

CHRISTMAS EDITION

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



By Jo Barron

I have recently taken up the mantle of President, after volunteering as a Board member since 2019. Since I have joined the organisation, I have been consistently impressed with the dedication and commitment of our staff and volunteer advocates.

My sincerest thanks to Thomas To, who was President during a very disruptive time for all of us.

As President, I look forward to working together with our staff and volunteers to improve our community engagement and work to ensure that more people in need have access to our wonderful services.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to work closely with such a dedicated group of people.

I hope you all have a wonderful and safe festive season and new year!

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FROM THE OFFICE

We can hardly believe we are at the end of the year already – it has gone so quickly!

The last 6 months have been a whirlwind of orientations, community engagement and planning for the future. We hope you have found any contact you have had with us helpful. We continue to be in awe of the dedication of our volunteer advocates and the capability of our amazing protégés when often faced with hard challenges.

Thank you so much to everyone involved with the program for your contribution in the last 6 months and we hope you have an enjoyable and restful festive season.

See you all in 2023!



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

We have worked hard, particularly in the last 6 months, to create strategic plans which will guide the way we engage and connect with individuals, services and others who may wish to become involved with our program.

After updating our Facebook page, we have improved our profile on social media with an increase of over 100% in the number of people we are reaching.

We have a challenge for you on the final page of this newsletter and hope you will join in supporting us!

2370

Contacts with people involved in our advocacy program offering support and resources

+

104

Training sessions to potential volunteer advocates

112

Enquiries received from people interested in becoming a volunteer

+

64

Enquiries about advocacy support

14

Clients matched with a new advocate

WHATS NEXT FOR 2023

Early next year sees the roll out of our new community engagement and marketing plans. Our aim is to put Citizen Advocacy firmly on the map, becoming more widely recognised in the local community.

Here is a snippet of our plan:



2023 PLANNED EVENTS

There will be several information and social events next year for our protégés and advocates. In the first half of the year, we have planned:

FEBRUARY

Everyone is invited to join us for a morning of ten pin bowling at Super Bowl Warwick.

MARCH

Information session for advocates. The presenter will be an NDIS Local Area Coordinator from Mission Australia.

MAY

Come along and to our annual afternoon tea and enjoy meeting others who are part of the CA program.

We will contact you with exact dates and times closer to each event.

MATCH UPDATE - MEG & RITA

Rita and her advocate Meg recently worked together to arrange for some of her NDIS funding to be allocated towards her recent participation in the Special Olympics in Tasmania. In doing so, they were able to greatly reduce Rita's out of pocket expenses so she could focus more on having fun at the event. What a great outcome!



Special Olympics
**Australia
National Games**
Launceston 2022



CO-ADVOCATES EXPLAINED

A co-advocate is an advocate that shares the role for their protégé with another advocate. This could be because:



The protégé has several complex issues in their life they need assistance with from the start of their match



An issue occurs for the protégé over time that they require additional skills and support with



An advocate needs additional support with their role due to a change in personal circumstances

A co-advocate goes through the same orientation process as any other advocate and has access to the same support and resources.

The main benefit of having a co-advocate is that you have someone to share the load with.

You can discuss different ideas for your protégé and work together for the best outcome.

If becoming a co-advocate or having a co-advocate is something you are interested in, please contact the office on 9445 9991 for a chat.

PAT & LUCY'S STORY

One of Pat's special memories is the time she and Lucy spent on a mini break in Margaret River. They stayed in a chalet with an open fire in the lounge and outdoor gazebo over looking a lovely lake, surrounded by wildlife. Lucy's favourite thing to do was spend time with Pat's family, having a sleepover on the weekend.

Pat and Lucy were matched for over 33 years! Some time back, Lucy was matched with a co-advocate so that Pat could retire from her formal advocate role but still be involved.

Pat and Lucy will always remain friends. The staff at Citizen Advocacy want to say a huge thank you to Pat.

You are an inspiration Pat, for your dedication and support for Lucy all these years. Thank you so much.




VIOLET AND GEORGIA'S STORY

Violet and Georgia were matched back in 2016. Violet came into Georgia's life to become her long-term advocate as her current advocate needed to step back.

When Violet and Georgia are not able to see each other, they will talk on the phone almost every day and send each other big hugs down the phone line!

Over the last 7 years, Violet and Georgia became extremely close and they will continue to be good friends.

Violet, Citizen Advocacy appreciates your commitment as an advocate and friend over the years. Thank you for the positive impact you have made on Georgia's life!

Thank you... 

WILL YOU ACCEPT OUR CHALLENGE?

The number of people engaging with our Facebook page is growing but we need your help to spread the word about Citizen Advocacy.

Please share our Facebook page and ask family and friends to like and follow us.

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CITIZENADVOCACYPERTH](https://www.facebook.com/citizenadvocacyperth)



Q: What do you call Santa when he stops moving?

A: Santa Pause!

Q: When Santa is on the beach what do the elves call him?

A: Sandy Clause!

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST FOR 2023!

CLOSING TIMES

Our office is closed from 12.00pm on Wednesday 21 December 2022
and reopening on Wednesday 4 January 2023