

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



Annual Report

2025

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc



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Social justice through
freely given friendships



child to a Citizen Advocate can ensure someone independent is there to look out for their best interests in the future. I look forward to working with John Armstrong and others in the development of this event. As always, the most important aspect of our program remains the freely given relationships between our **Citizen Advocates and their protégés**—relationships built on friendship, advocacy, and genuine care. I am continually inspired by the dedication of our advocates. The old saying, *“If you want something done, ask a busy person,”* certainly applies here.

A warm welcome to our **four new matches** this year:

- Ash and Julie
- Emil & Jacob
- Graham & Sanjeeve
- Sandra & Penny
- Tara & Penny

Each of these relationships is developing and strengthening with time. Throughout the year, we supported **35 matches**, with four long-term matches currently under status review and three concluding due to relocation or changes in circumstance.

Examples of Advocate Support This Year:

- Ensured prompt repair of a protégé’s electric wheelchair
- Assisted a protégé’s parents with NDIS funding management
- Helped a protégé find voluntary work
- Visited a protégé during hospitalisation
- Arranged home doctor visits for a protégé
- Managed costs of electrical work on behalf of a protégé
- Maintained regular phone contact with a protégé from interstate
- Attended an online VCAT hearing regarding administration
- Arranged an emergency pendant for a protégé
- Encouraged a protégé to undergo diabetes testing
- Attended a protégé’s funeral
- Supported a protégé through a grievance with a seniors group
- Accompanied a protégé and family to visit a potential high-care CRU
- Arranged financial counselling
- Helped a protégé volunteer at the Community Kitchen
- Assisted in structuring carer visits for a protégé

Sadly, two protégés passed away this year:

Dorothy Scanlon, a former Caloola resident who went on to live in a Sunbury CRU, was matched with **Barbara Ashley** for 30 years. She will be greatly missed. **Terry O’Sullivan**, also a former Caloola resident, later lived in Sunbury and then the western suburbs. Initially matched with **John Armstrong** and later **John Karagiannidis**, Terry received the best possible representation thanks to his dedicated advocates.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who contribute to this valuable community program. It remains an honour to be part of it after so many years. Our **Committee of Management** continues to give their time, energy, and passion freely, ensuring the smooth operation of our small yet highly effective program. Special thanks to our Executive Committee—**David Abdilla**, **Matthew Batchelor**, and **John Armstrong**—for their ongoing leadership between meetings. I also thank our outgoing Secretary **Julie Farrugia**, and committee members **Carmela Rigby** and **David Sharpe**. Thank you to **Assistant Coordinator Shukona Benka** and our excellent **Bookkeeper Joanne Sedgeman**. Most importantly, thank you to our **Citizen Advocates**—for your freely given commitment, friendship, and protection of your protégé. The longevity and depth of these relationships continue to inspire me, and I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.



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.

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

tended a morning tea at **St Anne’s Church**, where we promoted the program and met the new parish priest.

Several years ago, I had the privilege of speaking to the **Sunbury Stars (CWA)**. Since then, they have continued to support our work through annual donations—including this year’s generous \$500 contribution towards our Christmas Dinner. Their ongoing commitment is deeply appreciated. Our **Annual Christmas Dinner** once again featured the beautiful voices of the **InSync Choir**, whose carols filled the room with Christmas spirit. The dinner was, as always, very well attended and brought great joy to both advocates and protégés, creating a warm atmosphere of friendship and celebration.

An opportunity to network with local police arose through an **Elder Abuse Information Session** conducted by **Victoria Police** at the Global Learning Centre in Sunbury. The session explored the rise of scams affecting older people and people with disabilities. We were able to bring back valuable information about prevention and awareness of these issues.

The **NDIS** continues to have a major impact on our program. While it provides essential funding and support to many people, it can also present complex challenges. Advocates have often found themselves navigating reviews, appeals, and ineffective services on behalf of their protégés. Supporting our advocates in these matters has remained a priority, ensuring that protégés receive the help they need. Our program continues to receive numerous calls and emails from people seeking urgent assistance with NDIS-related issues. Many require redirection to more appropriate services, which can be difficult due to long waiting lists.

During the year, we were fortunate to connect with **Jed Bastian** from the **Brotherhood of St Laurence**, who spoke with our advocates and protégés about a pilot

program designed to help people with disabilities access both community and NDIS-funded services. As mentioned in the President’s and Treasurer’s reports, the reintroduction of a **Subcommittee** focusing on the program’s key office activities and coordinator roles has been invaluable. This has provided an opportunity to discuss new protégés, determine how best to describe their needs to potential advocates, and consider the complex issues often involved in advocate support.

In April 2025, the program underwent a **DSS Disability Standards Re-Certification Audit**. As in previous years, the outcome was excellent—with no nonconformities identified. The audit reinforced the strength of our systems, policies, and procedures. The auditors particularly appreciated meeting a small group of our advocates and protégés and witnessing the genuine bonds between them—relationships built on respect, dignity, rights, and inclusion. The audit confirmed that government funds are being used effectively and in full compliance with statutory and contractual requirements. This year also saw a visit from two representatives of the **Department of Social Services (DSS)**. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss service delivery, staffing, DEX reporting, finances, and incident management. I am pleased to report that the officers left with a greater appreciation of our best practices and the extensive work we do with redirecting people to appropriate services. Looking ahead, I am excited to coordinate an important new initiative in 2026, inspired by the origins of Citizen Advocacy:

“**What will happen to my child when I am no longer here?**” This information session will be aimed at older parents of adult children with disabilities who still live at home. It will explore how linking their adult



Coordinator's Report

David Abela

It is with great pleasure that I present my Annual Coordinator's Report for 2024–2025. It is truly an honour to begin my 34th year in this wonderful program. Our first event of the 2024–2025 year was marked by the committee and staff coming together to celebrate **David Sharpe's 60th birthday**. David is not only a valued committee member and protégé of the program but also a well-known and respected figure in the Sunbury community.

Following the completion of our **Electronic Billboard Campaign**, made possible through the generous funding of the **Millet Family Community Grant**, an evaluation in the first quarter concluded that it was a very successful and valuable promotion. The campaign drew significant local attention, sparking discussion about our program. Importantly, it also generated direct enquiries, contributing to new matches and connections. In July 2024, we held a **Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser**, which not only produced an excellent profit for the program but also provided a great opportunity to inform the public about the work and importance of Citizen Advocacy in their community. My sincere thanks to everyone who volunteered their time on a cold Sunday, and special thanks to our Treasurer at the time, **Tony Tanti**, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the event's success.

In today's world of fast and accessible technology, it is vital to maintain a well-designed and functional website. **David Armstrong** has done an outstanding job updating the Citizen Advocacy Sunbury website, making it more user-friendly and visually appealing. The **Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS)** partnered with **Cobaw Health** to hold a consultation with community members about future planning in the state. This provided an opportunity for community members and organisations to share their views on issues such as health, roads, and housing. I was honoured to attend and represent the interests of people with disabilities. The **Catholic Church in Sunbury** has supported Citizen Advocacy since its inception—organising early public meetings that led to the program's creation, providing committee members, and encouraging parishioners to become advocates. In November 2024, David Abdilla, Tony Tanti, and I at-



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 develop 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 July 2024 - June 2025

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.

1. Alison Cunningham

2. Angela Fitzwater

3. Angelo Micallef

4. Angus Robertson

5. Barbara Ashley

6. Carolyn Grant

7. Cathy Leatch

8. David Abdilla

9. Debbie Batchelor

10. Deborah Ross

11. Emil Reboya

12. Fedelia Bowden

13. Helen Sims

14. Jeniffer Renda

15. Joan Purton

16. John Karagiannidis

17. Julie Allardyce

18. Julie Allen

19. Ljubica Bosevska

20. Lyn Plummer
21. Marilou Elderfield

22. Marnie Semmens

23. Mary Buchannan

24. Maureen Anderson

25. Nathan Dellamarta

26. Nell Canty

27. Ruth Vigus

28. Sanjeev Kumar Singla

29. Stuart Ritchie

30. Susan Neale

31. Tony Tanti

32. William Shephard

Chairperson’s Report

Key Office Activities Sub-Committee (KOAS)

John Armstrong

Discussions regarding the formation of this sub-Committee began in February 2025 though, due to several factors, didn’t properly commence till June 2025. Since then, this sub-committee has met monthly for several hours and is an excellent context for members to learn more about Citizen Advocacy.

This sub-committee functions to support the staff in their match making efforts. As the name suggests, this support follows what is known in Citizen Advocacy as the Key Office Activities comprising Protégé Recruitment, Advocate Recruitment, Orientation, Matching, Follow along and support, recruitment of Advocate Associates, and Crisis Advocacy. There is also much discussion about the application and adherence to the Principles of Citizen Advocacy.

The sub-committee is designed to support the formation of a clear plan for the recruitment of proteges and advocates and their ongoing support once matched. This typically involves the discussion of specific issues outside of the ambit of a general committee meeting. The sub-committee reports to the main Committee through the Coordinator’s monthly report which highlights the most salient features of their work.

In the New Year, it is planned to conduct an Internal Relationship Review, which establishes an up-to-date picture of the entire program from which an annual recruitment plan is derived.



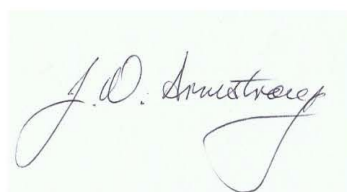
Spreading the word - at Sunbury Square shopping centre

CITIZEN ADVOCACY SUNBURY AND DISTRICTS INC.
Committee Members' Declaration
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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

1. The financial statements of Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and Districts Inc. are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
 - a) Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards, including the Australian Accounting Interpretations and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*; and
2. 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.



John Armstrong

Treasurer

23rd of October 2025

In the Office

Program Coordinator - David Abela

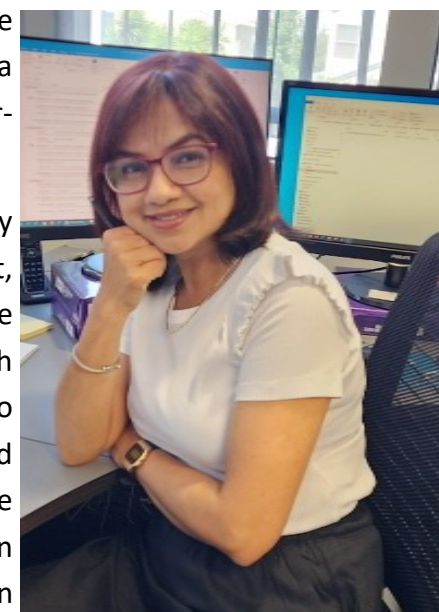


It's been an honour to be Coordinator of Citizen Advocacy Sunbury for the past 33 yrs. In this time, I have been able to help take this program from something that began with the aim of asking people in the Sunbury community to visit and protect vulnerable and often abandoned people living in the large 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 Program Coordinator - Shukona Benka

When I'm not at CA, you'll find me in my garden looking after my three ducks or out bushwalking 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's been three years since I joined the CA Sunbury program, and my work has been both enjoyable and positively challenging. I must admit, despite the clear need for citizen advocacy, it's not always easy to make matches — many people still believe that paid services alone are enough for vulnerable people with intellectual disabilities. Every match needs to be made with great care to give it the best chance of success, so David and I always take our time to consider all aspects of suitability and make sure it's a good fit. We've made some great matches this year and taken part in various promotional events, and I'm looking forward to more in the year ahead.



Committee of Management

David Abdilla - President



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 have lived in Sunbury for 34 years. I run a small Healing business 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.

Matthew Batchelor - Vice President

I became a member of the committee to show support to Citizen Advocacy and also support my wife who is an advocate. Being on the Citizen Advocacy Committee has been a great experience for me. The committee members are great and care about the future of this vital program in our community. David and Shukona are fantastic and work tirelessly to ensure that the right advocates are matched with the right protégés.



John Armstrong - Treasurer and Chair of the Key Office Activities Sub-Committee (KOAS)



John has lived in Sunbury with his wife Lynne since 1989. He is a teacher of the deaf by training and has worked in the disability field for almost 50 years. Between 1994 and 2003 John was an advocate, committee member and eventually President of this program. He served for 18 years as the President of the Citizen Advocacy Trust of Australia providing funds to eligible Citizen Advocacy programs across Australia. Once the Trust closed, John rejoined our committee serving presently as Treasurer and as Chair of the Key Office Activities Sub-Committee (KOAS). John has led many CAPE (the evaluation tool used by CA Programs) evaluations both nationally and internationally and since 1992 has worked as a human service consultant principally as a Senior Social Role Valorisation (SRV) trainer.

2-1410	PAYG Withholding Payable	5,184	6,300
2-1420	Superannuation Payable	3,640	3,915
2-1430	Provision - AL - Current	19,333	17,230
2-1440	Provision - LSL - Current	64,145	59,625
2-1450	Provision - PL - Current	45,843	39,586
2-1490	Other Payroll Liabilities	612	612
Total Payroll Liabilities		138,756	127,268
2-1500	Other Current Liabilities		
2-1550	Unused Funds Other	10,000	20,000
Total Other Current Liabilities		10,000	20,000
2-1600	Accrued Expenses	1,011	1,011
Total Current Liabilities		148,138	146,818
Total Liabilities		148,138	146,818
Net Assets		141,516	126,107
3-0000	Equity		
3-8000	Retained Earnings	126,107	125,515
3-9000	Current Year Surplus/Deficit	15,409	592
Total Equity		141,516	126,107

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc
ABN: 70 069 363 776
BALANCE SHEET
01 JULY 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2025

		30/06/2025	30/06/2024
1-0000	Assets		
1-1000	Current Assets		
1-1100	Bank Accounts		
1-1110	BLL - Operating Account	13,685	4,009
1-1120	BLL - Cash Reserves Account	146,330	152,514
1-1130	BLL - Staff Entitlements	123,151	109,490
1-1140	BLL - MasterCard	97	521
1-1170	Prepaid Expenses	4,891	4,891
	Total Bank Accounts	288,154	271,425
1-2000	Non-Current Assets		
1-2100	Furniture		
1-2110	Furniture At Cost	952	952
1-2120	Accum. Depr. Furniture	-952	-952
	Total Furniture	0	0
1-2200	Office Equipment		
1-2210	Office Equipment At Cost	20,938	20,938
1-2220	Accum. Depr. Office Equipment	-20,938	-20,938
	Total Office Equipment	0	0
1-2300	Computers		
1-2310	Computers At Cost	1,977	1,977
1-2320	Accum. Depr. Computers	-1,977	-1,977
	Total Computers	0	0
1-2600	Bond		
1-2610	Bond - Macedon St	1,500	1,500
	Total Bond	1,500	1,500
	Total Non-Current Assets	1,500	1,500
	Total Assets	289,654	272,925
2-0000	Liabilities		
2-1000	Current Liabilities		
2-1200	GST Liabilities		
2-1210	GST Collected	0	165
2-1220	GST Paid	-1,629	-1,626
	Total GST Liabilities	-1,629	-1,461
2-1400	Payroll Liabilities		

Julie Farrugia - Secretary



A major role in my life so far has been that of a carer — not only for my two daughters, but also for my late father, who had advanced dementia, and now my uncle, who is living with Alzheimer's disease. I have spent most of my career in the hospitality and retail industries. For the past two years, I have served on the Citizen Advocacy Committee of Management, and in my second year, I have held the position of Secretary. I have a strong sense of justice, ethics, and knowledge of the local community, which is reflected in my engagement. Apart from being busy fulfilling the duties of Secretary, a highlight has been being a member of KOAS, headed by John Armstrong, which has been instrumental in learning more about CA's key activities—such as advocate and protege recruitment and support.

Carmela Rigby - General Member

Many years ago 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. I have been part of the CA's Committee for many years, and I hope that I have managed to contribute something truly wonderful to CA Sunbury. My family moved to Sunbury in 1984, and I love living where there is a great feeling of Community spirit. I enjoy volunteering and am also involved in a program that supports young people who have HIV in Jakarta, Indonesia. I enjoy gardening, bushwalking, and camping. Being an advocate is my planned next step with CA Sunbury. "Who will love my child when I am gone?" is something I reflect on, and I hope to support a protege one day.



David Sharpe - General Member



My name is David Sharpe and I am 61 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 conferences 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

David Abdilla

It's certainly been quite a year! The Citizen Advocacy committee has experienced a number of changes throughout the year and while it's always difficult to say goodbye to such dedicated and valued members, these changes have also brought new ideas, fresh perspectives, and renewed energy to our team.

Our focus this year has been on raising public awareness of the vital work we do in the community, connecting people with intellectual disabilities to advocates who offer genuine friendship and support beyond what is provided through government services. One of the highlights of the year was our very successful fundraising barbeque at Sunbury Bunnings. The event not only helped us raise valuable funds but also provided a great opportunity to spread the word about Citizen Advocacy and engage with the local community. We also ran several community engagement activities, including a pop-up information table at Sunbury Square and a feature segment on Sunbury Radio.

Financial sustainability has remained a key focus, where we have carefully reviewed and managed our funds to ensure the organisation remains strong and viable for many years to come. We were also very proud to achieve an excellent outcome in our Standards Audit this year, which confirmed that our processes and procedures are in excellent order.

A special thank-you goes to our Treasurer, John Armstrong, whose extensive knowledge and experience in Social Role Valorisation and Citizen Advocacy have been invaluable. Under John's guidance, we reinstated the Key Office Activities Subcommittee, allowing us to focus more closely on each individual match and explore new strategies to strengthen recruitment and support.

Our annual Christmas Party at The Nook was another memorable occasion, bringing together many advocates and protégés to celebrate the year. The wonderful food and uplifting performance by the InSync Choir, who generously volunteer their time and talent, made the evening truly special.

Looking ahead, we are confident that our coordinators and committee members will continue their hard work and dedication to support the most vulnerable members of our community. We remain committed to being a living example of the kind of inclusive and compassionate society we all wish to see.



David at the CA Christmas party with his Protégé Stuart and Stuart's mother, Glenys

6-5000	Board / Governance Expense		
6-5100	Board - Training	0	17
6-5400	Meeting Expense - AGM	578	663
6-5500	Meeting Expense - Board	112	377
6-5600	Meeting Expenses	322	156
Total Board / Governance Expense		1,012	1,213

6-8000	Insurance Expenses		
6-8100	Business Insurance	3,744	3,539
Total Insurance Expenses		3,744	3,539

6-9000	Payroll Expenses		
6-9100	Wages & Salaries		
6-9110	Annual Leave Provision	2,103	3,042
6-9120	Long Service Leave Provision	4,520	5,439
6-9130	Personal Leave Provision	6,257	6,550
6-9170	Travel Allowance	3,840	3,809
6-9180	Superannuation	15,933	14,721
6-9185	SGC Charges	0	184
6-9190	Wages & Salaries	138,551	133,832
6-9400	Work Cover Premiums	4,255	3,975
6-9500	Staff Amenities	436	343
6-9600	Staff - Training	160	0
6-9700	Staff - Travel & Accom	0	849
Total Payroll Expenses		176,055	172,745

Total Expenses		228,378	213,087
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8-0000	Other Income		
8-1000	Interest Income	4,476	4,316
Total Other Income		4,476	4,316

Net Profit		15,409	4,492
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Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc
ABN: 70 069 363 776
STATEMENT OF PROFIT & LOSS AND RETAINED EARNINGS
01 JULY 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2025

	30/06/2025	30/06/2024
4-0000 Income		
4-2100 Grants Commonwealth	226,309	213,144
4-2200 Grants Local	10,000	0
4-3000 Donation/Gift Income	505	120
4-4000 Income From Fundraising Events	2,495	0
Total Income	239,310	213,264
6-0000 Expenses		
6-1000 General Expenses		
6-1020 Accounting/Bookkeeping Fees	4,264	4,073
6-1040 Advertising & Marketing	7,677	310
6-1050 Audit Fees_Standards Cert.	4,595	3,309
6-1060 Audit Fees _Financial	1,500	1,500
6-1100 Bank Fees	82	106
6-1160 Cleaning Expenses	136	53
6-1180 Computer Expenses	404	1,442
6-1220 Council Rates	712	776
6-1300 General Repairs & Maintenance	30	0
6-1320 Gifts	205	80
6-1360 Legal Fees	425	72
6-1380 Membership Fees	241	241
6-1420 Printing	184	182
6-1440 Postage	165	164
6-1460 Office Equipment	55	113
6-1480 Rent	19,139	15,706
6-1500 Rounding & Adjustment	0	-9
6-1540 Stationery	193	269
6-1560 Subscriptions	2,490	1,606
6-1580 Telephone Expenses	3,455	3,287
Total General Expenses	45,949	33,278
6-2000 Program Expense		
6-2100 Advocate Expense	52	679
6-2200 Functions	69	427
6-2400 Christmas Dinner Contributions	-1,359	-915
6-2420 Christmas Dinner Costs	2,016	2,120
Total Program Expense	778	2,312
6-4000 Fundraising Expense	839	0

Treasurer's Report

John Armstrong

I am very pleased to present Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc. financial report for the year ended 30th June 2025.

THE RESULTS FOR 2024-2025

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc. continues to be in a strong and stable position. The overall result for 2025 ended with a surplus over 2023-24 of \$15,409.

Cash on Hand as of 30th June 2025 totalled \$288,154.

INCOME

The greater part of funding for the program comes from the Department of Social Services through the National Disability Advocacy Program Activity ID: 4-GWS6T3N with a financial year income of \$226,309.

Additional sources of income came from a post Disability Commission of Inquiry grant of \$10,000 for information provision and from a successful sausage sizzle at Bunnings July 2024 raising \$2,495. The funds will be earmarked towards match making activities and expenses.

Raising funds for the sake of our survival is not a present priority but fund-raising to inform the community of our efforts and to gain their support and part-ownership is of utmost importance. It means the community has a real stake in the program rather than it be seen as just another, possibly wasteful and unnecessary government activity.

Income from all sources totalled **\$239,310**

EXPENSES

The main item of expenditure is of course Payroll which must remain responsive to any CPI or Award increases with flow-on effects to superannuation and leave entitlements. Total payroll expenses (including things like Workcover premiums, Superannuation etc) represented 77% of outgoings.

General expenses increased over 2023-24 by \$12,671 at \$45,949 or 19.2% of total income. Increases occurred most significantly from a \$4,000 rent increase and increases in the cost of software subscriptions.

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. To this end, a small adjustment to our Constitution was made to facilitate moving our funds into specified financial products that provide a higher rate of return than available from any of the major banks. The results of this move will be made available at next year's AGM Treasurer's Report.

Our finances were broadly scrutinised within our Government Standards Audit. But no

financial audit was conducted this year as it is no longer a requirement of the ACNC for charities receiving less than \$500,000 p.a. though of course we still provide an Annual Information Statement to the ACNC that does detail our financial position. The Committee may revisit the question of financial audit in the coming year.

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury is therefore in a good financial position at present. But that may not always be the case when relying on a single source of government funding as we and most other advocacy organisations in Australia do. “Sudden death” as Wolfensberger termed it, has been both an historical reality for quite a few CA programs in this country and almost of inevitable potential, which is why we have taken steps now to maximise our current assets as much as possible.

What we most seek of course, is finding people oriented to assisting others in unpaid, freely given relationships.

We would like to express our appreciation to Joanne Sedgman of Action Business & Accounting Services, who has provided our program a wonderful bookkeeping service, enabling us to fully meet our responsibilities to our staff and our other statutory responsibilities. Thank you so much Joanne! Your service is so very valuable to us.

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury has Tax Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status which means we can provide you a tax-deductible receipt should you wish to donate any amount over \$1.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In the following pages you will find: -

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- Committee Members’ Declaration of Solvency

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