



Illawarra & Shoalhaven *DISABILITY NEWS*

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

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Nov 2011

International Day of People With a Disability is 3rd Dec



International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is a United Nations sanctioned day that aims to promote an understanding of people with disability and encourage support for their dignity, rights and well-being. The day also seeks to increase awareness of the benefits of the integration of people with disability in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

IDPwD brings together individuals, businesses, community organisations, and governments from every corner of the world to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions, skills and achievements of people with disability.

In 1992, at the conclusion of the United

Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992), the General Assembly proclaimed 3 December as the International Day of Disabled Persons.

Since 1996, the Australian Government has provided funds to promote and raise awareness of IDPwD around Australia, through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). More information on the Australian Government's support for people with disability can be found on www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/pages/policy-international_day_pwd.aspx.

Each year the UN announces a theme for the day that is based on the goal of full and equal enjoyment of human rights, and participation in society by people with disability. The theme for 2011 is: "Together for a better world for all: Including persons with disabilities in development".

More information on the UN theme can be found on www.un.org/disabilities.

Source - www.idpwd.com.au

Blind Courage



Two men with adult-onset eyesight impairment, who this year completed the Blind Courage Kokoda trek,

say that teamwork enabled them to make a journey which shows that failing eyesight doesn't end dreams. The idea for Blind Courage began in a campfire talk between Crossmaglen dairy farmer Jason Bake and his brother-in-law, Coffs Harbour City Council asset manager Craig Smith.

Jason has lost 93 per cent of his sight through the degenerative eye condition retinitis pigmentosa. He first noticed his eyesight problem when he was a teenager at night-time football training. He had to give up footie, but he didn't give up dreams of trekking the highlands where Australian soldiers stopped Japan's advance in 1942.

"Diminishing eyesight made the challenge tougher, but I wanted to do it more than ever," Jason says.

"Craig turned the dream into Blind Courage – a team trek to raise money for Guide Dogs, whose people give incredible free support to thousands of Australians with impaired eyesight."

The team was soon joined by Armidale Aboriginal liaison officer Steve Widders, who has lost 95 per cent of his eyesight with cone dystrophy. Steve says that failing eyesight increased his vision of ways he could use his other abilities.

The Blind Courage group grew to be as big as a football team before it left for the 10 day trek in June this year. It included Guide Dogs instructor Matt Wood, Coffs builder and former rugby league player Peter Phillips, indigenous business facilitator Christian Lugnan, and Melbourne film maker Meagan Kae, who is working on a documentary about the journey.

They trekked with both Aboriginal and Australian flags, and took time to commemorate the Aboriginal soldiers who

died on Kokoda, as well as the sacrifices of all Australians, New Guineans and Japanese.

"The Kokoda trek helped me realise my own value as a person," Steve says. "It helped prove to myself that I can overcome any disadvantages of failing eyesight. "I believe in myself, and I turned my adversity into an advantage. "My motto is we all die, but we don't all live."

The team had trained in techniques for step-by-step guidance for Jason and Steve through the many tricky parts of the trail. It turned out to be hard work, but Jason says he only landed face-first in the mud four or five times a day during the 96km trek.

He says New Guinean guides saved him from countless more falls, but his bruises were insignificant beside the elation the trekkers shared with the highlanders' songs each evening.

Jason was still singing those songs to his cows just after his return when he was selected for a NSW dairy business award by judges who did not know about his diminished eyesight.

Steve also quickly moved on, winning a heat of the ABC television series *Strictly Speaking*, and planning a Walk Widders journey from Brisbane to Sydney next year to highlight the need for awareness of the health issues of Australian men.

Blind Courage has exceeded its \$30,000 target to raise funds for Guide Dogs NSW/ACT to train a dog to be named Kokoda. Donations can still be made at www.blindcourage.net.

Steve and Jason say they hope their trek shows that people with failing eyesight should not exclude themselves from everything they want to do.

They can be part of teams that can live their dreams.

Source - Reprinted with permission from the *International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) Breaking Down the Barriers* webpage.

IDPwD is supported by Nican and funded by the Australian Government. Register for events online at www.idpwd.com.au.

My Life, My Way



Minister for Disability Services Andrew Constance announced on 25th Oct that more people with a disability would have the choice of being

involved in the management of their own day programs to develop skills and access pathways to volunteering and work experience.

Mr Constance said the decision to make Ageing, Disability and Home Care's Self Managed Model more accessible followed evaluations of pilots and consultation with families, disability peak organisations and other stakeholders.

"Opening this model up to more people in Community Participation, Life Choices and Active Ageing programs puts more people with a disability at the forefront of decision-making and choices that affect their lives," Mr Constance said.

"As a result of the expanded arrangements, even more people will have control over how their funding is spent, the people who support them and a greater say in the activities they participate in to meet their goals, interests and needs."

"The evaluations of the Self Managed Model revealed high levels of satisfaction from people with a disability and their families who were utilising it."

To ensure people with a disability are better informed about their options when it comes to choosing the Self Managed Model for day programs, Ageing, Disability and Home Care has produced a publication entitled My Life, My Way.

The publication can be obtained www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/file/0006/241683/ADHC_SMM_booklet_P1.pdf or from day program service providers.

Disability Information Assistance Line (DIAL)

Illawarra and Shellharbour

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

- Programs and services
- Referral to counseling or advocacy services
- Self advocacy and support groups
- Forums and Workshops
- Gaining access to services, aids and equipment
- Illawarra and Shoalhaven Disability News

Phone 4295 9800 or email info@disabilitytrust.org.au.



Human Services
Ageing, Disability & Home Care



THE DISABILITY TRUST

Shoalhaven Information and Advocacy

Kiama and Shoalhaven

Providing services for people with a disability, frail older people and their carers. Our services include:

- Information - We are a central point of contact for information provision about all programs and services
- Forums and workshops
- Individual advocacy and support
- Referral
- Counselling - short term access to local counselling services

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



Human Services
Ageing, Disability & Home Care



THE DISABILITY TRUST

Celebration of Ability Calendar of Events

International Day of People with a DisAbility is a world-wide celebration held each year at the beginning of December. "Celebration of Ability", as the day has become known in Australia, is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contributions that people with a disability make to our community.

This is your invitation to join in our Celebration of Ability.

Disability Inclusion Mass - Sun 13th Nov - St Francis Xavier Cathedral, 10.30am

EP's Big Day Out - Fri 25th Nov - Sausage sizzle, sporting activities and lots of fun held at Stuart Park at 11am

Art Exhibition and Performances - Fri 25th Nov to Fri 9th Dec at Wollongong City Gallery. Official launch and performances on Wed 30th Nov at 1pm. Contact details - Darinka 4227 7239

Celebration Sailing - Sat 26th Nov - Try sailing on Lake Illawarra. Meet at 10am at Illawarra Yacht Club. Cost is \$5 and all participants must register. Contact details - Melissa 4257 1968

Herbal Lotions and Potions - Tues 29th Nov - make your own hair conditioners and moisturisers from natural products at Wollongong Botanical Gardens at 10.30am. Cost is \$8. Contact details - Geraldine 4225 2636

Inter-Service Ten Pin Bowling Challenge - Tues 29th Nov at AMF Bowling, Albion Park. Starts at 10am. Cost is \$10. Contact details - Grant 0403 063 385

Bowl On In - Wed 30th Nov - Indoor lawn bowling festival for teams or individuals followed by a sausage sizzle at Warilla Bowls and Recreation Club at 10am. Cost is \$3. Contact details - Dianne 4257 9036

Artability - Wed 30th Nov to Thurs 1st Dec. Paper mache Sculpture workshop for students at Wollongong Youth Centre at 10am. Contact Graheme 4227 3111

Beach Art & Sausage Sizzle - Thurs 1st Dec at the HACC Community Centre,

Hindmarsh Park, Kiama at 10am. Make your own beach art. Gold coin donation. Contact Margaret 4232 0472

No Dig Garden - Thurs 1st Dec at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre at 10.30am. Create a mini herb garden to take home. Contact 4227 7262

Access All Areas Film Festival - Thurs 1st Dec to Thurs 8th Dec at Wollongong City Gallery at 12pm. A program of recent Australian short films with open captions and open audio description. Contact Sue 4227 7599

Information and Entertainment - Fri 2nd Dec at Crown St Mall Amphitheatre at 11am. Talk to us about current issues for people with a disability or just stop and enjoy the music. Contact Rachel 4226 1597

BBQ for Christmas - Sat 3rd Dec at 21 Stewart St Wollongong at 11am. The Italian community unites with the Illawarra's disability community for a celebration. Contact details Erika 4228 8222

Hands on Surfing Day - Sat 3rd Dec at Thirroul Beach / Pool at 9.30am. Supervised tandem surfing. A safe surfing experience for people with disabilities young and old. Cost \$10. Contact Ian 0421 601 222

IPWD Dinner Dance - Sat 3rd Dec at Bomaderry RSL Club at 6pm. Dinner dance, music, food, raffles and lucky door prizes. Cost \$15 adults, \$7 children. Contact 4423 1191

Christmas Disco Blast - Sat 3rd Dec at Warilla High School Auditorium at 6pm. Dance off and sit down dinner. Cost \$15. Contact Lynda 0432 201 897

AbiliBall - Sat 3rd Dec at Fraternity Bowling Club at 6pm. Dinner Dance, ABBA tribute band, The Disability Trust Drama performance and ADHC staff band. Cost \$25. Contact Kaye 4222 0300

Altogether Drama Performance, Cinderella Fri 9th, Sat 10th, Thurs 15th, Fri 16th Dec at 7pm. Sun 11th Dec at 2pm and Wed 14th Dec at 11am at Wollongong Workshop Theatre. Join us for laughs, sighs, boos, hisses and song. Cost \$25 adult, \$15 concession and kids. Contact Michael 4255

Shoalhaven NDIS Community Forum

Let's revolutionise disability services 

www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au

You are invited to a public forum to learn about the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and what it will mean for you and your family.

The NDIS represents a once in a lifetime opportunity to transform the lives of people with a disability, their families and carers in this country. The forum is open to all Australians who believe in equality and fairness, but is targeted at people with a disability, their families, carers and people who work in the disability sector.

Daniel Kyriacou from NDIS is coming down to explain the proposed scheme to have lifelong financial support for people with disabilities. This is your chance to hear what the whole scheme is about and how is going to work. It is your chance to have input into how it will look when it is rolled out. All levels of government have given their support for this scheme in principal.

The day usually has the parent information session 1st and then the disability service providers can have a chance to ask questions and get 1st hand information (Probably about 11.30am).

Friday, 25th of November, at 10:30am

NOWRA SHOWGROUND MEETING ROOM, Junction St, Entry from Scenic Drive, Nowra.

RSVP by emailing daniel.kyriacou@ndis.org.au.

Disability Survey For A Television Program



My name is Greg Moran and I'm currently doing research for a television series I'm writing about people with disabilities. I'm a quadriplegic as a result of a rugby accident.

My aim in writing the series is to be funny, informative, and empowering.

I wish to include a wide range of disabilities in the show and to represent issues and themes that are important to disabled people, their carers, family and friends.

Any information that you could give me about you, and your disability would be very much appreciated.

I'm also interested in the thoughts, feelings, and issues facing families, partners, and careers of disabled people.

Please contact me by email to gregmoran@me.com, mob 0410 581 306 or post to Greg Moran, 27A Fox Street Lane Cove, NSW 2066. I will send out the survey questions. Add as much information as required for your answers or attach additional material.

If you don't have time to complete a form I'm happy to ring you and do it over the phone if you give me your number. Also please feel free to pass this form on to anyone you think might be interested and able to contribute.

Thank you for your help and support.

Fun Courses for People With a Disability



Kiama / Shoalhaven Community College is pleased to be participating in the 'Inclusive Community Education Program Pilot' funded by the Respite Directorate of Ageing, Disability and Home

Care (ADHC), Department of Family & Community Services NSW.

Eligibility Criteria - People with a disability who:

- Are aged 18 and over
- Living at home with an unpaid carer (can be in receipt of Carers' Pension/ Allowance)
- Live in the Kiama, Shoalhaven or Shellharbour local government areas

Classes run from the mid July 2011 through

to June 2012. Places available in all classes. Classes run 5 30 pm to 8 30 pm.

Kiama College campus Wednesday evening - Photography until Christmas break.

Shell Cove Community Centre, Shellharbour Thursday evening -- Folk Art until Christmas break

Shoalhaven College, Bomaderry. Tuesday evening - Leatherwork up to Christmas break.

Wednesday evening Cooking up to Christmas break.

In special circumstances transport assistance may be available. Fully qualified Disability Support workers attend all classes to ensure the well being of students.

Cost: Free

More Information/Enrolments - contact the Coordinator, John Kenny on 0434 989 253 or Kiama Community College on 4232 1050 for information and enrolments.

Special Olympics can alter image of people with intellectual disabilities



The United Nations Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace, Mr Wilfried Lemke, hailed the power of the Special Olympics to transform the public image of persons with intellectual disabilities. He stated that the Special Olympics transformed communities from closed to open ones, from intolerant to accepting ones and by using sport to accomplish this, it had come to represent the good, the power and the true spirit of sport.

Mr Lemke spoke at an event held at the XIII Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Athens from 25 June 25 to 4 July. The Games are held every two years and bring together athletes with intellectual disabilities in what is one of the world's largest sporting events. More information: www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38860&Cr=disabilit&Cr1

NSW CID's Health Fact Sheets



NSW Council for Intellectual Disability have two kinds of health fact sheets available on their web site.

- Standard fact sheets for families, advocates, disability workers and other professionals
- Easy fact sheets for people with intellectual disability

The fact sheets provide information on how to stay healthy and get good health care. The fact sheets were written with assistance from experienced health professionals, people with intellectual disability and parents.

Fact Sheets from www.nswcid.org.au web site under the category of Life Stages: include:

- Diagnosis and assessment of a disability
- Children - signs of illness; what kinds of health services are there?
- Adults - signs of illness; what kinds of health services are there?
- Ageing and health
- End of life care

Shut In Campaign: Update and Call for Endorsements

"People with disability have a right to live a full life, free from barriers which include institutions. They not only make people feel 'shut in' but create mental health issues due to isolation and seclusion. Inclusion is what our society is espousing more and more – let's not go back into the dark ages and let's let people with disability really live life with rights like anyone else in our society" - Julie, in her message of support for the Shut In Campaign.

The Shut In Campaign has been overwhelmed by the response of individuals and organisations to our call for endorsements issued last month. Individual and organisational endorsements can be

seen on the Shut In Campaign website at www.shutin.org.au under the heading "Endorse the Campaign".

The Shut In Campaign continues to seek endorsements from individuals and organisations to put pressure on Australian governments to close institutions and secure housing and supports that enable people with disability to live in the community in the same way as everyone else.

Shut In is a human rights campaign, underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It is made up of a number of national and state-based organisations all working to one aim - an end to the continuing congregation, segregation and isolation of people with disability in institutions and ensure people with disability are properly supported in ways which promote their full inclusion in the community.

Endorsements can be made by writing to info@shutin.org.au with your name (individual and/or organisation), a contact email and a postcode. For more information on the campaign and how to endorse it, please visit www.shutin.org.au.

Changes to Disability Support Pension (DSP) – Factsheet



There is a new factsheet, developed by the Welfare Rights Centre, which explains the changes that have come into effect or are about to

come into effect in relation to the Disability Support Pension.

These changes can be found on www.welfarights.org.au/Factsheets/fsdsp-changes.doc and include:

- a new requirement to have been with a program of support;
- new impairment tables;
- an ongoing residency requirement; and
- a proposal to activity test those under 35.

The changes that came into effect in

September 2011 will impact on people whose disability is not regarded as "manifest" (as assessed under the current impairment tables) and who now will be required to undertake at least 18 months of job preparation activity prior to getting eligibility for the DSP. The most immediate effect of this will be the requirement for people so designated to live on the Newstart Allowance, which provides around \$130 less per week than does the DSP. It is unclear how many people will be affected by these changes and what impact if any the lower payment will have on their wellbeing, especially in relation to the essentials of life like accommodation and food. PWD, together with other agencies, are planning to undertake some survey work to gather information about people who have been affected.

Another measure that will impact upon people with disability are the changes being made to the Impairment Tables. These tables are used to assess the extent to which a person's impairment impacts on their functioning and thus the extent to which it precludes them from working. Details of the process by which these changes were made and the new tables themselves, are provided here www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/news/2011/Pages/dsp_impairment_tables_01082011.aspx.

The limited testing that was done on the new tables indicated that up to 40% of people who currently receive the DSP would be rendered ineligible under the new tables. Whilst this may be an over-estimate, there is no doubt that some of the effects will be to reduce the number of people receiving this benefit, being required to live off Newstart and to participate in a work program of some description. This will affect new applicants for DSP from the beginning of 2012 and will also have potential impact upon those people who are chosen to have their benefits reviewed. Again, the survey that is being devised will seek to gather information from people who are affected by these changes and what the impacts are. PWD also participates on the DSP Advisory Group.

For more information contact Michael Bleasdale, Executive Director, PWD by email michaelb@pwd.org.au.

ABBASBACK

Join us this year on the International Day of People With a Disability for a Dinner Dance with ABBASBACK, an ABBA tribute band, a performance from The Disability Trust and ADHC staff band.

Where and When - Fraternity Bowling Club on Sat 3rd Dec, 6pm

Cost - \$25 for a two course meal and soft drinks. Contact - Kaye Stephanovic or Carlie Hooper on 4222 0300.

Leaders for Tomorrow Program

The closing date for applications for the second intake of participants for the Leaders for Tomorrow program is Fri 25 Nov 2011.

Leaders for Tomorrow is a national program which will provide up to 12 months of leadership development support to 200 people with disability over the next three years. By linking people with disability with appropriate training, support and mentoring, the program will help participants develop the skills and confidence to become leaders.

People with a broad range of skill levels and leadership interests are encouraged to apply. For more information and to obtain an Application Form, visit the website www.leaderfortomorrow.com.au or call 1800 887 624.

“Rise of autism puts strain on public school budgets”

Andrew Stevenson — Sydney Morning Herald, October 26, 2011.

The number of children in NSW public schools with autism is nearly four times higher than it was just eight years ago, placing a significant strain on the Education Department budget.

Figures released by the department yesterday show that in 2003 slightly more than 2000 students across the state had been diagnosed with the disorder; this year some 8400 students have been diagnosed.

In the same period the number of children in public schools with mental health disorders

including depression and some serious behavioural disorders has almost doubled to 8000 students.

In stark contrast, the number of students with intellectual or physical disabilities has not changed. Fewer students have hearing or vision disabilities.

In 1988 only 1.9 per cent of NSW public school students had a confirmed disability. After doubling by 1998, the percentage has continued to rise and now sits at 6 per cent. By 2020, the government expects one in 10 students to have a diagnosed disability.

In 1998 NSW spent \$425 million on disability funding in schools. This year the department will spend \$1.18 billion. For the rest of the article go to www.smh.com.au/nsw/rise-of-autism-puts-strain-on-public-school-budgets-20111025-1mi5g.html.

Payroll tax rebates for businesses who hire employees with a disability

The NSW Government has introduced legislation to Parliament that will give businesses a payroll tax rebate for hiring a person with a disability. NSW Minister for Disability Services, Andrew Constance, said the Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Disability Employment) Bill 2011 (www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parliament/nswbills.nsf/0/BF45C8A3116A435CCA2578A3001CAF06) will provide employers with a payroll tax rebate of up to \$4,000 per employee.

The rebate will apply to businesses who hire a new employee out of the Transition to Work program and will be paid in two equal parts, after three months and after six months from the hiring of a new employee.

To qualify for the rebate, the employee must have commenced employment on or after 1 January 2012 and before 1 July 2016 and the employee should work an average of at least 12 hours a week. The NSW Government has committed \$2 million per annum over the next five years for the scheme to apply from 1 January 2012.

Source: NDS News Update, 24 October 2011

Government commitment to pay equity welcomed

The Prime Minister announced today that her Government will make a joint submission with the Australian Services Union to Fair Work Australia supporting a national wage increase based on Queensland's 2009 Pay Equity decision.

If Fair Work Australia agrees to the Queensland rates, the Australian Government will increase its share of funding to service organisations covered by the SACS Award accordingly. Most of the increased Federal funding for disability services will go to State and Territory governments to pass onto organisations.

Prime Minister Gillard gave an example of evidence given to Fair Work Australia by a social worker she called Natalie.

"Natalie helps people who are mentally ill, children and young people needing out-of-home care and people living with a disability," she said. "She helps them learn to live independently when they move from long-term hospital-based care to community-based living. Natalie is currently paid \$41,648 per year. When fully implemented, her fair pay will be around \$55,000 in today's dollars."

The Government estimates that this will cost over \$2 billion. However, it is important that State and Territory governments make similar commitments to fund their share of the proposed wage increases. The submission to Fair Work Australia will propose that the new wage rates be phased in over six years, beginning 1 December 2012.

Increased wages are a key part of the national workforce strategy required to build the capacity of the disability services workforce to meet the future demand for services under a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Industry Briefings on HACC Changes

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and the Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC), New South Wales and the Department of Family and Community Services are holding industry briefing sessions about the Home and Community Care (HACC)

Program Transition.

Come along and find out about the DoHA IT portal, DoHA Program Manual, DHC Community Care Services, DoHA Funding Agreement, ADHC Funding Arrangements and a Q and A session.

The sessions are specifically for service providers that currently receive funding from a state or territory government to deliver HACC services. Sessions will be particularly useful for Board members, management committees and those who are likely to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the organisation. There are consultations all over NSW including at:

- Queanbeyan - Thursday 24 Nov, 1pm to 4pm
- Merimbula - Monday 28 Nov, 9.30am to 12.30pm
- Wollongong - Tuesday 6 Dec, 10am to 1pm

To get more details email HACC.Reform@health.gov.au or call the helpdesk on 1800 057 616.

New webpage "Community Care Workforce Resources and Initiatives"

The resources and links provided on this new webpage aim to assist disability services providers in coming to grips with some of the workforce-related challenges and opportunities we face. This webpage is one part of a broader workforce strategy being developed by ADHC for the community care and disability services sector.

The creation of this new webpage coincides with publication of a number of materials including Community Care Workforce Resource, NSW Home and Community Care, HACC) Workforce Project Final Report, HACC Service Provider Survey: Key Findings, HACC Paid Staff Survey: Key Findings and the HACC Volunteer Staff Survey: Key Findings. The webpage will be updated as new resources and information become available.

Click here for more www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/delivering_hacc_services/community_care_workforce_resources_and_initiatives.

Wollongong Suicide Prevention Network

The Wollongong Suicide Prevention Network is involved in a number of suicide prevention projects and related activities. The Wollongong Suicide Prevention Network seeks to:

- Improve community understanding to reduce the myths and stigma around suicide
- Empower individuals and groups through collective action and an independent body
- Create a support mechanism to help individuals and groups to achieve objectives beyond their own resources
- Minimise duplication of effort
- Enable organisations to be involved in new and broader issues without having to take sole responsibility
- Provide the capabilities to address and resolve complex issues

The Wollongong Suicide Prevention Network meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.00 am at WCET/313, corner of Fox and Miller Streets, Coniston. The Networks AGM is to be held on Tuesday 6th December at 10:00 am at the offices of WCET in Coniston.

Call 4227 1715 (please leave a message) or email wspnetwork@gmail.com for further information.

Kookaburra Camps

Kookaburras Camps are free Camps for Children Living in a Family Affected by Mental Illness. They are annual camps for high school children in grades 9 and 10. Camp Kookaburra offers fun programs to kids living with families affected by mental illness. We believe that all children need a place where they can just be kids while receiving the support they need.

When: 11 - 13th November 2011

Where: at various locations in NSW, Australia

Contact info: Office: 8203 1917 / Mb: 0408 402 591, Email: info@campkookaburra.org.au or go to www.campkookaburra.org.au/.

NDIS timetable brought forward

The first meeting of the COAG Select Council on Disability Reform was held in late October and chaired by Federal Ministers Wayne Swan and Jenny Macklin, has agreed to bring forward by a year the implementation timetable for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). This means that the 'launch sites', envisaged by the Productivity Commission as commencing in mid-2014, are now planned to commence in mid-2013. The launch sites have yet to be identified.

The Select Council, which consists of State, Territory and Commonwealth Treasurers and Disability Ministers, also agreed on the foundation reforms necessary to establish the NDIS. These include increased disability sector capacity; a significantly enlarged workforce with appropriate skills; national quality standards; and a suite of common assessment tools.

A Senior Officials Working Group, chaired by high-level officials from Federal Treasury and FaHCSIA, has also formed to support the COAG Select Council.

National Disability Insurance Scheme Campaign



Spread the Word Week:
27th November – 3rd
December Sign up now!

From 27th November to
3rd December the
Every Australian
Counts Campaign is

holding a week of action across Australia to grow the movement for an NDIS to 100,000 supporters. Please join the campaign to provide supports for people with disability across Australia – it's easy. Check it out! Your organisation might join up or you might engage your own friends and family – it is important to us all!

Log on for your free packs, for yourself, your organisation and or your clients and families.

For more information go to http://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/act_now.

New Supported Accommodation Places

Stronger Together Two is delivering 1750 new supported accommodation places across NSW. ADHC will commence the roll-out of new places in 2012 – refer to the Stronger Together Two: Supported Accommodation fact sheet for more information.

This consists of

- 700 Other Specialist Support places - includes traditional 24/7 models of accommodation support such as group homes and more flexible 24/7 and non 24/7 options such as Co-located and villa models
- 550 Leaving Care Program places - assists young people with a disability who are in the Parental Responsibility of the Minister for Community Services to move into community living as a young adult
- 300 Supported Living Fund places - funding that would enable men and women with disability to move into a home of their own in a planned and timely way
- 200 Community Justice Program places - providing accommodation and clinical support to people with an intellectual disability leaving a correctional facility

More information on the factsheet at www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/delivering_disability_services/supported_accommodation.

Audio Description - Media Access Australia

Audio description (AD) is a service where audio commentary is provided to narrate the visual elements of a television program, movie, DVD, or live performance. This website provides the latest information about audio description, including a complete listing of DVD titles available in Australia and what's happening on the audio description scene both here and overseas. For more information go to www.audiodescription.com.au.

Media Access Australia provides information on mainstream technologies that are

affordable and accessible, helping people with a disability access information when and where they choose.

Aboriginal Person Centred Approach Consultations

The NSW Government wants to improve the lives of Aboriginal people with a disability and want to make the lives of families and carers easier. They want to create a system where Aboriginal people with a disability, their families, carers and communities have more say in decisions about the support given to them and more choice in the services they use.

To do this, the Aboriginal Disability Network NSW wants to talk to Aboriginal people with a disability, their families and their carers. We want to know what you need so that disability services can be made better.

There is no consultations south of Sydney. The nearest consultations to Wollongong are

- Tuesday 8th Nov – Sutherland
- Thursday 10th Nov – Bankstown
- Thursday 17th Nov – Wagga Wagga

For more information please contact the office of the Aboriginal Disability Network NSW on 9519 5005 or go to www.ncoss.org.au/resources/DNF/eupdates/111013-ADN-Flyer.doc.

Defining Disabilities in Our Schools

A National standard for identifying students with disabilities was approved in mid October by education ministers at a meeting of state and federal governments in Melbourne. The national definition provides the government with nationally consistent data, which could be used on the MySchool website, and help develop policy.

At the moment definitions vary from state to state, leading to unreliable figures of numbers of students with a disability. For example, the numbers of students with disabilities are only 3.1 per cent in Western Australia, yet are 11.8 per cent in the Northern Territory and 4.8 per cent in Victoria.

The model has been piloted in 150 schools and a working group is due to report back to ministers by April next year.

For Your Calendar ...

Movember Foundation –1st to 30th Nov

This event highlights men's health issues, specifically prostate cancer and depression. Contact phone 1300 476966 or go to www.au.movember.com

Social Inclusion Week – 19th to 27th Nov

This week is about encouraging communities to reconnect and be inclusive of all cultures, age groups, nationalities and the disadvantaged. Social Inclusion Week aims to help Australians feel valued and to give people the opportunity to participate fully in society. More information on www.socialinclusion.com.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.assistedogs.org.au

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

International Day of People With a Disability - 3rd Dec

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

Christmas Day - 25th Dec

New Year's Day - 1st Jan 2012

The Moment Behind The Photo Storytelling Project



Regional people with disability can share stories through an innovative project offered by ABC Open and supported by Nican for International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD). ABC Open is an exciting initiative

that invites people in regional Australia to share their stories online, using words, photos, video and sound.

People with disabilities are encouraged to contribute to ABC Open's The Moment Behind the Photo digital storytelling project. To find out more about ABC Open and share your stories go to www.abc.net.au/open find the regions section and look up your local ABC Open producer.

Highlighted contributions to The Moment Behind The Photo will be showcased during the 2011 International Day of People with Disability on 3 December. You can find the page here: <http://open.abc.net.au/projects/moment-behind-the-photo-53jq3ls>.

You can also keep in touch with IDPwD, including registering events and finding out what's happening in your region via www.idpwd.com.au.

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

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

...creating an inclusive world