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December 2023

Hi,

We've been busy reading the NDIS Review. This is a comprehensive report that offers a positive vision for children with disability and their families. At the heart of the Review there is a focus on:

- Making childcare, kindergartens, schools, and the wider community more inclusive
- Increasing support available outside of the NDIS
- Creating an NDIS that's simpler and fairer

The review is just the beginning. We join advocates across Australia in calling for people with disability and their families to have a seat at the table as decisions are made.

This has been a huge year for everyone in the disability community, I just want to say "Thank you".

Thank you to the amazing team of ACD board, staff and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who put so much work and commitment into the Disability Royal Commission and NDIS Review. Thank you to all the families, therapists, and teachers who have advocated for children with disability. We know that your advocacy makes a difference.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.

Karen Dimmock, CEO



ACD Support Line

"Everyone I spoke to was kind and helpful. So knowledgeable. I was really struggling emotionally to advocate for my son. I felt less alone and like finally someone could see things from our point of view." - Parent

The ACD Support line helped over 1,500 families this year.

We'll be back in 2024 and ready to help you.

The Support Line is closed from 5 pm on Thursday 22nd December and reopens at 9 am on Monday 8th January.

Call [03 9880 7000](tel:0398807000) or [1800654 013](tel:1800654013) (regional)



ACD Annual Report 2023

We're delighted to share our Annual Report for 2023. It's been a busy year, where we were able to amplify the voices of families in our submission to the NDIS Review and advocate for more inclusive early years and school education for children with disability.

Highlights include supporting over 15,000 Victorian families, hearing that 94% of families felt they had a better understanding of their child's rights after using our services, and gaining \$3 million in the Victorian state budget to expand our advocacy support.

[ACD Annual Report 2023](#)

What did the NDIS Review say?

We have read all the recommendations made by the NDIS Review and have written a summary about what these recommendations could mean for your child and family.

This information is available on our website in English, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, Hindi and Punjabi.

[Read our summary](#)



Snow-themed sensory play

Sensory play is fun for children of all ages, especially at this time of year when everyone is tired and excited. We love this snow-themed, easy, and cheap sensory play.

Simply mix one cup of corn flour and one cup of bicarbonate of soda. Add a tiny splash of cold water and you have a snowy mixture that can be squished and squashed.

Free virtual emergency medical service

Visiting the hospital emergency department with your child can be very stressful, especially during the busy holiday period.

The Victorian Virtual Emergency Department is a free online public medical service for non-life-threatening emergencies. It's available across Victoria, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and includes paediatric emergency specialists.

[Find out more](#)



Inclusive Christmas tips

Christmas can be challenging, whether you have children with disability or not. It's tough to avoid the constant messages and images that show this time of year as being joyful and perfect. But a bit of planning can make all the difference, and we have some practical tips to help you and your family celebrate in your own way.

[Read our tips](#)

We wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Best wishes

The ACD team

Stay connected

Follow us on





**Association for
Children with a
Disability**

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

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