

GSNV May Update

Establishing and Maintaining Support Groups – GSNV Seminar

Make sure you check out our flyer (attached) about our upcoming seminar on **Saturday 26 May**. Registration is **free** for GSNV members, and catering and childcare will be provided. The speakers are very experienced in various aspects of support groups, and there will be plenty of opportunity for sharing and networking.

Calendar of Events 2001

Included with this update is the GSNV calendar of events for the remainder of 2001. Jot these dates down in your diary, look out for more details as the events approach, and contact us if you require more information.

Special Projects Grants

As mentioned in the April Update, a number of special projects grants are available to members. The information sheet and application form are enclosed. Please note that applications close on Thursday 31 May.

TTY

We're pleased to inform you that we now have TTY access on our GSNV phone number (03) 8341-6315. This is available for you to use to not only speak to us, but also to any Murdoch or VCGS staff. We look forward to hearing from you!

Free Venue Hire

As many of you will know, we are happy to offer our members free access to conference and meeting rooms here in the Royal Children's Hospital. This saves groups the cost of hiring venues, and the hospital is a central location. We've been reminded that in exchange for free venue hire, the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute ask that the rooms be left in the exact state that they were found in, which could include vacuuming, moving furniture and equipment back, and closing the room dividers. For more information about room hire, please contact us in the GSNV office.

Enhancing the Caring Relationship – Respite Expo

The GSNV will have stalls at two upcoming expos on respite care. Friday 4 May 11am-8pm at Box Hill Town Hall, and Monday 21 May 11am-8pm at Mooroolbark Community Centre. Come along and find out about respite services in the Eastern Metropolitan Region, and be sure to drop in and say "Hi!" to Eilís and Caroline at the GSNV table.

RACV Wheelchair Call-out Service

It was recently brought to our attention by one of our member groups that the RACV is the only state automobile organisation in Australia which does not provide a free call-out service to wheelchair users, regardless of membership. In other states, if you required mechanical help with your wheelchair, the state organisation would come out to you. In Victoria you must be a member. If you think Victoria should come into line with the services provided in other states, we would encourage you to write to the RACV.

Cleft Palate and Lip Society Information Seminar

The CleftPALS are holding an information seminar on Saturday 12 May at the Royal Children's Hospital, from 9am to 12 noon. Topics will include plastic surgery, orthodontics and breastfeeding for children with clefts. For more information please contact Tania on 9782-9603.

Cystic Fibrosis Victoria Biennial '65 Roses' Conference

Sunday 29th July 2001 at Sandringham Yacht Club. Speakers include: Dr Nick Freezer, CF specialist physicians, dietitians, physiotherapists and nurse consultants working in the CF field and members of the CF community, who will focus on a range of issues on living with CF, with a special focus on rural and regional issues. For further information, contact Cystic Fibrosis Victoria by phone on 9686-1811 or email admin@cysticfibrosisvic.org.au.

Fourth Australian & New Zealand Cystic Fibrosis Conference

Sheraton Brisbane Hotel & Towers, 23-25 August 2001. The conference aims to provide a forum to exchange information on the latest developments in research and treatment of CF. International presenters include speakers from the UK, the USA, Denmark and Canada. For further details, contact the Conference Secretariat on Phone (02) 9878-5250 or email general@cysticfibrosisaustralia.org.au

National Health and Medical Research Council

Dani and Eilís attended an information forum for the NHMRC last Thursday, along with many Victorian-based researchers and ethics committee members. Dani gave a presentation on "What is the GSNV?" and expressed a strong interest on behalf of the network to be represented on ethics committees which make decisions about research, and particularly on the Australian Health Ethics Committee, which oversees all medical and health research in Australia. We will keep you informed of the outcomes of this.

Low Cost Computers

The Green PC is a social enterprise initiative of The Info Xchange which makes available low cost recycled personal computers to community organisations and individuals on low incomes. For further information, look at www.greenpc.com.au or contact the Green PC Team on 9417-7039.

Picnic in the Paddock

Don't forget the GSNV Picnic in the Paddock on **Saturday 16 June**, from 11am till 3pm. This will be a great day to celebrate the hard work that you all do, to enjoy some pampering by us, and to network with other members. If you would like to help in the organisation of the day, please contact us in the GSNV office.

Any Body Home?

Weave Movement Theatre - a rich mix of performers with and without physical disabilities, dance, physical poetry, vocal antics, absurd humour - are performing as part of DanceWeek on 18-20 May at the North Melbourne Town Hall. For more information, visit <http://leaping.to/weave>, or call one of Weave's starlets, Caroline, in the GSNV office.

Working with the Media – GSNV Seminar

Keep an eye out for our next seminar, to be held on Thursday 31 May, 6-8pm. More details will be sent to you shortly.

Save Time! Save Money! Save Trees!

Please help us to protect valuable resources by allowing us to email this monthly bulletin to you. If you would like to receive this by email, please drop us a line at gsnv@murdoch.rch.unimelb.edu.au and we will add you to our email list.

Next GSNV Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6pm on **Wednesday 16 May**, in the conference rooms on the 10th floor of the Royal Children's Hospital. All members 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.