

# Your Voice, Your Choice.



THE DISABILITY  
TRUST

MARCH 2012

Family Managed  
Allocation  
Research Project

Supported Living Fund  
Applications re-open

*HSNet: What is it?*

## Future Planning: Carers and People with a disability



...creating an inclusive world

## Welcome to Your Choice, Your Voice

Hi, and welcome to the Your Voice, Your Choice monthly newsletter from The Disability Trust. This is the second issue with our new look and content. What do you think? Let us know at [info@disabilitytrust.org.au](mailto:info@disabilitytrust.org.au).

This month, among other things, we have a look at a few different resources for the important task of Future Planning for people with disabilities and their carers; highlight the Supported Living Fund is open for applications, a few months earlier than expected; give an overview of HSNet, an excellent source for

information; we get ready for the Digital TV Switchover; announce Kids Fund is looking for applications and, finally, there is a note for your diary for the important annual IDO Expo in Wollongong.

“Your Voice, Your Choice” aims to provide the questions, and hopefully most of the answers, that will keep you informed and able to use your voice to achieve your choice.

If there is a topic, issue, program, funding, article, event, or anything for people with disabilities, their families and carers, and people working in the sector, that we should know about, then contact us at [info@disabilitytrust.org.au](mailto:info@disabilitytrust.org.au).

### Disability Information Assistance Line (DIAL)

#### Illawarra and Shellharbour

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

- Programs, aids and equipment
- Referral to appropriate services
- Self advocacy and support groups
- Forums and Workshops
- Your Choice, Your Voice - free monthly newsletter

Phone 4295 9806 or email [info@disabilitytrust.org.au](mailto:info@disabilitytrust.org.au).



Human Services

Ageing, Disability & Home Care



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### Shoalhaven Information and Advocacy (SIA)

#### Kiama and Shoalhaven

Providing information and individual advocacy for people with disabilities, carers, families, service providers, we are a central point of contact for information provision about disability services including:

- Programs, aids and equipment
- Forums and workshops
- Individual advocacy and support
- Referral to appropriate services
- Counselling - short term access to local counselling services

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

#### Would you like to receive this newsletter?

Contact: The Disability Trust at [info@disabilitytrust.org.au](mailto:info@disabilitytrust.org.au)

100—102 Jardine Street Fairy Meadow NSW 2519

Phone: 4295 9806 / Fax: 4255 8088

Website: [www.disabilitytrust.org.au](http://www.disabilitytrust.org.au)

Twitter: @DisabilityTrust or [www.twitter.com/DisabilityTrust](http://www.twitter.com/DisabilityTrust)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/The-Disability-Trust/124179197684077](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Disability-Trust/124179197684077)



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*The newsletter is prepared by the Information and Advocacy Service and is 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.*

## James's story

My name is James Davies, I'm 20 years old and I have spastic quadriplegia cerebral palsy. I'm currently studying commerce at Curtin University. I am also working as a marriage celebrant and aspiring author.



My condition means I require 24-hour care which is currently provided by my parents. My disability affects all four limbs.

I'm unable to walk at all, I can't stand. I use an electric wheelchair to get around and I need help with feeding, dressing, toileting, bathing and that kind of thing.

It's very difficult to plan things because I'm always having to rely on other people and fit in with their schedules and possibly if I had a bit more assistance and funding and it wasn't such a battle to get additional care provided it would be easier for me to live my life the way I want to.

The future is a concern because my parents are in their sixties now so basically I think maybe they have less than ten years of looking after me and then from that point on I'm not sure what will happen, I may need to go to some sort of nursing home or other out-of-home care.

My biggest issue to date with the system has been acquiring care for post-school study. At school I had a carer with me full time which was provided by the Education Department and when I left school in 2007 I assumed that things would just continue – I thought a similar thing would happen at TAFE and then at Uni.

When I went into TAFE for an orientation I asked the disabilities services officer what sort of care is available for people who need personal care, for toileting, opening doors, getting things out of my bag and so on, and she said "oh, we don't have the funding for that" and so over the next 6 months or so it was a bit up in the air what was going to happen with that, because if I couldn't go to the toilet, I couldn't go to TAFE.

So I wrote to the Premier, the Minister of Education, the General Director of TAFE and the Director of Disability Services and the

policy was changed at TAFE, but then I encountered the same problem again at Uni, so I had to repeat the same process and I had to write to the Premier, the Prime Minister this time and the Federal Minister for Disabilities and Children's Services Bill Shorten and the Vice Chancellor as well. The issue is with these institutions is that because of red tape, their hands are tied.

I think the NDIS would be good, so there wasn't this battle all the time. My mum had to attend Curtin University with me at night. For a person working full time that was very demanding for her and she was just trying to assist me in being integrated into the community here but I really felt very excluded.

Transitions are usually the issue because that's when you switch over funding models. So with the NDIS that wouldn't have been a problem because you know what funding is already available and you'd have choice about how that funding is allocated so you could plan for 10-15 years in advance, you could have a lifetime care plan.

The one thing that I like about this plan is that it wouldn't be crisis driven, it would be focusing on what you can do, not what you can't do. I don't like to fill out forms and have to focus on the negatives all the time, I'm about what I can do and the things I want to do and how to get there, not what's holding me back.

As somebody said during one of the Productivity Commission hearings it could be any of us tomorrow. You know you could go out in the street and get hit by a bus – not that we want that to happen – but any number of varied things could happen, or you could have a child with CP as my parents did.

So I guess you just have to look at it from the other perspective and that's what I try to do as well. I think able-bodied people don't come across these issues and so it's unfair of me to think woe is me, you know, I just have to think they live a different life and this is my circumstance and that's theirs. Together we've just got to do the best we can and integrate as much as possible, to close the gap.

*(From the Every Australian Counts website at [www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au).)*

## Supported Living Fund – Formal Application open

The Supported Living Fund (SLF) is an initiative that aims to provide people with a disability, their families and carers greater opportunity to create and build person centred and sustainable living arrangements. The focus is on giving people flexible and individualised options in the planning of ongoing living supports. It is a recurrent source of funding which is both individualised and portable.

Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) are inviting suitable applicants to formally submit an application form to apply for the Supported Fund. This form is known as My Proposal. There is an electronic version of the form OR a printed version which people can obtain via the ADHC website [http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/support/somewhere to live/slfregistrations](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/support/somewhere%20to%20live/slfregistrations)

This proposal form is for consideration in the Round One intake - if you are not ready to apply now, please note that there will be another round later in 2012 and a further round in 2013.

If you have any questions about completing the proposal form, please contact Family Advocacy on (02) 9869 0866 or 1800 620 588 or Carers NSW on 1800 242 636.

Proposals are due to ADHC by 5pm Friday 23 March 2012. Please refer to the application form for more instructions and information.

## Launch of the NSW Disability Industry Innovation Awards

The Minister for Disability Services, The Hon. Andrew Constance MP, launched the inaugural NSW Disability Industry Innovation Awards at the National Disability Services (NDS) NSW Annual State Conference in Sydney on 13 February 2012.

The NSW Disability Industry Innovation Awards are an initiative of the State Government in partnership with NDS NSW. The Awards will formally recognise and reward excellence and innovation demonstrated by

the people and non government community based organisations that make a difference in the lives of people with disability.

The 10 award categories aim to recognise individuals and organisations innovating to achieve positive outcomes for people with a disability, their families and carers and innovation in organisational change. All non-government support workers/professionals and organisations involved in working with people with a disability, their families and carers are eligible to be nominated for the awards.

Nominations close COB on Friday 20 April 2012. Find out more at [www.nds.org.au/nswdiia](http://www.nds.org.au/nswdiia).

## Ex-carers feel 'abandoned, destitute'

ABC radio had an excellent story on what happens to carers when the person they have been caring for passes away. Ex-carers have only a few months to grieve and find work before their carers' allowance is cut off and carers groups are now calling for more financial and practical help to support former carers through this transition. Visit [www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2011/s3320544.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2011/s3320544.htm) to read the full story or listen to the podcast.

## Siblings Australia



Siblings Australia is a national organisation committed to providing support for brothers and sisters of people with special needs, including disabilities.

They have just released their Annual Report for 2010-11 at [www.keepandshare.com/doc/3532774/annual-report-10-11-pdf-february-9-2012-10-50-am-291k?da=y](http://www.keepandshare.com/doc/3532774/annual-report-10-11-pdf-february-9-2012-10-50-am-291k?da=y).

They have a new DVD for parents available with a short (3 min) preview on their YouTube page at [www.youtube.com/user/SibAus](http://www.youtube.com/user/SibAus). The DVD can be ordered via their website. They are also available to hold workshops for parents and for providers on how to best support siblings.

For more information contact Kate Strohm at [kate@siblingsaustralia.org.au](mailto:kate@siblingsaustralia.org.au).

## Illawarra Disability Options Expo



Put This Date in Your Diary!!!  
The Illawarra Disability Options Expo is Wollongong's best opportunity to meet the people and organisations that provide services to people with a disability, their families and Carers, all in one place.

Where: The Builders Club, Church st, Wollongong

When: 9:30am – 2:00pm, Wednesday 8th August 2012

For further information please contact: Michelle Lynch on 1800 662 314 or Merryll Bennett on 4229 1922.

## Using communication to support behaviour

Want to understand the importance of communication in teaching new behaviours or skills? Would you like to hear some success stories from experienced professionals?

Come along to hear Matt (teacher), Ellen (speech pathologist) and Christine (psychologist) from the Aspect South Coast School.

When: Wednesday 28th March 2012

Where: ILLCOS Resource Room @ Interchange Illawarra, 81 Kenny St, Wollongong

Time: 4pm – 6pm

Cost: FREE

RSVP: [info@illcos.com](mailto:info@illcos.com) or 4227 1079 by 22nd March

Light refreshments provided and limited places available.

## Nowra SSCAP Disability Working Group

The Nowra SSCAP Disability Working Group is again running and the first meeting will be held at the Nowra Family Day Care Centre, Park Road Nowra, on Wednesday 7th March

from 1pm to 3pm. Contact Marilyn Brown at FaCS, on 4429 2800 or [marilyn.brown@facns.nsw.gov.au](mailto:marilyn.brown@facns.nsw.gov.au).

## We Need Your Help!

The Illawarra Respite and Carer Support Forum are wanting to organise a Carers Health & Wellbeing Seminar and are looking for members of a Working Party to help organise it. The First Working Party meeting is on Wednesday 28th March and they need people to be involved to provide ideas, assistance with planning and organising.

If you want to find out more please come to the next meeting:

When: Wednesday 28th March 2012

Where: Commonwealth Carelink & Respite Centre

Time: Starts 2pm

For further information call Kylie Ramstadius on 4227 1079.

## Shoalhaven People for Access

Monthly meetings that discuss what works for people to be mobile, has great guest speakers, and works to raise awareness of disabilities in the community and with a laugh and a cuppa.

When: Wed 14<sup>th</sup> March (Second Wednesday of each month)

Time: 10.30am

Where: Nowra Library Meeting room (downstairs)

For more information ring Bill 4421 4291.

## Gotta Dance!



Dance lessons for people with an intellectual disability - from 8 years old to adult.

Starts Sat 10th March, Held Saturdays during school terms from 2:00 – 3:30pm at John's Studio, 28 Quinn's Lane, South Nowra.

Cost: \$10 per session

Teacher is Jaye Cartwright. Enquiries to Margaret at [msperkins@optusnet.com.au](mailto:msperkins@optusnet.com.au) or on 4423 2029 or Paul Bushby on 0479 162 994. Special THANKS to DASI Inc.

## KIDS Fund Allocations



THE DISABILITY TRUST

disabilities in the Illawarra Local Government Area.

All applications will need to be received by The Disability Trust for processing by 31 March 2012. In order for these applications to be processed the applicant must ensure that all quotes are current and a Health Care Professional's report is attached.

All reusable items remain the property of Kids Fund and The Disability Trust should be advised on 4255 8000 if the funded item is no longer required or suitable.

For information on KIDS Fund eligibility criteria or additional application forms please go to our website at [www.kidsfund.org.au](http://www.kidsfund.org.au). For all enquiries please contact our Information Services Worker Claudia at The Disability Trust on 4295 9806.

Please forward all applications for KIDS Fund to KIDS Fund, PO BOX 395, Fairy Meadow, NSW, 2519.

## My Time

Would you like to meet with other parents/ carers while your child is being cared for?



the opportunity to get together regularly for a range of activities which could include

My Time is a program being offered in Nowra through the Cerebral Palsy Alliance. The program aims to give parents/ carers of children with a disability up to 16 years of age

information, discussion and fun activities chosen by the group.

The group meets on a Thursday every fortnight during term time with a facilitator to share information and experiences. To enable parents to have time to themselves, to chat and relax, children will be catered for with a program suited to their needs.

My Time is free-of-charge and is held at Family Day Care, 4/80 Park Road, East Nowra from 12.15pm to 2.30pm.

To be part of this group and find out when the next one is being held, please contact Mandy Muller on 4423 5882 or 0427 788 456 or email her at [mmuller@cerebralpalsy.org.au](mailto:mmuller@cerebralpalsy.org.au).

## Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder and Mainstream School Strategies

This is a professional development course for teachers, special support personnel, and other professionals supporting K to Year 6 students with ASD (with particular focus on High Functioning Autism (HFA)/ Asperger's Disorder). The course is also suitable for teachers of support classes in mainstream schools. Parents are welcome to attend.

The course is presented by senior educators from Aspect South Coast School, Debra O'Brien and Raeleigh Kerr.

Date: Wednesday 21 March 2012

Time: 9:00am to 4:00 pm

Venue: TBA (South Coast / Illawarra area)

Cost: \$220 - cost includes course handouts, morning tea and lunch

RSVP by 14 March 2012

To register, please go to the Workshops page of the Aspect website [www.autismspectrum.org.au](http://www.autismspectrum.org.au) and for course enquiries please contact Raeleigh on [rkerr@autismspectrum.org.au](mailto:rkerr@autismspectrum.org.au).



## Fun Courses for people with a disability – Respite Opportunity for Carers!



Kiama / Shoalhaven Community College is holding recreational and social activities for adults with disabilities. They have fun classes in Drama, Art, Dance, Cooking, Gardening, Craft and more.

Classes run through to June 2012 and places are available in all classes. Classes run evenings at Kiama College campus, Kiama, Shell Cove Community Centre, Shellharbour and Shoalhaven College, Bomaderry.

Transport assistance is available. Fully qualified Disability Support workers attend all classes to ensure the well being of students. This is a fully funded program with no cost to participants or carers.

Students can start the courses at any stage, contact the Coordinator, John Kenny on 0434 989 253 or the Kiama Community College on 4232 1050 for information, advice and enrolments.



## Teen Respite Camps

Teen Respite Camps for people in Wollongong and South are now being advertised on the ADHC website [www.facs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au).

Young person with an intellectual disability with moderate to high support needs and their sibling/s who are aged between 13 years and 17 years are invited to attend. Applications need to be received by 30th March 2012.

Transport is offered with pick up points at Goulburn and Fairy Meadow. Clients in Nowra will have to drop the young person directly at the Berry Camp.

When: 18th-20th May 2012

Where: Berry Sport and Recreation Camp

Any queries contact Kelly at ADHC on 1300 841 566.

## Tony Attwood Seminar in Nowra



This is a great opportunity to see Tony Attwood at a greatly reduced rate. Professor Tony Attwood, considered to be the world expert on Autism Spectrum Disorders is holding a 2 Day Seminar in Nowra.

When: 9.30am – 4.00pm, over 2 days – Fri 23rd March and Sat 24th March

Where: Nowra City Church Auditorium, 167 McMahons Road (cnr of Rockhill Road), North Nowra.

Friday workshops are Making Friends: Strategies to improve social understanding and friendship skills and Managing Feelings: Strategies to manage anxiety, sadness and anger. Saturday workshops are Cognitive Abilities: A Different Way of Thinking and Learning Profile and Managing Challenging Behaviour in children with autism,

Cost: Professionals: 1 day—\$99, 2 Days—\$176. Parents/Non Professionals subsidized Rate: 1 day—\$66, 2 Days—\$110.

For further information contact Debra at Noah's Shoalhaven on 4423 5022 or at [www.noahsark.nsw.edu.au](http://www.noahsark.nsw.edu.au).

## Autism Month Dinner

Please come and join us to help celebrate "Autism Month". We will also be witnessing the Wollongong Lighthouse being lit up with Blue lights.

When: 6.00pm – 10.00pm, Sun 1st April 2012

Where: Dunes Restaurant, Wollongong (at City Beach)

Cost: \$45 per person for two course meal

Theme is, of course, "BLUE". We aim to have an enjoyable evening of delicious food and wonderful company. There will be some games throughout the evening with prizes, including a prize for "Best Dressed". To book either single tickets or a table please phone the Aspect school on 4285 2393 by Friday 17th March.

## Boccia ACCROSS Illawarra Update

2011 was a great year for the club and Team Illawarra. They get together at Port Kembla Surf Club each Friday afternoon for two hours of fun, training and competition. The club consists of Mecenzi, Nick, Jack, Adam, Amy, Ivano (players), Toni, Peter, Tayla (coaches/ refs), Ivana, Karen, Lorraine, Peter and Anna (parents, friends, supporters and helpers).

2011 saw a great improvement in skills for all athletes. Three members, Mecenzi, Nick and Adam, competed in the 2012 State Titles, with all three making it into the Final series. Mecenzi and Adam both won Bronze medals in their respective classifications, with Nick just missing out on a medal. All three players greatly improved on their PB's.

Mecenzi has been selected to represent NSW at the National Championships in May and also selected in the Boccia "Road to Rio" program, to support her road to qualifying for the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

For more information contact Toni Howard on 0438 627 585 or go to [www.bocciansw.org.au](http://www.bocciansw.org.au).



## Families Steering their way to a Better Future

'Family Managed Allocations - Families Steering their way to a Better Future' is a participatory action research project conducted by Shellharbour TAFE students in collaboration with Interchange Illawarra.

The research, instigated by Interchange Illawarra, seeks to learn more about the strengths and weaknesses of their unique model of respite, known as Family Managed Allocations (FMA).

The FMA model of respite was introduced by Interchange Illawarra over 19 years ago, well before the current trend of consumer led

choice emerged. It developed in response to the needs of carers who preferred to use existing relationships to provide short breaks from their caring role. The FMA is a carer driven, person-centred model and provides choice, control and flexibility to carers.

The findings of the report include the FMA:

- Was used in a variety of ways, dependant on each individuals situation
- Was highly valued by Families
- Improved quality of life for the client, their care and family
- Strengthened the support network around a child with a disability
- Enabled Carers to feel better about using support networks
- Stretched the dollars further

For more on the FMA report contact Glenda Pearce at Interchange Illawarra on 4227 1079.

## Parenting Children with a disability



CatholicCare are running a 6 session course with support and information for issues related to parenting a child with a disability.

Issues covered include Expectations verses reality, Dealing with feelings, Behaviour management strategies, Communication skills, Self esteem, Teaching children to care for themselves, Routine, rules and boundaries and Coping strategies & resources.

When: 10.00am to 12.30pm, Thursday Mornings - 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March, 5 April

Where: CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn Street, Wollongong

Bookings are essential on 4254 9316.

## Shoalhaven Disability Forum

Shoalhaven Disability Forum is returning to monthly meetings, starting in March.

When: 1.30pm, Tue 13<sup>th</sup> March

Where: Essential Personnel training rooms, Bomaderry Plaza

Contact Melinda at Shoalhaven Information and Advocacy on 4428 9002 for more information.

## See no evil? Definitely not without audio description

For many years, people who are blind or vision impaired have not had access to cinema or television. Audio description can change that.

Senator Stephen Conroy last week announced that ABC1 will trial audio description in 2012, giving people who are blind or vision impaired access to something most of us take for granted.

“Movie reviews swim through your head as you settle into the upholstered seat with your popcorn. The opening scene starts to screen, setting the background to the movie.

“There is no dialogue.

“While everyone is watching intently, you sit silently, waiting for a cue to give you a hint of what is being shared on the screen before you. It doesn't come.

“This is my experience as a regular blind movie-goer.

“You head home defeated. You turn on your TV, flicking channels until you come across a program that looks half interesting. You sit down in front of the box with your cup of tea - or a glass of Shiraz and my Brailnote in my case - and settle on Australian Story which is one of my favourite programs. But you temporarily forget that your investment in this show will be thwarted by an inaccessible ending - an ending summarised in captions that are completely inaccessible to someone who is blind like me...”

For the rest of the article by Robyn Gaile go to [www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2012/02/27/3440548.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2012/02/27/3440548.htm) .

## Changes to Disability Support Pensioners Working Hours

The Federal Government has introduced into Parliament further reforms to the Disability Support Pension (DSP) allowing people with disabilities to work twice as many hours.

The Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Disability Support Pension Participation Reforms) Bill 2012 introduces

new participation requirements for Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients who have some capacity to work.

If the Bill passes, then from 1 July this year all DSP recipients will be able to work up to 30 hours a week without their payment being suspended or cancelled, subject to the income test.

## Children Of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI)

The COPMI national initiative is launching a campaign in April to help fathers with a mental illness. A kit will be available to order providing information sheets with tips and advice to help fathers remain functional and connected to their family and lead them to seek support. Videos and other information will also be provided via a father's page on our website.

COPMI provide information for family members across Australia where a parent has a mental illness and for people who care for and work with them. The overall aim of the Australian COPMI initiative is to promote better mental health outcomes for children (0 to 18 years) of parents with a mental health problem or disorder.

For further information contact Nitsa on 08 8367 0888, email at [copmi@aicafmha.net.au](mailto:copmi@aicafmha.net.au) or at [www.copmi.net.au](http://www.copmi.net.au).

## Do you know about the HSNet website?



The HSNet website is a free, secure site for staff working in the NSW disabilities sector.

Providing a central location for sharing information across government and non-government agencies, HSNet enables members to easily locate health, housing, family, legal and community service information locally and across NSW exchange information, make referrals securely to provide the best possible service to their clients.

It is an excellent source of local information and one the key sources of information for this newsletter. For more information and to join up go to <https://www.hsnet.nsw.gov.au>.

## New 'life after work' handbook now available to ADEs

Red Cross College (Queensland), through their Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE) arm, Business Services, recently launched the 'Pathways and Possibilities for Life After Work' handbook.

The handbook is a resource designed to encourage conversations and steps towards planning for life after work for ADE employees. Pathways and Possibilities for Life After Work aims to support community participation and inclusion, and contains information on a range of topics to support transitional planning for employees of ADEs, and/or their supporters.

An online version is available by emailing [qldlps@redcross.org.au](mailto:qldlps@redcross.org.au).

## IDRS Webpage for Wills, Estates, Trusts and Future Planning

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS) have a comprehensive Webpage for Wills, Estates, Trusts and Future Planning. Areas covered on webpage include What is a Will?; What is a Trust?; and What is Future Planning? They also have factsheets on Wills for people with intellectual disability and Wills and future planning for parents of people with intellectual disability as well as links to booklets from the Federal Government on Special Disability Trusts: getting things sorted and Planning for the Future: People with disability booklet.

The webpage is at [www.idrs.org.au/legal](http://www.idrs.org.au/legal).

## ADHC Planning for the future webpage

ADHC has a Planning for the future webpage was lots of useful information and kits in case you, or a family member, lose the ability to make decisions about money, health care or lifestyle.

There are lots of things you can put in place now to make sure that if something happens to you, your family will know exactly what you

want them to do. ADHC has a Planning Ahead Kit which is a practical resource they have developed to plan for the future.

The Kit can help choose someone to make financial, health and lifestyle decisions for you if you lose the capacity to make decisions yourself. It deals with important issues such as Wills, funeral funds, enduring guardianship, advance care directives and Power of Attorney.

Go to [http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/ageing\\_well/planning\\_for\\_the\\_future](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/ageing_well/planning_for_the_future) for more information and to see the Kits.

## FaHCSIA Future planning Webpage

The Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has a webpage with information about planning for the future of a family member with a disability containing 2 Booklets and a Speakers Kit.

The Planning for the future: People with disability booklet includes guidance on the things to consider when planning for the future, information about how to obtain financial and legal advice and useful contacts in each state/territory.

The Special Disability Trusts: Getting things sorted booklet includes information on how families can use trusts to provide for family members with disability and the availability of concessions from social security and veterans' entitlement means tests for eligible family members establishing a Special Disability Trust. Both booklets are available in English and several other languages.

The Speakers Kit for organisations and community groups wishing to make information presentations on future planning for families of people with severe disability. Speakers Kits can be ordered by phoning 1800 050 009 and quoting the product number FACSIA 0435.

The website is at <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/carers/progserv/Pages/InformationPackage.aspx>.

## Disability Employment Services Tender Selection Criteria released for comment



The Government appears determined to forge ahead with a tender process for Employment Support Services and yesterday released the Exposure Draft of the ESS Request for Tender documentation at [www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/EmploymentServicesProcurement/Documents/DESESSExposureDraft2013\\_15.pdf](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/EmploymentServicesProcurement/Documents/DESESSExposureDraft2013_15.pdf). The sector has a month to comment.

Source: NDS National News Update, 21 February 2012.

## How does the Australian community see people with disabilities?

The Australian Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has released a report it commissioned on Community attitudes to people with disability. It is an initial step towards building an evidence base on Australian community attitudes to people with disability, on the impact of these attitudes on outcomes for people with disability and on effective policies for improving community attitudes towards them. Click here to view the report [www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/news/2012/Pages/SPRC39.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/news/2012/Pages/SPRC39.aspx).

## Every Australian Counts Campaign



The Every Australian Counts Campaign is continuing to strongly campaign for a National Disability Insurance Scheme that will revolutionise the lives of many Australians. They want to collect thousands of stories and take them Canberra and tell our parliament it's time to make the NDIS real now.

Use your mobile phone or handycam, and take a video that includes the lines "Make it Real" and "I'm counting on an NDIS...." Then upload

your video to share your story. Embarrassed? Don't be. Your help is important in making the NDIS real.



If you don't have a video camera or a mobile phone that lets you record, there is no reason you can't share your story. Just type up your message and send through some photos.

To upload stories, to see other peoples stories and for more information go to [www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au).

## Training funds available from the National Respite Association Inc

The National Respite Association tendered for funding to support staff and services across the National Respite Sector in late 2011. The Federal Government through DEEWR approved over 700 training places for the sector. They now have the money and need your enrolments.

During the application process many organisations played a part in compiling these training needs. They now have a number of places available for them to access. If you require training in any of the following areas please contact Sharon on 0402 255 730 or at [sharon@rec1.edu.au](mailto:sharon@rec1.edu.au). The funding requires all enrolment to be completed as soon possible.

## Carecareers.com.au

Carecareers.com.au is an award winning free jobsite has been developed specifically for the disability and community care sector here in NSW. The service is part of the National Workforce Project initiated by National Disability Services (NDS) and ADHC and focused on attracting and retaining talent in the disability and community care sector in NSW. They have many varied roles advertised - from Frontline Support to Administration and Allied Health to CEO level roles.

To register, either as a jobseeker or employer, email them at [info@carecareers.com.au](mailto:info@carecareers.com.au), go to [www.carecareers.com.au](http://www.carecareers.com.au) or call 1300 637 637.

## For Your Calendar...

### World Down Syndrome Day - 21st March

This is the 7th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day and for the first time in 2012 this day will be officially observed by the United Nations

### National Epilepsy Awareness Month - 1st - 31st March

Includes a range of events, community activities and media campaigns to raise awareness and improve understanding of epilepsy. The month will culminate in Purple Day on March 26. Call 9674 9966 or email [epilepsy@epilepsyaustralia.net](mailto:epilepsy@epilepsyaustralia.net)

### Brain Awareness Week - 12th – 18th March

A the global campaign to increase public awareness of the progress and benefits of brain research

### World Glaucoma Week - 11th – 17th March

Seeks to raise awareness of this "silent" Eye condition. In Australia, Glaucoma is a major cause of sight loss in adults over the age of 40. Call 1800 500 880 or email [glaucoma@glaucoma.org.au](mailto:glaucoma@glaucoma.org.au)

### Worlds Greatest Shave - 15th – 17th March

The Worlds Greatest shave encourages companies, individuals and groups to shave or colour their hair to show their support for leukaemia patients and to raise money to help continue supporting patients and families. Call 1800 500 088 or go to [www.worldsgreatestshave.com](http://www.worldsgreatestshave.com)

### Harmony Day - 21st March

Provides an opportunity for us to celebrate our successes as a culturally diverse society, re-commit ourselves to harmony and say "NO" to racial intolerance. Call 1800 331 100 or email [harmonyday@immi.gov.au](mailto:harmonyday@immi.gov.au)

### Change your Smoke Alarm Battery - 1st April

Be Alarmed! Change your Smoke Alarm Battery reminder day. Go to [www.changeyourbattery.com.au/index.html](http://www.changeyourbattery.com.au/index.html)

### World Autism Awareness Day - 2nd April

Every year, autism organisations around the world celebrate the day with unique fundraising and awareness-raising events

### Easter Weekend - 6th 10th April

### World Health Day - 7th April

Marks the anniversary of the founding of WHO in 1948. Go to <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/en/>

### World Haemophilia Day - 17th April

This day recognise Haemophilia Internationally. Call 03 9885 7800 or email [hfaust@haemophilia.org.au](mailto:hfaust@haemophilia.org.au)

### IDO Expo – 8th August at Builders Club, Wollongong.

Call Michelle Lynch on 1800 662 314 or Merryll Bennett on 4229 1922

## Prepare for digital TV



On 5 June 2012, the Illawarra, Southern Highlands and southern NSW to the Victorian border will switch from analog to digital-only TV. Households that do not have a digital set-top-box or TV on that date will no longer be able to watch free-to-air TV.

The Digital Switchover Taskforce is well aware that many people in the community - the elderly, people with a disability or those with low incomes - may need particular assistance

to convert.

To find out more, visit the Digital Switchover Taskforce website at [www.digitalready.gov.au](http://www.digitalready.gov.au). On the website there is information about the government assistance programs including the Household Assistance Scheme (HAS) and Satellite Subsidy Scheme (SSS), and a range of resources, which you may wish to access and provide to service users.

All information available through the website can also be accessed via the Taskforce helpline on 1800 201 013.