

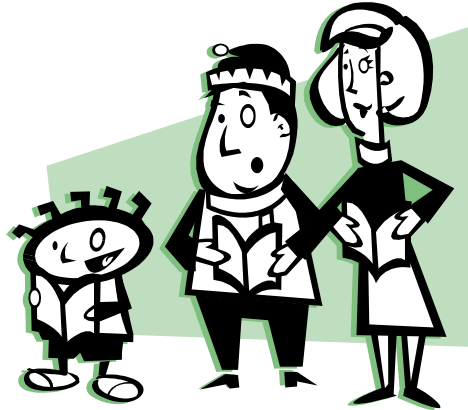
GSNV December Update

It's your GSNV!

Along with this update, you will have received a survey asking about the GSNV's activities, and how we can best meet your needs, keeping in mind our vision of *Overcoming Genetic Challenges*. Please take the time to read it, respond, and mail it back to us so that we can plan the GSNV activities for 2002.

Sing Christmas

Don't forget Sing Christmas, this Friday 7th December. It's at 7.30pm in the Melbourne Town Hall, featuring many of Melbourne's leading choirs. The GSNV is a beneficiary of funds raised that night, but only if we actually sell tickets! \$20 for adults, \$15 concession, \$10 kids. Please call us on (03) 8341-6315 to book your tickets.



Have Your Say About Protecting Human Genetic Information

Included with this update is information about an enquiry into how our genetic information is protected. This will ultimately result in recommendations for law reform in this area. To date there has been very little opportunity for consumer input into this enquiry, so it's important we have our say and say it loud now! Please take a few moments to jot down your experiences and opinions about how **your** genetic information should be protected. For more information on this enquiry, please visit www.alrc.gov.au or call us in the GSNV office and we will send you more information.

Consumer Representatives for Genetic Health

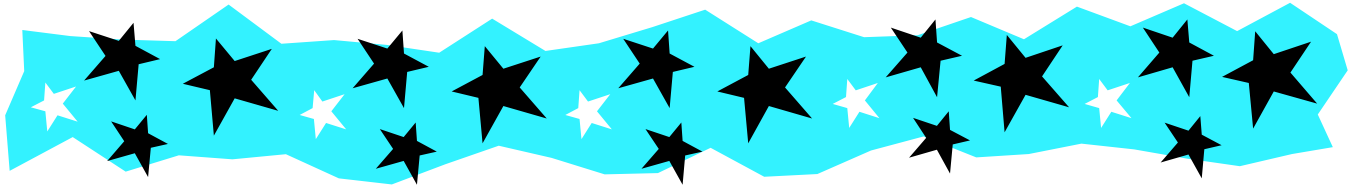
Genetic Health Services Victoria has acknowledged the importance of consumer representation in planning their services, and have asked us to put forward a short list of people who would be happy to represent the consumer voice at occasional meetings at Genetic Health. This wouldn't require a large time commitment, as the role will be shared among several people, and much of the work could probably be done by email correspondence. Please let us know if you would like to be one of these "consultants" for Genetic Health.

GSNV Conference

The GSNV Conference has been set for Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th of May. Please mark these dates in your diary. An invitation to participate will arrive in your mailbox soon.

COSHG Directory

The Collective of Self Help Groups are currently updating their Directory of Self-Help and Social Action Groups. Please make sure your group is listed, by sending your details to COSHG at PO Box 251, Brunswick East 3057, or emailing coshgmelb@yahoo.com.au. It costs nothing to be listed in the COSHG Directory, and copies of the directory can be purchased for around \$34. This is COSHG's only source of income, so please consider supporting them.



Stars Wanted!

People of all abilities are invited to star in Victoria's first mixed ability sculpture to celebrate the International Day of People with a DisAbility. On Sunday 2 December thousands of people will join together to create a living sculpture of the Celebration of Ability logo.

Time: 11.30am-1.30pm, photos scheduled for 12.30pm

Where: Polly Woodside forecourt, adjacent to the Melbourne Exhibition Centre (MEC), Ferrars Street, South Melbourne (Melways Ref 24 A9)

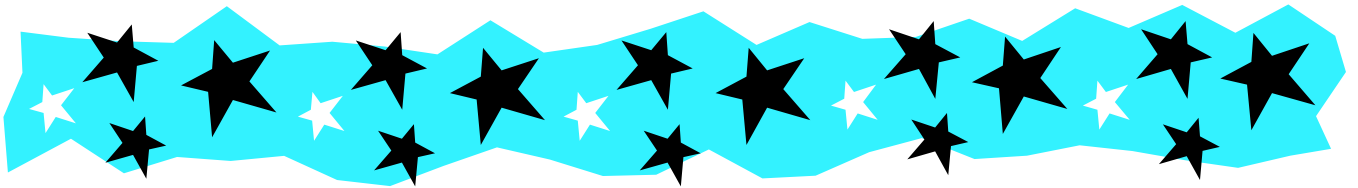
Wear: All black or all orange

Bring: A picnic (the banks of the Yarra River in front of MEC are an ideal location for a Sunday picnic) and sunscreen

Transport: Tram numbers 12, 96 and 109 all stop outside MEC, Spencer Street station is within walking distance.

Parking: On and around Ferrars Street. MEC car park.

For further information contact Robin Paul on 9699-8299, TTY 9699-7636 or email rpaul@artsaccess.com.au.



Draft State DisAbility Plan

Have you seen the Draft State DisAbility Plan yet? It can be found online at: <http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/disabilitysite.nsf/pages/plan>, or ring the team on 1300 366 731 and ask for a copy – available in several formats. This document will outline the government's vision for the future in Victoria for people with disabilities. If this might affect your family, please take the time to offer some feedback.

Committee Meeting and Celebration

The next meeting will be held at 6pm on **Wednesday 19 December**, at the Redback Brewery Hotel in Flemington Road, North Melbourne. The meeting will be short and sweet, and all are welcome to stay and celebrate the end of a successful year. All members and other interested parties are welcome to attend.

For more information on anything you've read here, please contact Eilís or Caroline in the GSNV office on (03) 8341-6315.



Merry Christmas!