



**The Newsletter of Side By Side Advocacy**

**Autumn 2024**

**This edition's contents are**

- A message from our Executive Officer
- Join our Parramatta Leadership Group – Access all areas
- Come and work with us at Side By Side Advocacy!
- Find out about our new workshop – Making decisions at home
- Join our Board
- Speak Up for Independent Advocacy
- New resources to facilitate inclusive health care – Just Include Me
- Help build understanding of the life experiences of people with disability
- News updates
- Meet the people of Side By Side Advocacy
- Dates for your calendar – events and happenings
- Contact details for Side By Side Advocacy

## **A message from our Executive Officer**

Welcome to the (almost) Autumn edition of Side By Side.

We have so much happening that we do not want to wait until Autumn to send out the newsletter!

As you will see there are lots of ways you can get involved and access new resources.

We are excited to have more opportunities for people with intellectual disability to build their skills and confidence to speak up.

One opportunity is a new leadership group for people with intellectual disability – Access all areas. Another is our new workshop about making decisions at home.

There are also a range of roles that may be of interest to you or people in your networks.

If you believe in the importance of independent advocacy, there is information about how you can get involved in a campaign to secure much needed additional funding. It would be great if you add your support to the campaign!

Kim Roots  
Executive Officer

## Join our Parramatta Leadership Group – Access all areas

We are excited to be starting a leadership group for people with intellectual disability in Parramatta.

There will be guided discussions, peer learning, resource sharing, peer mentoring and more!

The plan is for leadership group members to share their insights with local civic leaders.

There will be a chance for you:

- to meet others interested in leadership
- find out more about the group
- share your thoughts about the group.

We are hosting information sessions about the leadership group. The information sessions are in Parramatta and Epping.

Come to find out more and to meet others interested in leadership.

Here is a link to the flier: <https://bit.ly/3ORL4Dh>

This project has been supported through a City of Parramatta Council Grant.

A big thank you to Parramatta Council!



## Come and work with us at Side By Side Advocacy!

We are looking for people to lead our **Access all areas** leadership group in Parramatta.

We are recruiting a Project Lead and a Peer Mentor. Both roles are advertised on Ethical Jobs. Applications close on 28 February 2024.

Project Lead – Access all areas leadership group: <https://bit.ly/3wjMNe9>

Peer Mentor – Access all areas leadership group: <https://bit.ly/3OOdwpz>

To find out more, check out the roles on Ethical Jobs or contact Kim on 9808 5500 or at [eo@sidebysideadvocacy.org.au](mailto:eo@sidebysideadvocacy.org.au)

## Making decisions at home

Making decisions at home is a workshop for people with intellectual disability.



We know that making decisions at home can be hard for lots of reasons.

- It may be that you have a lot going on.
- Maybe not everyone agrees.
- Maybe people make decisions for you.

The workshop will help you think about the decisions that matter to you and where you can get support to make those decisions.

We are having the workshop in two places – West Ryde and Dee Why. Both workshops are the same so choose the place time that suits you.

The workshops are free and lunch is provided. You need to let us know that you want to come. Here is a link to the flier: <https://bit.ly/49pMNZO>



## Join our Board

Side By Side Advocacy currently has 2 vacancies on our Board of Management.

Bring your passion for human rights to work with us to uphold the rights, needs and interests of people with disability.

Read more about the vacancies and apply on Seek here: <https://bit.ly/42IQaYt>

## Speak Up for Independent Advocacy

There is an urgent need for more resources for advocacy. Help us speak up!

Side By Side Advocacy is experiencing very high demand for advocacy. We could provide more advocacy support and reduce wait times for advocacy support if we had more resources.

More than two million Australians with disability will be unable to access independent advocacy support if the sector remains chronically underfunded.

That can leave people with disability to experience abuse, neglect and exploitation without assistance from an advocate.

You can read more about independent advocacy and how you can help us speak up!

Here is a link to information about the campaign:

<https://speakupadvocacy.com.au/>

Here is a link to campaign tools: <https://bit.ly/3SEuXKw>

You can hear Side By Side Advocacy featured in an ABC news feature about the need for more resources for advocacy: <https://bit.ly/4bMj6Tc>



## **New resources to facilitate inclusive health care – Just Include Me**

The health care system can be a dangerous place for people with intellectual disability. Side By Side Advocacy is regularly involved in supporting people to speak up about their health care needs and their right to access treatment.

The Council for Intellectual Disability has created online self-paced training designed to support health professionals to learn more about

resources, tools, and actions to promote inclusion in health care for people with intellectual disability.

The training modules include:

- Just include me
- Communication essentials
- Communications toolkit
- Reasonable adjustments
- Behaviour as communication I
- Behaviour as communication II
- Consent and decision making I
- Consent and decision making II
- Virtual care.

Here is a link for more information: <https://cid.org.au/justincludeme/>



## **Help build understanding of the life experiences of people with disability**

The National Disability Data Asset (NDDA) aims to create a better picture of the life experiences of people living with disability. It hopes to do this by bringing together de-identified data from different Government agencies into one national disability dataset. De-identified means that nobody will be able to tell who the information is about.

National data that is accessible, accurate, and consistent will provide a better understanding of the barriers and needs of Australians with disability. It is hoped that these insights will help improve the programs and services delivered by disability organisations and Governments.

## How you can get involved

People with disability and their families must have a say in the policies that impact them.

There are two public panels for people with disability to join. Expressions of interest are open until Thursday 29 February.

### For more information visit the below:

Inclusion Australia's position statement on the NDDA:

<https://www.inclusionaustralia.org.au/national-disability-data-asset-position-statement/>

NDDA public panels (including Easy Read information):

<https://engage.dss.gov.au/national-disability-data-asset-planned-panels-expressions-of-interest/>

Media release from the Australian Government and NDDA:

<https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/13876>

NDDA website: <https://www.ndda.gov.au/>

## News Updates and Information

Urgent action needed to fund independent advocacy

<https://bit.ly/42M7gEB>

Woman makes history as first parliamentarian with Down Syndrome

<https://bit.ly/3SPn0Ct>

I predicted an NDIS disaster. Here's how to make it sustainable

<https://bit.ly/3SUiwdQ>



## Dates for your calendar

22 and 23 February 2024 – external evaluators will be at Side By Side Advocacy. All advocacy organisation are evaluated regularly to make sure they are doing a good job. Let us know if you would like to speak with them

28 February and 6 March – 10am - 3pm – More than Just a Job for me – Council for Intellectual Disability – These workshops will help you develop goals around getting a job. The workshops will be over 2 days. You must come to both days. Here is the link to register: <https://bit.ly/42LFhF6>

7 March – Parramatta Leadership Group Information Session – 2pm - 3:30pm – Side By Side Advocacy – Side By Side Advocacy office

15 March – Parramatta Leadership Group Information Session – 10am - 12 noon – Side By Side Advocacy – Boronia Grove Community Centre

17 March – St Patrick's Day

20 March – NDIS Discussion Series – 12:00pm to 1:00pm – Family Advocacy – Online via zoom – There will be facilitated conversations on how to navigate the world of disability support services effectively for you or your family member with a developmental disability.

Visit here for more information: <https://bit.ly/3uQKkYe>

Visit here to register: <https://bit.ly/48p4kir>

21 March – Harmony Day

21 March – National Close the Gap Day

29 March – Good Friday

30 March – Holy Saturday

31 March – Easter Sunday

1 April – Easter Monday

25 April – Anzac Day

12 May – Mother's Day

14 May – Making decisions at home workshop – 10am - 2:30pm – Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club

22 May – Making decisions at home workshop – 10am - 2:30pm – Dee Why RSL

26 May – National Sorry Day

27 May – Reconciliation Day

## **Have your say!**

Do you have any suggestions about how we could do things better or differently at Side By Side Advocacy?

If you do, we would love to hear from you! You can use the contact information below to tell us.

## **Information about Side By Side Advocacy**

Links to Side By Side Advocacy brochures for you to print, download and/or share:

Citizen Advocacy: <https://bit.ly/3Rp1vsG>

Individual Advocacy: <https://bit.ly/3Pe2evl>

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Appeals:  
<https://bit.ly/3UO3U23>

Inclusive Governance Project Brochure: <https://bit.ly/3UObhqq>

To view more information about the work we do at Side By Side Advocacy click here: <https://bit.ly/3UMJWoc>

## Contact details for Side By Side Advocacy

**Phone:** (02) 9808 5500

**Email:** [info@sidebysideadvocacy.org.au](mailto:info@sidebysideadvocacy.org.au)

**Website:** [www.sidebysideadvocacy.org.au](http://www.sidebysideadvocacy.org.au)

**Address:** Level 2, Suite 206, 34 Charles Street Parramatta, NSW, 2150

**Office hours:** 9am to 5pm

The closest railway station is Parramatta Railway Station

The bus stop for the Parramatta loop bus is approximately 20 metres from our front door. The bus is free.

The Parramatta Ferry Terminal is next to the office.

There are accessible parking spots nearby.

There is metred, time-limited on-street parking.

There is a parking station across the road on Charles Street.

Contact us before you come if you need more information about getting to the office.



Side By Side Advocacy promotes and upholds the rights, needs and interests of people with disability to enable full and meaningful participation in the community.

We recognise that people with intellectual disability experience particular barriers in having their voices heard and needs met and for that reason we specialise in providing advocacy for people with intellectual disability.

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Side By Side Advocacy acknowledges the Dharug people, Traditional Custodians on the land on which we live and work. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Side By Side Advocacy is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

For more information, visit: [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au)