

GSNV December Update 2002

Celebration

After two years and countless phone calls and letters to the tax office, the Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Support Group of Australia has just been granted Deductible Gift Recipient status. This is a challenge for many of our member groups under the current taxation laws, so congratulations are in order for Michele who worked so hard on their application. Big thanks to Lorelle and Alice at Freehills law firm who has helped us all, pro bono, with achieving this. We hope this encourages other groups to keep trying!



Join GSNV For Christmas Drinks

The final Executive Meeting will be held on December 18, at the Redback Hotel, Flemington Rd, Parkville. A short meeting will start at 6pm followed by Christmas drinks. Everyone is welcome so come down and share a pint – it's a great opportunity to discuss the achievements of the past year and look forward to improving next year's work. For more information call the GSNV Office on (03) 8341 6315.

Peer Support Training On The Way

When facing a challenge to your health or to your family's health, it can be very powerful to talk to someone who knows, who understands, who empathises with what you are going through. The GSNV, together with NidKids, is proposing to set up a network of peer support, where people in the same boat can chat to each other on the phone. A training program is scheduled to start in March or April of next year, but we need your feedback to be able to organise a program that will suit you, our members. Along with this update is a survey about the program. Please take a few moments to fill it out and send it back to us either by mail –

Genetic Support Network Victoria
PO Box 1100 Parkville Vic 3052

or fax it back on (03) 8341 6390 or email us your response to info@gsnv.org.au

GSNV - International Day of People With A Disability, Kids Activity Day

The GSNV will be celebrating IDPWD with a kids activity day in the foyer of the Royal Children's Hospital on December 3. Children will be able to make fridge magnets, badges and laminated pictures. All welcome, activities start from 9.30 and will run through the day, come along and help make the day a success. For more info call the GSNV office on (03) 8341 6315 or for more info on IDPWD hit the web at

www.nican.com.au

Companion Card

The Companion Card Scheme, launched by the Department of Human Services, aims to assist people who have a severe or profound disability to access leisure and recreational opportunities. The scheme will be fully operational by 2003 and is designed to reduce the financial burden associated with the admission costs to entertainment and leisure venues/events for an accompanying carer by allowing the card holder to buy two tickets for the price of one. More information by calling 1800 650 611 or TTY 1800 898 888 or at the web site:

http://hnb.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/disabilitysite.nsf/pages/companion_card?open





The Teratology Project

The Institute of Complex Entertainment presents The Teratology Project, a site specific performance exploring the new frontiers of genetic science. Directed by Susie Dee and performed at the surgical ward of the former Preston and Northcote Community Hospital (PANCH) the show will run from November 26 to December 7. Tickets \$25 or \$15 Conc. Bookings on (03) 9384 1487

Web Natter on National Support

Since we wrote to you about genetic support across Australia, there has been a need for discussion on the topic. An email discussion group has now been established that will serve as a forum for issues, concepts, ideas and opinions relating to genetic support on a national basis. The GSNV is hoping members will flock to their computers to add their two cents to the debate. All are welcome! The address is –

<http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/geneticsupport>

Christmas Season In Full Swing



As the festive season moves into top gear, many of our groups gather to celebrate another year of self-help and successful support. Among groups celebrating the Yuletide together this month are Victorian Turner's Syndrome Association, Dialysis and Transplant Association, Short Statured People of Australia and the Meniere's Support Group. A full listing of group activities and Christmas festivities are on the GSNV website at:

<http://www.gsnv.org.au/pages/news&events/events.php>

We would also love to receive any photos or reports of your Christmas parties, so please send them in to the GSNV office.

Forthcoming Seminar

'Prenatal Testing and Disability: The Need for a Participatory Approach to Research' is the topic of a seminar being held by the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics. Presented by Kyle W Anstey, the seminar is free and will be held on December 11, starting at 2.15 in the Old Arts Room 205, University of Melbourne. Further information from Robert Sparrow, rsparrow@unimelb.edu.au

Holiday Greetings To All

On behalf of the GSNV staff and committee we would like to wish you all a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and love.



"There is no prosperity without adversity"
- Welsh proverb



For more information on anything you've read here, please contact Eilís or Emma in the GSNV office on (03) 8341-6315 email info@gsnv.org.au