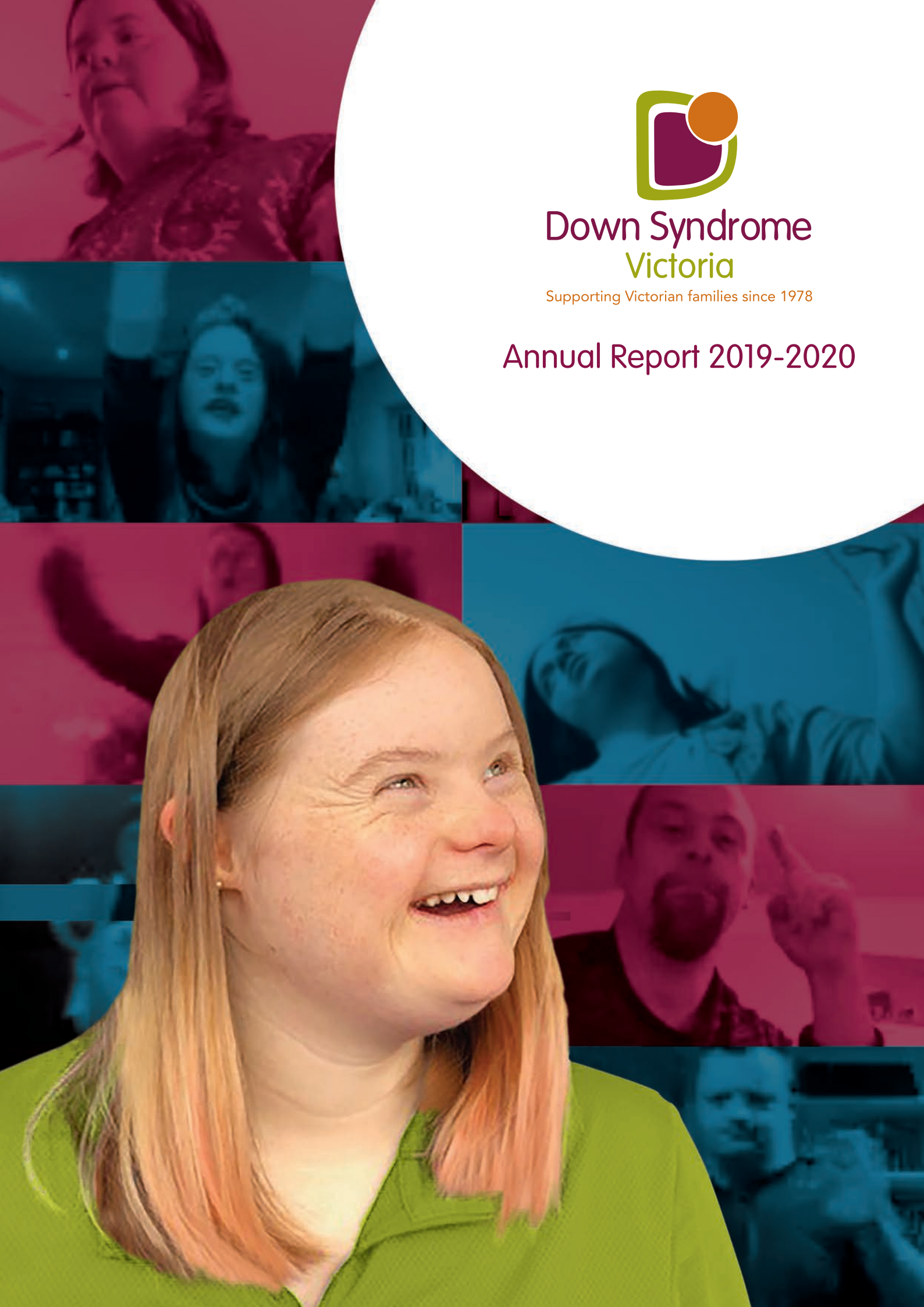




# Down Syndrome Victoria

Supporting Victorian families since 1978

## Annual Report 2019-2020



# Contents

OUR VISION	3
OUR MISSION	3
OUR VALUES	3
PRESIDENT’S REPORT	4
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT	5
BOARD & STAFF	6
FAMILY SUPPORT	7
MYTIME	8
ADULT SUPPORT	9
CLUB21	10
CLUB21 TEEN	11
PROGRAMS	12
EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE	14
EVENTS	15
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION	16
VOLUNTEERS	17
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT	19
DONORS, SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS	19



Down Syndrome Victoria works alongside people with Down syndrome and their families so that they may reach their full potential and live the lives they choose.

This Annual Report celebrates connectedness, diversity and community.

People with Down syndrome want the same things as everyone else in the community – the best start in life, a good education, meaningful employment, somewhere to live and active participation in the life of the community around them.

Down Syndrome Victoria (DSV) is the state-wide peak organisation representing people with Down syndrome and their families in Victoria. We are a membership based, not-for-profit organisation established in 1978 to provide support, information and resources to people with Down syndrome, their families and the broader community.

## Our Vision

We want to live in a country where people living with Down syndrome are valued, reach their full potential and enjoy social and economic inclusion.

Together, we can and will create this inclusive community.

## Our Mission

We work alongside people with Down syndrome and their families, so that they may reach their full potential and live the lives they choose.

## Our Values

Our values shape our actions—they inform what support we provide and how we provide it.

### Rights

People with Down syndrome are individuals whose abilities, rights and dignity should be recognised, respected and promoted.

### Self Determination

People with Down syndrome should be the authors of their own lives, and should be provided with appropriate support to make meaningful choices.

### Inclusion

People with Down syndrome should have the same opportunities as all individuals in the community.

### Resilience

Resilient families will raise resilient individuals with Down syndrome who are more able to reach their full potential.

### Support

Peer support for people with Down syndrome and their families is critical to building individual and collective resilience.

### Empowerment

We will work together - we will not do to, or do for, but do with.





# President's Report

In prior years I have spoken of navigating through challenges, whether leadership changes or adjusting for the NDIS, but nothing could have prepared any of us for the challenges which this year has brought.

So much of our organisation is founded on connections, much of it face-to-face, whether enabling connections between members or making connections with others such as educators and health professionals. When COVID-19 struck, Dan and the team had to adjust quickly to enable remote working and find new ways to provide support to our members. They have created some terrific opportunities for our members, particularly our Club21 cohort, proving that "out of adversity comes opportunity" (Benjamin Franklin). For years we have been grappling with how we can better connect with families in rural and regional Victoria and now we have a pathway there.

There is still so much that is uncertain. But what you can be completely certain of is the unwavering commitment that Dan, the team at DSV, and all of the board have to supporting you, our members, no matter what.

**President**  
**Katrina Enos**



# Chief Executive Officer's Report

**I reflect on the past 12 months as nothing short of extraordinary. The highs of increased connections, participation growth and securing funding to commence several exciting projects with and for our community was overshadowed by the devastation we have all felt as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Never could I have imagined that DSV would be hosting all of our services and supports remotely by video conference, participating in online discos with approximately 50 adults and teens with Down syndrome, nor wearing ugg boots with a work shirt, however these are the incredible times we now find ourselves in. At DSV we're proud to have found innovative ways to reach and support more people and ensure our community stay connected over the past 12 months. The intent for DSV to hit the road in 2020 to spend time alongside supporting more rural and regional Victorians was foiled due to COVID-19. However, the silver lining of us all becoming overnight 'Zoom experts' resulted in the large majority of DSV information, services and supports becoming available to all Victorians who have access to a computer or device since April 2020. Whilst virtual offerings will never fully replace the value of face to face connections, it has revealed what's possible.

Highlights from the past 12 months include:

- Club21 growth from 35 activities with 308 participants in 2018-19, to 135 activities and 1,465 participants in 2019-20.
- MRC Foundation Race Day celebrations with Club21, a day those in attendance will never forget!
- 1,170 people attending StepUP! 2019 events (80% increase on 2018), raising an astounding \$94,235 thanks to our amazing rural coordinators, families, teams and supporters.

- 32% increase in participation across DSV MyTime groups.
- Evolution of information and supports offered by our Education, Family and Adult support teams.
- Reconnecting with several rural and regional family groups.
- Increased collaboration with the Down Syndrome Federation to deliver a national approach to StepUP!, a new federation website, improved systems and coordinated advocacy.
- Moving our workforce from the office to be fully offsite and operational within 48 hours.
- Achieving a minor financial surplus on the back of challenging economic conditions.

I would like to thank the DSV team and board for their tireless work and acknowledge our incredible partners and supporters who, due to their generous backing, enable us to deliver our suite of services, information and support.

The last few months of this financial year have been so incredibly difficult for many (if not all) of our community ranging from social isolation, loss of employment and independence, instances of reduced, or loss of, face-to-face supports – all resulting in varied impacts to both physical and mental health and wellbeing. Whilst many things remain uncertain as we head into 2020-21, one thing is assured: that DSV will be here to support you. The work of DSV has never been more important and I encourage you to continue sharing your thoughts and feedback with us to ensure we continue meeting the needs of individuals, families and the wider community.

**CEO**  
**Daniel Payne**



'I would like to take this opportunity to say how much we are appreciating EVERYTHING that DSV and Club 21 is doing for us in these very different times. Keeping us parents connected is one thing but the connection between our [sons and daughters] with the enormous amount of online activities is fantastic. My daughter Laura hasn't been this busy in her life to be honest... You are going above and beyond and for this we will forever be grateful'.

CRIS AND LAURA AMADIO



# Board & Staff as at June 30 2020

## Board of Management

### President

Katrina Enos

### Secretary and Vice President

Brendan Edwards

### Treasurer

Michael Pocock

### General Board Members

Peter Caillard  
Jan Hodgson

## Our Staff

### Administration and Database Officer

Anna Cook

### Administration and Personal Assistant to the CEO

Stephanie Papaleo

### Adult Support Manager

Debby Fraumano

### Chief Executive Officer

Daniel Payne

### Club21 and Volunteer Coordinator

Helen More

### Club21 Facilitator

Madison King

### Communications Manager

Lucinda Bain

### Compliance and Grants Manager

Leonie White

### DSV Advisory Network Member

Matt O'Neil

### Education Support Service Consultant

Carolyn Goodbody

### Education Managers

Ro O'Dwyer  
Paula Kilgallon

### Family Support Manager

Sonia Bonadio

### Accounts and Office Manager

Mara Wookey

### MyTime Coordinator

Madison King

### MyTime Facilitators & Play Helpers

Sarah Hockey  
Rebecca Quinn  
Jackie Getson  
Louise Johnson  
Marie Symons  
Katie Eichelman  
Hope Challis  
Leonie Cameron  
Sue Lenzi  
Gianna Lenzi  
Lyndal Ihle

### Program Manager

Janice Chan



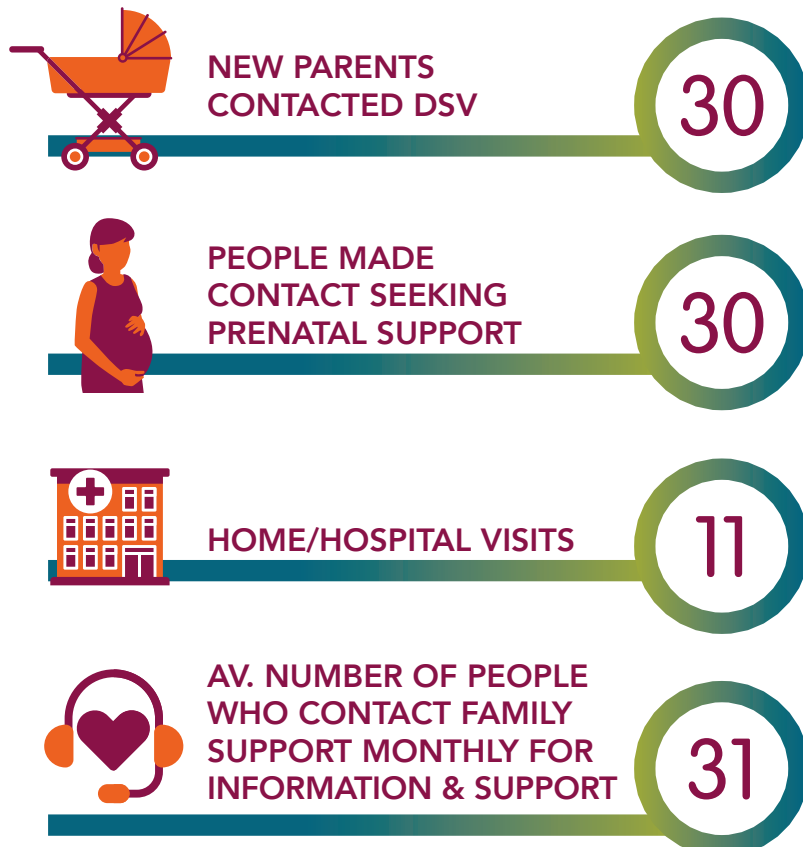


# Family Support

Family Support continues to play an integral role in the services and support provided by Down Syndrome Victoria and has endeavored to maintain, as a priority, the support of expecting, new and existing families.

During the second half of this financial year, the COVID-19 crisis proved challenging and had a significant impact on family connections. Developing new relationships with families and professionals will be the focus of Family Support heading into 2020-21. The challenges have also provided the opportunity to look at new and creative ways to engage with the community. The introduction of zoom sessions enhanced engagement opportunities with families both in metropolitan and regional areas, with many families participating in virtual coffee and chats, to gathering online to learn keyword sign.

Another highlight was the introduction of The Perfect Gift Australia. Late last year DSV had the great pleasure of beginning a partnership with the Hume Retirement Village in Wodonga to deliver the Perfect Gift to new families across the state. This year we have delivered 11 packs and it is our hope that every new family receives a Perfect Gift to welcome and celebrate the newest members and their families. We'd like to give a special thanks to Cathy Gibb of the Hume Retirement Village for all her hard work and dedication towards making the Perfect Gift a reality in Victoria.



## Family Support Spotlight MARIE HIRST

*I first contacted DSV when I was 12 weeks pregnant and had just received confirmation that our baby had Down syndrome. It was a confusing and overwhelming time. I was so glad and relieved to speak to Sonia who visited our family at home and gently helped us make sense of some of the misinformation we had been given as well as support to understand what having a child with Down syndrome could mean. I greatly appreciated having a non-judgemental conversation discussing the opportunities and challenges that could lie ahead. Sonia directed me to other supports including the pregnancy Facebook group and DSV resources.*

*Once our beautiful baby girl arrived (eight weeks early!) Sonia visited us in hospital armed with more information and supports, as well as helping to prepare me for the dreaded NDIS application and planning meeting. With the challenges presented by an unexpected pandemic it was wonderful to be able to access online connection opportunities through zoom including the key word sign workshops and information sessions run by Sonia. It is hard to emphasise enough how much we have valued the support given to us by DSV and the role Sonia has played in assisting us navigate a tricky time with optimism and hopefulness. Thank you for your support – we are very grateful, and it has meant a lot to us.*



# MyTime

Down Syndrome Victoria operates 18 of the 45 MyTime groups around Victoria, connecting over 100 families. MyTime groups are for parents and carers of a child with a disability, developmental delay or chronic medical condition.

Our MyTime groups are a great opportunity for our members to socialise and share ideas with others who understand caring for a child with additional needs. Whilst COVID-19 has impacted the way our groups have run in the latter half of this financial year, we have facilitated MyTime online, enabling families to continue to connect during a period of heightened social isolation.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Parenting Research Centre and our partners to deliver the MyTime program for Victorian families in 2020-21.



'I was able to find common ground with the other members, either through NDIS experience, or the lack of 'me time'. Being part of the group made me feel 'normal'.'



# Adult Support

**A common question asked by parents as their child matures into adulthood is 'who will look after my son/daughter when I am no longer able to?' As parents we actively support and advocate strongly for our adult sons and daughters to achieve a purposeful, valued and as much as possible, independent life and often we seek a model of support that will continue once we can no longer be there.**

Prior to the NDIS roll out the differing housing support models for our adult sons and daughters has been limited to congregated/group home care as the only possible funded option. But since the full roll out of the NDIS, families are seeing some of the different possibilities that could be available to their son or daughter with the support of funding through the NDIS. Which, in turn, allows families to start answering the question of, 'who will look after my son/daughter when I am no longer able to?'

Along with the issues of affordable, secure, and safe housing, families are concerned about supporting their sons and daughters around decision making, whether it is supported decision making or guardianship and administration, as well as meaningful employment and social and recreational engagement.

In September 2019 we held our first 'Futureproofing' peer meeting in Mt Waverley. We hoped to continue this group catch-up each month so families could come together and

share ideas and information around common interests such as housing and the NDIS. At the beginning of 2020 we were successful in securing some funding to support this project and we were in the process of developing several futureproofing peer support groups across Melbourne and strengthening and reconnecting with regional peer support groups.

COVID-19 had other plans for the DSV community with families coming together through online platforms such as social media, FaceTime, and video conferencing. Through these online platforms we have been able to connect with and assist more rural families. We started a weekly coffee and chat over zoom during the first lockdown for families to connect and as a way for people who were new to video conferencing to have a go and get comfortable with online platforms. Learning these skills and being comfortable with this form of communication will be of great benefit for future training and workshop opportunities, especially for rural and remote families. Our coffee and chat zoom sessions continue on a monthly basis as it's an opportunity to connect with our families across Victoria.

The Fiona McBurney Match Day Experience – an awesome opportunity to attend an AFL match game at the MCG and spend some time with the umpires – was enjoyed by many of our community throughout 2019. Unfortunately, this was abandoned in 2020 due to the pandemic, with all AFL games ceasing in Victoria. Fingers crossed it returns next year along with AFL and all other group sports in Melbourne.



'Our son says the programs are all wonderful and he is enjoying all different types of activities. Parents are so grateful for keeping everyone in touch and for providing such great involvement. What would we have all done without this program!'



# Club21

**Club21 offers adults with Down syndrome a supportive place to connect with peers and participate in a wide range of activities and events.**


Our membership continues to grow each year. In 2019-2020 Club21 had 57 members who participated in a total of 22 face-to-face activities and we welcomed six new members to the Club. As usual the Christmas party is our most popular event; we had a sunny afternoon at the St Kilda Bowls Club, with volunteers and members cooking up a BBQ storm and a never-ending salad train, before dancing the afternoon away.

Club21 East Side also continues to grow with seven face-to-face East Side activities attended by 16 members, welcoming two new members. We have enjoyed Karaoke and bowling amongst other things. East Siders have shown a keen interest in their wellbeing with two popular healthy cooking classes. Our most popular activities were the dinner and dancing and the Club21 East Side One Year Anniversary party.

Since COVID-19 and social distancing was put in place, many activities and programs for adults with Down syndrome have been suspended. Club21 quickly transitioned to an online format which played an important role in reducing social isolation and maintaining connections and friendships. Since Club21 was provided over video conferencing we were not limited to weekend-only activities. We have and continue to host an activity six days a week, with some days having more than one activity.

As a result, we ran an amazing 96 online activities between April and June 2020! Our most popular were the weekly fun and energetic Zumba classes, Exercise classes, and the Saturday night disco.

With the increased accessibility that technology has allowed us, we are now not limited by distance. Club21 has provided a fantastic opportunity to build friendships and social connections across Victoria; we have welcomed eight new members since moving online. We envisage this will only continue to grow in 2020-21.



'I love to be a part of Club21 because it makes me happy and I get to socialise with other people. I love doing all the events.'

EMILY PORTER



# Club21 Teen

**Before COVID-19 we held 11 face-to-face activities during 2019-2020. We ended 2019 on a high with a fun-filled few hours at the Altona Miniature Railway.**

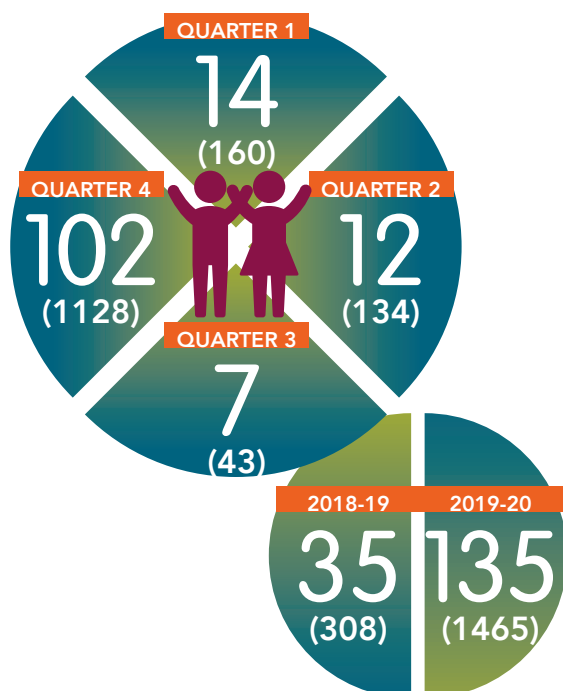
The most popular activities were the Karaoke and Harry Potter Themed Pizza lunch. We are enthusiastic about continuing new avenues for teenagers with Down syndrome to make new friends and share good times together.

Since COVID-19 our teens have eagerly joined Club21 adults in the active classes and the weekly disco. We also held six online activities just for Teens, with 13 members joining us via Zoom. Karaoke was the ever-popular favourite. We welcomed one new member online.

Club21 has received generous donations from families and friends of Club21 members, volunteers and also workshop facilitators who have given their time teaching classes. Community outreach programs have also given us free tickets to attend various events. The Club21, Club21 East Side and Club21 Teen groups look forward to welcoming new members and volunteers and to continue meeting up both online and in person once restrictions ease in 2020-21.

Despite the pandemic impacting our ability to provide face to face activities during 2020, our Club21 members have thrived in the online format.

## NUMBER OF C21 ACTIVITIES (& PARTICIPANTS)



## Club21 Member Spotlight DANIELA GIOVINAZZO - Club21 East Side

### Introducing Daniela!

Daniela has been in Club21 East Side since the very start. She is a regular member and brings some great ideas for Club21 activities. Daniela had always wanted to do Go-Karting and suggested it as a Club21 idea, so we did it! Since Club21 moved online, Daniela has been an enthusiastic participant. Again, Daniela had wanted to try Zumba and so we started a regular Zumba class, now one of our most popular online activities! Every week before the craft classes, Daniela puts in time to do some research and finds helpful YouTube videos of the upcoming activity which she shares with the group.

### About Me

*I have been with Club21 East side for many years now, it has given me the opportunity to be out and about in our community and has given me more confidence to be with others to share things and feelings together. I have made new friends and look forward to catching up with them.*

### Favourite memory about Club21 East side

*My favourite activity was Go Karting. Ronnie the volunteer was my partner and we did many laps together. We had to wear a helmet and seatbelts to be safe. It was so loud BUT so much fun. I can't wait to do it again.*

### Favourite Activities

*There were so many activities that I enjoyed so it's hard to pick one: Go-Karting, Making Pizzas at Em and Mike's House, Club21 Picnic, Healthy Cooking Class, Mini Golf, Karaoke, Bowling and the Club21 East Side Anniversary Party.*

### Since COVID-19 and Club21 has moved online

*Club21 online has been a wonderful and different learning experience for me. I have never done so many activities before or had contact with so many others online before.*

*I have enjoyed Zumba with Catalina, the Exercise Class with Kristian, Saturday Night Disco, Monday Craft Activities, and the Scavenger Hunt.*



# Programs

**DSV programs incorporates both training and major projects. It has been a big year in both areas, with some exciting projects starting.**

## Training

DSV Training has seen lots of changes in 2019-2020.

Training in regional Victoria was a big focus heading into 2020, and we were set to travel to several major regional areas. The onset of the COVID-19 lockdown meant cancelling our travel plans, a crash course in videoconferencing, and rescheduling all our training sessions. Fortunately, many in our community have also learnt how to use videoconferencing, so DSV Training has been accessible to the entire DSV community across Victoria. As we continue to follow the lockdown rules it is looking likely that all DSV Training in 2020 will be by videoconference.

You may have seen our new website which brings all the state and territory Down syndrome associations together under the one events page. This provides a wide range of topics for the Down syndrome community across Australia – feel free to register for any topics of interest in other states or territories that are offered by videoconference. DSV has already had interstate and even overseas participants attending some of our training sessions.

In 2019-2020 DSV ran 19 information sessions and 15 coffee and chat sessions for families, and four professional development sessions. Ever popular sessions covering Positive Behaviour Support, sleep, toileting, relationships and education will continue to be offered regularly. Informal coffee and chat sessions have proved popular, and a great way for parents to connect.

We have streamlined and integrated DSV training to maximise community access and participation, and the DSV team look forward to offering a range of both online and in person workshops in 2020-21.

Grateful thanks to the NDIS, DHHS, Better Start, Marion and EH Flack Trust for their grants, which enabled DSV to provide free or subsidised training for people with Down syndrome and their families.



'I enjoyed this session. Was great to have the zoom option (regardless of COVID-19) because I often can't get to Melbourne for these sessions so easily. This could be a great way to catch up with other parents ongoing with similar aged children.'





'Fantastic opportunity to do an online info session for us as we are in such a rural area of Vic. Fabulous info presented, easy to follow and understand. Excellent organisation for a first zoom delivery. Easy to enrol and access. So grateful for the opportunity to take part. Thank you DSV.'

## Major projects

DSV has been fortunate to receive a range of major project grants, providing support for a combination of local projects as well as some which are part of the national consortium led by the Down Syndrome Federation.

We are very excited to be part of the three year **Pathways to Independence project** – a national project led by Down Syndrome Australia. From 2021, this project will deliver 80 workshops across Australia to parents and adults with Down syndrome, on topics relating to adult independence. Many of you who are parents of adults with Down syndrome will recall that DSV started the ball rolling with our 'Futureproofing' project last year – this project is now replaced with Pathways to Independence.

Another exciting three year project starting this year is DSV's **Building Knowledge health project**. This project aims to update health professionals about what a contemporary life is for people with Down syndrome and use this knowledge to adapt their practice when working with people with Down syndrome and their families. Both the Pathways to Independence and Building Knowledge projects will include a number of workshops which will be co-facilitated by a person with Down syndrome.

Our **Providing a Voice project** will establish a Victorian Down Syndrome Advisory Committee. The committee will be established by late 2020 and will allow us to provide paid casual positions to six people with Down syndrome.

The DHHS **Victorian Disability Advocacy Futures** grant has allowed DSV to make many IT updates, increasing our efficiency and, as an unexpected benefit allowing staff to quickly set up to work from home during COVID-19 restrictions. This grant also allowed DSV to provide workshops about education to families, and focus on how to advocate within the education system over the period July 2019 - Dec 2020.

We are incredibly grateful to the NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grants program for their contribution towards the Pathways to Independence project, Building Knowledge health project, Providing a Voice, and the National Information for Life grant, which funds Family Support, Adult Support, Training and resources.

# Education Support Service

In the past year the Education Support Service has supported students in schools across all sectors including primary and secondary settings to achieve better learning outcomes for students with Down syndrome. Following a successful year of support in 2019, schools, parents and students faced new and unprecedented challenges in 2020 due to COVID-19. In order to provide ongoing and relevant support the education team adjusted the service to an online forum to meet changing needs. Further to that the team identified a need to support parents and students at home during remote learning. This resulted in the compilation and development of resources to assist teachers, parents and students with learning.

While it was disappointing to have to cancel our annual education conference only four days before it was to take place due to COVID-19, our focus turned to delivering the conference in a different format and the Education Speaker Series was created. This repository of educational videos presented by the conference speakers became a resource to share in 2020 with conference attendees and we look forward to expanding this in 2020-21.

A major focus for 2020 was to develop and deliver training in both metropolitan and regional areas. Funding was secured to offer workshops in the areas of Transition to Primary/Secondary schools and Advocacy in Education. Again, the circumstances dictated that the onsite workshops had to be delivered online and while it was unfortunate that we were not able to connect face-to-face with regional areas, we saw many advantages in delivering online. It enabled participants to attend any or multiple sessions at a time suitable to them from the comfort of their own home. Resources to complement the workshops were developed and shared with attendees. By the end of the financial year we had completed six of the 10 workshops scheduled for 2020 with the balance to be delivered in coming months.

The service continues to support students, teachers, and parents throughout Victoria. We are extremely grateful to the Victorian Department of Education and Training for their enduring partnership and financial contribution that funds up to 35 mainstream transitional placements each year. The following reflection from a teacher demonstrates the value the service provides and the impact it has on students with Down syndrome.

'My personal experience with DSV's Education Support Service is that your services really helped me with practical strategies to make sure William is truly included. I knew nothing about how to teach to students with Down syndrome before, and along with the conference in 2019, I felt that I had the tools to help William. I can see tremendous academic and behavioural progress since I first had him in my class. The meetings we had really helped shape the way I adapt the social and academic program for him. So thank you!'

CAMBERWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Down Syndrome  
Victoria  
Transition to Primary School  
Family Workshop  
Discussion about choosing the best  
school setting for your child with  
Down syndrome.





# Events

Our annual events are a wonderful way to bring our community together to celebrate, connect and raise awareness. COVID-19 did get in the way of a number of our face-to-face events during the 2019-20 financial year, however we made the most of the circumstances and look forward to seeing you all again in person in 2021.

## StepUP! for Down syndrome 2019

This year we ran events in Melbourne, Geelong, Horsham and Bendigo with in excess of 1,170 people in attendance to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October. This was 500 more people than in 2018, meaning an 80% increase in attendance!

Through the energy and dedication of our 55 fundraisers \$94,906.55 was raised, providing invaluable assistance to DSV and the services and supports we provide.

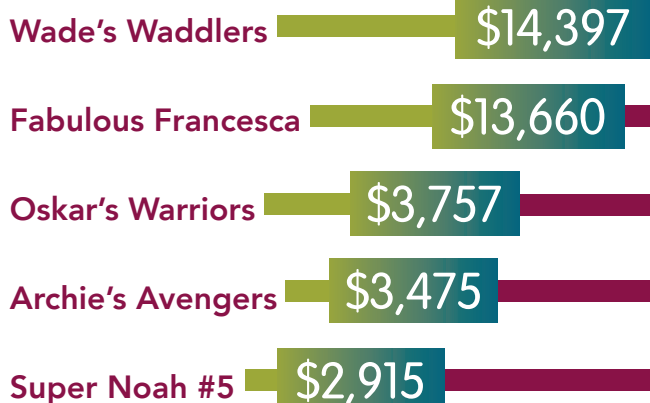
A big thank you to our rural coordinators who donated their time and creativity to organise welcoming and fun events for communities in Geelong, Horsham and Bendigo. Thank you to Rebecca Quinn, Jo Montano, Sarah Klein, Sallie & Josh Koenig. We are also enormously grateful for the support of Bendigo Bank Fitzroy and countless other businesses and individuals who sponsor or donate their expertise and time for the event.

A special mention to our stallholders who offered their creative pieces to event attendees, it was great to have business owners with Down syndrome support our event:

Dylan's Delicious Delights, Ash Modra, Kath Mansour, Esther Tuddenham, Othman Aboubaker, and Steve Canning: thank you.

Last but not least, big thanks to all of our generous volunteers who add so much to the day, without them it would not be possible to run these events.

## CELEBRATING OUR TOP FUNDRAISERS



## World Down Syndrome Day & Family Fun Day

Unfortunately just weeks prior to Family Fun Day 2020 we had to cancel the event due to COVID-19. We'd like to thank all the people who had been working hard to bring Family Fun Day to fruition. Once it is safe to do so we will be planning our next Family Fun Day, and very much hope that this much-anticipated event will be back on our calendars in 2021.

World Down Syndrome Day was also much quieter than usual in 2020. Thank you to Ashley Goudie, Rita Logiudice and the team at CRS Property for producing a celebratory World Down Syndrome Day mural in Union Lane in March 2020 that we were able to share on social media.



# Communications and Information

Social media in 2019-20 was integral to creating connection within our community and awareness building within the wider community. We utilise a number of different social media strategies and platforms, predominantly focussing on Facebook, Instagram and email marketing as our main means of social communication and connection.

Here's how our social media channels grew this year:

## TWITTER

1600 Followers  
(1.5% increase)

## YOUTUBE

55 Subscribers  
(34% increase)

## DNEWS

our e-newsletter is delivered  
monthly to over 2,200 people

## INSTAGRAM

1043 Followers  
(34% increase)

## FACEBOOK

DSV Open Page:  
3808 followers  
(6% increase)

Family Support Private Group:  
645 members  
(9% increase)

Adult Support Private Group:  
178 members (25% increase)

Club21 Group:  
112 members  
(62% increase)

Facebook remains our most popular social media channel, while Instagram has once again been our biggest area of social media growth in the past 12 months.

In May 2020 we transitioned to a new national website, and established stronger communications networks within the Down Syndrome Federation, including the National Resources Group to establish a coordinated response to resource development, and the National Communications Network to allow communications colleagues across the federation to collaborate and create a cohesive response to campaigns and advocacy topics as they arise.



# Volunteers

**We really appreciate the commitment of time and energy of our many volunteers. Without them many of our programs and events could not run.**

This year, 28 external volunteers each gave two to three hours of their time to our fundraiser StepUP! From the early risers at set-up to the ones helping with pack-down, volunteers brought the fun and energy to emcee duties, children's games, marshalling at pit stops and face painting.

The office and administration gained the skilled support of two volunteers, donating their expertise to our project and governance areas.

A huge thank you for the continued support of the 21 volunteers who gave 268 hours of their time to Club21 this year and we welcomed five new volunteers to the program. We are so fortunate to have a group of such committed volunteers. The members truly appreciate the practical support, friendliness and companionship volunteers provide. Also, Club21 Saturday craft classes have been supported throughout the year by two volunteers donating 11 hours of teaching.

A special thank you to our DSV Board of Management who all donate many hours of expertise each year.





## Volunteer Spotlight ANTHONY SWEENEY

This year we'd like to take some time to highlight our amazing volunteers!

Introducing Anthony Sweeney. A familiar face to all of Club21. He's been a regular volunteer since 2016 and an eager supporter of the new groups, Club21 East Side and Club21 Teen. If you haven't seen him at Family Fun Day or StepUP! it's because you're not up early enough! He's one of a few who get up super early to set up all the tents and equipment at these events. Since Club21 moved online, Anthony has kept in touch with Club21, popping in to join us on several discos and members have loved connecting with him.



### About Anthony

*I am from Melbourne and currently work as an accountant in the city, having previously worked in the construction industry, both in Melbourne and in London. I am a bit of a sports fanatic, especially Carlton in the AFL. I enjoy going to games during the season, even though we have been terrible for quite a while now! I also follow basketball (NBA and NBL) and soccer (Liverpool).*

### What's your reason for volunteering and how did you get involved with Club21?

*After completing my professional accounting qualifications in 2015, I wanted to do something productive with time I had previously spent studying. My mother has always volunteered for various organisations, so I was inspired to do something similar and give back to the community. I looked into DSV and the Club21 program and felt like*

*volunteering with young adults in social environments would be something that I could help with.*

### What's your favourite volunteering memory?

*Club21 events are always fun and we have such a fantastic variety of activities throughout the year. From trips to the footy or the theatre, it's always an entertaining day. I am always a massive fan of the end of year Christmas parties. Seeing everyone dressed up, celebrating another successful year with friends is always a very enjoyable evening! And the dance floor at these parties is always a highlight!*

*During the restrictions in Victoria in 2020 I've enjoyed popping into the discos to keep in touch with the group. It's great to see all those familiar faces enjoying the tunes! Can't wait until we can start getting out for activities again.*

Thank you so much Anthony!





# Financial Snapshot

## Five years at a glance

Down Syndrome Victoria is committed to being a responsible custodian of the funds provided by our supporters. Every donation we receive is important and very carefully spent across the organisation providing information and delivering services and support for people with Down syndrome, their families and supporters.

	INCOME	EXPENSES
2020	\$1,405,758	1,395,764
2019	\$1,211,180	\$1,221,562
2018	\$1,490,855	\$1,058,751
2017	\$1,141,113	\$1,088,362
2016	\$1,371,230	\$1,049,820

A copy of our complete Financial Statements are available on our website or on request.

# Donors, Sponsors and Supporters 19-20

We are incredibly grateful of the support from all our partners and donors over the last 12 months. We are heartened by the support of the community around us.

## Individuals

### 5000+

Mark Erskine

### 3000+

Roslyn Allen

### 1000+

Sally Bell

Nicole Bryson

Katrina Eros

Naomi Flynn

Catherine Gibb

Carmine Santomartino

Peter Sloan

Angela Stefani

### 500+

Edward Allen

Callum Dittmar

Cameron Smith

Charmaine Guest

Leon & Noela Howlett

John Spence

Catherine Turner

Kerrie Vlietstra

Dean Walton

## In Memoriam

Gino Barro

Antonio Cocivera

Joseph Flynn

Dio Jewett-Kemp

Michael Nicoll

## Organisational Donors

### 3000+

Black Widow Design

Hamilton Marino Builders

Yarraville Cricket Club Inc

### 1000+

St Clement of Rome

Catholic Primary School

Village Real Estate

### 500+

Commonwealth Bank -  
Richmond Abbotsford  
Branch

## Trusts and Foundations

Geelong Connected  
Communities Ltd

Melbourne Racing  
Club Foundation

The Marian & E.H.  
Flack Trust

The Flora and Frank  
Leith Charitable Trust

Westpac Foundation

The William Angliss  
(Victoria) Charitable Fund

## Sponsorship

### Government Funding

#### Local

City of Monash

#### State

Department of Health and  
Human Services Victoria  
(DHHS)

Office of Disability

Department of Education  
and Training Victoria (DET)

#### Federal

NDIS

Information, Linkages and  
Capacity Building (ILC)

## Life Members

*We'd also like to  
acknowledge the  
contribution of our  
Life Members*

Roslyn Allen

Vito Bruno

Fae & Peter Egan

Tony McDonald

Josie & Geoff McGivern

Ken Milligan

Papaleo Family

Prof Carl Parsons





Down Syndrome  
Victoria

Supporting Victorian families since 1978

phone: 1300 658 873  
web: [downsyndrome.org.au/vic](http://downsyndrome.org.au/vic)  
email: [info@dsav.asn.au](mailto:info@dsav.asn.au)  
mail: 18/71 Victoria Crescent Abbotsford VIC 3067  
fax: (03) 9486 9601

ABN 59 901 963 154