



Peak body for independent disability advocacy in Victoria

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc.

2022-2025

Vision

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. (DAV) is an active participant in the creation of a fully inclusive society in which people who have a disability are included as equally valued and contributing citizens.

Mission

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. is the peak body responsible for representing a coalition of independent, community-based organisations that advocate with and for people with a disability.

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. will promote and defend the human rights and valued status of people with disabilities by supporting and promoting advocacy groups, actions and initiatives.

Organisational Aims

- To strengthen and promote the disability advocacy movement in Victoria
- To defend rights-based advocacy.
- To promote rights-based advocacy and the rights and needs of people with a disability.

Guiding Principles and Values

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. is committed to operating in accordance with the following principles and values:

- control by people with disabilities is central to the success of the advocacy sector
- diversity of approaches to advocacy is necessary to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities
- responding to the diversity of needs, interests and aspirations of people with disabilities is a fundamental component of providing effective advocacy
- respect for the autonomy of individual member organisations is important
- Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. is most effective when all members are united
- member organisations have valuable experience and knowledge of the needs and rights of people with disabilities
- the role of advocacy is to promote and protect the rights and interests of people with disabilities and not those of other parties
- identifying and minimising conflict of interest is fundamental to the successful provision of advocacy services.

DAV members must endorse the rights of people with disability as set out in the UN Convention.

DAV Goals

1. Disability Education Issues

DAV aims to continue work to address equity in education for students with disabilities:

- represent our members on this issue directly to the Victorian Government
- worked strategically with like-minded organisations to form an effective lobby group to achieve change

2. NDIS

DAV aims to bring positive change to the NDIS, ensuring it is responsive to participant choice and control; and to ensure improved funding for NDIS advocacy.

3. Social Housing and Accommodation

DAV aims to work towards an urgent increase in affordable social housing for people with disability as a high priority, as it believes this severely impacts on many other advocacy areas, such as employment, health and mental health.

4. Resilience and Capacity Building of the Disability Advocacy Sector

DAV aims to work towards the increased Resilience and Capacity Building of the Disability Advocacy Sector.

DAV will be known as the Victorian State Peak for the Disability Advocacy Sector.

Disability advocacy networks will engage and collaborate with DAV.

Schedule 1 DAV 2022-2025 Strategies and Measures

DAV Goal 1: Education - DAV aims to continue work to address equity in education for students with disabilities:

Goal 1	Strategies	Measures	Responsible	Timeline
1.a	Submit to the Victorian Auditor General's Office audit of the education of students with disabilities in government schools	Submission submitted	DAV Board and Administration	2023, according to VAGO submission timeline
1.b	Support an Ombudsman's investigation into suspensions of children with disabilities	1. Investigation agreed to or rejected	DAV Board and Administration	December 2022
1.c	Support an education coalition to lobby for a General Comment on Freedom of Expression on the right to communicate.	1. National coalition of interested parties defined. 2. Submissions finalised and sent	DAV Board and Administration	June 2023
1.d	Lobby for law reform in order that Victoria (or Australia) have laws protecting students from violence at the hands of school staff. - Support and activate alliance of	1. Alliance loosely formed 2. Submissions made for funding to establish social media/website 3. Obtain endorsement from political party or individual politicians 4. Write submissions to federal	DAV Board and Administration	December 2022 December 2022 & Ongoing June 2023 December 2023

	person/organisations against restraint and seclusion in schools - Liaise with CLC Youth Network - Obtain funding to establish social media	and state attorneys general		
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DAV Goal 2: NDIS

Goal 2	Strategies	Measures	Responsible	Timeline
2 a	Regular engagement with DAV members to gain information/data on NDIS issues by: Undertaking 2 surveys a year with DAV members- surveys/feedback and regular reports to board meetings. Sending four newsletters per year to members.	Surveys sent and reported upon. Four newsletters to members	DAV Board Members	Ongoing, each year
2 b	Continue liaison with VicDAN members to discuss NDIS reforms and facilitate flow of information between	Four meetings per year attended with reports to Board.	DAV Board Members	Ongoing, each year.

2 c	<p>Governments and the disability advocacy sector through attendance at meetings.</p> <p>DAV to work collaboratively with disability advocacy agencies, NDIS Appeals network, VicDAN, VicRAN, DANA and other relevant parties to bring improvement to the NDIS through the endorsement, support and/or co-writing of submissions and letters.</p>	<p>Four submissions/letters per year either co-written, endorsed or supported.</p>	<p>DAV Board Members</p>	<p>Ongoing, each year.</p>
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DAV Goal 3: Social Housing and Accommodation

Goal 3	Strategies	Measures	Responsible	Timeline
3.a	<p>Liase with relevant stake holders including AMIDA, Australian Network for Universal Housing Design and others, in lobbying and educating government regarding the connection between</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formation of stakeholder group. 2. Three letters/submissions completed and sent. 	<p>Deidre Griffiths</p> <p>DAV Board and Administration</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. March 2023 2. December 2023.

	<p>its role and vision as Victorian Peak:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how it proposes to engage and collaborate with networks • the necessity and benefits of collaboration • DAV policy/issue priorities 	<p>Board.</p> <p>3. Cover letter drafted to each network</p>		<p>Board meeting</p> <p>Letter sent by December 2022</p>
4 b	<p>DAV will develop Collaboration Agreements with each network, considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy/issue priorities of the network and DAV • potential conflict and guidelines to manage • how DAV will participate with the network • what DAV will provide to the 	<p>Collaboration Agreement in place for:</p> <p>DANA</p> <p>VicDAN</p> <p>NDIS Appeals; including sub committees</p> <p>VICRAN</p> <p>Mail out to networks, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cover letter - DAV Statement 	<p>Melanie Muir to draft proposed Collaboration Agreements for each network and present to DAV Board</p> <p>DAV Board to sign off on proposed Collaboration Agreements.</p> <p>DAV Board</p>	<p>Draft to Board for October Board Meeting</p> <p>Sign off from DAV Board Nov Board Meeting</p> <p>Mail out – to be prepared for distribution to networks beginning Jan 2023</p>

	<p>network – submission collaboration; submission endorsement; support letters;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the network will provide to DAV – minutes; notification of emerging and pressing issues; submission review; input to DAV policy position statement 	<p>- Draft Collaboration Agreement</p>		
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Timeline for Actions

Date	Measure	Action	Completed
September 2022	4.a DAV Statement developed – role and vision as Victorian Peak for Disability Advocacy	Melanie to draft & present to board at September meeting	
October 2022	4.a DAV Statement developed – role and vision as Victorian Peak for Disability Advocacy	Final statement approved by board	
October 2022	4.b Collaboration Agreement in place for: DANA VicDAN NDIS Appeals; including sub committees VICRAN	Melanie to draft agreements & present to board at October meeting	
November 2022	4.b Collaboration Agreement in place for: DANA VicDAN NDIS Appeals; including sub committees VICRAN	Final agreement approved by board	
December 2022	4.a DAV Statement developed – role and vision as Victorian Peak for Disability Advocacy	Letter sent	
December 2022	1.b Support an Ombudsman’s investigation into suspensions of children with disabilities	Investigation agreed to or rejected	
December 2022	1.d Support and activate alliance of person/organisations against restraint and seclusion in schools	Alliance loosely formed	

Date	Measure	Action	Completed
December 2022 & ongoing	1.d Lobby for law reform in order that Victoria (or Australia) have laws protecting students from violence at the hands of school staff.	Submissions made for funding to establish social media/website	
From January 2023	4.b Mail out to networks, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cover letter - DAV Statement - Draft Collaboration Agreement 	Mail out – to be prepared for distribution to networks	
2023, according to VAGO submission timeline	1.a Submit to the Victorian Auditor General's Office audit of the education of students with disabilities in government schools	Submission submitted	
March 2023	3.a Liaise with relevant stake holders including AMIDA, Australian Network for Universal Housing Design and others, in lobbying and educating government regarding the connection between housing and wellbeing of people with disability, and the vital, urgent necessity for the provision of a significant, ongoing increase in appropriate housing stock for people with disability.	Deidre responsible for formation of stakeholder group.	
June 2023	1.c Support an education coalition to lobby for a General Comment on Freedom of Expression on the right to communicate.	National coalition of interested parties defined. Submissions finalised and sent	
June 2023	1.d Lobby for law reform in order that Victoria (or Australia) have laws protecting students from violence at the hands of	Obtain endorsement from political party or individual politicians	

Date	Measure	Action	Completed
	school staff.		
December 2023	1.d Lobby for law reform in order that Victoria (or Australia) have laws protecting students from violence at the hands of school staff.	Write submissions to federal and state attorneys general	
December 2023	3.a Liaise with relevant stake holders including AMIDA, Australian Network for Universal Housing Design and others, in lobbying and educating government regarding the connection between housing and wellbeing of people with disability, and the vital, urgent necessity for the provision of a significant, ongoing increase in appropriate housing stock for people with disability	Three letters/submissions completed and sent	
Ongoing each year	2.a Undertaking 2 surveys a year with DAV members- surveys/feedback and regular reports to board meetings.		
Ongoing each year	2.a Four newsletters to members		
Ongoing each year	2.b Continue liaison with VicDAN members to discuss NDIS reforms and facilitate flow of information between Governments and the disability advocacy sector through attendance at meetings.	Four meetings per year attended with reports to Board.	
Ongoing each year	2.c DAV to work collaboratively with	Four submissions/letters per year	

Date	Measure	Action	Completed
	disability advocacy agencies, NDIS Appeals network, VicDAN, VicRAN, DANA and other relevant parties to bring improvement to the NDIS through the endorsement, support and/or co-writing of submissions and letters.	either co-written, endorsed or supported.	