



Disability Advocacy Network Inc
P O Box 912, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

For Equality, Independence & Integration

March/April/June 2017



SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

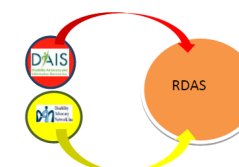
Tuesday - 27 June 2017 - 5:00pm at the Wollundry/Murrumbidgee rooms,
Senior Citizens Centre, Tarcutta Street, Wagga Wagga NSW.

Notice is given to all voting members of the Disability Advocacy Network Inc (DAN) of a Special General Meeting to be held at 5:00pm on Tuesday 27th June, at the Wollundry/Murrumbidgee rooms, Senior Citizens Centre, Tarcutta Street, Wagga Wagga NSW.

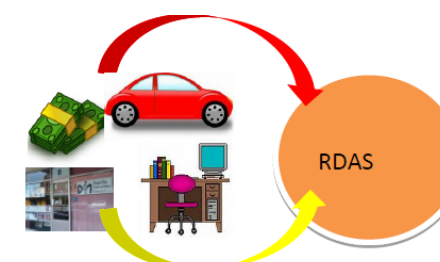
Notice of meeting together with proxy forms have been posted to all of DAN's current financial members.

What will we talk about?

At the Annual General Meeting last October it was agreed to go ahead with merging Disability Advocacy Network Inc (DAN) with Disability Advocacy and Information Service (DAIS), located in Wodonga, Victoria. A new organisation called Regional Disability Advocacy Service Ltd has been registered.



The next step is for members of each organisation to vote on the transfer of the assets of the Disability Advocacy Network Inc, including money in the bank, cars, desks, etc. to Regional Disability Advocacy Service Ltd.



If members of both organisations agree to the merger, we can start operating as Regional Disability Advocacy Service from 1 July 2017.

What will we vote on? (Notice of Special Resolution)

Members will vote on whether the Disability Advocacy Network Inc and Disability Advocacy and Information Service Inc (DAIS) merge into a new entity known as Regional Disability Advocacy Service Ltd.

This would mean that the Disability Advocacy Network Inc would be wound up and all assets, after paying all debts and liabilities, transferred to Regional Disability Advocacy Service Ltd, a company with a similar charitable purpose as DAN, and registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

Need more information?

If you would like further information about the merger you can contact Swie Madden, Manager at DAN (02 69 219225) or Martin Butcher, Executive Officer at DAIS on (02 6056 2420). You can request a copy of the new Constitution of the Regional Disability Advocacy Service Ltd by contacting either Swie or Martin.

What if you are unable to attend in person?

Proxies -

A member entitled to attend and vote at the Special General Meeting may appoint a person to attend at the meeting as the member's proxy. A proxy must be a current member of DAN.

This Newsletter is published quarterly by:
Disability Advocacy Network Inc
31 Fitzmaurice Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
P O Box 912
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Phone: 02 69 219 225
Facsimile: 02 69 217 140
E-mail: advocacy@dan.org.au
www.dan-inc.net.au

Editors: Ros Griffin/Swie Madden

Material in this newsletter may be reproduced providing the source is acknowledged.

The network reserves the right to alter or amend articles and while every care is exercised, it is not responsible for financial or other damages occurring from the publication of the article.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the publisher nor the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS), nor does the publisher guarantee the accuracy of the statements made by contributors.

All contributions and enquiries are welcome and should be addressed to the Editors at the above address.

Joan Page - President
Stan Warren - Vice-President
Sue Maxwell - Secretary
Chiu Phua - Treasurer
Thara Pech - Publicity Officer
Lyn Butler
Ros Griffin

Staff members

Swie Madden - Manager
Amie Favier - Advocate
Erica Batchelor - Advocate
Belinda Black - Advocate

Disability Advocacy Network Inc's
A B N is 21 281 328 946

**Donations of \$2 and over
are tax-deductable**



Editorial



Hello Everyone,

Right now a lot of change is happening at DAN and one of those changes is that this will be DAN's last Newsletter. However, when DAN and DAIS merge to become the one organisation to be known as the Regional Disability Advocacy Service (RDAS), a new newsletter will be developed. It will keep you just as informed as this one has for many years.

An enormous amount of work has been done by Swie and the Board (in particular the Steering Committee) to bring about this merger in early July. There is one more important step needed in this process and that is for members of DAN to attend the Special General meeting next Tuesday 27th June at 5pm at the Senior Citizens Centre, Tarcutta St where information will be given about the merger and members will be asked to vote on transferring the assets of DAN to the Regional Disability Advocacy Service Ltd.

Another important date to note is the 13th July at 10.30 am at DAN's office when the name of the newly merged organisation, Regional Disability Advocacy Service (RDAS), will be launched. Please also note in this newsletter information about the NDIS. Also the SAS pages are full of news and photos of everyone.

As I am leaving the Board at the end of June, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my very best wishes to you all and, in particular, the RDAS and all those who are involved in this exciting new venture.

Ros Griffin

INDEX

Special General Meeting	1
Editorial	2
President's Report	3
Invitation - the launch of RDAS	3
Starting my NDIS plan with a Local Area Coordinator (LAC)	4 - 5
NDIS Code of Conduct	6
Roll Out of the NDIS in the Murrumbidgee District	6
Resolving your concerns - NDIS	7
NDIS - Unsure who to complain to?	7
Manager's Report	8
SAS Group's Corner	9
Smile - You are on camera	10
SAS Group's up-coming activities	10
Some of the benefits of being part of DAN's SAS Group	10
NSW Fair Trading	11
NSW Council for Intellectual Disability	11
Civil Society Organisations call on Prime Minister to announce a Royal Commission into Disability Violence	12
Superannuation and Insurance & Centrelink	13
Community Notice Board	14
Recipe Corner	15
Winter Jokes	15

The Disability Advocacy Network Inc is funded by the Australian Government
Department of Social Services (DSS)



Recipe Corner

Smoked salmon & potato frittata

INGREDIENTS

- 6 small (about 850g) coliban (washed) potatoes
- Olive oil, to grease
- 2 X 100g packets Tasmanian smoked salmon
- 150g (1cup) frozen baby peas
- 2 tablespoons coarsely chopped fresh dill
- 8 eggs, lightly whisked



METHOD

Step 1 - Place the potatoes in a medium saucepan and cover with plenty of cold water. Bring to the boil over high heat. Cook for 15 minutes or until just tender. Refresh under cold running water. Drain well. Cut into 1cm-thick slices.

Step 2 - Reheat grill on high. Brush a 27cm-diameter (base measurement) non-stick frying pan with oil to lightly grease. Place over low heat. Arrange half the potato, in a single layer, over the base of the pan. Top with half the salmon, peas and dill. Pour in half the egg. Repeat with the remaining potato, salmon, peas, dill and egg. Cook for 7-8 minutes or until frittata is set around the edge but still runny in the centre.

Step 3 - Cook under preheated grill for a further 5 minutes or until golden brown and just set. Remove from grill. Cut into wedges and serve immediately.

NUTRITION FACTS:

(All nutrition values are per serve)

1100 kJ ENERGY; 13g FAT TOTAL; 3.5g SATURATED FAT; 7.5g FIBRE; 30g PROTEIN; 339mg CHOLESTEROL; 1141mg SODIUM; 5.1g CARBS (SUGAR); 36g CARBS (TOTAL).

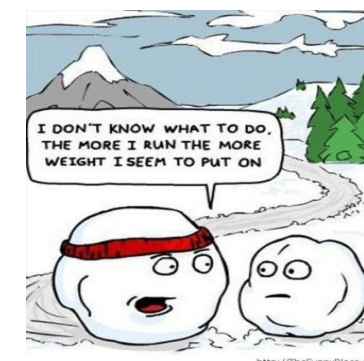
Author: Michelle Southan
<http://www.taste.com.au/recipes>

WINTER JOKES



1. Why did the gingerbread man go to the doctors?... He was feeling crummy.
2. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?... Frostbite
3. How do snowmen travel around?... By icicle!
4. How does one snowman greet another snowman?... Ice to meet you.
5. What is the favorite Mexican food of snowmen?... Answer: Brrrrr- itos.
6. What kind of money do snowmen use at the North Pole?... Cold cash!
7. Where does a snowman keep his money?... In a snow bank.
8. What do snowmen eat for breakfast?... Snowflakes!
9. What do snowmen like to do on the weekend?... Chill out.
10. What does Jack Frost like best about school?... Snow and tell.
11. What happened when the snowgirl had a fight with the snowboy?... She gave him the cold shoulder!
12. What's an ig?... An eskimo's home without a loo!
13. What do snowmen eat for lunch?... Icebergers!
14. Where do snowmen go to dance?... Snowballs!
15. How do you know when there is a snowman in your bed?... You wake up wet!
16. How do you call an Eskimo cow?... An Eskimoo!
17. How do you scare a snowman?... You get a hairdryer!
18. What do you call a snowman in the summer?... A puddle!
19. What did the snowman order at the fast food restaurant?... An ice burger with chilli sauce.
20. Why are there only snowmen and not snowwomen?... Because only snowmen are stupid enough to stand out in the snow without a coat.

Source: Mytowntutors.com





COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD



Cootamundra Parkinsons Support Group

When: Monthly - 19/7/2017, 16/8/2017 and 20/9/2017
Where: Cootamundra Library, 61-71 Wallendoon Street, Cootamundra NSW.
Time: 2pm - 3pm
For more information: Helen Eccleston 02 6942 2418

Scarred and Carved Aboriginal Discovery Exhibition

When: 6/6/2017 - 31/7/ 2017
Where: Tumut Region Visitor Centre, 5 Adelong Road, Tumut
Time: 9am - 5pm . Seven days a week.
For more information: 02 6947 7025

Memory Van Visit 2017 and presentations (Alzheimer's Australia NSW)

When: 27/7/2017
Presentations: 10am and 6pm (Temora Ex-Services Club, 130 Baker Street, Temora)
Public Forum: 12pm to 3pm (Paleface Park, Temora Young Rd, Temora)
For more information: Vanessa Wong 02 9802 0100. Vanessa.wong@alzheimers.org.au

Wagga Wagga Women's Shed Open Day

(Sausage sizzles, produce, crafts, ribbon cutting ceremony, registration to join, etc.)

When: 2/7/2017
Where: Apex tennis courts, Beckwith Street, Wagga Wagga
Time: 11am - 2pm
For more information: 0407074298

Story Time at the Library

(for 0 – 5 year olds, their parents/ carers and siblings)

When: Wednesdays at 10am and again at 11am (excluding school holidays). Fridays at 10am and again at 11am (excluding school holidays).

Where: Wagga Wagga City Library, Cnr Baylis & Morrow Streets, Wagga Wagga.
For more information: 02 6926 9700



ART to CROW ABOUT (Kurrajong)

Free Exhibition

WHEN: 30 June – 13 August, 2017
TIME: Tuesday – Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm, Sunday 10:00am – 2:00pm. Closed Mondays.

Opening Night

WHEN: Thursday, 29 June 2017
TIME: 6:00pm - 8:00pm
WHERE: Links Gallery, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Corner of Baylis & Morrow Streets Wagga Wagga.

For more information: Debbie Howard at Kurrajong 02 6971 0789.

Community Services EXPO

Over 30 Services/Information/Freebies
 (An initiative of the Griffith Interagency Community Services Network)

WHEN: Thursday, 29 June 2017
TIME: 10am to 2pm
WHERE: Griffith Central, Yambil Street.
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Barbara Penninga, 6962 4144

Please drop in to DAN's stall, Swie & Belinda will be there to welcome you.

Special General Meeting (Disability Advocacy Network Inc)

WHEN: 27/6/2017
TIME: 5:00pm
WHERE: Wollundry/Murrumbidgee meeting rooms, Senior Citizens Centre, Tarcutta Street, Wagga Wagga.
For more information: DAN on 69 219 225.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To all DAN's financial members,

It is with mixed feelings that I pen this report for DAN's Newsletter. This will be our last newsletter under the banner of DAN, we have proudly been sending a newsletter to members for the past 25 years. I would like to thank Ros and Swie for the very professional way in which the newsletter has been produced over all this time. The good news is that the newsletter will continue under the banner of RDAS – *Regional Disability Advocacy Service*.

On Tuesday 27TH June at 5:00pm. at the Senior Citizens Centre I look forward to meeting with you all, for a Special General Meeting to make a final decision whether to transfer the assets of DAN to RDAS. It is important for as many members as possible to attend this meeting, have your say, and ask any questions or raise any concerns that you may have. A vote will then take place.

The steering committee; comprising Sue Maxwell, myself and Swie Madden, have been meeting regularly with DAIS representatives to ensure that if the merger is approved it will proceed with minimal disruption to service provision. Professional and legal advice has been sought when necessary, to ensure that we are complying with all Government requirements. Please read on for further information about how the office administration will operate in the new organization.

You will be pleased to know that three current board members; Sue Maxwell, Thara Pech and myself will be representing you on the board of the newly merged organization.

Very sincere thanks and appreciation to Stan Warren, Lyn Butler, Ros Griffin, and Chui Phua who have all given 100% as board members and will be standing down from this role as of 30th June. Their dedication and commitment to DAN has been very much appreciated.

As we move into the new financial year and the rollout of NDIS we also look forward to launching our new organization *Regional Disability Advocacy Service* at a morning tea on Thursday 13th July at 10.30am at our Fitzmaurice St office.

Joan Page

INVITATION

The Disability Advocacy Network Inc (DAN) and Disability Advocacy & Information Service are proud to announce the launch of their new name:

Regional Disability Advocacy Service (RDAS)



Please join us to celebrate our success in merging the two organisations.

**Thursday, July 13, 2017
10:30am**

**DAN's office
31 Fitzmaurice Street,
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650**

RSVP by July 10 to Swie,
Disability Advocacy Network Inc
By phone: 02 69 219 225
By email: Manager@dan.org.au

Starting my NDIS plan with a Local Area Coordinator (LAC)

When your NDIS plan is approved, you will work with a LAC to put it in to action. This is called plan implementation and helps you connect with and maintain the supports in your NDIS plan as well as helping you to achieve your goals.

What happens?



1 You will be notified in writing that your plan has been approved.



2 You will be contacted by a LAC to talk about what help you need to implement your plan.



3 You will have a plan handover meeting. This may be in person or over the phone depending on your preference and the level of support you need to implement your plan.



4 The LAC will help you understand your plan and help you choose and connect with service providers.



5 The LAC will help you explore and link with community and mainstream options as required.



6 The LAC will talk with you and your family about any other options to be considered as the year progresses and can help with developing goals for your next plan.



7 The LAC is your NDIS contact person to discuss any questions about your plan.

Superannuation and Insurance & Centrelink

Many people who are not working due to injury, illness or disability and are on Disability Support Pensions or New Start will be covered for disability benefits under any employment superannuation policies they have-or had in the past.

The benefits, which are usually insurance benefits, can be lump sums or monthly payments.

The types of superannuation/insurance benefits are:

Total and Permanent Disablement ("TPD") Benefits:

These benefits are usually lump sums paid to people who permanently stop work due to any injuries or illnesses.

They are typically paid to people who are unlikely to ever be capable of working in their usual job or other suitable work they have the skills or experience to do.

The test for TPD is different to the test for a DSP but many people who are on DSPs and some people on New Start will be eligible.

Income Protection Benefits:

These benefits are usually monthly payments paid to people who are unable to do their usual job for now because of any injuries or illnesses.

The benefits are usually paid after waiting period of 1-3 months and for up to 2 years-or maybe to age 67.

People on DSPs and many on New Start would be eligible.

Death or Terminal Illness Benefits:

Death Benefits are usually lump sums paid to superannuation fund members' dependents or their estate if they die whilst still a member of a fund.

Terminal Illness benefits are usually the pre-payment of the death benefits if super fund members' doctors say that they have less than 12 (or 24) months to live. People on DSPs and New Start with terminal illnesses may be eligible.

Centrelink Treatment of Superannuation/Insurance

Lump sum benefits paid out to a super fund member will count towards the Centrelink assets test. However, if the money is kept in a superannuation rollover fund it won't count towards the assets test.

Monthly payments will count towards the Centrelink income test.

Claiming Benefits

If someone on a DSP or New Start had superannuation when they last worked, they may have an insurance claim even if that was years ago or their super accounts have closed. However, there are time limits to claim and to lodge court or Ombudsman complaints so it's important to get advice and lodge a claim as soon as possible.

They might also have more than one lump sum claim if they had multiple accounts. Unlike Workers Compensation benefits or motor accident claims benefits, a super fund member can claim for any injuries or sicknesses and often even if they had health problems before they joined the super fund or insurance policy.

So, if a person on a DSP or New Start has a bad back, a mental illness, a brain injury, addiction problems, cancer, stroke etc, they may have 1 or more superannuation/insurance claims.

Some people on Centrelink will also have been covered for lump sums or monthly payments under private insurance policies or group insurance policies arranged through their previous employers, unions or sporting associations. If so, they may have further claims.

Get Advice

It's really important for someone on a DSP or New Start to get advice about their superannuation and insurance rights and benefits and how they might affect their Centrelink benefits.

You can contact Berrill & Watson Lawyers for FREE advice anytime on (03) 94488048.

Source: Tom Cobban - Berrill & Watson Superannuation & Insurance Lawyers

Civil Society Organisations call on Prime Minister to announce a Royal Commission into Disability Violence

Disabled People's Organisations Australia (DPO Australia) along with 163 civil society organisations, and 383 individuals wrote to Prime Minister Turnbull yesterday calling for a Royal Commission into violence and abuse against people with disability, as was recommended by the Senate Inquiry two years ago.

A diverse group of organisations from across Australia signed the statement, including peak bodies, disability and human rights groups, and advocacy and violence prevention organisations. Collectively, the signatories have substantial and direct knowledge of the violence and abuse experienced by people with disability in Australia. The issue is systemic. The evidence is extensive and compelling. The violence can no longer be ignored.

A copy of the civil society statement is available from: <http://dpoa.org.au/>

A copy of the submission is available from:

http://pwd.org.au/documents/Submissions/ACDA_Sub_Sen_Inquiry_Violence_Institutions.pdf

Key facts:

- people with disability experience far **higher rates of violence** than the rest of the community;
- 90% of women with intellectual disability have been **sexually assaulted** in their lives, and 60% before the age of 18;
- children with disability are three times **more likely to experience abuse** than other children
- in many cases, people with disability experience **violence in places where they are meant to be receiving support**;
- people with disability **can't always rely on the police** for protection against violence;
- people with disability are often treated as '**unreliable witnesses**', or are not even permitted by law to provide testimony at all.

Extracted from Media Release of Disabled People's Organisations Australia

NO more SILENCE about Domestic and Family Violence



**There is NO EXCUSE
for Domestic and
Family Abuse**

**24-hour Help Line
1800 656 463**

**IT'S OK TO
TALK ABOUT
ABUSE AND
NEGLECT**

for free help and advice contact 1800 880 052
www.disabilityhotline.net.au

national disability
abuse and neglect
HOTLINE
1800 880 052

Getting ready to meet your LAC

Getting ready to meet with your LAC is important. Some things to think about before your meeting are:



Your current supports. Do you have established relationships with providers that you would like to continue? Would you like to connect with new service providers?



Service providers in your area. Are there any providers that you already know about? You might like to ask family or friends about their experiences with providers. Using the internet to explore service providers that are available in your area is also a good option.



The activities you are currently doing in your community. Would you like help to find social or community based groups or activities to participate in?



Would you like help to investigate education, training or employment options?



Have you thought about developing your self-advocacy skills? Your LAC can help you link with training or peer support groups in your area.

Getting started

Your LAC will work with you to explain:

- your NDIS plan
- how to identify options for community, mainstream and funded NDIS supports
- how you could meet with, choose and establish service agreements with providers
- how to register for myGov website and link to NDIS Participant Portal myplace
- how to navigate and check your details on myplace
- If you are self-managing any element of your plan:
 - how to make Service Bookings
 - monitor funding
 - submit Payment Requests and
 - provide feedback.

More information

www.ndis.gov.au

1800 800 110
8am to 11pm (local time)
Monday to Friday

For people with hearing or speech loss

TTY: 1800 355 677

Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727

For people who need help with English

TIS: 131 450

Follow us on Twitter @NDIS

Find us on Facebook
Facebook/NDISAus

*1800 calls from fixed lines are free.
Calls from mobiles may be charged.

ndis.gov.au



NDIS Code of Conduct

A new National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguarding Framework (the Framework) has been developed to ensure that all NDIS participants can access high quality and safe supports. The Framework was developed in consultation across governments and with people with disability, carers and providers and is available on the [Department of Social Services website](#).

One aspect of the new NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework is a new NDIS Code of Conduct.

A code of conduct is important to:

- empower people with disability in relation to their rights;
- outline expectations for providers and individual workers,
- shape the behaviour and culture of organisations; and
- provide a mechanism to enforce consequences if workers and providers do not meet expectations.

The final Code of Conduct will be enforceable by law and will include sanctions for breaches of the Code. The Code will come into effect once the NDIS is at full-scheme.

We welcome your ideas and feedback on the content of the Code of Conduct. We invite you to read the [Discussion Paper](#), which is also available in an Easy English version. You are encouraged to complete the quick [survey](#) on DSS website <https://engage.dss.gov.au/ndis-code-of-conduct-consultation/ndis-code-of-conduct-consultation-survey/> or upload a [submission](#) if you have more detailed feedback to contribute to the discussion. Your input, along with others who contribute to the consultation, will be considered as we finalise the Code of Conduct.

The closing date for completing surveys and uploading submissions is **5pm (AEST), 21 June 2017**.

Source: [engage.dss.gov.au](#)

Roll Out of the NDIS in Murrumbidgee District

The NDIS has been introduced in stages since it started because Australia is a big country and NDIS is a big change and it is important for the government to ensure that the NDIS is well supported and put into action properly. Disability service users who have already been on the system and new participants will enter the NDIS scheme progressively. The NDIS will become available in the Murrumbidgee district from **1 July 2017**. You may have to wait up to 6 months prior to the NDIS rolling out in your areas to meet the NDIS access requirements. The NDIS' Murrumbidgee district covers the local government areas of:

- Albury
- Berrigan
- Bland
- Boorowa
- Carrathool
- Conargo
- Coolamon
- Cootamundra
- Corowa Shire
- Deniliquin
- Greater Hume Shire
- Griffith
- Gundagai
- Harden
- Hay
- Jerilderie
- Junee
- Leeton
- Lockhart
- Murray
- Murrumbidgee
- Narrandera
- Temora
- Tumbarumba
- Tumut Shire
- Urana
- Wagga Wagga
- Wakool
- Young

If you live in one of the above district areas, are you going to apply to be an NDIS participant and not sure what to do? Please contact NDIS on 1800 800 110, speak to one of the Advocates at DAN or Dave from DAIS' office on 6046 2420, they should be able to provide you with the answer you wanted and/or direct you to the right people.

NSW Fair Trading

Be scam aware - We'll help fill in the pieces

Tips to avoid scams:

- Place a Do Not Knock sticker on your front door.
- Register your phone numbers on the Do Not Call register: call 1300 792 958 or [www.donotcall.gov.au](#)
- Do not click on links in emails or SMS from anyone you don't know.
- Do not use public computers to do shopping or banking online.
- Do not sign anything you don't understand.
- Do not give money or personal information to anyone you don't know.

Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Tip: for current scams visit [www.scamwatch.gov.au](#) or call 1300 795 995.

For more information or to request a free speaker for your community group, visit [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](#) or call **13 32 20**.

Renting a home - We'll help fill in the pieces

Carefully read your rental papers. Make sure you understand everything before you sign any of the forms.

Protect your bond. Fair Trading will let you know it has been lodged.

Tip: call us if you don't get a letter or an email from Fair Trading about your bond.

Complete your condition report. Do this within 7 days of moving into your home - keep a copy and give the original form to the real estate agent or landlord.

Tip: record on video or take photos inside and outside the property with a date stamp to record the condition of the property.

Fair Trading has a free tenancy complaint service - call us on 13 32 20 if you have a problem.

For more information or to request a free speaker for your community group, visit [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](#) or call **13 32 20**.

Your shopping rights - We'll help fill in the pieces

It's OK to speak up if something you pay for isn't right!

You have rights when you buy things in Australia. Things should:

- be safe and of acceptable quality
- be exactly like what you were shown
- do what they are supposed to do.

If they are not right, you can ask for a:

- repair - get it fixed
- replace - get a new one
- refund - get your money back.

Tip: If you shop online, pay by PayPal or with a credit card for extra protection.

For more information or to request a free speaker for your community group, visit [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](#) or call **13 32 20**.

Did you know? The decision about a repair, replacement or refund depends if it's a big problem or a small problem.

NSW Council for Intellectual Disability



CID Connect
[www.cidconnect.nswcid.org.au](#)



online forum



Ask CID
Ph 1800 424 065



Email us
[info@nswcid.org.au](#)



Council for Intellectual Disability




A world of information just for you

Information for

- people with intellectual disability
- family and friends
- support staff

Ask questions, have a chat or share your ideas on

- NDIS
- your rights
- services and supports
- anything!



Connect with others

Smile! - You are on camera 😊



Photos above:
DAN's SAS group members enjoying their social night out at the Sportsman Club (Photo 5) and helping out at the Super Hero Expo (Photo 6). Satisfied Pinecom Valmar participants at DAN's Standard 4 Complaint & Feedback workshop (Photo 7). Enthusiastic participants from the Leisure Company at DAN & Advocacy workshop (Photo 8).

SAS Group's Coming-up workshops

Movie Night - PG rated

When: Friday, 30/6/2017
Time: 4:30pm start **Where:** DAN's office
Cost: \$5 - pizza/soft drink

"Why Self Advocacy Matters"

Include "Have A Say" DVD from other Self Advocacy Support Groups

When: Monday, 10/7/2017

Where: DAN's office.

Time: 4:30pm - 6:30pm

For more information, ring DAN's office.

Some of the benefits of being part of DAN's Self Advocacy Support group:

1. You won't be alone

- Members will be introduced to the other members who are going through similar experiences.
- Members will create a special bond with other members by sharing feelings, achievements, etc.

2. Learn new skills

- Members will hold discussions on certain topics and DAN will help bring in guest speakers.
- Each member will have a go at chairing a meeting.
- Members will be encouraged to be part of the celebration of the International Day of People with disabilities by being on the steering committee of DAN's annual Dance Party.

3. Keep members Up-to-Date on disability issues

Members will share information on the most up-to-date information on service programmes, events, etc.

4. Expand your social circle

Opportunity for members to get together and make friends over coffee, lunch, dinner or leisure activities.

Resolving your concerns

ndis

Our goal is to understand and resolve concerns as quickly as possible, long before they become complaints.

Concern:	What can you do:	What the NDIS will do:
I'm concerned about an NDIS decision	Request an internal review of the decision	Review the decision
I'm concerned about my experience with the NDIS	Make a complaint	Investigate your complaint
I'm concerned about my disability service provider	Talk to your disability service provider	Talk to you about your options

Contact us

- Call 1800 800 110
- Email enquiries@ndis.gov.au
- National Disability Insurance Agency
- Visit www.ndis.gov.au
- Email feedback@ndis.gov.au
- GPO Box 700
- Canberra ACT 2601

NDIS Unsure who to complain to?

there is no wrong door

If you call any of
our offices we will
help you get to
the right place

I'm not happy with
the provider of my
disability supports

NSW
Ombudsman

1800 451 524
nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au
ombo.nsw.gov.au

I'm not happy with
the NDIA's actions

Commonwealth
Ombudsman

1300 362 072
ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
ombudsman.gov.au

I'm not happy
with a product or
service I bought

NSW
Fair Trading

13 32 20
fairtrading.nsw.gov.au



Fair
Trading



MANAGER'S REPORT

I am writing this report with mixed feelings; sad and happy. Sad because after all this time (just shy of 25 years), the DAN that I know will be replaced by RDAS as a result of our merging with DAIS. I am happy, however, and in fact excited with the merger, because the new DAN will be stronger and in a better position to meet our consumers' needs.

The new DAN will retain the same office in Fitzmaurice Street and the same friendly faces will be behind the counter as well as the very supportive advocates to assist service users. Head office, however, will be in Wodonga and management and administration will be carried on from there.

The structure of RDAS will be introduced officially as from the 1st of July when the merger proceeds, and I will be undertaking a new role, details of which will become clearer after the Special General Meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the advocates for their co-operation and understanding having the extra workload and pressure that they endured from the changes and adjustments. I would also like to thank DAN's Board members, especially the outgoing members, for their hard work, dedication and support.

I have been extra busy lately engaged in the merger procedures as well as processing the end of financial year work to ensure that the transition goes according to plan and smoothly. It is expected that as is usually the case, there will be some hiccups and or changes required and modifications when two or more organisations

merge. However, I dare say that those clouds will go away and we will work as a team with the same vision and directions.

With the guidance from a professional consultant Miriam O'Brien and Martin Butcher of DAIS, the Merging Steering committee has been working very hard to make this merger a success with a minimum of fuss and many changes for the better. Advocates from both DAN and DAIS have come together to meet and greet as well as undertake joint training sessions.

It is less than two weeks until the NDIS is rolled out in our region and already there have been a few NDIS issues and enquiries presented to DAN. The majority of DAN's Self Advocacy Support group members seem to have undertaken their NDIS planning meetings at their work places or other venues.

Congratulations must be extended to DAN's Self Advocacy Support Group for its members' diligence and enthusiasm in attending the monthly meetings. DAN will support another Self Advocacy Support group which will be for people with a physical disability. There have been half a dozen people who have expressed interest in joining the group already.

Until next time,
Swie



SAS Group's Corner



Report from April meeting:

- The group welcomed new member, David Oakman.
- Jackie Ward of SARU came to the meeting as a guest speaker. She talked about her project (Photo 1)
- The group were very excited about the project, especially the national conference that SARU is trying to get up and running.
- Jackie also spoke about how important self advocacy support is for people who have a disability. Her company is going to support DAN with some resources. Jackie will try to do a video for DAN's Self Advocacy Support group.
- The group watched "Backyard Ashes" movie on their Social night (Photo 2).
- Some of members helped Swie at the Autism Support Group's My Super Hero expo.



Report from May meeting:

- The group had a quick Friendship Circle session chaired by Kane Myers
- Adam and Ben from Job Centre Australia Ltd (JCAL) were invited to the group to talk about their NDIS support program (Photo 3).
- The group asked a lot of questions and some members are going to see them again in their office.



Report from June meeting:

- Michael announced the passing of Rodney Clark on the 7th of June. We had minute's silence.
- The group had a Friendship Circle session chaired by Len Robinson
- The group watched "**Smart Shopper**" education short films. It is all about "Knowing Your Rights" as a shopper (Photo 4).

