



## **Mission**

*We will promote, mentor and advocate for the wellbeing and interests of vulnerable people with disabilities. We support our communities by establishing a range of advocacy programs that facilitates increased participation.*



## ***Message from the President***

*On behalf of the NECA Committee of Management I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New 2018 Year.*

*What an exciting 2017 year we had at NECA. There have been many changes of Staff and Committee members, but the program has grown and thrived.*

*The Committee has employed three new staff this year, which meant conducting interviews and orientation sessions. I would like to thank Kim Schriener, our Secretary, for her invaluable contribution on the job selection panel.*

*Our Treasurer, Ting Ling, has helped to streamline the financial management and reporting to the Committee. The two new Committee members, Alison and Carolyn have also given valuable contributions to the work of the committee, especially as we reviewed the Strategic plan this year. Cory has continued as our Consumer Representative on the Committee and his insights are important to the good practice of the program.*

*Frank Damiano began working in the role of Program Manager in February and has made a significant impact on the outcomes of the program. Carol has supported Frank as the CA program officer and they have made many successful matches.*

*Frank also oversaw the launch of a new form of Advocacy that NECA introduced this year. The position of Individual Disability Advocacy was filled by Judith Jeffery-Wright and she worked hard at advertising the service to the local disability network. Judith took a career change in June, so we employed Alisha Bingham as the (staff) Advocate and she brought a wealth of experience to the NECA program.*

*We are all looking forward to a great year in 2018 and thank all the wonderful volunteer advocates for their continued commitment to their Match and to the rights of people with a disability.*

*Lastly I would like to pay tribute to the participants (protégés) of the NECA program who allow a stranger into their life and continue to trust and engage with their advocate and the NECA staff.*

*It has been my privilege to serve as President of the Committee of Management in 2017 and I look forward to being involved in the important work of the NECA community program*

*Kate Krombach*

# Volunteer and Participant Match Anniversaries



## *September*

Jeannette & Clare (20 years)  
Adriana & Christine (7 years)

## *October*

Stella & Valarie (10 years)  
Alicia & Gaye (4 years)  
Michael & Lisa (3 years)

## *December*

Anthony & Ian (11 years)  
Michael & Bert (10 years)  
Annie & Deborah (6 years)

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### *New Matches*

Simon & Joanne  
Louise & Sharon

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## Annual General Meeting

On November 30th we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and we are pleased to announce the Committee Members for 2017 -2018:

Kate Krombach	President
Carloyn Oxer	Vice President
Kim Schriener	Secretary
Ting Ling	Treasurer
Cory Eastlake	Consumer Representative
Allison Parmenter	Ordinary Member

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## Become a Member of NECA

Do you know that you can become a Member of NECA?

Membership enables individuals to vote and to support NECA's purpose.

Memberships is \$10 per individual or \$5 concession.

Please contact the office for further information on (03) 8407 3684.

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From everyone at NECA, we would like to wish all our supporters and friends the warmest and best wishes for a wonderful festive season and a very happy and safe New Year!

The office will be closed from December 22 and re-open on January 8th.

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### **Feedback and Complaints**

North East Citizen Advocacy strives to ensure that all program participants are the centre of our program and delivery. We invite you to participate in our feedback and complaints process via a call or our feedback forum [www.citizenadvocacy.com.au](http://www.citizenadvocacy.com.au)

### **Other services:**

Disability Commissioner: 1800 677 342  
Office of the Public Advocate: 1300 309 33

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