



# You are invited to

## Sick, Sad and Shut in? – life with COVID for people with disability

**Date:** **Friday 2 September 2022**

**Time:** **1.00pm – 2.30pm**

**Where:** **Online via MS Teams**  
**Join [here](#) – No RSVP needed**

Join advocates and thought leaders as we launch and reflect on Advocacy for Inclusions new policy whitepaper on COVID19 and ask some challenging questions:

How can we centre people with disability in the COVID response? • What needs to be done to keep people safe? • What do rights, access and inclusion mean now? • Are we ready to meet the healthcare, rehabilitation and disability support requirements of long COVID?

Our panellists include:

- **Sam Connor**, President of People with Disability Australia
- **Anna Davidson**, Director of the Port Stephens GP Super Clinic and OzSAGE member
- **Corinne Dobson**, A/g Chief Executive Officer Mental Health Community Coalition ACT
- **Dr George Taleporos**, Consumer Advocate, Department of Health COVID-19 Disability Advisory Committee
- **Craig Wallace**, Head of Policy, Advocacy for Inclusion

Our MC – Canberra journalist **Genevieve Jacobs** AM, Group Editor, Region Media

With **Rachel Stephen-Smith** MLA, ACT Minister for Health

It will also be an opportunity for people with disability to raise **YOUR** questions and issues

You can also participate online via the hashtag **#AFICOID** on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

Join the forum here on MS Teams: 1pm Friday 2/9/22 – [CLICK TO JOIN](#)

**No RSVP – JUST JOIN US**

## **THE PANEL**

### **Sam Connor, President of People with Disability Australia**

Samantha Connor has a strong track record as a disability and human rights advocate. Her past history includes former Vice President of PWDA, member of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability in WA and board member of Physical Disability Australia. Samantha is a current board member of Autism Self Advocacy Network AUNZ – she is autistic, has ADHD and muscular dystrophy and uses a wheelchair for mobility. Samantha has been actively involved in many campaigns, including the successful campaign for a disability Royal Commission. She has also been heavily involved in actively working for a better NDIS – as a founder and administrator of the online group NDIS Grassroots Discussion, she supports 48,500 people with disability and their families to navigate a scheme that is not working well.

### **Anna Davidson, Director of the Port Stephens GP Super Clinic and OzSAGE member**

Anna Davidson is Director of the Port Stephens GP Super Clinic and a member of OzSAGE which is a multi-disciplinary network of Australian experts from a broad range of sectors relevant to the well-being of the Australian population during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms Davidson was one of a number of experts to gauge the implications of COVID for general practice in early 2020 and mobilised her contacts in the manufacturing industry to get sanitiser to GP clinics around the country.

Since then Ms Davidson has been a vocal voice on the need for an evidence based response to COVID based on precautionary public health principles including a focus on protections for people who are at risk of severe illness. Ms Davidson has also shared her personal experiences of contracting COVID and post COVID complications.

### **Corinne Dobson, A/g Chief Executive Officer MHCC**

Corinne Dobson is the A/g Chief Executive Officer of the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT, which is the peak body representing the community-managed mental health sector in the ACT. MHCC ACT's aim is to foster the capacity of the sector to deliver quality, sustainable, recovery-oriented services to support people with mental health issues and their carers. Corinne has worked in public policy research and advocacy roles across the non-government community, mental health, health and human rights sectors, including the Australian Council of Social Service, St Vincent de Paul Society, the Public Health Association of Australia and Mental Health Australia. Corinne is a person with a disability who also shares personal experience of shielding from the pandemic.

### **Genevieve Jacobs, Group Editor Region Media (MC)**

Genevieve Jacobs has been a journalist for 30 years, working in print and radio. She is the Group Editor for Region Media and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Genevieve is a director of the Cultural Facilities Corporation, the Conflict Resolution Service and The Australian Center for Christianity and Culture. She chairs the ACT arts minister's advisory council and Canberra international Music Festival and has an enduring interest in building and strengthening community engagement.

### **Dr George Taleporos, Chair Victorian Disability Advisory Council**

Dr George Taleporos is Consumer Advocate and is part of the Department of Health COVID-19 Disability Advisory Committee. He has over 20 years of experience in the disability field, focussed predominantly on advocacy, human rights policy and practice, service development and management. He has a PhD in the field of psychology, a Graduate Diploma in educational psychology and Honours in sociology. Dr George is the policy manager at Summer Foundation, the former Chairperson of the Victorian Disability Advisory Council and an opinion writer for Every Australian Counts

### **Craig Wallace, Head of Policy AFI**

Craig Wallace is the head of policy at Advocacy for Inclusion – a peak disabled peoples organisation in the ACT. Craig’s career spans the Australian Public Service, across Housing, Youth, Volunteering and Disability as well as work in the NSW and ACT Governments, the community sector, a business chamber and as a consultant. He has also chaired a community housing provider, headed a Ministerial Council on disability and was a member of the ABC Advisory Council for four years. Most recently Craig was Head of Policy for the ACT Council of Social Service and was the President of national peak body People with Disability Australia from 2012 to 2016. He is an occasional opinion commentator and a semi-regular panellist on ABC’s The Drum. Craig is a person with disability who has been shielding from the pandemic since August 2021.