



# RIGHTS IN ACTION INC

*Independent advocacy for people with  
disabilities*

## NEWSLETTER

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**April – Issue 56**

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### **Message from the Manager**

Welcome to 2021. For this quarter there is much to celebrate. Congratulations to Maggie Robinson's legal admission, which gives her the ability to practice as a lawyer. With Marlene Levasseur, we are thankful to have two staff members on the team with this professional skill set, which benefits our advocacy practices greatly. Genevieve Cridge, our administration officer has also embarked on a professional development pathway by starting a VET Certificate IV in Community Services.

Luke Caspar, our James Cook University placement worked extremely hard to develop an efficient local lobbying strategy for the continuation of advocacy QLD state funding. This was carried out efficiently in a very short time frame and built effective political rapport, gaining a great deal of support from the Honorable Craig Crawford, QLD Minister for Seniors and Disability Services. Eventually, becoming a great segue for RIA's contribution to QLD "Stand with us," campaign, which obtained further political and disability sector support for the state advocacy program. I would like to thank all local Members of Parliament and the new QLD Department of Seniors– for championing advocacy service delivery to the FNQ community.

In February, the RIA team carried out an advocacy roadshow across the upper Mareeba and Douglas shire region. This increased our capacity, which will follow up RIA service delivery in Mossman during the next quarter.

RIA is looking forward to what this next quarter brings with a new marketing strategy and catch cry. Watch this space.

**Stand with us!**  
QUEENSLAND DISABILITY ADVOCACY MATTERS.

**Join our campaign now.**

[www.standwithus.com.au](http://www.standwithus.com.au)

## **Rights In Action Inc**

### Staff

MANAGER  
**Raoul Wilson**

Assistant Manager  
**Angelika Williams**

ADVOCATES  
**Marlene Levasseur**  
**Dianne Wellington**  
**Zoe Armstrong**  
**Maggie Robinson**

ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICER  
**Genevieve Cridge**

VOLUNTEER  
**Ariel Pose**  
**Thomas Carter**

**RIA Board of  
Management  
2020/21**

PRESIDENT  
**James Barnes**

SECRETARY  
**Bernadette Dimla**

TREASURER  
**Allan Wilson**

GENERAL MEMBERS  
**Janet Corcoran**  
**Gwion Cain**

## RIA Rural Remote Presentation

RIA Advocates recently went out into community to deliver informative presentations about RIA services and NDIS Access, Appeals and the Disability Royal Commission.

The trip was carried out over a week to Mt Molloy, Upper & Lower Daintree, Mossman, Mossman Gorge & Port Douglas.



## Harmony Day

This year RIA will be attending sharing a marquee with Queensland Human Rights Commission

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> April

Venue: Tank Centre on Collins Avenue

Time: 10am – 2pm

## **COVID-19 and human rights**

While restrictions introduced at the height of the pandemic have largely eased in Queensland, we remain committed to monitoring those which remain in place.

Human rights protections apply in a pandemic as they do otherwise. During this crisis, courts have observed that governments must respect human rights during urgent or emergency situations. Rights can only be limited in a way that is reasonable and justified, and public entities must still act compatibly with human rights when they make decisions.

If you think your rights may have been limited or that you have been subjected to discrimination or vilification, you may be able to make a complaint to us.

- [Contact us to find out more](#)
- [Read about our complaints process](#)
- [Lodge a complaint online](#)

## **Check In Qld app**



**Unite & Recover** 

### **RIA is using the new Check In Qld app to help keep you COVID safe.**

The Check In Qld app has been developed to help the Queensland Government with contact tracing in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak.

RIA is adopting the app to help us collect your details quickly, easily and electronically as you arrive.

When you next visit, you'll have the option to register your details using the Check In Qld app.

### **The Check In Qld app is voluntary.**

Everyone who visits our venue needs to check-in – but you don't have to use the app.

For our customers who don't have a smartphone or aren't comfortable downloading apps, we can take your details using another method.

Once you're set up, all you need to do on your next visit is scan the QR code or type in the unique code provided.

This will be displayed at reception, on front desk. Our team will be here to help if you have any issues.

### **Everyone in your group needs to have their details registered, including children and infants.**

The Check In Qld app allows you to check in multiple people at the same time. For example, if you arrive with family members (who don't have devices), one person can register themselves on their device and then list additional people (including children) when checking in.

## 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*



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>

## Dementia Australia

Alzheimer's Queensland and the Queensland Police Service are rolling out a statewide program to help people living with dementia. This is a the Safely Home program.

The [Safely Home](#) initiative encourages people living with dementia to register their details with the program to be logged in-confidence with a Queensland Police Service database.

An identifying bracelet is then assigned to the person and is engraved with a unique identifying code, which links directly to a database accessible by police at all times. It is also engraved with the PoliceLink telephone number, which any member of the public can ring.

**POLICELINK**  
131 444

**NATIONAL DEMENTIA HELPLINE 1800 100 500**

## April is Autism Month



From 2 April is World Autism Awareness Day. It is also the start of Autism Awareness Month in Australia and Autism Queensland's annual Go Blue for Autism campaign.

## RIA New Promo Shirts

RIA has recently designed some NEW promotional T-shirts promoting our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Catch cry which the team will be wearing on Harmony Day (these will be available for purchase soon)

