



Illawarra & Shoalhaven *DISABILITY NEWS*

Information about Disability and Services for People with Disabilities, their Families and Disability Service Providers

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April 2011

National Disability Strategy Launched



Australian Government

**Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs**

The new National Disability Strategy was launched last month on March 18, 2011. It sets out a bold vision – an inclusive Australian society that enables people with disability to fulfill their potential as equal citizens.

The Strategy looks beyond the specialist disability sector and Australia's international obligations by focusing efforts towards achieving a society that is inclusive and enabling, providing equality and the opportunity for each person to fulfill their potential.

The strategy was launched by Senator Jan Lucas, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Dr Rhonda Galbally, National People with Disabilities Carer Council, Mr Simon McKeon, Australian of the Year and Professor Ron McCallum AO, Senior Australian of the Year.

The development of the National Disability Strategy is the first time in Australia's history that all governments have committed to a unified, national approach to improving the

lives of people with disability, their families and carers, and to providing leadership for a community-wide shift in attitudes.

This commitment recognises the need for greater collaboration and coordination by all governments, industry and communities to address the challenges faced by people with disability. A new approach is needed to guide policies and program development by all levels of government and actions by the whole community, now and into the future.

The strategy addresses the following issues for people with a disability;

1. Inclusive and accessible communities
2. Rights protection, justice and legislation
3. Economic security
4. Personal and community support
5. Learning and skills
6. Health and wellbeing

You can read the full policy document on the National Disability Strategy here:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/Pages/nds.aspx>

Source - Working Carers Gateway 5/4/11

Federal Action against the BSWAT

A Federal Court action taken against an Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE) and the Commonwealth of Australia is scheduled for hearing in April. The action will decide if the applicant (a former supported employee) was discriminated against due to his former employer (the ADE) using the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT) to determine his pro rata wage rate.

The Commonwealth has been named as a joint respondent in all the court actions due to FaHCSIA's role in developing the BSWAT. The Australian Government Solicitor will act as legal counsel for both the ADE and the Commonwealth in this Court action.

The applicant alleges in the action that the BSWAT:

- Is incapable of fairly assessing if employees with a disability can demonstrate they meet the required competencies
- Unfairly disadvantages employees with an intellectual disability by using technical language they are unable to comprehend

If successful, the action would have sector-wide implications.

The BSWAT is owned by FaHCSIA and is recognised as one of 30 authorised Wage Assessment tools in the Supported Employment Services Award 2010. BSWAT assessments are conducted independently by CRS Australia. It is the most widely used wage assessment tool in the ADE sector.

Further information will be available as the case unfolds.

Source: NDS News Update 21st March 2011

Comments to the Productivity Commission about the Draft Disability Care Report

In the March 2011 issue of Illawarra and Shoalhaven Disability News we outlined the Productivity Commissions' Draft Report into Disability Care and Support in Australia. It is

important that Members of Parliament and the Leaders in our Community now act and introduce the changes. Please ensure you take every opportunity to inform, discuss and spread the word among everyone you know.

There are opportunities for commenting and giving your opinion on the Draft Report to the Productivity Commission. Written Submissions are due by **Saturday 30 April, 2011**.

Further information can be found at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support>

ADHC releases Flexible Respite Policy Position

ADHC has released its [Flexible Respite Policy Position \(Disability\)](#) which applies to all government and non government flexible respite service providers funded through an ADHC Funding Agreement.

In 2010, ADHC called for input from service providers to help shape the policy, which was finalised in January this year. The Policy Position aims to set out a clear direction for disability flexible respite services to provide clarity about the parameters of flexible respite service provision and inform the negotiation of future funding agreements with flexible respite service providers.

The Flexible Respite Policy Position outlines ADHC's aims and principles for flexible respite, with a particular focus on the need for flexibility in the context of having choice in services and coordinated service delivery.

This Policy is an important part of [Stronger Together: The Second Phase 2011-2016](#), which outlines ADHC's commitment to:

- make flexible respite responses as flexible as possible for people with a disability and their carers;
- promote a person-centred approach; and
- position the program for the introduction of individualised and portable funding allocations



Source - NDS News Update 7th April

Standards in Action Manual

The first stage of the review of the Standards in Action Manual is now complete, with a 'new look' version available on the [Ageing, Disability and Home Care \(ADHC\) website](#).

Informed by feedback from NDS and its members, the Standards in Action Manual has been aesthetically redesigned making it more user friendly with hyperlinks included for ease of redirection to relevant legislation, policies and resources.

The Manual is currently being updated as it has not been reviewed since its creation. Following the first stage which is now complete, the second stage of revision will see the content of the Standards in Action Manual updated over the next 12-18 months through a partnership approach between ADHC and the disability sector.

The Standards in Action Manual was developed in 1998 as a practical tool to build the capacity of service providers in implementing the [National Standards for Disability Services](#) and the [NSW Disability Services Act \(1993\)](#). NDS and its members have been involved in the consultation process of reviewing these standards.

Incorporating any changes that may arise as a result of the current review of the National Standards for Disability Services as well as placing a stronger focus on person centred approaches, the revised Standards in Action Manual will provide better support for service providers to develop innovative and flexible responses to issues they face and to facilitate the development of internal operational policies and procedures.

ADHC advises that the release of the updated Standards in Action Manual is expected to be in early 2012.

Adult Mental Health First Aid

Illawarra Shoalhaven Family and Carer Mental Health Program Team present an education program for families & carers of people with mental health problems.



Topics covered include;

- Depression
- Suicidal thoughts and behaviour
- Schizophrenia
- Bi polar
- Anxiety Disorders
- Substance use disorders

Facilitator - Toni Garretty

When - Wednesdays 4th and 11th May, 9am to 4pm (attendance both days is required to receive a certificate)

Where - Wollongong Salvation Army, 16 Burelli St, Wollongong

Cost - \$30 covers Manual and course materials

Registrations close 29th April 2011. For more information or to register contact Megan Green on 4220 7921 or 0439 026 246.

Key Word Sign Basic Workshop



Key Word Sign is a vocabulary of key word signs and gestures used with children with speech and / or

language difficulties. Come along and learn how to use Key Word Sign and natural gesture to communicate with your clients / children.

When - Thurs 5th May 2011, 9am to 3:30 pm

Where - Cerebral Palsy Alliance, 51 Plunkett St, Nowra

Cost - \$25 per family member or carers of family members

RSVP – by 28th April (RSVP is essential as spaces are limited)

To get a registration form call 9479 7200 or email actionpact@cerebralpasy.org.au.

Self-directed Support: Making it Happen



The NSW Chapter of In Control Australia proudly presents "Self-directed Support: Making it Happen".

When - 10th & 11th of May 2011 @ Ryde/ Eastwood RSL Sydney, NSW

This two-day event will bring together Steve Dowson (UK), speakers from across Australia, people with disability, families, carers, advocates, policy makers, support services, government & administrators to explore self-directed support in NSW.

We will explore questions such as: Where are we at now? Where are we going? How do we get there? What do we already know? What do we need to know?

Coming Soon: Full Program & Registration Forms

Please register your interest by emailing Michael Bleasdale on michaelb@pwd.org.au.

For more information about In Control Australia please visit our website www.incontrol.org.au.

Mindful Parenting

Managing behaviour of a child with a disability, a free course for parents and families.



Human Services
Ageing, Disability & Home Care

Mindfulness means moment-to-moment, non-judgemental awareness. Mindful parenting increases awareness so that you respond to situations in which your buttons may be pressed, with choice rather than reacting automatically.

Learn strategies for parenting children with challenging behaviour

- See the world through your child's eyes

- Practice new skills in managing stress and anxiety
- Increase your enjoyment of the parenting journey
- Meet other parents and caregivers with similar experiences
- Free child care for 2-5 year olds (by fully trained child care workers)
- Mothers, fathers and other caregivers in a parenting role are encouraged to attend

Duration - 5 weeks x 2.5 hours

Dates - Every Wednesday from 11 May until 8 June 2011

Time - 10.00am – 12.30pm

Venue - Illawarra Multicultural Service (IMS), 17 Auburn St Wollongong

Facilitators - Mark Baxter & Christine Conolly (ADHC Behaviour Support Specialists)

RSVP - Register by 27 April 2011 by contacting IMS on 4229 6855

Shoalhaven Autism Spectrum Group



Meeting the 1st Monday of the month 11.30am - 1.30pm (excluding school & public holidays).

Where - Sanctuary Point Connect (based in the grounds of Sanctuary Point Public School). Entrance is off Paradise Beach Rd.

Email shoalhaven.asg@hotmail.com

Contact - Cath 0402 800 515 or Louise 0413 396 835 / 4443 8396

Meeting Dates for 2011 - 4th April, 2nd May, 6th June, 1st August, 5th September, 7th November and 5th December.

- Information Packages
- Lending Library including DVDs
- Guest Speakers

Parents, carers, grandparents, all family members welcome.

New family support services in the Illawarra



Health

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, Carmel Tebbutt, and Minister for Community

Services, Linda Burney, announced that Pathfinders and Barnardos Australia have been awarded the tenders to operate two new Family Referral Services to help local families and improve the safety, health and welfare of their children.

The role of Family Referral Services is to connect families to services in their local area. The idea is to support families who make direct contact asking for help and they will also support families who have been referred by others in the community such as schools, hospitals and childcare facilities.

Ms Tebbutt said "Our goal is to refer children and families to support early, rather than see problems escalate to the level of the statutory child protection system.

"One of our actions in Keep Them Safe is to enlist the non-government sector to deliver more services and this is an example of how we are achieving this," she said.

The new services will provide face-to-face referrals and some case coordination, and has funding for clients to access to local services.

Community Services Minister Burney said the Family Referral Services refer clients to local services such as housing, child care, supported play-group, drug and alcohol, mental health services and youth services.

"The support provided may include home visiting, parenting education, respite care and some case management," she said.

The new services are expected to open for business in May 2011. For further information on Keep Them Safe visit www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au.

Source – NSW Department of Health website

Para Meadows Ex-students Group

Para Meadows Ex-students Group is available for ex-students but it is also open for all adults with a disability to attend.

The group meets in the school hall at Para Meadows Public School in Porter Street North Wollongong, from 7pm to 8.30pm / 9pm, every second Wednesday night.

The group is run by volunteers and they request that if the person coming requires attendant care that a staff person remains in attendance with them throughout the night. There is no charge for support staff to attend and they are welcome to supper.

There is a fee of \$3.00 per person to cover insurances, hall hire and supper. Supper includes tea / coffee / milo. We also sell a can of soft drink and a small packet of Chips for \$2.00. If someone has any special dietary requirements you need to let organisers know and they will try to accommodate.

Dates and Activities include - 20th April (Easter Parade), 4th May (Mother's Day Cards and BBQ), 18th May, 1st June (DJ Disco night) and 15th June.

For further information please contact Genoveve Vieira 0417 651 862 or Nadine Dean 0414 585 353.

For Sale

2005 Toyota HIACE van/bus - in excellent condition. \$39,990 or near offer. Please note that the included Braun lifting gear costs about \$20,000 fitted. This is a LWB, 2.7Lt, 4 cylinder petrol engine with tinted windows and with just over 70,000 kms. The Braun lift has a rated capacity of 363 Kgs. The interior will hold up to three wheel chairs in the following formats:

- 1 wheel chair plus 8 seats (including the driver)
- 2 wheel chairs plus 6 seats (ditto)
- 3 wheel chairs plus 4 seats (ditto)

Contact Dan on 6493 5027 or dani-doo@flyingmonkey.com.au.

Positions Available



Do you currently receive or are you eligible to receive a Disability Support Pension?

Would you like the chance to grow your skills and work as part of a team?

Are you ready to take the next step to increase your independence and participate in the workforce (while keeping your pension)?

The Flagstaff Group is a proud employer of people with a disability and has 5 business divisions across 2 sites – Wollongong and Nowra, employing over 320 people.

Flagstaff currently has 8 positions available at their Shoalhaven site with tasks ranging from garden maintenance to packaging, sorting, document scanning and operating fork lifts as well as recycling equipment.

To find out more or to arrange a personalised tour of our North Nowra site at 102 Pitt Street, please call Tracey Bowen or Rick Pickering on 4423 3630.

Why Stop Now: Inclusive Education at High School



A workshop presented by Dr Bob Jackson.

Would you like to learn about how inclusion can work for students with disability in a mainstream high school setting? Are you interested in curriculum adjustments that work?

Would you like information about preparing for the transition to high school?

The day will be useful for family members and friends of a student with developmental disability considering the high school years, as well as education professionals and education students. High school is a time of

developing who we are, forming friendships and growing up.

Come along to hear about:

- facilitating a smooth transition as students with disability move from primary to high school
- adjusting the curriculum to meet the educational needs of all students within the regular class
- engaging students with disability in learning with their peers
- fostering social inclusion

When - Wed 4 May 2011, 9am - 2:30 pm

Where - Ryde/Eastwood Leagues Club, 117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde

For more information about Dr Jackson, go to www.include.com.au.

For a registration form phone 9869 0866 or 1800 620 588 or email

workshops@family-advocacy.com or visit www.family-advocacy.com.

Autism Behaviour Intervention

FOOTPRINTS PROGRAM

A family focused program for children 6yrs and under. Parents and carers are given practical skills to manage behaviours and teach skills their child will need to be successful across a variety of environments: home, pre-school, community and school.



Funded by ADHC with 40 hours of intervention over approximately 20 weeks based in the home and/or community.

To be considered for the June intake please apply by May 23rd 2011.

Contact ADHC Southern Regional Office on 1300 841 566 or 6128 9200 or ABI office on 9669 2250.

ABI provides a range of other services such as Pre-school and professionals training, Parent training workshops and School Aged Services.

For further information on the program please visit our website www.abinsw.org.au or contact us on 9669 2250.

Issues in Supporting Autonomy and Rights for People with Competency Impairments

Illawarra Advocacy presents a one day workshop with John Armstrong.

This workshop examines the complex issues related to supporting people to exercise culture appropriate autonomy and rights, and especially so where relevant consequences for people may not be predicted (as with drug and alcohol addiction, mental illness, intellectual disability, dementia etc). The workshop will review why people are commonly not granted such freedoms and the impacts this has on a person's personal impression and competencies.

Many strategies will be examined that parents, worker or agencies may employ to facilitate the exercise of responsible autonomy and rights. However, the workshop will also critique the common emphasis of 'choice' in people's lives and the likely consequences to community involvement when people make claim to rights illegitimately or in circumstances where (all) the obligations fall on other parties.

Who are the workshops for?

This workshop is useful to direct care workers, managers, service leadership and family members who face conflicting messages about how freedom for people can be enabled.

When - Mon 16th May 2011, 8.30am - 5.00pm

Where - Lakeside Function Centre - Illawarra Yacht Club

Cost - Service providers \$100.00 per person
Family members/carers \$50.00 per person

Coffee on arrival, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea are provided.

Closing date for registrations is Friday 6th May 2011.

For a registration form contact Bronwyn Leonhardt on 4229 4999.

Parent Line NSW



Parent Line NSW, a service provided by CatholicCare has been funded by Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) to include the Early

Childhood Intervention Information Service within its current information service. This funding will enhance the service provided by Parent Line to address the information, counselling and emotional support needs of families with a child or young person with a disability, aged 0-18 years.

Parent Line operates for 24 hours, 7 days per week, and is staffed by a team of trained professional counsellors with qualifications in social work, psychology, education, health and social welfare.

Parent Line NSW phone number is 1300 130 065 and information about the range of services provided by Parent Line can be found at www.parentline.org.au.

The service will be available for families to access information, advice and emotional support overtime and assist families to link with a range of mainstream and disability specialist services within their communities.

National Disability & Carer Congress



*Etihad Stadium,
Melbourne 2-3 May
2011.*

This event is shaping to be the largest on the year's disability calendar, with more than 800 delegates expected to attend. The Productivity Commission's draft report into Disability Care and Support will provide the springboard for discussion on the systemic changes necessary to improve the lives of people with disability, their families and carers and the large implications for service providers.

Patricia Scott, Productivity Commissioner, who will highlight the key reform directions for disability care and support.

Steve Dowson is a UK consultant and trainer who has 20 years experience in investigating and advising on individualised funding. Based on his experience in Canada, the United States, Australia, Europe and the UK. Steve will provide practical insights into how to design and implement a person-centred disability system that works.

In addition to the policy debate, opportunities will be provided for disability service providers to consider the implications of an NDIS for how services are funded, managed and provided. Practical resources and tools to assist organisations transition to personalised service models will be showcased.

The full program provides further details and can be found on www.nds.org.au.

Contact Information: Julie Walton, National Conference and Events Manager, ph 9256 3115, email julie.walton@nds.org.au or Miriam Sosin, Events Assistant ph 9256 3115, email miriam.sosin@nds.org.au.

Introduction to Visuals

Free Workshop - Getting Started with Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Help support learning for everyone - children, people with additional communication needs.

When - Wed 25th May 2011, 4pm-6pm

Where - Ageing Disability and Home Care offices. Level 3 7-11 Bridge St, Coniston

RSVP - to Kirby on 4222 0316 by 23rd May

Future School Options for Children with Special Needs

A free information session for Parents / Carers and Support Services of young children with disabilities or significant delays.

A guest panel of presenters from Catholic Education, Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Department of Education and Training, Diagnostic Assessment Team and Havenlee SSP.

When - Fri 6th May 2011

Where - Family Daycare, Cottage 4, 80 Park Rd, Nowra

RSVP - Kerry Kyriacou 0412 340 669 by 3rd May

Lift



A therapeutic Group for men and women experiencing anxiety and /or depression.

When - 5 Friday afternoons, 1-3pm on 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th May and 3 June

Where - 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

Cost - \$20 per session

To book - call 4254 9316

Also available in Campbelltown on Tuesday afternoons, 1-3pm from 31st May to 28th June.

Where - 35A Cordeaux St, Campbelltown

To book call 4628 0044.

Would you like to receive this newsletter in printed form or by email?

Contact: The Disability Trust on info@disabilitytrust.org.au

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Postal: PO Box 395 Fairy Meadow NSW 2519

Phone: 4255 8000 or Fax: 4255 8088 Website: www.disabilitytrust.org.au

The newsletter is prepared by the Information and Advocacy Service aimed at covering a wide variety of services and issues across the disability sector. The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of The Disability Trust. Should you have a story or information that you would like included in the newsletter please contact the Information and Advocacy Service.

...creating an inclusive world