

“Creating and supporting relationships that make a difference in the life of a person with an intellectual disability”



Annual Report

Citizen Advocacy

Sunbury & Districts Inc

2023



Office 5a, 36 Macedon Street (PO Box 420) Sunbury VIC 3429

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ABN 70 069 363 776 | Assoc No A0009849V

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Social justice through
freely given friendships





Appendix A: Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Funding & Support

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc gratefully acknowledges the funding provided by the Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Social Services.



Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided by



What is Citizen Advocacy?

The Program

Citizen Advocacy is an innovative community based movement which aims to recognise, promote and defend the rights and interests of people with an intellectual disability.

It does so by finding and supporting caring, responsible citizens who are prepared to act voluntarily to make a positive difference in the life of a person, who may be lonely, face difficult challenges, or be in a risky situation.

Each citizen Advocacy relationship is unique. The citizen advocate may for example, offer his or her protégé: friendship, the experience of family, new experiences and opportunities, and in some instances, spokesman ship and protection from abuse.

The Citizen Advocacy office carefully matches protégés and citizen advocates ensuring that there is a good fit between the needs and interests of the protégé and the abilities, resources and commitment of the citizen advocate.

Types of Advocacy

Citizen Advocacy can be divided into three main forms:

1. Expressive Advocacy

Everyone needs to feel warmth and understanding that comes from friendship. This is what expressive advocacy describes - the “friendship” aspect of advocacy - the caring, sharing, emotional support, spending time together, having fun and just being there.

2. Instrumental Advocacy

Everyone needs assistance at different times just to learn how to get along in everyday life. The way we learn most things is through experience and by having someone there to show us different ways to do things. Instrumental advocacy describes the practical aspect of advocacy.

3. Spokesmanship

In some situations people with intellectual disabilities are not treated with respect and dignity, their basic human rights are denied, and they are expected to put up with life-conditions and services that you and I would not accept. Advocates may need to speak out on behalf of a person to ensure their rights are met or assist that person to speak out for themselves. An advocate will need to represent their friend’s interests as if they were their own.



Citrine Advisory
Prosper with the Right Advice

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Committee Members for the Financial Report

The committee members of the Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the basis of preparation is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee members’ responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee are responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee members either intend to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is included in Appendix A of this auditor’s report. This description, which is located directly after the audit report, forms part of our auditor’s report.

CITRINE ADVISORY PTY LTD

Justin Bramble
Principle
CA - 584851
Dated: 4 October 2023

ABN: 93 665 408 720 - Address: PO BOX 2070, Sunbury VIC 3429 - Telephone: 0408 556 870 - Email: Accountant@citineadvisory.com.au - Website: citineadvisory.com.au
Limited liability by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CITIZEN ADVOCACY SUNBURY & DISTRICTS INC.



Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc. ("the entity") which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, and the committee members' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the entity is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants ("the Code") that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, which has been given to those charged with governance, would be in the same terms if given as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to format of the financial report. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012. As a result the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Matter

Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The committee members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the entity's financial report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our Mission

To recognise, promote and defend the rights and interests of people from culturally diverse backgrounds and situations within our community, who have an intellectual disability. We do so by recruiting and supporting caring, responsible citizens (advocates) on a long term one to one basis who are prepared to act voluntarily to make a positive difference in the life of a person who may be lonely, face difficult challenges, or be in a risky situation (protégés). We carefully match protégés and citizen advocates ensuring that there is a good fit between the needs and interests of the protégés and the abilities, resources and commitment of the citizen advocate.

Principles

The operation of a Citizen Advocacy program is based on the following principles:

Advocate Independence

- Advocates must be free to develop a primary loyalty to the person with whom they are matched and be able to act as independently as possible.
- Citizen Advocates are supported as unpaid, independent citizens acting as an advocate for an Individual person.

Program Independence

- Our program is independent and free from conflict of interest in how it is administered and funded. The office is administratively and physically separated from agencies which operate direct service programs involving (potential) Protégés.

Clarity of Staff Functions

- Our Citizen Advocacy staff understand the nature and possibilities of Citizen Advocacy and communicate this understanding by:
- Supporting, not supplanting, Protégé/Advocate relationships.
- Directing their energies toward building and maintaining the office as a whole.

Balanced Orientation to Needs of People requiring Advocates.

- People with an intellectual disability have a wide variety of needs for representation and relationships which can be met by Citizen Advocates. Our program works to developed plans for recruiting and supporting a range of relationships.

Positive Interpretations of People with a Disability.

- The Citizen Advocacy program model provides a positive interpretation of people with disabilities. The program always seeks the most highly positive, value conferring and yet valid possible associations which support developmental growth potential, citizenship role and individual personhood of people at risk of social devaluation.

Non-Discriminatory Advocacy

- Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc. promotes to Citizen Advocates, sensitivity towards the social and cultural values, beliefs and practices of the Protégés.

Our Advocates

We would like to acknowledge the advocates of CA Sunbury for their wonderful achievements in serving the community and the protégés they support. The world would be a poor place without your selfless giving of time, friendship, assistance and support.

Alison Cunningham

Angela Fitzwater

Angelo Micallef

Barbara Ashley

Carolyn Grant

Corrie McConville

David Abdilla

Debbie Batchelor

Deborah Ross

Edda Webster

Fedelia Bowden

Helen Sims

Jeniffer Renda

Joan Purton

Jodie Milenkovic

John Karagiannidis

John McKinnon

Julie Allen

Katie Bishop

Ljubica Bosevska

Lyn Plummer

Lynne Armstrong

Marilou Elderfield

Maureen Anderson

Nathan Dellamarta

Nell Canty

Noel Roberts

Ruth Vigus

Stuart Ritchie

Susan Neale

Tony Tanti

William Shephard



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AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF CITIZEN ADVOCACY SUNBURY & DISTRICTS INC.

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as lead auditor for the audit of Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

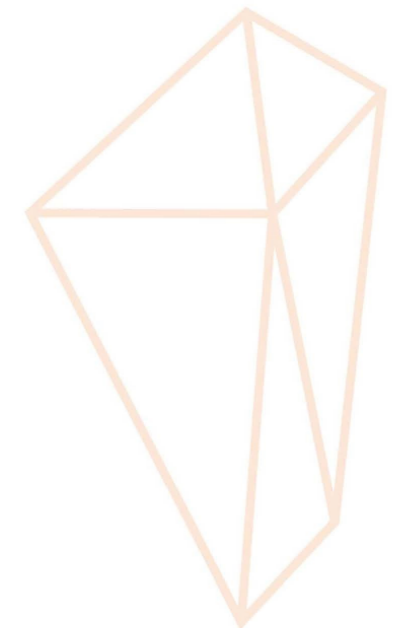
1. a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
2. b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Citrine Advisory

Justin Bramble - Principle

Dated: 4 October 2023

Justin Bramble



CITIZEN ADVOCACY SUNBURY AND DISTRICTS INC.

Committee Members Declaration YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

In the opinion of the Committee Members of Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and Districts Inc.

The financial statement of Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and Districts Inc. are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and

Complying with Australian Accounting Standards including the Australian Accounting Interpretations and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*; and

In the committee members' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and Districts Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee.



Anthony Tanti

Treasurer

9th of October 2023

In the Office



Coordinator - David Abela

It's been an honour to be Coordinator of Citizen Advocacy Sunbury for the past 31 yrs. In this time, I have been able to help take this program from something that began with the aim of asking people in the Sunbury community to visit and protect vulnerable and often abandoned people living in the large institution called Caloola, to a Citizen Advocacy program working in the wider community with a range of people and needs, when Caloola shut down. In this time, I have also been able to participate in a number of Citizen Advocacy Program Evaluations (CAPE), workshops and seminars around the country, reinforcing and clarifying my strong belief that people with disability, like everyone, need a balance in their lives – being good quality services and programs and freely given relationships, offering friendship, inclusion and protection. Helping people achieve this, is immensely satisfying work. I live in a small township of Riddell's Creek and have 4 children and 4 little grandchildren. When not being a CA Coordinator, I have been retraining our two Off the Track horses (ex-racehorses) for dressage competitions.

Assistant Coordinator - Shukona Benka

When I'm not at CA, you'll find me in my garden looking after my three ducks or out bush-walking with my family. I also work part time as a Mindfulness Practitioner, helping people who are facing challenging personal circumstances such as depression, anxiety or substance abuse.

It has been a year since I joined the CA Sunbury team. While the experience, learning and the journey have been fantastic, to be honest it is hard work. Despite the need for citizen advocacy it's not easy to make matches when many people out there prefer to believe that paid services are enough for people with intellectual disability. Also, it is critical that every match is made extremely carefully to give it the best chance of success, which takes a lot of time and patience. When it comes to a potential match, our Coordinator David's intuition and judgment never cease to amaze me. David and I are a great team and I look up to him as my mentor. I learn a lot from him, not only about advocacy but also about horses - now I know what a farrier is!

We participated in and also organised several promotional activities this year, which was exciting and I am looking forward to more in the new year including cinema advertising. The regards, respect and trust that I have been treated with by our wonderful members of the management committee have been phenomenal and I'm truly grateful for it.



Committee of Management



President—Greg Osborn

I am a retiree after spending 50 yrs in the work force - 27 as a banker and the rest operating businesses until about 2012 when I took a job as a chef in a childcare centre here in Sunbury. I moved to Sunbury in 2006 after spending most of my adult life in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. My interests include gardening, painting and pottery. I am also a member of the local men's probus club.

Treasurer - Tony Tanti



It's been an honour to serve another year as the Treasurer. I am also pleased with being part of Citizen Advocacy program that seeks for volunteers to visit and protect vulnerable and people with disability living alone with very little support. My family moved to Sunbury in January 1993 with two young boys. Sunbury was the perfect place for them to commence their schooling. Time goes past so quickly, that now they are both married and soon making us grandparents. My past work experience in telecommunication industry and Aged Care coordinating domestic home assistance helps me to continue to be part of the CA committee. Recently, I changed my job to work closer to home in Sunbury. I anticipate to have more time and energy to support the program. My other interests include gardening and wood turning. I extend my thanks to our Coordinators, committee members, Protoges and Advocates for their contributions and support to continue this important Advocacy program.



Secretary - Carmela Vergara - Rigby

Many years ago a former CA member, Kate Kennedy had told me how rewarding helping someone with an intellectual disability can be and encouraged me to be a part of Citizen Advocacy Sunbury. I was inspired by how she balanced work, raising a family and volunteer work. Although I was only twenty, I always knew I wanted to help make a difference for someone. It has taken me over twenty five years to finally be involved with CA. This is my fifth year serving on CA's Committee and I hope to be able to contribute something truly wonderful to CA Sunbury. My family moved to Sunbury in 1984 and I love living in this town where I feel there is great feeling of Community spirit. I also volunteer with Sunbury Neighbourhood Kitchen which I find very rewarding. I am a Mum who juggles working five days a week, five adult children (3 sons, a step daughter and a god child that lives with us) and a husband of 27 years with my volunteer work. I am a hobby gardener, keen bush walker and camper and would love to travel this beautiful world more and am looking forward to meeting my future protege one day.

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Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc

Office 5a, 36 Macedon St
Sunbury VIC 3429

ABN: 70 069 363 776

Email: casunbury1@bigpond.com

Balance Sheet

As of June 2023

Net Assets	\$125,904.11
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$117,283.89
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	\$8,620.22
Total Equity	\$125,904.11

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Balance Sheet

As of June 2023

Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
BLL - Operating Account	\$561.33	
BLL - Cash Reserves Account	\$122,771.52	
BLL - Staff Entitlements	\$107,916.71	
BLL - MasterCard	\$652.95	
Prepaid Expenses	\$4,891.00	
Total Bank Accounts	\$236,793.51	
Total Current Assets	\$236,793.51	
Non-Current Assets		
Furniture		
Furniture At Cost	\$951.82	
Accum. Depr. Furniture	-\$951.82	
Total Furniture	\$0.00	
Office Equipment		
Office Equipment At Cost	\$20,938.19	
Accum. Depr. Office Equipment	-\$16,649.19	
Total Office Equipment	\$4,289.00	
Computers		
Computers At Cost	\$1,977.35	
Accum. Depr. Computers	-\$1,977.35	
Total Computers	\$0.00	
Bond		
Bond - Macedon St	\$1,500.00	
Total Bond	\$1,500.00	
Total Non-Current Assets	\$5,789.00	
Total Assets	\$242,582.51	
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	\$3.06	
GST Paid	-\$1,726.83	
Total GST Liabilities	-\$1,723.77	
Payroll Liabilities		
PAYG Withholding Payable	\$7,456.00	
Superannuation Payable	\$4,014.40	
Provision - AL - Current	\$14,187.79	
Provision - LSL - Current	\$54,185.58	
Provision - PL - Current	\$33,035.86	
Other Payroll Liabilities	\$611.54	
Total Payroll Liabilities	\$113,491.17	
Other Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	\$3,900.00	
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$3,900.00	
Accrued Expenses	\$1,011.00	
Total Current Liabilities	\$116,678.40	
Total Liabilities	\$116,678.40	

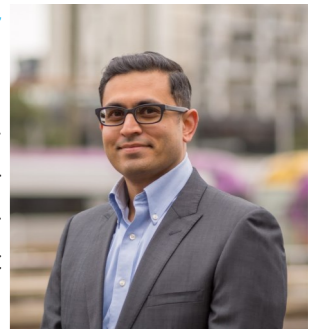
This report includes Year-End Adjustments.



David Abdilla - General Member

Being on the Citizen Advocacy Committee has been a great experience for me. I really enjoy the camaraderie amongst the committee members and the opportunity to help make decisions to keep this vital work going. Being an advocate, myself, allows me to also understand the challenges and the joy of working with a protégé. I was specifically selected as a match for my protégé due to my technical background, as he is very technically orientated and this makes for a great pairing. David and Shukona are very careful and deliberate in matching the right advocates with the right protégés, so that there is a good likelihood of an ongoing friendship. On a personal level I have three grown children and I am currently studying Clinical Hypnosis in order to assist people in having a better quality of life. I look forward to continuing my involvement with Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and I encourage anyone wanting to make a difference in someone's life, to come and have a chat with David and Shukona.

Gerard Domingo - General Member



Gerard has been working in the public transport sector for many years. He also served on the VLine Culture Council for a number of years where he led a team of people in a voluntary capacity towards creating awareness regarding culturally and linguistically diverse employees. He also served on the Ballarat International Foto Biennale as a volunteer committee member. Gerard lives in Sunbury with his family who recently celebrated the 1st birthday of their twin daughters.



Justin O'Brien - General Member

My name is Justin O'Brien and I am deaf. I wear a cochlear device in each ear. I would like to help other people in the Sunbury Community. I work with three committees, ADMINA, (Action for more Independence and Dignity in Accommodation Inc.) REINFORCE, (self-advocacy). These committees work from a venue called Ross House (in Melbourne) and recently Citizen Advocacy Sunbury. Being on these committees helps me to learn how to help other people with disability and also share some of my ideas. I hope to make friends, share ideas and link up with other people involved with disability.

David Sharpe - General Member



My name is David Sharpe and I am 59 years old. I suffered a brain injury due to a car accident that I had in 1974 when riding my bicycle, that left me in a coma for four months. When I became aware of my situation that's when the proverbial hit the fan because I could not walk or talk. After many years I learned to both walk and talk.

My hobbies are socialising with people and I am well known around Sunbury. I used to go horse riding in fact I even made it to the state finals. I have been actively involved supporting the cause of the disabled people and attended conference to voice my opinion. An example was in the initial Sunbury Day Hospital consultation. I am currently a member of the CA Sunbury as well as the Committee where my opinion and feedback are valued and appreciated.

President's Report

Greg Osborn

This year has been quite challenging since the end of COVID restrictions, the need to re-establish contacts and actively recruit new advocates and protégés has seen the coordination team working hard. As part of the organisation's strategy, we undertook a public information evening at the Hume learning centre, this was a very successful evening with some new contacts made. My thanks go to the whole team that made the evening such a success.

There are challenges ahead for this organisation as governments consider how budget restraints will affect this sector, it may be that future committees will have to redefine the scope of disability that we serve and expand the area we serve. No organisation can operate properly without continual renewal that is why we need to recruit new people to the management committee, at the moment we are running with a very small group of dedicated committee members, this cannot continue so it is essential that we recruit new members to bring some fresh ideas. I cannot stress how important it is to have a strong management committee for the organisation to continue to operate.

The overall progress for the year was very good, the co-ordination team of David and Shukona are working well together and the committee has worked in harmony to manage the organisation and to support the efforts of the coordinators. My thanks go to all of the committee and to the coordination team for all the work this year.



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Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc

Office 5a, 36 Macedon St
Sunbury VIC 3429

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2022 To June 2023

ABN: 70 069 363 776

Email: casunbury1@bigpond.com

Staff - Training	\$994.55
Staff - Travel & Accom	\$326.75
Total Payroll Expenses	\$161,315.69
Total Expenses	\$207,479.73
Operating Profit	\$6,626.13
Other Income	
Interest Income	\$1,994.09
Total Other Income	\$1,994.09
Total Other Expenses	\$0.00
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$8,620.22

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Coordinator's Report

David Abela

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Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc

Office 5a, 36 Macedon St
Sunbury VIC 3429

ABN: 70 069 363 776

Email: casunbury1@bigpond.com

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2022 To June 2023

Income		
Grants Commonwealth		\$202,125.86
Grants Other		\$11,000.00
Donation/Gift Income		\$980.00
Total Income		\$214,105.86
Total Cost Of Sales		
		\$0.00
Gross Profit		\$214,105.86
Expenses		
General Expenses		
Accounting/Bookkeeping Fees	\$4,263.67	
Advertising & Marketing	\$3,063.13	
Audit Fees _Financial	\$1,750.00	
Bank Fees	\$82.05	
Computer Expenses	\$893.62	
Council Rates	\$173.20	
General Repairs & Maintenance	\$85.36	
Gifts	\$50.00	
Printing	\$648.73	
Postage	\$139.09	
Office Equipment	\$3,023.51	
Rent	\$16,665.00	
Stationery	\$335.89	
Subscriptions	\$1,369.04	
Telephone Expenses	\$3,464.79	
Total General Expenses	\$36,007.08	
Program Expense		
Advocate Expense	\$477.98	
Functions	\$2,241.19	
Total Program Expense	\$2,719.17	
Utilities Expense		
Electricity Expenses	\$229.68	
Total Utilities Expense	\$229.68	
Board / Governance Expense		
Meeting Expense - AGM	\$375.00	
Meeting Expense - Board	\$350.58	
Total Board / Governance Expense	\$725.58	
Insurance Expenses		
Business Insurance	\$3,299.87	
Public Liability Insurance	\$3,182.66	
Total Insurance Expenses	\$6,482.53	
Payroll Expenses		
Wages & Salaries		
Annual Leave Provision	\$2,618.43	
Long Service Leave Provision	\$4,230.82	
Personal Leave Provision	\$5,368.37	
Travel Allowance	\$3,680.13	
Superannuation	\$13,012.71	
Wages & Salaries	\$127,272.38	
Work Cover Premiums	\$3,104.58	
Staff Amenities	\$706.97	

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

It is with pleasure that I present my annual report for 2022-2023. With things getting back to normal this year, after 2 years of COVID turmoil, we set about organising 3 Citizen Advocacy matches to be highlighted in our new promotional video production. This video had to be put on hold for some time due to COVID-19, but is now well underway and will be completed shortly for multiple promotional and educational uses.

Another new development continuing this year was the introduction of our new IVO database, allowing better record keeping and seamless DEX data reporting as required by our funder, the Department of Social Services (DSS). Several Zoom training sessions have got us comfortably and confidently recording support and outcomes provided by the proteges advocate and the support provided by the program to the CA relationships



In late July 2022, a Pro Active Police Presentation was conducted at the CA office with some 16 advocates and proteges in attendance. Participants were provided with practical & useful information in regards to police matters and intervention. The program continues to network with Sunbury police and I was given the opportunity to address a number of police constables at the Sunbury Police Station where the value of Citizen Advocacy was discussed as well as how police officers could help identify people that have come to their attention that may benefit from being matched to an advocate in their community.

fit from being matched to an advocate in their community.

Prior to employing our current assistant coordinator, I was assisted in the office and out, by Angelo Micallef (previous committee member & current advocate). Thanks to Angelo for filling in and the productive work he did over several weeks.

Early in February 2023 I was invited to speak at the Citizen Advocacy National Conference held in Melbourne. The Conference was well attended by a range of people from around the country. As part of a panel of four, I was able to elaborate on how disability has increasingly become a large multi-million-dollar industry often creating a high degree of dependency experienced by people with disability. Recently people have experienced difficulties with NDIS funding and many services purchased with this funding. Citizen Advocacy can help balance a person's life





by matching them to someone who can possibly help them become more independent, less reliant on services and connected to the wider community.

Informing advocates of new developments and possibilities for their protégé is integral to our work. In April we invited DEC Housing, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to helping people with disability, and others facing insecure housing, to live in custom-built accommodation that empowers their lifestyle and independence.

In August 2022 Bendigo Bank invited Citizen Advocacy to their 'Community Enterprise Grant Relaunch'. Our secretary Carmela and myself attended, resulting in a portable defibrillator being given to the program. We are grateful to Bendigo Bank for this potentially life saving piece of equipment.

The work of promoting our program, never ends, some activities this year included a promotional table at the Greenvale Shopping Centre, setting up a marquee at the Sunbury Agricultural Show, attending the Hume Volunteer Expo at Mickleham, and a very successful Community Information Night at the Global Learning Centre in



Sunbury on the 24th May 2023 with some 45 people in attendance. The event made news in the Star weekly with one of our recent matches being featured. An inspiring and insightful presentation was delivered by the very experienced John Armstrong who spoke about Social Role Valorisation and how Citizen Advocacy helps people achieve the goals and aims of SRV in real life. I was also honoured to speak about our program and

how it identifies people in need and matches them to an advocate in a freely given relationship. Of course, the highlight of the night was the four CA matches, giving an account of their experience and what each person has gained through their relationship. Presentations were videoed by John's son, David and will form part of our information and education campaigns. The event proved to be a positive reinforcement to those already involved in the movement and an oppor-



Financial Statements

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- Profit and Loss Statement
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EXPENSES

In 2023, total expenses reduced by \$4,487.83 from the previous year. The main item of expenditure is Payroll including provision for leave entitlement, representing 78% of outgoings.

\$36,007 (17%) was spent on General Expenses which includes advertising and Office rental fees. The remaining expenses were spent on Program Expenses and Insurances.



The Committee of Management and Staff are committed to ensuring the organisation remains viable and sustainable through our efforts to supplement our federal government funding with other grants, donations and fundraising.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In the following pages you will find: -

- Statement by the Committee
- Profit and Loss Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Notes to the Financial Statement
- Independent Auditor's Report

tunity to plant a seed for those wanting to know more!

This year, there has been a noticeable increase in the amount of phone calls and emails coming into the office and mobile, from carers and people with disability themselves, desperate for advocacy and representation due to a service gone wrong or a necessary NDIS appeal. NDIS coordinators are often contacting us as a last resort with many different issues often related to NDIS funded services and abuse or neglect. Being a CA program, we are not in a position to do direct paid advocacy or recruit an advocate on such short notice and have at times had no option but to refer people on to a more appropriate program.

Our primary aim of recruiting advocates for vulnerable people with intellectual disability continues with vigour and we have discovered, been told about and been contacted by many people in difficult and unfair situations. Some have gone on to take up other opportunities or changed their minds, others have been matched to someone who really cares and gives their time and friendship freely and willingly. Of note more recently, is a new advocate ensuring her protégé with intellectual and neurological disabilities and two very young children is registered and receiving much needed NDIS funding and services. The protégé has for years 'slipped through the cracks' and is at risk of Child Protection getting involved. Another recently recruited advocate is in the process of helping his autistic protégé develop his own business which he has a passion for, whilst also supporting the young man with family issues. In another recently made match this year, the advocate assisted her protégé with a Centre Link review and the administrative process. Apart from these recently made matches we have a few potential advocates and proteges on the horizon.

As with every year, this report would not be complete without mentioning the magnificent achievements and support provided by our Advocates. The following are some brief examples:

Protégé assisted with NDIS Funding increase.

Advocate supported protégé after the passing of a fellow resident.

Advocate supported protégé prior to court hearing.

Advocate helped protégé deal with unreasonable requirements of NDIS funded holiday.

Advocate convinced protégé to spend less time at pokies.

Advocate assisted protégé with workplace bullying.

Advocate accompanied protégé in an ambulance to the emergency department

Advocate dealing with protege's mental health difficulties.

Advocate took protégé to careers counselling.

Advocate supported protégé when taken to hospital due to Covid.

Advocate had discussions with NDIS Coordinator.

Advocate signed off on new NDIS funding agreement.

Advocate in the process of urgently securing NDIS funding and services for protégé.

The Committee of Management remains integral to the success and accountability of CA Sunbury. A big thank-you goes to this dedicated group of people. Our president and Greg Osborne keeps everything running to time. Our dedicated and hardworking Treasurer Tony Tanti who ensures we are working within our budget. Secretary Carmela Rigby with her organisational skills, and General Members Justin O'Brien

and David Sharpe are all great contributors to the running of the program and give us a protégé perspective. Welcome and thank-you to two new committee members Davd Abdilla who also keeps our computers in good order and Gerard Domingo who brings with him new ideas and perspectives.

Our outsourced bookkeeper Joanne Sedgeman also continues to do a great job ensuring invoices are accounted for and balanced and pays processed amongst other financial requirements.

Our new assistant Coordinator is no longer new! Shukona has been with us for a year now. As anyone who has worked in a small community program knows, you need to be a jack of all trades and jump from one task to another rapidly at times, Shukona has proven to be a person capable of this. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication, Shukona.

Finally, a big thank-you to all our advocates and other supporters who make this small community organisation function and support so many vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our community, who as much as ever need freely given independent relationships.

SUNBURY & MACEDON RANGES
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Advocate David Abdilla, co-ordinator David Abela, assistant co-ordinator Shukona Benka and client Stuart Woods. (Damjan Janevski) 333419_01

Calling on all volunteers

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and Districts is calling for more volunteers to help mentor and be a friend to community members facing difficult challenges.

The advocacy and mentorship program has been running for over 38 years and looks to support freely given friendships between a person with an intellectual disability and a community member.

Program co-ordinator David Abela said it is important for vulnerable people in the community to feel connected to other members.

"In this day and age ... disability services have become a multi-billion-dollar industry, often creating a high degree of dependency on the service system," Mr Abela said. "It is as important as ever, that isolated, vulnerable people in our community are connected to independent individuals in their community."

Citizen Advocacy will be holding an information and supper night at Sunbury Global Learning Centre on May 24, from 6.15 pm to 8.30 pm for people who are interested to learn more about the program.

The information night will talk about Social Role Valorisation (SRV), which is a method to improve the lives of disadvantaged and marginalised community members.

International SRV Association member John Armstrong will speak about SRV and how citizen advocacy can help people achieve the goals and aims of SRV in real life.

Program participants will also be at the information night to share their experience and what each person has gained through their relationship.

Details: <https://bit.ly/3paPLOK>

Zoe Moffatt

Treasurer's Report

Tony Tanti

I am very pleased to present Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc. financial reports for the year ended 30th June 2023.

THE RESULTS FOR 2023

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc. continued to maintain a strong and stable position. The overall result for 2023 ended with an expected surplus of \$7,617.36. The surplus was due to carrying a surplus from previous year and receiving additional DSS funding in February 2023 to assist with additional cost pressures and higher inflation outcomes.

Total Assets has increased during the year over the previous year by \$20,259.36 which is due to receiving additional funding and the Cash on Hand which as of 30th June 2023 totalled \$236,793.51.

Total Liabilities have slightly increased by \$1,473.59 for the year compared to the previous year.

INCOME

The greater part of funding to run the program comes from the Department of Social Services through the National Disability Advocacy Program.

Like the previous year, Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc used the additional funds to promote Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and staffing the program for Hume Council communities.

