



## Illawarra & Shoalhaven *DISABILITY NEWS*

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

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Oct 2011

# Special Disability Trusts

*How can parents provide support for their son / daughter with a disability in the long term? In this article Linda Rosie describes one option.*

Special Disability Trusts are a possible solution for some carers to the nagging anxiety of “what will happen when I’m gone”. SDTs are not available for every carer but in the following scenario an SDT would ensure a roof over the head for the consumer after the carer has died without penalty to the carer or the consumer.

### **Scenario**

An elderly couple wish to sell their home and buy two units, one for themselves and one for their son who has a serious and profound mental illness. They want to do this immediately so their son can get used to independent living while they are still able to assist him. He currently lives with them. To do this without penalty a Special Disability Trust could put their minds at rest and ensure their son has a permanent roof over his head. This link [www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/carers/progserv/pages/specialdisabilitytrustsbeneficiary.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/carers/progserv/pages/specialdisabilitytrustsbeneficiary.aspx)

will give the information you to formulate the

questions to ask Centrelink or a financial advisor.

One issue that could be a fly in the ointment is the need for the carer to establish the extent of their involvement with the consumer that is, in Centrelink speak, the extent of the illness which enables the carers to qualify for Carer Allowance or Payment. Mental health carers are still reporting the difficulty in establishing their entitlement to these benefits because of the inadequacy of the forms. However, some carers have had success in establishing their entitlement by using the following method (in the case of someone with a mental health issue):

1. Access the social workers at Centrelink to help with the process
2. Request a mental health professional to complete the form who has more access and knowledge of the consumer than the GP or psychiatrist eg a Mental Health nurse, social worker, etc

We also need to understand that information about SDTs will only help those carers who are fortunate to have the funds to set up an SDT. There is an ongoing need for permanent, safe appropriate, long term

accommodation options for consumers who have a severe mental illness whatever their parents circumstances and the Mental Health Council of Australia continues to lobby for this need to be fulfilled.

**Source** - Linda Rosie Mental Health Carers ARAFMI, Illawarra Newsletter, July 2011.

## More information about Special Disability Trusts

The Australian Government has produced two resource booklets that provide further information for carers;

“Planning for the Future: People with disability” booklet is part of an information package developed to assist families planning for the future of their family member with disability.

The booklet includes:

- guidance on the things to consider when planning for the future
- options available to families when planning for the future
- information about how to set up a trust
- information about how to obtain financial and legal advice
- useful contacts in each state/territory.

“Special Disability Trusts: getting things sorted”, is a booklet that has been developed, together with a model Trust Deed, to help families who have decided to set up a Special Disability Trust.

The booklet includes information on:

- planning for the future, taking account of disability issues generally
- how families can use trusts to provide for family members with disability
- the availability of concessions from social security and veterans' entitlement means tests for eligible family members establishing a Special Disability Trust.

If you would like a copy of these booklets ring Claudia at The Disability Trust on 4296 9806. They are also available on the above website.

## Northcott Celebrates Spina Bifida Awareness Week

Northcott Illawarra has celebrated Spina Bifida (SB) Awareness week this year by visiting Kindergarten & Year One students at Oak Flats Primary School. Spinasaurus is a blue dinosaur, and he has a gap in his spine to represent SB. Children with SB go to schools all over Australia and participate in daily life, sometimes they may need a little extra support.

The aim of the visit is to raise awareness in the wider community about Spina Bifida, which means “split or divided” spine. It occurs when the bones of the spine (vertebrae) do not form properly around part of the baby’s spinal cord.

Experts think that genes and the environment are part of the cause. For example, women who have had one child with SB are more likely to have another child with the disease. Women who are obese or who have diabetes are also more likely to have a child with SB.

Research indicates that up to 70% of cases of SB may be prevented by increasing the intake B-vitamin folic acid at least one month before conception and during the first three months of pregnancy. Improvement in diet and eating foods naturally rich in folic acid, such as avocados, black beans, lentils, asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, spinach, corn, iceberg lettuce, tomato & orange juice, eggs, strawberry, bananas & oranges are helping to reduce the number of children born with SB.

For more information contact the Northcott Spina Bifida Group at our Central Office in Parramatta on 9890 0100.



## Race For Kids



Equipment for our children with disabilities

provides equipment for kids with disabilities and to provide sport and recreation programs for kids with disabilities.

Enquire about our business advertising sponsorship packages available! Please contact our office on 4255 8000 if you wish to purchase tickets or a sponsorship. Have a great day at the races...

TICKETS: \$100 per ticket or \$1,000 per table

This includes:

- Entry to the racecourse
- Reserved seating in the Bert Lillye Lounge
- Buffet Carvery Smorgasboard lunch, dessert and afternoon tea
- 5 hour drinks package of beer, wine and soft drink
- "Fashions on the Field" and other prizes



## Are You Caring For a Relative or 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. Topics include:

- \* Services available for support
- \* Looking after yourself
- \* Stress Management and Relaxation

\* Practical Caring Tips

\* Legal and Financial issues

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

When - Tues 8th, 15th and 22nd Nov, 10am until 3.00pm (Lunch Provided)

Bookings - Anglicare "Your Time" Carer Program ph 4423 1018. RSVP by 4th Nov.

If you need additional help to be able to attend call the Carer Respite Centre 1800 052 222.

A project of NSW Health Carer Program and Your Time Carer Counselling and Support.

## Aboriginal Yarn Up!

Illawarra Aboriginal Pathways would like to invite you to an information day on;

- Disabilities,
- Health,
- Education,
- Employment,
- Accommodation,
- Therapy,
- Respite and information for Carers will be available.



When - Friday 28th Oct 2011, 10am to 2pm

Where - Wollongong Youth Centre, 85 Burelli St, Wollongong

Contact - Maria Gallo on 4226 6014

## Framing Gravity

**Recent works by contemporary artists with a disability**



Exhibition dates Fri 21st Oct - Sat 5th Nov 2011 at Sydney College of the Arts, SCA Gallery, the University of Sydney, Balmain Rd, Rozelle NSW.

For more information contact Josie Cavallaro on 9251 6499.

## Support for Siblings of Children with a Disability

ADHC has published a new resource aimed at supporting siblings of children with a disability.

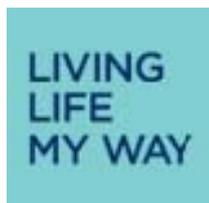
Side by side: Growing up with a brother or a sister with a disability will specifically assist families in supporting and understanding the needs of brothers and sisters of a child with a disability.

Siblings of children and young people with a disability have needs over and above those of their peers, related to their different family circumstances.

Extended family and friends, school and the community can all provide support to a sibling and the whole family if they know how.

Side by side provides insight into sibling relationships and information, resources and contacts aimed at supporting the brothers and sisters of children with a disability. The book is available from the ADHC website or by contacting the Southern Region office on 1300 841 566.

## Update on Person Centred Approach Consultations



Almost 2,500 people have attended 146 workshops across the state as part of the NSW Government's consultations to help shape the way disability support services are delivered in NSW.

Aimed at informing the NSW Government's person centred approach for the delivery of disability services, the workshops have been vital in ensuring we get the feedback needed to develop a system that meets people's needs.

The consultations provided an opportunity for people with a disability, their families, carers and service providers to share their views on how we can move towards individualised funding arrangements.

Feedback on the workshops has been very positive, with people keen to draw on their personal experience and knowledge to help

shape a better system for everyone.

Specific opportunities will be provided in the second half of 2011 for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal people and people with an intellectual disability to have their say.

For information and to register for these consultations, visit

[www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about/strategies/person-centred-approach/person-centred-approaches-consultations](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about/strategies/person-centred-approach/person-centred-approaches-consultations)  
or call 1800 605 489.

Consultations with people with an intellectual disability are still being finalised. Enquiries can be made on the same number 1800 650 489.

## DIAL

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

- Access to programs, services, aids and equipment
- Self advocacy and support groups
- Forums and Workshops
- Illawarra and Shoalhaven Disability News

Phone 4295 9800 or email [info@disabilitytrust.org.au](mailto:info@disabilitytrust.org.au).

## Shoalhaven Information and Advocacy

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 programs and services in Kiama and Shoalhaven
- Forums and workshops
- Individual advocacy and support
- Counselling - short term access to local counselling services

Phone 4428 9002 or email [info@disabilitytrust.org.au](mailto:info@disabilitytrust.org.au).

ABI NSW is a Sydney and Wollongong based charitable organisation who aims to deliver quality, affordable services to families with children with autism spectrum disorders and other related disorders.

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

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

We work on problem behaviours such as tantrums, aggressions, self injurious behaviours, absconding, self stimulatory and repetitive behaviours.

We build children's skills in communication, self help skills, play and social skills, early academic and school skills.

To be considered for the January 2012 intake please apply by Nov 24th 2011. Contact ADHC Southern Regional Office on 1300 841 566 or ABI on 9669 2250. For information on the program please visit [www.abinsw.org.au](http://www.abinsw.org.au).

## Happy Hatters' Dinner Dance



Shoalhaven Disability Forum would like to invite you to a dinner dance to celebrate International Day

for People with a Disability on Sat 3rd Dec at 5.30pm.

Where - Bomaderry RSL Club

Costs - \$15 per head \$7 under 12 years old

Prizes - Lucky Door, best hat, best table

Entertainment: Bomaderry Pride Singers, a trio group from a local high school and a local DJ.

Tickets - Available till 25th Nov from Essential Personnel level 1 / 24 Berry St Nowra, ph 4423 1191.

## National Dialogue on Physical Disability

Physical Disability Australia (PDA) has created a blog site for the National Dialogue on Physical Disability. We would like to hear your views on this important subject. Next year we will hold a round table (read Forum) where real people with physical disability will be invited (and paid for) to attend a national Round Table to both celebrate and to strategise the way forward for Physical Disability Australia Ltd (PDA) [www.pda.org.au](http://www.pda.org.au).

If you wish to be part of this important event start talking and discussing through this blog. [www.blogger.com/blogger.g?blogID=4780416588165543752#overviewstats](http://www.blogger.com/blogger.g?blogID=4780416588165543752#overviewstats).

Register and tell us your thoughts on physical disability. Personal Invitations to the forum will be based on how much input individuals have during the next 6 months.

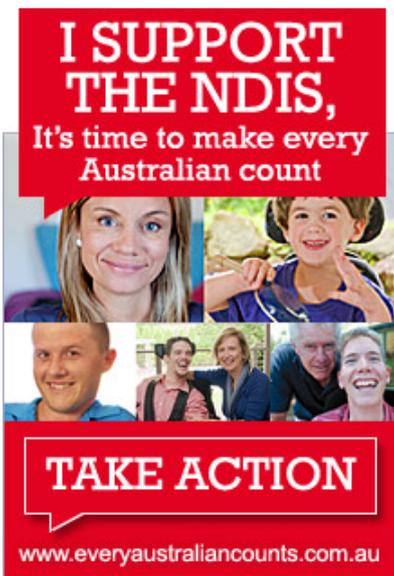


## Tracey Successfully Advocating

A member of Wollongong Self Advocacy who recently nominated her sister's adopted mother for a NSW Carer's Award has been successful. Tracey has long recognised the outstanding commitment of Joyce who cares for her daughter, grandson and husband. "Between taking people to the doctors' and day programs and activities she has no time for herself at all." said Tracey "She is a wonderful person and I'm so glad her efforts have been recognised".

Wollongong Self Advocacy group was able to support Tracey's application. The group centres around knowing your rights and speaking up for yourself. They meet monthly, speak to TAFE students, attend self advocacy conferences and organise social events regularly. For more information ring Claudia on 4295 9806.

## National Disability Insurance Scheme Campaign Update



During October hundreds of people began meeting with their Federal MP to make sure the National Disability Insurance Scheme doesn't slip off the national agenda. There are big issues coming up in the Parliament next week, but we are

committed to ensuring that our politicians stay strong in their support for an NDIS.

We need to let our MPs know that we are watching and that we will act if progress is not made.

You can help by speaking to friends about campaign. Ask them to join the campaign by visiting [www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au)

And learn more about where the campaign is heading by watching the video.

The Federal Government has stated it "shares the vision" for an NDIS, and it has taken the first step dedicating \$10 million to the groundwork necessary to get the scheme up and running.

But we need to make sure that the government takes the next step, and the one after that. And we have a plan to make sure that happens.

We want to show our politicians that at least 100,000 people support an NDIS, and those people will keep campaigning until the scheme is locked in.

To make sure the NDIS gets moving in 2012 we want to see:

- Launch sites announced and locked in by the end of the year;
- The National Disability Insurance Agency established to run the NDIS; and

- Funding allocated to make both these things happen.

After so much hard work together, we are close to achieving this landmark reform. We cannot allow an NDIS to be swept back under the carpet.

*John Della Bosca and the Every Australian Counts team*

P.S. Send a message of support to campaigners who are visiting MPs on the Every Australian Counts Facebook page here [www.facebook.com/everyaustraliancounts](http://www.facebook.com/everyaustraliancounts)

## 13th Having a Say Conference



**8-10th  
February  
2012**

Where: Deakin University, Waterfront Campus, Geelong Victoria

Features will include Presentations & Performances by people with disabilities, Workshops & Information sessions, VALID Advocacy Stream, Dinner & Disco, Conference Expo, Having a Go Talent Show, Come & Try Activities.

For more Information call 03 9416 4003 or e-mail [havingasay@valid.org.au](mailto:havingasay@valid.org.au). Keep an eye on the conference Website [www.valid.org.au](http://www.valid.org.au).

### Lift

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

◆ Presents principles from both Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT).

◆ Learn what keeps anxiety and depression going and how to reverse the cycle.

When - 5 Fridays 10am - 12:30pm, 20, 27 Oct, 3, 10, 17 Nov 2011

Where - CatholicCare Nowra, 55 Worrige Street, Nowra

Cost - \$20 per session. To register ph 4421 8248.

## New Disability Forum



NSW Minister for Disability Services Andrew Constance has officially launched a new forum to help shape government policy and guide improvements in the delivery of disability services.

The NSW Disability Network Forum, co-ordinated by the Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS), will be a strong co-ordinated voice for people with a disability.

“The Forum comprises peak non-government advocacy groups and will focus on people who use and rely on disability services - people with a disability, their families and carers,” Mr Constance said.

NCOSS will receive \$250,000 in funding from the NSW Government for the next three years.

“The Forum will provide a mechanism to advance common interests among a diverse range of disability organisations and representatives across mainstream sectors and in the community at large,” Mr Constance said.

“NCOSS has a proven track record in bringing people together and has existing networks and expertise to provide a single point of representation which will help the Forum operate effectively.”

“The Forum builds on the investment of more than \$4.5 million the NSW Government currently directs to 13 peak organisations operating in the ageing, disability and home care environment, including seven that represent people with different types of disability.”

“In this year’s Budget, the O’Farrell Government will spend an additional \$137.6 million on disability support through Stronger Together 2 which began this year.

“A key plank of Stronger Together 2 is to put people with a disability at the forefront of decision-making and choices that affect their lives. The NSW Government is implementing

person-centred approaches and individualised funding models across the sector.”

“The NSW Disability Network Forum presents an important opportunity to help shape the future of disability services throughout the State during this exciting period of change and reform.”

## Apps for iPads

# ILLCOS



illawarra communication support network

If you have an iPod touch or iPad and have started using different Apps,

would you like to share your experience and learn about more Apps to use?

Come to this free session to look at some of the Apps for communication and educational use.

When: Monday 24th Oct, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Where: ILLCOS Resource Room, 81 Kenny Street Wollongong

RSVP: to Interchange ph: 42271079 by 20/10/11

Please let us know the age range and interest of your child(ren) to help plan for further sessions.

## CatholicCare Family Relationships Services

Nowra Workshops Term 4

- My Kids and Me – for parents who have had children removed from their care
- Poppy Playgroup - for mothers with mental health issues
- What’s on my Plate?
- Am I Driving? - see how positive choices can steer you in the right direction

For bookings or information call 4421 8248.

Limited childcare may be available for some workshops.



## Don't DIS my ABILITY 2011- Ready to go!

More than 100 events will be held across NSW this year as part of the State Government's Don't DIS my ABILITY campaign to celebrate the diversity and achievements of people with a disability.

The theme for this year's campaign is technology and independence recognising that social networking is increasingly helping people with a disability to connect and overcome isolation.

The campaign this year will heavily feature Twitter and Facebook to share information and start conversations with and between people with a disability, their families, carers and members of the community. Several thousand people are already fans of the Don't DIS my ABILITY Facebook page – and that's before this year's campaign gets underway.

### International Day of People with a Disability Art Exhibition

ADHC, NSW Family & Community Services in conjunction with Wollongong City Council are holding an Art Exhibition at The Bluescope Room, Wollongong City Art Gallery to celebrate the diversity of Artists with a disability. The exhibition will run from 25th November to 9th December 2011. Artwork needs to be submitted by Wed 16th November. To be involved, please contact: [Claire.Kelly@facns.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Claire.Kelly@facns.nsw.gov.au).

### Disability Trust Annual General Meeting

The Disability Trust AGM will be held on Thursday 24th November 2011 at the Wollongong City Beach function centre from 5pm. If you have not yet done so, please contact The Disability Trust to update your membership details to ensure that you receive an invitation on 4255 8000.

### Videos in Auslan to assist with understanding workplace rights

The Fair Work Ombudsman has launched a number of Online videos to assist deaf and

hearing-impaired employees to understand their workplace rights. The short videos, located at - [www.youtube.com/fairworkgovau](http://www.youtube.com/fairworkgovau) are presented in Auslan (Australian sign language) and are also captioned and narrated in English.

Workers or employers seeking support should get in touch with the Fair Work Ombudsman via the website or call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94. Deaf or hearing-impaired individuals can call via the National Relay Service on 133 677 (TTY users) or 1300 555 727 (speak and listen users).

### Customer survey on Australian Disability Enterprises website

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is undertaking a customer survey for Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE) customers to help to improve the ADE website [www.australiandisabilityenterprises.com.au](http://www.australiandisabilityenterprises.com.au).

Customers are extremely important to the success of ADEs. The department wants to know what customers think about the ADE website so it can better provide them with information on the products and services available from ADEs.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. The information provided will remain confidential and will be used to improve the website's function and content. To complete the survey go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/8HZKXTT](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8HZKXTT).

### Workplace attitudes prevent employment of people with disabilities

The findings of AHRI's new study on disability employment reveal that attitudes within Australian workplaces are a significant barrier preventing the employment of people with disabilities.

678 responses were received in the survey that ran during July and August 2011. The survey report is entitled 'Recruiting people with a disability: An employer perspective'. The Report is available at [resource.ahri.com.au/archive/e6ba70fc093b4ce912d769ede1ceeba8](http://resource.ahri.com.au/archive/e6ba70fc093b4ce912d769ede1ceeba8).

## NDIS Advisory Group announced

The Federal Government has announced the membership of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Advisory Group. This key Group will provide advice to all governments on the foundation reforms required to establish the NDIS.

Chaired by the former head of FaHCSIA, Jeff Harmer, the Group includes NDS Chief Executive Ken Baker and the Chair of NDS WA (and CEO of the Autism Association of WA), Joan McKenna-Kerr.

The other members are:

- Bruce Bonyhady, Chairman of Yooralla and President of Philanthropy Australia;
- Brendan O'Reilly, former Director-General of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- Rhonda Galbally, Chair of the National People with Disabilities and Carer Council;
- Lorna Hallahan, Senior lecturer in Social Work at Flinders University and Chair of the SA Disability Advisory Council; and
- Fran Vickery, the Manager of Queenslanders with Disability Network.

Among the foundation stones for the NDIS are workforce capacity; person-centred services, nationally-consistent assessment tools, fair and efficient pricing and quality requirements. Governance and funding arrangements are also critically important.

COAG's newly-established Select Council on Disability Reform, which includes the Treasurers and Disability Ministers from all jurisdictions, will meet later this month to consider a work plan. The Federal Department FaHCSIA has established a special unit focussed on the NDIS, headed by senior official Nick Hartland.

Source: NDS News Update 11-10-11

## Report: The use of health services among Australians with disability

This report is the second in a series about

health of people with disability. It examines the use of health services among Australians with disability based on national population health survey data. For more information search for AIHW catalogue number (AUS140) or to download the report go to [www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737420117&tab=2](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737420117&tab=2).

## Make a Friend and Change a life! - Become a Volunteer for Compeer!



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*



The Compeer Program matches volunteers from the community, with someone who has a diagnosed mental illness in a one on one friendship. Help break down the stigma and loneliness that can accompany mental illness through friendship & social support. For more information Contact Megan on 4276 4229, email [Compeer@svdpwgong.org.au](mailto:Compeer@svdpwgong.org.au) or website [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au).

## Nick Vujicic - Attitude is Altitude - No Arms, No Legs, No Worries



“Imagine being born without arms. No arms to wrap around someone, no hands to experience touch, or to hold another hand with. Or what about being born without legs? Having no ability to dance, walk, run, or even stand on two feet. Now put both of those scenarios together: no arms and no legs. What would you do? How would that effect your everyday life?”

Nick Vujicic was born in Melbourne Australia in 1982 with no arms and legs. Yet today he is a highly paid international motivational speaker living in America. “No Arms, No Legs, No Worries” is a DVD about Nick and the journey to his successful life today. It is available from his website [www.attitudeisaltitude.com](http://www.attitudeisaltitude.com), along with a range of other DVDs and further information about Nick and his life, including details of his international appearances.

## ABC Ramp Up Website

ABC Ramp Up is an excellent website that collects all the radio, TV and written stories about disabilities in Australia and the World produced by the ABC.

They currently have 2 fantastic articles called "Are we getting a fair deal?", an article on how things that have been invented to improve access for people with a disability have also benefited the wider community, and "Let the Boy Run", an article about Sekou Kanneh, an Australian eleven-year-old aspiring Olympic sprinter, running competitively in both the 100m and 200m events who is deaf and is battling to get School Sports Australia to use something other than a starters gun so he can hear the start of the race, see below.

1. **Are we getting a fair deal?** by Graeme Innes; Ramp Up; 7 Oct 2011. Graeme Innes is Australia's (somewhat grumpy) Disability Discrimination Commissioner. *"Are people with disabilities appreciated for all these access innovations that improve our world? Many great things have been invented in the name of access for people with disabilities that benefit the world at large. Graeme Innes wonders why we're not appreciated more for it".... article continues at [www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2011/10/07/3334535.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2011/10/07/3334535.htm).*
2. **"Let the boy run"** by The Angry Cripple; Ramp Up; 7 Sep 2011. The Angry Cripple is a column written by anonymous Guest writers and appears on the Punch, an Australian based news website. *"With very minor adjustments, disabled athletes like 11-year old Sekou Kanneh can often compete alongside their non-disabled competitors".... article continues at [www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2011/09/07/3311778.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2011/09/07/3311778.htm).*

## Carers Struggle to find employment when a loved one dies

Many people spend years caring for a loved one, but finding work when that person dies can present a major challenge. Caring for a loved one can become the entire focus of their

life – out of both necessity and love.

Necessity because there is often no one else who can be entrusted with the caring role. Love because a carer's love for their family member who needs care often knows no bounds – there is nothing they would not do for that person to make their life better and happier.

Often there is simply no choice. There are no adequate services available in the local region, or waiting lists are years long.

But should that loved one die, carers often find themselves at an utter loss. Suddenly they are facing a whole new unfamiliar scenario and may have no idea how to start to build a new life for themselves or how to find employment.

If they have been on a carer's pension, they have just a few short weeks before that is taken from them and they must find another stream of income. And they must face this new reality while they may well still be deeply grieving.

Their work skills and knowledge may be out of date or underdeveloped after years in the caring role. They may have no current work experience. Who is going to employ them?

If former carers do not find work, their situation can deteriorate rapidly.

A recent study by Anglicare Sydney found an increasing number of single women over 50 seeking out emergency housing services. A proportion of these women were former carers.

ABC radio program The World Today interviewed two such carers for a recent program at [www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-19/former-carers-feel-abandoned/2906162](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-19/former-carers-feel-abandoned/2906162).

## Disability Community Leaders

Six Australians will champion the cause of people with disability following their appointment by the Australian Government as Disability Community Leaders to promote IDPwD and the National Disability Awards.

The Disability Community Leaders will help promote and raise awareness of IDPwD and the National Disability Awards within their communities and participate in local and regionally based events in the lead up to these two important annual events.

The leaders include Ms Suzanne Colbert and Mr Michael Taggart, both former National Disability Awards finalists, who have made major contributions to the disability sector through their work.

The youngest of the Disability Community Leaders, Danny Dickson who is just 13 years old, was co-MC at the launch of Children with Disability Australia in 2010, and has also appeared on national TV promoting IDPwD.

For more information go to [www.idpwd.com.au/disability-community-leaders/](http://www.idpwd.com.au/disability-community-leaders/)



## Accessing the Future Conference

The Biennial 2011 Accessing the Future: Inclusive Technologies in Education and Employment Conference is the ninth conference to be held in NSW. The conference is coordinated by the National Disability Coordination Officer Program, in partnership with DEEWR. The conference provides a valuable professional development opportunity for service providers, particularly Disability Employment Services.

The conference aims to promote best practice by instructing, informing, guiding, and inspiring participants to incorporate appropriate inclusive technologies into their environment. Participation in the conference is broad and includes educators from all sectors (including support staff), practitioners, service providers, government/non government groups, employers, allied health professionals and students/people with disability.

For registration enquiries please contact Cre8ing Growth, Stephanie Roberts on Ph 4969 7555 or email [stephanie@cre8inggrowth.com.au](mailto:stephanie@cre8inggrowth.com.au). For program enquiries please contact NDCO Convenor Timothy Hart on email [t.hart@sydney.edu.au](mailto:t.hart@sydney.edu.au). More Information at

website [cre8inggrowth.com.au/ndcoconference](http://cre8inggrowth.com.au/ndcoconference).

Source: NDS News Update 7-10-11

## Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws to be combined

The complexity of Australia's anti-discrimination law was highlighted during the development of Australia's Human Rights Framework. Consultation is now underway to consolidate all existing Commonwealth anti-discrimination law into a single Act.

Commonwealth anti-discrimination law is currently contained in four separate pieces of legislation:

- Racial Discrimination Act 1975;
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984;
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992; and
- Age Discrimination Act 2004.

A fifth piece of legislation, the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986, establishes the Australian Human Rights Commission and provides mechanisms for resolving complaints of unlawful discrimination.

The consolidation project aims to:

- reduce complexity and inconsistency in anti-discrimination regulation to make it easier for individuals and business to understand their rights and obligations;
- maintain current material protections from discrimination;
- clarify and enhance protection where appropriate; and
- ensure simple, cost-effective mechanisms for resolving complaints.

A discussion paper, copies available at [www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination\\_AustraliasHumanRightsFramework\\_ConsolidationofCommonwealthAnti-DiscriminationLaws](http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination_AustraliasHumanRightsFramework_ConsolidationofCommonwealthAnti-DiscriminationLaws) has been prepared and comments are being accepted until 1 February 2012. Exposure draft legislation will be released for further public consultation in early 2012.

## For Your Calendar...

### **Carers Week – 16th to 22nd Oct**

The event was established to promote and raise awareness of the valuable role that carers play in our community and to generate discussion about carer issues. Carers week also provides an opportunity for carers to come together support one another and share ideas and information. See information at [www.carersnsw.asn.au](http://www.carersnsw.asn.au).

### **Movember Foundation – 1st to 30th Nov**

This is an annual Month of celebration of the Moustache, highlighting mens' health issue, specifically prostate cancer and depression. Contact phone 1300 476966 or go to [www.au.movember.com](http://www.au.movember.com).

### **Spinal Injury Awareness Week- 7 Nov to 11 Nov 2011**

Spinal Injuries Awareness Week is a registered event of Don't DISmyABILITY and aims to raise awareness of some of the key challenges faced by people with a spinal cord injury, including accessibility and employment, whilst celebrating the many achievements of wheelchair users. Go to [www.paraquad.org.au](http://www.paraquad.org.au).

### **Assistance Dogs Australia Awareness Week – 22nd to 30th Nov 2011**

Celebrating the work of all assistance dogs. to enhance the quality of life for people with physical disabilities. Assistance Dogs Australia obtains, trains and maintains dogs in community settings to assist people with their disabilities to give them more confidence

and to help them achieve a greater level of independence. Contact phone 6120 0600 or go to [www.assisteddogs.org.au](http://www.assisteddogs.org.au)

### **Lung Cancer Awareness Month - 1st to 30th Nov**

Lung Cancer Awareness Month focuses on the needs and the achievements of the past year. Patients with lung cancer, and those who love them, have great physical and emotional needs. Contact 1800 654 301

### **White Ribbon Day – 25th Nov**

International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women and also Australia's campaign to stop violence against women. Go to [www.whiteribbon.org.au](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au)

### **World Diabetes Day – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

Diabetes Australia sets the focus of this day - diabetes education and prevention. Contact 6232 3800 or 1300 136 588 or go to [www.diabetesaustralia.com.au](http://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au).

### **Grandparents' Day - Sunday 30th October**

On Sunday 30 October 2011, the NSW Government will officially recognise this the contribution of Grandparents with the inaugural Grandparents Day. Grandparents Day will be held annually on the last Sunday in October. For more information go to [www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about/news/celebrate\\_grandparents\\_day\\_-\\_sunday\\_30\\_october\\_2011](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about/news/celebrate_grandparents_day_-_sunday_30_october_2011)

### **International Day of People With a Disability - 3rd Dec**

Various events planned from 26th Nov to 4th Dec in all local council areas.

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

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**Postal: PO Box 395 Fairy Meadow NSW 2519**

**Phone: 4255 8000 or Fax: 4255 8088 Website: [www.disabilitytrust.org.au](http://www.disabilitytrust.org.au)**

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

*...creating an inclusive world*