any corrective actions. In early January 2022, MDAA's Governance Committee, management and staff came together to prepare its Strategic plan for 2022-2025 in a series of meetings also involving its membership and consumer groups. All these achievements could not have been possible without the support of MDAA's important stakeholders- the Governance Committee, Management team, staff, its members and consumers. MDAA staff raised funds for a typhoon devastated rural public school in the Phillippines. Though MDAA is not a crisis or welfare service but in the spirit of humanity, we had distributed food packs to our vulnerable consumers/members mostly temporary visa holders supported by Rotary Club of Granville, Food Bank and Oz Harvest during the height of the pandemic.

Through out the year, MDAA provided learning/training opportunities to its Governance Committee staff and consumers. It also maintained and worked collaboratively with important networks in the community, academia (e.g. Universities of Western Sydney, Notre Dame and Technology Sydney) and government agencies.

MDAA acknowledges the support of the State and Federal government Departments (DCJ and DSS respectively) for recognising our work and contributions in promoting a civil society.

Susan Laguna
Executive Director



MDAA has grown its membership in this financial year to 637 members. This includes 542 Ordinary and Family /Carer memberships and 95 Associate members.

Due to the pandemic and the disruption caused to our operations, some of MDAA staff worked from home. We still delivered our advocacy services by Zoom or by phone.

MDAA has upgraded our whole phone system this year from analogue to SIP Voip which is a cloud based system. This will improve our communications such as voice, video conferencing and other technology.

We have also changed our consumer database to a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system called Community Data Solutions. This will improve our reporting for DEX to our funding bodies and our record keeping processes.

MDAA successfully passed our surveillance Audit held in May 2022. This audit focused on our South-East Sydney (SES) office and Head Office (Granville). We supplied over 200 individual pieces of evidence for the Granville office and around 50 pieces of evidence each for SES.

MDAA continues to demonstrate our commitment to providing the best possible support to people with disability from CALD/NES backgrounds and promoting the rights of people with disability.



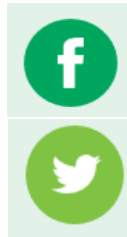
Networking, Consultation and Promotion

MDAA continually works to reach out to emerging communities to increase their awareness of disability rights, the service systems within NSW and to also promote MDAA's work. On the next few pages are some of the promotional work and networking activities carried out by our dedicated MDAA staff.

MDAA Admin staff have been busy updating MDAA's website. MDAA has had approximately 14,000 users during the 2021/2022 financial year with more than 30,000 page views.

Our website offers quick and easy access to information about MDAA services and projects, and focuses our mission in securing the rights of all people with disability. MDAA has increased its followers on Facebook by 20% and 500 followers on Twitter due to the Media for More project. We also have an Instagram account and a Youtube channel.

MDAA has

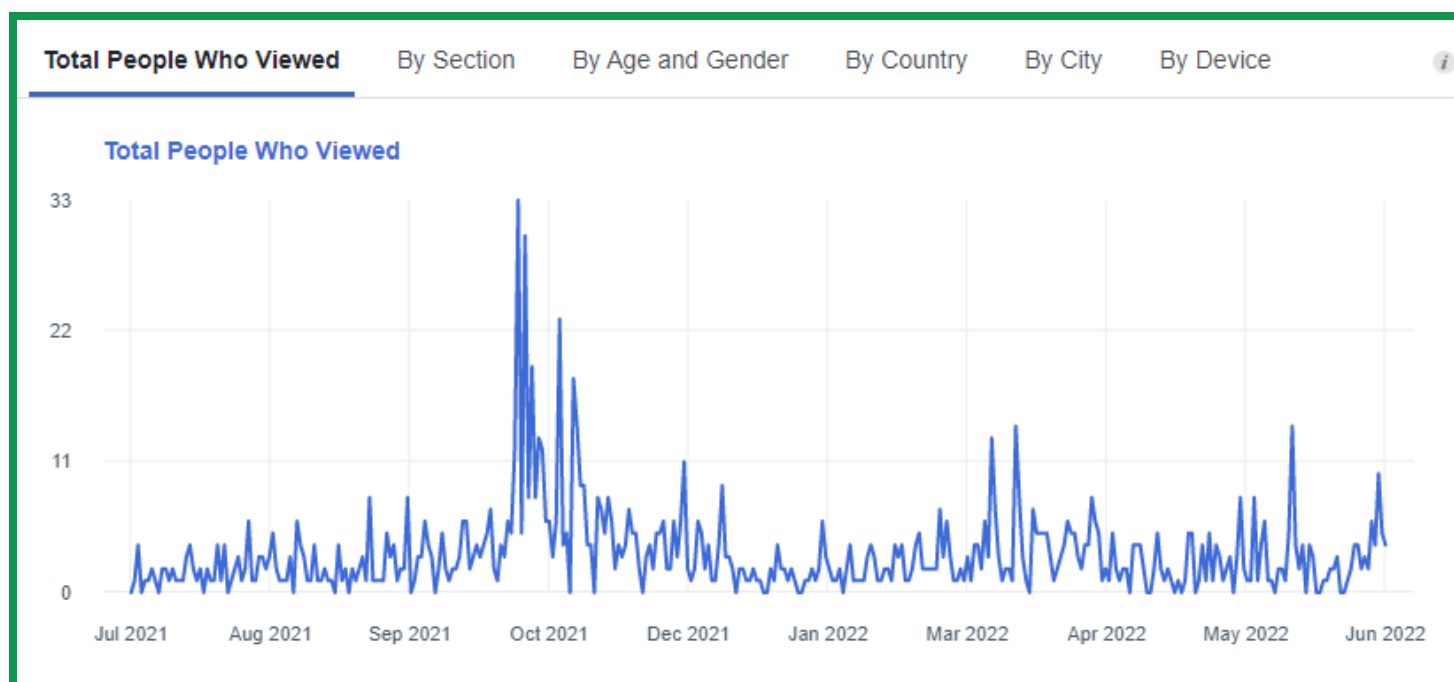


**3491 followers
on Facebook**

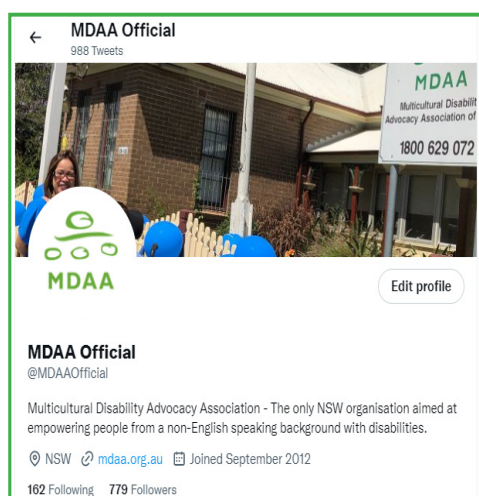
**779+ followers
on Twitter**

Instagram

**75 followers on
Instagram**



Facebook insights 2021-2022



MDAA Official Twitter



MDAA website page

Individual Advocacy

MDAA's Capacity Building Support Officers(CBSO) provide short to medium term advocacy support to people with disability, their families and carers from diverse and/or non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB). CBSOs support people to understand their rights and protect these rights they have been or may be violated, as well as support individuals in reaching their goals. MDAA utilises a person centred approach when providing advocacy support.

MDAA has offices providing Individual Advocacy in the following locations:

- Granville, (supporting people with disability from NES/CALD background);
- Wollongong, (supporting people with disability from NES/CALD background);
- Newcastle (supporting people with disability from NES/CALD background);
- Griffith (supporting people with disability from NES/CALD background);
- MDAA City and Inner West (Supporting all people with disability);
- MDAA South East Sydney (Supporting all people with disability);
- MDAA Bega covering Bega Valley Shire (Supporting all people with disability)

NDIS Appeals and Reviews Program

MDAA's NDIS and Appeals Officers can support consumers throughout the process of appealing or reviewing their NDIS plan.

Disability Royal Commission Advocacy

MDAA's DRC advocates provide free and independent advocacy support for people taking part in the Disability Royal Commission for people with disability (or family members or carers acting on their behalf).

Systemic Advocacy Program

MDAA's Systemic Advocacy works towards positive changes in the system together with and on behalf of people from a CALD/NES background with disability and their families/carers.



Granville



City & Inner West



Newcastle



Wollongong



Bega

In 2021 – 2022 Industry Development focused on the following three objectives:

- 1. MDAA provides high quality advocacy and services to people with disability it supports**
- 2. MDAA's governance committee is effective and efficient**
- 3. MDAA continues to be recognised as a leader in cultural competency**

1. MDAA recognises the role that training and ongoing skills development plays in building a culturally competent and responsive workforce. To this effect MDAA has:

- Provided staff with opportunities to reflect on their work practice supports staff to build cultural competence capacity by, reflecting on their experiences to improve action and professional practice, challenging assumptions and question how we do our work, questioning what it is that we know and how we come to know it.

MDAA has incorporated reflective practice in its monthly staff development sessions and conducts monthly reflective practice sessions with its teams. A particular focus this year was the Admin Team. These monthly sessions highlighted opportunities to improve team-work practice as well as identifying solutions for improving whole of organisation practice, including improvements to our recruitment practices, organisational policy and practices, and planning events and forums.

- MDAA regularly runs Advocacy Essentials training as part of its staff orientation program to embed the core skills for providing culturally responsive and respectful advocacy in new staff members' work practices. The program was run as 6 two-hour sessions over Zoom. The last session was conducted face-to-face, giving the new advocates an opportunity to practice their advocacy skills using a range of role plays and case studies and receive feedback.
- The SDNs (Staff Development and Networking Days) continue to support staff to build their skills to ensure that they can provide high quality, culturally responsive supports and services. This year we developed and ran a session called Plan Ahead! How to organise meetings, forums and events. This session, which was identified as a gap through our reflective practice sessions. We also developed and ran a session for staff on Capacity Building which used a range of case studies focused on strategies for building consumers' capacity.

2. This year, we provided training to MDAA's governance committee to support them to represent MDAA at meetings, conferences and events. We also conducted training to prepare the governance committee to participate in the audit process.

3. COVID continued to impact on our capacity to support the sector to work effectively with the diversity of their communities. This year we participated on the Advisory Group for Ethnic Community Council's We Speak your Language project: This national project focused on sharing stories about how to live well. The project recruited bilingual "travellers from each state whose role it is to identify inclusive initiatives in CALD communities. These stories were made into podcasts and radio broadcasts in community languages promoting inclusive communities for people with disability.

We also worked with a Governance Committee member to provide input into the NSW Parliament House's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP).

We provided input into the NDIS CALD Strategy. And as part of MDAA's October Mental Health Month, presented a session on Cultural experiences on disability and mental health to consumers and other organisations.

MDAA staff meet on a regular basis to undertake training and professional development activities, with regional workers taking part via teleconference. In addition to our monthly meetings, staff also undergo quarterly Staff Networking and Development Days when regional workers joining their colleagues at our head office. This enables staff to network and take part in learning and development sessions by building on their skills and enhancing their work. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year most of our training and development has taken place online via Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

MDAA encourages its workers to continually update and improve upon their skills by providing regular in-house as well as external training opportunities. MDAA consults with staff via yearly staff training surveys and regular feedback during supervision sessions to identify topics of interest and learning needs.

During the 2021-2022 financial year, MDAA organised training sessions for all its workers staff, volunteer and students on placement. Some of these training activities included:

- Reflective Practice Sessions with CBSOs and MDAA staff- Maria Katrivesis
- Team Building exercises for MDAA staff
- Presentation from ASU during staff meetings
- Reflective Practice on Diversity - Maria Katrivesis
- NSW Ombudsman and their role- presentation with Q&A- Romani Blue
- Presentation from Disability Gateway service- Misha Stemper
- Anti-Discrimination NSW - Morlai Kamara and Narelle Hennessy
- Advocacy Essential training for MDAA staff
- Session- Plan Ahead! How to organise meetings and events
- Session- Capacity Building for consumers
- Training - Governance Committee - Presentations and representing MDAA
- Skill Building Workshop, Self Awareness and Reflective Practice- Elanor Seeto
- Hesta presentation on Superannuation
- Working with Interpreters training - Maria Katrivesis
- Planning events training - Maria Katrivesis



Volunteers

MDAA would not be able to continue work without the support of our volunteers. Their support is greatly appreciated and very important to our valuable work at keeping members and consumers informed of various events. MDAA thanks all of its dedicated volunteers throughout this financial year.

This year volunteers have contributed to several of MDAA's operations including:

- Gardening and building maintenance
- Multimedia and general administrative duties
- Logistics for transporting consumers during capacity building projects' activities
- Delivering food parcels to consumers during COVID-19 lockdown

MDAA has recruited six volunteers in the past financial year. Three of them acted as support navigators and two of them were students from the Australian Catholic University, Macquarie university. As well as mature age volunteer seeking support to return to work. These volunteers supported capacity building projects such as seniors staying connected, encompass project as well as supporting the disability royal commission and advocacy teams through organising forums.

Consultants

MDAA contracts staff with expertise and experience to do a range of specific tasks. We would like to thank them for their valuable input to MDAA:

Loreto Eduardo - Information Technology

Maria Katrivesis - Cultural Competency Support Project; Industry Development 'cultural abilities' trainer.

Nancy Walker - Human Resources

Students on Placement

MDAA has engaged eight medical students on placement this financial year from Western Sydney University. The objective of their placement is to provide medical students with opportunities to learn about the social basis and context of health and healthcare by placing them with a diverse range of organisations such as MDAA.

During their placement all were exposed to various aspects of MDAA's work including:

- running mini lectures based on customer preferences, such as comprehending COVID's immunisation booster, preventing cardiovascular disease, understanding Alzheimer's and dementia, treating sleeplessness and self-care for people with disability
- Support and conducting research of patient hospital experience by conducting interviews with consumers who wanted to share their hospital experiences.

Identify my aged care service and accessibility gap through their research and survey in senior staying connected interview program.

- Supporting the daily operation of MDAA's reception and shadowing the advocacy and project officers to learn more about capacity building activities at MDAA.

We would like to thank and acknowledge their valuable contribution to MDAA.



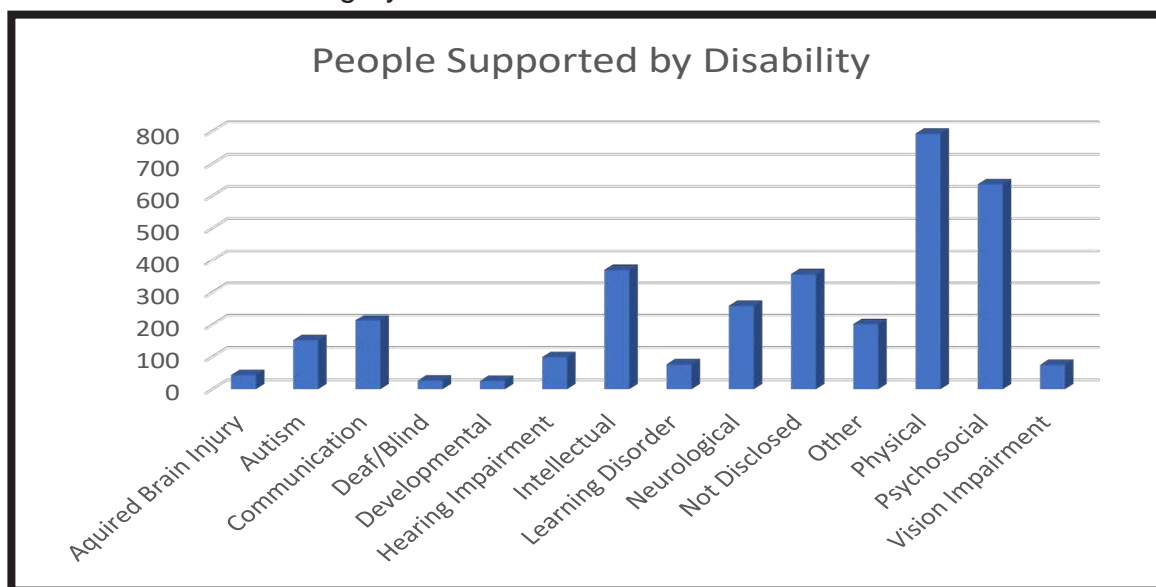
The Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW Inc. (MDAA) received and responded to 1289 enquiries for information and assistance/support. In addition, MDAA's CBSOs supported 754 consumers with more than 1082 issues. Proudly, MDAA proudly provided over 10,000 direct support sessions to consumers for 2020/2021. A significant increase to the past years. The number of enquiries and number of consumers increased especially during the time of COVID-19 lockdowns.

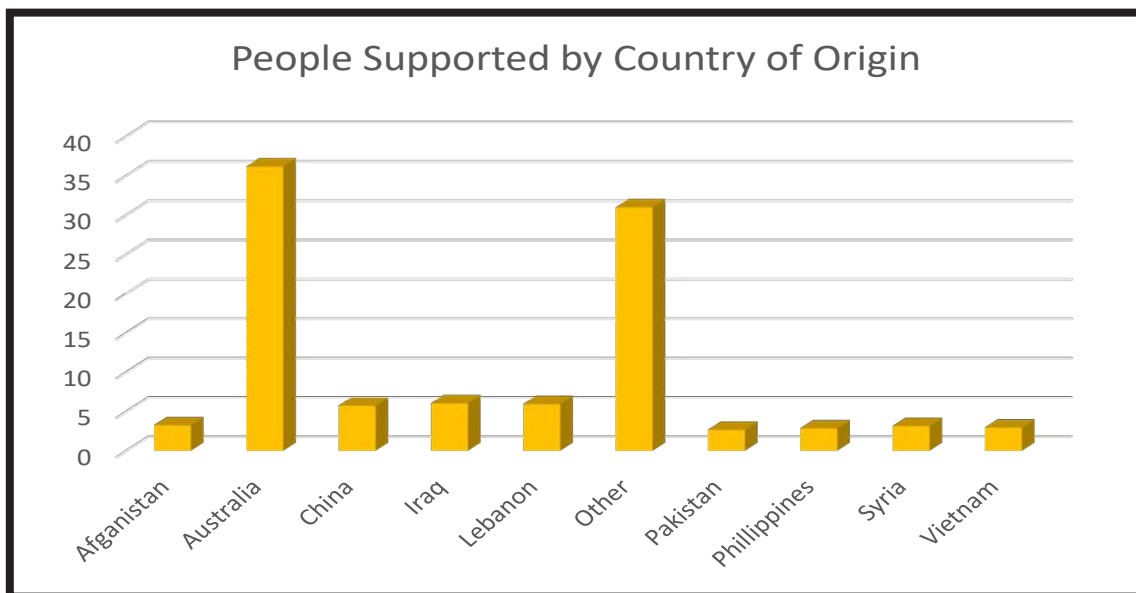
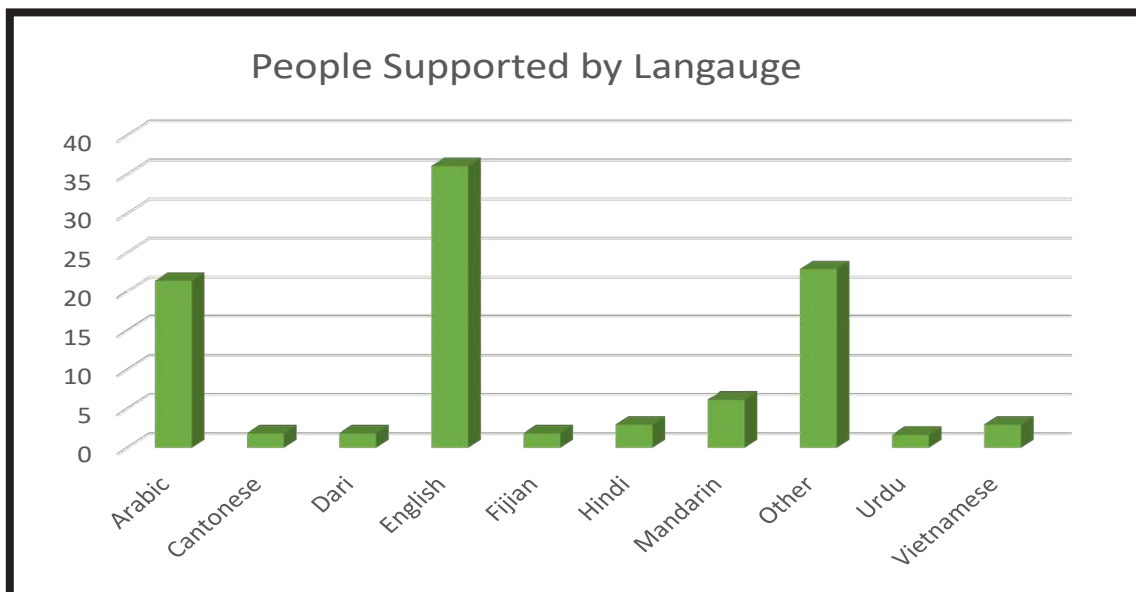
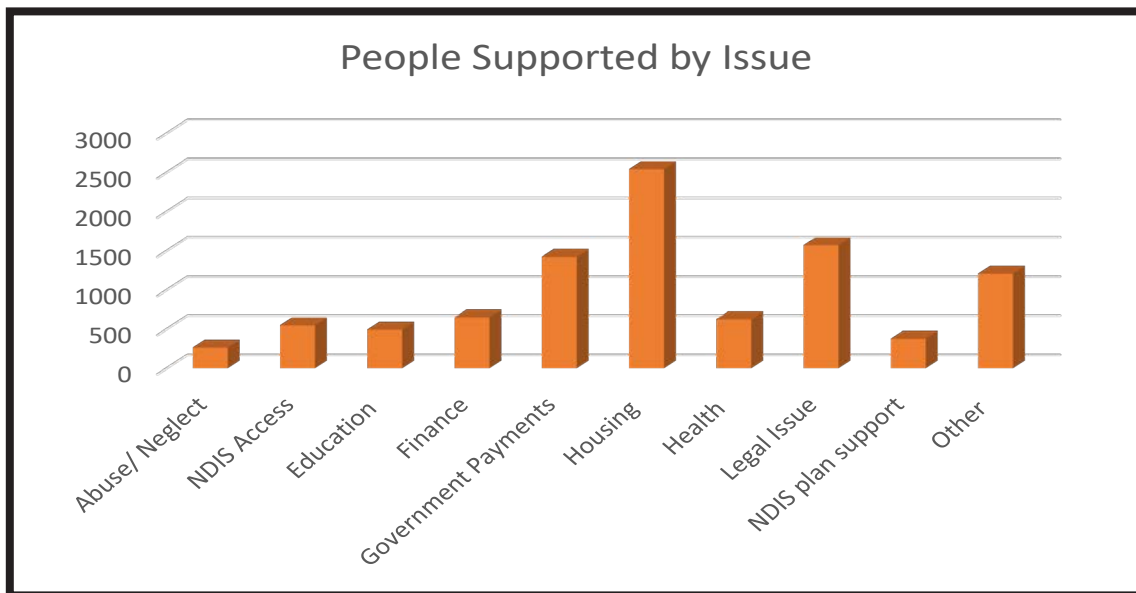
During 2021-2022 some of the issues for people supported by MDAA were:

1. NDIS (Access and Plan support)
2. Accommodation
3. Entitlement/Subsidies
4. Legal
5. Discrimination/Rights

Other issues included: Community participation, Finance, Employment, Education, Aids-Equipment, Recreation/ Social, Respite, Personal Care, Physical Access, Transport, NDIS, Isolated/Vulnerable, Abuse/Neglect and COVID and vaccination related matters.

Consumers were informed about their rights and responsibilities and have knowledge about government departments and supports available to them across community forums organised by Capacity building and support team. All consumers had the opportunity to attend information sessions online or face to face on the following topics: Legal rights, Community and Social Support, NDIS: Access Requests and Appeals, Supported employment rights, Access to My Aged Care, Elections, Voting & Rights of People with Disability, Centrelink: DSP and types of medical evidence. Partnership and collaboration with our key stakeholders including community organisations, government and non-government agencies and finding ways to address the challenges that people with disability, family and carers face were also the focus for the Capacity building Support Team. MDAA established relationship with Western Sydney Legal Clinic and Australian Council for Disability Law for two-way referral pathway to provide consumers with legal advice at MDAA head office. These relationships ensure that MDAA consumers have access to free and timely legal advice in a cultural safe manner. In addition, MDAA is an integral member of a number of interagency meetings and working groups to ensure CALD PWD have a voice and say on issues that affect their lives. The following graphs show the top ten indicators in each category.





MDAA Bega CBSO, Nina Lavite, continues to be involved in various networking and community development events throughout 2021/2022 to promote MDAA and disability awareness.

These include:

MDAA Bega Consumer Consultation

MDAA held a Consumer Consultation, at the Bega Civic Centre on the 28th of April 2022. Luke Spradbrow - Disability Royal Commission and Rosa Touch, Active Citizens Project from Granville office attended and delivered a presentation. Australian Centre for Disability Law, Anna Nguyen, Solicitor gave a presentation on Disability Law and Discrimination. Disability Royal Commission Community engagement team members Mohamed Mustapha and Peter Murphy from Brisbane office travelled Bega to join Bega Consultation.

Bega consultation highlighted regional-rural issues, systemic issues, barriers, including:

- Housing and Homelessness
- Ongoing impact of 2020 fires for residents of Bega valley.
- Covid. There is no COVID hotline for people with disability
- Education
- Justice system
- Access to shops
- NDIS access and support
- AAT processes

MDAA Bega Community Engagement

- Bega CBSO attended a networking meeting with ADACAS advocate Angela Stewart from Euro-Bodalla region. Meeting included sharing information of MDAA advocacy services and ADACAS advocacy services.
- Bega CBSO attended Eden Disaster Preparedness advisory sub-group Networking Meeting with Dr. Jodie Stewart, Disaster Preparedness Community Coordinator to discuss being part of a committee and advisory sub-group to guide and support the development of a community-led Disaster Preparedness Response and Resilience strategic plan for Eden and surrounding villages. Jodie would like to invite a representative from Disability Services or the Disability community to join the committee to provide advocacy for people with disabilities and to advise her and the committee on how to ensure that these community members' needs are prioritised within the plan. The representative is to have knowledge of the Eden community and its surrounding villages. Bega CBSO gave Jodie a few recommendations of community services that may be suitable to be a representative. Bega CBSO will continue to liaise with Jodie to provide information of presenting issues for Bega Community members living with a disability



MDAA City and Inner West (CIW) provided advocacy support to people from all cultural backgrounds with disability living in the City and Inner West area for 2021/2022.

It also provided advocacy services for Indigenous people regarding Housing issues, upholding consumer rights in resolving disputes with telecommunication company, and Legal Aid referrals.

With CIW Capacity Building Support Officers (CBSO) support, consumers achieved positive outcomes regarding Housing/Centrelink/NDIS/education issues and became more confident in exercising and standing up for their own rights.

MDAA CIW provides strong advocacy work for people with disability, their family and carers. Many consumers and service providers expressed their appreciation verbally or wrote compliment letters to thank the CBSOs. MDAA CIW also supported people with disability who were holding temporary visa successfully applying relief funds from Australian Red Cross. These people expressed their deep gratitude towards MDAA.

Promoting and Networking

MDAA CIW held an interview with SBS Mandarin, promoting MDAA services and reaching Chinese and Mandarin speaking communities.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/chinese/mandarin/zh-hans/audio/do-not-want-to-add-a-burden-to-this-country-a-reason-why-some-families-did-not-seek-ndis-help>

- MDAA CIW also conducted an interview for “Speak My Language”, a national project managed by Ethnic Communities’ Council of NSW, which partnered with MDAA for promoting good lives for people with disability.
- MDAA CIW attended inter-agency meetings to network with other services via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- MDAA CIW received referrals from local community services because of MDAA’s strong advocacy work and good outcomes for people with Housing issues.
- MDAA CIW worked with other community services, such as financial counselling to support our consumer to get relief from their shocking energy bills.
- MDAA CIW organised free COVID-19 test kits for a community group in Ashfield area.

City & Inner West forum and consultation

In April 2022, MDAA organised a consumer forum, providing Aged Care and Royal commission information.

MDAA CIW organised a consultation with its consumers, discussing current and emerging issues facing by people with disability, exploring how to better work with current system and government agencies.

City & Inner West CBSOs participated internal and external training sessions, to provide professional services to our consumers.



SBS screenshot

During the financial year 2021-2022, MDAA Griffith continued promoting advocacy services to communities and service providers in the Griffith and surrounding areas.

MDAA CBSO Griffith also involved in various networking and community development activities.

Networking and Promotion

Some of the major highlights of the work included:

- Organised a consumer forum in Griffith where 25 consumers attended and provided feedback
- Participated and contributed regularly to local interagency meetings to exchange information and carry out joint projects
- Promoted available disability information and other related information to people with disability, family members and carers
- Raised awareness about disability and culture among service providers and community members
- Attended and contributed to Peer Support Meeting between Diversity and Disability Alliance and Griffith consumers
- Contributed to community consultation organised by Centre for Volunteering
- The major issues dealt by the staff member in Griffith included Housing and homelessness, immigration, legal, financial assistance and health and wellbeing

Consumers in the Griffith area achieved positive outcomes regarding their issues and became more empowered in standing up for their own rights.

MDAA Griffith continues to provide advocacy work for people with disability, their family and carers.



MDAA Staff and local Griffith resident



MDAA Griffith forum

MDAA Newcastle Capacity Building Support Officer(CBSO) now operates from the Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre in Lambton. To meet Covid 19 restrictions and guidelines, flexible working between home and the office has ensured continuation of service to our consumers, during this reporting period.

MDAA Newcastle Networking and Promotion Activities

MDAA Newcastle CBSO continues to build on the relationships forged and develop new connections to further promote MDAA and raise awareness of our services. They have represented and participated in opportunities to promote the rights and interests of people with disability and their families and carers, focussing on those from CALD/NES background.

Consultation

Rosa (MDAA Active Citizens project) and Robina Yasmin travelled from Granville Head Office to Newcastle in May 2022 to assist and support with the Multicultural Neighbourhood Expo at The Station Newcastle. MDAA supported and participated in the event, which was a great opportunity for us to network and to promote our services, whilst consulting with other providers, consumers, and community members.

- Interagency and other relevant meeting forums have been attended. Meetings went online due to COVID 19 restrictions during this reporting period.
- The Multicultural Action Group (MAG) attended by MDAA CBSO who also participated in the MAG planning meeting via Zoom.
- Newcastle CBSO attended the Settlement Services International Regional Settlement Conference and attended Humanitarian Settlement Program Network meetings when possible.
- Disability Interagency – CBSO has kept informed via networking and minutes.

MDAA Newcastle CBSO continues to create strong collaborative working relationships with other service providers in the Hunter Region within the government and non-government sector. Strong referral and support links have been fostered with Service Providers including:

- Human Services Centrelink Multicultural Liaison Officer
- NDIA NDIS Project officers, Local Area Coordinators, Planners, Access and Enquiry Teams, Coordinators of support Service Providers and NDIS service providers including Ability Options, Thrive, Hunter primary Care, Alana Care, Northcott Early child intervention.
- Catholic Care, DARA Refugee Hub, Hunter New England Health including Refugee Health, STARTTS, General Practitioners
- Settlement Services International /Northern Settlement Services including Migrant and Refugee family support
- Hunter Multicultural Communities, Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre, school counsellors,

Professional development

Newcastle CBSO attended staff and team meetings, participated in Staff Development Network and scheduled training throughout the year. Active Citizens sessions hosted by MDAA via zoom which included topics on Osteoporosis, Autism, nutrition. Engaging CALD communities, Cultural perspective on Mental Health and Disability, Let's talk Disability awareness



MDAA South East Sydney (SES) CBSOs continue to be involved in various networking and community development events throughout 2021/2022 to promote MDAA and disability awareness.

Covid restrictions eased by the beginning of the year but the SES Team continued to work from home and gradually resumed work from our office at Hurstville by May 2022. SES office was audited on 1st – 2nd June. There was a change to our staff number from two to three under an alternative work arrangement. This offered flexibility to some staff members to work between two offices. Throughout the year, the SES Team have represented MDAA in the LGAs of Georges River Council, Bayside Council, Sutherland Shire Council, and part of City of Randwick Council.

The SES Team have represented MDAA by facilitating and participating in community forums, attending interagency meetings, and promoting our services at workshops facilitated by other services providers who we work in partnership within the region.

SES Networking and Promotion 2022:

- Participated virtually in the Immigration Advice & Rights Centre – “Lunch Time Immigration Series”
- Attended in person at the St George Multicultural Network workshop – “Working Together & Meet and Greet” of the local community service providers. The event was held at The Shed, Westfield Hurstville on 17th May 2022.
- Participated at the St George Multicultural Network bi-monthly meetings through the year.
- Participated in the St George Disability Interagency meetings hosted by Sutherland Shire Council.
- Participated in the Redfern Legal Centre online training “Resolving Financial & Abuse Issues”



Community Networking & Promotion at the Advance Diversity Migrant Information Day on 26 November 2022. The event was held at Bayside City Council – Rockdale Town Hall

MDAA Wollongong has provided advocacy support to people from all cultural backgrounds with disability living in the Illawarra area for 2021/2022.

It has been a difficult year for many of our consumers at MDAA Wollongong, with a severe housing crisis hitting our region and the rising cost of living affecting everyone, especially people living with disability.

To support consumers struggling with housing and homelessness, Wollongong CBSO Jet Hunt collaborated with Legal Aid Homelessness Outreach Officer Olivia Todhunter to host a community forum at Corrimal Library in April 2022, focusing on tenants' rights in both private and public housing, and what tenants can do when their rights are not upheld. Our consumers had the opportunity to share their experiences and get advice.

In April 2022, we hosted a visit from Disability Royal Commission team members Mohamad and Peter, who spoke to consumers and organisations in our network about the Disability Royal Commission, as well as discussing consumers' experiences with housing, education and the justice system. This event was attended by several organisations in our network, including the Illawarra Legal Centre, the Illawarra Flexible Learning Centre, Strategic Community Assistance for Refugee Families (SCARF), Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra (MCCI) and Justice Advocacy.

As part of our membership of the Illawarra Refugee Issues Forum, we had the opportunity to promote MDAA services at several key events, including the first-of-its-kind Arabic Speakers Mental Health Forum on Wednesday, 25th May 2022 and the Disability Expo on Thursday, 26th May 2022.

We also developed new networks and referral pathways with key services in the area, such as Relationships Australia and Strategic Community Assistance for Refugee Families (SCARF).

Throughout the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it became clear that one community of culturally and linguistically diverse people are highly under-supported are international students. Many international students live with physical and psychosocial disability, and have been dealing with trauma and distress after years of being isolated from families with very little access to social support services.

MDAA Wollongong has formed a partnership with the University of Wollongong Advocacy Services.



Jessie Hunt

A Disability Royal Commission Consumer (IM) lives with his mother in public housing. IM has vision impairment and physical disability. This means he requires a living environment with appropriate modifications inside and outside his home. The property where he lives dates to the 1960s and has not been completely modified to the standards recommended by IM's Occupational Therapist. He resides in an environment where there is undue risk, and the situation is not likely to improve. IM's mother came to MDAA after being referred by her local MP. The MP mentioned how IM's NDIS package had been depleted of funds after various reports on his home modification requirements had been demanded by DCJ Housing. Aside from the expense, IM's housing situation remained a health and safety hazard because nothing was getting done. MDAA worked on a submission to the Disability Royal Commission in a private hearing. They were advised by MDAA to take the matter to the NSW Civil & Administrative Tribunal (NCAT). However, it turned out an NCAT submission was unnecessary as public housing authorities agreed to negotiations with the various parties. IM and his family were offered a new property. In fact, it was in the process of being constructed. That was particularly good news as it meant modifications tailored to IM's needs could be implemented. The modifications process is still happening at the time of writing but now IM has a suitable home for him and his family.



A MDAA Consumer with physical and psychosocial disability had previously applied to access the NDIS three times before approaching MDAA for support. On each occasion the access request was rejected to insufficient evidence.

A MDAA advocate supported the consumer by attending appointments with their doctor to complete NDIS access forms. The advocate also provided resources to the doctor regarding supporting consumer filing NDIS forms.

The advocate supported the consumer to gather medical evidence from specialist and allied health practitioners. The access request and all medical evidence was sent to the NDIA. A successful result, the consumer was granted access to the NDIS, and has received enough funding to have support in home so they can live independently and get out and about in the community.

A CALD university student with physical disability which prevents them from handwriting, requested a scribe to complete exams. When the student's request was rejected, a MDAA advocate supported the student through the university appeal process. The outcome of the process was that the university agreed that the student could have a scribe but assigned a different scribe for the exam. With MDAA advocacy support, the student's second appeal was successful, and the request was granted, and the student eventually took the exam and passed with flying colours.

A CALD parent of a 6 year old with disability and complex care needs approached MDAA for support to enrol in the local public school. The parent had contacted their local school to begin the enrolment process, but the school refused to complete the enrolment process stating they do not have the capacity to the student's needs. The family turned to MDAA for advocacy support enrol their child at the school as it is the closest school to their new home.

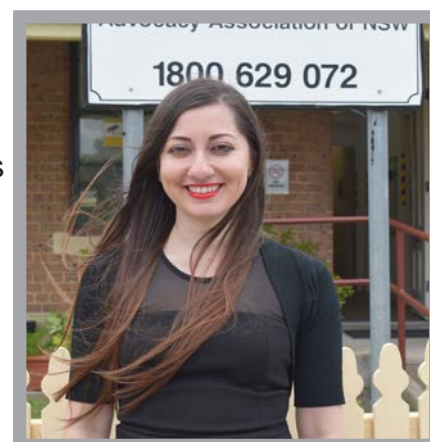
Using an interpreter to ensure the consumers' needs were understood, the advocate supported the family with the enrolment process, such as gathering documentation and assessments, and using an interpreter to complete forms. With Advocacy support, the student's enrolment was approved and the child was able to receive their education in their local community along with their siblings.

MDAA's systemic advocacy program works across all areas to improve policies, producing research and reports, and working with various stakeholders to identify strategies to improve and advocate for people with disabilities, their families and carers.

Our program identifies various opportunities for change to improve access to services, and empower people from CALD backgrounds with disability to have agency in their lives by speaking up, participating in campaigns, and getting to know various levels of government and how they work. Our strategies throughout the year spanned across holding various consultations and forums, writing submissions, and participating in meetings with external bodies as indicated below, where MDAA:

- MDAA provided a formal submission as a response to the National Disability Standards: National Disability Advocacy Framework (NDAF) for the 2022-2025 period.
- MDAA provided a formal submission as a response to the Womens Strategy Paper: Towards a New Women's Strategy
- Provided input at the Coercive Control Roundtable with stakeholders, run by DCJ
- Joint signatory with the Women's Alliance discussion paper
- Prepared a campaign for a consumer relating to adoptee rights titled: The no secrets campaign for adoptee's rights' including an official online campaign and written correspondence to Ministers.
- Consultations and written correspondence to parliament in relation to ongoing housing issues faced by consumers
- Assisting a community in Bathurst to prepare a formal petition to submit to all levels of government relating to the need for a Muslim gravesite section
- Held a consultation at the MDAA regional Bathurst forum in relation to the main issues faced by consumers in Bathurst
- Successful grant recipients from organisations such as WayAhead for Mental Health Month, Fairfield City Council, Multicultural NSW and DCJ.
- Written correspondence to parliament in relation to issues faced by people with disability relating to bulk billing services
- The systemic team regularly met with a number of stakeholders including: NSW Women's Alliance, the National Library of Australia, Immigration Advice and Rights Centre, National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA), NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS), Blacktown LGA Interagency Meetings, the LOTE Agency, DCJ Consultative Group meetings, Inner West Disability Forum, MDAA Women's Network, Fairfield City Council Multicultural Advisory Committee, Vietnamese Community in Australia (VCA) NSW Chapter, Forced Marriage Network, Disability Advocacy Network Australia, Department of Home Affairs, Members of Parliament, Western Sydney Women

MDAA's systemic advocacy team will continue to empower our consumers and represent their needs on all levels of governments as well as amongst stakeholders.



MCAA's Disability Royal Commission (DRC) funding is dedicated to free and independent advocacy support for people with disability and carers taking part in the DRC process. This year, the DRC team gained more traction and identified 111 consumers who experienced abuse, neglect, exploitation, and challenges related to systemic issues. The team supported them in sharing their stories with the Royal Commission, which resulted in 106 completed submissions consisting of:

- 70 individual written submissions, 14 individual video / voice recording, 5 individual private hearings,
- group submissions involving 31 consumers

The team developed 12 written submissions addressing systemic issues on the following topics:

- First nations
- people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds
- emergency planning and response
- employment
- promoting inclusion
- safeguards and quality
- violence and abuse of people with disability at home
- criminal justice system
- education learning
- group homes
- health care for people with cognitive disability
- and restrictive practices



The top or most common issues experienced by DRC consumers relates to:

- neglect
- abuse including historical abuse such as physical, psychological, financial, and sexual
- housing (social housing and private accommodation) e.g. inappropriate housing and systemic barriers to fair and equitable access and navigation
- NDIS particularly systemic barriers around access, navigation and appeals and inadequacy and poor quality of support provision
- health and mental health including systemic barriers around access, navigation and poor quality of care and treatment
- legal including visa and immigration and police matters
- employment including discrimination and systemic barriers around workplace recruitment, training, and support
- transport
- and COVID19 related issues including understanding public health orders



Yvonne Munce moved to manage another team while Dee-Dee San Jose was recruited as the new DRC manager in May 2022. Sera Yilmaz moved to lead the regional CBSO team while Charlotte Dela Roca joined Luke Spradbrow and David Skidmore as DRC advocates. The team collaborated with Rochelle Croucamp, Sera Yilmaz, and Rosa Touch to prepare for and facilitate the Griffith Consumer Forum at Bega. Dee-Dee and David met local consumers and service providers and conducted three group consultations at Bega.

The NDIS Appeals and Reviews Program for MDAA has been running since 2017. The Team has assisted with hundreds of appeals in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. In this reporting period 2021/2022 the NDIS Appeals team has supported 154 consumers.

A highlight of MDAA's NDIS Appeals Program has been QDKH and NDIA.

QDKH is a young child, his parents wanted the Tribunal to make decisions about whether his NDIS Plan should include funding for additional therapies and support. The Tribunal decided that it did not have jurisdiction to determine whether these additional supports ought to be included in QDKH's NDIS Plan on the basis that the supports were not put before the internal review decision-maker. This was a decision with wide ranging implications for numerous matters before the tribunal. So important was this decision that NSW Legal Aid filed an appeal to the Federal Court on behalf of the Applicant. The appeal was on the basis that the Tribunal made an error with the law. The Full Court allowed the appeal, reversed the AAT's decision, with costs, and remitted the decision under review back to the AAT because it held that the additional disability supports sought by the applicant should have been determined by the AAT, even though they were not sought by the applicant at the time of the original decision made by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). This was an extremely important decision for anyone appealing the NDIS decision, but particularly for people from CALD/NES backgrounds, who have little understanding of the process and need flexibility.

There has been an explosion in NDIS reviews and appeals with more than 67,000 cases in the tribunal currently. The increase in appeals and reviews, is also putting pressure on advocacy services, such as MDAA, with advocates at capacity and unable to provide support, with new applications going into a long waiting list. However, MDAA's NDIS Appeals program continues to outperform other advocacy services in New South Wales, with our success rate at the AAT of 89% above the state average.

MDAA has commissioned a report that was launched in September 2021. The report evaluated the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) reviews and appeals process as experienced by people from CALD/NES backgrounds with disability, their families and carers. The report confirms the importance of culturally responsive advocacy. Considering the percentage of CALD persons with disability and their relatively lower participation rate in the scheme, as well as their many significant challenges and barriers to obtaining reasonable and necessary supports, for example, it is harder for people from CALD/NES backgrounds to obtain medical evidence.

Advocacy is one of the most important safeguards in protecting and upholding the rights of people with a disability. Access to effective disability advocacy, promotes, protects and ensures that people with a disability have a full and equal enjoyment of all their human rights.

Early in 2022 we farewelled Nicholas Lay from the NDIS Appeals Team and welcomed William Robin in May 2022.

The Active Citizens project was able to support consumers, visit the regions, deliver activity sessions and activities during the period 2021/2022. During this time there were lockdowns, restrictions and a local and federal election took place.

The Project Officer provided support through sharing government resources in community languages about vaccines, COVID-19 testing in the home, taxi vouchers for vaccinations, paid consultations, vaccination hubs, Disability Gateway Campaign and about how and where to vote for the elections. They also supported consumers to provide feedback to the National Disability Advocacy Framework. Here are more details about what this project has successfully completed:

Active Citizens Sessions and Activities from July 2021 to June 2022

- MDAA Complaints and Feedback Process by Susan Laguna – 7 participants
- Global Citizens with United Nations Association Australia – 22 participants
- COVID-19 Consultation Session – 21 participants
- COVID-19 Consultation Session – Vietnamese Group with an Interpreter -13 participants
- Supported a member to speak at the Royal Commission on Domestic Violence for CALD women with disability
- Bega forum: met 12 consumers and presented on Voting in Australia

Trips to the regions:

- 17-18 February 2022 - Travelled to Young and Canberra
- 18-19 March 2022 – Gunnedah Multicultural Festival and Tamworth
- 17 May 2022 - Election forum event - Guest speakers: United Nations Association Australia and candidates for the federal election panel:
 1. Andrew Charlton, Labor Party (Parramatta)
 2. Rohan Laxmanlal, Animal Justice Party (Parramatta)
 3. Councillor Phil Bradley, Greens Party (Parramatta)
 4. Chetan Sahai, Greens Party (Sydney)
 5. Paula Sanchez from Socialist Alliance (NSW Senate)
 6. Kristina Keneally, Labor Party (Fowler) could not join in person, and made a video recording in response to Labor Party's message and policies for people with disability
- 25 May 2022 – Newcastle promotion with Community Voices member
- 17-18 June 2022 – Trip to Young (met community members and gathered feedback on systemic issues) and Tumut to celebrate 40 years of IDEAS

Outputs:

- Active Citizens and PhotoVoice Evaluation Report



The Encompass Multicultural Aged Care Connector (MACC) project has been providing support since November 2021. This project is overseen and funded by the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) to assist older people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds and their communities to access the aged care system and other supports. Seniors from CALD backgrounds benefit greatly from this project's Connectors who are bilingual. The team works with elders in a culturally sensitive and competent manner, allowing them to understand differences and support them in overcoming barriers to getting services.

The MACC has delivered several informational sessions with various ethnic communities in collaboration with other organisations. The sessions were held in a languages based on the needs of the group. The connectors meet on a regular basis with community leaders, support navigators and stakeholders from different ethnic groups. A total of 11 information sessions were held to different ethnic groups in Western Sydney, as well as three co-design workshops and one townhall session with seniors and carers by June 2022. These activities were to identify the barriers of elderly population when accessing the aged care system, receive feedback on where they get most of their information, and collaborate on designing a message to make the services more accessible.

Activities delivered

- Supported 30 elderly participants and their Carers to access information and support they require successfully to engage with Aged Care
- Provided advocacy support to consumers, families, and Carers to gain confidence, resilience, and increased ability to self-advocate. Provided language access and culturally appropriate services. Provided respectful engagement with community members and program participants.
- Provided Assertive Outreach to CALD communities in a culturally sensitive manner, including breaking down barriers to accessing aged care and developing trust and rapport.
- Supported consumers and their Carers during the Aged care assessment.
- Delivered Encompass & Aged Care info session with MDAA community Voice participants and MDAA members - 12.02.22
- Delivered Encompass & Aged Care Info Session with Hindi Community at Campbelltown Masjid- 8.02.22, Arabic Muslim Community at Lakemba as part of Senior's Expo -16.02.22, Hindi-speaking participants through zoom – 15.03.22, Urdu Muslim Community in Riverstone in Riverstone Masjid – 17.03.22, Indonesian Muslim Community- 15.03.22.
- Seniors Expo – 29.03.22
- Spanish Senior's Information Expo – 14.04.22
- Delivered Encompass & Aged Care Information Session for Chinese community – 22.04.22
- Delivered Encompass & Aged Care Information session for Nepalese community – 15.05.22
- Delivered Encompass Aged Care Information session with Tamil Speaking community – 2.06.22
- Co-Design with Filipino Community 26.04.22
- Co-Design with Vietnamese Community 24.05.22
- Co-Design with Nepalese community 6.06.22
- Townhall session – 28.06.22



MDAA has been running the Community Voices (CV) project for more than 20 years. The project develops the skills and abilities of people with disability from CALD/NES background, their families and carers to share their stories and experiences, and raise awareness about disability in the community. In the 2021-2022 period the Community Voices has completed a six weeks public speaking course to 3 participants. Community Voices participants have also engaged with different community groups and organisations.

Photo 1 - Stroke Recovery NSW Conference - February 2022

Photo 2 - Fairfield Seniors Conference - November 2021

Photo 3 - New participants graduation ceremony - March 2022



NSW Network of Women with Disability

The NSW Network of Women with Disability is an unfunded program that provides a space for women with disability to connect, establish friendships and engage in peer support. It is run and lead by people with disability and focuses on engaging people from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD/non-English speaking (NES) background. The network was established more than 10 years ago and has been a great way to empower women with disability who are often at greater risk of isolation and abuse.

Some of the highlights at MDAA for the year 2021/2022 include:

- Women's Network Coffee Club launch - August 2021 (grant from Cumberland Council)
- Group meetings via Zoom 3 September 2021, 3 September 2021, 1 October 2021, 5 November 2021, 19 November 2021
- International Day People with Disability celebration 14 December 2021
- Barista course resumed 18 February 2022
- International Women's Day celebration 8 March 2022
- Group meetings face-to-face 5 May 2022 and 7 June 2022



The Empowerment Community grant was a five-month project funded by Multicultural NSW. The project aimed to provide support for diverse communities that experience unique barriers and challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. These barriers included: improving community understanding of vaccination efficacy, preventing the spread of COVID-19, encouraging communities to test for COVID-19 to protect themselves and the community, and developing resilience to the effects of COVID-19.

The Empowerment project officer coordinated with different stakeholders including, doctors, health professionals and community leaders to organise the session for different ethnic groups. The project successfully delivered two zoom sessions and seven face-to-face information sessions. The community empowerment project was able to assist 240 people in improving their understanding about COVID-19 vaccination and addressing the issues and barriers of getting vaccinated.



Dr Ling from Western Sydney Local



Covid information session

Story Shared Project

The Story Shared grant was funded by Multicultural NSW to celebrate diversity, promote cross-cultural understanding, and preserve cultural wisdom. MDAA held the Stories Shared Event at Merrylands RSL from 9.30 am until 3:00 pm, on 21st March 2022.

The event attracted 63 people from 11 different ethnic groups. This included: Afghani, Filipinos, New Zealanders, Vietnamese, Nepalis, Indonesians, Cambodians, Pakistanis, Nigerians, Fiji Indians, and Chinese. Several attendees and presenters at the event were people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, as well as their carers. MDAA organised the seating arrangement and decorated the venue with orange, purple, pink, green and blue balloons to reflect the spirit of Harmony Day.

The atmosphere brought amusement and delightful feelings among the participants. The project certainly has helped people to embrace, accept and respect diverse cultures in Australian society which promoted unity among the people despite their differences.



Media for More Project

Media for More (MFM) is a social media capacity building program that addresses identified inefficiencies in online presence, increasing organisational reach and online accessibility. Using a 'train the trainer' model, core staff will participate in facilitated engagement and social media workshops. These staff will then disseminate information across MDAA and execute a supervised project developing a robust social media strategy that promotes greater accessibility and encourages active online engagement from consumers. MFM carried out the following:

- 10 workshops completed from October 2021-January 2022
- Training with MDAA staff (4 sessions completed including how to create flyers and videos).
- Promotional videos c/o Why Documentaries
- Professional photos of staff/consumers c/o Why Documentaries
- IT equipment purchased
- Social media ads, training for MDAA consumers
- Management of social media pages (FB and Instagram) – social media posts, videos

Community Engagement Project

Activities

- Developed video for Senior Staying Connected Project, Women's Network event, and Stories Shared event
 - Supported the following events (e.g., planning, preparations, promotions, logistics):
 1. Women's Network Coffee Club Launch (August 2021)
 2. R U OKAY? Day (September 2021)
 3. Move for your Mate (October 2021)
 4. Four online Mental Health Month Sessions (in collaboration with Inner West Council) (October 2021)
 5. Community Health Consultation in November 2021 (Community Empowerment Grant)
 6. International Women's Day Event (8 March 2022)
 7. Photobook Launch (16 March 2022)
 8. Energy and Water Ombudsman (CBSO forum) –12 April 2022, Granville
 9. Women's Network Health and Wellness Forum (27 June 2022)
 - Organised SBS interviews – Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese
 - Organised local radio interview – Blue Mountains Radio interview on 28 February, live phone interview with Yvonne Munce
 - St Vincent's Health Network Sydney – Presentation on Covid-19 vaccine rollout and hospital support for patients from CALD background (27 January 2022, during staff meeting)
 - Reached out to multicultural peak bodies in the regions (Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra, Hunter Multicultural Council, Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga)
 - Held a presentation with Nick Lay and David Skidmore at Blacktown City Disability Interagency (November 2021)
 - Supported Australian Centre for Disability Law (ACDL) Learning Together project. Coordinated with Marian and Rosa to send participants to the workshop on 25 November 2021
 - Supported ECCNSW Speak My Language Program
- Met with Beyond Blue (Jessica Salter) to talk about MDAA services and share MDAA resources (to be referenced in their Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service website)
- Met with One Door Mental Health on 3 March to provide mental health education sessions and workshops for people from CALD community

Promotions:

- Forbes, NSW – International Day of People with Disability
- Gunnedah, NSW – Multicultural Market Day event and spoke to women from Multicultural Women's Association, Eddie Witham (Head of Multicultural Tamworth), and Gunnedah Councillor Colleen Fuller
- Young and Canberra – Had a meeting with MARSS Australia Inc. (Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services)
- Met with Disability Gateway on 15 March and talked about MDAA services.
- Met with Get Skilled Access providing assistance with their Sport4All project. They offered paid employment for people with disability to help them review their resources

Sponsorships/Marketing/Fundraising/Grants

- Supported the Women's Network to raise funds with online raffle which raised \$933.00
- Successful EOI for the Mental Health Month Celebration in collaboration with Inner West Council. Received funds amounting to \$560.00
- Successful grant applications:
 1. Social Sector Support Fund - \$13,045
 2. Fairfield Council Community Grants - \$3,000
 3. Project: Breaking Barriers
 4. DCS-Better Regulation Division - \$9,000
 5. Working Together Project – workshop for consumers and workshop for disability service providers/ support workers
 6. Commonwealth Bank - \$2,000
 7. Multicultural NSW - \$5,000
 8. Project: Disability in Different Cultures Workshop (for the Women's Network)
- Requested COVID-19 RAT kits from Multicultural NSW. Received 550 kits. Organised distribution.
- Supported the annual fundraising event preparations (event in November 2022) by creating flyer
- Submitted acquittal for SSSF (\$13,045) and partial acquittal report for SSTF (Media for More), project extended until December 2022

Tasks completed

- Supported the MDAA Audit by collecting/preparing evidences, conducting consumer satisfaction survey, preparing the consumer satisfaction survey report
- Supported the consumer consultation (e.g., preparations, promotions, logistics)
- Helped with logistics/preparations for the 2022 Strategy Conference – contacting venues, submitting club grants requests for in-kind donation, requesting quotes
- Reached out to Councils in the regions to collect CALD community data and information on CALD organisations (for MDAA service expansion)
- Collected CALD/disability data from DSS
- Contacted radio stations/newspapers in the regions to promote MDAA's expansion of services. Organised paid advertisements for MDAA service expansion and job opportunities (CBSO Manager and CBSO-regions) in 21 regional newspapers.
- Supported NDIS Appeals teams with enquiries
- Attended Ability Beyond Boundaries book launch: Enabling Narratives – Untold Stories of People with Disability, their families and carers, An English and Persian Anthology
- Attended the First Aid training conducted by St John NSW (as a member of WHS team)
- Updated MDAA's information on Ask Izzy website (this website replaced the Disability Advocacy Finder)

MDAA staff, volunteers and consumers celebrated International Day of People with Disability on Friday 3 December 2021 at Merrylands RSL. The participants consisted of people with disability and carers from a CALD/NES background. The topic for the day was Getting Through COVID19 lockdown: Telling Stories Through Art. The presenters were from Multicultural Health Services, Samina and Fouzia, who provided information about the COVID vaccine, and Dr. Ling from Western Sydney Public Health Unit for Q&A via Zoom. MDAA conducted a resource development art workshop for the participants. They were asked to share information about the positive ways they maintained their mental health during the recent COVID lockdowns to further promote well-being in the community. The program was hosted by MDAA's Active Citizen Project Officer, Rosa Touch and Aged Care Connector, Dolma Sherpa



During October 2021, MDAA hosted "Move for your Mate" a seven day, online physical activity challenge to raise awareness for men's mental health during Covid lockdowns as part of Mental Health Month. The event was unique as, even though it was held online due to Covid restrictions, participants had the opportunity to connect and interact with each other through an online platform to share, encourage, and support each other.

Move for your Mate was funded by Way Ahead Mental Health Association NSW. We received donations from Raisely, Running Heroes and Pace Athletic. Running Heroes donated their platform to track the active minutes of each participant. Raisely donated their platform to track the fundraising. Pace Athletic generously matched prizes dollar for dollar. In total \$3645.00 was raised for men's mental health.

The categories of prizes were as follows:

Active minutes Winner – Shu Chan, completed 14hours and 10 minutes of exercise activity

Fundraising Winner – Susan Laguna, raised a total of \$865.00 towards projects focusing on CALD Men Mental Health!

Unity Winner– Kaysey Sinpraseuth, worked on improving mental wellbeing, creating connections with others and sharing their exercise experience

Innovation Winner – Aruni Rajagulasingham, used innovative and creative ways to increase exercise minutes

Consistency Winner – Farida Oemar, was the most consistent with being active with a focus on overall wellbeing.

The aim of the event was to reduce multiple, often interwoven barriers people with disability (PWD) from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background face daily. These barriers not only prevent PWD from having their basic needs met but also from participating in mainstream community events.

MDAA's post event evaluation of "Move for your Mate" proved it was a success, highlighting the need for more events like this in the Cumberland LGA.

Kaysey posted blogs about spending time and exercising with her family and incidental exercise opportunities chasing after her toddler!

"Reflection, mindfulness & 'getting fresh air' is just as important to me as is keeping a healthy lifestyle. A moment to pause & be mindful of where I've been, where I am and where I want to be in a year, 3 years, 5 years and even 10 years' times gives me so much perspective on the journey I'm on"

Farida found ways to exercise everyday!

"There are so many ways to be active and spend time with the ones you love. The direct result usually tends to me your mind being calm and relaxed!"



MCAA consumers are informed about their rights and responsibilities and have knowledge about government departments and supports available to them across community forums organised by Capacity building and support team. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the sessions were also by Zoom. Some of the Forums delivered in the period included:

- Legal rights Compensation-related issues
- Community and Social Support
- Supported Employment & Rights of People with Disability
- My Aged Care: Access to My Aged Care & Rights of People with Disability
- Education: Access to courses/universities; treatment of children with disability in schools
- NDIS: Access Requests and Appeals
- Elections, Voting & Rights of People with Disability
- Centrelink: DSP, medical evidence and doctors' reports
- Rights of People with Disability
- Covid Information session with Indonesian group
- Self Defence training for people with disability



Self-Defense Training



Covid-19 Session with Indonesian group



Election Forum

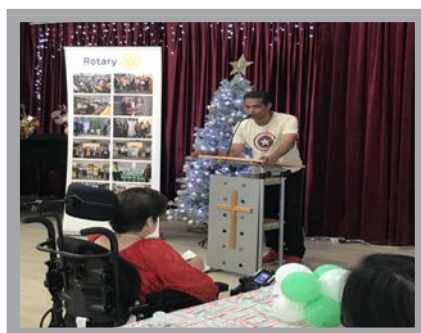
Covid-19 Information Session 10 Dec 2021

MDAA held a COVID-19 Information session on 10 December 2021. Many of the participants attending the forum were from the Arabic community. Nina Hartcher, Multicultural Health Program Officer from Western Sydney Local Health District gave a presentation regarding COVID – 19 vaccination information. Dr Ling, from the Western Sydney Public Health unit responded to Q & A session from the participants regarding COVID – 19 and the booster shot via zoom.



Women's Network Celebration 14 Dec 2021

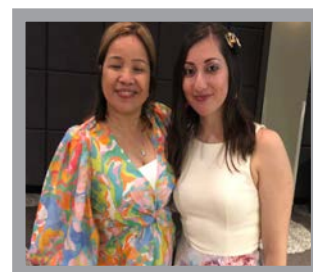
MDAA together with the Rotary Club Granville held a Mental Health Session on 14 December 2021 at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Granville. Members of the NSW Network of Women with Disability were invited to a Laughter Therapy by Bob Phil and an Art Workshop by Kavitha Jay. After the session, the Women's Network celebrated the end of the year with some fun games, raffle, dance performances, and Kris Kringle



International Women's Day 8 Mar 2022

On the 8 March 2022 MDAA's Women's Network celebrated International Women's Day at Merrylands RSL. There were sixty-nine people in attendance with the MDAA 's Governance Committee and staff. Despite the heavy rain the event was a success. The décor was appreciated by everyone as it was an out of world experience. There was dancing and singing, and a special guest performer, Jing Costello. Her performance was well received by the audience. Special thanks to Cathy and Laura Naing for donating a fruit basket and movie tickets for the International Women's Day (IWD) Raffle.

MDAA also held a Barista course in conjunction with Baulkham Hills TAFE which started on 18 February 2022 in MDAA's Training Room in Granville. We had 15 participants every Friday for an 8 weeks course. All involved graduated with a Certificate.





As the Treasurer of Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association (MDAA), it is my pleasure and honour on behalf of the Governance Committee (GC) to present MDAA's audited financial report for the period 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022. This report reflects the overall position of MDAA's financial performance at the end of the financial year.

Despite another difficult year because of restrictions placed on our activities due to Covid, MDAA still managed to have a surplus of \$143,937 at the end of the year. This was an excellent result achieved only through the commitment and determination of MDAA's management and staff.

INCOME

This surplus was only possible because our success in winning several medium sized grants. These helped to replace grant income from NEDA's Community Connectors Project which had ceased. Unused funds shown on the pie chart are from projects which will be rolled over in the next financial year upon approval of the funders. The combined total revenue for this financial year was \$3,164,619 compared to previous year which was \$3,333,378.

EXPENDITURE

Compared with the previous year, a reduction in wages and salaries was due to the voluntary departure of a several staff due to Covid workplace requirements and the completion of several projects. The total expenditure was \$3,020,682 in comparison to the previous year which was \$3,195,346.

BALANCE SHEET

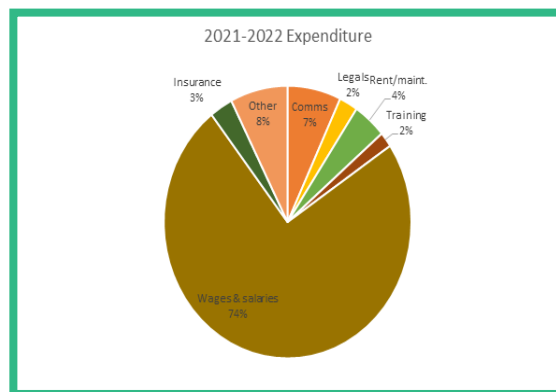
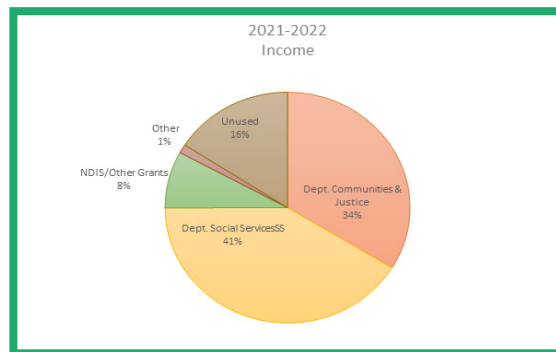
The operating surplus meant equity rose by about 9%. Most importantly, with a majority of its assets in cash and strong liquidity and debt-to-equity ratios, MDAA maintains its ability to meet its liabilities while continuing to provide a high level of service to its members and clients.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

Earlier this calendar year, MDAA was successful in winning tenders with the NSW Department of Communities and Justice and the Federal Department of Social Services. This means expanding our operations to cover geographical NSW, undoubtedly meaning some unforeseen challenges. However, with the staff and management team who put in the extra work to win these tenders, MDAA will surely conquer these challenges and continue to set a high bar for advocacy services across the State.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to all the funding bodies, community members, GC, staff, volunteers and persons who supported MDAA and its work.

Paul Caesar
MDAA Treasurer



Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW Inc.

ABN 60 737 946 674



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

MULTICULTURAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
ABN 60 737 946 674
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

MULTICULTURAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY
ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 JUNE 2022

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**MULTICULTURAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY
ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
EXECUTIVE'S DECLARATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

The Executive declare that in their opinion:

- (a) The attached financial statements and notes thereto comply with the Australian Accounting standards
- (b) The attached financial statements and notes thereto give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association
- (c) The attached financial statements and notes thereto are in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009
- (d) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due & payable.

This statement is made In accordance with a resolution of the Executive of Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW Inc and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by

Chairperson

Treasurer
Granville


SECRETARY
ARNOLD MADA 20 October 2022

Auditors Independence Declaration

To the Executive of the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW Inc

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the financial year ended 31 December 2020 there have been:

- (a) No contraventions of the auditors independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.


Stephen Sproats
Registered Company Auditor
7/288 Newline Road Dural

20 October 2022

MULTICULTURAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE & EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR PERIOD 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021
REVENUE		
Grant- DCJ	1,067,337	1,097,165
Grant - DSS	1,304,848	1,253,872
NDIS	69,088	83,616
NEDA	-	772,706
Unused Funds Brought Forward	501,799	50,580
Interest	9,138	16,608
Other Grants	182,447	15,000
Cash Flow Boost	-	37,500
Other Income	29,962	6,331
	3,164,619	3,333,378
EXPENDITURE		
Advertising	959	100
AGM	3,369	2,070
Audit & Legal Fees	17,957	11,438
Bank Charges	645	699
Catering	8,391	11,703
Cleaning	16,141	17,622
Committee Management Costs	14,943	13,801
Computer	66,565	105,376
Consultants	104,379	85,659
Depreciation	12,396	12,661
Doubtful Debts Provision	2,412	-
Insurance-General	15,505	13,531
Workers Compensation	75,953	70,722
Internet	15,631	11,424
Motor Vehicle	5,700	4,696
Office Furniture and Equipment	5,180	18,952
OHS Costs	13,233	17,240
Printing, Postage & Stationary	17,862	21,549
Program Cost	13,657	18,892
Promotional Expenses	10,790	3,783
Provision for Employee Leave	56,826	101,618
Rent	48,261	41,768
Repairs & Maintenance	23,443	6,650
Salaries & Wages	1,929,231	2,252,582
Staff Recruitment	19,366	12,585
Sundry	17,981	17,600
Subscriptions	17,471	3,282
Superannuation Contribution	192,159	211,603
Telephone, Website, Internet	42,330	76,062
Training	4,340	5,009
Travelling Expenses	6,694	5,741
Unexpended funds	226,960	-
Utilities	13,567	15,511
Volunteer	385	3,417
	3,020,682	3,195,346
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	143,937	138,032
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR YEAR	143,937	138,032
Accumulated Funds Brought forward	1,594,254	1,456,222
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$ 1,738,191	\$ 1,594,254

MULTICULTURAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
STATEMENT OF POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

		2022	2021
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		<u>\$ 1,738,191</u>	<u>\$ 1,307,256</u>
Represented by			
	Note		
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash on Hand		1,300	1,300
Cash at Bank		422,091	426,428
Trade Debtors	7	21,274	79,362
Shares		2,792	3,617
Deposit		-	-
Prepayments		6,865	35,603
Term Deposit		1,539,031	1,530,668
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,993,353</u>	<u>2,076,978</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Motor Vehicles	8	992,277	1,004,673
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		<u>992,277</u>	<u>1,004,673</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		2,985,630	3,081,651
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors & Accrued Expenses	9	467,069	738,247
Provision for Equipment Replacement	10	48,000	48,000
Provision for Employee Costs	11	707,374	675,519
Provision for Programs		24,996	25,631
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>1,247,439</u>	<u>1,487,397</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>\$1,738,191</u>	<u>\$1,594,254</u>

**MULTICULTURAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY
ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
EXECUTIVE'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

Your executive present the Annual Financial Report on the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

Directors

The names of the executive in office at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

Robina Yasmin
Sarah Butler
Arnold Agda
Paul Caesar
Quang Nguyen
Atiya-tur-Rehman
Edwin Ikwu
Norma Denicolay
William Nketsia

The executive have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Principle Activity

The principal activity of the Association during the year was to promote, protect and secure the rights and interest of people who are Culturally and Linguistically Diverse(CALD)/non-english speaking background (NESB) with disability and their families and carers.

No significant change in the nature of that activity occurred during the year


Significant Changes in State of Affairs

No significant changes in the state of affairs of the Association occurred during the year.

Results

The surplus from operations of the company for the year, after providing for tax was \$143,937 (2020 \$138,032 surplus).

This statement is made In accordance with a resolution of the Executive of Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW Inc and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by


ROBINA YASMIN
Chairperson

Treasurer
Granville


ARNOLD AGDA
SECRETARY

20 October 2022

MULTICULTURAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Balance at 30 June 2020	\$1,456,222
Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$138,032
Other Comprehensive Income	\$0
Total Comprehensive Income	<u>\$138,032</u>
Balance at 30 June 2021	<u>\$1,594,254</u>
Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$143,937
Other Comprehensive Income	\$0
Total Comprehensive Income	<u>\$143,937</u>
Balance at 30 June 2022	<u>\$1,738,191</u>

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021
Cash flows from operating Activities		
Receipts from Funding Bodies & clients	\$2,662,820	\$3,282,798
Payment to suppliers and employees	<u>2,658,794</u>	<u>2,872,906</u>
Net cash inflow from operating Activities	<u>4,026</u>	<u>409,892</u>
Net increase (Decrease) in cash held	4,026	409,892
Cash at beginning of year	<u>1,958,396</u>	<u>1,548,504</u>
Cash at End of Financial year	<u>\$1,962,422</u>	<u>\$1,958,396</u>

Reconciliation of operating Surplus (deficit) after tax to Net Cash inflow
From Operations

Operating Surplus (Deficit) After Income Tax	143,937	138,032
Depreciation	12,396	12,661
(Decrease) Increase - Trade debtors	58,088	- 65,349
- Prepayments	28,738	- 5,379
- Deposit	-	-
- Shares	825	-
- Creditors	- 271,178	191,595
- Provision for Leave	31,855	129,256
- Payroll	-	-
- Provision for Programs	- 635	9,076
	<u>\$4,026</u>	<u>\$409,892</u>

**MULTICULTURAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

1. Corporate Information

Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW Inc operates under the Association Incorporation Act. Its business operates in throughout Sydney Metropolitan and NSW

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Preparation

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW), Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB & Urgent issues group interpretations. The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical cost and does not take into consideration changing values of money or current valuations of non current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

(b) Significant accounting judgments, estimates & assumptions.

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates & assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income & expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making judgments. Actual results may differ from these estimates

The estimates & underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current & future periods.

(c) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised when the association is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy and is net of GST.

(d) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category

(e) Cash

Cash & Cash equivalents in the balance sheet comprise cash at bank and in hand and in short term deposits are stated at their nominal value

(f) Trade Debtors

Trade Debtors are stated at original invoice amount less any Provision for doubtful debts where applicable. Normal trading terms are 7 to 30 days. No provision for doubtful debts was made in 2022.

(g) Property, Plant & Equipment

Land is recorded at cost & Buildings are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Motor Vehicles are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

(h) Grants in Advance

Grants in Advance are carried forward at their original amount and are to be provided subsequent to the balance date

(i) Employee Leave Provisions

The liability for Annual & Long Service Leave & Sick is recognised and measured at the amount expected to be paid when liabilities are settled.

(j) Provisions

These are recognised when there is a present obligation as a result of past funding and it is probable that an outflow will be required using reasonable estimates.

(k) Government Grants

Grants are matched against expenditure in the year expenditure is incurred and in accordance with funding body's requirements when services are performed or conditions fulfilled

5. Income Tax

The Association is registered under the Charitable Collection Act, 1934, as amended, and is exempt from income tax

6. Activities

The financial statements include the following projects DCJ, DSS and NDIS Funding

	2022	2021
7. Trade Debtors	\$	\$
Trade Debtors & Other Debtors	32,548	88,224
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	<u>11,274</u>	<u>8,862</u>
	<u>21,274</u>	<u>79,362</u>
 8. Fixed Assets		
Equipment, Furniture & Fittings – at cost	27,382	89,943
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(18,505)</u>	<u>(79,967)</u>
Net Book Value	<u>8,877</u>	<u>9,976</u>
 Motor Vehicles – at cost	35,818	35,818
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(35,818)</u>	<u>(35,818)</u>
Net Book Value	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
 Land at cost	547,000	547,000
Buildings at cost	574,889	574,889
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(138,489)</u>	<u>(127,192)</u>
Net Book Value	<u>983,400</u>	<u>994,697</u>
Total Non Current Assets	<u>992,277</u>	<u>1,0004,673</u>

9. Creditors & Accrued Expenses

Trade Creditors & Accruals	95,756	161,981
GST payable	16,307	39,125
PAYG Payable	29,908	33,846
Grants in Advance	<u>325,098</u>	<u>503,295</u>
Total	<u>467,069</u>	<u>738,247</u>

10. Provision for Equipment Replacement

Equipment & Furniture	23,000	23,000
Motor Vehicle	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total	<u>48,000</u>	<u>48,000</u>

11. Provision for Employee Costs

Accrued Wages	75,006	84,704
Annual Leave Provision	260,822	242,621
Long Service Leave Provision	139,081	117,218
Redundancy Provision	210,009	210,009
Salary Benefit	5,424	2,776
Superannuation Payable	<u>17,032</u>	<u>18,191</u>
Total	<u>707,374</u>	<u>675,519</u>

13. Financial Risk Management

The Association's financial instrument consists mainly of deposits with banks, local money market instruments, short term investments, accounts receivables & payable.

The totals for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 139 as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements are as follows:

	2022	2021
Financial Assets	\$	\$
Cash	1,962,422	1,958,396
Receivables	<u>21,274</u>	<u>79,362</u>
Total Financial Assets	<u>1,983,696</u>	<u>2,037,758</u>
Financial Liabilities		
Trade & Other Payables	<u>738,247</u>	<u>738,247</u>
Total Financial Liabilities	<u>738,247</u>	<u>738,247</u>
 14. Contingent Liabilities	 \$Nil	 \$Nil
 15. Capital Expenditure Commitments	 \$Nil	 \$Nil

STEPHEN A. SPROATS



ACCOUNTANT

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

TO MEMBERS OF MULTICULTURAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION INC

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statement of Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association Inc which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Comprehensive Income and Cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and the executive assertion statement.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statement of Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association Inc is in accordance with the Incorporated Associations Act Associations Incorporation Act 2009, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the associations financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended on that date: and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Basis for opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditors responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statement' section of my report. I am independent of the association in accordance with the ethic requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia, and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the code.

I believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Responsibilities of the Responsible Entities for the Financial Statement

The management of the Incorporated Association are responsible for the preparation a financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial statement is appropriate and in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporations Act 2009 and for such internal control as the executive determine is necessary to enable the presentation of the financial report that is free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the report the financial report, the responsible persons are responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible persons either intend to liquidate the association or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the associations financial reporting process.

STEPHEN A. SPROATS



ACCOUNTANT

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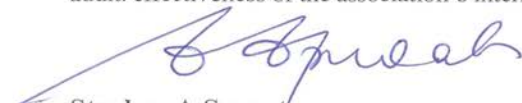
Auditors Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material, if, individually or in aggregate, they could be reasonably be expected to influence the economic users taken on the basis of this report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery intentional omissions misrepresentations or the override of internal control
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures by the responsible persons.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible persons' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in the Auditors report to the related disclosures in the financial statement or if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the audit report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statement, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statement presents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the responsible persons regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control I identify during the audit. effectiveness of the association's internal control


Stephen A Sproats
Registered Company Auditor 3932

Dural
26 October 2022

Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW Inc.

Contact us

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MDAA Inc. gratefully acknowledges funding provided by the Australian Government through Commonwealth funding grants from the Department of Social Services and the NSW government from the Department of Communities and Justice.