



**Disability
Advocacy
Victoria Inc.**

2023-2024

Annual Report

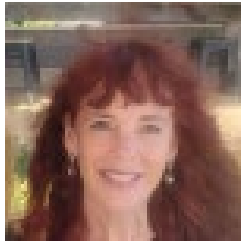
Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc

ABN: 15 557 421 367

admin@disabilityadvocacyvic.org.au

www.disabilityadvocacyvic.org.au

Board Members 2023-2024



Julie Phillips
Disability
Discrimination Legal
Service

Chairperson



Melanie Muir
Leadership Plus

Secretary



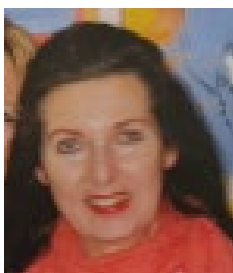
Sandy Ross
RIAC

Treasurer



Ally Scott
Disability Resource
Centre

Board Member



Deidre Griffiths
Disability Justice
Australia

Board Member

Staff 2023-2024

Jo Kitch

Administration

Chair's Report

If I had to look back over the last year, and then look forward to the year that we are already in, I would say that we are in critical times.

Victorians with disability are rightly concerned about whether the disability advocacy sector has sufficient capacity to provide them with the support required to ensure their human rights are respected.

The disability advocacy sector has been whittled away in the last year, making it more difficult for us to provide the high level of service that is required. This erosion of disability advocacy has been happening in conjunction with other significant and unwelcome changes.

The NDIS Act changes have not been led by people with disabilities, and there is great disquiet in the community about their implications.

The underwhelming take-up of the Disability Royal Commission recommendations has also been quite a blow. How does the community respond psychologically to the implicit message from governments about the low importance of the human rights of the disability community? How do we respond literally - how do we prioritise, when so few recommendations were fully accepted out of over 200?

Then there was the announcement of the Victorian Government's intention earlier this year to close all disability specific regulators and subsume them into the new Social Services Regulator.

This decision was in direct contravention of the state government's pledge in the State Disability Plan of "nothing about us without us" leading their decision-making. It was also in contravention of the Disability Royal Commission Recommendation 11.3.

Disability Advocacy Victoria clearly sets out in its 2024 Strategic Plan that the leadership of disability policy and regulation of disability services must be by people with disabilities. This is a basic principle in disability advocacy. A number of members of Disability Advocacy Victoria are disability led advocacy agencies, and we were pleased to work with them and the rest of the disability advocacy sector in lobbying the State Government to change its decisions. The plan for the Disability Services Commission to be the first cab off the rank to close and be absorbed into the Social Services Regulator at the last minute did not go ahead after sustained lobbying from the sector and a number of allies/Members of Parliament.

The expectation that people with disability must be involved at the very start of the process of decision-making must become the norm for our government.

We were very excited to see mid-2024, the establishment of DPO Victoria, a collective of Victorian disability led organisations. It is vital that people with disabilities have a voice at all tables, and the government have a point of contact to start genuinely collaborating with the Victorian disability community. We look forward to working with them.

While technically always being outside of the last financial year, it's important to mention the DARU/DAV/VCOSS Strengthening Advocacy Conference which again provided a focal point for people with disabilities and the advocacy sector to come together and discuss important issues affecting us.

We look forward to continuing our support of the disability advocacy sector through DARU.

It is more important than ever that our sector stands strongly united in such testing times. There is a lot of work to do in the next year to reverse some of the thinking and actions of government that have impacted strongly and negatively on our community.

We look forward to standing beside you and doing this work.

Julie Phillips

Chair

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's report for Disability Advocacy Victoria for the financial year ending June 2024. Our financial statements have been audited once again by Barco and Associates to ensure transparency and accuracy in our financial reporting.

Financial Performance

This year, I am pleased to report on another year of strong financial performance for our organization. We have achieved a healthy surplus of \$8,648, a slight decline from the surplus of \$10,179 in the previous year. This positive financial outcome has resulted in a relatively strong balance sheet for a small organisation with no direct employees, with net equity of \$104,147.

Cash at Bank

Our accumulated surpluses are entirely in the form of cash at bank, providing us with the means to meet our financial obligations promptly and enabling us to rapidly and simply deploy resources to support a part-time limited term project coordinator position as a key new strategic initiative in the new financial year.

Future directions

In conclusion, the financial health of Disability Advocacy Victoria remains robust as at the end of June 2024, giving DAV the capacity to invest in developing our role as the peak body for a sector under significant pressure, and enabling us to waive membership fees from the disability advocacy organisation members currently running deficits and retrenching staff. As we undertake investment and build our role, our financial base is likely to come under pressure, however, so we will need to carefully manage resources in the coming year.

I would like to express my gratitude to our members and committee members for their strong support and solidarity, which has contributed to our continued success.

Thank you for your attention, and I am open to any questions or discussions regarding the financial status of our organisation.

Sandy Ross
DAV Treasurer



**Disability
Advocacy
Victoria Inc.**

2023-2024

Audit Report

Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc

**DISABILITY ADVOCACY
VICTORIA INC**

ABN 15 557 421 367

Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2024

BARCO & ASSOCIATES
45 JOHNSON STREET
RESERVOIR VIC 3073

Phone: 94603076 Fax: 94605605
Email: admin@barcoassociates.com

DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC
ABN 15 557 421 367

Contents

Committee's Report	3
Income and Expenditure Statement	4
Detailed Balance Sheet	5
Statement by Members of the Committee	6
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members	7
Certificate by Member of the Committee	10

DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC
ABN 15 557 421 367
Committee's Report
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

Committee Members

The names of committee members at the date of this report are:

Deidre Griffiths

Melanie Muir

Julie Phillips

Sandy Ross

Ally Scott

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: PEAK BODY FOR INDEPENDENT DISABILITY ADVOCACY ORGANISATIONS.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The profit from ordinary activities after providing for income tax amounted to

Year ended 30 June 2024	Year ended 30 June 2023
\$	\$
8,648	10,129

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on 26 September 2024:



DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC

ABN 15 557 421 367

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income		
DARU Grant	5,000	5,000
Memberships		616
P'ship costs reimbursed	7,600	7,600
Interest received	1,073	95
Total income	<u>13,673</u>	<u>13,311</u>
Expenses		
Administration fees	3,326	1,800
Audit fees	455	455
Consultants fees	474	
Printing & stationery		149
Subscriptions	86	95
Website development	684	684
Total expenses	<u>5,024</u>	<u>3,183</u>
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax	8,648	10,129
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net profit attributable to the association	8,648	10,129
Total changes in equity of the association	8,648	10,129
Opening retained profits	95,499	85,371
Net profit attributable to the association	8,648	10,129
Closing retained profits	104,147	95,499

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC

ABN 15 557 421 367

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current Assets			
Cash Assets			
Cash At Bank - Bank Australia #4542		104,755	96,300
Cash on hand		150	150
		<u>104,905</u>	<u>96,450</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>104,905</u>	<u>96,450</u>
Total Assets		<u>104,905</u>	<u>96,450</u>
Current Liabilities			
Current Tax Liabilities			
GST payable control account		1,260	1,260
Input tax credit control account		(502)	(309)
GST clearing		<u>758</u>	<u>951</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>758</u>	<u>951</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>758</u>	<u>951</u>
Net Assets		<u>104,147</u>	<u>95,499</u>
Members' Funds			
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		<u>104,147</u>	<u>95,499</u>
Total Members' Funds		<u>104,147</u>	<u>95,499</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC

ABN 15 557 421 367

Statement by Members of the Committee

For the year ended 30 June 2024

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to the Financial Statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The Committee is responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the accounting records and the disclosure of all material and relevant information.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by Julie Phillips, Chairperson:



DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC**ABN 15 557 421 367****Independent Auditor's Report to the Members**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC (the association), which comprises the Statement by Members of the Committee, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024, a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the association as at 30 June 2024 and [of] its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC**ABN 15 557 421 367****Independent Auditor's Report to the Members**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our 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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We 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 our 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 circumstances, 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 made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC

ABN 15 557 421 367

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members

Signed on :

MRS LETIZIA BARCO, FCPA

BARCO & ASSOCIATES

45 JOHNSON STREET RESERVOIR VIC 3073

DISABILITY ADVOCACY VICTORIA INC

ABN 15 557 421 367

Certificate by Member of the Committee

For the year ended 30 June 2024

I, Julie Phillips of 267 Westgarth St, Northcote certify that:

- a. I attended the annual general meeting of the association held on .
- b. The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 were submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Dated