In the ever shifting landscape reforming disability service delivery and support, it is imperative that disability advocates come together to keep abreast of the changes and understand the impact these have on the practice of disability advocacy.

**This forum series provides advocates with a space for gathering information, sharing knowledge and providing time to network.**

***LIVESTREAMING LINK:*** *https://livestream.com/vicdeaf/DARU-ASCF*

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| 11:00am-11:05am | **Welcome and Introductions- Melissa Hale, DARU Coordinator** |
| **11:05am-12:00pm** | **Meeting the needs of older people with disability when the NDIS falls short** - *Lauren Henley, Policy Advisor, Council of the Ageing (COTA)*  There has been a strong focus on the NDIS over the past few years – but it isn’t the only scheme that is relevant to people with disability in Victoria. There are many people with disability who are over the age of 65 who do not meet the age eligibility requirements for the NDIS. Most of these people will be forced to turn to the aged care system to access the disability-related support they need. In this session, Lauren will tell us about some of the tools and resources available to help older people with disability make the most of what’s currently on offer. We will also discuss some of the policy gaps still preventing older people with disability from accessing support in a timely and equitable manner. Lauren will tell us more about work that is already being done to address some of these shortfalls and how we can get involved. |
| **12:00pm-1:00pm** | **Lunch** |
| **1:00pm-2:00pm** | **Culture Is Inclusion –** *Scott Avery, First Peoples Disability Network*  ‘Culture is Inclusion’ is about the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability across Australia. This book presents unique and valuable data gathered over a four year period of community-led research and includes both statistics and narrative/testimony. Scott will present the key findings from this research. |
| **2:00pm-2:30pm** | **Afternoon Tea** |
| **2:30pm-3:30pm** | **We’ve Got This: Parenting with a disability –** *Eliza Hull, Broadcaster, ABC Life Matters*  There is still a societal view that people with disability shouldn’t be parents – how can you look after another person if you have complex needs of your own? As the recipient of the ABC’s 2018 Regional Storyteller Scholarship, Eliza decided to use this opportunity to change misconceptions by giving parents with disability a voice through her podcast series, We’ve Got This: Parenting with a Disability’.  Eliza will talk about the project and the impact it is making. |
| **3:30pm-4:00pm** | **Office for Disability Update-** *Office for Disability*  This session provides a unique opportunity for the Office for Disability to update the sector directly on key government initiatives including ongoing work to strengthen the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program. |