



2014 The Year That Was.....

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2014 has been another successful year for IDASA as it continues its important advocacy, community support and engagement work in SA on behalf of people with Intellectual Disability.

The South Australian State Election in March was important particularly with the focus on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

IDASA met prior to the election with both Premier Jay Weatherill and Opposition Leader Steven Marshall for policy discussions and briefings. IDASA also hosted a pre-election Public and Community Meeting at the Adelaide Town Hall, where Marshall, Weatherill and Kelly Vincent D4D spoke for two hours on the future in SA for people with disability. Over 300 people attended this meeting.

The Disability Speaks CRM and blog continued to be effective in distributing information to thousands of recipients and countless radio, television and press requests were handled by IDASA for information on current sector topics with NDIS being the most common topic. The well documented lack of voice for people with Intellectual Disability and their families and carers in sector policy development remains a concern to IDASA and will be a focus for us in 2015. With 62% of future NDIS service recipients being identified as having an Intellectual Disability this situation needs to be addressed.

AFL4ME and CLIPSAL4ME were both very successful with over 200 people with disability attending the AFL Football or Clipsal Car Race at the invitation of IDASA. New sponsors have been signed for 2015 and with support of the Adelaide Oval Stadium Management Authority we expect numbers to grow very strongly for attendees in 2015 to over 600 for these two events

Countless emails and attendance and input to sector meetings where both challenging and frustrating

IDASA continues to be represented on many SA disability committees including the SA Government Taskforce on NDIS and the newly formed Access 2 Place, Disability Housing Organisation. Working closely with the government on many issues and presenting at the SA Disability Ministers "Roundtable" on Access and Inclusion in Sports Arts and Recreation

was also well received and has enabled the development of more effective outcomes from our efforts and ever increasing profile for IDASA from the important work we do in SA.

We thank SA Disability Minister Tony Piccolo for his support.

Concerns about NDIS becoming a political "blackhole" saw IDASA running half page ads in the SA Advertiser on December 3rd, The International Day of People with Disability highlighting the issues around NDIS funding and particularly the 0.5% Medicare Levy. This anomaly was widely reported in the mainstream media and became a discussion point nationally. For the Federal Government to continue to accumulate levy funds at \$3.3 billion per annum when there is so much unmet current needs is a tragedy.

For an organization with no paid staff, run entirely by volunteers that receives no government funding IDASA is very proud of the role we have played in disability advocacy in SA in 2014 and thank our Board, supporters and sponsors for their vision, dreams and help in 2014.

David Holst

Chair - Disability Speaks Steering Committee & Chair, Intellectual Disability Association of S.A (IDASA)

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Disability Speaks is run by the Intellectual Disability Association of South Australia (IDASA) and will distribute on behalf of any organization that meets suitable criteria online information that is of wide disability community interest via our database that now numbers nearly 4,000 recipients for Government, advocacy groups and other major disability organizations. We aim in the lead up to elections, state or federal, we can distribute policy and support information from political groups. Such distribution is not in any way endorsement by Disability Speaks. **From time to time Disability Speaks will also distribute media releases commenting on developments in the disability sector.** We strongly encourage you to forward all releases to your friends, clients and disability supporters and encourage them to subscribe direct. To do so simply send an email with the subject "subscribe" to the address below, to unsubscribe please use "unsubscribe" in the subject line instead.