

GSNV July Update

Welcome Emma Rickard!

Emma Rickard has joined us as of this month as the new Administration and Communication Officer at the GSNV. Emma has a background in marketing and publicity for large organisations, so we are very pleased to have her as part of our team and we look forward to her contribution to our network. Watch out for the next newsletter, where Emma will tell us all about herself, her horses and her puppies!

Annual General Meeting

Once again that time of year has rolled around again when we prepare for The Annual General Meeting of the GSNV. It is a fantastic opportunity for all involved to meet and discuss issues concerning us all and to elect the new Committee. A guest speaker and refreshments will be on hand and if you can make it, it should be worth the effort.

AGM Details

When; Wednesday 21 August 6.00pm sharp

Where; Conference Room 10th Floor Royal Children's Hospital Flemington Rd Parkville

Our Committee Needs You!

As you are aware the Annual General Meeting is approaching and we will be farewelling a number of committee members. We are seeking any interested parties to nominate for these seats. Our organisation relies on you so if you would like to be involved in making a difference in the GSNV please call the office on (03) 8341 6315 for a nomination form.

Carers Weekend Away

Are you aged between 18 and 64 years, living in the Eastern Metro Region and a carer of a person with a disability? Would you like a weekend away to relax and spend time meeting people with similar caring experiences? Then this is the opportunity you have been waiting for.

The Villa Maria Carer Services are hosting a weekend at the Shearwater Resort, Cape Schank on Friday 2 to Sunday 4 August. The accommodation, food and organised activities are fully funded and participants will have the chance to relax and enjoy the resorts great facilities. For further information or an application form please call Trisha Dodds on (03) 9854 5122.

Intellectual Disability Future Planning Information Forum

The Down Syndrome Association of Victoria will be holding a forum for parents and carers concerned with the areas of Accommodation and Wills and Estate Planning. The forum will run on Saturday 7 September at the University of Melbourne, Hawthorn Campus starting at 10am.

Topics will include provision of future long-term accommodation, options currently available and potential options. Speakers include Kevin Stone (VALID), Allan Swan from Swan Jones Quay Consulting Lawyers, parents, the Department of Human Services and others.

Further information on the website or by contacting the DSAV on (03) 9486 2377 or email dsavic@netspace.net.au

Genetics Policies Available To Members

The GSNV is pleased to announce they now have copies of policies produced by the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA) which are available to all members. HGSA aims to provide a forum for various disciplines dealing with human genetics although its membership is mainly comprised of human geneticists from Australia and New Zealand. Topics include;

- DNA Predictive testing for Genetic Disorders (7/98)
- Human Cloning (10/99)
- Predictive Testing in Children and Adolescents (3/99)
- Privacy Implications of Genetics Testing (3/99)
- Others also available.

New Cancer Support Services Booklet

The diagnosis of cancer can be a devastating blow for both the patient and carers, families and friends but the new Cancer Services Booklet for 2002 seeks to provide information on a wide variety of topics to assist during this difficult time.

The free booklet is available to health professionals and the general public and covers areas including palliative, hospice and respite care, financial support, information about cancer, support groups and services for carers. Covering metropolitan and rural areas, the booklet is a valuable resource and appropriate to many non-cancer related GSNV members. Produced by the Cancer Council of Victoria, (formerly the Anti-Cancer Council) the booklet can be obtained by calling the Cancer Helpline on 13 11 20.

Self-Help Forum

COSHG is holding a two-day forum to celebrate 25 years of self-help in Melbourne. The forum will be held on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 September at the Coburg Town Hall for the public and members of self-help groups. Whilst on Sunday 15 September a forum will be held at the COSHG office in Carlton for self-help workers. More information in the August Update or call COSHG on (03) 9349 2301 (Wed/Thurs) or email coshgmelb@yahoo.com.au

Forum on Cloning and Stem Cell Research Moratorium Question

Chaired by Professor Graham Brown, this free seminar will explore the issues involved in cloning and embryonic stem cell research. Speakers and panellists will guide the audience through the many complex ethical issues considered by ethics committees in their decision making process.

When: 2.00 –5.00pm Friday 26 July 2002

Where: Sunderland Lecture Theatre, Medical Building, The University of Melbourne

Cost: Admission is free

RSVP/More Information: (03) 8344 5888 by 19 July or

<http://www.medfac.unimelb.edu.au/med/deanlect.asp>

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