



Down Syndrome Victoria

Supporting Victorians with Down syndrome
and families since 1978

Annual Report 2022-2023



Down syndrome – on living an ordinary life

Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs at conception. People from all different backgrounds and ages give birth to children with Down syndrome.

Our bodies are made up of trillions of cells. In each cell there are tiny structures called chromosomes. The DNA in our chromosomes determines how we develop. Most people have 23 pairs of chromosomes in each of their cells (46 in total). People with Down syndrome have 47 chromosomes in their cells. They have an extra chromosome 21, which is why Down syndrome is also sometimes known as trisomy 21.

People with Down syndrome are capable of living fulfilled lives as valued members of their communities. Some people with Down syndrome may not need much support to lead an ordinary life, while others may require a lot of support.

Down Syndrome Victoria advocates with and for people with Down syndrome to have access to the same opportunities, supports and community activities as other Victorians.

Every person with Down syndrome is an individual.

Together,
we can and
will create
this inclusive
community.

We want to live in a society where people with Down syndrome are valued and enjoy social and economic participation.

You can read more about Down syndrome [HERE](#).

Thank you to Ned Middleton, Harry Sencek, Margaret Ferdinand and Kath Mansour for contributing the original artwork elements included throughout this document.





Down Syndrome Victoria is a not-for-profit membership association. Membership is free for individuals and families.

We work alongside people with Down syndrome and families to reach their potential and live the life they choose.

This Annual Report celebrates Down Syndrome Victoria's achievements towards this mission.

Contents

04	ABOUT US
05	HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR
06	BOARD AND STAFF
08	PRESIDENT'S REPORT
09	A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO
10	A MESSAGE FROM OUR ADVISORY NETWORK CHAIRPERSON
11	DOWN SYNDROME VICTORIA ADVISORY NETWORK
12	FAMILY SUPPORT
13	MYTIME
15	ADULT SUPPORT
16	REGIONAL FAMILY NETWORKS
17	CLUB21
19	TRAINING
20	MAJOR PROJECTS
21	PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: EMPLOYMENT CONNECTIONS
22	EDUCATION PROGRAM
24	EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING
25	COMMUNICATIONS
26	VOLUNTEERS
27	FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT
27	DONORS, SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

About Us

Down Syndrome Victoria (DSV) is Victoria's peak organisation representing people with Down syndrome and their families. We are a community-based, not-for-profit membership association with a proud history of supporting individuals, families and the community since 1978.

DSV advocates alongside people with Down syndrome to have access to the same opportunities, supports and community activities as other Victorians. We work within a human rights framework, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disability.

We offer a range of services and supports to people with Down syndrome, their families and professionals across the lifespan:

- **Advice, support, workshops, information, social groups and community** for people with Down syndrome
- **Personal and tailored** support for parents and other family members during pregnancy and throughout the lifespan
- **Online community groups** for families and people with Down syndrome
- **Training and information workshops** covering a wide range of topics for people with Down syndrome, families, education and health professionals
- An **Education Program** providing an extensive suite of resources, support and information for families and education professionals
- A jam-packed **calendar of events**, including an annual **Family Fun Day** and **StepUP!** event to connect and celebrate community
- A regular **newsletter, podcast and social media** groups where you can explore the latest topics of interest and connect with like-minded people
- **Systemic advocacy** that supports the full participation of people with Down syndrome in the economic and social life of the community.

Our values
shape our
actions.

Our Vision

A society where people with Down syndrome are valued, reach their potential and are equal in every aspect of life.

Our Mission

We work alongside people with Down syndrome and families to reach their potential and live the life they choose.

Our Values

'Do the right thing' We are honest, ethical and trustworthy. We take accountability for our actions to deliver in the best interest of people with Down syndrome and their families.

'Passion for members, families and communities' We exist for our members and community. We listen, lead, create opportunities and take action to ensure an inclusive future.

'Respect for people' We develop lifelong relationships, based on value, trust, compassion and respect.



Highlights of our Year

1351

Commenced as the delivery partner for the Victorian MyTime program, delivering 1,351 peer support sessions, across 42 groups, to 8,356 attendees

Over \$50,000 raised for StepUP! #21YourWay 2022

832

Provided 745 individual consultations to families, and 87 consultations to professionals who sought information to assist a family (total 832), with 36 per cent being delivered to regional Victoria

Significant impact from our Advisory Network across multiple strategic goals including advocacy, policy, co-facilitation and design, health, employment, and social participation (Advisory Network now in their 3rd year)

Significant contribution to various State and National advocacy and policy reforms for education, NDIS, employment and decision making

Hosted 424 Club21 activities to 3,291 attendees across a hybrid of online and in person formats, with the commencement of in person activities in Ballarat and Geelong



A highly engaged readership of DNews with a 41% average open rate

DSV's inaugural fundraising adventure, 4Peaks, raising over \$30,000



DSV membership increased by 8.7 per cent compared to FY22

383

Consultations provided to families and professionals via our Information for Life project

8

Employees with Down syndrome working across a variety of roles

58

Delivered 58 training events, to 903 attendees across topics of specific interest to our community, with a 42% attendance rate from regional areas

37,939

Year-end financial surplus of \$37,939. This includes the first full year of DSV operations from OC House (reducing rental costs by \$22k compared to FY22, and \$64k compared to FY21) and an 83 per cent increase in donations and fundraising (\$287k) compared to FY22 – thank you!

Member satisfaction rating of 4.2 stars, with 90 per cent of respondents recommending DSV to a person with Down syndrome, families or a professional

36



Welcomed 36 new babies to the DSV family, 33 per cent of whom identify as culturally and linguistically diverse



Board & Staff

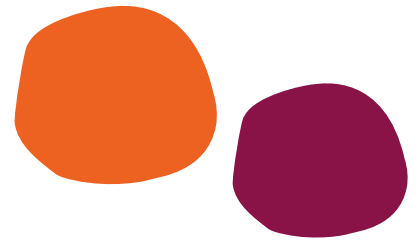
as at 30 June 2023



Our team is comprised of six dedicated and passionate board members, alongside a thriving group of hard working and highly skilled staff.

Board & Staff

as at 30 June 2023



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

President

Brendan Edwards

Secretary and Vice President

Katrina Enos

Treasurer

Wendy McNabb

Board Members

Michael Pocock

Felicia Koh

Lachlan Vivian-Taylor

COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS

Communications Manager

Lucinda Bain

Communications Officer

Pammy Meyers

Events Coordinator

Vanessa Ientile
(maternity leave)

Nicole Bryson

SUPPORTS

Family Support Manager

Sonia Bonadio

Adult Support Manager

Debby Fraumano

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Education Managers

Paula Kilgallon

Ro O'Dwyer

Education Consultants

Megan Bramble

Dianne Hickey

Carolyn Warren

CLUB21

Club21 and Volunteer Manager

Helen More

Club21 Teen Coordinator & FitSkills Facilitator

Brad Cresswell

Club21 Facilitators

Catalina Gonzalez

Cindy Huynh

Andrew Sims

Rebecca May

PROJECTS AND TRAINING

Program Director: Projects & Training

Janice Chan

Health & Pathways Project Manager

Zoe Shearer

FitSkills Project Manager

Karen Allen

Employment Connections Project Manager

Brendon Gray

Regional Coordinator

Linda Jungwirth

MYTIME

MyTime Manager

Madison Robinson

(maternity leave)

Karen Peters

MyTime Officers

Sonia Bonadio

Theresa Heenan

Sharon Reeve

MyTime Facilitators

Karen Allen

Bibi Azizi

Suzanne Batcheler

Sarah Chignell

Belinda Coleclough

Marina DeNino

Evangelia Dimou

Loan Findlay

Jackie Getson

Theresa Heenan

Dianne Hickey

Susan McDonald

Rose McKenna

Cheryl Pane

Sharon Reeve

Katie Rogers

Louise Johnson

MyTime Playleaders

Philippa Bagus Putu

Kate Barakis

Jessica Boadle

Katie Eichelman

Kirralee Hutchison

Kim Kavanagh

Gerlfraine Lombardo

Karlina Macartney

Grace Moloney

Robyn Morecroft

Louisa Sheahan

Mayuri Varsani

ACCOUNTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Accounts & Administration Manager

Mara Wookey

Administration and Database Officer

Anna Cook

SUB-CONTRACTORS

Grants and Partnerships

Jon King

Stephanie Ah Lam

Finance

Kathryn Goldsmith

OUR STAFF

Chief Executive Officer

Daniel Payne

Administration and Personal Assistant to the CEO

Stephanie Papaleo

Compliance Manager

Leonie White

DOWN SYNDROME VICTORIA ADVISORY NETWORK

Matthew O'Neil - Chair

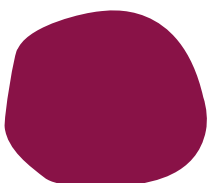
Jenny Bowden

Keziah Glenane

Colby Hickey

Katherine Mansour

Emily Porter



We'd like to thank outgoing board member Aileen Ashford for her contribution to DSV over the past two years.



President's Report

The past 12 months have been incredibly busy within DSV, with our staff – including the DSV Advisory Network – actively delivering services, supports and projects over a range of sectors. The FitSkills trial has been highly popular, our increased delivery of the MyTime program has been consolidated and the Club21 program has expanded to more regional centres as well as the re-launch of the Club21 Teen cohort. These are just a few examples illustrating our team's impact this year. A huge congratulations to the team at DSV for their wonderful work supporting our members and community in such a significant way.

At a board level, DSV has welcomed two new board members in the last year, expanding its leadership team with diverse skills and perspectives. We look forward to introducing a third new board member early in the new financial year. These additions have bolstered the organisation's governance and strategic decision-making, ensuring that DSV remains adaptable and responsive to the evolving needs of the Down syndrome community.

With fresh faces on the board, a focus has been on developing the 2024-26 Strategic Plan that will guide our actions and goals over the next three years. While our Mission statement of 'We work alongside people with Down syndrome and families to reach their full potential and live the life they choose.' remains unchanged, we have adjusted the execution strategies according to feedback from the wider sector, partner organisations and most importantly our members, staff and community. Although there is always some uncertainty about how external factors will affect the lives of our members, we are also very excited about the opportunities that await DSV and our members over the next few years.

A final note to thank all our wonderful volunteers who allow us to run a range of our activities and programs in such an engaging, enjoyable and safe environment for our members. Your efforts are noticed and highly appreciated by our entire community.

Brendan Edwards
President, Down Syndrome Victoria

A message from our CEO

It has been an exciting and dynamic year at DSV as we continue to progress our mission to work alongside people with Down syndrome and families to reach their potential and live the life they choose.

The past financial year has allowed DSV, alongside our community, to establish ourselves in this new era of living with COVID-19 and return to some level of normalcy.

This annual report captures and celebrates many of the achievements towards our Strategic Plan and above stated mission. This year's highlights include:

- Welcomed 36 new babies to the DSV family, 33 per cent of whom identify as culturally and linguistically diverse
- Commenced as the delivery partner for the Victorian MyTime program, delivering 1,351 peer support sessions, across 42 groups, to 8,356 attendees
- Delivered 58 training events, to 903 attendees across topics of specific interest to our community
- Provided 745 individual consultations to families, and 87 consultations to professionals who sought information to assist a family (total 832), with 36 per cent being delivered to regional Victoria
- Received significant impact from our Advisory Network across multiple strategic goals including advocacy, policy, co-facilitation and design, health, employment, and social participation
- Hosted 424 Club21 activities to 3,291 attendees across a hybrid of online and in person formats, with the commencement of in person activities in Ballarat and Geelong
- Significant progress across various projects including Employment Connections, Club21 expansion, Pathways to Independence, Building Knowledge Health and FitSkills
- Significant contribution to various State and National advocacy and policy reforms for education, NDIS, employment and decision making
- Year-end financial surplus of \$37,939. This includes the first full year of DSV operations from OC House (reducing rental costs by \$22k compared to FY22, and \$64k compared to FY21) and an 83 per cent increase in donations and fundraising (\$287k) compared to FY22 – thank you!
- DSV membership increased by 8.7 per cent compared to FY22
- High member satisfaction rating, with 90 per cent of respondents recommending DSV to a person with Down syndrome, families or a professional



The upcoming year holds great significance for DSV members, and our organisation. Factors that will shape our path include:

- The NDIS review and Royal Commission findings will impact both the community and DSV operations
- We will release the updated DSV Strategic Plan for 2024-26, reinforcing our commitment to achieving our core mission and values
- With \$665k of project funding concluding by 30 June 2024, we'll prioritise securing ongoing funding to support our provision of critical information, services and supports that people with Down syndrome and families heavily rely on such as pre and post-natal support, adult support and timely and accurate information. With less than 10 per cent of DSV income being derived from State Government it is critical we have ongoing financial contributions rather than short term project funding to continue walking alongside people with Down syndrome and families for these key life stages
- Exciting projects and partnerships lie ahead, including a three-year commitment from the Bank of Melbourne Foundation to expand the impact of our education program.

I cannot express my gratitude enough to our partners, financial supporters and donors who contributed to DSV in FY23. We simply would not be able to continue to deliver the extensive information, services, supports and opportunities with and for people with Down syndrome and families without your contributions. This appreciation extends to our fabulous staff and volunteers.

In closing, I'd like to thank our DSV members and community. Thank you for your continued support of each other, and contribution to our organisation. We exist for you, and it remains a privilege to lead an organisation and community that displays strength, resilience, and an unwavering commitment for people with Down syndrome to reach their potential and live the life they choose and deserve.

Daniel Payne
CEO, Down Syndrome Victoria



A message from our Advisory Network Chairperson

Being a member of the Down Syndrome Victoria Advisory Network offers you a lot of possibilities and I would like to thank DSV for giving me the opportunity to be the group's Chairperson.

Since first finding my connection with DSV, it has shaped the person I am now. I have a voice and I would like the general public to know, I am a proud man with Down syndrome who wants his voice to be heard today and now.

The Advisory Network have achieved a lot this year including attending leadership training, extending our skills hosting and co-hosting events and making sure our voices are represented across the work of DSV. The Advisory Network allows our abilities to shine. It gives us a pathway to success and helps us achieve our goals.

Matthew O'Neil
Chairperson, Down Syndrome Victoria
Advisory Network



Down Syndrome Victoria Advisory Network

The Down Syndrome Victoria Advisory Network is a group of paid employees offering advice, feedback and support to make sure the voice of people with Down syndrome is heard and implemented at Down Syndrome Victoria.

The Advisory Network is led by its Chairperson Matt O'Neil, working alongside Colby Hickey, Jenny Bowden, Katherine Mansour, Keziah Glenane, and Emily Porter.

The Advisory Network meets monthly, giving the team a space to voice their opinions on important issues and share their experiences. The Advisory Network carry out work and engagements across the DSV organisation.

The contribution of the network across DSV over the past financial year includes, but is not limited to:

- Participation in a variety of events including hosting or co-hosting World Down Syndrome Day morning tea, Family Fun Day, monthly Volunteer Induction evenings and a number of community workshops
- Writing and presenting speeches at the Oak Charity Race Day luncheon, the 'Having a Say' Conference in Geelong, and the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) Conference
- Participation in an NDIS Employment forum in Canberra
- Hosting two DSV podcast episodes: 'The Magic of Inclusion' and 'Poetry and Art' as well as participating in an interview for the podcast 'Disability Talk'
- Providing advice and feedback across projects such as Building Knowledge Health, Pathways to Independence and Information for Life and the planning and delivery of Family Fun Day and the DSV Board strategy day
- Writing articles and contributing themes for the DSV monthly newsletter, DNews
- Participation in the HR process for onboarding new staff including sitting on recruitment panels

The Advisory Network is now in its third year, thanks to the NDIA Individual Capacity Building grant: Providing a Voice. We would also like to acknowledge the support of The Leadership Sphere for providing us with leadership training during the last year.

The team looks forward to another year providing advocacy for people with Down syndrome in Victoria.

'DSV has given me the opportunity to be on the Advisory Network and advocate for people with Down syndrome. DSV has given me training and leadership, and taught me how to advocate for myself.'

Jenny Bowden, DSV Advisory Network



Family Support

DSV's Family Support service provides support, encouragement, information and resources to families and carers of babies, children and teenagers with Down syndrome, including pre- and post-natal support for new parents. We believe families have the right to feel supported in their choices, no matter which paths they choose. We aim to provide balanced, researched information so that families can make informed decisions about how best to raise their children within the context of their family unit.

Family Support continues to assist families in a wide array of areas that are important to our community, including the NDIS, health, social connection and child development. Support is provided not only to DSV members but extends to professionals and community stakeholders, with links and collaboration continuing to strengthen with Early Childhood partners, Maternal Child Health Nurses and Early Childhood Services Providers, and the team at the T21 Complex Care clinic at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH).

A large proportion of demand for family support continues to be during the important early years; helping families to navigate new information and service systems. We continue to provide essential tools and resources, while also fostering peer connections and support within our community.

DSV is committed to providing outreach to families which has seen Family Support travel widely throughout Victoria, providing support in the family home, hospital settings, over a coffee and virtually. Family Support continues to attend the RCH on the first Friday of each month, maintaining connection with and support to the T21 Complex Care clinic, enabling families to access support, information and referral while attending the hospital.

We continue to grow in the prenatal support area maintaining our collaboration with the 321 Pregnancy support page and fostering referral and pathways with genetic counsellors across the state.

Sharing our voice and working to provide systemic advocacy also remains an important element of the work we do, recently participating at University of Queensland round table discussion 'We Need To Talk', while also supporting families in their role as advocates, and providing training and consultation with genetic counsellors and service providers around the state.

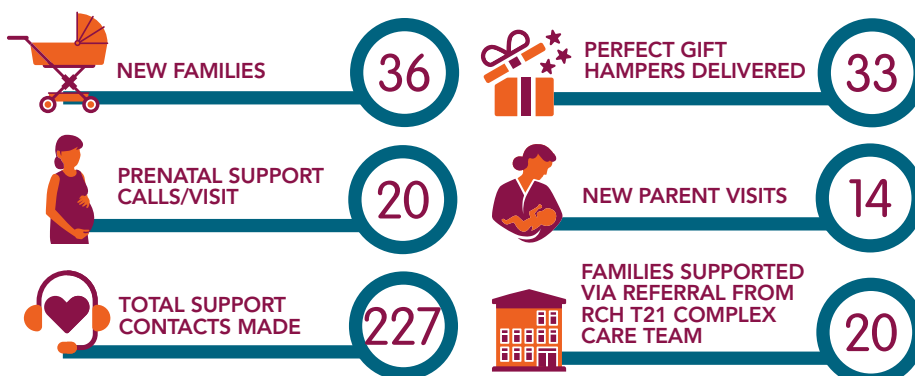


THE PERFECT GIFT

A special partnership has established between The Perfect Gift Australia and DSV over the last four years. One that shares a vision of providing support, community, and celebration.

With the help of volunteers at Hume Retirement Village, Albury, and coordinated by Cathy Gibb, The Perfect Gift has set out to provide every family in Victoria welcoming a child who has Down syndrome with a beautiful gift, offering congratulations and a warm welcome. With the support of DSV, 33 families have been congratulated with a hamper from The Perfect Gift this year.

The items included in The Perfect Gift are mostly handmade. The gift baskets are shipped to DSV and delivered to new families alongside DSV's new parent information.



The welcome pack and gift arrived today from Down Syndrome Victoria...WOW! Thanks so much! When you said you were sending a new parent pack I expected an envelope with a few brochures... but WOW, what you've sent is awesome and so generous! The care, support and words of encouragement from the Down syndrome community has blown us away, we feel truly blessed.'

Daniel Weeks, New parent

MyTime

MyTime organises supported groups where parents and carers of children with disability or other additional needs can feel understood, share ideas and access quality information and resources.

June 30 2023 marks an amazing milestone for the DSV team as we reflect on the important impact we have had on the community as the Victorian delivery partner for the MyTime program. In the last 12 months the DSV MyTime team expanded, with an increase from 18 to over 40 peer support groups statewide. Our Facilitators together with support from Playleaders delivered over 1,300 sessions, providing critical support and community connection to over 1,200 parents and carers. Astoundingly, this resulted in an attendance count of 8,356 across our programs this financial year.

We value the collaboration and commitment of our MyTime Partners across Victoria: BAM Arts Inc, Extended Families Australia Inc, Wandarra Aboriginal Corporation, Inspired Carers Inc, Mallee Family Care Ltd, Power Neighbourhood House, Tweddle Child and Family Health Service and Yarra Ranges Special Development School.

As we look to the year ahead, continued membership growth across the state with more opportunities to broaden our community reach to regional and rural parents and carers will remain our focus.

We value the collaboration and commitment of our MyTime Partners across Victoria: BAM Arts Inc, Extended Families Australia Inc, Wandarra Aboriginal Corporation, Inspired Carers Inc, Mallee Family Care Ltd, Power Neighbourhood House, Tweddle Child and Family Health Service and Yarra Ranges Special Development School. Thank you to the Parenting Research Centre for their continued support and for entrusting DSV to run the Victorian MyTime program.



'I was lost, didn't know who I was. I had no purpose, no job, no friends and had no idea who I was other than a mother, carer and wife. The only thing I wore was black, I was a shell of the once bubbly colourful out going gal I was. I had lost myself after being a carer for 16 years, I was sad and didn't feel like I was a good role model for my children.

I decided to participate in an online parent program that inspired me to make a change and met an incredible woman who told me about an online MyTime group that she facilitated. I joined the next session and met some inspiring and amazing parents and carers.

I would drag myself to the computer every session and was magically refilled. I found my peeps, I found friends, I found people that were in the same boat who just got it. I didn't have to explain myself and there was no judgment.

Something shifted: I started to find myself wanting more from life. I started to gain confidence, I found colour again! The path to self-discovery had begun. I was in awe of my MyTime facilitator and was continually inspired by the impact the program and its members had on me.

'I realised I wanted that in my life, I wanted to help and be a support to other carers and became a MyTime facilitator.'

'I love being a MyTime facilitator because it provides me with an opportunity to help people, creating a space for connection, support and education from a community that understands. There is lovely sigh of relief when new members walk in the door knowing they have found their tribe who understand them. I help them find their colour again.'

Sharon Reeve, MyTime Officer and Mum to 7-year-old Hugo

MyTime



TOTAL NUMBER OF MYTIME GROUPS AT 30 JUNE

42



TOTAL NUMBER OF SESSIONS RUN

1,351



TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

8,356



TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES (UNIQUE)

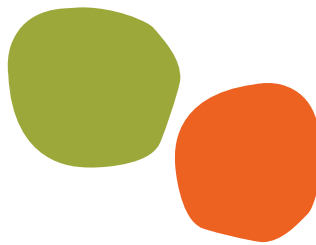
1,218



LOCATIONS 2022-2023



Adult Support



Adult Support at DSV aims to support people with Down syndrome and their families through key life stages and transitions. For adults this can include ageing, health, housing, legal issues, employment, and more. The adult support landscape continues to evolve as DSV navigates the various challenges and opportunities that present in an ageing population.

It is with great pride that we share the highlights of the last twelve months in Adult Support, showcasing some of the adventures and opportunities that were embraced.

During the year Adult Support has had the opportunity to present alongside several Advisory Network colleagues to several organisations such as The Epworth, The Inclusion Foundation and Hume Secondary College. The valuable insights and perspectives shared by our Advisory Network employees adds depth and authenticity to our presentations. At the Having a Say Conference in March this year we hosted a table showcasing our latest publications whilst also networking with other organisations and services.

We continue to host information sessions over online platforms to our valued members and community which allows us to connect with a broader and more geographically diverse audience. We endeavour to deliver informative, interactive, and engaging sessions offering relevant content and meaningful experiences. With online communication now embedded in our practices we continue to provide an accessible and inclusive environment, catering to various schedules and preferences.

Wills, Estate Planning, Special Disability Trusts, Power of Attorney and Supported Decision Making all continue to be extremely popular and important themes within our audience in the adult space.

FIONA MCBURNEY MATCH DAY PROGRAM

In May we were thrilled to announce the relaunch of the Fiona McBurney Match Day program, which aims to connect sport and disability by providing a unique experience for individuals with Down syndrome to undertake an official guest AFL umpire trainer role for the AFL umpires on match day.

Participants have the opportunity to assist with pre-game rituals, such as checking the game ball air pressure, assisting with water bottles, boots and nutrition needs, assisting with pre-game ground inspection, warm-ups and the all-important coin toss.

We look forward to the continuation of the program and thank the AFL and AFL Umpires Association for this wonderful opportunity.

Thank you to AFL Media for providing this image.

COFFEE & CHAT

Our monthly online peer connect 15+ 'Coffee & Chat' sessions continue to attract members. A place dedicated to fostering a supportive and enriching space for peers to come together, share experiences and debrief. These sessions are an opportunity to learn from one another, exchange valuable insights and gain fresh perspectives on common issues.

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

World Down Syndrome Day was celebrated in style at Parliament House, with the highlight of the event being the presence of the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, who listened to our advocates speaking about the inclusion of people with Down syndrome. This fantastic public event provides an opportunity for the whole of the Down Syndrome Federation to come together and meet representatives from the various state and territory organisations.

Jenny Bowden from our Advisory Network also had the opportunity to meet with prominent political figures at the event. She was warmly received by Minister Bill Shorten who commended her for her advocacy work and commitment to making a positive impact in the community. Minister Amanda Rishworth expressed her admiration for Jenny's dedication to raising awareness and promoting equal opportunities for all. It was a day that reinforced the importance of World Down Syndrome Day and highlighted the positive impact that individuals like Jenny can have when they share their stories and advocate for a more inclusive world.

'I just wanted to say a HUGE thank you for the opportunity [the Fiona McBurney Match Day experience] on the weekend. To say it was amazing would be an understatement. It was such an awesome day.' **Parent**



Regional Family Networks

Down Syndrome Victoria's Regional Coordinator is tasked with connecting with regional family networks to help identify how we can better respond to their needs. This may include referring to the DSV Family Support Manager, Adult Support Manager, or Education Program for individual assistance, providing information about upcoming training events, or sharing information and resources.

Over the past twelve months DSV has established and strengthened connections with regional family networks and increased engagement with regional families through a variety of opportunities and affiliations.

The Regional Coordinator worked with groups in:

- Barwon (Geelong)
- Central Highlands (Ballarat)
- Goulburn (Shepparton)
- Loddon (Bendigo)
- Mallee (Mildura)
- Ovens Murray (Albury / Wodonga)

At the groups' request, DSV delivered a Pathways to Independence workshop in Warrnambool, a family day near Shepparton, an online Transition to High School workshop and investigated extra-curricular activities for the Loddon group.

The regional family networks differ in their organisation and needs. Some are incorporated, others very casual. Regardless of their setup, all groups can benefit from the Regional Coordinator's support when required.

'Thanks Linda for organising the Building Independence workshop in Warrnambool. It was a great get together for all the families that attended. We walked away with so much information and we had lots of questions answered. Hope more workshops are organised for our area in the near future.' **Parent**



Club21

Club21 is a peer support network providing the opportunity for people with Down syndrome to meet others with shared lived experience, creating an intimate group fostering friendship development, social support and understanding. There are currently six Club21 groups across Victoria (Metro, Eastside, Teen, Ballarat, Geelong, and online).

We welcomed three new staff members this year. Andrew Sims (Club21 Eastside), Brad Cresswell (Club21 Teen) and Rebecca May (Club21 Online). Joining the team with Helen More, Catalina Gonzalez and Cindy Hyunh. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

CLUB21 IN PERSON

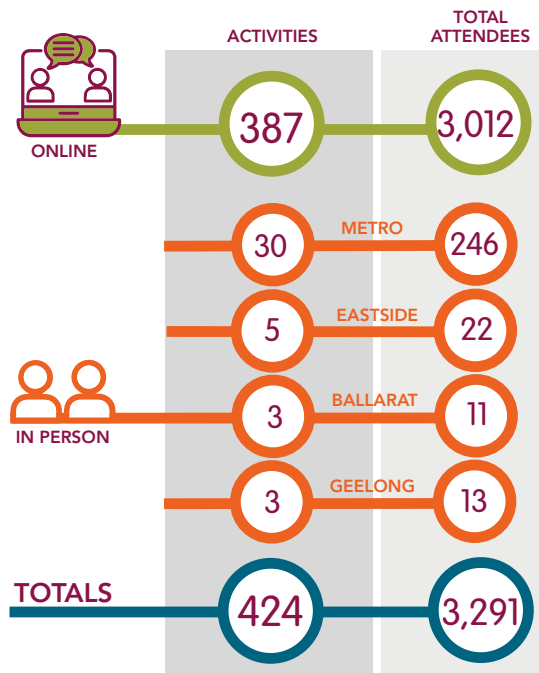
Club21 started the year with a trip to Bendigo to see the Elvis exhibition. We were thrilled to be back for the MRC Foundation Race Day in person, for the first time in three years. Club21 enjoys watching friends perform, pub lunches, sports activities, craft and the most popular activity is the Club21 Christmas Party which had 31 participants. We enjoyed a day dancing at Ability Fest and finished the year with a Music Trivia and dancing activity.

CLUB21 REGIONAL

Over the past year DSV have been engaging with regional areas to progress the exciting Regional Expansion Project, establishing Club21 groups in Ballarat and Geelong. Club21's new regional members have enjoyed pub lunches, mini golf and laser tag. We look forward to growing the membership as we expand to other regional sites including Warrnambool and Shepparton/Northern Victoria next year.



CLUB21 ACROSS THE YEAR



Club21

CLUB21 ONLINE

Online programming has been a continuing feature of Club21 throughout 2022 and 2023. The most popular online activity is the Saturday night disco. We have joined with our friends from the Down Syndrome Queensland (DSQ) Club for combined discos four times throughout the year. The costume collection of Club21 members show no signs of running empty and the variety of song requests covers all musical genres. Weekly Exercise and Zumba classes also remain very popular. In addition to our regular activities, there have been opportunities over the course of the year for Club21 members to design and facilitate sessions, including an online hip hop class. We will continue to have members steer activities.

GET ACTIVE, MORE OFTEN

A combined project with Sport Inclusion Australia (SIA). Club21 was given the opportunity to try different sports and access pathways to continue them for interest and competition. We participated in basketball, tennis and table tennis activities with 42 attendees. Thank you to HoopNow, Table Tennis Victoria and Tennis Victoria for facilitating these events. We look forward to creating more opportunities with SIA if additional project funding can be sourced.

We'd like to thank the following partners and supporters for their contribution to the success of DSV's Club21 Program:

The Regional Expansion project is funded by a Strong and Resilient Communities (SARC) Grant from the Department of Social Services.

Online Instructors: Kristian Bain, Melinda Beazely, Fiona Evans, Merrill D'Souza and United by Keren.

In person supporters: Sport Inclusion Australia, Hoop Now, Table Tennis Victoria, Tennis Victoria, Tennis Australia, Ability Fest.

All our fantastic volunteers without whom our program would not operate.



Club21 Member Spotlight: Edward Allen

Introducing Eddie!

Eddie has been a Club21 member since its inception. Nearly every Saturday night Eddie can be found at the Club21 online disco, often with his best friend Chris. There is a move in the Exercise class named after him: 'Eddie's Twist'.

This year, Eddie attended 141 activities online and joined us eight times in person.

Thank you Eddie!

About Me

I like meeting new friends, doing activities online and making activity choices myself.

Favourite memory about Club21

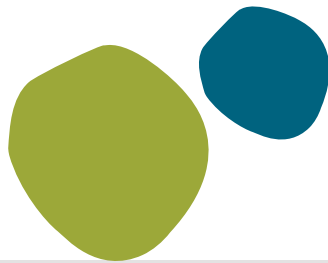
My favourite memory about Club21 is going out for lunch in person at the Espy in 2022 and everything online as well.

Favourite Activities

The Club21 Christmas Party December 2022 and Family Fun Day March 2023. I also enjoyed Madison's Baby Shower, the concert in February, Alice in Wonderland Hunt and last year I had fun at Table Tennis and the BAM Concert. My favourite online activities are the Discos, Exercise class, Yoga, Uno, Karaoke and the Scavenger Hunt.

'I want to say in my heart including Dan, thank you for all you mean to Club21 and DSV. It has been a very good year for everyone to join Club21. We had a most wonderful year. Also for the volunteers, I want to say thank you for helping others.' **Edward Allen**

Training



'I loved it today.'
 'Amazing workshop.'
 'Feeling a lot more knowledgeable. Knowledge is empowerment. I feel daunted but empowered.'

DSV provided a total of 58 Training events, including:

- information sessions
- peer support groups
- workshops, and
- professional development.

There were 903 attendees across these 58 sessions.

In response to the pandemic, the majority in our community are now very well versed in using online platforms to attend Training sessions. This has improved access for regional families, and the advantage of attending an online training session from the comfort of home is now often the preferred choice for many. Thanks to our funding sources, we can offer the majority of our workshops for people with Down syndrome and their families free of charge.



Workshops for adults with Down syndrome included:

- Staying Healthy
- Self Advocacy
- Decision Making
- Respectful Relationships

For families with younger children, our regular sessions included:

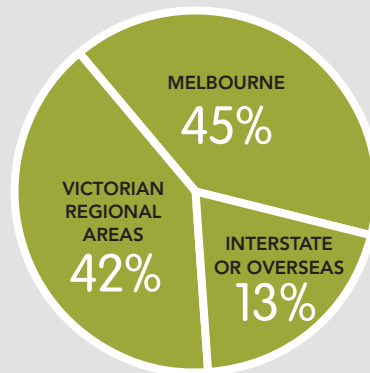
- New Parent sessions
- Preparing for Kindergarten
- Sleep
- Positive Behaviour Support
- Toilet Training
- Transition to Primary School

For families with an adult with Down syndrome, regular topics included:

- Special Disability Trusts
- Housing Options
- Building and Supporting Independence
- Wills and Estate Planning

Grateful thanks to the Department of Social Services for grants which enabled DSV to provide Training free of charge to our community.

LOCATION & ATTENDEES



'It was such an informative session and exactly what every new parent should do!'
 'Fantastic all around, I'm feeling so much more confident and leave the meeting with strategies that I can apply immediately.'

Major projects

With the Department of Social Services extending the timelines of many of our major projects to June 2024, DSV has had the opportunity to further develop and enhance the services and supports offered through our current suite of projects. Each project aligns with DSV's Strategic Plan, mission and vision.

In the last financial year DSV provided 309 individual consultations to families, and 74 consultations to professionals who sought information to assist a family (total 383). Of these 383 consultations, 199 were enquires from Melbourne, 166 from Regional Victoria, 12 from interstate, and six had no location specified.

The **Information for Life** project supports individual capacity building by providing accurate, contemporary, objective information to families and professionals. The aim is to increase the independence and social and community participation of people with Down syndrome and their families, to live an ordinary life. In the last financial year DSV provided 309 individual consultations to families, and 74 consultations to professionals who sought information to assist a family. In addition DSV provided workshops, podcasts, resources, our website, social media, and our monthly newsletter, DNews.

Members of the **Down Syndrome Advisory Network** team are going from strength to strength. Their work has included co-design of all projects, co-facilitation of DSV Training sessions, advocacy, being MC at DSV community events, including Family Fun Day and World Down Syndrome Day morning tea, and providing training for volunteers. A highlight has been appointing Colby Hickey, with an interest in writing and communications, to write a monthly column for DNews summarising the work of the Advisory Network and any key themes.

Through our **Building Knowledge** Health project, DSV supported Albury Wodonga Health Service (AWHS) to employ a person with Down syndrome as a Health and Education Ambassador, to provide training to medical staff. This includes insights into life as a person with Down syndrome, and tips for engaging and communicating with patients with Down syndrome. AWHS are committed to the ongoing employment of their Health and Education Ambassador who is now truly embedded as one of their staff. DSV has commenced discussions with Northeast Health Wangaratta, who also wish to employ a person with Down syndrome as a Health and Education Ambassador.

DSV ran **Pathways to Independence** workshops for adults with Down syndrome and for parents in Warrnambool and Ballarat in 2022-23. The workshops include topics such as Housing Options, Staying Healthy, Decision Making, and Self Advocacy, and aim to support adults with Down syndrome and their families to develop independence and make choices about their lives. The workshops for adults with Down syndrome were presented by the Advisory Network team.



Through the **Employment Connections** project, DSV has matched seven people seeking employment with suitable positions/employers over the last financial year taking the total to 11 positions/employers. Over the next 12 months we will consolidate this service to enable more opportunities and successful employment outcomes for people with Down syndrome.

FITSKILLS, TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION

The importance of physical activity for our community is well documented, and many will be familiar with La Trobe University's FitSkills research project, an evidence-based physical activity program, where people with a disability exercise over a 12-week period with a peer mentor in their local gym.

Partnering with La Trobe University and Disability Sport & Recreation Victoria, DSV has been turning the research into a service, and running a pilot program. There has been great interest from people with Down syndrome, volunteers and gyms, with the Gym and Dinner group option proving really popular! Matt O'Neil provided a well-received presentation on the Fitskills program to the Access All Abilities forum.

CLUB 21 REGIONAL EXPANSION

Club21 is a peer support network for people with Down syndrome to share social experiences with the support of a group leader and volunteers. Club21 has commenced in Geelong and Ballarat with great enthusiasm and excitement from the local communities. We are in the process of establishing a Warrnambool group and a Shepparton/Northern Victoria group will begin in 2024.

With grateful thanks to the Department of Social Services and the Access All Abilities program (Department of Jobs, Skills, Industries and Regions) and the collaboration across the Down Syndrome Australia Federation for their kind support for these projects.

Project Spotlight: Employment Connections

The Employment Connections project aims to connect employers with people with Down syndrome looking for work.

We know that finding work for people with Down syndrome has many benefits. For employees, there is often a profound impact on wellbeing through an improved sense of belonging and purpose. For employers, creating a more diverse team can offer several benefits such as a more inclusive, innovative and productive workplace. The economy as a whole benefits from having more people in paid employment and the con-current improvement to individual wellbeing.

The Employment Connections project is led by Down Syndrome Australia and is federally funded through the Department of Social Services.

The project pillars:

- **Work readiness:** preparing candidates for work (piloted in FY22)
- **Employer awareness** via the Right to Work website, awareness campaigns, and approaching employers
- Set up of **Employment Ambassadors** - people with Down syndrome employed by Down Syndrome Federation organisations to assist in the project
- **Job placements** where employers are connected to employees

The focus for this financial year has been on the latter two pillars; the establishment of Employment Ambassadors and job placements. DSV are fortunate to have Advisory Network employee Keziah Glenane engaged as the project's National **Employment Ambassador**. In May 2023, Keziah's work at Harris Scarfe was highlighted as 'what great looks like' in a conference run by customised employment expert, Milton Tyree.

There were **six job placements** in the reporting period with a pleasing trend to paid permanent part-time work. Late in the reporting period, DSV employed a dedicated part-time project manager to focus on job placements and building our base of employers. We look forward to continuing this work into the next reporting period.

Over the year ahead the focus will continue to be on job placements and employer engagement. More work will be done to optimise the contribution of our Employment Ambassador. We will also establish what the employment function within DSV might look like following the completion of the project.



PHILLIP CAVANAGH AND BECON CONSTRUCTION

Phillip's story at Becon Construction illustrates the benefits of having people with Down syndrome in employment. Phillip has paid permanent part-time work, his work has increased in scope and complexity, and he is now looking at increasing his hours. The quotes below from Phillip and Jason Brillli from Becon Construction reaffirm what his job means to both Phillip and the company.

'From Phillip's first day he has integrated himself into the Becon family seamlessly. Phillip quickly mastered the tasks set for him when he first started, to the extent that, within a few months, we have had to expand his role to keep him busy. Phillip now spends time in each department of our business, assisting with Administrative duties, and we are working towards increasing his hours. Endlessly enthusiastic and always cheerful (or more to the point 'fantastic, as always') Phil has become an integral part of our team.'

Jason Brillli, Becon Construction

'I love working here because of the people and the personalities and because I get treated with respect.'

Phillip Cavanagh

Education Program

Down Syndrome Victoria believes that all students have the right to an inclusive and equitable education in their local school with their peers, accessing the Victorian curriculum through the provision of reasonable adjustments. The DSV Education Program supports Victorian schools and families to achieve this, offering a wide range of services to educators, schools and families to support children with Down syndrome.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Education Program provided nine webinars for parents and teachers in the past financial year.

On the back of the popularity of our 2022 Setting up the year for success webinar, we delivered this presentation again to educators early in 2023. The presentation aims to help teachers get organised and get the year off to a good start. We also provided a webinar on Making adjustments to the curriculum, a very 'in demand' topic in schools.

'Very informative and gave some great inclusion strategies to adopt in the classroom.' **Professional**

'Thank you for an informative session... It was a fantastic amount of information to research more deeply.' **Professional**

A permanent fixture on our training rotation for parents includes our Transition to Primary and Secondary school webinars which were well attended once again. A new addition late last year was Preparing for Secondary School: Practical tips presented by parent, Voula Nikolarakos. Voula was able to take parents through her own journey with her son with Down syndrome, navigating the transition from primary to secondary school. Parents appreciated hearing from another parent who had recently been in their shoes.

'It was great to hear from a parent, it was affirming as well as informative. I was pleased to hear from a parent's perspective that it was important for the family to know that the school and parents can journey together and work as a team.' **Parent**

'Voula was fabulous - her practical, firsthand information was gold. Thanks for making it happen!' **Parent**



TASMANIAN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

DSV was invited by Down Syndrome Tasmania (DST) to conduct a series of workshops in May for parents and educators. The onsite workshops took place in Launceston and Devonport covering a range of current topics. It was great to collaborate with our colleagues at DST to curate the sessions to support educators and parents.

EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE

DSV's Education Support Service (ESS) is a classroom-based support service for teachers, providing practical assistance and resources to improve learning outcomes for students with Down syndrome and their peers. The consistent demand for the ESS resulted in a busy year for DSV's education consultants across both metro and regional areas. Our 2022 ESS survey provided positive feedback on the impact the service has on students and schools, particularly the increased level of confidence and knowledge of teaching staff. We'd like to thank the Department of Education for their continued support and for funding 35 ESS places in FY23.

Over FY23 the education team supported 91 students and interacted with 307 parents and 496 teachers.

- 100% of respondents agreed that the ESS improved educational outcomes for the student with Down syndrome in their school.
- 100% of respondents were satisfied (73% very satisfied, 27% satisfied) with the overall ESS experience.
- 100% of respondents would recommend the ESS to other educators who have a student with Down syndrome were very likely (91%) or likely (9%)

Education Program

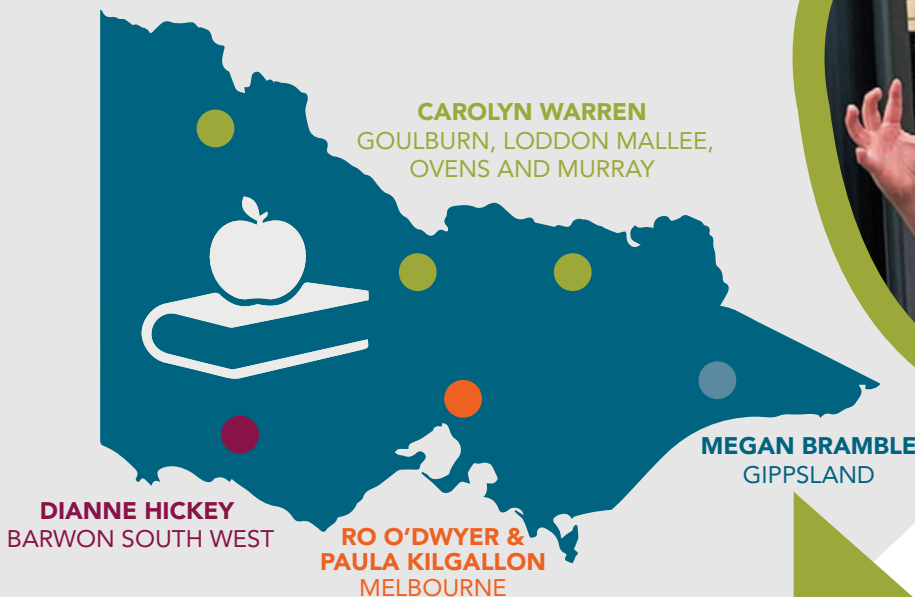
'Caring for and supporting a student with Down syndrome during their Secondary College journey is joyful, never dull and also challenging. Every child is obviously incredibly unique as are their families, and working in partnership with DSV, Emerald Secondary College feel so much better equipped to meet our students' needs.'

'Whether it be curriculum or other teaching and learning resources, support for staff, advice in regard to appropriate language, messaging and strategies for inclusion or life skills and pathways advice we're fortunate to have the Education Support Service to refer to. We have a longstanding relationship with DSV and have found the professional learning offered integral to our development as teachers – of all students!'

'We also appreciate that the flexibility in how we're able to access the service allows us to balance the needs of our students directly with the needs of our teaching and non-teaching staff, and together this helps to nurture the relationships we cultivate with our students' families.'

Tanja Korsten, Assistant Principal, Emerald Secondary College

Your local education consultant:



'Your visit and observations were so valuable and I could not recommend this service enough.' **Teacher**

Events and Fundraising

Each year DSV create a series of events that celebrate our community, our work and our commitment to an inclusive future. These events don't receive ongoing funding, and our team work incredibly hard to bring them to fruition.

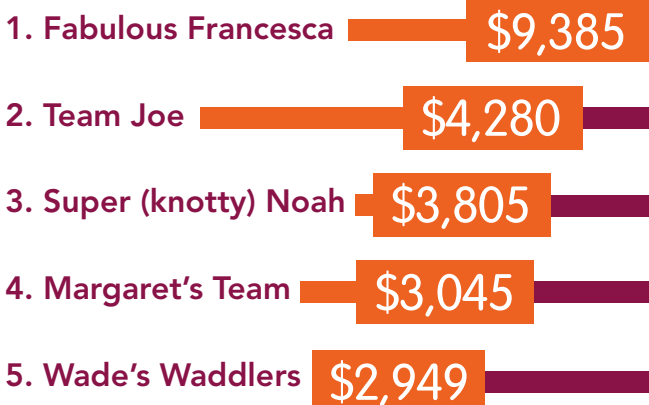
StepUP! #21YourWay 2022

We were overwhelmed with the support we received from our community during October 2022, as they continued to raise funds and participate virtually with #21YourWay, despite the disappointing cancellation of our much-anticipated StepUP! Melbourne event due to extreme weather conditions. The support of the community epitomised the essence of Down Syndrome Awareness Month, celebrating, recognising and promoting the diversity and achievements of people with Down syndrome.

We thank our community for their response and enthusiasm which saw 36 teams, 281 individual fundraisers and 787 donations in Victoria alone. More than \$104,000 was raised for the Down Syndrome Federation, including over \$53,000 in Victoria.

DSV relies on the support of our community and we are incredibly grateful for the efforts of everyone who participated and donated.

TOP FUNDRAISERS



Family Fun Day 2023

On Sunday 19 March 2023, close to 500 people joined us to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day at Werribee Zoo for our annual Family Fun Day. It was a fabulous day filled with many families, friends, community and fantastic entertainment. Many took advantage of the sunshine, gathering for a picnic lunch and enjoying the activities before jumping on a safari bus and exploring the zoo.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the day and purchased products from the fantastic stall holders.

Special thanks goes to: Werribee Open Range Zoo, BAM Arts Inc, Club21 Music Club, Matrix Entertainment, the Funky Monkey Family Band, Fairyfields, Peter Seehusen, Sam Moorfoot, Mayor of Wyndham City, Councillor Susan McIntyre and all of our wonderful volunteers and stall holders. Thank you for once again making our event such a memorable celebration of World Down Syndrome Day.

World Down Syndrome Day

This year, in addition to our annual Family Fun Day celebration, we hosted a morning tea to observe World Down Syndrome Day. It was a wonderful day held on March 21 in our premises at OC House, and we were joined by community, friends, supporters and DSV employees. We'd like to thank Emily Porter from our Advisory Network for hosting the event, along with Colby Hickey and Matt O'Neil for speaking about the international World Down Syndrome Day theme 'With Us, Not For Us' and launching our Now You See Me campaign.

4Peaks Trek

This year saw DSV holding its inaugural fundraising adventure on which nine dedicated community members trekked more than 50 kilometres to the summit of some of Victoria's highest mountains. Thank you to Katrina Enos, Elle Hayhurst, Meredith Bryant, Grace Bolger, Sonia Bonadio, Corina Payne, Tim Lucas, Troy Williams, Matt Cash for their time and commitment and Gallagher Insurance for their financial support. The 4Peaks team raised over \$30,000 to help give people with Down syndrome access to the same opportunities and support as other Victorians.

'Please pass on our congratulations to all your staff on a fantastic [Family Fun Day] It was lovely to see so many families involved of various ages. I was very proud to see our young people filling many leadership roles throughout the day. To see so many young families there as well all goes well for the organisation's future.' **Parent**

'4Peaks was the highlight of my year!'
4Peaks Participant

Communications

Our authentic approach to communications continues to play a fundamental role in informing, connecting and engaging the DSV community. Our focus on working across our team and community to embed the voice of people with Down syndrome into our campaign messaging and strategy has further enhanced the impact of our work.

This financial year we experienced growth in our online presence and engagement across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, with email marketing continuing to provide opportunities for us to communicate with our engaged audience.

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

Our e-newsletter **DNews** is delivered monthly to approximately 2,700 people. Our readers remain engaged with a 41 per cent average open rate, up from 33 per cent last year. This is 16 per cent higher than the average open rates for not-for-profits according to Mailchimp. In addition, 37 per cent of our subscribers are rated 'highly engaged', often opening and clicking within our emails. Our newsletter content has continued to evolve, with increased contribution from our staff with Down syndrome. A highlight has been appointing Colby Hickey, with an interest in communications, to write a monthly column for DNews summarising the work of the Advisory Network and any key themes.

Our strategic focus on **LinkedIn** was rewarded with a notable 107% increase in followers, allowing us to foster and enhance relationships with like-minded organisations and potential supporters. We will continue to build on our efforts to use this platform for thought leadership and industry updates to strengthen DSV's reputation as a trustworthy and influential voice within our sector.

We recorded four episodes of the **Down Syndrome Victoria podcast** this year, featuring conversations with inspiring and knowledgeable members of our community on topics such as inclusion and co-occurring diagnosis through to Halloween and poetry.

We produced an updated **Communications Strategy** which was presented to the Board of Management, in alignment with DSV's overarching Strategic Plan.



FACEBOOK

DSV open page:

6% increase in followers
39% increase in organic reach
180.5% increase in paid reach

Family Support Private Group:

7.5% increase in members
524 posts
3,027 comments
8,004 reactions

Adult Support Private Group:

4.5% increase in members
122 posts
152 comments
424 reactions



INSTAGRAM

25.5% increase in followers
233% increase in organic reach



LINKEDIN

107% increase in followers

'I love getting your emails about Down syndrome as I had a sister born with Down syndrome and I now have a beautiful granddaughter also born with Down syndrome. Thanks again for all the wonderful news you supply, if only the support was available whilst my sister was growing up life would have been much easier for my parents.'

Sibling and Grandparent

Connect with us on [FACEBOOK](#), [INSTAGRAM](#) or [LINKEDIN](#)

Volunteers



From Club21 and Family Fun Day, to students volunteering in the office, DSV depends greatly on the support and commitment of our wonderful volunteers. We thank each and every volunteer for their support.

Family Fun Day at Werribee Zoo continues to be popular; seven volunteers helped us on the day from set up early in the morning, taking on the role of MC, co-hosting with an Advisory Network employee and carrying out interviews together. Volunteers were also welcoming families at the front gate, provided support to members, brought fun to the games and took the official photographs.

Club21 had a busy year with 38 activities! Thank you to the 10 volunteers who committed to 39 roles. We couldn't run the program without you. Club21 members look forward to seeing volunteers at each activity.

FitSkills proved very popular for volunteers. By the end of FY23 we had received over 40 applications from potential volunteers and had engaged 16 volunteers for the program.

We also had skilled volunteers support DSV. Thank you to the University of Melbourne, Master of Genetic Counselling Students who helped with Club21 and MyTime. Two students continued volunteering beyond their project hours and supported two Advisory Network employees writing their speech for the Having a Say Conference in February. Thank you to those volunteers who have helped in the office.

Each year we are incredibly grateful to the DSV board members who all donate many hours of expertise.

Thank you to the Department of Social Services Community Grants Hub for a Volunteer Grant which allowed several DSV volunteers to complete First Aid Training with VIC First Aid.

VOLUNTEERING ACROSS THE ORGANISATION

Club21	10	Student interns	6
FitSkills	16	Office	1
DSV Board	6		

Volunteer Spotlight - Ronnie

About Me

I work for an Australian owned business - Thomas Cook Boot and Clothing Company (shameless advertising), as their Head Designer. My main focus is Menswear, but I also look over womenswear to ensure all the ranges are cohesive. It's a family run business where we design and manufacture clothing and footwear specifically targeted to rural and farming communities Australia wide.

My reason for volunteering

I first got involved with Club21 through a work colleague who was also volunteering at the time. She said that I'd love it, and she was completely right. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people – both like-minded volunteers as well as everyone involved in the groups. It certainly strengthens your ties to communities, exposing us to people with common interests, as well as an awesomely fun and fulfilling way to participate in activities that help our communities (Club21 in particular) get out of the house, explore our great city of Melbourne, and hang out with good mates in a friendly and safe environment.

Favourite volunteering memory

My favourite volunteering memory would definitely have to be the very first activity that I participated in which was Karaoke!!! Everyone loves to belt out a tune, and there were no exceptions. I find it fascinating to hear what people's go to songs are, and then to understand what these songs mean to them and everyone!

What I like doing in my spare time

Generally I can be found hanging out with my mates for Club 21 activities, as well as with my partner Jose, family and friends. I love to swim, walk around our wonderful city, exploring new areas and travel. I also have a side hustle of dress making and tailoring. All of which keep me busy and out of trouble (mostly)!

Anything about Club21 you'd like to say?

People volunteer for many different reasons. Volunteers gain professional and educational experience as well as life experience. Club21 gives access and opportunities to social, fun and fulfilling activities for both our members and volunteers. I believe it promotes growth and self confidence in our communities. Being quite a social person myself, what I love most about Club21 is the life experiences it provides through all the different activities. Club21 brings everyone together to socialise, learn and have fun at the same time.

Coming up in 2023 Ronnie will be celebrating 10 years of volunteering with Down Syndrome Victoria. A huge thank you to Ronnie for your time, your great sense of humour and your companionship.

Financial Snapshot

Five years at a glance

Down Syndrome Victoria is a responsible custodian of the funds provided by our generous partners and supporters. Every donation we receive is important and carefully distributed across our organisation to deliver services and support with and for people with Down syndrome, their families and the community.

	INCOME	EXPENSES
2019	\$1,211,180	\$1,221,562
2020	\$1,405,758	\$1,395,764
2021	\$1,622,320	\$1,541,336
2022	\$1,580,604	\$1,668,368
2023	\$2,423,432	\$2,385,493

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

Donors, Sponsors and Supporters

In gratitude to our members and supporters

Since 1978, DSV has a long and proud history of partnering with our community, members and other organisations including government agencies, traditional trusts and foundations, as well as corporate foundations and donors to support the delivery of genuine impact for Victorians with Down syndrome and families. This financial year this included nine committed individuals who took on some of Victoria's highest peaks to raise in excess of \$30,000 during DSV's first fundraising adventure initiative. We would also like to acknowledge the many fundraising initiatives instigated by DSV supporters including several schools, Oak Living, and Darrelyn Boucher who walked the Kokoda Trail in support of DSV. The Leadership Sphere made a significant contribution to DSV by way of both professional and financial means. We also have many significant donors who have requested to remain anonymous. All our supporters are members of a very generous and exceptional community. Our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to all of you.

Individuals

5,000+

Roslyn Allen
Carmine Santomartino
Bernard Sweeney

1,000+

Edward Allen
Joel Deane
Bill Hearn
Richard Vernon
Daniel Weeks

500+

Katrina Enos
Madeleine Harradence
Leon Howlett
Barbara Newstead
Peter Sloan
Michelle Somerville
Gary Stewart

In Memoriam

Hilda Davies
Emma Tuohy
Rhys Vella
Michael J Nicoll

Organisational Donors

1,000+

AFL Umpires Association
Austral Bricks
Black Widow Design
CreativIT
Eastern Access Community Health
Oak Living
Reynolds Engineering
The Leadership Sphere
The Resilience Project
Verve Portraits

500+

Australia Post Bayswater Parcel Delivery Centre
Edithvale Primary School
Fawkner Primary School
Grill'd Local Matters
Hume Central Secondary College
Orchard Grove Primary School
Rotary Club of Koo Wee Rup
Lang Lang Inc
Strathfieldsaye Primary School

Trusts and Foundations

Bank of Melbourne Foundation
Carers Victoria
Collier Charitable Fund
Charities Aid Foundation America
KnowBe4
National Australia Bank
The Flora and Frank Leith Charitable Trust
The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust
MRC Foundation

Government Funding

State

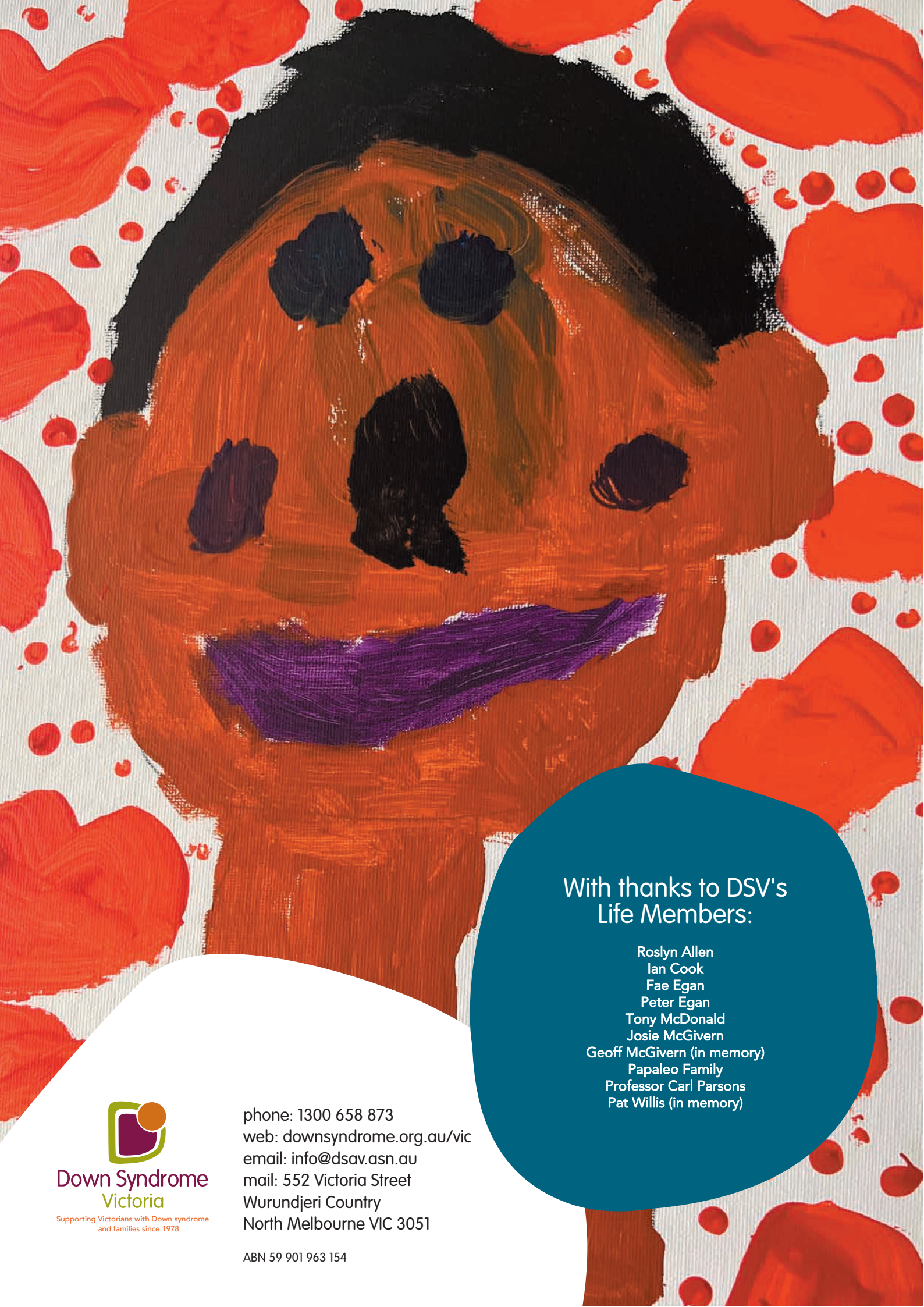
Department of Education
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Department of Health and Human Services – Office for Disability

Federal

Department of Social Services
National Disability Insurance Agency

Major Fundraisers

Oak Race Day – Oak Living
StepUP!
Family Fun Day
4Peaks
World Down Syndrome Day



With thanks to DSV's Life Members:

Roslyn Allen
Ian Cook
Fae Egan
Peter Egan
Tony McDonald
Josie McGivern
Geoff McGivern (in memory)
Papaleo Family
Professor Carl Parsons
Pat Willis (in memory)



**Down Syndrome
Victoria**

Supporting Victorians with Down syndrome
and families since 1978

phone: 1300 658 873
web: downsyndrome.org.au/vic
email: info@dsav.asn.au
mail: 552 Victoria Street
Wurundjeri Country
North Melbourne VIC 3051

ABN 59 901 963 154