



# RIGHTS IN ACTION INC

*Independent advocacy for people with disabilities*

## NEWSLETTER

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**September – Issue 54**

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Advocate

**Zoe Armstrong**

Administration Officer

**Genevieve Cridge**

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Queen's Birthday**

**Annual General Meeting  
2020**

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Commission Support  
Services**

### ***Message from the Manager***

Hello Everyone,

Despite the challenges that we have all endured, there have been many developments and opportunities for RIA in the recent months. In the second half of the year RIA welcomed the following new Staff and Board members: Genevieve Cridge (Administration Officer) Zoe Armstrong (Advocate) and Yvonne Todd (Board Member).

To improve the RIA advocacy process, the 1024 IVO database was introduced, which will enable RIA to better collect, collate and analyse client needs and find viable resolutions to future delivery challenges. The recently completed RIA strategic plan has given the organisation new service provision objectives frame works, systems, focus and concepts of operation.

During the COVID-19 restrictions and while the roadmap to recovery takes effect the demand for Independent Advocacy service provision has increased across FNQ. While our workload remains high for NDIS related challenges, RIA is looking forward to supporting our Disability Royal Commission clients tell their stories at the public hearing investigating the impact of COVID-19.

RIA has continued to form partnerships and consortiums. Despite COVID restrictions our JCU Social Worker placement has continued, which will improve our government lobbying capability. To enhance performance, quality assurance and better coverage in a post pandemic period, we have also sought greater engagement with our Combined Advocacy Group QLD and Disability Advocacy Network Australia Network memberships.

## Rights In Action Inc

### Staff

#### MANAGER

**Raoul Wilson**

#### ADVOCATES

**Marlene Levasseur  
Angelika Williams  
Dianne Wellington  
Zoe Armstrong**

#### ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

**Genevieve Cridge**

#### VOLUNTEER

**Ariel Pose  
Thomas Carter**

**RIA Board of  
Management  
2019/20**

#### PRESIDENT

**James Barnes**

#### SECRETARY

**Bernadette Dimla**

#### TREASURER

**Allan Wilson**

#### GENERAL MEMBERS

**Janet Corcoran  
Yvonne Todd**

### New Staff

Zoe Armstrong

#### Disability Advocate

Zoe is a 6<sup>th</sup> generation Cairns local and spending much of her life in Far North Queensland and the Northern Territory, Zoe began her career at True Child and Family Services, Cairns gaining experience in the trauma therapy space, while also established herself as a respected Social Worker. Zoe is widely known for her research skills, trauma-informed practice knowledge and advocacy expertise. Driven by values of, human rights, social justice and professional integrity, Zoe takes pride in providing the best Advocacy possible. Zoe also has a deep passion for the fight against Family and Domestic Violence and participates in the Red Rose Rally for Violence Against Women, White Ribbon Day, Child Protection Week and Reclaim the Night in Cairns.

Genevieve Cridge

#### Administration Officer

Genevieve comes with a retail and frontline age care support experience. Genevieve has a great client focused attitude. With a Certificate III in Business Administration, Genevieve is wanting to build her skills and knowledge within the Disability community service Administration capacity.

### RIA Annual General Meet 2020



- **When: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020.**
- **Where: Pullman Cairns International**
- **Time: 5 – 5:30pm start**
- **Beverage & Food will be provided**



## National Counselling and Referral Service (Disability)

### Supporting:

- People affected by the Disability Royal Commission
- People who have experienced or witnessed violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation
- Carers, family members, advocates, support workers, disability providers, legal and financial services

### You can call the National Counselling and Referral Services on

1800 421 468

To speak to a counsellor 02 6146 1468

### This Service operates from

- 9am – 6pm AEST Monday to Friday
- 9am – 5pm AEST Saturday, Sunday

and public holidays

If in crisis, immediate support or concerned for your safety: Call Lifeline on 13 11 14

Call 000 if your life is in danger.

## Disability Royal Commission Support Services

Counselling and advocacy support are available for people who have experience or witnessed violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation, or would like support to engage with the Disability Royal Commission.

### Support is:

- Free
- Independent
- Confidential
- Delivered by providers who understand the needs of people with disability.

If you are thinking about sharing your experience with the Disability Royal Commission, Rights In Action can help you to make decisions about telling your story. We can also connect you to services such as legal, financial and other supports.

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Our service is free, independent and confidential. Call us on 4031 7377 or visit our website [www.rightsinaction.org](http://www.rightsinaction.org) to find out more. You can also visit [www.dss.gov.au/disability-royal-commission-support](http://www.dss.gov.au/disability-royal-commission-support) for videos and accessible resources. #DisabilityRC#DisabilityRCsupport

#DisabilityRC #DisabilityRCsupport



## RIA Newsletter Articles

We encourage members, local services and the community to provide stories, interesting articles and advertisements for our quarterly [Newsletter](#).

Our Newsletter is distributed **free** of charge by emails, post or by accessing our website.

If you would like to contribute to our next Newsletter, please contact Genevieve at our office on 40317377 or email [info@rightsinaction.org](mailto:info@rightsinaction.org)

*NB: Sometimes space is limited and we reserve the right to decide on the content of The RIA Newsletter*



# GiveNow

Donations help us promote the rights of people with disabilities by addressing systemic issues and campaigns, presentations and static displays, social events and activities.

<https://www.givenow.com>

### A Thank you card

We recently donated Rights In Action drink bottles to the children at Bentley Park College Special Education department and received a beautiful thank you card.



### COVID – 19 Update

Now that COVID-19 restrictions are easing here in Far North Queensland. Rights In Action, Disability Royal Commission engagement and Submissions will increase. This will be an opportunity for People with Disability in Far North Queensland to make positive systemic changes for the Disability Sector.

### Reminder

*Please contact Genevieve on 40317377 if you do not want us to send you our Newsletter*

