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MDAA Inc. Newsletter

December 2023



MDAA's offices will be closed from Friday 22 December 2023 & will reopen Tuesday 2 January 2024. We hope you have a happy and safe break.

Time to renew your MDAA membership 1 July 2023

MDAA Membership Renewal for 2023/2024

Thank you for supporting MDAA through your membership. MDAA has been advocating for the rights of people from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)/Non-English Speaking (NES) background with disability for more than 25 years. We are looking forward to continuing to promote, protect and advocate for the rights of people with disability from CALD/NES background, their families and carers over the next 12 months and into the future. Your support as a member is important to MDAA, so please renew your membership when you receive this reminder.

Please note: Your membership should be renewed to be eligible to vote at MDAA's AGM or to nominate for the Governance Committee. Kindly return the membership renewal form with the applicable fee. Please contact MDAA on (02) 9891 6400 for a renewal form.

MDAA gratefully acknowledges funding provided by the Australian Government through the Department of Social Services, Department of Communities and Justice

MDAA News

International Day of People with Disability 8 December 2023

On Friday 8 December, Dr Louise St Guillaume from the University of Notre Dame Australia, together with the Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association NSW (MDAA) held a special event to celebrate the International Day of People with Disability. The event included the launch of video resources, the promotion of two books and the launch of a research report that presented an evaluation of MDAA's Community Voices program.

The report was launched by the Honourable Kate Washington MP, NSW Minister for Disability Inclusion and Minister for Families and Communities, who described the report and the Community Voices program as 'important.'

MDAA's Community Voices program enhances the public speaking skills of people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds and their families and carers, training them to speak to organisations, government, and the broader community about their experiences to challenge and change attitudinal barriers. The event also saw the promotion of two books, 'An Unspoken Story: Living with Autism' by Sidharth Chandran and 'Against the Odds: A Compelling Short Story of an African Immigrant's Journey to Success' by Edwin Ocha Ikwu. Both books are now available to buy.



MDAA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 6 December 2023

MDAA held its 28th AGM on Wednesday 6 December 2023 at Merrylands Bowling Club. Guest speakers included John Robertson and Julia Finn MP. There were 3 MDAAs awards presented to staff who have consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to MDAAs goals. Thank you to the MDAAs staff for the entertainment and games for our closing celebrations including the Bolly-fit Dance Studio and the Fijian Meke by Students from INT College. On behalf of the Governance Committee, MDAAs wishes to thank all those who helped in making MDAAs AGM a success and for your contribution and support.



Bharat Rai
Acting Executive Director



John Robertson
CEO Foodbank



Julia Finn MP
Member for Granville



MDAA Updates



In October 2023 MDAA went through an audit for compliance with the requirements of the National Standards for Disability Services for the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP).

We are 1 of 3 multicultural organisations in Australia specifically supporting people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and with disability.

We passed our audit successfully with no corrective actions. Our auditors showed satisfaction in our work practices across all disability standards.

Since March 2023 MDAA's Griffith office with the help of our staff member Soheil, has been offering introductory computer classes for people with disability from CALD background.



The classes aim to make computers more accessible for people with disability and provide an opportunity to learn about basic computer skills in word processing, worksheet/accounting programs as well as accessing internet and social media programs.

Anyone interested in attending can join the classes in Griffith on Monday afternoons between 2:30 and 4 pm at the Griffith Community Centre by contacting Soheil Derakhshan on 0434 74 55 85

National Standards for Disability Services

Standard One: Rights

The intent of this standard is to promote ethical, respectful and safe service delivery which meets, if not exceeds, legislative requirements and achieves positive outcomes for people with disability.

The standard emphasises the importance of:

- dignity and respect;
- freedom of expression;
- self-determination;
- choice and control;
- confidentiality and privacy;
- freedom from discrimination, exploitation, abuse, harm, neglect and violence;
- the role of families, friends, carers and advocates in the safeguarding of rights; and
- comprehensive systems to prevent or promptly respond to any breaches of rights.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in some articles of this newsletter are the authors' and may not reflect the views of MDAA.

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