



Newsletter December 2023

From the office

As the festive season approaches, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible year we've had at Citizen Advocacy. This year, in addition to supporting all the amazing people involved with our program, we have created many opportunities to connect with the wider community as we strived to increase awareness of the meaningful work we undertake. This has resulted in numerous valuable connections and important long-term friendships for people with disability.

As we start to celebrate the holidays, we are reminded of the importance of community, togetherness, and giving back. Thank you to our volunteers for your ongoing dedication and support.

Our office will close on Wednesday 20 December 2023 and reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2024. Happy festivities to all and see you in 2024!



The CA team - from left to right: Denise, Demi, Diane, Esther, Kirby, Eloise

Taking Action

At our Annual General Meeting in October, we presented 'Taking Action', our Impact Report for the financial year 2022-23. Within the report, we share stories, statistics and information that show the impact our organisation had on people involved with our program and the wider community.

[Down the full report](#)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- ✦ Make a difference in someone's life ✦
- ✓ Build a unique one-to-one friendship
- ✓ Listen, support and empower
- ✓ Connect with your local community



SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

(08) 9445 9991
citizenadvocacy.org.au

Make a difference

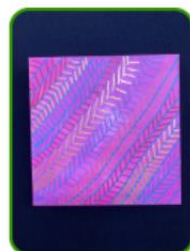
Our volunteer recruitment campaign is in full swing. We're looking for volunteers to join us in making a difference by becoming a friend and ally for someone with intellectual disability. You might have spotted our posters in shopping centres and libraries or come across our posts on community Facebook groups. We've seen a positive response and are hopeful this will lead to successful matches being made in the near future.

Inclusive masterpieces celebrated

Recently, we had the pleasure of visiting the As We Are art awards, a state-wide annual award and exhibition open to all West Australian artists with intellectual disability. As We Are was initiated in 2002 by Rosalind Lewis who was a Coordinator at Citizen Advocacy with a strong belief in equal opportunities. We were inspired by the wonderful artwork and incredible talent on display and wish to congratulate all the amazing artists who took part.



Tree in the forest
Erica Wise



Zig Zag and Spots
Janine Noonan



The flower and the caterpillar
Hamish Lamont

Visit the [As We Are website](http://www.asweare.com.au) to find out more about the awards and view the gallery of images featuring artists and their artwork.

www.asweare.com.au

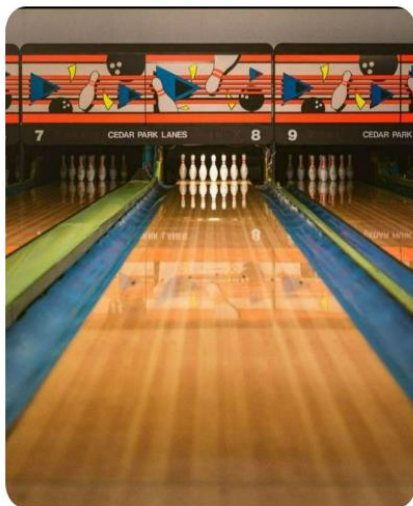
Reimagining volunteering

Last month, Eloise attended the Volunteering WA State Conference with keynote speakers, discussions, and workshops analysing the latest volunteering research, trends, techniques, and case studies. After two incredible days of knowledge sharing and learning, we're excited about reimagining the volunteering experience for Citizen Advocacy.



Stay tuned for 2024 Advocacy events

Keep an eye out for advocate events coming up in 2024. More details to follow in the new year!



Strike up the fun

Following the success of last year's event, we will hold another bowling event in February 2024. Open to all participants in our program, teams will be a mix of Advocates, Protégés, board members, and staff. We are looking at different venues to ensure that we cater for the accessibility needs of all participants. Full details will be included in the invitation, which we will send out early in 2024.

Discover community

Spending time at community events can help develop a sense of belonging. By following our [Facebook page](#), you'll get to know about upcoming activities, with a focus on accessibility and events that accept Companion Cards, allowing card holders to access an additional ticket for their companion or carer.



Visit the [Companion Card website](#) for more information on how to apply, or to find business, venues or events that accept Companion Cards in your area.

www.wacompanioncard.org.



A Great Match

Lorna-Jean and Liz were matched in 2017 and have been connected for over 6 years. Their trusted friendship is one based on mutual respect. Liz is dedicated to Lorna-Jean and works tirelessly on a voluntary basis to advocate for Lorna's rights and needs. She ensures Lorna's voice is heard and considered when it comes to decisions affecting her life. We love seeing both ladies smiling faces at the events we hold.

Final reports to reshape the disability landscape

The final report from the **Royal Commission into Violence, Neglect, Abuse and Exploitation of People with Disability** includes more than 220 recommendations to make Australia safer, more inclusive and to stop people with disability from experiencing abuse or neglect. A summary of the final report titled '[Our vision for an Inclusive Australia and Recommendations](#)' is available to download online in both pdf and Easy Read formats.

The Australian Government invites you to [have your say on the recommendations](#) and to share your thoughts about which recommendations are important to you. Your feedback will inform the Australian Government's response to the Disability Royal Commission's final report. Consultation is open until Friday 19 January 2024.

The final report from the **NDIS Review** "[Working together to deliver the NDIS](#)" has just been released, documenting 26 recommendations and 139 actions to change the system and put people with disability back at the centre of the NDIS. The full report plus an Easy Read version are available to download online.

With all the recommendations that have been made, we're hopeful that positive change for people with disability will soon be on the horizon.

www.disability.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/final-report-executive-summary-our-vision-inclusive-australia-and-recommendations

www.ndisreview.gov.au/resources/reports/working-together-deliver-ndis