BCA Adelaide Branch Annual Report 2019

Areas where we have been active & gained some wins include.

* SA electoral commission – David Squirrell appointed to the electoral commission committee overseeing accessibility. He passed on what other states are undertaking to produce documents in plain English.
* Print accessibility & Online accessibility – on going work with implementation & the SA Accessibility Tool Kit has been nominated as a finalist for the 2019 Australian Human Right Award. The work of David Squirrell in this process was acknowledged by the government strategy manager.
* SA Disability Act feedback submission
* Assistance dogs & ambulance ramping – due to being on the SA Ambulance Clinical Advisory committee David Squirrell was asked to submit a plan to SA Health & this appears to be a work in progress but the ambulance Communication centre now has the key service provider 24 hr numbers in case emergency care is needed by the handler & the dog is not suitable to be cared for by the handler.
* Guide dogs & pre NDIS contracts – One member challenged the concept as to pre NDIS contracts are still valid & not superseded just because NDIS commenced.
* David Squirrell was Interviewed re Disability, violence & abuse educational campaign managers in Canberra as to methods, materials & process.
* “My Say” agreed to use the Accessibility Tool Kit after several submissions that their site was not accessible due to contrast & web design issues.
* Accessibility digital survey monkey – challenges with CAPTHA’s – Feedback has been provided as to the challenged these cause & documentation exists as to being considered discriminatory.
* Privatization of public transport forum was attended & concerns raised as to the impact it may have on vulnerable persons.
* Legal contracts & document accessibility – language & formats lawyers use are considered out dated & not consistent with the promotion of accessibility for all. This also has an impact on “small print”, warranty, instruction manuals & other legal documents.
* North finance re web accessibility, Captcha’s etc – A Member could not access their financial statements due to the web design complexity.
* Submission re DSPBlind & CentreLink interaction. Several articulated Centrelink it’s not user friendly for those with sensory loss be it at their office or via phone or internet.
* One member faced a new plan with 75% funding decrease, $100 assistive tech, No guide dog budget – appeal plus Federal MP . Current appears can take up to 9 months. Also Occupational therapy assessments & recommendations are not always accepted & funds allowed to be used.
* David Squirrell asked to be on the Disaster Plan Resilience committee as to the needs of people who are vulnerable in society.
* David Squirrell was a finalist in the Blind Alliance Citizen of the Year Award & was the runner up at the ceremony in Brisbane on the 25th Oct.
* Aldi potential discrimination with Guide Dog as the manager did not accept a guide dog was a guide dog as lacked an ID coat. Discussions occurred with the store manager & State manager to resolve.
* Museum & Art gallery poor accessibility – Correspondence went to the Premiers Department & the Museum has corresponded positively, but the Art gallery response has not yet occurred. The main issues was lighting, risk management, & written material. It was noted that there are now 10 museums as part of a global consortia where you can visit the museum in a Virtual sense from your home computer.
* Submission written as to the failings of NDIS after meeting Bill Shorten at a SA Forum.
* An update on the Taxi Subsidy scheme was presented & the ongoing problems with NDIS, Non NDIS & amount covered.
* Discussions continue with the Dog Board of SA as to dog owner responsibility so as to assist those navigating with a guide dog.
* An Update on the Adelaide Airport upgrade & the report Ross Sands & David Squirrell wrote & years ago as to non compliance with disability standards.
* The lack of coverage as to My Aged Care yet a majority of BCA members are over 65 & feel insufficient is being done to assist their needs via usual political processes.
* Finances Daily account $228.88, Investment account $2074.60

President Adelaide Branch

David Squirrell