



# Newsletter

## March 2024

### From the office

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Citizen Advocacy have started the New Year with a bang! This quarter, we have been focused on making some wonderful new matches. It is always exciting for us to connect people in their match and watch how it flourishes. We had the opportunity to catch up with some of our existing matches at our bowling event recently, a fun morning was had by all.

Another focus has been on getting out in the community to chat to local MP's, a chance for us to raise awareness of the important work we do and DANA's (Disability Advocacy Network Australia) Speak up! For Independent Advocacy campaign. Throw into the mix an office move and I would say it has been a full and productive quarter! Take care and enjoy reading.

### Smiles at Strike

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What a fantastic time we had at Strike Bowling last month! Advocates, protégés, board members, and staff came together for a morning of fun. More than just a game of bowling - it was a chance for everyone to catch up, share stories, and enjoy each other's company. Thanks to everyone who joined us and made it an event to remember. We look forward to more fun events in the future.





## On the move

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We're delighted to announce our recent move to a new office. Conveniently located in East Perth, alongside a thriving community of not-for-profit organisations, the shared space provides an opportunity for increased networking and sharing of skills and experiences. We look forward to continuing our advocacy work in our new and improved location.

## Support - Develop - Connect

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We are planning a number of events for advocates throughout the year, aimed at supporting and bringing our community of volunteers closer together. Events will focus on skill-building, networking and creating spaces for shared stories. Stay tuned for updates on opportunities to connect and develop new skills.



## Save the date to celebrate

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Our annual afternoon tea, dedicated to thanking our incredible team of volunteers, is happening on Saturday May 25, at Manning Community Hub. The invitation, which will be sent out in April, will have full details for the event. We hope you can join us for a delightful afternoon as we express gratitude to the heart of our community – our wonderful volunteers!



### Building bonds together

Rachael, Volunteer Advocate. *"I was matched with Chris a few months ago and I've really enjoyed getting to know her and understanding how to be an advocate for her. I've also met a few of the support workers that assist Chris and this has been helpful to understand her needs. Chris and I both like to chat, and we meet for lunch and coffee regularly. Next week we are at the movies!"*



### Volunteers needed

We're seeking a compassionate individual to become a friend for Aiden, a happy and sociable person with intellectual disability. The role would involve spending time together every few weeks, engaging in everyday activities that Aiden loves, like listening to music. If you're ready to make someone happy and forge a fantastic friendship, we'd love to hear from you. [Find out more](#)

### Power of connection

Do you know someone with intellectual disability who would benefit from having a friend or ally? Our volunteer advocates offer companionship, guidance, and a helping hand to individuals with intellectual disability, enabling them to create a sense of belonging and connection within the community. [Contact us today](#) to find out about the power of connection.

[Contact us](#)





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## Speak up! for Independent Advocacy

We believe that everyone with disability who needs support should have access to independent advocacy. That's why we're getting behind the Speak Up! for Independent Advocacy campaign. The independent disability advocacy sector needs more funding. Through the Speak Up! for Independent Advocacy campaign, Disability Advocacy Network Australia - DANA are urging the Australian government to increase funding for independent advocacy organisations. [Find out more.](#)

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## Featured articles

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[Speak up for independent advocacy](#)

[Embracing neurodiversity](#)

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