



Disability
Justice
Australia Inc.

The Broadcaster

OUR VISION

To be the leading provider of advocacy and support services for people with disabilities.

Welcome to our December 2023 Newsletter

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

Our Contact Details:
Office: 03 94740077
or 1800 808 126

Email: info@dja.org.au

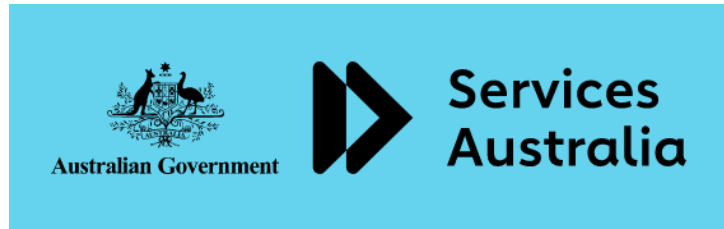
Office Closed Below	Leave a voice message or send an email
Monday 25 December 2023 To Monday 01 January 2024	Tel: 03 94740077 Email: info@dja.org.au
Office Re-opens Below	Call the Office or send an email
Tuesday 02 January 2024	Tel: 03 94740077 Email: info@dja.org.au



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> .  **Disability Gateway**
Connecting you to information and services
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



Trevor Carroll

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%

NDIS Appeals Support

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



Royal Commission

into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and
Exploitation of People with Disability

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:

<p>A Vision for the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Safety and rights</p> <p>Where Australia should be a place where people with disability don't experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • violence • abuse • neglect • exploitation. 	<p>Disability as part of diversity</p> <p>Which includes all the way that people are different from each other such as the different:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • places people come from • languages people speak • abilities people have • ways people live their life.
<p>Inclusive communities</p> <p>An inclusive community is a place where people with disability can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • live their life • learn • work • play • create • take part. 	<p>Choice and decision-making</p> <p>People with disability should get support to live the way they want including having choice and support for decision-making.</p> <p>Other people such as family members of people with disability and service providers often make</p>	<p>Respect and to belong</p> <p>An inclusive Australia is a place where people treat people with disability with respect so</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they can do the same things as people without a disability like they belong • making sure people with disability can find

	<p>decisions about how people with disability live their life and about whether they can take risks.</p>	<p>and use the information they need, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

