

Annual Report

2016-2017

IDRS 
Making Rights Real





IDRS staff
and Board
working on
marketing plan

Intellectual Disability Rights Service Inc.

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A Word from the Chair



Mike Sprange, Chair

This year I am particularly delighted to introduce the annual report for IDRS for 2016-2017, in its 30th year of operation.

It has been a year of massive challenge for us, as it has for so many not for profit organisations working in the disability sector.

As the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) progresses, there are an increasing number of circumstances where gaps between the old and new models of funding are causing many non-government organisations concern about their very survival.

We are not alone here but have been particularly fortunate in a number of ways:

- we have reviewed our strategic plan and are in the process of its implementation,
- we have created a new corporate profile and corporate identity, and boosted our social media presence,
- Above all we have engaged with our stakeholders including those in government and especially the Department of Justice about our quest for future financial viability.

We have been exceptionally pleased and delighted with the response from so many organisations with whom we deal, and their resounding support for the work we do. It has enabled us to make powerful and convincing submissions to the state government which we now understand will give us the funding assurances we need for the future.

There are so many organisations who have declared their support for IDRS that it is impossible to mention them all here. Suffice to say we have been humbled and delighted by their kind actions and positive support.

Through the year, and on a continuing basis, the Productivity Commission has been investigating issues surrounding the implementation of the NDIS and the issues surrounding the interface between NDIS funded services through individual packages and the mainstream services which the States have a continuing responsibility to deliver. We remain concerned that many services critical to those with disability, may not survive the transition process.

IDRS commences the 17-18 financial year in great shape, not only with a very satisfactory financial result for the 16-17 year, but with new sources of funds to help us grow and strengthen our business. More of that, no doubt, in next year's report.

This will be my final annual report as IDRS Chair. It has been a challenging year, and I want to thank Janene Cootes IDRS Executive Officer, who has driven our engagement process, guided our contacts with NSW Government at many levels, as well as leading IDRS with passion, and inspiring her management team and staff with her energy and commitment.

I have also had the opportunity through the year to spend time with the IDRS team and their hard work and support is also really phenomenal.

It has been a great pleasure to serve in the role of Chair over the last few years, and I want to thank the Board for their support, hard work, energy and insight, especially in this very demanding year.

Finally I want to thank the NSW Attorney General, Mark Speakman, and his chief of staff, for their engagement with us over the past year.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mike Sprange".

Executive Officer Reflections



Janene Cootes, Executive Officer

As for many disability organisations, 2016-17 has been an exceptionally challenging year for IDRS as we have worked to plot a path to secure viability of our services for people with intellectual disability beyond June 2018.

This challenge led to development of a new IDRS Strategic Plan and the opportunity to review and refresh our central purpose of 'making rights real' for people with intellectual disability and the core values of 'justice, respect and persistence' that underpin our work. We have been working hard on our single most important immediate goal of securing funding to support our services into the future and are now optimistic about achieving this goal.

The year has seen a further 20% increase in the number of people with disability using IDRS services. In the past 12 months 1,369 people with intellectual disability have used IDRS services. Many of these people have been involved with multiple IDRS services on multiple occasions.

They may have received legal assistance; a support person in court or in a police station; advocacy support to link with services so that their child would not be removed from their care; help with an appeal about a decision of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA); joined IDRS rights training or a peer support network or had help from IDRS to complete their application to become a participant in the NDIS.

New opportunities have arisen during the year. A key opportunity has been NDIS Appeals funding from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. This funding means that IDRS can now support people with disability or their families to appeal against decisions of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. We can also provide information and guidance at the earlier stage where someone is asking the NDIA to review a

decision it has made. There is high demand and take up of this new service.

This year, perhaps more than ever, I am grateful to the IDRS staff team who are so single minded, skilled, creative and good humoured in 'making rights real' for people with intellectual disability. It is a privilege to lead such a dedicated team.

The IDRS Board have worked particularly hard during 2016-17 strengthening IDRS for the future. I thank them for their patience, leadership and guidance.

Mike Sprange has foreshadowed that he will stand down as Chair of IDRS at the 2017 Annual General Meeting after 8 years in this role. Mike's contribution to IDRS during that time has been enormous. IDRS has grown in size and in strength under his watch. Mike has brought to IDRS a steady hand; huge energy; a wealth of expertise from his own professional life; the unique insight that comes of parenting a son with disability; great judgement and unflinching commitment to justice and to the work of IDRS. Mike's integrity, determination and the respect he engenders from those who deal with him have been invaluable assets to IDRS especially during this past year.

I know that I speak on behalf of the Board, the staff and many of the people who use IDRS services in extending heartfelt thanks to Mike for his dedication and achievements as Chair of IDRS. I am delighted that this is not good-bye as Mike plans to continue as a Board member and a Justice Support volunteer with IDRS.





Strategic Plan – 2017 – 2019

IDRS – ‘Making Rights Real’



Members of the IDRS Board

IDRS relies on the time, energy and expertise of a voluntary Board of Directors to manage and steer its work.

This has been a particularly demanding year for IDRS Board members. They have given generously of their time and expertise and have contributed to developing a new Strategic Plan 2017-19 and a Marketing Plan to guide IDRS into the future. The challenge of securing future funding for IDRS has been a focus of the Board's work during 2016-17. They have taken up this challenge with enormous effort and determination.



Announcing IDRS Making Rights Real Advisory Group!

IDRS was thrilled to launch its Making Rights Real Advisory group in 2016. The group operates as an advisory group to IDRS staff and board and brings the voice and ideas of people with disability into discussions about our organisational priorities and direction. The group informs the way we do what we do.

In its inaugural year 6 IDRS service users were invited to nominate to become members of the group. Members were selected based on their interest in the rights of people with disability, their personal experiences in standing up for their rights and their understanding of the work and role of IDRS.

The current members of the Making Rights Real group are:

Kirra
Cochrane

Dean
Elliott

Shailaja
Menon

Dale
Robinson

Joseph
Taouk

Kathy
Provis

The work of the Making Rights Real group is to:

- Advise IDRS staff and board about issues affecting people with intellectual disability
- Help choose IDRS staff
- Help IDRS make resources for people with intellectual disability
- Make sure rights forum members on the board have their say
- Have a say on important rights issues for people with intellectual disability

The group meets monthly. Members are paid for their time and expertise. An IDRS educator supports the work of the group. Members bring issues to the group and IDRS staff and board also bring agenda items to the group to get their advice.

In the short time that they have been meeting the group has had significant impact. IDRS is excited to see its role develop as time progresses. The group has been actively involved in the campaign to ensure that advocacy organisations continue to receive government funding. They have assisted to identify key strategic areas of rights for IDRS to focus on. Members have been on interview panels to select IDRS staff and have played a role in informing the rebranding of IDRS...most importantly the Making Rights Real group injects a sense of fun every step of the way!



The Year in a Nutshell

727

Legal advices

270

Legal advices to people
under arrest

89

Legal cases

150

After hours/weekend
legal advice to people
under arrest

1,521

Court supports for people
with intellectual disability

38

Victims of crime
supported to make
a statement to police

245

People under arrest
supported by IDRS
Justice Support

23

New Justice Support
volunteers trained

97

Supports for prisoners
in audio-visual
court appearances

102

People participated
in Your Rights
Your Life Courses

48

Parents with intellectual
disability who had
legal assistance

30

Parents with intellectual
disability receiving
disability advocacy

40

Court supports for
parents with
intellectual disability

204

Police trained by IDRS

392

Disability and community
workers trained by IDRS

5

New volunteer
solicitors trained

15

People supported
through NDIS
access and planning

61

People participating
in peer support

Thank You to IDRS volunteers

Volunteers play a huge role at IDRS. Their generosity enables IDRS to reach far more people across much more of NSW than we otherwise could. Their impact in providing legal advice and in supporting justice for people with intellectual disability in NSW is enormous.

In this year when IDRS has been actively seeking support from magistrates, judges, Legal Aid NSW, Aboriginal Legal Service, government and

non-government disability services we have heard first-hand of the respect and appreciation that our volunteers have earned in both the justice system and the disability sector.

We thank every volunteer for your continuing support and congratulate you on the reputation you have achieved in the community.

Legal Volunteers

IDRS thanks:

Andrew Harrison for his volunteer work as a legal assistant 2 days a week at IDRS, we are delighted that Andrew has this year become part of the Justice Support staff team and

Julie Claridge and Alex Rollason for their work as volunteer solicitors each volunteering one day each week with IDRS

Students Maureen Randall, Alison Dawes and Emily West who completed placements with IDRS, making great contributions to our work.

Volunteer solicitors providing urgent legal advice in the evening and at weekends for people with intellectual disability under arrest.

Blair, Michael	Fogarty, Ben	Mojtahedi, Golnaz
Boctor, Peter	Hogan, Kayt	Pietrini, Rhonda Lewis
Bond, Sara	Ibbott, Kim	Rice, Maree
Borg, Joseph	Kable, Linda	Rollason, Alex
Chau Hua, Michelle	Kishore, Joselyn	Snelgrove, Peter John
Cleaves, Peter	Laidler, Mansell	Stimpson, Claire
Comino, Nick	Lee, Ka-ling Karen	Turnbull, Megan
Cosgrove, Steven	Lewis, Samantha	Wallace, James
Doust, Katherine	Maranis, Sylvia	Weir, John
Elston, Diane	McGhee, Peter	Wong, Shine
Elve, Pinar	Mockler, Denis	

Justice Support Volunteers

Volunteers providing police station, court and other justice support for victims and defendants with intellectual disability.

Sydney

Bargen, Jennifer
Bennett, Pamela
Bland, Bruce
Cahill, Ken
Corbould, Elizabeth
Costello, Michael
Cowan, Linda
Dawes, Alison
Deschamps, Dianne
Eldridge, Veronica
Ellis, Peter
Fredericks, Michael
Goninan, Margaret
Hudson, Anne
Jennings, Margaret
Logan, Christine
Lukic, Catherine
Mahon, Jenny
Mehmed, Ozlem
McInerney, Marita
McKenzie, Kathryn
McKinnon, Sue
Milne, Jeanette
Moore, Elizabeth
Moore, Richard
Nisbet, Alison
Ninovic, Venessa
O'Keeffe, Greg
O'Keeffe, Harold
Paul, Calum
Porter, Jan
Randall, Maureen
Raymond, Eunice

Riley, Gavin
Roe, Sharon
Sprange, Mike
Soriano, Andrea
Starr, Elizabeth
Thomas, Julie
Tsoukalas, Kathy
Wood, John
Wright-Sampson, Tamara
Zarifi, Maria
Hunter
Arvidson, Kaitlin
Beck, Margaret (Maggie)
Ball, Loretta
Caruana, Anthony
Hale, Emma
Hincks, Tessa
Jones, Peter
Lavender, Chloe
Mortell, Jacinta
Newman, Julie
Phillips, Jan
Pinchen, Joyce
Purser, Isabel
Rowe, Leonie May
Rudinsky, Carolyn
Rumley, Lynne
Warnick, Geoff
Warnick, Lorraine
Weir, James
Williams, Ruth
Wilson, Tania

Illawarra, Southern

Arnold, Sandra
Barnett, Michael
Chung, Elisa
Connelly, Michael
Frost, Terry
Hall, Warwick
Hancock, Susan
Hartman, June
Hayes, Rhonda
Kerr, Margaret
Liddle, Barbara
Lloyd, Cookie
Patrick, Dianne
Phillips, Sharon
Puckeridge, Margit
Raymond, John
Shea, Brenda
Speers, Kathy
Tomkins, Raymond
Upton, Norm
Watson, Maxine
Watt, John
Windsor, Christine

Outreach areas

includes Mid-North Coast, Central Coast, Central West, Riverina
Brown, Anne
Darcy, Gary
Dean, Paul
Fogarty, Carol
Gander, Dianne
Halliburton, Pam
Hastings, Debbie
Hughes, Megan
Huntley-Tol, Sylvia
Irons, Christopher
Lloyd, Sikiki
Lucas, Val
Martin, Anne
Maxwell, Susan
McLennan, Bob
Minney, Breeana
Oakwood, Meri
Passfield, Phillipa
Paull, Pelin
Petrout, Tennille
Roitman, Kathleen
Rooke, Leonie
Suters, Linda
Taig, Erica
Tanner, Eric
Thurston, Robyn
Valentine, Bruce
Whyatt, Brian
Zironda, Stephen

Volunteers also assist parents with intellectual disability in the Children's Court in Child Care and Protection Matters.

Beck, Maggie
Bland, Bruce

Caruana, Anthony
Christensen, Abby

Frost, Terry
Rudinsky, Carolyn

Starr, Elizabeth

IDRS Organisational Chart



Legal Assistance

IDRS Legal Assistance includes:

- Free legal advice in person or by phone to people with intellectual disability about an extensive range of legal problems
- Referral to legal and disability services
- Legal advice to people with intellectual disability who are in police custody 9am – 10pm, seven days week via staff solicitors and a network of volunteer solicitors
- Legal casework and representation for people with intellectual disability in some cases
- Information, training and resources for legal practitioners in NSW who are assisting clients with intellectual disability

Legal Advice

Just over one third of requests for legal advice come to IDRS directly from a person with intellectual disability.

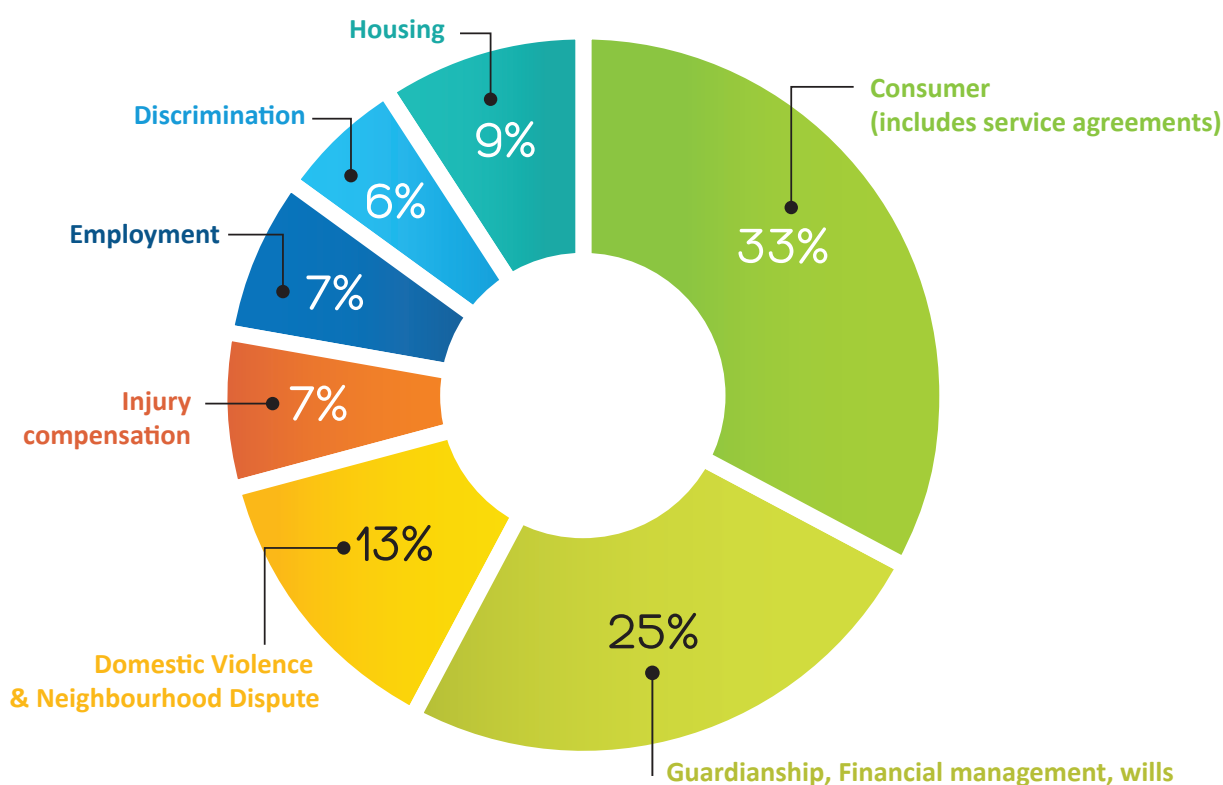
If the person with intellectual disability is unable to understand legal advice directly, advice can be given through others contacting IDRS if it is clear that they are calling in that person's interest. Conflict of interest is carefully considered whenever a third party is seeking advice on behalf of a person with disability.

Wherever possible, our solicitors will want the person with intellectual disability to be directly involved in the advice appointment with their helper. The person with disability will always be the IDRS client.

This year IDRS provided legal advice on 727 occasions to 593 people about a wide range of legal problems.

Two thirds of requests for legal advice are about civil law problems.

IDRS Legal advice – main civil law problems



Legal Assistance

Advice for people in police custody

IDRS was contacted to give legal advice to people with intellectual disability who were under arrest at a police station on 270 occasions during 2016-17. Just over half these calls came after hours or at the weekend and were taken by volunteer solicitors while IDRS solicitors managed calls received during business hours. 63% of requests for advice were from people who were in regional or remote police stations.

IDRS legal casework

IDRS solicitors have worked on 89 cases during this year.

The casework reflects similar areas of law as the legal advice.

An emerging issue – service contracts for people on NDIS packages

IDRS has received regular requests for legal assistance from family of people with intellectual disability about disability service contracts they have been asked to sign on behalf of their family member.

The increased demand is due to the NDIS roll out, the requirement for complex individual service contracts and the transfer of government services to non-government organisations.

This has created a challenging environment for families. It is important that families seek legal advice if they have concern about contracts they are being asked to sign on behalf of their family member.

Of greatest concern are the many people with intellectual disability who are unable to understand their service contracts and have no one to look out for their interests in entering into a contract or their rights as a service user under the contract.

IDRS is keen to assist people with intellectual disability by providing legal advice about service contracts or possible breaches of service contracts during this period of major change.

Case Studies



Legal help to make life changes

Jessica is in her 30s and has lived in the same group home for 8 years. She had been with the same service provider for most of her life. Jessica wanted some changes in her life and the coming of the NDIS seemed like a chance for change.

Jessica worked full time in supported employment but her wages and her pension went into an account managed by her service provider. There were no guardianship or financial management orders in place. This was an informal arrangement. Jessica had asked for information about her bank account but this was refused. Although Jessica's father had not been involved in her life for many years, the service went to him for all decisions about Jessica. The service was discussing preparation for Jessica's service after NDIS with her father. He wanted everything to stay the same.

With help from an advocate, Jessica contacted IDRS for legal help to get more control of her life. She said she wanted to make her own decisions with support from her advocate. She wanted her wages paid into an account that she could use and she wanted more information about her pension bank account. The service had refused both requests. Jessica didn't like some restrictions of the group home on her life. The service consulted with Jessica's father and followed his instructions about all decisions.

IDRS agreed to help Jessica to get information from the group home about her money but the service continued to refuse even though as a trustee for her money they should give her information. IDRS made a complaint to Fair Work Australia when Jessica's employer refused a request to pay her wages to her rather than to her group home account. The advocate and IDRS tried to help Jessica to have a real say in her NDIS planning.

While IDRS was helping Jessica, her father made an application to the Guardianship Division of NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal asking to be appointed as her guardian and financial manager. IDRS represented Jessica at the guardianship hearing and helped her to tell the Tribunal what she wanted. She did not want her father as her guardian or financial manager.

While short orders were made, Jessica's wishes about who should be her guardian were upheld by the Tribunal.

Since then, with the help of her advocate, Jessica has received her NDIS plan and has made changes in both her accommodation and her workplace. She has her own bank account which she now uses. Jessica is unlikely to have achieved this without the help of her advocate and IDRS. In our experience many people like Jessica are going through the NDIS process without the support they need to make changes if they wish to.



Going for a walk leads to criminal charges

Alan lives in a group home. One afternoon he went for a walk without telling his carers. This led to a series of events which demonstrate how easily a person with intellectual disability can get into trouble with the police.

When Alan's carers found that Alan was missing they called the police to help find him. The police located Alan but when they approached him Alan became very scared, upset and disoriented. The police were not able to communicate and calm Alan. They did not realise that Alan did not understand what they wanted him to do and was panicked. When Alan refused to go with the police and physically resisted, the police set the police dog onto him.

Terrified, Alan tried to push the dog away. He hit out at the police when they tried to restrain him. Ultimately Alan was taken to the police station and was charged with several counts of assault and cruelty to an animal.

IDRS wrote to the police to ask that they withdraw the charges given the circumstances, but this was unsuccessful and the matter went to court. IDRS represented Alan at court and successfully applied for Alan's charges to be dismissed under Section 32 Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990.

IDRS Justice Support

Criminal Justice Support Network has a new name.

We have just dropped the 'Criminal' label from the title but nothing else changes. It is still the same highly respected service it has always been.

IDRS Justice Support provides support persons and advocacy for people with intellectual disability when they come into contact with the criminal justice system as defendants, victims or witnesses of crime.

Support is provided at court, police stations, legal interviews, juvenile justice conferencing, community sentencing forums and court ordered mediations. Court support is provided to people with intellectual disability who are in prison and need to attend their court hearings via audio visual link.

Justice Support relies on an extensive network of trained and dedicated volunteers to provide most supports to people with intellectual disability at court and at police stations.

Justice Support is also available for people with intellectual disability who are arrested from 9am – 10pm seven days a week. After hours contact number is 1300 665 908. This number will also link the person under arrest to after hours legal advice.

Our staff are based in Sydney, the Hunter and the Illawarra/Shoalhaven. An Outreach Coordinator based in Sydney coordinates volunteer support persons in our Outreach Service Areas on the Mid North Coast, Central Coast, the Riverina and the Central West of NSW.

Growing Demand

In 2016-17 IDRS Justice Support has assisted 680 people with intellectual disability in their contact with the police and courts. Support was provided on 2,069 occasions.

This represents a growth of 15% in support provided and people using the service over the previous year. Justice Support is only able to stretch to meet this demand due to the flexible and generous efforts of its volunteer network.



Thank you for support during 2016-17

During this year IDRS met with many people in the justice system including magistrates, judges, Legal Aid NSW, Aboriginal Legal Service, Witness Assistance Service, seeking support for our efforts to secure funding for our Justice Support Service beyond June 2018. We were heartened and encouraged by the overwhelming positive support.

Here are just a couple of examples of how those in the criminal justice system feel IDRS Justice Support makes a difference.

Witness Assistance Service Officer

The victim (of a serious physical assault) was an extremely vulnerable gentleman in custody with an intellectual disability. Without the assistance and presence of a CJSN support person I don't believe the victim would have continued the matter and completed evidence.

The IDRS simply went above and beyond in this matter in ensuring he understood his rights and had the opportunity to voice his concerns.

They ensured the victim had a support person present within the court room and actively engaged with the DPP to ensure their interactions and conduct was within the scope of what was appropriate for the person.

The Crown Prosecutor also wanted to ensure I had passed on his thanks to the service.

Legal Aid NSW

A vulnerable client's matter went over three years. The IDRS gave the client excellent support from the beginning. IDRS attended court with the client on 19 occasions including during his fitness hearing and a special hearing and sentence before the District Court.

This provided an enormous amount of assistance over the two weeks of the special hearing including making sure the client

- Attended court at the right place and time
- Understood his proceedings
- Made sure the client was OK
- Made sure the client came back to court after breaks

IDRS workers also attended numerous conferences with the client's lawyer and counsel. They made sure the client understood the process and would ask and follow up responses to questions. They assisted the client in obtaining documents from his home which avoided unnecessary delays in his matter.

IDRS Justice Support

People with disability in prison and the NDIS

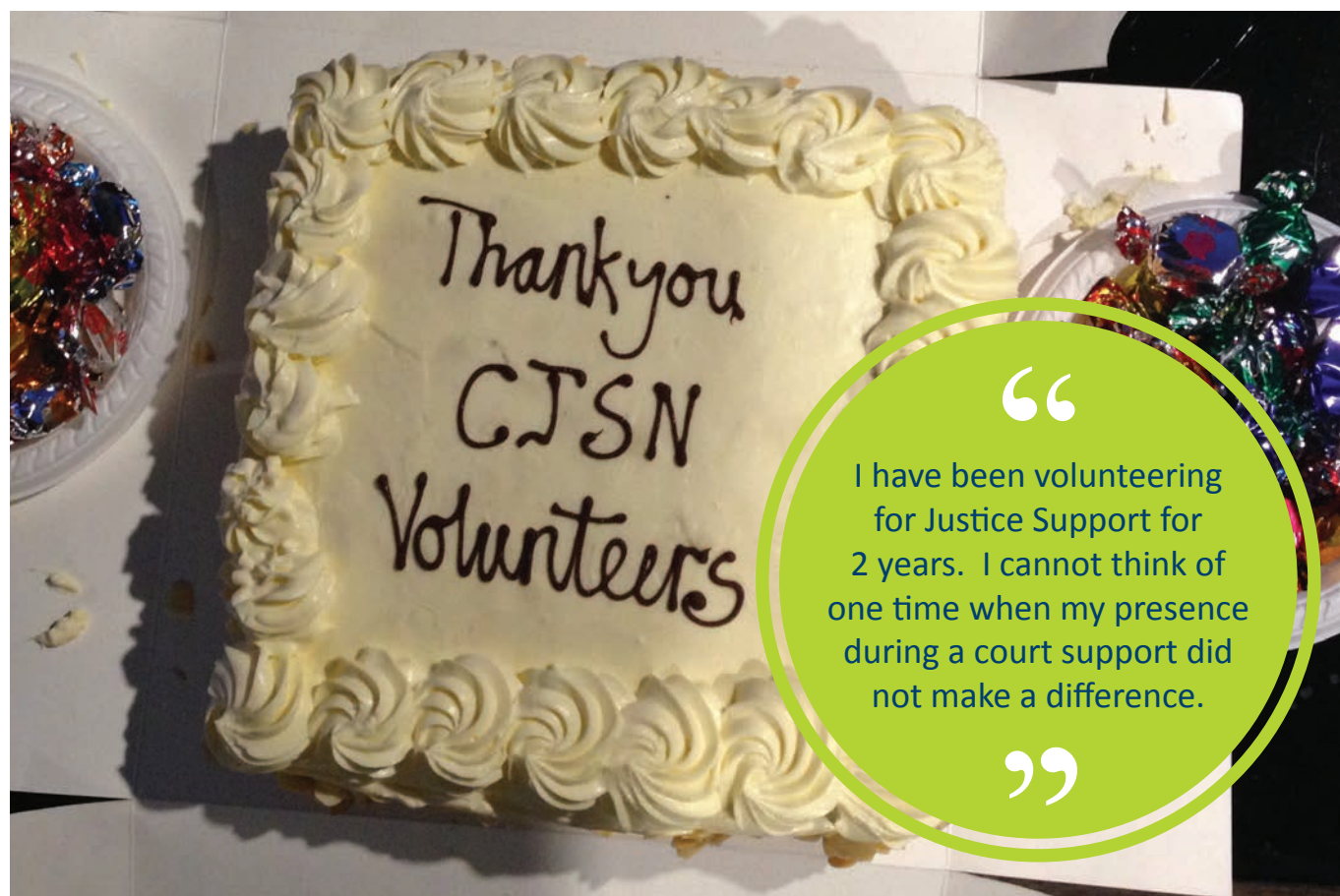
Two major issues for people in the criminal justice system identified by Justice Support in the transition to NDIS have been:

- Increased difficulty in being able to get services involved in time to support a realistic bail application to be put to the court. Very often it is the person's unmet disability and social needs that leave the court little option but to remand the person in custody, and
- Difficulty in getting an NDIS plan and securing services to enable an inmate with disability to get out of prison with the necessary disability support services

In the past the Community Justice Program of NSW Family and Community Services was able to accept referrals for people who were in prison and to begin working with them while they were still in prison to prepare for release with appropriate support. This was available to people on remand, ready to be released on parole or at the end of their sentence.

There is now no clear pathway to achieve a well-planned, supported release from prison for people with disability.

IDRS joined with others in Australians for Disability Justice to provide evidence to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on National Disability Insurance Scheme to voice concerns that people with disability are being remanded in prison more often and are remaining there for longer periods due to confusion and no clear quick pathway to achieve disability support services.



Case Study



JULIE – in prison due to lack of disability support

Julie was arrested on a charge of malicious damage. IDRS supported Julie during her court matter. Before going into custody Julie lived independently in the community with her husband who also has Intellectual disability. Not long before she was arrested her husband was admitted to hospital and was unable to return home. Julie lost her accommodation as she was not on the lease.

Justice Support tried to arrange services for Julie to avoid prison but could not get services in place in time. Julie was refused bail by the police and then by the court as there was nowhere to release her to, she was homeless.

Julie lived in an area that had already transitioned to the NDIS but she was not an NDIS participant. She had not heard of the NDIS. Julie is a good example of the many people with disability who are likely to miss out on NDIS because they are not connected and have no family or other support to access NDIS. We find there is no point of support for people in this situation to apply for NDIS.

Julie needed an application to be made to NDIA if she was to get out of custody. A planner from the NDIA had a phone interview with Julie while she was in prison and determined that she was eligible for an \$11,000 package. This was totally inadequate to meet Julie's disability needs and the magistrate's expectations so bail was refused again on her next court date.

To action the package Julie had to choose and engage a Co-ordinator of Supports (COS), who could start the work to link her with services. Julie did not have capacity to do this herself further delaying the court process. A combined effort of Corrective Services and IDRS Justice Support eventually achieved the appointment of a COS.

Further delays resulted from the need for Julie to sign the contract to engage the COS and to seek a review of the NDIS plan in order to satisfy the magistrate that she could be released with adequate service. The next bail application was also denied. Eventually, accommodation was sourced in a house with 4 residents and 24 hour support.

In the meantime, Julie's solicitor began to doubt Julie's fitness to plead. The solicitor arranged for Julie to see a Clinical Psychologist via Audio Visual Link for a fitness assessment. Based on the report, Julie was found unfit to plead and a permanent stay was granted on her matter on the next date. As a result she was released from prison.

By this time Julie had spent over 3 months in prison before being released. Based on the seriousness of the offence and the fact that she had only had one minor charge 7 years prior, it seems unlikely that Julie would have been remanded in custody if she had had a place to live and adequate disability support. The system was not able to respond quickly enough to avoid her going to prison or to get accommodation and services to enable her to get out of prison.

We fear more people with intellectual disability will find themselves in prison for long periods as a result of delays in getting disability support.

Case Study



Matthew – Simple things that make a big difference

Matthew was very particularly grateful when, as usual, the Justice Support volunteer rang to remind him about his court appointment the following day. “There is no way I would have remembered if you didn’t ring me”, Matthew said. Matthew has brain damage from an accident in his teenage years. As a result he has significant memory problems.

When Matthew missed an appointment for a psychological assessment the volunteer understood why and explained to his solicitor. A new appointment was made. The appointment was important so that the solicitor would have evidence of Matthew’s disability to put to the court. The solicitor could then apply for a diversionary order under s32 Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990 NSW.

Before the next appointment, the volunteer rang Matthew a couple of days before and then again the night before the appointment. She made sure that he wrote down the appointment details and put it somewhere he would see in the morning. He was nervous and she offered to meet him so they could walk to the appointment together. Matthew was ready and waiting at the time arranged the next day.

Matthew’s charge was dismissed under a S32 order. Without support it is quite likely that Matthew would have missed court dates and more assessment appointments. He may not have had the evidence to get such a good result at court.



Parents Project

The Parents Project is a specialist service offered by IDRS to parents with intellectual disability.

The Project assists parents who have either had their children removed from their care by Family and Community Services, or who are at risk of having their children removed. The Project is funded by the Public Purpose Fund of the Law Society of NSW through Community Legal Centres Funding Program of Legal Aid NSW.

In 2016-17, the Parents Project also received funding from the Care Partner program to provide legal assistance and advocacy to parents with intellectual disability who are involved in 'early intervention' processes with Family and Community Services (FACS).

The Parents Project employs a part time solicitor and a part time parent advocate.

Parents Project strategies

Using a range of legal and non-legal approaches to advocate for individuals and systemic change the Parents Project provides:

- Legal advice, casework and representation to parents with intellectual disability in child care and protection matters
- Non-legal advocacy and support for parents with intellectual disability and those who support them
- Support person for parents at Children's Court in child care and protection matters
- Capacity building among professionals working with parents with intellectual disability – primarily disability advocates and support workers, child protection workers, lawyers and court staff
- Input into relevant policy debates and law reform processes and lobbies for systemic change that will improve the outcomes for families where a parent has intellectual disability.



Parents Project

Parents assisted by the project

This year the Parents Project provided assistance to

Service	Number of parents assisted
Legal Advice and casework	48
Non-legal advocacy and casework	30
Support person at court	40

National Disability Insurance Scheme

With the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme becoming the predominant source of funding for disability support in NSW, a major role for the Parents Project disability advocate this year has been supporting parents with intellectual disability through their application to be an NDIS participant, pre-planning, planning meetings and in some cases through engaging services.

She has supported 6 mothers through the process so far. This has been an extremely time consuming but worthwhile investment with good outcomes achieved. Meeting the mother's disability support needs, especially if this begins during pregnancy, can potentially impact the child remaining with the birth family.

Our concern is that there is no support built into the NDIS system itself to facilitate mothers like these to access NDIS. They usually are not connected to services and have little or no natural support in their lives. Their experience leads them to be suspicious of services. There is a high risk that they will miss out.

Statewide delivery of training for disability and community workers

This year IDRS Parents' Project has had the opportunity through the Disability Justice Project to deliver our one day training program 'Making Sense of the System – supporting parents with cognitive disability through care and protection' throughout NSW.

Training has been provided to hundreds of disability and community workers in 12 venues around NSW. There has been great interest in the course with very positive feedback.

"Hearing about the experience of birth parents especially parents with cognitive disability was all new to me."

"I learned a lot from all the real life examples and hearing a solicitor explain child care and protection law and the system in a way I can understand. Great course, thank you."

Case Study



Mum succeeds against the odds

Tina is an Aboriginal mum who was referred to the Parents Project by FACS when she was pregnant with her second child. She had one child already in care and so there was a high chance that the second baby would be removed from her care at birth, a s106A removal. Tina herself was in care as a child and has only tenuous support from her own family.

Tina has experienced serious domestic violence.

Parents Project case worker invested time in building a relationship of trust and practical support with Tina. The kinds of support that Parents Project provided included:

- Advocacy and support at meetings with FACS
- Legal advice
- Support to clean her home
- Support to learn parenting skills and establish a routine
- Support to educate in home intensive parent support services about how to engage with Tina and how to present information to her
- Support to get a mental health care plan
- Support to access the NDIS – applying, planning and especially finding appropriate support workers.
- Support to access services including Karitane and a DV course.
- Support dealing with NSW Trustee and Guardian

Tina did a great job preparing for her baby and was allowed to bring her child home. FACS insisted on in home support services but these did not always work well for Tina. Tina complained that while some support workers just observed her but did not help, others were overbearing and took over. She was confused and felt like giving up. The Parents Project worker pulled everyone together to clarify roles and responsibilities. She advocated on Tina's behalf so that services were more responsive to her needs and level of comprehension.

Tina's baby is thriving. Tina herself is thriving and FACS is now planning to close Tina's case.

Education, Capacity Building and Peer Support

IDRS education, capacity building and peer support aims to:

- Build the capacity of people with intellectual disability to understand their rights and responsibilities, feel confident to stand up for their rights and know how to get help with their rights if they need it. We develop resources to support this goal
- Build the capacity of people with intellectual disability to support their peers
- Create opportunities for the growth of peer support networks to foster relationship, connections and social inclusion
- Support the capacity of people with intellectual disability to be educators and spokespersons for themselves and for other people with intellectual disability
- Provide education to those who support people with intellectual disability with legal and rights problems including family, friends, disability support workers, community workers and advocates
- Build the capacity of the community, particularly the justice sector, to respect and respond more effectively to the needs of and rights of people with intellectual disability. To this end we provide training to police, lawyers and other justice personnel
- Provide individual advocacy support to people with limited supports and intellectual disability to access the NDIS and/or other community and mainstream supports
- Support research that is inclusive and seeks to work with people with intellectual disability to advance their rights

We do this by

- Working collaboratively with people with intellectual disability
- Providing opportunities for people with intellectual disability to build their confidence and skills and connect with other people with shared experiences
- Designing, developing and implementing training packages for the supporters of people with disability that are evidence based, practical and skills focused
- Taking an interagency and collaborative approach to providing education and support to people with intellectual disability

Our Focus Areas in 2016-2017

Group based rights training

"I have learned more about my rights and I like that I have as much rights as anyone else"

Your Life Your Rights participant

Again we had a successful year offering our Your Life Your rights course to young people with cognitive disabilities in Transition to work programs. Every one of these four module courses is planned and co-delivered with an IDRS educator with intellectual disability.

In 2016-17, 102 people participated in the Your Rights Your Life courses.



Disability Justice Project

IDRS is partner with Centre for Community Welfare Training and Life Without Barriers in designing and delivering the Disability Justice Project (DJP). This 2 year project funded by Family and Community Services aims to build capacity of the disability sector to work more effectively with people with cognitive disability who are involved with the justice system or are at risk of involvement with the justice system.

IDRS developed and co-delivered with Aboriginal educators one of the foundation courses of the DJP: Navigating the criminal justice system. The course was delivered at 27 locations around the state. IDRS also developed and delivered Supporting Young people in the Criminal Justice System across the state and has developed a course on Supporting Victims which will be roll out in the second half of 2017.

What participants said about the courses:

"I found so much of this training useful. It really exceeded my expectations and covered a lot of policies that I didn't expect and was really helpful for my work". (From Victims services employee).

"All the content was very useful and informative. The trainer was excellent, very engaging".

Education, Capacity Building and Peer Support

Peer Support Networks

IDRS was thrilled to receive a continuation of Disability Support Organisation funding in consortium with the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability in 2016-2017. This funding has enabled IDRS to continue to resource and facilitate peer support networks, focusing on socially isolated people, many of whom have particularly disadvantaged backgrounds. This year 61 people have been members in peer support networks.

IDRS **online peer support group** was launched in 2016. This is a 'closed' group on Facebook that people with intellectual disability can request to join. The group has 79 members and is a live dynamic space where people connect, share experiences and support each other. It is a safe space and is monitored by IDRS staff. Members are vetted before they enter the group and all posts are reviewed before being published online.

Members:

- Share updates of their lives – holidays, pets, events
- Share frustrations – eg about being poorly treated because of their disability
- Give feedback about issues that are important to them eg responding to a post from a politician asking how to make transport more accessible – group responses were sent on

Peer support has become a cornerstone of the IDRS approach to engaging and working alongside marginalized people with disabilities to make changes and find the formal and informal supports that they want in their lives.

The achievements of people connected to the IDRS peer support networks have been an inspiration to the whole organisation. Peer network members have gained employment, developed the confidence to live independently, got their drivers licenses, advocated strongly for themselves with the NDIS and made important and enduring social connections. Network members have also contributed significantly to IDRS through moving into advisory roles within IDRS and sitting on IDRS interview panels.

A review of the IDRS peer networks highlighted that as well as connections, experiences and tangible outcomes, participants have developed a broad range of transferable skills and useful knowledge.

The networks support members to have confidence to advocate for themselves and pursue their goals.



Get to Know Your AVO – film project

IDRS and Self Advocacy Sydney were successful through a joint application to the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW in receiving a grant to produce a film resource to promote understanding of AVO's amongst people with intellectual or other cognitive disability. The film has been completed and is available online. Distribution is ongoing.

The film fills a gap in accessible information and resources for people with cognitive disabilities who become involved as defendants in AVO matters. Throughout the development, production and postproduction people with disability and people with lived experience of AVO's provided feedback and advice. A professional production company and professional cast and crew have ensured a polished, entertaining and enduring film. The initial feedback from people with disability, lawyers and support workers has been overwhelmingly positive.

A pictorial booklet reinforces the key messages of the film.

Check it out on the IDRS website: www.idrs.org.au



Police training

IDRS has continued to deliver monthly training to NSW police custody managers in the Safe Custody Course. This year we have trained 195 police. Police consistently report that the training assists them to identify people with intellectual disability and activate appropriate supports

"We hear so much about mental health, but we've never really heard much about intellectual disability, so this was really helpful"

Custody manger, NSW police

National Disability Insurance Scheme Related work

Information and Access to NDIS

NSW Department of Family and Community Services has provided some additional funding to advocacy and information organisations to assist in managing anticipated increased demand on our organisations during the roll out of NDIS.

IDRS has used this funding to deliver accessible information about NDIS directly to people with intellectual disability themselves in workshop groups. We have also assisted people with intellectual disability who need significant support to make their NDIS application, consider their goals, participate in the planning meeting and where necessary to engage with supports. These are generally people with disability who are isolated, are not engaged with services and have little or no personal supports. They would have been extremely unlikely to benefit from NDIS without this support.

During the year IDRS has worked with 83 people to advance their understanding of the NDIS through information workshops and has supported 15 people to move through the NDIS process.

Our experience has revealed that the process has been difficult and especially confusing for these people and in almost every case would have failed without our involvement.

We are very concerned that the NDIS system is not accessible to people with intellectual disability who are without support. There is no answer about how these people will be supported to access and participate in the NDIS process in the future.

Case Study



Encouragement and support to give NDIS a go

Rachel has been supported by IDRS Justice Support over several years with frequent criminal justice system contact. She is in her 30s. We felt she could benefit from NDIS but we knew she would not get there without some convincing and a lot of support.

Rachel did not know what the NDIS was and at first she was not very interested. She couldn't see the point of it. IDRS helped her to contact the NDIA. Rachel was very surprised to find out that was already accepted as eligible for NDIS. Initially she had no ideas about goals or what she might want from NDIS.

After 6 hours of pre-planning support from IDRS, Rachel was ready for her planning meeting. She had come a long way from no ideas. She wanted to be more independent. She wanted to learn to drive and to find employment. She wanted to learn to manage her money so she could move out of her parents' house and live on her own. IDRS supported Rachel to arrange her planning meeting and then supported her at the planning meeting.

Rachel received funding for skill development in cooking and budgeting and to participate in social activities. Importantly she had support coordination to help her get things organised.

During the 7 months that IDRS worked with Rachel she moved from having no supports, not knowing about NDIS or that she had been accepted and having no plan to engage with NDIS. She is now using various forms of support to become more independent and involved in her community. Would she have got there on her own? We don't think so.

NDIS Appeals and Review

IDRS were delighted to be offered funding late in 2016-17 from Commonwealth Department of Social Services to provide support to people with disability or their family members to appeal decisions of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal. We are also able to provide information and guidance to people wanting to ask for an internal review of a decision of the NDIS.

It is early days for IDRS in delivering this service. At this early stage parents of young children with disability have been the group most often seeking assistance with appeals. Respite, equipment and therapy have featured significantly in the issues prompting appeals.

Case Studies



Loss of services reversed

A middle aged man with intellectual disability who had previously received funding for day programs, respite and personal care supports for 18 years transitioned to the NDIS last year. A family member contacted IDRS because under the man's NDIS funding package, he could afford less than half his previous disability supports and services. He had become isolated and distressed. He could not understand why he was now confined to his house so often. His family contacted IDRS after a review of the plan resulted in no additional funding being allocated.

We assisted the family by collating the relevant documents and providing support at the first case conference with the Administrative Appeal Tribunal (AAT). We applied and were successful in obtaining legal aid assistance which meant the man had legal representation for the rest of the AAT process.

At the AAT conciliation, the NDIA requested a statement of lived experience from his family and we helped them prepare this document. Legal Aid negotiated a successful outcome prior to a hearing and the man was allocated funding that would support him for all his reasonable and necessary supports. His core funding was increased three fold. The NDIA planner told legal aid that the statement of lived experience was very persuasive to help them understand what his life is really like.



Increased NDIS funding for therapy negotiated

The family of a preschool child who has autism spectrum disorder, with intellectual disability and severe language delay contacted IDRS NDIS appeals staff for help. The child was receiving NDIS funding for therapy supports to help with learning basic skills such as how to speak, how to play and interact with others and how to regulate his emotions.

The funding provided in the package covered less than one fifth of the therapies recommended by health professionals. We were able to assist the child and the family with the NDIS Appeals process. We were also able to assist by applying for CAP funding for legal aid. We had to prove that the case was complex and novel which was successful. We then advocated alongside the solicitor from Legal Aid throughout the administrative law process at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Following conciliation the NDIA agreed to more than four times the amount of funding in the original package for therapies.

Acknowledgements

Thank you

IDRS thanks the following legal firms for their generous pro bono support to IDRS during the year:

- Gilbert and Tobin
- Holding Redlich

Support and Funding

IDRS operates on a not for profit basis expending all income on the provision of services and the operation of the organisation.

IDRS acknowledges core funding support from:

- NSW Department of Family and Community Services
- Commonwealth Department of Social Services
- The Public Purpose Fund of the Law Society through the Community Legal Centres Program of Legal Aid NSW
- Care Partner funding through Legal Aid NSW

Project Funding

We thank the following organisations for project funding during 2016-17

- Law and Justice Foundation of NSW
- Department of Social Service – Disability Support Organisation Peer Support
- University of Melbourne – Unfitness to Plead Research
- Disability Justice Project funded by NSW Family and Community Services

Financial Statements

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

ABN: 11 216 371 524

**Financial Report for The Year Ended
30 June 2017**

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

ABN: 11 216 371 524

Financial Report for The Year Ended 30 June 2017

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INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

ABN: 11 216 371 524

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Anne Bolt
Carmelo Raspanti
Edwina MacDonald
Edwina Pickering
Haley McEwen (resigned December 2016)
Janene Cootes (Ex-Officio)
Jenny Klause
Mike Sprange (Chairman)
Phillipa Friedrich (Treasurer)
Greg Smith
Pheona Twist (Resigned April 2017)

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Association during the financial year was to advance the rights of people with an intellectual disability and to ensure that they have the same rights and the same opportunity to exercise their rights as other people in the community.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The net deficit amounted to \$24,360 (2016 deficit \$5,890) and a surplus of \$112,268 after prior year adjustments.

Dividend

The entity is an incorporated association and the Board is prohibited from distributing funds to members.

Operations of the Association

A review of the operations of the Association during the financial year and the results of those operations are as follows:

The operations of the Association during the financial year involved the receipt of grant income from various government bodies, which it used to provide legal assistance and advice, conduct education programs for people with intellectual disability and others, produce resources about the rights of people with intellectual disability and to provide support to the people with intellectual disability who are in contact with criminal justice system.

Future Developments

The Association intends to continue its operations as outlined above. The ability of the Association to continue its operations is dependent upon continuing financial support by state and/or Federal Government department and other parties.

Subsequent Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year.

Indemnification of Auditors and Officers

Since March 2003, Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated has held a Directors and Officers Liability Insurance Policy which covers Board members and employees of the Association. The liabilities insured include costs and expenses that may be incurred in defending civil or criminal proceedings that may be brought against the officers in their capacity as officers of the Association.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

M. Sprange chair
Board Member

P. M. M. M. M.
Board Member

Dated this 26/10/2017

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED
ABN: 11 216 371 524
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		\$	\$
INCOME			
Interest		15,842	19,424
Commonwealth Department of Social Services		261,034	212,543
NSW Department of Family and Community Services		1,115,238	1,082,181
Grants – Miscellaneous		312,477	98,151
Other Income		241,916	323,907
		<hr/> 1,946,507	<hr/> 1,736,205
EXPENDITURE			
Accounting & Bookkeeping		32,025	32,005
Admin & Financial Charges		147,368	138,183
Advertising		11,395	5,773
Annual Leave		5,337	(2,025)
Audit Fees		9,580	8,796
Bank Charges		1,239	1,087
Cleaning		9,959	9,301
Consultancy Fees & Outsourcing		48,670	11,650
Depreciation		8,709	13,703
Electricity		9,246	9,640
Host Agencies		16,489	15,486
Insurance		11,870	11,739
Information Technology Support		19,042	20,696
IT Web Maintenance		943	710
Legal Cost and Disbursements		2,655	1,806
Long Service Leave		31,467	8,918
Photocopying, Printing & Stationery		14,971	20,249
Postage & Couriers		3,455	3,426
Practising Certificates & Professional Supervision		3,354	12,002
Purchase of Minor Fixed Assets & Rebuild Network		6,223	9,849
Rent		83,965	83,889
Repairs & Maintenance		3,214	6,216
Salaries & Wages		1,226,022	1,092,247
Staff/Volunteer Training & Continuing Education		39,381	50,648
Storage		2,283	2,952
Subscriptions & Library		16,981	14,675
Sundry Expenses		1,353	1,326
Superannuation		122,774	109,034
Telephone		33,231	25,574
Travelling & Accommodation Expenses		47,666	22,541
Website Project - L&J Making Sense		-	5,773
		<hr/> 1,970,867	<hr/> 1,742,095

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED
ABN: 11 216 371 524
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		\$	\$
Operating deficit before prior period adjustments		(24,360)	(5,890)
Prior period adjustments			
Grants received now recognised as income		146,354	-
Long service leave provision adjustment		(9,726)	-
Net current year surplus / (deficit)		112,268	(5,890)
RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		274,834	280,724
RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR		387,102	274,834

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED
ABN: 11 216 371 524
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash on hand		851,663	812,970
Accounts receivable and other debtors	2	71,707	43,368
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>923,370</u>	<u>856,338</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	3	17,571	10,418
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>17,571</u>	<u>10,418</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>940,941</u>	<u>866,756</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Grants received in advance		276,194	349,950
Payables		80,690	91,546
Provisions	4	196,955	77,676
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>553,839</u>	<u>519,173</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	4	-	72,749
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>-</u>	<u>72,749</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>553,839</u>	<u>591,922</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>387,102</u>	<u>274,834</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained surplus		387,102	274,834
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>387,102</u>	<u>274,834</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED
ABN: 11 216 371 524

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2015	280,724	280,724
Net deficit for the year	(5,890)	(5,890)
Balance at 30 June 2016	274,834	274,834
Balance at 1 July 2016	274,834	274,834
Net surplus for the year	112,268	112,268
Balance at 30 June 2017	387,102	387,102

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED
ABN: 11 216 371 524
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act New South Wales. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

(a) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

(c) Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

(d) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(f) Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

(g) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

The associations activities are supported by grants received from the federal, state and local governments. Grants received on the condition that specified services are delivered, or conditions are fulfilled, are considered reciprocal. Such grants are initially recognised as a liability and revenue is recognised as services are performed or conditions fulfilled. Revenue from nonreciprocal grants is recognised when the company obtains control of the funds.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(h) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

		2017	2016
Note 2		\$	\$
Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors			
Receivables		58,129	30,141
Prepayments		13,578	13,227
		<u>71,707</u>	<u>43,368</u>

Note 3 Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment			
At Cost		234,322	253,164
Accumulated depreciation		-216,751	-242,746
Total Property, Plant and Equipment		<u>17,571</u>	<u>10,418</u>

Note 4 Provisions

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Employee Entitlements - Annual Leave	83,013	77,676
Employee Entitlements - Long Service Leave	113,942	-
	<u>196,955</u>	<u>77,676</u>

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES

Employee Entitlements - Long Service Leave	-	72,749
	<u>-</u>	<u>72,749</u>

Note 5 Leasing Commitments

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Operating Lease commitments		
Rental Sydney office *		
Payable - minimum lease payments		
— not later than 12 months	82,458	81,642
— between 12 months and 5 years (expires 29/09/17)	20,614	20,409
	<u>103,072</u>	<u>102,051</u>
Rental Wollongong office **		
Payable - minimum lease payments		
— not later than 12 months	6,697	7,080
— between 12 months and 5 years (expires 8/10/2018)	1,674	7,363
	<u>8,371</u>	<u>14,443</u>
Rental Newcastle office ***		
Payable - minimum rental payments		
— not later than 12 months (expires 1/1/2016)		
— between 12 months and 5 years	10,020	-
	2,505	-
	<u>12,525</u>	<u>-</u>

* Sydney: The extension of the existing lease ends on 29.09.2017. The agreed rent is \$82,458 per annum. Rent is payable monthly in advance. Contingent rental provisions within the lease agreement require that the minimum lease payments shall be increased by the Consumer Price Index. The amount disclosed are GST exclusive. Security Deposit paid \$20,625.

** Wollongong: From 8 October 2015 the service has entered into a sub-lease agreement on a new property with Australian Red Cross. The agreed rent on this property is \$6,697 per annum. Contingent rental provisions within the lease agreement require that the minimum lease payments shall be increased by 4% per annum. The amount disclosed are GST exclusive.

*** Newcastle: A rental agreement expired in January 2016. The terms of the original rental agreement have continued to apply. Agreed rent is \$10,020 per annum. The rent will increase annually by Consumer Price Index.

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED
ABN: 11 216 371 524
ANNUAL STATEMENTS GIVE TRUE AND FAIR VIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND
PERFORMANCE OF INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 3 to 6:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated as at 30 June 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Board Member

Mike Sprange CHAIR

Board Member

Phuc

Dated this

26/10/2017

Auditor's Declaration under subdivision 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012

To the Committee, Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30th June 2017 there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit



Leslie Pines

Registered Company Auditor No. 756

Dated this 27th day of October 2017

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED**

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of, Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, Income and Expenditure Statement, statement of changes in equity and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies and the Committee Members declaration.

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, (or "gives a true and fair view of") the financial position of, Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated as of 30 June 2017, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Associations Incorporation Act of New South Wales 2009

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling Committee's financial reporting obligations under the Associations Incorporation Act of New South Wales. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- *Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.*
- *Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the*

entity's internal control.

- *Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.*
- *Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.*
- *Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.*

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Leslie Pines Chartered Accountants



Leslie Pines

Dated in Sydney this 27th day of October 2017



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