



Annual Report 2016-2017

Representing people with disability since 1981

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“The DRC is a membership-driven organisation, managed and staffed by people with disability”

Who we are

Our Vision

‘An accessible society that values the contributions of people with disability across all areas of economic, social, cultural and civic life.

Our Mission

Victorians with disability working together to create inclusive communities

Our Guiding Principles and Values

1. We will act on the highest value of participation by people with disability in all aspects of our organization, including playing a leading role in governance and operational roles.
2. We will empower people with disability through participation to contribute within DRC and in broader representative roles.
3. To promote choice and self-determination for all people with disability.
4. To challenge discrimination, poverty and disadvantage while promoting full realization of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

DRC Personnel

Committee of Management (28 November 2015 – 29 November 2016):

Chairperson: Shaunagh Stevens

Vice Chairperson: Michelle de Hommel

Treasurer: Pradeep Hewavitharana

Secretary: Barbara Watson

Members: Frank Hall-Bentick, Graham Smith, John Thompson,
Anthony Giles-Peters (workers representative)

Committee of Management (16 December 2016 – 28 November 2017):

Chairperson: Frank Hall-Bentick

Vice Chairperson: not filled

Treasurer: Pradeep Hewavitharana

Secretary: Kerrie Brindell

Members: Paul Hume, Martin Leckey, Effie Meehan, Emilio Savle,
Anthony Giles-Peters (workers representative)

Staff:

Head Office – Melbourne CBD

Anthony Giles-Peters: Lead Advocate

Leigh Meyer: City Metro Advocate (resigned 8 June 2017)

Outer Southeast Outreach Service – Dandenong

Katrina Newman: Advocate

Graham Smith: Locum Advocate (June 2017)

Pro-Bono

Gillian Meldrum: Independent Consultant/ Supervisor

The Disability Resources Centre is funded by and gratefully acknowledges the funding assistance of the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Disability.

We thank the Towards a Just Society Foundation and the Australian Communities Foundation for their support in our work with the Australian Disability and Indigenous People's Education Fund.

We particularly thank all those anonymous volunteers who contributed their valuable time to help us survive with new strength and vigour.

“...the coming year looks more optimistic as we have received a small increase in funding.”

Treasurer’s Report

Pradeep Hewavitharana
Treasurer

I am pleased to present you the audited statements and report of the Disability Resources Centre Inc (DRC) for the financial year ending 30 June 2017.

You will see from the income and expenditure statement that we have been able to reduce our net loss from \$10,622 in 2016, to \$2,407 in 2017. We have total equity in our organisation of \$10,878. This was achieved by carefully monitoring our expenditure and income over this financial year and, while the DRC did record another loss, the coming year looks more optimistic as we have received a small increase in funding.

The DRC has sufficient funds as of 30 June 2017 to pay our liabilities, which are predominantly administrative and operational costs, as well as salaries for staff.

The auditor has again acknowledged our commitment to sound financial controls and policies as presented in their report which follows.

Financial Report

DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTRE incBALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

		2017 \$	2016 \$
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Petty Cash	Notes	382	325
Cash at Banks	(1)(j)	83,251	54,998
		<u>83,633</u>	<u>55,323</u>
<u>NON CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Property Plant & Equipment at cost		28,231	28,231
Less Provision for Depreciation		-28,231	-28,231
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		<u>83,633</u>	<u>55,323</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Trade Creditors& Accruals		11,010	5,433
Provision for Annual Leave		13,041	15,149
Provision for Audit Fees		2,130	2,100
Grants in advance		34,581	7,500
Provision for Long Service Leave		11,994	11,856
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>		<u>72,756</u>	<u>42,038</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		<u>10,878</u>	<u>13,285</u>
Represented by			
<u>MEMBERS EQUITY</u>			
Opening Balance 1 July		13,285	23,907
Add Net Income (Loss) For the Year		-2,407	-10,622
<u>TOTAL EQUITY 30 JUNE</u>		<u>10,878</u>	<u>13,285</u>

DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTRE incINCOME STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<u>INCOME</u>		
Grants Received Dept Human Services	134,375	128,824
General Grants Received	11,250	7,500
Other Income	2,352	2,138
Interest Income	1,137	1,319
Donations	7,750	8,430
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	156,865	148,211
Less		
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
AGM Expenses	0	100
ADIPEF/ACF Expenses	22,700	23,386
Audit	1,230	1,620
Bank Charges	75	100
Board Expenses	3,697	5,563
Conferences & Memberships	293	93
CSO Network IT Expenses	5,995	3,480
Depreciation	0	156
DAS Expenses	0	1,340
Minor Equipment	0	121
Financial Services	2,907	2,864
HDV-IR & A Expenses	7,360	1,960
Printing Postage & Stationery	2,566	1,154
Rent,Rates & Occupancy Costs	10,738	11,248
Data Man Expenses	0	2,888
Salaries	88,002	82,612
Strategic Planning	-286	2,066
Superannuation	8,089	7,560
Telephone	3,804	3,468
Travel & Accommodation	2,104	3,809
Workcover	0	2,371
Other Employer Expenses	0	874
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	159,272	158,833
<u>NET INCOME (LOSS)FOR THE YEAR</u>	-2,407	-10,622

DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTRE incCASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<u>INCOME</u>		
Grants Received	195,303	158,129
Interest Received	1,137	1,319
Other Income	10,102	10,568
	<u>206,542</u>	<u>170,016</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Payments To Suppliers & Employees	-178,232	-170,754
<u>NET CASH INFLOWS FROM OPERATIONS</u>	<u>28,310</u>	<u>-738</u>
<u>NET CASH FLOW</u>	<u>28,310</u>	<u>-738</u>

RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING SURPLUS WITH CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS

Operating Surplus/-Deficit For Year	-2,407	-10,622
Add Back Depreciation	0	156
	<u>-2,407</u>	<u>-10,466</u>

MOVEMENT IN ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Decrease/Increase In Trade & Other Payables	5,607	347
Decrease/Increase In Provisions	-1,970	1,881
Decrease/Increase In Grants in Advance	27,080	7,500
	<u>30,717</u>	<u>9,728</u>
<u>NET CASH INFLOWS FROM OPERATIONS</u>	<u>28,310</u>	<u>-738</u>

<u>CASH AT BANK AT START OF YEAR</u>	<u>55,323</u>	<u>56,061</u>
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<u>CASH AT BANK 30 JUNE</u>	<u>83,633</u>	<u>55,323</u>
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<u>MADE UP AS FOLLOWS</u>	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Petty Cash	382	325
Cash at Banks	83,251	54,998

<u>CASH AT BANK 30 JUNE</u>	<u>83,633</u>	<u>55,323</u>
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DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTRE INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2017**Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

This financial report is special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Reform Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuation of non-current assets. The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in preparation of this financial report.

a. 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.

b. Income Tax

The income tax expense (revenue) for the year comprises current income tax expense (income). The association does not apply deferred tax.

Current income tax expense charged to the profit and loss is the tax payable on taxable income calculated using applicable income tax rates enacted, or substantially enacted, as at the end of the reporting period. Current tax liabilities (assets) are therefore measured at the amounts expected to be paid to (recovered from) the relevant taxation authority.

The Association is exempt from paying income tax by virtue of Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1997. Accordingly, tax effect accounting has not been adopted.

c. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment 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.

d. Employee Entitlements

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 benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Provision is made for the Association's liability for long service leave from commencement of employment, not from the 5 year employment period normally accrued as industry practice.

DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTRE INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2017**Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (cont.)****e. 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.

f. Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is an indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

g. Revenue

Revenue is brought to account when received and to the extent that it relates to the subsequent period it is disclosed as a liability.

Grant Income

Grant income received, other than for specific purposes, is brought to account over the period to which the grant relates.

Deferred Income

Unspent grant income received in relation to specific projects and events is not brought to account as revenue in the current year but deferred as a liability in the financial statements until spent for the purpose received.

Capital Grants

Grant Income received relating to the purchase of capital items is shown as Unamortised Capital Grant and brought to account over the expected life of the asset in proportion to the related depreciation charge.

Interest Revenue

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

Donations

Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds which is generally at the time of receipt.

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.

DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTRE INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2017**i. Economic Dependence**

The entity is dependent on the Department of Human Services Office for Disability for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report the Committee has no reason to believe the Department will not continue to support the entity.

j. Cash at Banks

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Bank Australia Account #12053287	59,397	11,857
Bank Australia Account #12056165	16,304	16,025
Bank Australia Account #12056167	7,519	27,116
Petty Cash	382	325
	<u>83,633</u>	<u>55,323</u>

DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTRE INC.

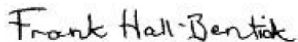
**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2017**

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose 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 1 to 6:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Disability Resources Centre Inc. 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 the Disability Resources Centre Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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


Chairperson

Dated: 28 November 2017

Treasurer

Dated: 28 November 2017

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTRE INC.**

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Disability Resources Centre Inc., which comprises the committee's report, the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2017, statement of cash flows as at 30 June 2017, and the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of Disability Resources Centre Inc. is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, 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 association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Disability Resources Centre Inc. as at 30 June 2017 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Disability Resources Centre Inc. to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



Michael Adasko

Dated:

JP Hardwick & Associates
Unit 7, 617-643 Spencer St
West Melbourne VIC 3003

DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTRE INC.
CERTIFICATE BY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE

I Frank Hall-Bentick , of 4/65 York Street Richmond 3121 , certify that:
(name) (address)

- a. I attended the annual general meeting of the association held on 28 November 2017 .
(date)
- b. The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2017 were submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Frank Hall-Bentick

Chairperson
Committee member

Dated: 28 November 2017

“The DRC is now in a very exciting period...”

Chairperson’s Report

Frank Hall-Bentick

I will start my report by advising members that while this report would normally report on activities up until 30 June 2017, it is important that I inform you of our activities since then.

The Disability Resources Centre (DRC) is now in a very exciting period with the employment of three new staff, funding for a public transport project to review the Disability Discrimination Act Transport Standards, and a small amount of extra funding from Department of Health and Human Services Office for Disability (DHHS) to assist us.

Our new staff Kerri Cassidy Executive Officer, Hannah Aroni City Metro Advocate and Katherine Marshall Transport Project Officer are all bringing new energy and commitment to the work of the DRC. Along with Katrina Newman, our Outer Southeast Advocate, the enthusiasm of the new staff is generating more members and new board members who want to be involved with the fight for Social Justice for people with disabilities.

I regret to advise that our lead advocate Anthony Giles Peters has retired after 24 years with the DRC. Anthony started work with us in 1993 and has led our staff during the numerous battles we have had with funding and to improve the lives of people with disabilities. We owe him an enormous debt which we can never repay, and we wish him well in his retirement, and hope that next year he may be able to join our management committee to continue the good fight.

With the uncertainty of our viability past 30 June 2017 our City Metro Advocate Leigh Meyer found a position with another disability advocacy group. We would like to thank her for her dedicated advocacy work with us and wish her well in her new position.

Last year was a very challenging year because our finances were of very serious concern as our funding from DHHS had not increased over many years while our expenditure had grown. The expenses of providing disability access for our board members, information technology costs, and compulsory standards audit costs, have grown substantially.

*“...thankfully
our work to see
the DRC
survive has
been
successful.”*

We approached DHHS Office of Disability for a small grant of \$30,000 to reduce our deficit and they were able to help us out with \$15,000. Unfortunately, the late notice of both the extra DHHS funding and the success of the funding application for our Transport Project, in which we originally asked for \$140,000 but were granted \$70,000, meant that we were uncertain whether we could reliably continue into this financial year. At the end of last year and the beginning of this year, the board members had discussed various options for our survival, including merging with another disability advocacy group or transferring our individual advocacy staff to another disability advocacy service. The first six months of this year were very stressful for board members and staff, but thankfully our work to see the DRC survive has been successful. We particularly thank the staff of the Office for Disability who have worked with us to achieve these extra funds.

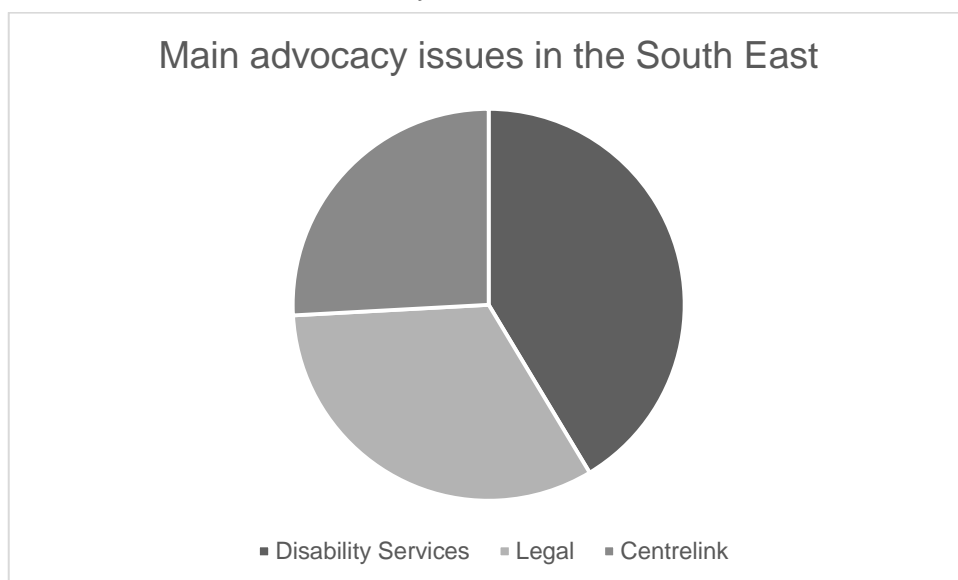
During the year we have continued to work in partnership with the Australian Disability and Indigenous Peoples Education Fund (ADIPEF) with funding through the Towards a Just Society Fund (TJSF) and the Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) to disburse small education grants to students with disabilities from indigenous and nonindigenous backgrounds. We have two funding rounds each year, and were able to allocate 15 small grants on 30 September 2016, and 14 small grants on 31 March 2017. We continue to look forward to working with these groups to assist students with disabilities and support their studies.

“People with disabilities are still struggling in the community. There is a huge unmet need and I see it everyday...”

Southeast Outreach Office Report

KATRINA NEWMAN

Predominant issues that continue to dominate my work as an individual advocate in my 13 years at DRC include issues with Disability Services; issues with people accessing the Disability Support Pension (DSP), and assisting people to negotiate with lawyers and with superannuation Total Permanent Disability claims.



In the outer southeast corridor of Melbourne, people with disabilities are still waiting to transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in 2018. A few lucky people who met the Priority status criteria by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) have already begun to transition to early release of the NDIS. However, unfortunately there are always cracks in our fallible systems, many people with high support needs are missing out, or have not been transitioned, despite Ministerial Advice received in this office that this would occur.

People with disabilities are still struggling in the community. There is a huge unmet need and I see it everyday in my work as an advocate. I feel that the rollout of the NDIS in the outer

southeast was delayed until 2018 because there is such high need in this area, as indicated in my statistics throughout the year.

My knowledge around applications and appeals for the DSP continues to grow following a constant flow of requests for support and referrals from people with disabilities and Social Workers at Centrelink.

An example of my individual advocacy work:

A person with high support needs living with Multiple Sclerosis has not received any packages of support; the degenerative condition is proceeding more rapidly, with multiple admissions to hospital and rehabilitation centres. The person was made redundant from their work, placing increased financial pressure on the family. The person was allocated a Linkages Package, however the need for support is far greater than a few small hours of care can provide. Currently an Individual Support Package application on the Disability Support Register (DSR) with the DHHS indicates this client has high support needs, is urgent priority, and needs over \$128,000 of support throughout a year if a package was to be allocated.

I have assisted this client since early 2016. My work has involved: working with the social work team at the MS Society to update the DSR; writing multiple letters to the person's State Member of Parliament, who in turn has written to Minister Foley on the client's behalf; directly requesting a meeting with Minister Foley; and sending multiple email requests for support to management at DHHS, including the DSR Team, and Disability Client Services. We also made an early application to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) for support on the grounds that the client would be unfairly disadvantaged due to his geographical location. Minister Foley promised early release of the NDIS, however our client has slipped through the very large cracks in the transition of people with disabilities marked as urgent priority status at DHHS. The client is still waiting for an Individual Support Package (ISP) or early release of the NDIS today. The client also features in a video article produced by final year Monash University Journalism Student Alexander McCart, with which I assisted. You can find it online on Youtube <https://youtu.be/LYGfL8bl1kU>

In light of the NDIS roll out in the outer southeast in 2018, I envisage an increase in issues around disability planning for people with disabilities on the NDIS, and an increase in reviews of reviewable decisions. I also see an increase in requests for support for people receiving the DSP as the government has commenced reviewing all people with disabilities who receive the DSP.

Looking further forward, I have grave concerns for people with disabilities currently receiving an ISP aged over 65. After the full roll out of people on to the NDIS has finished in 2019, people aged 65 years and over will be transitioned to the Aged Care System. Unless the Aged Care system has a significant increase in funding, people with disabilities are likely to be moved into Aged Care facilities as the support currently provided under their ISP will be substantially reduced, thereby disadvantaging many people with disabilities across Australia.

Some interesting facts:

- *The predominant age group was 25 to 64 years*
- *16% percent were people from CALD backgrounds*
- *36 out of the 50 clients were long-term, indicating that we had been assisting them for more than 6 months*
- *People with disabilities accessing our services are mostly living with:*
 - *Neurological disabilities,*
 - *Acquired Brain Injury,*
 - *Intellectual disabilities,*
 - *Physical disabilities,*
 - *and Psychiatric disabilities.*

CONTACT US



Disability Resources Centre Inc

Email: advocacy@drc.org.au

Website: www.drc.org.au

Facebook: [@DRCadvocacy](https://www.facebook.com/DRCadvocacy)

Twitter: [@DRCadvocacy](https://twitter.com/DRCadvocacy)

HEAD OFFICE

3rd Floor, Ross House

247 Flinders Lane

Melbourne VIC 3000

Phone: 03 9671 3000

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9:30am – 4:30pm

Closed Monday

OUTER SOUTHEAST OUTREACH SERVICE

186 Foster Street

East Dandenong VIC 3175

Phone: 03 9791 4870

Fax: 03 9792 4870

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

9:30am – 4:30pm

Closed Thursday and Friday

