

**The Broadcaster**

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| Our Vision To be the leading provider of advocacy and support services for people with disabilities. |
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| **Our Contact Details:****Office: 03 94740077****or 1800 808 126****Email:** **info@dja.org.au**[**https://dja.org.au/**](https://dja.org.au/) |

**Welcome to our December 2023 Newsletter**

**Disability Justice Australia is closed over the holiday period while staff and volunteers have a well-deserved rest.**

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| **Office Closed****Below** | **Leave a voice message or send an email** |
| **Monday** **25 December 20213****To****Monday****01 January 2024** | **Tel: 03 94740077****Email**: info@dja.org.au  |
| **Office Re-opens****Below** | **Call the Office or send an email**  |
| **Tuesday****02 January 2024** | **Tel: 03 94740077****Email:** info@dja.org.au |



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Members, volunteers, Newsletter readers, families, and friends.

Please stay safe, COVID is still out in the community



**If you don’t celebrate Christmas, the Board**

**and staff all wish you and your family and**

**friends a COVID safe and happy holiday period.**



Services Australia centres (formerly Centrelink) will close on the public holidays over

the coming holiday period on these dates:



Monday 25 December 2023

Tuesday 26 December 2023

Wednesday 27 December 2023

Monday 1 January 2024.

Most call services are also closed, but self-service is still available using your online myGov account if you have one.



The Australian Government has asked us to ensure people with disability, their carers and disability workers have the right information and access to the COVID-19 vaccine in the community.

**The Department of Health issued a COVID alert on the 08 December 2023 .**

Everyone in Australia aged 5 years and over is eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccination.

**Who should get a 2023 COVID Vaccine Boost?**

* all adults aged 65 years and older
* adults aged 18-64 years who have complex medical issues or disability and significant or complex health needs.

**Where can you get your vaccination?**

1. You can find a clinic using Health Direct at this website by just entering your suburb or Post Code <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/australian-health-services>
2. Call the Disability Gateway on 1800 643 787 or visit their website to find trusted COVID-19 information, support and services at <https://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/coronavirus> .
3. Follow the Disability Gateway Facebook page and share COVID-19 related posts at <https://www.facebook.com/DisabilityGateway>

**WE NEED A VOLUNTEER FACEBOOK COORDINATOR**

We are looking for a volunteer who is a member of the disability community and just loves Facebook, and who would like to be trained in how to manage and administer our Facebook Group which we closed this year while we develop a new website.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/DisabilityJusticeAustralia/745486009157033>

If you have skills and interest in this area in this area and would like to be part of the DJA Team, want a copy of the Position Description, receive free training and professional development and help spread our message across Australia then please contact the Administration Officer at the DJA office on 03 9474 0077 or by email at info@dja.org.au and leave your contact details for follow-up

**OUR NEW BOARD FOR 2023-2024**

The Board held our 2022-23 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 20 November 2023 and the following members now make up the Board

**President:** Richard Beardmore (he/him) **Vice President:** Ben Corcoran (he/him)

**Secretary:** Simon Young (he/him) **Treasurer:** Clare Gibellini (she/her)

**Members:** Jim Preketes (he/him), Paul Calcott (he/him) and Paul Creswick **(**he/him)

To contact a Board member, call the DJA Office

on 03 9474 0077 or email info@dja.org.au and you

will be put in contact with the Board member of

your choice.



On 18 October 2022, the Minister for the NDIS started an independent review to put people with disability back at the centre of the NDIS.

People with disability, their families, carers and providers and workers all had a chance to have their say.

The NDIS Review final report has made 26 recommendations with 139 actions to change the system that supports people with disability.

The Report is now available on the NDIS Review website in Easy Read as well at <https://www.ndisreview.gov.au/resources/reports/working-together-deliver-ndis>

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER UPDATE**

**Funding for 2024**

We are funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS) next year for

**Disability Advocacy**

* Individual and Legal Disability Advocacy 70%
* Systemic Advocacy 30%

**Trevor Carroll**

**NDIS Appeals Support**

* To help Participants with getting better outcomes with their NDIS Plans through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal

**DISABILITY ADVOCACY**

This is funded under the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS).

We provide disability advocacy support to people who live in metropolitan Melbourne and have:

1. Disability which is permanent or likely to be permanent; and
2. A substantially reduced capacity for:

Communication (writing, typing, or speaking) **OR**

Learning **OR**

Mobility; and

1. A need for ongoing support services

**NDIS APPEALS**

We provide support to Participants who live in who live in metropolitan Melbourne in the same coverage areas as our disability advocacy services

We can help Participants who want to appeal a decision

by the National Disability Insurance Agency for rejection

to become a Participant, rejection of an internal review to appeal these decisions to the Administrative Appeal Tribunal (AAT)

**How to find out more information about our disability advocacy and NDIS Appeals support and how we can help you?**

**Call the Office: 03 94740077**

**or 1800 808 126**

**Email:** **info@dja.org.au**

**If our Waiting Lists are full, we can still help you with referrals to other services.**

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**THE FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Royal Commission made 222 recommendations on how to improve the lives of people with disability. The Easy Read copy of the report is here <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/final-report-executive-summary-our-vision-inclusive-australia-and-recommendations>

There too many to list in our Newsletter. However, some of the main areas talked about in the report are:

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| **A Vision for the future*** where people with disability are safe, and
* people respect the rights of people with disability, and
* people also want those with disability to be supported to make their own decisions and live a full life.
 | **Safety and rights**Where Australia should be a place where people with disability don’t experience:* violence
* abuse
* neglect
* exploitation.
 | **Disability as part of diversity**Which includes all the way that people are different from each other such as the different:* places people come from
* languages people speak
* abilities people have
* ways people live their life.
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| **Inclusive communities**An inclusive community is a place where people with disability can:* live their life
* learn
* work
* play
* create
* take part.
 | **Choice and decision-making**People with disability should get support to live the way they want including having choice and support for decision-making. Other people such as family members of people with disability and service providers often make decisions about how people with disability live their life and about whether they can take risks. | **Respect and to belong**An inclusive Australia is a place where people treat people with disability with respect so * they can do the same things as people without a disability like they belong
* making sure people with disability can find and use the information they need, and
* making sure people listen when people with disability speak up.
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**DJA MEMBERSHIP**

Please invite your friends with disabilities, carers, family members and support persons to join and complete a Membership Application online at <https://dja.org.au/membership/> or call the Office on 03 94740077 or email info@dja.org.au and a Membership Application Form will be sent to you.

Your membership of Disability Justice Australia is free.

**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

* Receive our free newsletter “The Broadcaster” up to 4 times a year
* Full and Individual members can vote and are eligible to be a Board member
* Children and older people with disability can be represented by a parent, carer, support person or Guardian who may be invited to join the Board.
* All members get invited DJA events and functions
* We want to set up some support groups for members who share the same interests
* We want to invite more members to train as volunteers
* We have business plans under development which we want to lead to employment for some of our members in our new Social Enterprises
* We are re-designing our website to make it easy for you to keep up to date with what we are doing
* Future members will receive a personalised membership card which will give you access to membership benefits on our website
* Full members get travel subsidies to attend DJA events

