

GSNV March Update

GSNV Conference and Expo

By now you should have received an invitation to our conference and expo. Please consider participating in this exciting event and return your form to us by 14 March, or at least give us a call to tell us you're coming. If you haven't received an invitation, or if you'd like more copies to distribute, let us know on (03) 8341-6315.

GSNV News

Have you been wondering where our quarterly newsletter has disappeared to? We currently don't have an editor for this vital publication. Do you enjoy using software to produce documents? Would you like to, but need training? Are you in a rural area but would still like to make a contribution to the GSNV? If any of these apply to you, please call and discuss the possibilities with Eilís or Caroline on (03) 8341-6315.

Who Should Have Access to YOUR Genetic Information?

The Australian Law Reform Commissioners are coming to Melbourne especially to hear what GSNV people think about these issues. Now is your chance to have a say that *will* be heard! Please come along on Thursday 14 March from 6pm to 8pm in the 10th Floor at the Royal Children's Hospital. Please RSVP on (03) 8341-6315 by Tuesday 12 March.

Social Connections Forum

- Would you like to make more friends and create greater social networks?
- Would you like to start a new social group or find people with similar interests?

Come along and join us at the Social Connections Forum. This will be an opportunity for adults with disabilities to come together to examine and discuss a variety of ways in which we can make and maintain friends and explore recreation options. This day will comprise of a variety of guest speakers and workshops.

When: Saturday 23rd March 2002

Where: Maroondah Federation Estate (Old Ringwood Primary School)
Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood, Mel. Ref.49 H10

Times: 9.30am Registration, 10.00am Forum Commencement
4.30pm – 5.30pm – Free BBQ

Cost: NOTHING! With thanks to the generous support of the DHS EMR.

Morning, afternoon tea and free BBQ dinner will be provided. (Please bring own lunch.) Assistance with transport and support will be available if required.

Bookings Essential: Contact Brenda Lacey or Beth Johnston at VICNORD on 9489 2999 or email at b.johnston@advocacyhouse.org

Disability and Health Self-Help Grants

The Department of Human Services Disability and Health Self-Help Grants have not yet been advertised. The latest news from the DHS office is that they *might* be advertised on 16 March, so check the daily papers that day. We strongly encourage all of our member groups to apply for these grants which are designed to financially assist self-help groups in carrying out their usual activities.

Fragile X Picnic

Would you like the opportunity to meet with other parents and their children with fragile X syndrome? A family picnic will be held on Sunday 24 March in Pakenham. BYO lunch, drinks and chairs – a BBQ and shelter will be provided. For more information please telephone Anne Marie on 5940-2280 or Mary on 9569-0858.

Epidermolytic Hyperkeratosis

A genetic counsellor in Queensland is looking for some support for a family with a child who has epidermolytic hyperkeratosis. Please contact us if you know of a family with the same condition or in a similar situation, who would like to have contact with another family.

Muscular Dystrophy Information

The Muscular Dystrophy Association are hosting an information day about various aspects of living with MD. To be held on Wednesday 20 March, 9.30am – 4.30pm at St Vincent's Hospital in Fitzroy. Cost \$20 per person including lunch. Please telephone the MDA on 9370-0477 to register.

Free Internet Access throughout Victoria

Victorians without computers can still tap information for free on the Internet through public access terminals or PATs. The terminals with easy access to the Better Health Channel – www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au - are at 130 city and country pharmacies, public hospitals, community health centres and agencies. People who don't have internet access can visit the PATs and access the Better Health Channel and much more, for free. They can tap into a database being expanded to 25,000 agencies including health professionals. PATs provide free e-mail along with access to selected worldwide websites. Only information from credible and respected organisations is posted on the site.

- Is your group listed on the Better Health Channel? We encourage you to check that your group and the condition(s) you represent are found on this popular website.
- For a copy of the list of PAT locations, or to locate your nearest PAT, call the GSNV on (03) 8341-6315.

News Source: Community Building News from InfoXchange

Making it Possible

The Association for Children with a Disability are holding their National Info Expo on Wednesday 20 March at Melbourne Park. Entry is free for families, and the day will include information, speakers, workshops and displays. For more information, and to register, contact the Association on (03) 9500-1232 or 1800 654 013.

"Charity Mail" from Australia Post

Australia Post is about to introduce a new service called "Charity Mail". The service will be launched in March along with an education program for charities on how to get the best out of the new mail system. Charity Mail will still offer the 20% discount enjoyed with AdPost but it will also be expanded to include small letter pre-sorted mail. Australia Post says it has fine-tuned Charity Mail through consultation with a number of not-for-profit organisations including the Fundraising Institute of Australia.

News Source: Pro Bono Australia Newsletter

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 20 March**, in the conference rooms on the 10th floor of the Royal Children's Hospital. All members and other interested people 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.