

Annual Report







Children and Young People with Disability Australia

Children and Young People with Disability Australia is the national representative organisation for children and young people with disability aged 0 to 25 years. CYDA is a not for profit, community organisation that was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee in November 2009.

CYDA provides a link between the direct experiences of children and young people with disability to the Australian Government and other key stakeholders through:

- Participation and representation of children and young people with disability
- Development and dissemination of expert advice

- Implementation of high impact national advocacy campaigns to positively influence policy, practice and attitudes of the Australian Government, key stakeholders and the wider community
- Delivery of strategic projects that support the Australian Government to reform its policy and practice
- Partnership approach with its membership, non-government, government and other stakeholders

CYDA receives its core funding from the Department of Social Services (DSS). In addition, CYDA has received project funding from DSS for the National Redress Scheme developed following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.



Role

CYDA has the mandate to advocate for children and young people with disability living in Australia and undertakes the following to achieve its purpose:

- Listening and responding to the voices and experiences of children and young people with disability
- Advocating for children and young people with disability for equal opportunities, participation and inclusion in the Australian community
- Educating national public policy-makers and the broader community about the experiences of children and young people with disability
- Informing children and young people with disability, their families and care givers about their citizenship rights and entitlements
- Celebrating the successes and achievements of children and young people with disability

Vision

CYDA's vision is that children and young people with disability living in Australia are afforded every opportunity to thrive, achieve their potential and that their rights and interests as individuals, members of a family and their community are met.

Purpose

CYDA's purpose is to advocate systemically at the national level for the rights and interests of all children and young people with disability living in Australia as individuals, members of a family and their community.

Guiding Principles

The work of CYDA is guided by the following principles:

- Fundamental rights: the rights and interests of children and young people with disability are CYDA's highest priority consistent with Australia's obligations under the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Chilontd and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- An inclusive approach: children
 and young people with all types
 of disability, from all cultural and
 religious backgrounds, living with
 all types of families and in and all
 geographic locations are supported
 by the work of CYDA
- Having a childhood: children with disability are children first and foremost and have a right to all aspects of childhood that children without disability are afforded
- Participating in decision making: children and young people with disability have the right to participate, in whatever capacity, in decisions that impact on their lives
- Valuing families and care givers: for the contributions made by families and care givers to support the rights and interests of children and young people with disability
- Working in partnerships: CYDA
 works collaboratively with relevant
 government, non-government, private
 sector agencies and the broader
 community to promote the rights
 and interests of children and young
 people with disability
- Being accountable: CYDA operates accountably, effectively and ethically as the national peak body charged with the mandate of advocating for children and young people with disability

Chair's Report

CYDA continues to be a strong voice for children and young people with disability and their families, advocating on a national stage to ensure their rights are upheld, and they are free from violence and abuse.

This year saw the departure of our CEO Stephanie Gotlib after 10 years of dedicated service to CYDA. Stephanie's contribution has been remarkable over this time. Leading CYDA she influenced national policy debates and action for children and young people with disability and developed a strong body of work in the form of issues papers, research, submissions and reports that are authoritative and accessible. This work has provided a foundation for the organisation's advocacy work as well as offering valuable resources for members.

Her work on the international stage in contributing to the United Nations and various reports and submissions to policy and legislative reforms in Australia means the organisation is deeply rooted in a human rights based approach.

Her strategic approach and deep political nous and contribution means that today CYDA's reach and influence goes well beyond expectations for a small organisation. This places the organisation in strong stead for the future as the historic Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Persons with Disability commences. CYDA will continue to be a strong advocate for the rights of children and young people with disability.

After an extensive executive search, our new CEO Mary Sayers was appointed by the Board in June 2019 and commenced in July 2019. Mary joins CYDA following five years as Deputy CEO of the Victorian Council of Social Services and a long history of policy and advocacy for children and young people. She also has family experience of disability, with a son with disability.

In the coming year the CYDA Board will embark on a new strategic planning process as our 2017 – 2020 strategic plan comes to an end. The current strategic plan has served the organisation well, and now is an ideal time for the organisation to be developing a new strategic plan.

I also want to thank all of the CYDA **Board Directors** for their work and commitment to progressing the rights of children and young people with disability over the last year. This year also saw the resignation of board members Theresa Duncombe (former Chair) and Anne Murphy, and we thank them for their important contribution to the governance of CYDA.

Alan Blackwood Board Chair

CYDA Board



Alan Blackwood Chair (Since May 2019)

Alan has family experience of disability and has also worked in the sector in a range of advocacy and governance roles with people with disability for over 30 years.

Alan has served on numerous state and national advisory bodies and has previously worked with CYDA on NDIS and education policy.

Alan is a strong supporter of inclusive education and the participation of people with disability in their organisations.





Theresa DuncombeChair (Resigned May 2019)
NSW

Theresa is a midwife and an advocate in the health system. Theresa has personal experience of disability, with one of her two sons having disability.

She has significant experience in a range of community organisations including Kalparin, Association for Children with Disability New South Wales and My Choice Matters NSW.



Grace Mills WA

Grace is a young person with disability who has been involved with the disability sector in Western Australia since 2013. She has experience in a range of community organisations including Youth Disability Advocacy Network (YDAN), Diverse Leadership WA and VisAbility.

Grace is currently also involved with the Ministerial Advisory Council of Disability, Telethon Kids Institute Advisory Group and previously was a member of the City of Perth Access and Inclusion Advisory Group.

Grace believes that the inclusion of young people with disability into the community is crucial for increasing the level of participation and recognition of abilities, particularly in areas such as education and employment and social inclusion through community events.



Bronwyn Morkham VIC

An experienced individual and systemic advocate, Dr. Bronwyn Morkham has worked with state and federal governments in systems policy and improvement. She is presently working with state and federal jurisdictions on the systemic and policy reforms needed to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme, particularly around the scheme's interactions with other service systems such as health and education.

Bronwyn has served on a number of state and federal advisory bodies and led development of innovative and collaborative practice solutions in systems working with younger people with disability.



Anne Murphy (Resigned May 2019) VIC

Anne has two teenage sons. Her youngest son has a disability. Anne's professional background is in medical research and biotechnology. From 2010 to 2012 she worked for CYDA as an Information & Policy Support Officer. She currently volunteers with CYDA, her sons' schools, and within the Angelman community. Anne is extremely committed to progressing the rights of children and young people with disability, with particular interest in education, communication and inclusion.



Jocelyn Neumueller

Jocelyn is a student with lived experience of disability. She has currently studying Law at Flinders University while pursuing her sporting ambitions of achieving a podium position at the Paralympics.

Outside of her study, Jocelyn is involved with a number of organisations advocating for and supporting young people living with disability. For the past 4 years Jocelyn has been selected as the student representative for the South Australian Ministerial Advisory Committee for Children and Students with Disability.



Geoffrey Warren VIC

Geoffrey has 50 years of teaching experience which includes 35 years as a principal. He has degrees and diplomas in Arts, Economics & Politics and Educational Administration. In 2012 he was the winner of the National Disability Award for Excellence in Improving Education Outcomes.

He has appeared before various national and state boards in support of student needs. He is an articulate and strong advocate for children and young people with disability. He believes schools are greatly enriched through the inclusion of students with disability.



Committees

Finance &
Risk Management
Committee

Membership

- Geoffrey Warren (Chair)
- · Theresa Duncombe
- Jocelyn Neumueller

Policy Committee

Membership

- Anne Murphy (Chair)
- Grace Mills

Meeting Attendance

A total of 10 Board Meetings were held during the reporting period.

Board Member	Eligible to attend	Attended
Alan Blackwood	1	1
Theresa Duncombe	9	9
Grace Mills	10	8
Bronwyn Morkham	1	1
Anne Murphy	9	7
Jocelyn Neumueller	10	9
Geoffrey Warren	10	7

CEO Report

I am extremely proud to have been appointed CEO of Children and Young People with Disability Australia and would like to acknowledge the important contribution made by Stephanie Gotlib over the last 10 years. Her legacy is profound and the organisation is in a strong position for the future because of her work and leading a dedicated and talented staff group.

The policy, legislative, educational and service landscape for children and young people with disability in Australia is set to have a major shake up with the announcement by the Prime Minister on 5th April 2019 of a Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. This was announced after years of advocacy by organisations like CYDA and disability advocates.

The Disability Royal Commission has the opportunity to improve the lives of children and young people with disability in the future and protect them from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, but also importantly to change community attitudes. We have seen some fundamental shifts in community attitudes resulting from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and we hope the Royal Commission can provide transformational change into the way the community values and includes people with disability.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) continues to provide opportunities and many implementation challenges for children and young people with disability and their families. CYDA continues to advocate to ensure the NDIS meets its promise, and takes into account the unique developmental and support needs of children and young people. We were

pleased to receive an NDIS Information Linkages and Capacity Building Grant to support CYDA members.

One of the most urgent areas for government reform for children and young people with disability is in education.

Students with disability continue to be routinely excluded and abused in schools, and segregation of students with disability diminishes their educational outcomes and fundamental human right to inclusion in regular school settings. Of all issues that

CYDA receives enquiries from families, the lack of inclusive education is the most common. This is also demonstrated by our 2013 Issues Paper Inclusion in Education: Towards Equality for Students with Disability which is downloaded on average 2,500 times per month from our website. Hence a new and updated resource was commissioned.

The coming year provides significant opportunities for CYDA to advocate strongly for children and young people with disability and their families. I would like to thank our members who are so

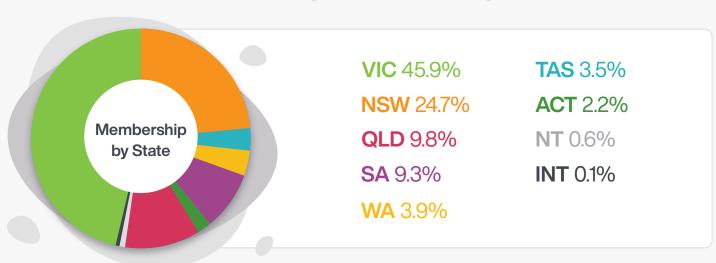
crucial for a representative organisation and who share with us every day their stories and insights about what needs to change and what is working well. I would also like to thank the Board and staff of CYDA who have made me feel so welcome and all of CYDA's stakeholders who have embraced me in my role and shared their wisdom and knowledge.

Mary Sayers
Chief Executive Officer



CYDA Staff	*Part time/Casual	
Mary Sayers	Chief Executive Officer (from July 2019)	
Stephanie Gotlib	Chief Executive Officer (until April 2019)	- Judin To A
Gwenda Cannard	Interim Chief Executive Officer (April 2019 – July 2019)	
Samantha Cortes	Policy Officer (July 2018 - December 2018)	
Joanne Ellingworth	Business Manager*	
Darrell Harding	Financial Officer*	
Diane McCarthy	Information & Community Liaison Officer National Redress Scheme (from January 2019)*	
Robert Pask	Policy Adviser*	
Phebe Shields	Information and Policy Support Officer* (until August 2018)	

CYDA Membership Summary







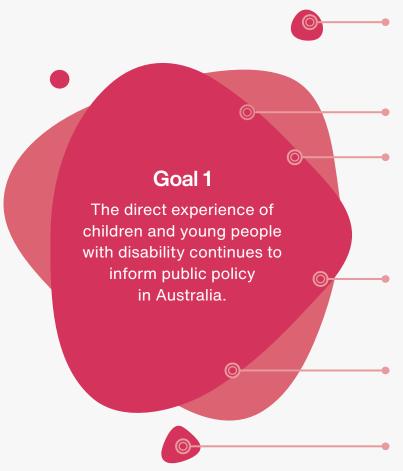






CYDA Achievements

2018/19 Overview



Key Actions

Direct consultation with children and young people with disability and their families. Key methods include community forums and discussion groups, phone information line, targeted member consultations and extensive use of social media.

Direct representation to relevant Ministers and Assistant Ministers.

Provision of numerous formal submissions to a range of government and national inquiries on a range of issues. These included – the Victorian Draft Disability Action Plan, the Queensland Human Rights Bill and the federal Inquiry into Lowering the Voting Age, Stronger Outcomes for Families, My Health Record System, Future Employment Services and Job Active inquires.

Collaboration with other disability representative organisations to produce the Disability Rights Now 2019 Australian Civil Society Shadow Report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: UN CRPD Review 2019 Report.

Provision of ongoing expertise and advice to the Australian Government on the National Disability Strategy and a joint submission to the Productivity Commissions Review of the National Disability Agreement.

CYDA is represented on numerous national and state/territory working groups, committees and advisory bodies.



Continued representation and participation of young people with disability on the CYDA Board.

Worked collaboratively with youth advocacy organisations and other disability organisations.

Continued advocacy for the participation and inclusion of children and young people in advisory and consultation processes.

Collaborative Partner of the National Youth Commission.

Member of the Childs Rights Taskforce and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CPRD) Shadow Report Working Group.



Direct representation to Ministers, Assistant Ministers and Members of Parliament.

Provision of a range of resources and information which is rights and strength based.

Maintenance of high profile and informative social media to encourage and promote strength based understanding and messaging regarding children and young people with disability.

Other media used to promote disability as a positive aspect of a diverse community.

Print and online articles quoting CYDA including: Courier Mail; The Age; The Saturday Paper, ProBono; Disability Support Guide; Talking Disability, The Educator, The Source News.

Radio and television interviews including: SBS, Channel 9 News, ABC News, Sky News, ABC PM and 2SER.



Direct representation to Ministers and Assistant Ministers.

Extensive consultation to maintain current understanding of the direct experiences of students with disability.

Maintain contact and collaborate with organisations, collectives and social media forums to progress the rights to an inclusive education.

Commissioned a new edition of "Towards inclusive education: A necessary process of transformation".

Provision of a range of formal submissions including:
Policy guidelines and principles for reducing and
eliminating restraint and seclusion in Victorian schools
and supported schools and Supported School Transport
and transition to the NDIS.

Ongoing media campaign - significant coverage by newspaper, radio, television and online media forums.



Provision of information on the NDIS through social media forums; e-News; CYDA website and CYDA's telephone information service.

Direct representation to relevant Ministers, Assistant Ministers, Members of Parliament, Department of Social Services, NDIS Board, NDIS Independent Advisory Council and the National Disability Insurance Agency.

Formal submissions to and appeared at related hearings into related inquires including: NDIS ICT Systems and Assistive Technology.

Participated in meetings, consultation public forums or provided expertise on a range of issues including the ECEI Approach and Hearing Services roundtable.

Regular participation and input to the NDIS CEO Forum.



Ongoing advocacy and representation to government, community and media.

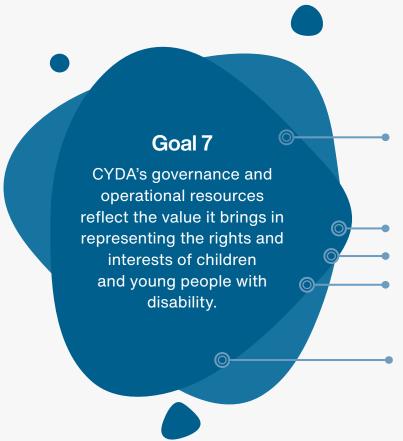
Provision of a range of formal submissions including:
Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety
Terms of Reference and Australian Government Policy,
Program and Legal Response to the redress related
recommendations of the Royal Commission into
Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Providing information, support and systemic advocacy regarding the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the National Redress Scheme.

Meetings and advocacy with an extensive range of services who provide support and counselling to children who have experienced sexual abuse, regular participation in network meetings of services funded to provide support regarding the work of this Royal Commission and the National Redress Scheme.

Member of related advisory and collaborative groups including: Vic/Tas Royal Commission Support Services Group and the eSafety and Mental Health Steering Group.

Continued advocacy for a Royal Commission into abuse and violence of people with disability which was announced in 2019.



CYDA secured core funding until 2020 from the Department of Social Services and secured funding for an NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity (ILC) Building Grant to support families to self-manage their child's NDIS, and support for the National Redress Scheme.

CYDA membership has remained consistent.

CYDA social media reach has increased.

CYDA has high demand for information, expertise and advocacy from children and young people with disability, families, Governments, Departments, organisations, media and other stakeholders.

CYDA Board and Committee convene regularly.

Other Information

Publication Distribution: CYDA Issue Papers

1,221

Enabling & Protecting:

Proactive Approaches to Addressing the Abuse and Neglect of Children and Young People with Disability Distributed electronic and hard copies

30,207

Inclusion in Education:

Towards Equality for Students with Disability
Distributed electronic and hard copies

1,935

Belonging and Connection

of School Students with Disability
Distributed electronic and hard copies

473

Strengthening Participation

of children and young people with disability in advocacy
Distributed electronic and hard copies

1,370

Post School Transition:

The Experience of Students with Disability
Distributed electronic and hard copies

Phone Info Service



655
Calls Received By CYDA

CYDA Website



174,244 Website Visits

208,541

e-News



e-News Sent To
Members/Subscribers

51,863 Individual Emails

Social Media



890 New Facebook Lik

193
New Twitter Followers

Representation

Participation in advisory committees and national forums on key issues of relevance to children and young people with disability, including:

- Australian Electoral Commission Disability Advisory Committee
- Commonwealth Ombudsman Best Practice Guide (NDIS Complaints) Working Group
- CRPD Shadow Report Working Group Meeting
- e-safety and Mental Health Steering Group
- Every Child Steering Committee

- Improved Assessment Process for Carer Payment and Carer Allowance (DSS Reference Group)
- ISC Project Steering Group
- National Disability Strategy Reform Steering Group
- NDIS Practice Standards Technical Reference Group (DSS Reference Group)
- NSW Child Safety Organisations Steering Committee

- Project steering committee for People with Disability Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Project
- Research to Action Guide on the "journey to employment" (NDS Steering Group)

Representation to Australian government departments and relevant ministers, including:

- Hon. Dan Tehan MP Former Minister for Social Services
- Hon. Dr David Gillespie MP Former Assistant Minister for Children and Families
- Hon. Jane Prentice MP- Former Assistant Minister for Social Services and Disability Services
- Hon Linda Burney MP Former Shadow Minister for Social Services
- Senator the Hon Sarah Henderson -Former Assistant Minister for Social Services and Disability Services
- Hon. Bill Shorten MP- Former Leader of the Opposition

- Hon Tanya Plibersek MP Shadow Minister for Education and Training
- Senator Carol Brown Former Shadow Minister for Disability and Carers
- Senator Jordan Steele-John Disability Right's Spokesperson
- · Various Members of Parliament
- Department of Social Services
- Australian Government Department of Education and Training
- Australian Human Rights Commission
- Disability Discrimination Commissioner
 Mr Ben Gauntlett

- Queensland Department of Education and Training
- Department of Education and Training Victoria
- Department of Education NSW



Participation in meetings and collaborative work with national disability sector organisations and key state and territory organisations and stakeholders including:

- Advocate for Children and Young People NSW
- All Means All
- Amaze
- Association for Children with a Disability
- Australian Council of Social Service
- Australian Education Union
- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Australian Human Rights Commission
- Australian Network for Universal Housing Design
- Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
- Brain Injury Australia
- Bravehearts
- Children's Commissioners (State and Federal)
- · Community Resource Unit Ltd
- Deaf Australia
- Deafness Forum Australia
- Department of Social Services
- Disability Advocacy Network Australia
- Disability Advocacy Resource Unit,
- Disabled People's Organisations Australia
- Down Syndrome Australia

- Disability Discrimination Australia
- Disability Discrimination
 Commissioners (State and Federal),
- Disability Institute (University of Melbourne)
- Down Syndrome Australia
- Education Services Australia
- Early Childhood Intervention Australia
- Families Australia
- Family Advocacy NSW
- First Peoples Disability Network
- · Health and Community Services Union
- Heartwell Foundation
- Huntingtons Victoria
- I-CAN
- IHC New Zealand
- Imagine More
- Inclusion International
- Julia Farr Youth
- Lifestart
- Melbourne Disability Institute
- National Disability Insurance Agency
- National Disability Services
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance
- National Youth Commission into Youth Employment and Transition
- NSW Teachers Federation
- Noahs Ark
- NSW Ombudsman

- Office of the eSafety Commissioner
- Parents of Deaf Children
- People with Disability Australia
- The Association for Children with a Disability (Tas) Inc.,
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability
- Save the Children
- Scope
- Speakout
- Speech Pathology Australia
- Tasmanian Disability Education Reform Lobby
- Teachers Federation NSW
- Touched by Olivia Foundation
- UNICEF
- University of New South Wales
- VALID
- · Victorian Council of Social Services
- Women with Disabilities Australia
- Women with Disabilities Victoria
- Youth Disability Advocacy Network
- Youth Disability Advocacy Service
- Young People in Nursing Homes National Alliance
- Youth Network of Tasmania

Feedback

The Government greatly values the important contribution that CYDA makes in advocating for the rights and interests of all children and young people with disability living in Australia.

Parliamentary Secretary to Premier NSW

Thank you for all you do to support children and young people with disability and their families

Dr Helen Nugent AO Chairman National Disability Insurance Agency

I recognise the value of CYDA's work in supporting Western Australian families and I commend CYDA's work to promote equal opportunity for children and young people with disability.

Sue Ellery MLC Minister for Education and Training WA I commend the valuable work CYDA undertakes as the national peak body charged with advocating on behalf of children and young people with disability across the country. I note particularly your organisations focus on the critical area of education, as well as the National Disability Scheme.

Queensland Department of Communities, Disability services and Seniors

I would particularly like to acknowledge CYDA's key achievements over 2018 including consultation, advocacy and provision of information and resources for children and young people with disability and their families, and the collaborative work CYDA has undertaken with government education stakeholders and the National Disability Insurance Scheme

The Hon James Merlino
Minister for Education Victoria

Tim has enjoyed his involvement with CYDA and hopes to continue to participate in your important and valuable work.

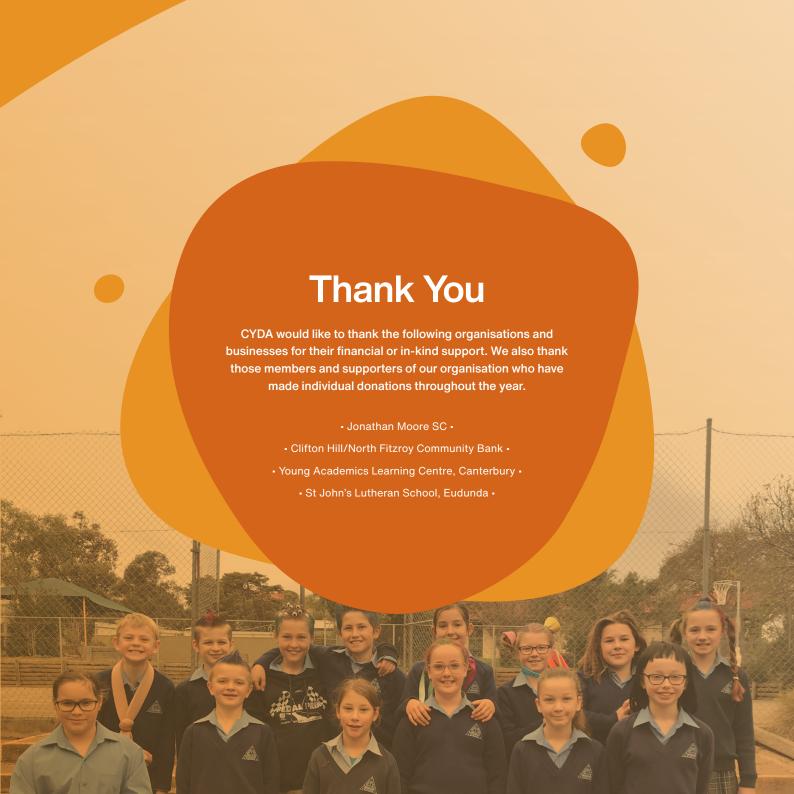
Member

I commend the significant work of CYDA in advocating systemically for the rights of children and young people with disability Australia wide. I acknowledge CYDAs contribution to both national and local policy discussions with regard to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and look forward to continuing our positive relationship in 2019.

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC Minister for Disability Services

Thanks so much for your help and for all your hard work on behalf of our children.

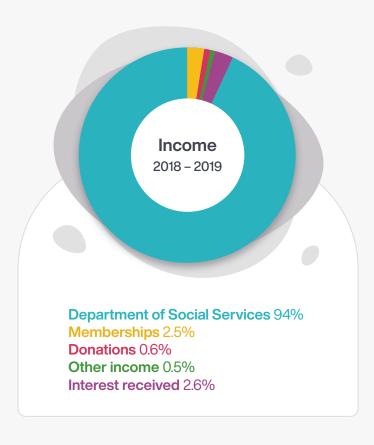
Member

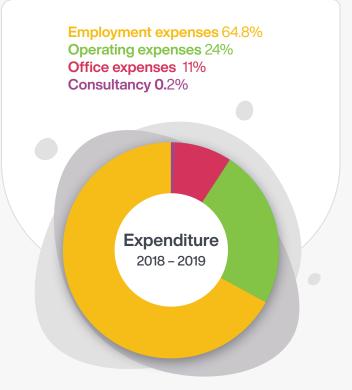


Financial Snapshot

2018 - 2019 Results	
Total Revenue	\$422,138
Total Expenditure	\$400,620
Result - Surplus	\$21,518
Total Members Equity – 2017 – 2018	\$108,591
Total Members Equity – 2018 – 2019	\$130,109

Full financial reports available on the CYDA website — www.cyda.org.au



















20 Derby Street, Collingwood, VIC 3066 PO Box 172, Clifton Hill VIC 3068

VIC 03 9417 1025 Regional or interstate 1800 222 660

Email info@cyda.org.au | **Web** www.cyda.org.au **Facebook** www.facebook.com/CDISAUS | **Twitter** @CDA39

ABN 42 140 529 273



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

This activity received grant funding from the Australian Government.