



Illawarra & Shoalhaven *DISABILITY NEWS*

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

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Aug 2011

Tour Duchenne Rides to Canberra

Inspired by the Tour de France this month? On the 12th to 14th of September, a Canberra based team of riders are spending three tough days on the road raising awareness and much needed funds for Duchenne muscular dystrophy research. No glory, no beautiful French towns, but a great cause.

Whilst the team will ride in the name of Jamie, the 6 year old son of rider, Carsten Larsen, funds raised will go to help the many boys who are affected as well as those who are yet to be diagnosed.

In an environment marked by charity fatigue, this is a condition that has been overlooked time and again. There are no pink ribbons or chocolates, days where people wear flowers and boxes of fundraising pens and badges on the counter. There are no celebrities to tell their stories. These boys rarely make it to adulthood and their families are often struggling with grief and their caring responsibilities, unable to find the energy or time to make their voice heard.

The Tour wants these boys and their families to be heard—the message is threefold:

1 - Raising Awareness: The Tour wants to



Jamie: Our warrior

raise awareness of Duchenne's and related neuromuscular disorders. Awareness is fundamental to funding, research and services being provided at an adequate level. And while more lives will tragically be lost, awareness is also essential to our boys being embraced by our community, enhancing their quality of life.

2 - Enabling Research: Duchenne muscular dystrophy can affect any boy. While sometimes genetically indicated, 40% of



cases occur by spontaneous mutation. It affects boys of all walks of life, from Enzo Ferrari's son, to children in developing countries and boys in Canberra. There is encouraging research underway, but it cannot proceed without clever minds, international collaboration and careful protocols.

3 - Adequate Services: The Tour wants to highlight the need for adequate services to assist affected boys and their families. As the condition advances, boys are not only reliant on a wheelchair (requiring car and house modifications), but require respiratory assistance, numerous medical interventions and turning up to every 2 hours per night. Many Australian families struggle to cope. Additional services are needed for the boys and their families to maintain some quality of life.

These boys just want to be able to enjoy the playground, play soccer and run around with their friends like any other kid. When a six year old, full of hope and trust, looks into our faces and says —I don't want to die when I'm a kid, we must be able to tell them honestly that their community cares and will support them.

Help Team Jamie achieve their target by making a donation at www.everydayhero.com.au/event/team_jamie

Workplaces could encourage support by nominating Team Jamie in workplace giving programs, holding a fundraising morning tea or Friday drinks or holding a —ride to work day. Team Jamie will happily acknowledge

supporters.

School groups could encourage gold coin donations for a wheels day, free dress day or perhaps just get the message out via newsletters.

Community and sporting groups may be able to contribute skills or even a sausage sizzle as riders arrive. Of course, if you're really keen, please join Team Jamie on the Tour! Contact Muscular Dystrophy Foundation on www.mdaustralia.org.au for more information. Training is well underway, so you'll need to be able to commit time and sweat to the effort.

And we'd love to see some support at Parliament House at 1pm on Wed 14th Sept as our weary riders arrive.

Source - Team Jamie Newsletter Issue 2

Living Life My Way: NSW Government Launches Statewide Consultation on Disability Services

As mentioned in the July issue of this newsletter, delegates at a two day summit, which began in Sydney on 7th and 8th July, were told that they were part of the first step in the most significant development to the delivery of disability services in NSW history.

Minister for Disability Services, Andrew Constance, told the 500 delegates at the "Living Life My Way" summit that the NSW Government was working towards the introduction of a person centred approach which will place people with a disability at the centre of decision making.

"The delivery of person centred disability services is the key to giving people with a disability control over their own lives and futures," Mr Constance said.

Mr Constance said that under the NSW Government's plans, people with a disability would finally have control over their lives and futures in a way the service system has never previously allowed.

Mr Constance said that the O'Farrell Government's person centred approach was a cornerstone of the second phase of

Stronger Together, its \$2 billion plan to expand and improve disability services which runs until 2016.

“To ensure that the \$2 billion is spent in the most appropriate way we need to hear the views of those who receive the services and those who deliver them.”

“Before our new approach can be finalised, the NSW Government needs to hear the suggestions and comments of people with a disability, their families and carers, advocates and non government service agencies.”

The Living Life My Way summit is just the beginning of consultations, with more than 100 consultations to be held throughout the state over the next two months.

“It is critical to hear the views of people living all across the state, especially the views of the thousands of people in small towns and communities around NSW who have a direct interest in the delivery of disability services.”

Living Life My Way – Person Centred Approaches Consultations

During August and September 2011 the NSW Government will be holding more than 100 consultations around NSW. People with a disability, families, carers and service providers are encouraged to participate.

It is vital that people with a disability, their families and carers are made aware of their opportunities to contribute to this important process. Everyone is encouraged to communicate the information about the consultation sessions.

Anyone who may not be able to attend one of the consultations but still wants to input into this process can provide written submissions provided via email at pcaconsultations@dhs.nsw.gov.au or post to Manager, Person Centred Approaches, Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Family and Community Services, Level 5, 83 Clarence Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Further information about these consultations and Person Centred Approaches is available by contacting the Person Centred

Approaches Team on 8270 2132 or at www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about/strategies/person-centred-approach/person-centred-approaches-consultations.

12th Annual Wests Illawarra Bandage Bear Benefit Night

Saturday, August 6th was the 12th Annual Wests Illawarra Bandage Bear Benefit Night. There are 3 charities benefitting: Kids Fund (The Disability Trust), The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Southern Children's Care (UOW).

The Disability Trust, Leigh Stewart and a committee of community members plays an integral role in the lead up, and during, the night - managing finances, volunteers, silent auction details, raffle process, guest names, table set-up, etc.

Here are some of the nights highlights:

- Mecenzi Howard (Kids Fund recipient) and her proud Mum appeared on the stage
- Dr Luciano Dalla Pozza (Westmead) appeared again, thanking the Illawarra for continued support
- West's Illawarra presenting a cheque for \$50,000 to Bandage Bear
- An amazing community bought \$75,000 in raffle tickets in 20 minutes
- Thomas Costello and family – a 17 year old from Bulli suffering from Cystic Fibrosis was presented with a car, on behalf of West's, K&R, KJ Fabrications, Allfab, Wollongong Cranes and Illawarra Toyota
- The announcement by Professor Don Iverson to secure a world class doctor for this region

Many of the photos and videos from the night are available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=100000855045602, Thomas Costello, a families Journey at <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=197051653689820>.

The website is www.bandagebear.com.au.

The Kids Fund website is at www.kidsfund.org.au/kidsfund/index.html.

Disability Information Assistance Line (DIAL)



Human Services
Ageing, Disability & Home Care



Illawarra and Shellharbour

Providing information for people with disabilities, carers, families, service providers and interested community members. We are a central point of contact for information provision about disability services including:

- Programs and services
- Referral to counselling or advocacy services
- Self advocacy and support groups
- Forums and Workshops
- Gaining access to services, aids and equipment
- Illawarra and Shoalhaven Disability News

Phone 4255 8000 or email info@disabilitytrust.org.au.



Shoalhaven Information and Advocacy



Human Services
Ageing, Disability & Home Care



Kiama and Shoalhaven

Providing services for people with a disability, frail older people and their carers. Our services include:

- Information - We are a central point of contact for information provision about

all programs and services

- Forums and workshops
- Individual advocacy and support
- Referral
- Counselling - short term access to local counselling services

Phone 4428 9002 or email info@disabilitytrust.org.au.

No charge for mobile phone calls to Lifeline tel 13 11 14



Mobile phone calls to Lifeline made from anywhere in Australia will be free of charge from 1 July under an agreement made between the three major phone carriers.

The Federal Government is providing \$18.2 million over three years to Lifeline to boost the capacity of the organisation to respond to more calls and to support free calls from mobiles.

“Lifeline is the national provider of telephone-based support for people who are in crisis, offering 24 hour support to people who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts and making it more accessible to anyone in a crisis situation is extremely important. Each year, more than 114,000 calls to Lifeline’s national crisis line are made from mobiles and more than 40 calls every day come from people at high risk of suicide. The costs associated with what is often a lengthy phone call may have been a disincentive for people who are seeking crisis care.” said the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, June 2011.

Family Disability Support Program



Do you live in the Shoalhaven, Jervis Bay Territory or Gerringong/Gerroa area?

Do you have a school aged child with special needs?

Would you like information on services , resources and support?

Would you like to enjoy quality relationships with other families?

Would you like to have the opportunity to relax and have fun together?

Noah's Ark's Family Disability Support Program enables families with children with disabilities to have fun and relax together by providing recreational based activities and provide relief from the responsibility of caring for their child with a disability and meet other families in a similar situation.

Please contact us with an email address to be part of this Program and become a member of Noah's Ark for just \$10 per family per year.

Email Debra Jefferis djefferis@noahsark.nsw.edu.au or go to

www.noahsark.nsw.edu.au, or phone Debra on 4423 5022.

service providers working together to make sure the Federal Government accepts the recommendations of the Productivity Commission and commits to introducing the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Service providers including The Disability Trust, Greenacres, Flagstaff, Disability Services Australia, House With No Steps, Interchange, CatholicCare, IDEAS, Cram Foundation and Community Options all pulled together to organize the day and raise the awareness. Many other organizations also attended the day. Clients, families, carers, staff and supporters were all in party mode, even the horses in the stables were humming along.



St George Illawarra players and supporter.

Local heroes in support of the event were The Saint George Illawarra Dragons, The Illawarra Hawks, The Stingrays and David Boyle. Entertainer Mick on Wheels made sure there were plenty of laughs to be had and Wollongong Rotary Club members satisfied hungry mouths and served morning tea.

The good news is the Federal Government has taken notice.

DisabiliTea at Kembla Grange



Participants of the DisabiliTea spelt out NDIS in the stadium.

A great day was had on Tuesday 2nd August at Kembla Grange making a stand for people with disabilities. It was a good to see many



NDIS Government Announcement



The Government has just announced that they share the vision for a National Disability Insurance Scheme and will begin laying the

foundations for its introduction.

They also released the final report by the Productivity Commission into the NDIS.

See the Government's announcement here www.pm.gov.au/press-office/productivity-commissions-final-report-disability-care-and-support

"We're trawling through the detail of the announcement and the report, but first we wanted to say a huge thank you.

"You made this happen. By coming together, supporting the campaign and taking action, you showed our politicians that Every Australian Counts.

"The Government's announcement today shows that when we speak up, they are prepared to listen. But as the Government has made clear, there is more to do. We are waiting for the Opposition to come out in strong support of the Productivity Commission's recommendations. And over the coming weeks and months we will all want to work to ensure the government gets the details right.

"But first let's take some time to celebrate this colossal win for people with disabilities, their families and carers. After that, let's roll up our sleeves and work to make the NDIS the best it can be," said John Della Bosca .

More information can be found on the Every Australian Counts Campaign at www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au.

International Year of the Volunteer

As many of you maybe aware, 2011 is the International Year of the Volunteer. To recognise this event the Federal Government has announced an awards campaign to

recognise those individuals and groups who have made a contribution to the Community through their volunteering activities.

Nominations are sought in the following categories;

- MPs Volunteer of the year award
- Junior Volunteer Award
- Young Volunteer Award
- Education Award
- Environment Award
- Long-term Commitment to Community Care Service Award
- Business Volunteer Award
- Innovation in Volunteering Award (for an organisation or individual)
- New organisation Award
- Emergency Management Award

To be eligible for awards, volunteers should be widely recognised as being significant contributors to their communities; their contribution of time and effort should set an example to other volunteers; they should provide guidance to other volunteers and where appropriate encourage others to join their cause; they should undertake their tasks selflessly and without the purpose of material gain.

I encourage as many organisations as possible to consider nominating an individual or group. for more information please follow the attached link; www.notforprofit.gov.au/volunteering

the site also has very useful information and links in relation to the Federal Governments Volunteering agenda including current and future directions.

**Source- Paul Kaiserfeld
Coordinator Sector Development & Volunteering
ph 42 27 71 63**



Positive Directions For Lives of Meaning and Fulfilment



Many families have said that they would like their son or daughter with disability to enjoy the same good, ordinary, opportunities as their other children but that they find this hard to achieve. This new workshop considers why this is so and explores strategies for helping a person with disability to have a good life as part of their community. These strategies are:

- having a positive vision for the future
- working not just for community presence but also community participation and relationships and
- assisting people to develop and sustain positive roles in their community by 'looking the part' and 'acting the part'.

This is a workshop for families and friends of people with developmental disability. Mothers, fathers, adult brothers, sisters aunts, uncles and other extended family are welcome. If you are thinking about a better future for your family member with disability, then this workshop is for you!

A web site with useful resources and information, including stories from NSW families who share their insights and experiences is available at www.resourcingfamilies.org.au.

Workshop Information

When & Where - 5 September 2011 in Hornsby and 7 September 2011 in South Hurstville

Time - registration: 9 am - 9.30 am and workshop: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Cost - \$10.00 per person (GST inclusive and is a contribution towards morning tea, lunch and resources)

RSVP by Friday 20th August, 2011

For more information, venue details and to register, call 9869 7753 or 1800 774 764

(NSW non metro callers) or go to www.resourcingfamilies.org.au.

Kids Fund

Applications are due by Friday 30th September 2011



The next KIDS Fund Allocation Committee Meeting will be held in

October 2011 to distribute charity funds raised through community and corporate donations. KIDS Fund is managed by The Disability Trust which allocates funds twice a year to purchase aids and equipment for children up to 18 years of age with disabilities in the Illawarra Local Government Area.

Application forms are also available by visiting

www.disabilitytrust.org.au or call Dara at The Disability Trust on 4255 8000.

Kids Fund is also on Facebook — search for "Kids Fund – Illawarra Kids with Disabilities". It is free and open to everyone. We hope to see you there!

Directions for the Illawarra Forum for 2012 to 2015

2012 will be the twentieth anniversary of the Illawarra Forum. This is a good time to explore the ideas and opinions gathered about the role, identity and directions of the Illawarra Forum.

The research 'Directions for the Illawarra Forum for 2012 to 2015' was a work placement project by Angela Dever, a student of Diploma of Community Services, Wollongong TAFE with the Illawarra Forum in mid 2011. You can download the publication at www.illawarraforum.org.au under 'Illawarra Forum Publications'.

June 2011 Star Ratings

Disability Employment Services (DES) are designed to increase the employment participation of people with disability. The objectives of DES is to help individuals with injury, disability or ill health secure and maintain sustainable employment. Performance management is an integral part of the program and underpins the partnership between DEEWR and DES providers. A star rating system has been developed to assess and compare provider performance delivered under the Disability Employment Services Deed 2010-2012.

The Star ratings for 30 June 2011 for Disability Employment Services (DES) have been released by DEEWR. They show an increase in the number of 3 star contracts. There are fewer 4 stars and fewer 2 stars. There has been a slight increase in the proportion of ESS contracts (to 81.3%) that are rated 1, 2 or 3 stars and would therefore need to participate in the proposed tender process.

At DMS contract level there has been a 7 percentage point reduction in 4 star contracts between the December and June rating periods. However, 5 star sites have increased by 2.5%.

NSW Kids to Celebrate Children's Week

Children's Week, 22 – 30 October, celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. It is also a time for children to demonstrate their talents, skills and abilities.

Thousands of children and their families around the country will be involved in activities during Children's Week™ thanks to the participation of schools, childcare centres, play groups, libraries and cultural and community groups.

The events and activities focus the attention of the wider community on children and what's important to them. Examples include education (in general), language and literacy, health, sport and recreation, the arts, science, as well as children's cultural, social and emotional needs.

Organise, register or find events at www.nswchildrensweek.org.au.

ACOSS Report – Community welfare sector unable to keep up with demand for services

More people have been turning to community and social services groups for help, leaving the welfare sector unable to meet the growing demand, according to the ACOSS Australian Community Sector Survey 2011.

The survey is the only annual national data collection about the non-government, non-profit community services and welfare sector, and this year shows a 12% increase in assistance provided by agencies. Respondent organisations (745) provided services on 6,180,282 occasions in 2009-10 compared to 5,513,780 instances in 2008-09.

Despite the overall increase in services delivered, the majority of organisations (55%) indicated that they were still unable to meet the demand for their services. People were denied services on approximately 345,000 occasions, equating to more than 1 in 20 eligible people seeking social services being turned away. This represents a 19% increase on the 298,000 people turned away in 2008-09. See the Report at www.acoss.org.au/.

2011 NSW State Budget

The NSW State Budget will be brought down on Tuesday, 6 September 2011. As in previous years, NCOSS offers support to understand the State Budget through Briefings (in Sydney) and a lot of resources on their website at www.ncoss.org.au.

Disability compounds the disadvantage experienced by Indigenous Australians

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 0 - 64 years have a rate of disability (needing assistance with a core activity) that is 2.4 times that of non-Indigenous people; this rate rises to almost 3 times in the 45 - 54 years age group. A new [report](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737418977&tab=2) at www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737418977&tab=2 analyses these statistics and provides more information on the wellbeing, participation and support of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

Indigenous Australians with severe and profound disability have very low rates of year 12 high school attainment (16%) compared with Indigenous Australians without disability (28%). Comparing these figures with the 49% of people without disability who have completed Year 12 highlights the educational disadvantage experienced by Indigenous people - compounded for Indigenous people with disability.

The educational disadvantage experienced by Indigenous people with disability impacts on employment. The employment rate among Indigenous people with disability is only 13%, significantly lower than among Indigenous people without disability (51%). Disturbingly, 46% of Indigenous Australians with severe or profound core activity limitations report problems accessing service providers.

NDS NSW is conducting the Aboriginal Resources and Pathways project (ARP) to identify and promote effective ways for disability service providers to improve the rates of access and outcomes for Aboriginal people. Further information is available at www.nds.org.au/projects/article/68, or by contacting Dylan Reynolds, NDS NSW Indigenous Programs Manager on 02 9256 3105 or dylan.reynolds@nds.org.au.

Younger people with disability need an alternative to residential aged care

A recently released Report on the Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care at www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737419510 (YPIRAC) Program reports that in 2009/10 the most common reason YPIRAC service users (37%) gave for living in residential aged care was the lack of alternative appropriate accommodation. Only 23% of younger people living in residential aged care indicated they were satisfied with their current accommodation and services. In contrast, 68% of YPIRAC service users living in other types of accommodation were satisfied with their current accommodation and services.

YPIRAC was established by the Council of

Australian Governments in 2006 to address serious concerns about the capacity of residential aged care services to meet the needs of younger people with disability. These concerns included residential aged care facilities:

- not being designed or appropriately funded to meet the needs of younger people;
- staff not necessarily having the required skills to care for people with severe disability; and
- staffing levels and resources not being primarily focus on rehabilitation.

The Report, released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, covers the first four years of the program. During that period (2006/07-2008/09), an estimated 139 of young people moved out of residential aged care to more appropriate accommodation; 207 people were diverted from entering residential aged care; and 409 people remained in residential aged care with additional services.

However, there is still much to be achieved. As at 30 June 2010, 6478 people aged less than 65 years were living in residential aged care facilities - 715 of these were aged less than 50. For more information contact Trish Deane, Policy Adviser, NDS National, on 6283 3208, trish.deane@nds.org.au.

Tell Someone - website on Family Violence

A new website providing information to anyone in the community who may have been hurt by family violence was recently launched. The Tell Someone website educates people with mild intellectual disability, their family and community about family violence.

The information on this website is designed to help people find out what to do and where to go for help.

For more information, visit the [Tell Someone website](http://www.tellsomeone.org.au) at www.tellsomeone.org.au.

Picture of NSW children: now updated with latest births info

The demographic snapshot of NSW children, picture.kids.nsw.gov.au, has now been updated with the latest data on births from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Change Ahead for the Not-For-Profit Sector

Significant changes are ahead which will affect the regulatory environment for not-for-profit organisations. Much of it promises to be positive; but some is controversial. The Government's proposed reforms will require close attention from the sector.

Most controversial is the proposal announced in the 2011 Federal Budget to limit tax concessions for the unrelated commercial activities of charities. The Government says its aims are: to protect tax revenue; to guard charitable assets against risky ventures; and to ensure competitive neutrality with commercial for-profit entities. While the 2011 Federal Budget does not anticipate any increased revenue from the measure, the Government believes that failure to act will incur a cost in terms of lost revenue. At the end of May, it released a consultation paper [Better Targeting of Not-for-Profit Tax Concessions](http://www.treasury.gov.au/content/item.asp?NavId=037&ContentID=2056) at www.treasury.gov.au/content/item.asp?NavId=037&ContentID=2056.

The detail of the legislative change is yet to be revealed, but broadly:

- unless a significant commercial activity has a charitable purpose, access to tax concessions (including FBT exemption) will be denied; and
- unless any surplus from a commercial entity established by a charity is returned to the charity (the parent entity) in the year in which it is generated, it will be taxed.

Source: NDS News Update, 8th August, 2011

Senate Committee Report on Disability and Ageing Released

A new Senate Committee report on disability and ageing has been released.

The [Disability and Ageing: lifelong planning for a better future report](http://fahcsia.us2.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=fd899ebe99e7a7ab04a1b1231&id=c5815ee6af&e=334b8efd21) at fahcsia.us2.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=fd899ebe99e7a7ab04a1b1231&id=c5815ee6af&e=334b8efd21 examines access to options and services to assist people with disability and their carers to plan for the future.

The Community Affairs References Committee

sought to identify ways to support individualised planning through the provision of funding and professional services to assist families to develop life long and sustainable care plans for the future.

The report found that many carers are so consumed by their day-to-day caring role that they have not considered planning for the future. Others find the planning challenge considerable and need support to manage what is a complex and multifaceted task.

In the report the Committee makes a clear distinction between whole-of-life planning and service planning and focuses on innovative planning support schemes that have been developed in the non-government sector.

Leadership Development for People with Disability

Applications are now open for the first intake of participants for the Leaders for Tomorrow Program.

Over a period of 12 months, participants will have access to coaching, mentoring and other leadership development training based on their individual interests and needs. Hunter TAFE was selected as the national provider of the Leaders for Tomorrow Program and, together with E-QUAL (Enhancing Quality), will provide people with disability the opportunity to develop their leadership capacity.

The Leaders for Tomorrow program will be tailored according to each participant's leadership aspirations and needs. Participants will determine their leadership path in consultation with program staff.

The training or support provided will be as broad and varied as the participant's interests and aspirations. This could range from participating in training about governance through to learning the skills of coaching a particular sport.

The program is funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

To download an application pack or for more information visit www.leadersfortomorrow.com.au or for NSW, ACT, VIC and TAS call 1800 887 624.

The Cost of Caring

A new report from the Social Policy Research Centre, [The Cost of Caring and the Living Standards of Carers](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/publicationsarticles/research/socialpolicy/Documents/sprp43/sprp_43.pdf) at www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/publicationsarticles/research/socialpolicy/Documents/sprp43/sprp_43.pdf (PDF 1.20MB), examines both the research methodology and the evidence available to quantify the costs of caring and the living standards of carers.

The Report distinguishes between the indirect costs of caring and the direct costs of disability and caring. Indirect costs of caring are the opportunity costs, time costs, and impacts on carer health. Direct costs of disability and caring are expenses to meet needs that are related to disability such as aids and appliances, medical expenses, home and transport modifications, additional heating and cleaning expenses, treatment for stresses associated with caring, etc.

A substantial body of research highlights the negative impact of caring responsibilities on carers' labour market participation, financial security, social participation, and mental and physical health. These effects are greater for people providing higher levels of support and can linger even after the caring role has ceased.

Research commissioned by Carers Australia estimates the economic value provided by informal carers as \$40 billion per year.

Grants Available for Artists with Disability

Cultivate, a new professional development fund for Australian artists with disability, is seeking applications for grants of up to \$8,000 to cover costs associated with starting or growing a professional practice as an artist. The grant could be used to cover the costs of specific skills or professional development opportunities, professional fees, travel, training or mentoring.

The aim of the funding is to assist a person with disability to be better placed to pursue a professional artistic career and to compete for funding in general arts funding programs.

To apply, a completed application form and support material must be sent to Arts Access

Australia to arrive by 10.00am 12th Sept. Further information is available from [Arts Access Australia](http://www.artsaccessaustralia.org/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=282&cntnt01returnid=15) at www.artsaccessaustralia.org/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=282&cntnt01returnid=15.

Cultivate is an initiative of Arts Access Australia and the Australia Council for the Arts. It is supported by the Australian Government through the Office for the Arts.

Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) Scholarships

MHCC has scholarship places available in the following streams:

- Certificate IV in Mental Health
- Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
- Clinical
- Diploma
- Management

Applications open 1 Aug 2011 and close 10 Oct 2011. All scholarships are worth up to \$2000 and go towards study fees and some associated costs, except for Clinical degree courses which are up to \$5000. The scholarship money can be used at any Registered Training Organisation including MHCC, TAFE or university that offers these courses. For more information go to www.mhcc.org.au/learning-and-training/scholarships.aspx.

National Disability Advocacy Program - Quality Assurance Update

Legislation to implement the new Quality Assurance system for the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) agencies has now been introduced. This legislation introduces mechanisms independent from government to assess the compliance of disability advocacy services against a revised set of Disability Advocacy Standards.

The Final Report of the Evaluation of the Trial of the National Disability Advocacy Program Quality Assurance System is now available at www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/providers/NationalDisabilityAdvocacyProgram/Pages/finalreport_evaltrialofndapqasystem.aspx.

For Your Calendar...

40 hour Famine – 19th to 21st Aug

World Vision Australia holds Australia's biggest youth fundraising events. Go without food or something you love for 40 hours to help kids living in poverty overseas. Contact 1300 303 440

Hearing Awareness Week – 21st -27th Aug

Deafness Forum of Australia hold this event to raise community awareness of hearing impairment and ways to protect your hearing. Contact 6262 7808

Daffodil Day – Friday 26th Aug

Cancer Council of Australia holds this day to raise funds for cancer research

International Day of Disability Event Calendar - 1st Sept

Cut off date for listing of events in calendar

Spina Bifida Awareness Week - 1st to 7th Sept

A week to raise awareness of Spina Bifida and the importance of Folic acid. Contact Phone: 1300 303 212

National Child Protection Week - 4th to 11th Sept

Napcan Foundation claim that a child is abused every 13 minutes. You can help prevent this. Join the thousands of Australians who get involved every year Contact: 9269 9200

White Balloon Day - Wednesday 7th Sept

White Balloon Day is a day of recognition, awareness and support for the victims of child sexual assault and enables education to protect all Aussie kids. Contact: 07 5552 3000

World Suicide Prevention Day - Saturday 10th Sept

Suicide Prevention Australia - This day is about bringing together communities and those bereaved by suicide to demonstrate a commitment to reducing the incidence of suicide in Australia. Contact: 9568 3111

Foster Care Week - 12th to 18th Sept

Association of Children's Welfare Agencies- An annual event that aims to celebrate and acknowledge the work of NSW's foster carers. Contact 9281 8822

Australian Citizenship Day - Saturday 17th Sept

an opportunity for all of us to take pride in our citizenship Contact: 131 880

United Nations International Day of Peace - Wednesday 21st Sept

A global holiday when individuals , communities and governments highlight efforts to end conflict and promote peace Contact: www.internationaldayofpeace.org

Mental Health Month – 1st to 31st October

Mental Health Months main aim is to promote social and emotional wellbeing to the population in NSW, enhancing the coping capacity of communities, families, individuals, and increasing mental health literacy. Contact - 9339 6008.

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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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.

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