

## **Dr Rhonda Galbally – 25 years of outstanding leadership and contribution to the disability sector!**

After eight years as Chair of the [Victorian Disability Advisory Council](#) (VDAC), Dr Galbally has been appointed as the transitional CEO of the newly created [Australian National Preventive Health Agency](#) and will continue as the Chair of the International Evaluation Committee for the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, the Chair of the [National People with Disability and Carer's Council](#) and the Royal Women's Hospital

Much of Dr Galbally's time with the VDAC was promoting the rights of people with a disability and improving the choices available to people with a disability, carers and their families.

Most recently, Dr Galbally has been the CEO of Our Community, a world-leading social enterprise that provides advice and tools for Australia's 700,000 community groups and schools, and practical linkages between the community sector and the general public, business and government.

Dr Galbally is renowned for her address to the Canberra Press Club in 2009, where she said:-

*“What does it mean to be an Australian with a disability? What is life like in the lucky country, in this the land of the fair go? One answer we might expect would be, a citizen with the same rights as everyone else!*

*But if you have a physical, sensory, psychiatric, or intellectual disability, what is life really like? Many Australians would say, It's better, isn't it? The bad old days are gone - Aren't they?*

*The horror and abuse that went on in institutions, that's all gone now, hasn't it. The poverty, the discrimination, the exclusion, the fear and hatred, that's all ancient history, isn't it?*

*I would love to be able to say yes, that is all ancient history, but I can't. I'm here to tell you that despite this nation enjoying the longest economic boom in its history, very little has changed for most Australians with a disability”.*

Dr Galbally has been a driving force behind a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and has worked tirelessly with people living with a disability and their families to endorse this initiative.

As Chair of the National People with Disabilities and Carers Council, Dr Galbally was instrumental in the production of the '[Shut Out Report](#)', which made clear the need for such a scheme.

Her pioneering work in this area was further recognised when she was appointed to the Independent Advisory Panel assisting the Productivity Commission inquiry into the NDIS.

**LISA Comment:** We feel confident Dr Galbally will promote the general health needs of people with a disability in her role as CEO of the ANPHA, a recently created arm of the Department of Health and Ageing.

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