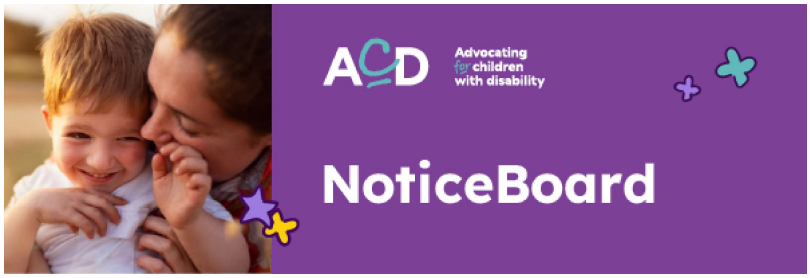
ACD wins Victorian Disability Award for Advocacy.

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October 2026

Hi ,

We are delighted to share that ACD has received the **2026 Victorian Disability Award for Advocacy**.

This award acknowledges the amazing work of our staff, board and volunteers, who help thousands of Victorian families advocate for their children.

Importantly, this award also belongs to all the parents and carers who advocate every day by making the appointments, going to meetings and speaking up.

You are incredible advocates, and together we are making life better for children.

Karen Dimmock, CEO





Workshops offering practical support for families

Whether you're preparing for child care or kindergarten, navigating a diagnosis, or trying to understand what supports are available, our two free **Brighter Beginnings** November workshops can help. Learn about services, funding and practical strategies from facilitators who are parents of children with disability.

1. Starting Child Care and Kindergarten

Find out how your child can be supported and included at child care and kindergarten. Learn simple ways to work in partnership with your child's educators.

Topics include

- How funding works in child care and kindergarten
- Working in partnership with early childhood educators
- Supporting your child's inclusion and participation

2. First Steps to Support

If you're just starting with the NDIS or your child is receiving a diagnosis, learn what help and support is available for your whole family.

Topics include

- Mental health support for your family
- Financial support
- Supporting siblings

Register now

Thriving Kids

Thriving Kids has begun to roll out. Here are three key things families need to know:

- Children aged 0-8 who are already NDIS participants (or who join before 1 January 2028) continue receiving NDIS support under current eligibility criteria
- Thriving Kids has two key parts: family support and targeted allied health support
- Supports in childcare, kindergarten and school are not changing

Read more



NDIS: Cuts to social and community participation and improved daily living skills

From 1 October 2026, funding cuts have started to apply to two NDIS support categories:

- 50% cut to assistance with social, economic and community participation under core supports
- 10% cut to improved daily living skills under capacity building

These changes will affect families at different times. For children who are offered a plan continuation (also called a

roll-over) the cuts start from until February 2027. Read our plain English summary on our NDIS changes as they happen.

Read more

Inclusive Employment Australia

A helpful option to explore when your young person is thinking about what comes after school. Inclusive Employment Australia is a free Australian Government program supports people with disability aged 14+. What it offers:

- Help getting ready for work, like building confidence and skills
- Support with resumes, job searching and interviews
- Help finding a job that suits your child's interests
- Ongoing support once they start work, including workplace adjustments
- A helpful option to explore when you're thinking about what comes after school

Find out more



Join us for ACD's AGM

Hear from guest speaker Professor Kirsten Deane, Deputy Director of the Melbourne Disability Institute.

This year has brought significant challenges for families raising children with disability. Alongside major changes to the NDIS, many students with disability continue to face barriers to getting the support they need at school. Kirsten will share why advocacy is more important than ever, and the vital role families play in driving positive change.

With more than 15 years' experience in the disability sector and a background in research, policy, advocacy, campaigning and communications, Kirsten is most well known for her role as Campaign Director of Every Australian Counts, the grassroots movement that successfully advocated for the introduction of the NDIS.

All ACD members are warmly invited to attend our AGM online at **1.00 pm on Tuesday 17 November.** Not a member yet? Become an ACD member today to receive your free AGM invitation.

Become an ACD Voting Rights Member

Disability Standards for Education now include early childhood education and care

Children with disability now have the same protections under the Disability Standards for Education when attending early childhood education and care services. What this means for families:

- Stronger support for inclusion from the early years
- Clearer expectations for education and care providers
- More consistency across a child's learning journey

Find out more



Special provisions VCE/VM: Plan ahead for 2027

Students with disability doing VCE or the Vocational Major in Years 11 and 12 can get special provisions with classroom learning and school-based assignments, as well as special examination arrangements. Adjustments can include:

- Using scores from assessments or work already completed by the student
- Extra time to complete assessments
- Rest breaks
- Separate rooms for individual students
- Use assistive technology
- Readers or scribes

Schools need to apply for special examination arrangements by **Term 1**, so speak with your child's school to get the process started. The VCAA has easy-to-read fact sheets to help you understand what's available and how to apply.

Read more



Pelvic pain support for kids and teens

The new Kids and Teens Pelvic Pain Clinical Network helps families find information, support, and services for young people under 18 experiencing pelvic pain. Here's how it works:

- Access free online resources at any time
- Have a free virtual consultation with a navigation nurse
- Learn about local services and support options

Learn more

We are speaking up for families

ACD has made two submissions on proposed NDIS changes to access and Support Coordination. We called for changes that better reflect the experiences and needs of children and families, including:

Access

- Simpler access to the NDIS for children with the highest support needs
- Access decisions to consider a child's overall support needs, including the combined impact of multiple disabilities and health conditions
- Clear information about how access and eligibility decisions are made
- Family circumstances to be considered in access decisions, including if families are raising more than one child with disability

Support Coordination

- Family wellbeing to be an objective of Support Coordination
- Support Coordination offered for all first plans
- Specialist Support Coordination for children and families

Read our submissions



All the Ways I See: a new book by Nas Campanella

We love the message behind All the Ways I See. This beautiful new picture book by Nas Campanella and Eliza Hull celebrates the many ways children experience and connect with the world.

Told through the eyes of a blind child enjoying a day at the beach, the story is full of sounds, smells, touch and imagination. It's a wonderful reminder that there is more than one way to see, learn and experience life.

With Braille, easy-to-turn pages, and links to audio and Auslan readings, more children and families can share in the joy of the story. Look for it at the library or buy it online.

Read more or order a copy

How else can we help

Join our community: Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for daily tips and information.

Stay informed: You'll find a wide range of resources for all ages and stages. Families tell us what's important, and we provide easy-to-read, up-to-date information, available in 5 languages on our website.

Connect and learn: Feeling like you need more practical tools or advice? Our Term 4 workshops are now open for registration!

We are here to listen: If you are worried about school or feeling overwhelmed, our Support Line is open.

Call us: 03 9880 700 or 1800 684719 (regional)
9.00am - 5.00pm Mon-Fri

Best wishes

The ACD team

Stay connected

03 9880 7000 | 1800 654 013 (regional)
Suite 6, 400 Canterbury Road, Surrey Hills, VIC 3127

ACD acknowledges the traditional owners of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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