



Illawarra & Shoalhaven *DISABILITY NEWS*

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

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May 2011

Growing Acceptance



Tracie Sammut has already had spots on *Home and Away*, *All Saints* and *G.P.*, and, it seems, there's plenty more up her sleeve.

Not many Australian actors can claim a track record of almost two decades work on stage, TV and feature

films, unlike Sydney-based Tracie Sammut.

She first graced our screens on ABC TV's popular 1980s series, *G.P.* as a feisty 14-year-old. However, her longevity in a notoriously fickle industry is not the only thing that sets her aside from others in the field.

Sammut has taken her own experience of facing discrimination outside the world of acting and used it to create Acceptance – a dynamic series of skills-based performance workshops for people with and without mild

intellectual disabilities, aged 16 to 26.

The weekly workshops cover everything from voice and movement to dance and improvisation, often with industry professionals coming along to lend their expertise as guest tutors.

At the end of six months Sammut expects the group to be able to deliver a devised performance piece, as well as having had great fun, gaining confidence and making some solid friendships.

Sitting across from Sammut on Pier 4 in the heart of Sydney's harbour-side arts precinct, it's easy to see how her passion for inclusion persuaded her project partners Accessible Arts NSW, Australian Theatre for Young People and The Australia Council for the Arts to come on-board.

Speaking as a person with a disability, Sammut acknowledges what drives her and the Acceptance project. "Discrimination is a challenge," she says. "And, I want to use my skills, experience and knowledge as a teacher and be acknowledged for my work, not just with people with disability but to work with the whole community."

To realise her vision for Acceptance, Sammut

contacted Accessible Arts NSW, the peak body for art and disability in that state, to auspice the project as a mentoring opportunity. Arts development officers Alison Richardson and Josie Cavallaro helped her put together a submission to the Australia Council for a Professional Development Grant – Community Partnerships. This approach opened the way for Sammut to build her mainstream contacts, as well as keep the mentoring aspect of running the project alive.

Sammut's love of performance, her belief in the value of skill-building to overcome obstacles and her enthusiasm for sharing her unique knowledge shine through her conversation about the possibilities for Acceptance. "I would definitely advise young people that to be a unique performer you need to enhance your skills, put effort in to your development," she says. "Don't think you are perfect. You can always come back and learn something new – from teachers and from other students."

Article by Carla Caruso from Link Disability Magazine April 2011. Subscriptions to Link can be done at

www.linkonline.com.au

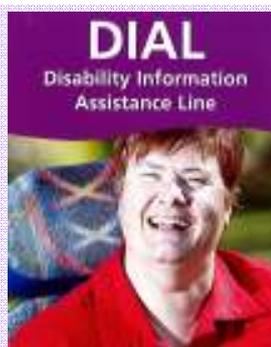
or by phoning (08) 8210 3223.

DIAL

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

- Access to programs and services
- Referral to counselling
- Self advocacy and support groups
- Forums and Workshops
- Aids and equipment
- Illawarra and Shoalhaven Disability News

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



Shoalhaven Information and Advocacy

Shellharbour,
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
- Counselling - short term access to local counselling services

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



Family Disability Support Program

Do you live in the Shoalhaven, Jervis Bay Territory or Gerringong/Gerroa area and have a child with special needs?



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 which is all about having fun together and become a member of Noah's Ark for just \$10 per family per year.

Email Debra Jefferis djefferis@noahsark.nsw.edu.au

www.noahsark.nsw.edu.au

Phone - 4423 5022.

School Community Centre

A place with programs & activities for every child & family



In the grounds Albion Park
Rail Public School
Tongarra Rd. Contact
Alicia Lewis Ph: 4256 4219, Mobile: 0448
564 219

Email: alicia.lewis1@det.nsw.edu.au

Mondays -

- Parents as Teachers Playgroup

Tuesdays –

- Play Connect – for families with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder or exhibiting ASD behaviours. Supported by an experienced worker. Contact Kylie 0422 992 110

Wednesdays –

- Playsession – a fun interactive playgroup. Contact Alicia 4256 4219
- Women's Wisdom – for women who have experienced a relationship that makes them feel bad. Free child minding contact 1300 792 755

Thursdays –

- My Time Support and Playgroup – for families with a child with a disability or chronic illness. Supported by an experienced worker. Contact Kylie 0422 992 110
- Positive Parenting Program – includes free child minding

Fridays –

- Playsession - a fun interactive playgroup. Contact Alicia 4256 4219
- Cooina Family Morning – contact Barnados 4275 8575

NDS Represented on Community Sector Wages Group

Recognising the significance and potential impact of the equal remuneration case, Parliamentary Secretary for School Education

and Workplace Relations, Senator Jacinta Collins has announced the formation of a new national consultative group to examine how to best manage the implications of possible pay increases across the social and community services sector.

The work of the Community Sector Wages Group is to ensure a sustainable and effective social and community services sector, with a focus on the identification of strategies to respond to wage cost pressures that may flow from the equal remuneration case currently before Fair Work Australia.

NDS welcomes the establishment of this important consultative group.

Source - NDS National News Update 29/4/11
See article on page 9 of this newsletter for further information.

National Respite Conference 2011

When - Tuesday/ Wednesday /Thursday
August 9th, 10th & 11th, 2011

Where - Conference Centre, Wharf Street,
Tweed Heads NSW 2485, Tweed Heads &
Coolangatta Townships

This is the only respite conference at a state and national level for our service industry. The best opportunity to network in an industry specific forum and receive up to date information and workshops.

Contact address - Box 3, 2 Carrington
Square, Campsie, 2194.

Phone - 9789 1348, Fax: 9789 3081.

Email: admin@nationalrespite.com.au;
www.interchangensw.com.au

Free Information Session

Flagstaff currently has 8 positions available in the Shoalhaven. Activities range from lawn maintenance, packaging, sorting and document scanning to operating machinery, plant and equipment.

For further information or to attend a free information session at the Wesley Centre in Berry St Nowra on May 26 from 1pm, call Tracey Bowen on 4423 3630.

Get Informed About Guardianship

Did you know the Public Guardian's Information and Support team offers free information sessions for service providers and community groups about the following topics:

- guardianship and substitute decision-making
- medical and dental consent, and Person Responsible
- mental capacity
- enduring guardianship and planning ahead
- the role of the Public Guardian
- the difference between the Public Guardian, Guardianship Tribunal and NSW Trustee and Guardian

If you have a group of 15 or more people and would like a free presentation at your venue, please contact the Public Guardian on phone 8 6 8 8 6 0 7 0 or email informationssupport@opg.nsw.gov.au or visit the website at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/opg and fill in the Community Education request form in the Publications section.

Harness the Possibilities for Young People with Developmental Disability

Family Advocacy is excited to announce a new initiative that aims to support families in which there is a child or young person with developmental disability (0-18 years) to establish community connections, develop networks and have skills and ideas to direct any necessary supports. Resourcing Families assists families with information, ideas and strategies for having a clear, positive vision and pursuing the good life for people with disability.

Resourcing Families is coming to Batemans Bay.

Join us for an information session on



Tuesday the 24th of May 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm.

In the Forum Room, [Catalina Country Club](#), 154 Beach Road, Batemans Bay, Ph: 4472 4022.

Resourcing Families is coming to Nowra/Bomaderry.

Join us for an information session on Wednesday the 25th of May 10.00am - 12.00 pm or 7.00pm- 9.00 pm. At the Balan Village Motel, 175 Cambewarra Road, Bomaderry (Nowra).

The 2 hour session will provide information about positive vision, valued roles, community connections, circles of support and self directed supports. All of which can release potential and build an inclusive life for a young person with developmental disability. The sessions are free of charge.

If you are interested to attend an information session or want further information, please contact me at emma@resourcingfamilies.org.au or 1800 774 764 .

In our website you will find a lot of articles, resources and personal stories that we hope will prove helpful and inspiring: <http://www.resourcingfamilies.org.au/>.

\$200m in New Funding for Students with Disabilities

The Prime Minister has pledged an additional \$200 million in funding to assist students with disabilities currently attending Australian Schools. The funds will be available from 1 January 2012 for two years.

The More Support for Students with Disabilities initiative is to deliver

- new services that include speech and occupational therapy at school;
- greater classroom access to special equipment (such as audio and visual technology) to assist students to easily learn and engage with their classmates and teachers;
- additional support that includes: in-class support for children with disability by teachers' aides, health and allied health professionals and others; enhanced

support through team teaching; and

- an evidence-based curriculum specifically tailored to needs of children with disability.



Source - NDS
National News
Update 3/5/11

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders

*Tony Attwood: A different way of thinking,
learning and managing emotions.*

Inspirational and World Expert on Aspergers
Dr Tony Attwood is coming to Sydney
(Campbelltown) on Wednesday 8th June.

Topics for the Workshop include (Note: This
topic and content is different from Tony's last
workshop in Sydney):

- Brief overview of the Latest Diagnostic Criteria
- Cognitive Abilities: A Different Way of Thinking and Learning.
- The Problems with Executive Function and how to put in place successful strategies
- Strategies to improve attention, organizational skills and academic achievement
- The origin of Special Interests
- How to use Special Interests to improve educational and behavioural outcomes.
- The Emotional Tool Box—what it is and how to use.
- Managing Feeling: Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and roll in providing greater strategies to manage emotions

Cost of the workshop is \$150.00. If you register prior to 25 May 2011 (cost after this date \$180).

To register - registration form on www.suelarkey.com.au or phone 0433 660 379

Where - Campbelltown Catholic Club

When - Wednesday 8th June, 9am to 4pm

Are you Caring for a Relative / Friend?



If you provide physical, emotional or financial care for someone with a chronic health issue/ disability or an older person, this 3 day Carer Course is for you.

Where - Committee Meeting Room,
Showground Pavilion, Scenic Drive, Nowra

When - Tuesdays 14th June, 21st June and
28th June 2011, 10am to 3pm

Topics include:

- Services available for support
- Looking after yourself
- Stress Management and Relaxation
- Practical Caring Tips
- Legal and Financial issues

Bookings - Shoalhaven Hospital Reception
4421 3111, RSVP Mon 6th June.

For program information contact Kate Roberts, Carer Program Coordinator, Shoalhaven Hospital, on Mondays or Tuesdays, Ph 4423 9372. If you need additional help to be able to attend call the carer respite centre 1800 052 222.

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 - Wednesday 10th August, 9.30am - 2pm

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

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 and other documents on the issue, as well as links to related websites. Along with Member States and civil society, DESA will organize a panel discussion on 27 June at UN Headquarters to discuss issues on how to tap the potential of sports to promote disability-inclusive development and raise public awareness about disability issues.

More information log on to www.un.org/disabilities

Gotta Dance



Dance lessons for people with an intellectual disability - from 8 years old to adult. The teacher is Jaye Cartwright.

When - Saturdays during school terms from 2:30 – 4pm at John's Studio 28 Quinn's Lane, South Nowra

Registrations on 14th May at the studio. Lessons commence Saturday 21st May

Cost \$10 per session

Enquiries - Margaret Perkins on 4423 2029 or Paul Bushby on 0479 162 994



Illawarra Disability Options 2011 Art Competition

The Theme is "I like..."

Categories:

- Primary School Students - 1st prize \$50 voucher
- High School Students - 1st Prize \$50 voucher
- Post School Leavers - 1st Prize \$50 voucher

Plus many encouragement prizes of \$25 vouchers.

Closing date of artwork 4pm Friday 29th July.

Works will be exhibited at the iDO Expo at the Builder's Club, on Wednesday 10th August 2011. Leave all entries at The House With No Steps Administration office, 102 Auburn St, Wollongong, phone 4226 6962.

How can CRS Australia help you?



CRS Australia is the largest Disability Employment Services provider in Australia, helping people with a

disability, injury or health condition to find and keep a job. Our strong relationships with local employers, community services and training providers means we're in a great position to link job seekers with the assistance they need on their journey to work.

CRS Australia's experienced and qualified team of allied health professionals assist job seekers to manage a range of conditions, including:

- muscular or joint pain
- mental health conditions
- hearing or speech difficulties
- brain injury or stroke.

Each year, CRS Australia helps more than 10,000 job seekers to find and keep a job. Our disability employment services focus on getting jobs that last.

We have offices conveniently located in Wollongong, Shellharbour and Nowra. For more information contact Sally at Nowra on 4429 4160, Bruce at Shellharbour on 4251 8800 or Rennah at Wollongong on 4251 4900. You can also visit www.crsaaustralia.gov.au

Parenting Children With Challenging Behaviours



During this 2 Session program you will learn:

- Understanding your child with Challenging Behaviour
- Some strategies for dealing with Child's anger

- Messages received by my child
- Communicating with your child with Challenging Behaviour
- Managing your child with Challenging Behaviour
- Building a resilient child

When - Mon 23 and 30 May 2011, 10am to 12:30pm

Where - CatholicCare Wollongong, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

Cost - \$20

Bookings(essential) – phone 4227 1122

www.catholiccare.woll.catholic.org.au

Release of Disability, Ageing and Carer Data



National Disability Services

The full set of data from the 2009 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) has now been made available by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The results of the Survey, undertaken between April and December 2009, provide the most comprehensive, up-to-date disability and carer data available for the Australian population. The survey also includes information on the population group of people who are aged 60 and over.

Results from the survey have been progressively released since December 2010. Much of the data can be downloaded from the [ABS website](http://www.abs.gov.au). A summary of some of the key findings is provided below.

Prevalence of Disability

- 18.5% of Australians reported having a disability in 2009. The estimated number of people with disability is 4.03 million.
- The estimated rate of people with profound or severe limitation in core activities (i.e. a limitation in self-care, mobility and communication) declined slightly from 6.3% in 2003 to 5.8% in 2009.

Need

- People with profound core activity limitation needed the most assistance with mobility (88) compared to self-care (66%) or communication (29%).
- People with moderate and mild core activity limitation needed the most assistance with property maintenance and household chores.

Assistance

- People with disability receiving assistance obtained this help from informal sources (87%) and formal sources (59%). Help could be obtained from multiple sources.

Unmet need

Of the people reporting requiring assistance with everyday living:

- 39% needed assistance with mobility but 9% did not get the help required;
- 25% needed assistance with self-care but 15% did not get the help required;
- 46% needed assistance with health care but 11% did not get the help required.

Transport

- 40% of people with mild limitations in core activities used public transport compared to 20% of those with profound limitations.
- 32% of people aged five years and more with reported disabilities had difficulty using public transport.

Source NDS National Update 5/511

Nominations open for the 2011 National Disability Awards

The National Disability Awards celebrate and acknowledge the achievements and contributions that individuals with disability make to the community, and recognise individuals within the community who have contributed to the disability sector.

This will be the fifth year of the awards. The categories are:

- Minister's Lifelong Achievement Award
- Young Disability Challenge Award
- Business Award for improved access
- Local Government Award
- Social Inclusion Award for schools, universities, employment and training providers, and advocacy services
- Inclusive and Accessible Communities Award
- Health and Wellbeing Award Services Award
- Yooralla Media Award

All finalists will be invited to attend the National Disability Awards Ceremony at Parliament House, Canberra on Tuesday 22 November 2011.

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

Nominations close 5.00pm AEST Thursday 30 June 2011.

Source - NDS National News Update 9/5/11

Federal Budget: modest measures, with one or two sharp edges

Highlights from the recent Federal Budget include:

- measures to increase the workforce participation of Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients
- an eight-month contract extension for ESS providers, followed by an open tender process for the majority of

providers

- no projected increase to DES fee levels
- indexation for Australian Disability Enterprises
- a substantial funding package for mental health
- \$200 million to support the education of children with disability
- tax changes that will affect some not-for-profit organisations
- a Commonwealth funding increase to the States and Territories for disability services of \$156 million
- Almost \$150 million towards early intervention services for families whose children have disabilities.
- \$31 million for autism assistance for children.
- From July next year employers will be paid \$3000 in subsidies if they provide 15 hours of work per week to those with disabilities.

Comments sought on electronic health record

Following agreement by Health Ministers in April 2010, work is progressing on the development of a 'personally controlled electronic health record' (PCEHR). Feedback is now being sought on the Draft Concept of Operations, which covers participation issues (for individuals, healthcare providers and organisations), the proposed management of PCEHR information, and details an approach to privacy and security.

NDS is keen to hear from providers on their experiences of supporting people with disability to manage their health outcomes and their views on whether the PCEHR proposal will assist. Submissions will be accepted until 31 May 2011. Service providers are encouraged to provide feedback to Philippa Angley, National Policy Manager, NDS National, Ph 03 8341 4302, philippa.angley@nds.org.au by Friday 27 May.

Source - NDS National News Update 9/5/11

For your Calendar...

National Sorry Day 26th May

National Sorry Day is recognised as a National Day of Commemoration and Remembrance for the Indigenous Australians

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea 26th May

Helping to fund Cancer Council's research, prevention, education and support services

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week

26th May

Help us kiss goodbye to multiple sclerosis

65 Roses Day—Cystic Fibrosis

During all of May

Raises money to help people with Cystic Fibrosis live longer

National Reconciliation Week

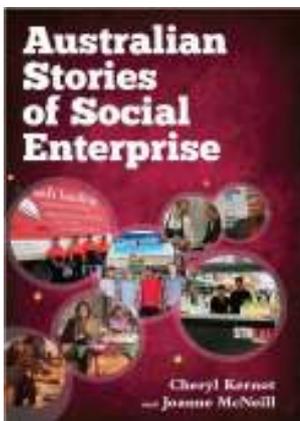
27th May—3rd June

Celebrates the rich culture and history of the First Australians

Red Nose Day 24th June

Assist SIDS and Kids in providing vital services and programs to the Australian community

New Book: Australian Stories of Social Enterprise



A cleaning company established to provide employment for people with mental illnesses, a grocery distributor that pays farmers fair prices and a restaurant providing training and work for refugee women are among 32 social enterprises featured in a new book.

Australian Stories of Social Enterprise has been written by the

Centre for Social Impact director of social business Cheryl Kernot and Parramatta City Council community capacity building officer social enterprise Joanne McNeill to share the lessons and insights of successful social

enterprises.

Australian Stories of Social Enterprise runs to 270 pages and is well worth the read for the stories and lessons included in each example. Featured organisations were from the food, arts, advocacy, information technology, environment and service industries.

A free copy of Australian Stories of Social Enterprise can be downloaded from www.csi.edu.au/site/Knowledge_Centre/Publications.aspx.

Fair Work Australia seeks further input from parties in the Equal Remuneration Case

Fair Work Australia (FWA) has made an interim decision in the Equal Remuneration Case (details of the decision are at http://www.fwa.gov.au/sites/remuneration/decisions/2011fwafb2700.htm#1384_193791). Importantly, the decision notes that:

"...employees in the SACS industry are predominantly women and are generally remunerated at a level below that of employees of state and local governments who perform similar work."

The decision further notes gender has had an important influence in the extent of the gap between pay rates in the sector and that action should be taken to correct that gap. However, FWA has also stated that:

"...simply adopting the pay rates resulting from the Queensland Equal Remuneration decision is not appropriate."

Therefore FWA has requested that the parties make further submissions on the extent to which wages in the SACS sector are lower due to gender considerations. These submissions should also address how that amount is calculated and its size.

FWA has sought written submissions from the unions by 10 June 2011, the Commonwealth by 30 June 2011 and other parties by 21 July 2011. Full Bench hearings will take place in Melbourne on 8, 9 and 10 August 2011.

Further information at Fair Work Australia at <http://www.fwa.gov.au/>.

Source - NDS National News Update 16/5/11

Carecareers Scoops National Awards

Carecareers – the NDS workforce recruitment campaign, funded by the NSW Government – began 2011 in style, winning a Gold APG (Account Planning Group) Award in the “Best brand strategy in the public service and charity” category. carecareers also beat all entrants to win the award for “Best creative brief and briefing”.

Over 9,000 job applications have been made through carecareers to date, and over 3,600 jobs have been advertised through carecareers. Go to www.carecareers.com.au for more information.

Don't fall for email hoaxes

Hoax emails can catch you out in many ways and can cost you a lot of time, money and grief. They can cause you to reveal your personal information, pay out money falsely and may compromise your financial security.

It is easy to feel emotionally obliged to forward an email about a campaign or about a tragic personal circumstance – but how do you know if the story is true or not?

Often there are emails sent about raising money for some worthy cause that doesn't exist, or you may be urged to forward a distressing email about a missing child, who may never have been missing at all.

Website www.simplesavings.com.au has some advice from a member, Sharon:

“Falling for an email hoax can be enormously harmful to both your computer and your bank balance. Sometimes they are so convincing I have trouble distinguishing between a real email and spam. Fortunately there is an easy way to work out the good emails from the bad!

“Simply take a phrase or a few key words from the email and pop them into Google. Google will then tell you if it is spam, urban myth or virus laden. You will then know whether or not you should read the email or delete it. A few seconds' effort for no cost and priceless peace of mind!”

Source: Working Carers Gateway newsletter 5-4-11

Disability and New Media

Disability and New Media is a new book that explores the contemporary new media environment and its impact on people with disabilities.

While many studies into disability and digital technology have focused on the early Internet and World Wide Web, this book takes in the scope of the more recent developments in the online environment exploring online platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Second Life, and their sometimes strained relationship with accessibility and universal design.

Decisions made that impact on the accessibility of digital platforms are often portrayed as being merely technical in nature. This book looks at the impact of the decisions on people with disabilities to fully participate in the societies in which they live.

The book explores how the early promise of access for all people regardless of disability, has been hijacked by more recent developments in an increasingly complex web 2.0 environment.

Along with these setbacks the book also explores a number of successes in obtaining access for people with disabilities to previously unavailable digital platforms, and how these outcomes were achieved.

PDF: Accessibility Conformance

PDF does not yet have approved Sufficient Techniques to claim Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) conformance, so it cannot be 'relied upon' in the provision of government information. At least one other format must ADCET.

To improve the accessibility of PDF, agencies should first consider the needs of their users. Is the information to be presented best handled by a PDF? If so, agencies should

- always tag PDF files;
- work with properly structured source files; and
- avoid scanned PDF's, or at least optimise them for accessibility (e.g. using Optical Character Recognition).

NDIS: 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.

At the recent National Disability and Carer Congress, Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten told participants that the door to the NDIS was “ajar”. It would take unity, discipline and persistence, he said, to open it and walk through. In the next few months we need to do as much as we can to push that door open as far as we can.

We are urging everyone to demonstrate their support for the Every Australian Counts Campaign for the NDIS. There are four simple things your organisation can do to show your support:

1. Place the “Count me in” campaign button on the front page of your website
2. Send an email to every staff member asking them to sign up as supporters and asking them to spread the word amongst their family and friends
3. Ask to every client/member to sign up as supporters
4. Display and distribute the Every Australian Counts material throughout your organisation – posters, brochures, postcards and stickers are all available from the Every Australian Counts campaign coordinator in your state or can be downloaded from <http://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/resources/#nlinematerials>.

The good news is that the campaign already has over 20,000 supporters. But we need many, many more.

The NDIS represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to introduce a planned, effective and sustainable system to improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of people with disability and their families across the country. We cannot miss this opportunity.

Source - NDS National News Update 17/5/11

ADHC releases Flexible Respite Policy Position

ADHC has released its Flexible Respite Policy Position (Disability) (copies of the policy are at <http://www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au>) which applies to all government and non government flexible respite service providers funded through an ADHC Funding Agreement or a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Policy Position aims to set out a clear direction for disability flexible respite services to provide clarity about the parameters of flexible respite service provision and inform the negotiation of future funding agreements with flexible respite service providers.

The Flexible Respite Policy Position outlines ADHC's aims and principles for flexible respite, with a particular focus on the need for flexibility in the context of having choice in services and coordinated service delivery. The Policy Position takes into consideration the need for services to adapt to varying levels of support needs and encourages services to be innovative with service models and activities.

Source - NDS National News Update 7/4/11

ARAFMI Carer Surveys

Negotiating Care and Support Survey—ARAFMI has received feedback from carers that sometimes it can be very hard to know how to negotiate care and other living issues with the loved one they are caring for. Has this issue affected you? Take our survey and let us know if it has.

Carer survey - Identifying Genuine Consumer Needs—This survey is for Carers of someone with a mental illness. The survey relates to the impact of manipulative behaviours upon carers and their ability to discern between consumer needs and wants. The survey is very short – 10 questions – and should only take one or two minutes to complete.

The surveys can be completed at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZPLC83V>.

For further Information contact ARAFMI Illawarra Branch on 4254 1699.

Telecommunication Industry Ombudsman's Disability Factsheets

The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) is a free and independent alternative dispute resolution scheme for consumers in Australia who have a complaint about their telephone or internet service.

The TIO ensures that equipment suitable for consumers with a disability is available on the same terms and conditions as standard customer equipment.

The TIO has a fact sheet, Consumers with Disabilities and the TIO:

<http://www.tio.com.au/publications/FactSheets.htm>

The fact sheet contains a short summary of what it can and can't do to help people with disabilities. It also contains three case studies drawn from actual complaints.

Should you have any queries, please contact Maja Patoor, Manager Prevention and Pathways on 8270 2207 or via email: maja.patoor@dhs.nsw.gov.au.

Gen Jereb's The Traffic Jam in My Brain

*A New and Innovative Sensory Processing
Approach*

This approach works "from the inside out" to empower the child, with Autism, ADHD, ADD, Learning, Sensory and Behavioural Differences.

Genevieve Jereb, OTR is an Australian-born paediatric occupational therapist who presents on sensory processing disorders world wide and online.

During her 10 years in the USA Genevieve was co-owner of the cutting edge treatment facility, Therapeutic Associates. With over 25,000 CDs sold, her released recordings, including No Worries, Say G'day!, Cool Bananas and Jellybeans provide parents, professionals, caregivers and educators with fun and engaging, ready-to-use rhythmic songs and activities to support self regulation for children whose brains are "trafficjammed."

When - Tuesday 21 June 2011, 9am—4.30pm
Registration opens at 8.15am

Where - Bomaderry Bowling Club

How do I register?

Please complete Registration Form

Download from www.noahsark.nsw.edu.au or www.sensorytools.net.

Professionals - \$55

Concession rate for Parents / Carers / Individuals with high support needs - \$11

Fax to 4422 5156 or email to nowra@noahsark.nsw.edu.au.

Ph 4423 5022 RSVP Wed 15 June 2011

*Presented by Noah's Ark Centre of
Shoalhaven Inc and Early Childhood
Intervention
Illawarra and
Shoalhaven
Consortium*



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

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

100-102 Jardine Street Fairy Meadow NSW 2519

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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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