



Illawarra & Shoalhaven *DISABILITY NEWS*

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

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June 2011

Access All Areas



International Day of People With Disability came with a unique and impressionable experience for me last year – the rebirth of cinema as I

knew it. Accessible technologies, like audio description and captions, made this film fest a little different from the rest.

For people who like their cinema a little bit alternative – a little bit outré and accessible – the Access All Areas Film Festival is the event.

For an event focusing on people with a disability, what better way than with cinema-going – a social, access-friendly, community activity – and 100 per cent Aussie flicks?

Coordinated by events group The Festivalists, the film fest brings the concept of cinema into a new life by offering accessible technologies that enable just about anyone to become a part of the experience.

In its third year running, the festival brought

accessible cinema to film-goers across NSW – in Orange, Wagga Wagga, Parramatta and Sydney – over 12 days. The festival concluded on International Day of People With Disability at Dendy Opera Quays, with the screening of Aussie film *Summer Coda* (a romantic tale set against the stunning orange groves of sun-baked Mildura).

Special guests on the night included 2010 Don't DIS My ABILITY campaign ambassador Rachel Lazarov, who has a vision impairment and prosthetic legs, and film director extraordinaire Richard Gray (*Summer Coda*), who flew in from Melbourne.

As my first experience in a fully accessible theatre, the mixture of disability types, which had been considered at the event, was an example of perhaps a changing culture in Oz.

The accessible technologies available included captions, Auslan sign language, audio description, a hearing loop and accessible seating (actually allowing people in wheelchairs to sit next to loved ones, as opposed to directly under the cinema screen).

Not only has this event educated and brought awareness to cinema enthusiasts (some of

them without any knowledge or experience of disability), it has also allowed families, friends and partners to share with them one of the most accessed and basic leisurely experiences of people across Australia.

If I could request an encore I would, but one which would surpass age and geographic location, bringing festivals and theatre experiences like this to everyone – no matter their ability.

Alyssa Gill is a freelance journalist and public relations practitioner. She has worked in the non-profit industry for most of her career, including arranging events and support services for people with disability.

Article by Alyssa Gill from Link Disability Magazine April 2011. Subscriptions to Link can be done at

www.linkonline.com.au

or by phoning (08) 8210 3223.

Barnardos Early Years Home Support Service (BEYHSS)



Practical and emotional support to families.

BEYHSS is a volunteer home visiting service which assists families in the

Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama local government areas.

The aim of the service is to provide support and skill development to parents at the earliest possible opportunity, before serious difficulties arise.

Support is provided for a limited period of time, generally 3 - 6 months. To be eligible families must have children aged 0 – 5 years with an emphasis on families with newborn babies.

BEYHSS is funded by Families NSW. Volunteers fulfill a formally designated role within this service type and do not re-place the work of professional staff.

Families eligible for referral to the BEYHSS program may;

- Have limited or no local networks to

support them in caring for children under the age of five.

- Be socially isolated and/or have limited family support.
- Have one partner working long hours.
- Be single parent families.
- Be having difficulties with practising consistent parenting or are lacking confidence in their parenting.
- Lack access to community services.
- Be transport isolated.
- Need support with routines and boundary setting.

Contact – Barnardos 4275 8575 for a referral form. Families can self-refer. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Vergan or Kristen Phillips on 4275 8575.

EarlyStart: Diagnosis Support Program



We all want our children to be happy, safe and healthy. The EarlyStart Diagnosis Support Program supports many different families. Sometimes

after a child is diagnosed with a disability, disorder or developmental delay, parents may experience a time where they are waiting to receive ongoing assistance or treatment.

Any family with children aged 0-5yrs old, who has just been diagnosed, or is in the process of being diagnosed with a disorder, disability or developmental delay, can be referred to the EarlyStart Diagnosis Support Program.

You can call us to self-refer to the program, or you can ask a community service or specialist/ mainstream children service to refer you to our program.

How does the program work?

An EarlyStart Support Worker will talk to you



about what is working well, what you need additional support with, and where you would like assistance. Together we will plan the services and supports that are just right for your family.

Any questions can be directed to Kellie Thompson, Mission Australia, EarlyStart Diagnosis Support Program Mob 0428 709 122 or email:

thompsonk@missionaustralia.com.au.

Volunteer Family Home Visiting Program

ANGLICARE Shoalhaven

ANGLICARE's Families NSW Volunteer Home Visiting Program is seeking interested people to join this well recognised and successful program which is now operating in its 7th year throughout the Shoalhaven LGA. Free training & support provided.

Volunteers have received skills & confidence in serving their local community, with many going on to paid employment & studying opportunities. Not to mention the great benefits to the families who have been the recipients of the program, some of which have reciprocated the support and have become volunteers themselves.

A commitment of only 2 hours per week in school terms and the willingness to connect to others is all that is needed.

To register your interest call ANGLICARE today on 4423 1018.

Training will be held each Wednesday (9.30am-2.30pm) for 7 weeks in North Nowra from 20 July 2011 to 31st Aug 2011.

Change of Address

House With No Steps, Nowra has relocated from its previous location of 38 Worrigeer St, Nowra to

122 Plunkett St, Nowra, NSW, 2541.

Phone- 4423 2076

Manager- Shane Baker, Mob 0404 490 613

Email- sbaker@hwns.com.au



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.

An Introduction To Boccia- Level 0 Accreditation



bocciaaustralia

An information session for parents, teachers, coaches, volunteers and organizations.

Boccia is a skilful, exciting and strategic sport that was developed specifically to cater to people with high levels of physical impairment. Possessing pathways right through to Paralympic competition, boccia is a truly inclusive sport that can be enjoyed by all!

The aim of this session is to introduce you to the sport of boccia and a brief and accurate explanation as to how the sport is played.

When: Friday 24th June, 2011

Where: Heining Hall, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princess Highway, Dapto

Time: 10am – 2pm

What to bring: Casual wear and closed in shoes i.e. trainers

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Peter King – Boccia Australia Development Officer on 0418 467 702 or via email pking@cerebralpalsy.org.au.



Come and Try The Sport of Boccia

Everyone is welcome to this free opportunity. The aim of this day is to introduce you to the sport of boccia and provide an opportunity to play it in a fun-filled, social atmosphere.

When: Thursday 14th July, 2011

Where: Wollongong University (at the Sports Hub, Building 9, P6 for parking)

Time: 10am start – 4pm finish

What to bring: Yourself (all equipment provided)

For more information contact Peter King – Boccia Australia Development Officer on 0418 467 702 or via email pking@cerebralpalsy.org.au.

2011 National Disability Awards

Nominations for the 2011 National Disability Awards have been extended!



The new closing date is now 5pm AEST Friday 29 July 2011. The National Disability Awards are part of the Australian Government's celebration of International Day of People with Disability.

The Awards recognise people with disability who have achieved something remarkable or made a significant contribution to their community, and people or groups within the community who have contributed to the disability sector or improved access and inclusion.

Further information, including nomination forms, are available at <http://www.idpwd.com.au/index.php/awards>.

People with Intellectual Disability in Mental Health Reform

The federal budget initiatives on mental health are silent on the stark disadvantage faced by people who have both an intellectual disability and a mental illness. The National and NSW Councils for Intellectual Disability launched a position statement <http://www.nswcid.org.au/standard-english/se-pages/health.html>.

They have asked for interested people to please email key politicians to call for action on the mental health needs of people with intellectual disability. People with intellectual disability have high rates of mental illness but very poor access to mental health services who tend to see them as too difficult or the responsibility of disability services. Mental health and disability services need help and training from experts in intellectual disability mental health, but we need more of this expertise in Australia. For more information go to <http://www.nswcid.org.au/>.

Diet and Autism: Help for Fussy Eaters

Experienced Accredited Practising paediatric dietitian, Paula Tazzyman, will discuss some of the reasons why children with ASD are difficult to feed and ways to improve their nutritional status.



When: Monday July 18th, 2011

Where: Catholic Care Wollongong - 25 Auburn St, Wollongong

Time: 10am for 1hr + Q&A

Cost: \$10

RSVP: 4227 1122 Charity Duncan by

Monday July 11, 2011
charityd@catholiccare.woll.catholic.org.au

About the presenter:

Paula Tazzyman graduated from the University of Sydney in 1995 with a Masters in Nutrition & Dietetics. Paula has worked with children for over 12 years at Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme assisting with advice on management of behavioural, attention and concentration issues.

Paula also has worked in private practice in Sydney's Abbotsford since 1997. She sees children with a wide range of diet related conditions as well as adults. In 2011 Paula joined the team at The Autism Specific Clinic as their dietitian.

"How can I know what someone else needs?"

When - Thursday 28th July, 9am - 4.30pm

Where - North Ryde RSL Club, Cnr Pittwater & Magdala Rds, North Ryde, NSW 2113

Cost - \$150 per person or \$130 per person for 3 or more people from the same organization.

We all need help at times, to work out what we need. People with multiple disabilities, those with profound communication impairment and others whose impairments or

life experiences compromise their decision making often have to rely on others for wise guidance and help interpreting their needs. People who are very marginalized need allies with a thoughtful approach so they achieve their full potential and valued social roles.

In this workshop, "How can I know what Someone Else needs?" you will take a close look at how one might get to know and effectively understand the needs of another person - the heart of what it means to authentically work with the person at the "centre". You will also consider what can be put in place to safeguard people and the process.

Service leaders, support workers, family members, and advocates especially those working on behalf of children or adults whose decision making or communication is impaired, such as through intellectual disability, mental illness, brain injury, dementia or physical impairment.

The facilitator, John Armstrong is a very well regarded presenter coming with a wealth of experience as an educator in the disability and advocacy fields. Participants typically love his engaging and entertaining manner through which he imparts perspectives, approaches and strategies important for optimising their work and other efforts.

For information see <http://longwalk.info/FF/docs/How%20can%20I%20know%20July%202011%20flier.pdf> or call Wendy on 0405 071 577. RSVP by Friday 15th July 2011.

iDO Expo - Illawarra Disability Options Expo

This is the single biggest event in the area for disability services to provide information to the community! Keep this date open.



When - Wed 10th August, 9.30am - 2pm

Where - The Builder's Club, 61 Church St, Wollongong

Contact Brett Fahey on to register to attend on 4225 3478 or at brettf@greenac.com.au.

2011 National Respite Conference



Attention Managers, Coordinators, Direct Care Workers

The National Respite Association is pleased to present the 2011 National Respite Conference, a non-profit event developed exclusively for the benefit of staff from the public, community-managed and non-government organisations. The conference is here to enhance your skills in providing services to carers and their care recipients.

Delegates will have the chance to hear from industry leaders, specialists, and people with lived experience on topics ranging from carer panels and care recipients panels. This year we have a new group of invigorated speakers from a diversity of areas covering aged care, aboriginal specific experts, neuroscience and natural therapy areas, and those from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds. The aim being to enhance your practical skills and strategies to better support carers and care recipients.

For more information or to register contact the National Respite Association Inc (formerly Interchange Respite Care NSW) Ph 02 9789 1 3 4 8 or email admin@nationalrespite.com.au, website at www.interchangensw.com.au

Get the Early Bird Registration Price – Deadline is 30th June 2011.

Friendly Faces Helping Hands

A new website designed to network rural communities and its people to the major hospitals and health facilities. The website provides information on accommodation, parking, cheap eats, childcare and other facilities that are located around each metropolitan hospital, as well as links to support networks, social workers and



counsellors.

The website is available for everyone and in the future will have phone advocacy to support those lacking computer skills and internet access. The website is easy to use. Just select your state and then choose the hospital. Under each hospital you can then select parking, transport, accommodation, restaurants, supermarkets, arcade of shops (florists, newsagents, childcare and other shops) also a large selection of support networks such as Angel Flight and Sisters of Charity. You can also read a brief outline on the Hospital and find telephone numbers to help find Social workers who can also assist.

The address is www.friendlyfaces.info.

For more information please contact Friendly Faces Helping Hands on 0457 175 888.

NSW Government Moves Towards Individualised Funding For Disabilities

A two day summit will be held next month, as the O'Farrell Government looks to implement one of its key reforms to the disabilities sector. Minister for Ageing and Disability Services, Andrew Constance, said individualised funding packages would put carers and people with a disability at the centre of decision-making.

“Under the O'Farrell Government's proposal, people with a disability won't be dictated to by bureaucrats when it comes to the services they receive,” Mr Constance said. “This will put carers and people with a disability in control of their funding arrangements.”

A two day summit will be held on the 7th and 8th of July to start the important process of consultation. “The summit will be the catalyst for a significant program of over 100 consultation sessions which will be held throughout NSW over the second half of this year,” Mr Constance said. “It'll give us the information we need to make sure we are delivering what people want.”

After this phase of the consultation, the feedback would be analysed to produce a draft person centred model for NSW.

“The O'Farrell Government is committed to

building the strongest client-focused service arrangements in the country.”

The NSW Government has committed \$2 billion in new growth funding to implement the second phase of Stronger Together, which will see the roll-out of more than 47,000 new disability services and places between 2011 and 2016.

If you would like to attend the summit contact Maja Patooron on 8270 2207 or email maja.patoor@dhs.nsw.gov.au.

The summit will be held at the ACER Arena and followed by other workshops and consultations in regional areas.

Developmental Disabilities and Challenging Behaviour: Research to Practice and Policy

The Faculty of Health Sciences and Brain and Mind Research Institute, University of Sydney in association with the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability is pleased to announce this conference on Friday 30th Sept 2011.



Leading International and Australian researchers will present the latest developments in supporting challenging behaviours in people with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual disability. Strategies for gaining government support to implement proper services will also be a focus.

This conference will benefit those working with people with developmental disabilities in community and health settings, as well as research students and academics, and clinical practitioners.

Registrations will open in July 2011.

The conference will be held at Camperdown campus, University of Sydney.

Enquiries can be directed to Imelda Noti, email Imelda.noti@sydney.edu.au.

More information can be found on www.usyd.edu.au/news.

Christmas In July For Carers

Our turn to Care for you!

Are you caring for someone with Memory Loss or Dementia? The Shoalhaven Division of General Practice and Carer Support Groups invite you to join us for a Christmas in July FREE lunch.

When - Wed 13th July, 2011 at Bomaderry Bowling Club 10.30am – 2.30pm.

RSVP to Winsome Watts – 4423 6233 before Mon4th July (numbers are limited).

If you would like support with respite to attend this event please call Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre on 1800 052 222.

Charity Masquerade Ball

Huskisson RSL Club cordially invites you to our Charity Masquerade Ball in aid of Noah's Ark's 30th year anniversary.

When - Saturday 27th August 2011 at 7pm

Cost - \$75 per head. Includes pre-dinner drinks, drinks, pre-dinner platters, 3 course meal, tea, coffee and entertainment.

Enquiries - through Huskisson RSL on 4441 5282 or Noah's Ark on 4423 5022

Are you a Male Carer?

If you are a male carer looking after a loved one with a disability, mental illness, chronic illness, or who is frail aged and would like to connect with other men in a similar position, we are here to help.



This six week phone group program, facilitated by trained counsellors, will allow male carers to connect with other men, share experiences and get support from people in similar situations.

Phone group discussions will occur weekly for one hour, over six weeks, with a follow-up session a few weeks later. Information, newsletters and other support will also be given. The group will begin on Tues 28th June at 10 am, so give us a ring to join in!

For more information please contact Rob Grimes (07) 5524 8711.

Are you caring for someone with a mental illness?

If you are a carer looking after a loved one who has a mental illness, we are here to help.

This six week phone group program, facilitated by trained counsellors, will allow carers to connect with other carers, share experiences and get support from people in similar situations. The peer-support group will allow carers to explore the emotional impact of caring and identify ways of managing everyday life.

Phone group discussions will occur weekly for one hour, over six weeks, with a follow-up session a few weeks later. Information, newsletters and other support will also be given. The group will begin in June 2011 so give us a ring to join in!

For more information, or to sign up for the program, please contact Bozena Zawisz at 9280 4744.



Google for Non-Profits Seminar

Google are running some sessions in early July, at no cost, to educate the local not-for-profit community about the products, services and support that Google offers such organisations. The program will be run by Google employee volunteers and will take place over two mornings at Google's Pyrmont Offices:

General Information Session on July 7th (9am to 1pm): This session is designed to provide a broad, high level overview of Google's not-for-profit solutions and support, everything from Gmail & Blogger to YouTube & Maps. Information will also be provided on the Google Grants programme. The session is best suited to leaders from charitable organisations that are interested in better understanding how they can use Google technology.

Detailed Adwords & YouTube Sessions on July 8th (9.30am to 12.30pm): These are essentially follow up sessions to provide more detailed training on how non-profits can utilize Google Adwords and / or YouTube. These sessions are best attended by the individual in

a charitable organisation who is likely to be handling the implementation.

Organisations can choose to attend one or both of these sessions. Please note that due to limited space, only one representative from an organisation can attend for every session. If the events are over-subscribed spaces will need to be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Further information at <http://www.google.com/nonprofits/>.

Participants sought for 1 in 4 Poll

The 1-in-4 Poll is a regular national survey that lets people with disability express their views on a range of social issues. The first Poll focuses on Social Inclusion.

The responses of people who complete the Poll will be used to influence government policy and inform future practice and research. The Poll is held so that the views of people with disability will be heard directly and responded to.

People with disability have the right to have their voice heard in the ongoing national debate that informs government policy. The 1 in 4 Poll aims to strengthen the voice of people with disability.

Why is it called the 1 in 4 poll? Because 1 in 4 Australians has disability or cares for a family member with disability.

There are 3 ways you can do this survey:

- You can do the survey online
- You can download a pdf of the survey.
- We can mail you a paper version.

Information about all these things can be found on the website www.1in4pollaustralia.com.

The Poll can be completed by:

- People with disability
- A carer who is a family member or paid carer

If you are a carer you can support the person with disability to complete the survey, or if they are unable to do so you can complete it yourself.

If you have any queries about the project please feel free to contact Nick Hagiliassis nhagiliassis@scopevic.org.au.

Rebecca back at work and loving it



Rebecca is a 28 year old who worked as an Administrative Assistant, lived in her own unit, was very outgoing and sociable.

In March 2009, Rebecca had a stroke. She was in hospital for 4 months. The stroke affected Rebecca's

mobility, speech and everyday skills.

Rebecca now lives with her mother and catches public transport to and from locations. Rebecca relies on her walking frame to move around and without this has a fear of falling which can bring on anxiety attacks.

Rebecca was keen to find a part-time Administration or receptionist position where she could continue to use her administration skills. Rebecca was concerned that her slower typing speed might be a barrier to employment, but she was determined to get back into the workforce.

Workskills supported Rebecca to look for work and after 8 months of job searching and canvassing employers, Wendy from DVM Medical Supplies responded to one of our letters. They were interested in meeting Rebecca to discuss her suitability for a receptionist role and felt that the role would be ideal considering her experience and disability.

Rebecca started with DVM Medical Supplies in August 2010, working 16 hours per week. The owner, Graham reports that Rebecca fits in well with the rest of the team, is a fast learner and that her work is of a very high standard.

Workskills Employment

Workskills was initially established in 1992 as the employment service for The Disability Trust. Workskills is now a leading Disability Employment Service provider skilled at

matching the strengths and abilities of job seekers with suitable employment opportunities.

Workskills has the industry knowledge, experience and local connections to give job seekers the edge in finding and maintaining employment. We work tirelessly finding and creating job opportunities which might not otherwise exist.

Workskills will provide you with your own highly skilled employment consultant to assist you with developing an employment pathway plan and manage your disability or health condition in the workplace.

Contact Workskills on 4274 9155 for more information.

Children's Week 2011 Poster Design Competition

Children and young people aged 8 – 18 are



invited to design a poster for the NSW Commission for Children and Young People to help celebrate Children's Week 2011 (22 – 30 October).

The competition provides young people with an opportunity to showcase their talent and win \$500. The winning design will serve as the Commission's official poster during Children's Week 2011 and be distributed to schools and other organisations.

The NSW Commission for Children and Young People is an independent organisation in government that advocates for and supports the well-being, safety and participation of children and young people.

Entries close 2 September 2011. For further information go to <http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/kids/kidzone/posterdesigncompetition.cfm> or contact the Commission for Children and Young People on 9286 7276 or by email kidsmedia@kids.nsw.gov.au.

World Report on Disability launched by the United Nations

The World Report on Disability was released on 9 June at the UN Headquarters in New York. The report, by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank, gives an extensive picture of the global situation of people with disabilities, their needs and the barriers they face to participating fully in their societies. It also provides guidance to governments on implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD).

Highlights from the Report include:

- There are over one billion people with disabilities in the world, including between 110-190 million who experience very significant difficulties. This corresponds to about 15% of the world's population.
- Many of the barriers people with disabilities face are avoidable and the disadvantage associated with disability can be overcome.
- Disability is more common among women, older people, households that are poor and lower income countries.

The Report also highlights Australia's Development for All strategy as a best practice model of disability inclusive development.

Source: NDS New Update - 15 June, 2011

Mental Health First Aid Course

Presented by Arafmi Wollongong.

Where: Mental Health Carers ARAFMI - Illawarra. 1 Atchison Street, Wollongong

When: Thursday 18th & Friday, 19th August 2011

Cost: \$50 Carers and \$75 Community Workers.

Enrolment deadline: Friday, 12th August 2011

Contact: Kelly Parrish - Regional Manager.
Mental Health Carers ARAFMI Illawarra

Phone: 4254 1699

Email: arafmi_i@bigpond.net.au

Better Start Initiative Starts Soon

The Better Start initiative is on track to begin from 1 July 2011. Eligible children under the initiative are those who have been diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome and moderate or greater vision or hearing impairments, including deafblindness.

The Better Start initiative provides eligible children with funding of up to \$12,000 (to a maximum of \$6,000 per financial year) to access early intervention services. A one-off \$2,000 payment is available to eligible families living in outer regional or remote areas to assist with expenses such as travel and home visits. Carers Australia has been contracted to operate the registration and information service which will register children for the package.

Further information, including how to make an application for Membership of the Better Start Early Intervention Service Provider Panel, is http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/people/Pages/better_start_early_intervention.aspx.

Source: NDS New Update - 14 June, 2011

Report into Disability Support Pension (DSP) Recipients Released

The new FaHCSIA Report Characteristics of DSP Recipients June 2010 indicates that the number of Australians receiving this benefit continues to increase. However, an examination of new time series data included in the report reveals the emergence of several interesting trends. The proportion of DSP recipients citing a musculo-skeletal / connective tissue condition has been in decline since 2004, while the number of recipients with mental health and intellectual/ learning conditions has been increasing since 2001.

The official number of DSP recipients at 30 June 2010 was 792,581, an increase of 4.7% in twelve months from 757,118 on 30 June 2009. This is the highest rate of increase in the number of DSP recipients since mid-2003.

Figures provided by FaHCSIA to a

parliamentary committee last year placed the number of DSP recipients at 796,680 as of 27 August 2010. This consisted of 433,456 males (54.7%) and 359,125 females (45.3%) receiving the DSP payment.

Of DSP recipients at 30 June 2010, 29.2% had a musculo-skeletal / connective tissue condition, 28.7% had a mental health condition and 11.6% had an Intellectual / learning disability.

Those with a musculo-skeletal / connective tissue condition tend to be older (58% are aged 55-64 years) and those with an intellectual / learning disability tend to be younger (51% are aged 16-34 years). Surprisingly, those with mental health conditions appear to be an ageing group, with 56% aged 45-64 years.

The average duration spent on the benefit by DSP recipients in 2009-10 was 618 weeks and only 8.7% of recipients reported earnings from employment. The proportion of recipients citing earnings from employment has been declining while the duration on DSP and the total DSP outlay has been steadily increasing (\$11.86 billion in 2009-2010).

Source: NDS New Update - 8 June, 2011

NSW Government recognises the value of the NFP sector

The NSW Government has responded to the Productivity Commission's draft report on the Inquiry into a National Disability Long Term Care and Support Scheme, emphasising that a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is essential to meeting long-term demand and ensuring a sustainable disability support system.

The NSW Government has proposed the Hunter region as the most appropriate pilot location for an NDIS given its population size, mix of rural and metropolitan settings and the existence of a current single access point for community care.

In its submission to the draft report, the NSW Government highlights the parallels between an NDIS and the underpinning philosophy of Stronger Together II, and explicitly acknowledges the important role played by NGOs in the delivery of quality services and supports for people with disability. The

submission recommends that the Productivity Commission undertake further work to ensure that any new scheme promotes a viable and responsive not-for-profit disability services sector and builds community responsiveness. NDS welcomes this recommendation.

The NSW Government also states that an NDIS should be designed so that it provides the maximum support to the NGO sector and with care to avoid displacing the NGO sector, citing that a stronger NGO sector has the potential to improve the effectiveness of the transition to an NDIS within the ambitious timeframes proposed.

Source: NDS New Update - 7 June, 2011

National Disability Insurance Scheme: Every Australian Counts



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. It will transform the way services are funded and delivered, ensuring people are better supported and enabling them to have greater choice and control.

Over the next few months the Productivity Commission will report to the Government on the findings of its inquiry into a long-term disability care and support scheme.

We need every Australian to stand up and say that people with a disability, their families and carers in this country deserve better and that it's time for change. We need every Australian to say that people with a disability, their families and carers are Australians too, and that their hopes and dreams count. That they are part of our community, and that they count.

To support the Every Australian Counts campaign www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au

Mental Health First Aid 2 Day Workshop

Presented by Shoalhaven Suicide Prevention & Awareness Network

When - Tues 5th & 12th July, 9am - 4.30 pm

Where - Shoalhaven Division of General Practice, 2nd Floor Bomaderry Bowling Club, Meroo Road, Bomaderry

Cost: \$50 (includes lunch)

To book phone Tracy Lumb at BBCR on 4443 9244 or email cdw@bbcri.com.au.

Early Intervention Consortium Funding for First Aid Training

The Early Intervention Consortium has funding available for parents / carers of children from birth to school entry age who have a disability or identified delay and who live in the Illawarra, to undertake accredited first aid training. If you are interested in doing this training please contact Interchange on 4227 1079 to organise.

For Your Calendar...

Red nose Day 24th June

The National Fundraising event for SIDS and Kids. Provides funding for community education to reduce the incidents of SIDS and fatal sleeping accidents, research into areas such as SIDS and stillbirth.

Shoalhaven Careers Expo 25th June
Career opportunities and information for everyone in the Shoalhaven.

Crazy Hair Day 1st July 2011

Crazy Hair Day is a great way to raise awareness and money for kids living with Cystic Fibrosis.

NAIDOC Week 3rd -10th July 2011

NAIDOC Celebrations are held around Australia in the 1st Full week in July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people

Aider Program

Aged residents and residents with disabling conditions are more vulnerable to the impact of bush fires. Where a person does not have the capacity or support to reduce bush fire hazards, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) may be able to help.



The RFS AIDER Program (Assist Infirm Disabled and Elderly Residents) is a one-off free service, supporting vulnerable residents to live more safely and confidently in their home on bush fire prone land. AIDER work is one-off and includes such things as clearing gutters, thinning vegetation, removing leaf and tree debris, trimming branches from around and overhanging the home, mowing or slashing long grass.

For more information contact Tony Jarrett, AIDER Programme Coordinator on 8741 4955, email aiders@rfs.nsw.gov.au or use the website form at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/aiders.

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

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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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