

THE ADVOCATE

Quarterly Newsletter of Regional Disability Advocacy Service (RDAS)



LOLLY WINNERS

Congratulations to Eliza and Georgia Greenhalgh and Claudia Buchanan, who won the grand prize lolly jar at the Superhero Walk in Wagga on 2nd of April

Welcome to our new look newsletter

There has been a lot going on at RDAS in recent months, including some staff changes and a fresh and updated look for The Advocate!



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SAILS
Self Advocacy
Inclusive Learning
Sessions

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Earlier this year we re-branded our

Members2Leaders program as SAILS (Self Advocacy Inclusive Learning Sessions).

SAILS takes place monthly in seven locations throughout North-East Victoria and Southern NSW, and provides opportunities for people with disability to gather in a safe space, create friendships,

learn new skills and better understand their rights and how to advocate for themselves.

SAILS is free to attend but registrations are essential. Transport can be coordinated if required and lunch or dinner is provided depending on the session time. Support workers and carers are also welcome.

SAILS goes off with a bang



[It's] the highlight of my month... The feeling of belonging and having a safe space that allows me to gain self-confidence is important to me.

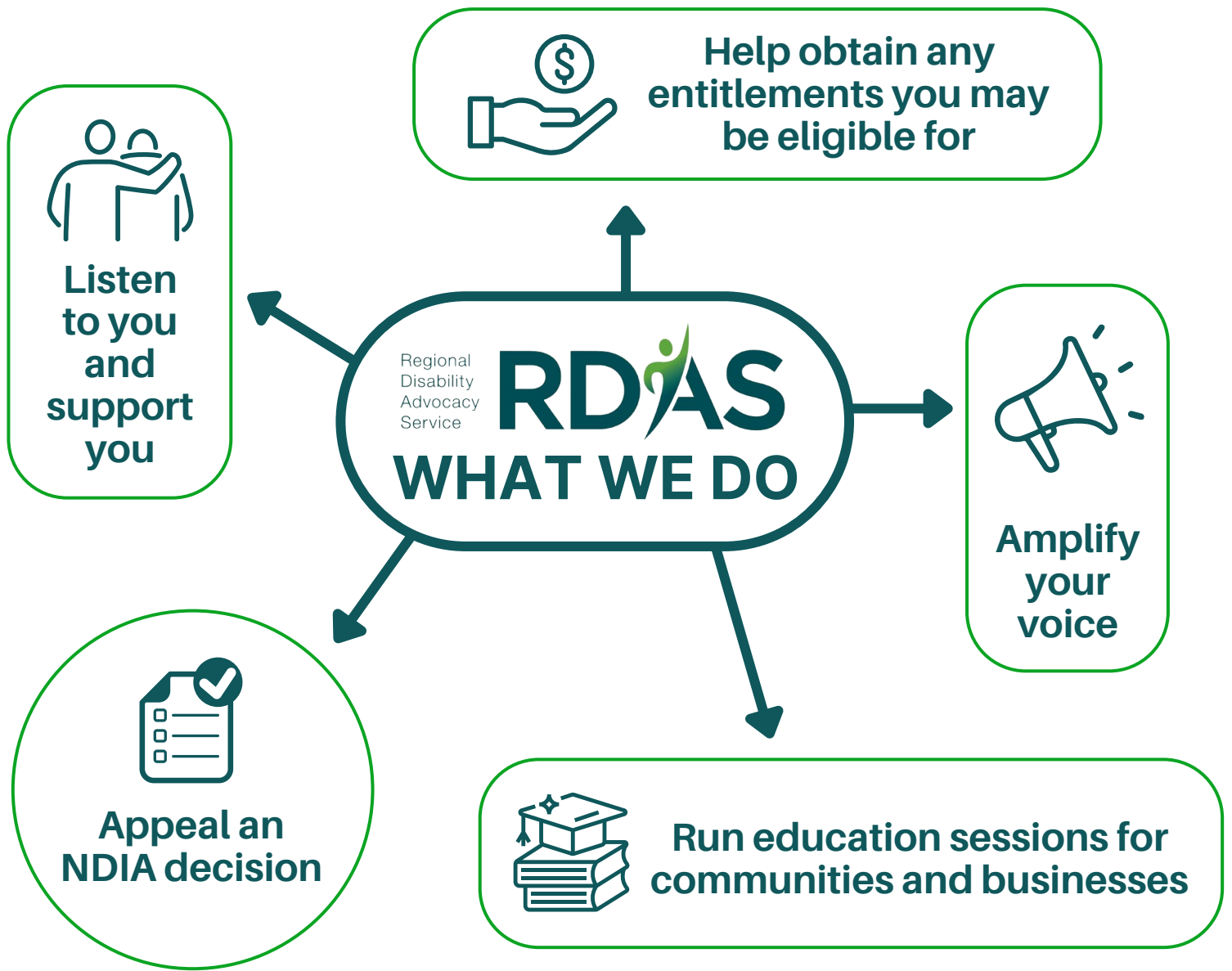
~Shakara R.

Our sessions take place in:

- Albury-Wodonga
- Leeton-Griffith
- Benalla-Wangaratta
- Yarrawonga-Mulwala
- Cootamundra
- Temora
- Wagga Wagga

To learn more or register, call us on 1800 250 292 or email admin@rdas.org.au





Ben (second from right) meeting with the executive team from Mercy Connect in Thurgoona

From the Executive Officer's desk

I'm extremely proud to lead a purpose driven organisation with employees 100% committed to supporting people with disability. Our Advocates are true superheroes for many of our clients.

Sadly, there are people in our region living with disability who are not aware of RDAS and how we may be able to support them. We have been reviewing ways we can support more clients while embarking upon some more promotional activities to increase awareness of our services. If you know of any events, conferences, community groups or activities we should become involved in, please do reach out! We like any opportunity to let people know who we are and what we do.

Recently I've met with numerous industry stakeholders and agency representatives throughout the region. It's great knowing that together, we create an extensive network of organisations that ensure local residents with disability are well supported, heard and can have their voice amplified.

~Ben Foley

Meeting with General Manager Päivi Watson from Quercus in Beechworth





Out and about with RDAS

Clockwise from top: Executive Officer Ben Foley recently met with fellow members of Victorian Rural Advocacy Network (VicRAN) in Bendigo; Amie, Ben and David getting their Gucci on for a photo op at the Riverina (Dis)Ability Expo in Wagga; our Wagga Advocates Amie, Sarah and Caitlin, dressed and ready to save the day at Wagga Autism Group's annual Superhero Walk; RDAS' information table at the (Dis)Ability Expo.



RDAS is committed to being actively involved in the region, promoting our services and doing our part to ensure people with disabilities have a voice and equal opportunities to participate in their communities.

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