

# CYDA Annual Report

## 2020



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Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands across Australia whose cultures and customs have nurtured and continue to nurture this land since the Dreamtime. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future. This is, was, and always will be Aboriginal land.



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services

This activity received grant funding from the Australian Government.



Equity Trustees

The Lynne Quayle Charitable Trust,  
managed by Equity Trustees



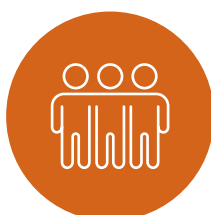
Funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency

# About us

Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) 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.

## Vision

Children and young people with disability are valued and living empowered lives with equality of opportunity



## Purpose

To ensure governments, communities and families, are empowering children and young people with disability to fully exercise their rights and aspirations

## Our ideal future

### A lifetime of choices and opportunities

#### Children and young people with disability:

- Are always safe, fully included, respected and valued
- Can fulfil their education, work, housing and independence potential and aspirations
- Enjoy strong connections, friendships and evolving networks as they grow
- Have families and communities that celebrate their talents and strengths with high expectations for their future

### Independent and powerful

#### Children and young people with disability:

- Are proud to express their identity and individuality
- Are recognised as the agents and experts in their life, making informed decisions as they grow
- Are included in ways that are meaningful to them
- Understand their human rights and these are upheld

### Leading the way

#### Children and young people with disability:

- Are recognised and their expertise is sought out, valued and utilised
- Have their voices heard and respected and are shaping the design of the policies, systems and practices that affect them
- Have opportunities to learn, lead and grow

# Chair's Report



**This year CYDA has gone from strength to strength even during the global COVID pandemic. This has been a challenging year for many members as periods of remote learning further exposed the gaps in our education systems for students with disability.**



CYDA maintained strong communication with government about the experiences of children and young people with disability and ensured that information was shared with members when new government initiatives were introduced.

We have been able to secure several new funding grants targeting improvements in education, peer support and to build mechanisms for young people to engage and raise their collective voice for full inclusion in the community on key issues. This has seen significant growth in the organisation that was always going to occur with such a strong foundation laid over previous years.

The Board embarked on developing a new strategic plan for the next four years. This involved wide consultation with CYDA stakeholders as well as four focus groups with young people and families.

The feedback we received from this process was articulate and instructive. Young people focused very much on the broad concept of community inclusion and acceptance of everyone for who they are. The ability of the community to embrace differences and enable contributions from unique perspectives was also highlighted. Inclusion was seen as needing to be comprehensive, with consideration of disability, sexuality, race and culture being parts of the rich mix that makes up a community.

Additionally, we heard for children young people to have a strong future, the whole community, starting with those in education settings, must understand and support the rights of every member of the community.

The concept of inclusion and diversity must be embedded in the curriculum, from primary through to high school, higher education and employment. Beginning at the earliest of ages, children and young people with disability should be given a voice and placed at the centre of all things that relate to their lives and the communities in which they participate.

As a result of this process are delighted to have finalised our 2020–2024 Strategic Plan. Over the next four years our work will be to:

1. Drive inclusion
2. Create equitable life pathways and opportunities
3. Lead changes in community attitudes and aspirations
4. Support young people to take control
5. Call out discrimination, abuse, and neglect

We will undertake this work by making sure our work is rights-based, being bold and creative, and holding ourselves and others to account for accessibility and inclusion. We will elevate the voices of children and young people with disability.

Our Board continues to provide strong leadership for the organisation. We have welcomed a number of new Board Members in 2019/2020 all of whom have joined existing Board members in contributing to the strong governance of CYDA. I want to thank all the CYDA Board Directors for their work and commitment to progressing the rights of children and young people with disability over the last year.

**Alan Blackwood** Board Chair



# CYDA Board



Alan Blackwood



Matthew Hill



Grace Mills



Julie Mavlian



Bronwyn Morkham



Jocelyn Neumueller



Heather Renton



Melanie Tran



Geoffrey Warren

## Alan Blackwood (VIC), Chair

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.

## Matthew Hill (VIC) (October 2019 to present)

Matthew is a senior executive with more than 10 years of experience in governance and board roles involving both the not-for-profit and private sectors. Matthew has a strong interest in providing value and support to communities and associations like CYDA. Over Matthew's career he has developed skills in leadership, building relationships, seizing control of critical problems and delivering on customer commitments. Matthew is a father of two children and has family experience of disability. Matthew is extremely committed to progressing the rights of children and young people with disability.

## Grace Mills (WA)

Grace is a 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.

## Julie Mavlian (NSW) (October 2019 to present)

Julie is a mother of four children including a young person with disability. Julie is currently a Learning and Support Teacher at a NSW public school. She has a Master's in special education and has worked with students in a variety of educational settings from preschool through to adult for more than 30 years. Julie is a passionate advocate who has worked proactively for the rights and needs of children and young people with disability.

### **Bronwyn Morkham (VIC), Secretary**

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. Bronwyn is committed to development of community based services that enable children and young people with disability to live safely and with confidence in the community.

### **Jocelyn Neumueller (SA)**

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 a disability. For the past four years Jocelyn has been selected as the student representative for the South Australian Ministerial Advisory Committee for Children and Students with Disability.

### **Heather Renton (VIC) (December 2019 to present)**

Heather is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Syndromes Without a Name (SWAN) – Australia. SWAN provides information and support to families caring for a child with an undiagnosed or rare genetic condition. Heather is the mother of two children, one of whom has a rare genetic condition and disability. Heather is a passionate advocate for families who have children with undiagnosed and rare genetic conditions. Heather is a member of the Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance Community Advisory Group, the Consumer and Community Advisory Group for the Discipline of Genetic Counselling, University of Technology Sydney, and a moderator for both the FOXP1 and Undiagnosed rareconnect.org communities.

### **Melanie Tran (VIC) (October 2020 to present)**

Named one of the Top 100 Women of Influence 2019 by the Australian Financial Review, Melanie is a designer, an innovator, an activist, a social entrepreneur. Melanie's work as a User Experience (UX) Designer and social entrepreneur has been recognised internationally, including being named the winner of the Laureate International Universities Global Here for Good Award 2018. Melanie's lived-experience, developed skills and knowledge allow for her work to span the disability, health and technology sectors. With over eight years' experience, and through her role as a UX Designer at Hireup,

Melanie specialises in bringing together the worlds of business, design and social impact. Following her success, Melanie has become a sought-after international public speaker, presenting at TEDxYouth@Sydney, TEDxSydney Pitch Night, Laureate Leadership Summit, World Usability Day at Commonwealth Bank Australia, and a keynote at Google, opening their first ever Asia Pacific UX Design Summit.

### **Geoffrey Warren (VIC) (Resigned November 2019)**

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 and Risk Management Committee

Membership – Matthew Hill (Chair), Alan Blackwood and Jocelyn Neumueller.

## Policy Committee

Membership – Bronwyn Morkham (Chair), Julie Mavlian, Grace Mills and Heather Renton

# Meeting attendance

A total of 6 Board Meetings were held during the reporting period.

Board Member	Eligible to attend	Attended
Alan Blackwood	6	6
Matthew Hill	3	3
Julie Mavlian	4	4
Grace Mills	6	6
Bronwyn Morkham	6	6
Jocelyn Neumueller	6	5
Heather Renton	3	3
Geoffrey Warren	2	0





# CEO's Report



The word 'unprecedented' has been one of the most used words in 2020, but one that sums up our year at CYDA. We were able to attract significant new funding for our national youth leadership program and commence planning for the first ever National Youth Disability Summit. At the same time, we needed to pivot our work to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people with disability and their families in Australia.

We were delighted to form a National Summit Co-Design Committee made up of 20 young people with disability from around Australia to co-design the first ever National Youth Disability Summit. The Committee is chaired by Melanie Tran, a young person with disability with vast user design (UX) experience. Mel has supported the Co-Design Committee and they have 'dreamed big' about what the first ever youth-led disability Summit could be.

The impact of COVID-19 situation on children and young people with disability and their families cannot be underestimated. Very early on in the

pandemic we were concerned that their specific needs were not being included in the pandemic planning spanning education, health, the National Disability Insurance Scheme and planning for essential supplies.

We joined with 70 other disability advocacy organisations to write an Open Letter to the National Cabinet, *Immediate Actions Required for Australians with Disability in Response to Coronavirus (COVID19)* to escalate these issues.

We surveyed our members to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on children and young people with disability. We were pleased to partner with Professor Helen Dickenson, Dr Sophie Yates from the University





of New South Wales and Catherine Smith from the University of Melbourne who analysed the survey data and provided us with two independent reports.

These reports *More than isolated: The experience of children and young people with disability and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic* and *Not even remotely fair: Experiences of students with disability during COVID-19* showed the systemic neglect and discrimination in planning the pandemic response. The reports were provided to government and the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. I was pleased to have provided evidence at the COVID-19 hearing of the Royal Commission in August 2020.

We also partnered with the National Disability Insurance Agency to deliver three webinars in May to provide information about how the NDIS can support participants during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to thank the Board and staff of CYDA who have been resilient in the face of the pandemic and remote working situation. I would also like to thank our members for all the input and information they provide to CYDA so we can continue to work for children and young people with disability to be fully included in the community and have their rights upheld.

**Mary Sayers** Chief Executive Officer

## CYDA Staff

**Mary Sayers** Chief Executive Officer

**Jared Carnell** Youth Trainee (from September 2020)

**Miranda Cross** Policy Officer (from August 2020)

**Alana Doyle** NDIS Capacity Building Coordinator (from July 2020)

**Joanne Ellingworth** Business Manager

**Darrell Harding** Financial Officer\* (until February 2020)

**Maeve Kennedy** Policy and Programs Manager  
(from December 2019)

**Amy Marks** Youth Connection & Development Officer  
(from August 2020)

**Diane McCarthy** Information & Community Liaison Officer,  
National Redress Scheme

**Jason McCurry** Youth Leadership & Development Officer  
(from July 2020)

**Jess Mitchell** Youth Storytelling & Development Officer  
(from August 2020)

**Robert Pask** Policy Adviser

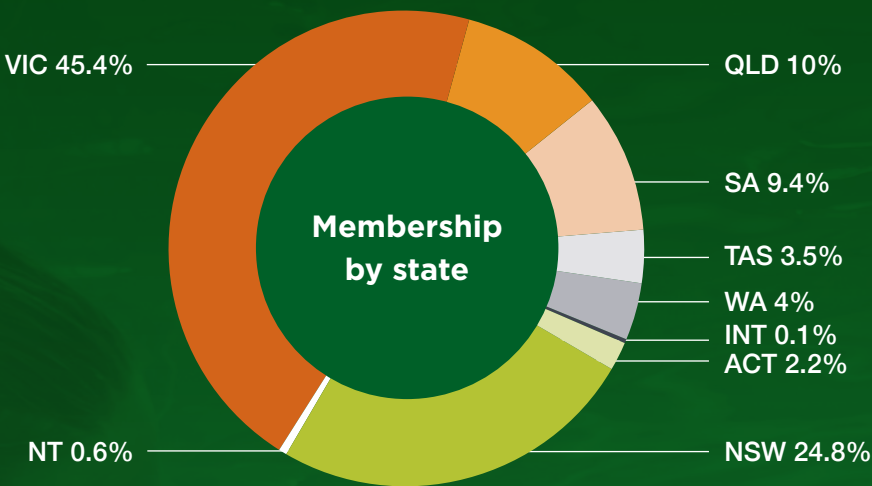
**Tasha Ritchie** Youth Programs Manager (from May 2020)

**Elga Rodriguez** Policy and Program Adviser (from August 2019)

**Sue Tape** Communications Adviser (from March 2020)

# CYDA Membership Summary

As at June 2020 CYDA national membership was at 5,025 members, made up predominantly of individual members including young people with disability and families/caregivers of children with disability.



# CYDA 10 Year Anniversary

## CYDA (previously CDA) History

The initial drive to establish a national organisation to represent children and young people with disability came during the late 1990s. An active group of parents involved with the Victorian-based Association for Children with a Disability consulted with parents from other states and territories. They committed to establish a national network that would focus on advocacy efforts to achieve better outcomes for families of children with disability from the Australian Government.

A meeting of parent representatives was held in Melbourne in March 2002. A decision was taken to proceed in establishing a national organisation under the formal auspice of the Association for Children with a Disability. The Australian Association for Families of Children with a Disability (AAFCD) was thus formed. The first edition of the organisation's newsletter, National NoticeBoard, was published in May 2002.

AAFCD initially attracted small amounts of funding via one-off grants until 2008 when the Australian Government provided \$80,000 to work towards becoming incorporated. The same level of funding was received in 2009 which allowed the organisation to complete its transition to an independent not for profit company limited by guarantee. Upon incorporation, AAFCD changed its name to Children with Disability Australia (CDA).

CDA was officially launched by Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disability and Children's services, on 18 May 2010. Our founding CEO was Stephanie Gotlib who was in the role until March 2019.

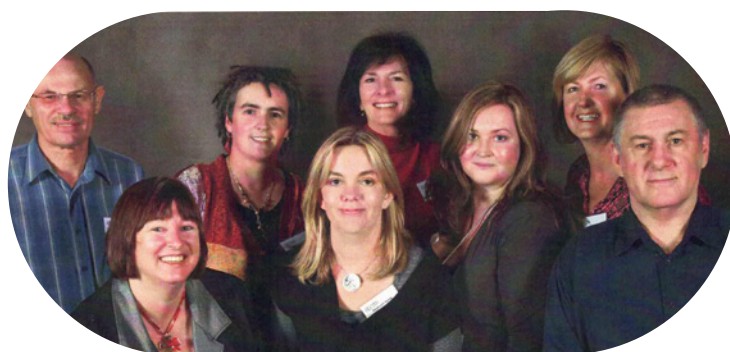
In 2015 we changed our name to Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) making us the national representative organisation for children and young people aged 0 to 25.

“

What an honour it is to be able to pen this for Children with Disability Australia's very first Annual Report.

Children with Disability Australia is funded as a peak body. This means we are responsible for hearing the voices of children with disability and their families and taking what you say to government. Our job is to give input into government policy agenda and influence community attitudes.”

Melinda Ewin, Chair of the Board,  
2010 Annual Report



Images: (top) CDA Board and Staff 2010; (bottom) CDA launch.

# 2019–2020 in review

## Key stats and facts



**679** calls  
were received by  
CYDA for its phone  
information services



**17,147**  
facebook  
followers  
as at  
June 2020

**1,342**  
new  
likes



**65,634** visits  
to the CYDA  
website  
homepage



**437**  
facebook  
posts



**381,453**  
facebook  
reach

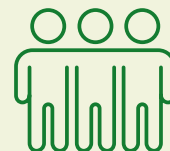


**19** e-News  
were sent to  
members and  
subscribers over  
the year (a total of  
**63,230 individual  
emails**).



**5,031**  
Twitter  
followers  
as at  
June 2020

**193**  
new  
followers



**18** submissions  
to government  
consultations  
and inquiries



**226**  
Twitter  
posts

**507**  
Twitter  
mentions



**315,000**  
Twitter impressions



**24,966**  
downloads  
of CYDA's key  
research papers

- Inclusion in Education: Towards Equality for Students with Disability
- Towards Inclusive Education: A necessary process of transformation
- Belonging and Connection of School Students with Disability
- Post School Transition: The Experience of Students with Disability
- Enabling & Protecting: Proactive Approaches to Addressing the Abuse and Neglect of Children and Young People with Disability
- Strengthening participation of children and young people with disability in advocacy



## Young people leading the way

In late 2019 CYDA was successful in receiving an Information, Linkages and Capacity Building grant from the NDIS for a three year program of work to develop the leadership and self-advocacy skills of young people with disability.

This will include:

- holding 3 annual National Youth Disability Summits which are designed, developed and facilitated by young people with disability
- creating a prestigious annual National Young Leaders Program, a facilitated leadership program which will be co-designed and co-produced with young people with disability. This will enable participants to learn new skills and have experiences preparing them to be spokespeople at a national and international stage

- providing peer support and networking opportunities through developing a national young people with disability hub on our website to connect young people to each other, and to provide interactive feedback on key national issues that are important to them across education, employment, health, community and other environments

We were also funded to build our organisational capacity by:

- upskilling Board members and staff in best practice youth participation and empowerment.

This will include employing three young people with disability as trainees and building the capacity of young people to take on leadership/board positions in both CYDA and other organisations

- implementing strategies to assist young people with disability and their families to be more involved in their national organisation. This will include forming a National Youth Advisory Group
- establishing a national collaboration of advocacy organisations working with children and young people with disability

Image: National Summit Co-Design Committee Chair and CYDA Board Member, Melanie Tran.



We look forward to implementing all these strategies in the coming years, the highlight of the year was the first ever National Youth Disability Summit held in September and October 2020.

Designed by the National Summit Co-Design Committee, the youth-led National Youth Disability Summit took place over 5 days between 29 September – 3 October with over 250 young people and an additional 400 guests for the Open Day. Conducted entirely online, the Summit was a first in Australia, providing a platform for young people with disability (under 30) to come together, connect, and talk about their lived experience and ideas in a safe and supported environment.

Each day's sessions included plenary lightning talks, interactive workshops, panels, networking opportunities and an expo area. Four of the five days were youth only days, and on the Open Day young people led the conversations.

The themes of Education, Employment, Awareness, Access & Inclusion, NDIS & Housing and Mental Health & Wellbeing allowed participants to explore and discuss important topics and issues in their lives.

With funding support from Equity Trustees, following the Summit we have developed a series of "what young people said" reports to inform governments, the Disability Royal Commission and the community of the important issues that were discussed at the summit.

These reports summarised the main themes from the Summit on each of the topics including Identity, Enablers, Barriers, Solution and Social Movement.

We would like to thank the incredible Summit Co-Design Committee, all participants and guests for attending and all speakers, panellists and facilitators who presented throughout the week.



#### NATIONAL YOUTH DISABILITY SUMMIT ANALYSIS THEMES



Identity



Enablers



Barriers



Solution



Social Movement

“

Honestly my expectations with disability events they underdeliver so much. but this event has blown me away. there was so much learnt throughout the whole week! conversations are really thought-provoking and make you engage to talk about things that are usually NEVER talked about. i loved the sexual health chat and relationships... i loved it because it changes what the mainstream thinks of sex and disability. i really have looked for resources about relationships and normalising disability with that but sadly there is nothing. but thank you for starting the conversation about normalising this..”

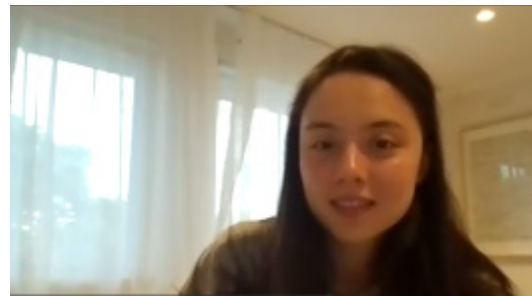
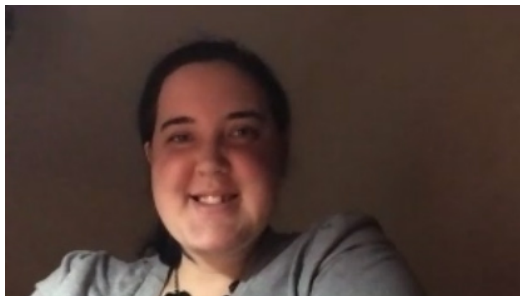
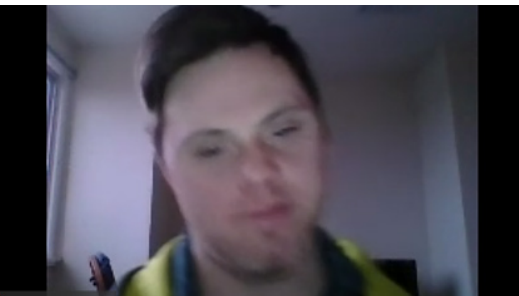
Participant and the National Youth Disability Summit

“

The whole event was incredible, one of the greatest things I have ever been apart of. I felt so empowered and enthused. I am so excited for the future and I cannot wait for the next summit!!! (and for the merch aha!) The only thing was that the Saturday was very busy and I struggled to get enough rests breaks – I would've much rathered one of the sessions to be moved to one of the other days as some days I had heaps of breaks but on Saturday we only had 10 or so min at a time and I really didn't want to miss any of it! Thank you soooo much for an incredible event!!! :)”

Participant at the National Youth Disability Summit

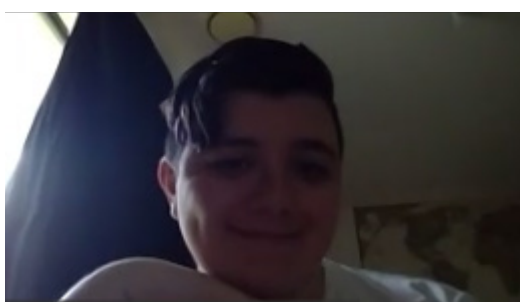
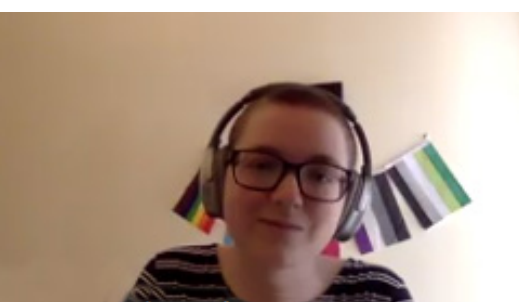
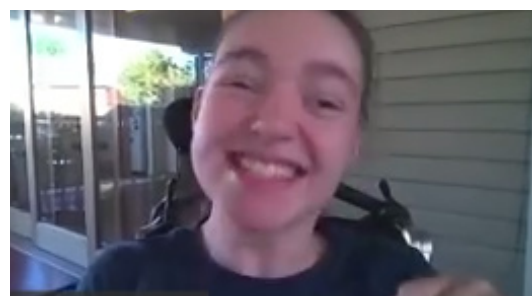
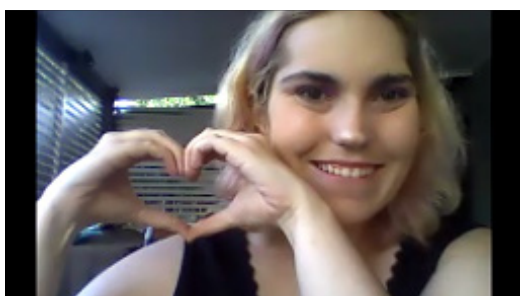
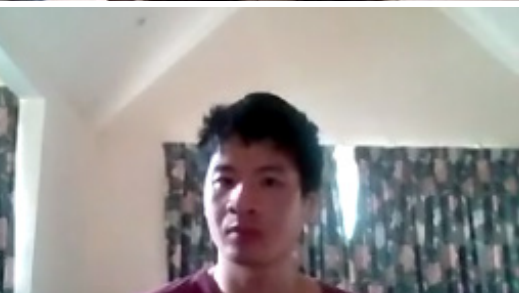
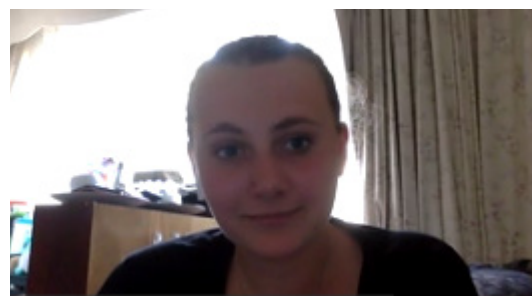
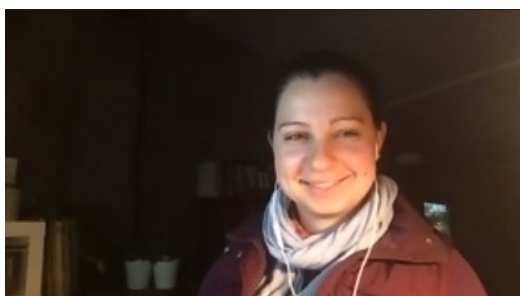
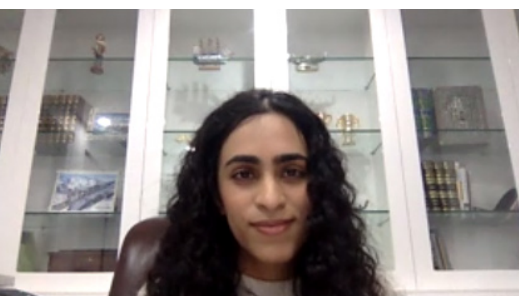




“

Chance to work alongside and get to know other disabled young people, feel connected during COVID lockdown. Also chances to further develop my own skillsets and share them with others”

National Summit Co-Design Committee member



## Policy and advocacy

In 2019/20 CYDA made 18 submissions across a wide range of topics including human rights, health, abuse and neglect, education and employment. CYDA'S work was extensively cited in a range of government/parliamentary reports.



### Inclusive education

- Inquiry into free and equal: an Australian conversation on human rights, Australian Human Rights Commission
- The review of the senior secondary pathways into work further education and training, Education Council
- Inquiry into the education of students in remote and complex environments, House Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training
- Addition to submission 30, Inquiry into Education in Remote and Complex Environments House Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training
- Disability Royal Commission – Education of children and young people with disability. Disability Royal Commission

### NDIS and Mental Health

- NDIS thin markets, Department of Social Services NDIS thin markets project
- NDIS planning submission, Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Improving the NDIS for children and young people with disability and their families, Establishing a Participant Service Guarantee and removing legislative red tape review (NDIS Tune Review)
- Joint Standing Committee Inquiry into NDIS workforce, Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Feedback on Productivity Commission's mental health draft report, Productivity Commission

### Post school transition and employment

- Inquiry into the adequacy of Newstart, Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
- Inquiry into sustainable employment for disadvantaged jobseekers, Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry

Images: (top) Senator Jordon Steele-John and Maeve Kennedy; (middle) CYDA's Policy and Programs Manager, Senator Anne Ruston, Minister for Families and Social Services and Mary Sayers, CYDA CEO; (bottom) Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Mr Graham Perrett MP, Robert Pask, CYDA Policy Adviser and Mary Sayers CYDA CEO.



“

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the very detailed submission you have provided to the Royal Commission on behalf of CYDA. I can say on behalf of all Commissioners that we appreciate the enormous effort and commitment that has gone into preparing the submission. It will be of great value to our work.”

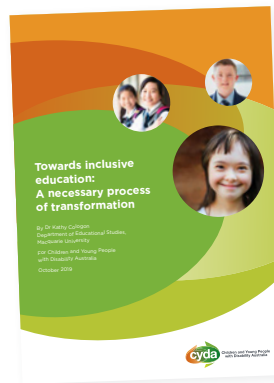
Chair of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability,  
The Hon Ronald Sackville

## COVID-19

- Victorian consultation on lessons from remote learning, Department of Education
- Emergency planning and response during COVID-19, Disability Royal Commission
- Letter to PAEC's inquiry into the response to COVID-19, Parliament of Victoria, Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
- Inquiry into the Australian Government response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Senate Select Committee Disability Royal Commission

## Abuse and neglect

- Restrictive practices authorisation in NSW, New South Wales Government
- Draft accessibility strategy of the Royal Commission into Violence Abuse Neglect and Exploitation, Disability Royal Commission



## Inclusive education advocacy

**Inclusive education is about everyone learning, growing and flourishing – together – in all our diversity. Inclusive education recognises the right of every child and young person – without exception – to be included in general education settings. It involves adapting the environment and teaching approaches to ensure genuine and valued full participation of all children and young people. It embraces human diversity and welcomes all as equal members of an educational community.**

Dr Kathy Cologon

In October 2019 CYDA launched two new major reports to progress inclusive education.

Towards inclusive education: A necessary process of transformation by Dr Kathy Cologon from Macquarie University provides an extensive systematic literature review of inclusive education.

Time for change: The state of play for inclusion of students with disability: Results from the 2019 CYDA National Education Survey based on our Annual Education Survey of 505 young people with disability and families and caregivers.

Image: Dr Kathy Cologon at the launch of Towards inclusive education: A necessary process of transformation



In 2019, CYDA, together with a range of disability advocacy organisations and young people from around Australia, formed the Australian Coalition for Inclusive Education (ACIE), which is co-convened by CYDA and All Means All and chaired by CYDA. ACIE is an initiative bringing together organisations and young people that share a commitment to advancing inclusive education, as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD), across state and territory education systems, including government and non-government schools.

Key work of ACIE has been:

- In 2020 we published Driving change: A roadmap for achieving inclusive education in Australia, a document to inform government and educational systems to ensure inclusive education and compliance with the CPRD.
- Holding National Inclusive Education Roundtables with state and territory educational jurisdictions to advance inclusive education
- Developing resources to assist education jurisdictions in responding to the COVID-19 situation including Providing inclusive education in a time of crisis: Principles and Recommendations.

## COVID-19 response

Very early in the COVID-19 pandemic CYDA was aware there were large impacts for children and young people with disability. CYDA responded to this unprecedented pandemic by seeking rapid feedback from our members and informing government of their needs.

CYDA conducted two major surveys during the pandemic and partnered with researchers at the University of New South Wales and University of Melbourne to analyse and report on the results.

**Survey 1 – The impact of COVID-19 on children and young people with disability** was launched just five days after the World Health Organization declared the pandemic on 11 March and remained open for five and a half weeks, attracting 697 responses.

Report on survey 1: More than isolated: The experience of children and young people with disability and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic

**Survey 2 – 2020 National Education Survey** collected responses over seven weeks from 28 April 2020 to 14 June 2020 focused on the educational experiences of students with disability, before and during the pandemic, with 719 respondents.

Report on survey 2: Not even remotely fair: Experiences of students with disability during COVID-19

Given the complexity of much of the information arising from state and territory governments and the Australian government, much of which was not targeted at children and young people with disability and their families and caregivers, CYDA implemented a broad communication and engagement strategy.

We created a COVID specific web page to enable accessible information for children and young people with disability. During the peak of the pandemic this was being updated at least twice a week as new information from government and other stakeholders emerged.

We also provided extensive social media dissemination of information about COVID through our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts and partnered with the National Disability Insurance Agency for three webinars throughout May 2020.

“

Thank you for providing a copy of the report prepared by CYDA – More than isolated... I appreciate CYDA undertaking the survey to capture the issues occurring nationally with children and young people with disability during the COVID-19 health emergency. I was disappointed to see a large proportion of survey respondents felt the provision of information and support was not targeted to children and young people with disability.”

Suzanne Orr MLA Minister for Disability, ACT

“

Thank you Mary and team for creating this valuable opportunity. Mary did a great job facilitating the session and respectfully presenting the issues. I especially like that the NDIA has committed to clear written guidelines on issues such as being able to use ndis funds for support workers to help with learning from home. This will help to move forward with the suggested flexibility without fear of it coming back to bite later.”

Participant at CYDA – NDIS and COVID-19 webinar





# Supporting NDIS self-management project

CYDA's In Control Our Way project supports families of children and young people with disability to take control of their NDIS and to self-manage their child or young person's NDIS plan. Over the last twelve months this project has been guided by an advisory group of families who provided input and advice into the project.

A wide range of resources have been developed to support NDIS participants and their families including:

## NDIS self-management webinars

- Webinar 1: NDIS self-management for families of children and young people with disability
- Webinar 2: NDIS self-management and creating a good life

## Guide to employing your own staff

- In control: a guide to employing your own staff (plus associated appendices)

## Fact sheet series – NDIS Self-Management

- Understanding NDIS Language
- NDIS self-management – what do I need to know?

- NDIS self-management – frequently asked questions
- NDIS self-management FAQs: employment and staff
- Parent and carer training and supports funded by the NDIS
- Record keeping options for NDIS self-managers
- Options for your record keeping system for self-managers
- Fraud vs. error and the NDIS

## Fact sheet series – Early Childhood

- Understanding ECI language
- Supporting the development of children and young people with disability
- Services and supports in the early years
- About family-centred practice
- Building strong families

“

The materials generated from the project will be a very useful resource for self-managers, particularly when employing staff. There is not a lot of concrete and accurate advice on this out there yet. Meetings were also useful for clarifying issues and connecting with community.”

Member of the NDIS self-management ‘in control our way’ advisory committee





## Partnerships and collaboration

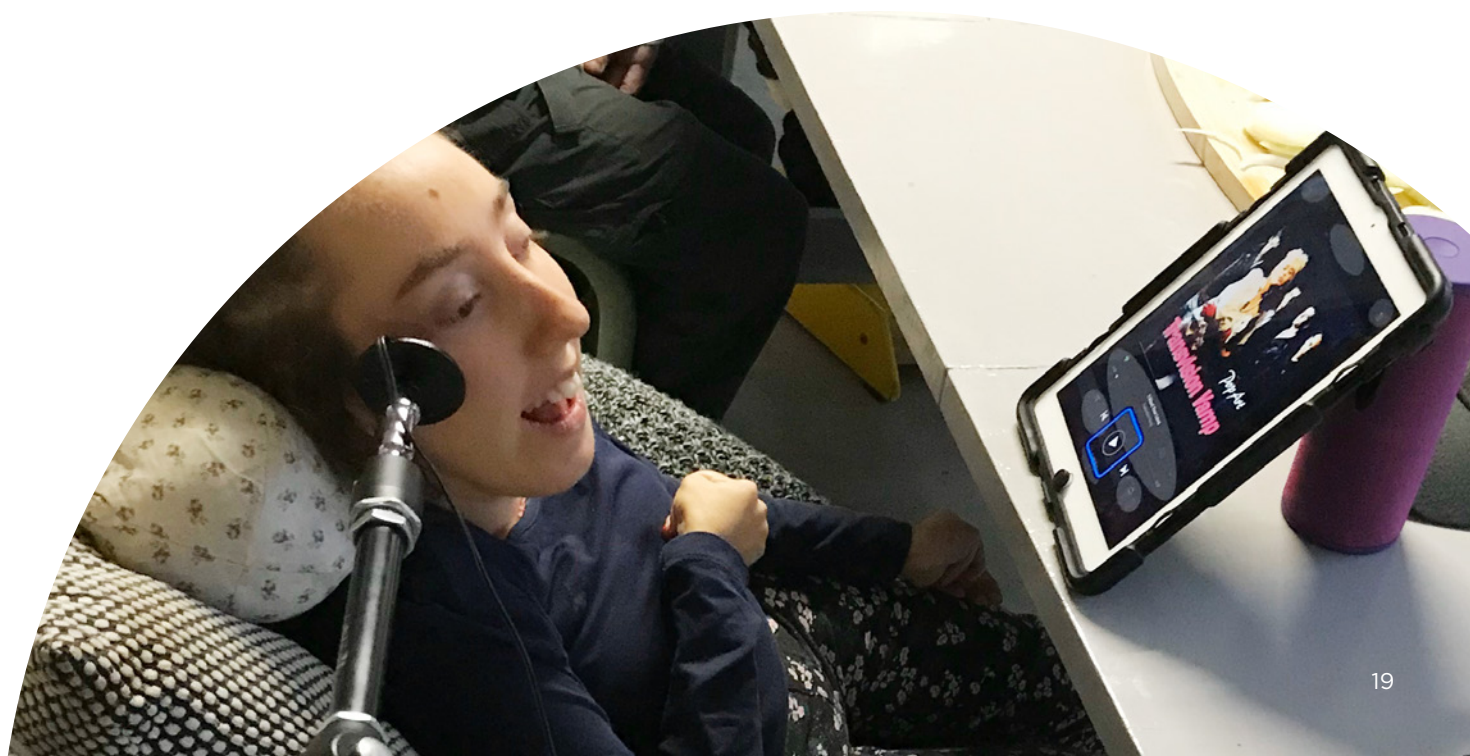
CYDA prides itself on partnerships with government and the broader disability and community sector to advance the inclusion and rights of children and young people with disability. The consultative forums we either chair or participate in are:

### Chair

- Australian Coalition for Inclusive Education (ACIE)
- Disability Representative Organisations Disability Royal Commission working group
- National Children and Young People with Disability Forum

### Member

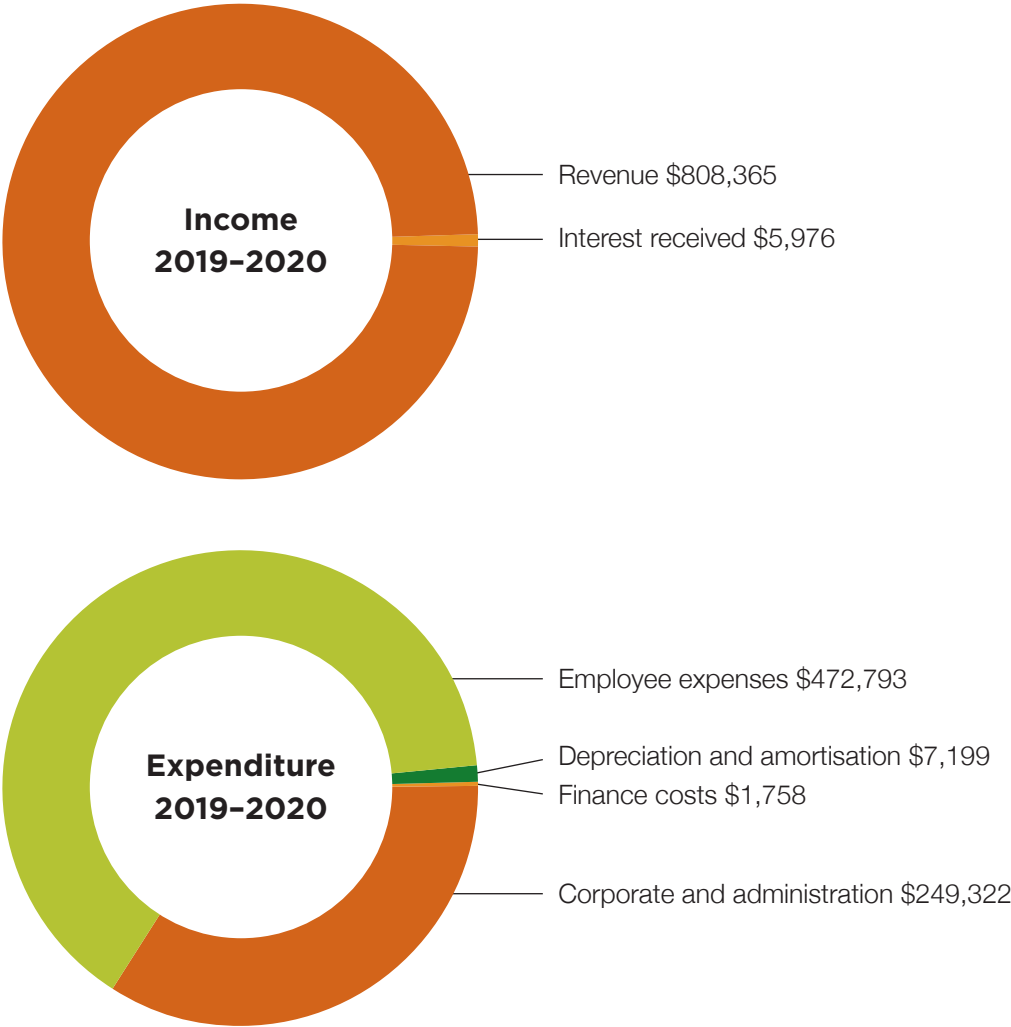
- ACOSS CEO Network
- Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Students with Disability Advisory Group
- Department of Education, Skills and Employment COVID Pandemic Committee (no longer running)
- Department of Social Services Disability Gateway Reference Group
- Department of Social Services Disability Support Services Committee (DSSC)
- Department of Social Services Early Childhood Intervention Group
- Department of Social Services National Disability Strategy Reform Steering Group
- Every Child Steering Committee
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Commission Disability Sector Consultative Committee
- NDIS CEO Forum
- NSW Department of Education Disability Strategy Advisory Group



# Financial Snapshot

## 2019–2020 Results

Total Revenue	\$814,341
Total Expenditure	\$731,072
Result – Surplus	\$83,269
Total Members Equity – 2018–2019	\$130,109
Total Members Equity – 2019–2020	\$213,378



## Thank you

We would like to thank our Board, members, partners, funders and supporters for your contribution to CYDA in 2019/2020.

We would also like to thank **360South** for their in-kind support in developing our new website.



## **Children and Young People with Disability Australia**

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