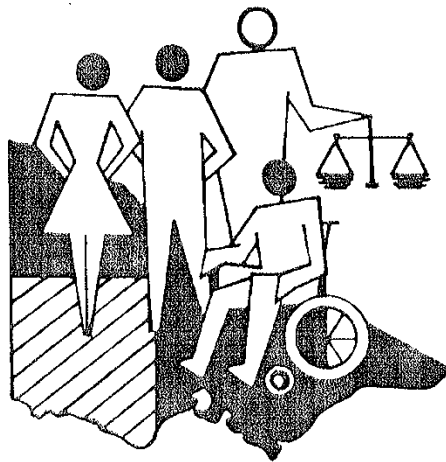


**SOUTHWEST
ADVOCACY
ASSOCIATION INC.**

Incorporation Registration A0025914Y



S . W . A . A .

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015



SOUTHWEST ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION INC

MISSION STATEMENT

Southwest Advocacy Association Incorporated aims to provide an advocacy and information service that empowers and gives a voice to people with disabilities; that strives to ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are respected; and that fosters the positive and full participation of people with disabilities in the community.

ADVOCACY

Action on behalf of the sincerely perceived interests of a person or group, without conflict of interest, in order to promote and protect their welfare, rights & interests.



COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2014-2015

PRESIDENT:	Lisa Vale
VICE PRESIDENT:	Phillip Brown (Resigned)
SECRETARY:	Colin Vale
TREASURER:	Andrew Harman
MEMBERS:	Mark Powell Cheryl Gould Peter McMahon Mark Barling Roy Reekie Diana Young Rose Egerton
STAFF MEMBERS:	Adele Markwell (Executive Officer/Advocate) Roz Rantall (Advocate) Kylie Thulborn (Advocacy South West/Facilitator) Margaret Gottlewski (Administration Officer)
AUDITOR:	Kayser Accounting - Margaret Barrow



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2014-2015

It is with immense pleasure that I present the Southwest Advocacy Association (SWAA) annual report for 2015. As with last year, we have overcome challenges thrown at us regarding funding, service delivery and government changes with SWAA continuing to provide a continued and consistent provision of advocacy services throughout the Southwest of Victoria since 1993.

Disability advocacy is an important element in the protection of the rights of people with disabilities, as advocates act with impartiality to serve as a safeguard to the disability service system. Our wonderful staff at SWAA continue to demonstrate their dedication and expertise in ensuring our advocacy services are accessible and supportive to all who access our agency.

There are many challenges to face in the future. There have been a range of enquiries and investigations in the disability sector this year, which has allowed advocacy services to provide valuable support to consumers as well as provide input and make a systemic difference. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse is continuing to gather a picture of the tragic experiences children and young people experienced in institutional settings and advocacy services have the opportunity to support consumers in sharing their stories and experiences while in these facilities. The NDIS is yet to roll out in the Southwest and we are not sure how this will impact on people with disabilities in our area. I have the utmost confidence that SWAA will continue to provide a first class response to disability advocacy to Southwest consumers.

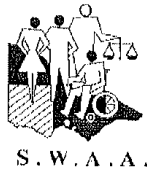
On behalf of the Committee of Management, I would like to thank our Executive Officer Adele Markwell for her continuous passion and commitment to SWAA and its consumers. Her ongoing pursuit for funding and lobbying to both state and federal governments for additional financial support demonstrates her commitment to our organisation. Part time advocate Roz Rantall and Administrative Officer Marg Gottlewski are also invaluable

members of our team and their hard work, expertise and individual skills are very much appreciated by the Committee.

This year we have farewelled Phil Brown who has served on the Committee of Management for the past few years and the last couple as Vice President. His dedication to our organisation and hard work in championing access and equity for people with disabilities is second to none. Phil has relocated interstate and we wish him all the best in his new life.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to our wonderful Committee of Management: Andrew, Mark, Cheryl, Colin, Peter who have continued to share their knowledge and enthusiasm at meetings and SWAA events. Also I would like to welcome Mark, Roy, Rose and Diana who have joined the committee within the past twelve months. We are so fortunate to have such a wealth of knowledge and experience at hand and I thank each and every committee member for their continued support of SWAA.

Lisa Vale
President
Southwest Advocacy Association



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015

This year's Annual General Meeting sees us celebrating twenty two years of Southwest Advocacy.

Disability advocacy throughout Australia is on the brink of something we have been fighting for, for many years, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). There have been many times over the years when we throughout the sector and many users of our services, have doubted that it would ever eventuate. Well it appears now, after a couple of years in the launch sites and trying to iron out the creases, that in 2017 it will be here in the South West of Victoria. What this will mean to people with disability and their families and carers we hope will be continued service throughout their life. In particular I think it will mean that those people, who have a disability due to an accident which was not covered by any compensation, will now have a more needs specific plan for their future. In addition to needs being met, people who have felt that they were not getting what they thought they should from a service, will now have a lot more control over their funding and will now be the ones who basically employ an agency to perform a service. If they are not happy with that service then they have the option of going somewhere else. Of course the problem that regional areas have experienced in the past has been the lack of choice. If they were unhappy with a service there was nowhere else to go. I can envisage with the introduction of the NDIS in this area we will see an influx of additional services. I would encourage people to support those local services that have supported them in the past and if not, look elsewhere.

Currently there is a review of the National Disability Advocacy Program underway, which is where the majority of our funding comes from. Over the last 18 months or so we have had the concern of disability advocacy being put up for tender at the completion of the review. It was meant to happen at the end of the last financial year but was not complete so we have a 12 month extension on our contract. We have never been concerned about this in relation to what we do and how well we do it, I have always believed that we do a great job, my concern is that the current government is looking at funding larger organisations rather than the small ones such as ourselves. Hopefully by

this time next year it will all be settled and we will be performing as usual and have a five year contract.

We are still involved with Foodshare and I am still the Vice President. Apart from overseeing something that our clients use on a regular basis, observing and being part of the setting up and ongoing function of Foodshare has been a great learning experience for myself. I see it as extremely beneficial to myself and to our agency to learn from some very experienced professional people about the growing of a Not for Profit organisation.

Advocacy Southwest has now become All Abilities Advocacy (AAA). I believe the change of name was vital to differentiate between ourselves and the self-advocacy program that we auspice. Since our last AGM we have employed Kylie Thulborn to facilitate AAA and she is doing a tremendous job with the numbers attending the regular meetings growing all the time. There are currently around 70 people attending the meetings. This is a fantastic result and I credit this to Kylie's enthusiasm and belief in the program. Thank you very much Kylie. As with anything that is not for profit we are continually looking for opportunities to fund the program and are hopeful that the current applications to the philanthropic trusts will be successful. This is a very important program for its educational benefits and for the opportunity it gives members to have a say.

We continue to employ Roz Rantall one day per week. I keep trying to get more funding to enable us to employ her for more hours but it is extremely difficult to get funding for wages. Roz is a very valuable member of our organisation and the valuable experience she brings to our organisation cannot be spoken about enough. I thank her for the work she has done over the last 12 months and her dedication to the organisation and disability advocacy.

We are very fortunate to have basically no turnover of staff and so it comes to Marg Gottlewski. Marg has been with us now for 14 years and continues to look after the administration of the organisation and maintains an excellent standard. Thank you for that Marg.

Judy Harris continues to maintain our clean and tidy environment. Thank you for that Judy.

I want to thank our Board of Management. We have very sadly had to say goodbye to our Vice President Phil Brown just recently due to his relocation to

South Australia. It was fantastic to see Phil so excited about his new adventure but sad for us to lose him and his valuable input into our Board of Management. Thank you Phil. We have welcomed some new members, Peter McMahon, Mark Barling, Roy Reekie, Rose Egerton and Dianna Young. I think this is the biggest influx of new members that we have ever had and I welcome them all. I thank our Executive Board members President Lisa Vale, Treasurer Andrew Harmon, Secretary/Public Officer Colin Vale and the remainder of our Board Cheryl Gould and Mark Powell for their unquestionable dedication to this organisation. I understand the difficulty sometimes in getting to meetings with the other demands on your time. You are invaluable members of this organisation. Thank you all very much for your ongoing commitment.

A merry Christmas to you all and we look forward to another eventful year in 2016.

Adele Markwell
Executive Officer



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TREASURER'S REPORT

(For the 2014-2015 Financial Year)

The financial statements for the 2014-2015 year have been drawn up on an accruals basis as per the requirement of our funding body.

Ms Margaret Barrow from Kayser Accounting has audited the books and records of the Association and the report has been included in the annual report.

Because of very careful management, the Association finished the year with an operating loss of \$13,391.00 and net Assets of \$68,826.00.

Overall our financial position remains healthy with provision made for depreciation on equipment, accrued expenses and creditors.

The Association must again remain conscious of operating within our funding limits in the year to come.

I take this opportunity to thank the staff, committee, clients and friends of the Association for their interest and involvement during the year. I would particularly like to thank Margaret Gottlewski for her diligent work throughout the year, and her accessibility and patience regarding the organisation's financial matters.

Andrew Harman
Treasurer

Southwest Advocacy Association Inc.

Annual Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

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**Southwest Advocacy Association Inc
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the Year ended 30 June 2015**

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Grants		
- Dept of Human Services	-	15,276
- Disability Rights Victoria	14,385	-
- DSS	136,967	129,631
Interest Received		
- Bank	858	385
Expense Reimbursements	48,657	63,963
Other Revenue		
Other Income	6,192	19,070
Loss on Sale of Non-current Assets	(1,345)	-
	205,714	228,325
Expenditure		
Accountancy Fees	600	600
Audit Fees	5,337	816
Bank Charges	7	(3)
Catering	420	79
Conferences	-	417
Depreciation - Plant & Equipment	642	957
Depreciation - Motor Vehicles	5,210	2,342
Electricity, Gas and Water	1,651	2,007
Expensed Equipment	1,111	59
Insurance	348	370
Membership Fees	79	460
Motor Vehicle Expenses		
- Petrol & Oil	1,299	1,474
- Registration & Insurance	2,162	1,458
- Repairs & Maintenance	-	379
Office Expenses	1,835	4,102
Printing, Stationery & Postage	1,112	1,142
Rent on Land & Buildings	18,590	17,729
Repairs & Maintenance	1,635	1,224
Staff Amenities	144	183
Superannuation Contributions	14,559	13,910
Telephone	4,097	4,226
Travelling Expenses	984	1,328
Wages - Net	144,947	150,241
Wages PAYG	10,590	10,274
Wages - Leave Provisions	(37)	563
Wages - Leave Provisions	238	(1,771)
Workcover	1,545	1,960
	219,105	216,526
Loss before Income Tax	(13,391)	11,799

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the attached
Compilation Report.*

Southwest Advocacy Association Inc
Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	45,207	42,139
Future Equipment Replacement Reserve	10,000	10,000
Retained Profits	13,619	27,010
Total Equity	68,826	79,149
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank - CBA	19,998	33,577
South West Credit	10,229	8,412
Banksia - Depreciation Provision	8,920	20,428
Banksia - Employee Leave Position	22,992	17,969
Petty Cash	118	23
CBA Visa Debit Card	532	572
Trade Debtors	3,938	-
	66,727	80,981
Non-Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment - at cost	27,793	26,725
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	23,857	23,215
	3,936	3,510
Motor Vehicles - at cost	20,145	17,331
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	4,852	9,264
	15,293	8,067
	19,229	11,577
Investments		
Shares	10	10
	10	10
Total Assets	85,966	92,568
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	4,332	1,091
ATO Creditor - GST	(439)	428
ATO Creditor - PAYG	2,792	2,048
Superannuation Payable	402	-
Provision for Annual Leave	4,489	4,526
Provision for Sick Leave	5,564	5,326
	17,140	13,419
Total Liabilities	17,140	13,419
Net Assets	68,826	79,149

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Kayser Accounting

14th September 2015

The Board of Management
Southwest Advocacy Association Inc.
PO Box 480
Warrnambool Vic 3280

Dear Sir/Madam,

Financial Acquittal Statement
Department of Social Services
Disability Advocacy Activity
National Disability Advocacy Program

I have independently audited the expenditure relating to the Grant Income received by Southwest Advocacy Association Inc. from Department of Social Services.

The audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion that the expenditure satisfies and complies with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement.

This report has been prepared solely for the Southwest Advocacy Association Inc. as part of their acquittal of funds received from the Department of Social Services.

Yours faithfully



Margaret K Barrow
ACCOUNTANT