**Kevin Stone***(he/him)*

TEAM Creator / Lead Facilitator

* **1979-1985**, Kevin served as the Principal of a Special Developmental School, pioneering inclusive education.
* **1985**, he was recognized for his ground-breaking work by Learning Difficulties Australia, winning its prestigious Mona Tobias Award for “Doing what most of us only talk about – putting special school kids’ bums on mainstream classroom seats”.
* **1988**, after a couple of years supporting families to lobby for inclusive education across Melbourne’s western suburbs, and training workers from residential homes to overcome institutional practices, Kevin joined the Yungaburra Foundation and worked to establish an advocacy organisation driven and led by people with intellectual disability and their families.
* March **1989**, The Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with a Disability (VALID) was officially launched and Kevin was appointed its founding Executive Officer.
VALID quickly established a reputation for getting results, particularly in advocating for the closure of institutions and increased funding for support services. In
* **1992**, VALID was recognised by the State Government as Victoria’s peak advocacy organisation for people with intellectual disability and their families.
* **1994**, VALID became Victoria’s agency member for the National Council on Intellectual Disability (now Inclusion Australia), and Kevin has served almost continuously on the IA board since then. Throughout this time, he has been at the forefront of national policy development, providing constructive, collaborative and outcomes-driven representation at the highest levels, whilst working intensively to build structures and resources to support the development of self advocacy leadership.
* For over thirty years, he has provided fearless and independent representation within a multitude of government and NDIA consultative committees, and has established a strong media presence and profile.
* **2019**, Kevin was awarded an Australia Medal for his contribution to realising the rights of people with intellectual disability.
* **2021**, Kevin announced his retirement from VALID to spend more time with his wife Margot, his 4 children (3 of whom live with disability), his grandson Oscar and beloved Snooker table.
* **2022**, Realises family doesn't want him moping around, so thinks about what he really wants to do.