



Illawarra & Shoalhaven *DISABILITY NEWS*

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

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July 2011

Ulysses Unite for a Day of Thrills



On Sunday 3rd July, fifteen people with a disability felt on top of the world. Being treated to a day of motorbiking magic by a motorcycle club doesn't happen every day.

Our hearts missed a beat as we heard the soft Harley rumble in the distance behind the high energy and excited voices of our group. We gathered on a perfectly sunny winter morning at the Fairy Meadow Surf Club to be outfitted in the typical bikie get up including jackets, gloves and helmets by the kind members of The Macarthur Branch of Ulysses Club Inc.

"Ulysses have shown a terrific community spirit by contacting The Disability Trust and

telling us that they had many members who were wanting to volunteer to take people out for a ride," said Marianne Saliba, Community Relations Manager of The Disability Trust. "Neville Poulter from Ulysses had the idea that he wanted to share his passion for motorcycling with people who had never experienced the thrill of being on a motorbike. So he contacted me with this in mind and said he would provide as many motorbikes as were required," said Marianne.

Ulysses generosity was also extended on arrival at Cordeaux Dam where the group was cheered on by about twenty more members. Hungry riders and pillion passengers were treated to a delicious BBQ

lunch and refreshments by Dot and her team of support cooks. In all the group must have numbered about 60.

Trevor Northwood, president of Macarthur Branch of Ulysses Club Inc, says the club offers tremendous support to all members. He said many members would be terribly lonely and bored TV addicts if it was not for this club. It offers mateship and support as well as providing outings that get you out enjoying the day. Members develop a passion for life that would otherwise not be there.

One of the participants of the day, Amy commented, "I nearly didn't come because I was worried that I've never been on a motorbike before. But my mum encouraged me to go, she said you'll never know unless you try. So I came and I'm really glad I did."

There was no end to the smiling faces which met family and friends on the group's arrival to Fairy Meadow after their hour long ride to The Oaks and Cordeaux Dam. The event was a great success on all accounts and we look forward to collaborating with Ulysses



Dennis Eagles and Amy also enjoyed the day

again at some point. The generosity of the club is outstanding and they ought to be congratulated. Thank you to all members of Ulysses. You've made our day!

Claudia Bartsch, Facilitator, Wollongong Self Advocacy

Australia's Welfare 2011 Conference

A range of engaging speakers will provide the latest welfare statistics and informed commentary on all areas of community services - aged care, informal care, disabilities, housing and housing assistance, as well as homelessness and child protection - including:

- Simon McKeon, 2011 Australian of the Year
- Father Chris Riley, Founder and CEO, Youth Off The Streets
- Patricia Faulkner, Chair, Australian Social Inclusion Board
- Tony Nicholson, Executive Director, Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Robert Fitzgerald AM, Commissioner, Productivity Commission
- Professor Adam Graycar Dean, Australian National Institute of Public Policy

This national conference is a fantastic opportunity to network.

When - Thursday 24 Nov 2011
at the National Convention Centre
Constitution Avenue, Canberra.

For more information see;

<http://www.cvent.com/d/2dqUHIR9XUK3MSV7TBSGJA/0n7q/P1/1Q>



Michael and Zoren also enjoyed a great ride.



Ulysses member David Arts and Sharon

ME/CFS/FM Support Group

Myalgic Encephalopathy / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome / Fibromyalgia

Support Group Meetings are on 1st Saturday of the month.

Time - Morning tea at 10am, meeting 10:30am to 12.00.

BYO Lunch after the meeting for a social chat. So, join us at whatever time you can manage.

Where - Greenacres Centre, 8 Rowland Ave, West Wollongong. There are no stairs, and there is plenty of free street parking.

Meetings include distribution of information, guest speakers, workshops, sharing time, library, hobby talks, 5 min gentle stretching session, news of Group activities and more.

For more information contact Wollongong ME/CFS/FM Support Group Coordinators John & Winsome or "Noticeboard" Editor Kerri on ph/fax: 4284 8890 or email mecfsfmwollongong@gmail.com.

Spark Festival



The Junction Works Limited is holding its annual SPARK Creative Arts festival for people with a disability on 26th to 28th October

2011. This very successful festival has been held every year since 2004.

The festival offers creative art forms, skill building and increasing friendship opportunities to people with disabilities and also provides respite to families over a 3 day period.

SPARK festival being held again at the The Tops Conference Centre at Stanwell Park and the cost is \$280 per person.

If you have any enquiries or for a registration form please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Stapleton, The Junction Works Ltd, Administration Officer, ph 9606 9628, fax 9 6 0 6 9 2 9 6 or email amandas@thejunctionworks.org.

Mini Olympics

The 4th Annual Mini Olympics For People With Special Needs is to be held at the Kerryn McCann Athletics Facility, Beaton Park, Wollongong on Thursday the 20th October 2011.

Registration forms will soon be sent out. Anyone wishing to enter or if you need more information you can ring Alan Jones on 0418 668 060 or to register on email alanjones@essentialpersonnel.com

All service providers are welcome to enter willing athletes. The event is also for schools and for any other organization who assist people with special needs.

Individuals are also welcome.

Catholiccare Family Relationship Services

Wollongong Workshops for Term 3

- Kids and Me - for parents who have had children removed from their care
- Teens and Parents - Building Bridges
- Parents, Kids and Anger
- Keeping Kids in mind (post separation)
- 123 Magic and Emotion Coaching
- Grassroots Parenting
- Rollercoaster (post separation)

Nowra Workshops for Term 3

- Keeping Kids in Mind (post separation)
- Poppy Playgroup - for mothers with mental health issues and their children 0 - 5 years. Cost free
- Teens and Parents - Building Bridges

For bookings or information call:

Wollongong 4227 1122

Nowra 4421 8248

Limited childcare may be available for some workshops.



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.



The Information Services Team – Melinda, Claudia, Jill and Sean

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.

NSW Carer Awards



Dare to imagine life without carers? Did you know that over one in 10 people in NSW are carers? They make an enormous and often unrecognised

contribution to our community.

Now it's time to show them how much we appreciate them - with a nomination for a NSW Carers Award.

Over 150 carers in local and state celebrations during Carers Week will be presented with an Award in Carers Week celebrated from 16 – 23 October 2011.

Nominations are open until 5pm Friday 22 July. The awards recognise carers for making a positive contribution to the lives of the people they care for and the broader contribution they make to the community.

Categories for the awards include Senior Carer, Caring Partner, Young Carer, Carer-Friendly Workplace, Carer Support Group, Caring Family or Parent, Caring Volunteer or Community Member and Caring School.

Eight carers representing each of the categories will receive an award at a prestigious state ceremony to be held in Sydney on 17 October 2011.

Carers can be parents, partners, brothers, sisters, friends, sons or daughters. Their dedication supporting children or adults who have a disability, mental illness, drug and alcohol dependency, chronic condition, terminal illness or who are frail should be recognised and celebrated.

To register online go to <http://www.adhcv.au/>

NSW Companion Card



The NSW Companion Card has now been issued to more than 10,000 people who require the assistance of a carer when they need to travel on public transport or attend functions. The card is improving social inclusion and access because it enabled people with a disability to take their carers on public transport and to events without charge.

The Companion Card is issued to residents of New South Wales with a significant and permanent disability who are unable to participate in most community based activities without significant help. Eligibility for the Card is based on the physical needs of the person with a disability and is not means-tested.

With its recent profile on Facebook, Companion Card regularly receives positive feedback from cardholders, carers and families about the new places and positive experiences they have had using their Companion Card.

A parent commented that they took their daughter to a football game for something different to do. They wrote that they loved the cheerleaders and music and now she has her Companion Card they won't have those moments trying to prove that she has a disability.

Further details can be obtained from the Companion Card information line on 1800 893 044.

New Web Resource Page on Disability and Sports

The new Disability and Sports web page on the United Nations Enable website highlights the unique ability of sport to transcend linguistic and cultural barriers making it an excellent platform for strategies for advancing inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in society and development. It also draws attention to the universal popularity of sport and its physical, social and economic development benefits that make it an ideal tool for fostering the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities.

The web page also provides links to publications, as well as links to related websites. Along with Member States and civil society, DESA have organized a panel discussion at UN Headquarters to discuss issues on how to tap the potential of sports to promote disability-inclusive development and raise public awareness.

More information: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1563>.

South East NGO Forum

28th July 2011 - Queanbeyan.

An interim NGO working party has been meeting to work with the South East Regional Coordination Unit of Department of Premier & Cabinet to establish a one day NGO Forum with the hope this will develop into an annual event.

The aims of the Forum are to provide the opportunity to share successful strategies across the region, engage and strengthen the service network, foster collaboration and build the capacity of the Sector. We are planning to run facilitated workshops throughout the day looking at local and regional issues collated from the NGO survey recently completed.

Contact Michelle McGoverne, Regional Project Manager-Keep Them Safe, Ph 6229 7 8 0 7 or email Michelle.McGoverne@dpc.nsw.gov.au or Jane Beaumont, Project Manager of Dept of Premier and Cabinet, ph 6229 7810 for any questions.

Workshops and Conferences

2 & 3 August 2011 Supporting People with Intellectual Disability who are Risk of Contact with the Criminal Justice System – Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, NSW, Department of Human Services: ADHC, Office of the Professional Practitioner. Training. No cost. To register for this workshop contact disabilityjusticetraining@dhs.nsw.gov.au.

9 - 11 August 2011 National Respite Conference. Twin Towns Clubs & Resort, Queensland. National Respite Association Inc. (formerly Interchange Respite Care) <http://www.interchangensw.com.au/>.

10 - 11 August 2011 CAREX 2001 Sydney. Rosehill Racecourse, Main Grandstand. FREE event. Australia's Premier Health & Aged Care Expo For more information see www.totalagedservices.com.au/sydney.asp.

18 - 19 August 2011 Australasia Pacific Play Therapy Association (APPTA) Conference. Four Points Sheraton, Geelong. Australasia Pacific Play Therapy Association (APPTA). <http://www.appta.org.au/>

24 - 26 August 2011 12th International Mental Health Conference. Radisson Resort. Gold Coast, Cararra, Australia. Australian & New Zealand Mental Health Association. <http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/conference2011/index.html>.

24 - 28 August 2011 World Congress for Psychotherapy. Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychotherapy. New Zealand Association of Psychotherapists Te Roopu Whakaora Hinengaro. Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia. <http://www.wcp2011.org/>.

29 August 2011 Teaching Strategies & Behaviour Support Autism/Asperger's Syndrome. Cardiff Panthers Club, Cardiff, Newcastle. Contact Educare 1300 887 776 or Educare-Admin@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au.

30 & 31 August 2011 Supporting People with Intellectual Disability who are Risk of Contact with the Criminal Justice System – ADHC Offices Parramatta, Department of Human Services: ADHC, Office of the

Professional Practitioner. Training. No cost. Bookings : disabilityjusticetraining@dhs.nsw.gov.au.

5 - 6 September 2011 Disability Employment Forum. Hilton Sydney. <http://www.nds.org.au/events/page/2?s=NSW>

6 - 9 September 2011 21st Annual The MHS Conference. Adelaide Convention Centre. Mental Health Services Conference. <http://www.themhs.org/>

8 - 10 September 2011 Asia Pacific Autism Conference. Burswood Resort, Perth. Autism Association of Western Australia. Australian Autism Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders <http://www.apac11.org/>.

29 September 2011 Master of Health Science (Developmental Disability) Information Session for 2012 Intake. New Law Seminar Room 102. University of Sydney www.sydney.edu.au/health_sciences/developmental_disability Inquiries: Associate Professor Roger Stancliffe at roger.stancliffe@sydney.edu.au.

30 September 2011 Developmental Disabilities and Challenging Behaviour: Research to practice and Policy. University of Sydney Camperdown Campus. Enquiries can be directed to Imelda Noti (Imelda.noti@sydney.edu.au) or Prof. Stewart Einfeld, Convenor (stewart.einfeld@sydney.edu.au). Registrations will open in July 2011.

3- 4 November 2011 PANDDA 2011 Conference, Sebel Hotel, Church Street Parramatta, NSW. Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia. www.pandda.net Proudly sponsored by Global Disability & Health Care Services. www.GlobalCareStaff.com

Introduction to Visuals



Getting Started with Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

Ever wanted to use visuals, but have no idea where to start? Come along and hear from ADHC Speech Pathologists who support

people to use them for successful communication. Help support learning for everyone – children, people with additional needs and communication difficulties, people learning English, elderly people...

When: Wednesday 24 August 2011

Where: Ageing Disability & Home Care (ADHC) offices, Level 3, 7-11 Bridge St, Coniston

Time: 4pm – 6pm

RSVP: to Wynette on 42220380 by Friday 19th August

Free workshop. Light refreshments provided. Limited places available.

Learn To Speak Up For Yourself



Wollongong Self Advocacy will be presenting a guest speaker, Rachel from IDEAS NSW at the next meeting. Rachel will speak

at a number of information sessions for people with a disability. The first session will be on Sat 6 August.

IDEAS is an information and advocacy service for people with disability. Their job is to help people find out about the things that they need. They also help people to speak up for themselves.

When Rachel attends the meeting we will talk about

- your human rights
- how you can speak up for your rights
- what rights are important to you
- what rights you would like to talk more about at the other information sessions to follow.

This will be a practical introduction to Self Advocacy designed for people with a disability. The workshops focus on developing and enhancing your self advocacy skills. Everyone is welcome.

Participants will be encouraged to share opinions, thoughts and experiences in order to build confidence and empowerment.

Where - The Builders Club, Church St, Wollongong

Time - 2pm-3pm

To register - phone Claudia on 4295 9806 (Mon - Wed) by 2nd Aug. Numbers are limited.

Mental Health Commission

In the past few months, both the NSW and Federal Government have announced their intention to establish Mental Health Commissions. In NSW, Government has convened a Mental Health Taskforce to plan and establish a Mental Health Commission.

Whilst commissions can vary as to their structure and how long they operate (can be indefinite or time-limited) they usually share some commonalities. For instance, Commissions are independent of Government yet they have the ability to influence decision makers. In addition, most mental health commissions exist to monitor and improve mental health services.

It is well recognised that mental health commissions will need to put mental health consumers at the centre of any model they do decide to use. NSW CAG is interested in hearing your thoughts and we have set up an online survey where you can tell us how you think a Mental Health Commission in NSW should work. You can access the survey here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G7K2Q7G>.

For those who want to participate but who don't have access to the internet, please call 9332 0200 and ask to speak to a member of the Policy Team. All feedback will be provided to the Mental Health Taskforce in order to inform the planning and establishment of the Commission.

NSW CAG's survey has been endorsed by the Mental Health Taskforce. The Taskforce is also surveying community members; to learn more about the Commission and to complete the Taskforce's survey, please see www.health.nsw.gov.au.

Disability and Ageing: lifelong planning for a better future

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee is examining the planning options and services available now and in the future to assist people with a disability, and their carers, plan for the long-term. In particular, it seeks to assist carers to find an adequate answer to the question: 'What happens when I / we can no longer care?'

Download the report at [www.ncoss.org.au/mail/HACC/110713_Report.pdf](mailto:HACC/110713_Report.pdf).

Child Safe Child Friendly Workshops

The NSW Commission for Children run Child Safe Organisations workshop for Managers, Directors and HR staff in organisations that work with children and young people, including welfare, child care, education, sports, recreation and arts.

The workshop will help you gain an understanding of what your organisation needs to do to help make it Child Safe. For dates and locations of training go to www.kids.nsw.gov.au/kids/resources/trainingevents/childsafeworkshops.cfm.

Aboriginal Jobs Together – Expression of Interest

Aboriginal Jobs Together is a partnership initiative between the NSW and Australian Governments and the non-government sector designed to increase Aboriginal employment in the sector, build the capacity of the sector to employ Aboriginal people and assist Aboriginal people to meet the skill requirements of non-government organisations. Under this initiative National Disability Services (NDS) is seeking to build partnerships with up to 30 disability and community care organisations to provide Traineeship and Cadetship opportunities for 110 Aboriginal people across NSW.

NDS is currently seeking Expressions of Interest from NDS Member organisations interested in accommodating one or more supported Traineeship and/or Cadetship placements. The contact at NDS should you

have any inquiries is Dylan Reynolds. Dylan can be contacted on 9265 3105 or at dylan.reynolds@nds.org.au.

Research into traineeships/ apprenticeships for people with disability

NDS is part of a consortium - with Group Training Australia, EDGE Employment Solutions and Curtin University (the lead researcher) - that is investigating the economic and social outcomes for young people with disability who complete traineeships or apprenticeships.

Disability Employment Services are asked for their assistance to recruit participants by reviewing their client registers to identify people with disability who completed an apprenticeship or traineeship in 2009, 2010, or to date in 2011.

After contacting NDS with the potential number of participants, the DES will be put in contact with the researchers at Curtin University and asked to forward a recruitment letter and a survey to possible participants.

If potential participants agree to be part of the research they will be asked to complete the survey (it takes up to 20 minutes) and return it in a reply-paid envelope. They will also be asked to complete additional surveys in 2012 and 2013. A small number (who volunteer) will also participate in a face-to-face interview.

Each participant will receive a \$60 gift voucher (choice of Coles Myer Group, JB Hi-Fi, or iTunes) for each survey or interview they participate in.

Contact NDS on 9256 3111 or go to www.nds.org.au for more information.

Making caring a career

The carecareers online recruitment service has opened up a whole new world of possibilities for thousands of people.

Read about how carecareers helped Tirtha Raj Khatiwada find a job in the community care and disability sector. More info at www.carecareers.com.au.

NSW Government consults the Community

The NSW Government has commenced a process of consultation, as it moves towards individualised funding arrangements for people with a disability. The consultation started with the Living Life My Way summit held on the 7th and 8th of July where 500 people gathered at ACER Arena. It was an opportunity for people with a disability, their families and carers to share their views on how we can achieve person centred approaches.

The Government intends to move away from a one-size-fits-all service system to one in which people receive truly individualised, natural and creative supports so they can achieve meaningful goals based on their own preferences.

As part of a wider consultation process, the NSW Government has planned over a hundred consultations for the coming months. The outcomes of the consultations will be reported back to the participants. The information provided at these sessions will inform the Government as to what new roles and tools are required to assist people to make informed decisions.

For more information go to www.cvent.com/events/nsw-government/event-summary-59efdf178997466a9a2eef5e135d6057.aspx.

Illawarra Family Referral Service (FRS)

The Family Referral Service – an early intervention service for families in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee Regions – is now open. The FRS provides services to both the agencies supporting families in need, and directly to the families. Straightforward referrals are managed by the telephone service. More complex referrals are followed up by our FRS workers. FRS workers are based in Wollongong, Nowra and Bowral and they work closely with families to support them accessing services for up to six weeks.

All enquiries call 1800 663 863 or email familyreferral@barnardos.org.au If service providers would like postcards and brochures for their service contact Kerry Wilcock,

Illawarra FRS, Barnardos South Coast Children Family Centre Warrawong, call 4275 8575.

Senate Committee divided on new DSP eligibility measure

From 3 September, Disability Support Pension (DSP) claimants who are assessed as having some work capacity will have to provide evidence that they have participated in an employment program before being eligible for DSP.

A Bill containing the controversial measure was referred to a Senate Committee for a brief inquiry. Today the Committee reported, recommending that "an Advisory Group engaging community organisations be established to work with government on the implementation of the DSP changes."

The measure was originally announced in the 2010 Federal Budget and scheduled for introduction on 1 January 2012. The 2011 Budget brought forward the measure by four months.

The measure has some positive features. While a critically important safety net, the DSP is also a trap for some people. The average length of time on DSP is 12 years and only 9% of DSP recipients receive any income from paid employment. The Budget measure is likely to encourage more people into employment.

In addition, the measure in effect recognises the unreliability of assessing a person's 'future work capacity' in the abstract. 45% of people who apply for DSP have not previously participated in an employment service or a rehabilitation service. Thus, it's unclear whether or not they would benefit from disability employment services' skill at motivating and preparing job seekers and at working with employers to identify or design suitable positions.

Renamed Family and Community Services

The Department of Human Services NSW, of which Ageing, Disability and Home Care is a part, has been renamed the Department of Family and Community Services.

NDIS Campaign Grows Louder



Every Australian Counts is the campaign for the introduction of a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The NDIS will revolutionise the way people with a disability, their families and carers are supported in this country. The NDIS will be a new support system for people with a disability, their families and carers.

Earlier this month radio advertisements promoting the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will commence across Australia. National radio networks including Macquarie Radio and DMG (which includes Nova and Classic Rock) will broadcast three community service ads in rotation. A key theme will contrast the right to medical treatment in Australia with the absence of a similar right to disability support.

Recently, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference voiced its support. "One of the hoped outcomes of the proposed NDIS will be to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people with disability, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity," the Catholic Bishops said.

We need to keep spreading the word amongst our local communities about the need for the NDIS and keep the pressure on our local Federal MPs. By 31 July the Productivity Commission will hand their final report to Government. By law the government has to give its response to the report by 23 November.

Register to host a DisabiliTea on 2 August. This will help draw attention to the delivery of the Productivity Commission's final report on Disability Care and Support to the Federal Government. The delivery of the final Productivity Commission report signifies a watershed moment in the campaign. We want to bring campaigners together to plan how they are going to spread the message about the need for the NDIS to politicians.

Anyone can host a tea at your home with your friends, family, neighbours and carers. Organisations big and small can host a tea

and invite clients, staff, supporters and local community members. You could even invite your MP to hear first hand how the NDIS could revolutionise disability services.

416 organisations and individuals (so far), have registered to run DisabiliTEA events on 2 August. At least 12,000 people (including MPs) are expected to attend. This will help draw attention to the delivery of the Productivity Commission's final report on Disability Care and Support to the Federal Government. To register and get more information, go to www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au/disabilitea.

Australian Disability Enterprises – Capital Fund

The selection criteria has been announced for Australian Disability Enterprises Capital Fund. As part of its 2011-12 Budget measures for Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs), the Federal Government announced provision of a small capital fund of \$500,000.

The capital fund aims to deliver innovative employment outcomes, encourage further skill development and enhance career options for supported employees in ADEs.

The maximum amount of capital funding to be granted per organisation will be \$20,000 (ex GST). Organisations will need to demonstrate how the purchase will increase the business viability of the enterprise. There will be a competitive selection process conducted within the next six months including a four-week application period followed by a two-week assessment period. Applications will be called for in a future edition of FaHCSIA disAbility e-news located at www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/employers/Pages/disAbilitye-news.aspx.

Warranties explained

Purchased goods on sale recently? Go to www.workingcarers.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1263:warrantiesexplained&catid=76:money&Itemid=366 for more details on the protection for products you may have bought. Source: Work 'n' Care Newsletter from the Working Carers Gateway at www.workingcarers.org.au.

Survey highlights the cost of quality service standards

New research (www.nds.org.au/asset/view_document/979319585) estimates that cumbersome and repetitive accountability processes are costing the not-for-profit sector more than 2.7 million hours annually. This key finding of the research undertaken by BNG NGO Services/Bradfield Nyland Group, supported by the Councils of Social Services, is based on most organisations reporting the staff time spent on compliance to be more than 280 hours per year. Work undertaken to achieve compliance is not included in this estimate.

An important contributor to the compliance burden is the fact that more than 85 per cent of organisations in the survey (a total of 134 participants) were undertaking duplicate multiple standards assessments and compliance reports against quality or service standards. This is the result, in part, of the fact that there are more than 50 sets of quality standards applying to community services across the country.

In addition to compliance with standards, organisations are required to submit detailed information about their funding agreements. The survey showed that the vast majority of organisations were required to complete multiple activity, performance and outcomes reports; more than 13 per cent completed more than 25 specific or separate reports and 21 per cent undertook between 8 - 20 reports.

A number of Australian governments have committed to reducing red tape encountered by the not-for-profit sector. This report demonstrates why this work is long overdue.

Nominations sought for the 2011 ADE Excellence Award

Do you know an Australian Disability Enterprise that has made a significant contribution to encouraging people with disability to participate to their full potential in employment?

The Award is now open for nominations and will close at 5:00pm on Sunday 31 July 2011.

The Excellence Award recognises, encourages and promotes the significant

contribution that Australian Disability Enterprises make in improving the lives of people with disability. The Award also acknowledges the dual focus of Disability Enterprises as viable businesses and providing high quality employment to people with disability.

The awards have been streamlined into one overall category this year—the Australian Disability Enterprises Excellence Award.

The 2011 award winner will be announced on 5 September 2011 at the National Disability Services Employment Forum to be held at the Hilton Hotel, Sydney.

To download a nomination form or to find out more about the Award you can excellenceawards@fahcsia.gov.au or visit the [FaHCSIA website](http://fahcsia.gov.au).

New assessment to stream job seekers

From 1 July 2011, a new Employment Services Assessment will replace Job Capacity Assessment (JCA) for job seekers referred to employment programs. The policy and administrative control of JCA will transfer from DEEWR to FACHSIA and be managed by Centrelink which will be the sole provider of JCAs. Only Disability Support Pension applicants will be subject to JCA.

DEEWR has explained that the new Employment Services Assessment will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of job seeker streaming, while retaining a large degree of continuity with the existing process.

The format of an Employment Services Assessment (ESAt) is identical to the format of the current 'standard' Job Capacity Assessment. ESAts will continue to identify job seekers' barriers to work (including medical conditions) and work capacity in the same way as JCAs before 1 July 2011.

ESAt reports will also contain the same type of information as JCA reports before 1 July 2011. All assessments will continue to be conducted by allied health professionals such as psychologists and registered nurses. All individuals referred to Disability Employment Services will have undergone a 'medical' ESAt.

Duty of Care DVD

An eight minute DVD for community care and allied health workers which clearly explains the complex concept of duty of care.

The DVD explores typical dilemmas, such as challenging behaviour, medication and privacy, which workers might face with their clients and offers a simple and effective process to attempt to solve those dilemmas without impinging on the rights of individual clients.

The resource can be purchased from: Ideas That Work email: ideas@ideasthatwork.com.au web: www.ideasthatwork.com.au.

Cost: \$87.00 plus postage and handling.

For Your Calendar...

Fragile X Awareness Day - 22nd July

Fragile X Association hold this day to raise awareness of Fragile X Syndrome, the most common cause of inherited intellectual disability. Contact 1300 394 636.

Stress Down Day – 23rd July

Lifeline Australia hold an annual fundraising event to encourage people and their workplaces to have fun and participate in stress reducing activities. Contact 6215 9410.

National Tree Day – 31st July

Planet Ark hold Australia's biggest community tree planting event. Contact 1300 885 000

Anxiety Disorders Week – 2nd Aug

Anxiety Recovery Centre Victoria holds

seminars, support and social and promotional activities to mark this awareness week.

Jeans 4 Genes Day – 5th Aug

A major fundraiser of The Children's Medical Research Institute. Contact 1800 677 260

iDO Expo – 11th Aug

The single biggest event in the area for disability services to provide information to the community. Held at The Builder's Club, Wollongong. Contact Brett Fahey 4225 3478

Brain Injury Awareness Week – 15th- 21st Aug

Brain Injury Australia holds this event every year. This year's theme is "Acquired Brain Injury and The Criminal Justice System". Contact 9591 1094

40 hour Famine – 20th 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 – 26th Aug

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

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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