



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The office and Board of Citizen Advocacy have had an incredibly busy six months implementing our strategic plan. In fact, you may have noticed an increased presence in the media, including hearing some of our staff members on the radio for National Volunteer Week.



The National Volunteer Week afternoon tea was a wonderful event, and I would like to reiterate my thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers who are integral to the success of our organisation.

I would also like to acknowledge my fellow volunteer Board members, in particular our new members Karen, Helen and Mark, who have been wonderful additions to the Board. We are all very excited to see what we can achieve in the next half of the year!

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NEWS FROM THE OFFICE



The middle of the year came round quickly. What a busy six months we have had in the office! We hope some of you have been able to come along to one of our great events, so far this year. Highlights for the office include, witnessing people's silky skills at bowling, and the photo booth at the afternoon tea.

We would like to extend a big welcome to two new members of staff, Diane, our Marketing Coordinator, who you may have met at our annual event, and Esther, our new Coordinator.



Both ladies have settled into the office well and are looking forward to helping continue the great work of Citizen Advocacy.

Thank you, so much, to everyone involved with the program, for your valuable contribution in the last six months, and we hope you enjoy the newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**QUALITY ASSURANCE
AUDIT MORNING TEA**

**WEDNESDAY
6 SEPTEMBER**

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY
26 OCTOBER**

**MORNING TEA FOR
THANK-A-VOLUNTEER DAY**

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER

MID-YEAR REVIEW

ADVANCING CITIZEN ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

In February, Eloise and Denise attended and presented at the Advancing Citizen Advocacy conference in Melbourne. They discussed the impact of Covid-19 on volunteers, recruitment strategies for advocates and protégés, and our plans going forward. It was very encouraging to connect with, and learn from, our committed Citizen Advocacy counterparts across the country.

MISSION AUSTRALIA

Over the past few months, we've been working closely with Mission Australia, meeting with their local area coordination teams throughout Perth, introducing Citizen Advocacy and talking about the importance of advocacy for people in the community. In March, the Mission Australia team came to our office to meet with advocates and talk to them about the NDIS, how they can support advocates, and in turn, support their protégés. We look forward to continuing to work with Mission Australia, promoting, facilitating, and supporting people with intellectual disability.

IT TRAINING

Throughout the past six months, we've been conducting IT skills training for protégés in our program. This training is designed to help the protégés learn more about technical devices, safety online, how to use the devices, connect to other people, and to assist with any other app or IT knowledge they would like to acquire. We have received great outcomes with this training and the protégés who have been attending are picking up new skills and getting support, where needed.

DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

This valuable training promotes an awareness of disability and the impact that societal attitudes, inherent stigma, and discrimination, have on the lives of people with disability. This course is now part of our recruitment process for new volunteers. It is free for individuals to undertake online, and we encourage all our existing and upcoming advocates to take advantage of this opportunity to expand their knowledge of disability inclusion.

**MISSION
AUSTRALIA** | together
we stand



da DISABILITY
AWARENESS

RECENT FESTIVITIES



VOLUNTEER WEEK AFTERNOON TEA

Our annual afternoon tea, to thank all our wonderful volunteers involved in the program, was a great success. Lotterywest and VWA provided a grant for this event which allowed us to have a delicious spread of food, live music and a festive photo booth, making for a very memorable afternoon.

TEN PIN BOWLING

We held our first bowling event at Warwick Super Bowl in February. A mixture of people involved with the program came along for some fun. The mixed teams meant new friends and healthy competition, and we also shared morning tea together, as no event would be complete without food.

"A LOVELY VENUE TO MEET UP WITH OLD FRIENDS."

"I REALLY FELT LIKE THE AFTERNOON WAS SO WELL ORGANISED AND IT WAS EASY TO PARTICIPATE. WELL DONE TO ALL THE STAFF AT CA :)."



ASSOCIATE SPOTLIGHT

I began acting as an advocate in 1982. My protégé was Don Robson who has sadly passed away. At the same time I let the then coordinator know that I was a lawyer and would be pleased to provide legal advice gratuitously to CA and any individual advocates who need it. Thereafter, from time to time both CA and a number of advocates sought my advice on legal problems that had arisen or on documents such as contracts and leases entered into by their protégé. CA itself hasn't sought advice from me for a number of years but the advocates continued to do so right up until last year.



In October 2020 I was appointed by the State Government as the Parliamentary Inspector of the WA Corruption and Crime Commission on a full-time basis for a term of 5 years. Although I didn't need to maintain my practicing certificate after my appointment, I did renew it in 2021. However, in 2022 I decided to let it go as I don't see myself returning to life as a barrister after my term as Parliamentary Inspector ends (I will then be 74). The consequence of this is that by law I am no longer able to provide legal advice to anyone, including pro-bono advice.

I was glad to be of assistance to CA in the period between 1982 and 2022. The feedback I received from the advocates who contacted me was generally to the effect that my advice had resolved the legal issues their protégés were facing and that was a great pleasure to hear.

I wish Citizen Advocacy well in the future for the very good and important work it undertakes in the community.

King regards,
Matthew Zilko



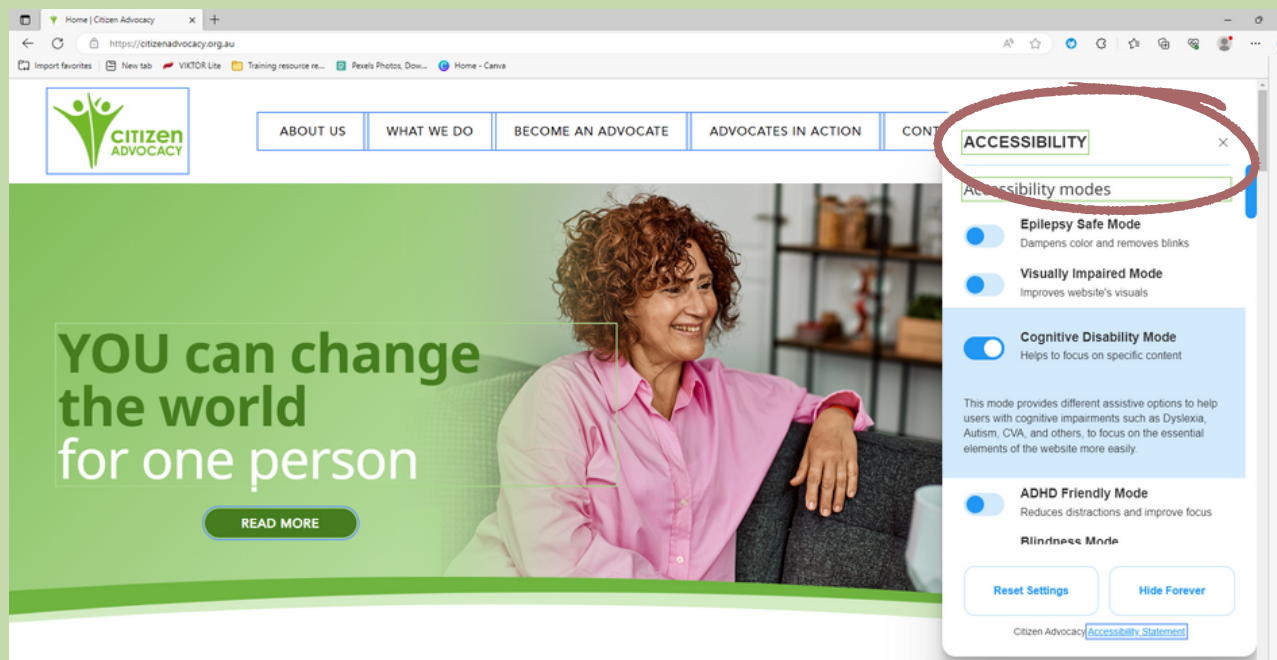
WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

Millions of people around the world face barriers accessing digital content.

At Citizen Advocacy, we are committed to accessibility and inclusion for people with disability, and have been working on our website and making improvements to ensure it is accessible for people with perception problems, cognitive impairments, and hearing or vision impairments.

Users can now select from a range of settings that adjust the site, making it accessible for people with Epilepsy, Visual Impairment, Cognitive Disability, ADHD, and partial or complete blindness.

Look out for this accessibility button throughout our website.



HAVE A GREAT SECOND HALF OF 2023!

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