

GSNV UPDATE

June 2004

GSNV NEWS

The Art of.....Awards

The GSNV's 5th anniversary will be celebrated with our members and supporters, past and present, on Sunday the 1st of August. Look out for your invitation in the mail soon! At the celebration we will be presenting **The Art of.....Awards** to three people in the categories of information/education, support and advocacy. Please remember to nominate people who have made a difference to your life or the lives of others affected by genetic conditions over the past five years. Nominations must be received by Friday the 18th June, and winners will be honoured at our 5th birthday celebration. Let us know who you think deserves this recognition and appreciation.

GROUPS' EVENTS

Annual Family Meeting

The Chromosome 18 Registry & Research Society (Aust) invites families affected directly with conditions involving chromosome 18 to attend the annual social day for the Australasian region. The day will be an ideal opportunity for families to get together and share stories and experiences. When: Saturday 28th August. Where: Meerilinga Community Hall, Perth, WA. For further information contact Veronika on (08) 9409 9854 or Marlene on (08) 9580 5707.

HOLIDAYS

Access Noosa

Access Noosa is a new website that provides a 'one-stop' destination for information about accessibility in Noosa and surrounding areas of Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Everything from accommodation to support services, equipment providers, eating out, tours and transport options are covered. Visit www.accessnoosa.com for more information.

Jan's Special Needs Travel

Jan Macdermid has worked and cared for families with special needs for many years, and is now offering complete holidays designed around traveller's individual needs, including houseboat holidays on the Murray, workshops at her local gallery, and accommodation in a 5 bedroom country home on a 100 acre farm, just 15 minutes from Bendigo. For more information phone: (03) 5439 6377, email jan@janstravel.com.au or visit www.janstravel.com.au

PROJECTS

Resilience and vulnerability in children with a chronically ill or disabled sibling

Swinburne University (Department of Psychology) invites families of children with a chronic illness or disability to participate in a research project. The study will examine the impact of having a chronically ill or disabled brother or sister on the other children in the family. The study requires a parent and a sibling (aged 8 - 18) from a family where a child has a chronic illness or disability to complete some questionnaires (approx 1 hour). If you agree to be part of this research your participation is voluntary and your responses will be confidential. If you would like to participate, or find out more information about the study, email sibling.research@optusnet.com.au or phone Meredith Rayner on 0425 719957.

GRANTS

Volunteer Small Equipment Grants 2004 (Round 2) Funding

This Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) grant is designed to provide funding of up to \$5,000 to help organisations purchase equipment for the direct support of volunteers whose work contributes to supporting families and/or strengthening communities. The equipment should directly assist volunteers by making their work easier, safer and/or more enjoyable. Closing date for applications is Friday June 18th, and organisations must involve volunteers and be not-for-profit. Arrange to have an application form sent to you by phoning the hotline toll free 1800 050 199.

Reichstein Foundation

A decision has just been made by the Reichstein Foundation to change their funding rounds to 'ongoing' rather than by set dates. It might take a bit of time for this to be reflected on their website at www.reichstein.org.au For more information please contact the Reichstein Foundation directly on 9650 4400 or email info@reichstein.org.au

Hewlett - Packard Grants - Hewlett-Packard Australia Ltd

Hewlett-Packard provides ongoing grants of computer products and systems to support not-for-profit organisations in the area of education.

Visit <http://hp.com.au/hpinfo/philanthropy.asp> for details.

RESOURCES

Teaching Social Skills

This full day workshop is aimed at parents, teachers and other health professionals working with children and adolescents with an autism spectrum disorder. Presented by Dr Sandra Harris, a Professor of Clinical Psychology who has specialised in autism for over 30 years. The workshop will be held at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre on Tuesday 3rd August. Contact the Autism Behavioural Intervention Association (ABIA) on 9885 7463 or email abia@netlink.com.au

Legislation for the Blind

Anstat, the publisher of all Victorian State Government hard copy legislation, has launched a new product to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Legislation for the Blind on CD will greatly assist anyone who is visually impaired and in need of legal information including solicitors, disability advocates, other legal practitioners and law students. The service is distributed through Information Victoria and can provide all current Victorian legislation including all amendments. Each piece of legislation on CD is priced at \$11.00 per title. Information Victoria 1300 366 356 (Local call cost) State Government Information Service and Bookshop www.bookshop.vic.gov.au

WEBSITES

www.infoxchange.net.au

The Infoxchange Australia website is the most frequently visited community website in Australia, and a great place to find and share community-sector information. Free online message boards present the latest sector based news and announcements including information on health, housing, disability, youth and general community issues.

www.disability.gov.au/

Disability Online provides comprehensive disability-related information including Victorian local services, disability and health-related articles, community events and more.

www.e-bility.com

The e-bility website offers easy access and links to a wide range of information, resources, services and products of interest to people with disability, their families and carers, as well as health professionals and other service providers in the disability sector. You can also participate by contributing [articles](#) and [book reviews](#), [posting messages](#), or submitting your web site for inclusion on the directory of disability and health [links](#).

CONFERENCES

Directions for Muscular Dystrophy, Toowoomba, 16th-17th July

This conference is targeted at meeting the needs of parents and carers of people with Muscular Dystrophy by providing skills and updates for educators and health professionals. From therapists to clinicians, the conference aims to provide a forum for national and international researchers and clinicians to meet and share new ideas to progress treatments for Muscular Dystrophies. Hosted by the Centre for Biomedical Research, University of Southern Queensland in association with Parent Project Australia. Contact Helen Cluff on (07) 4631 2940, email cluff@usq.edu.au or visit www.usq.edu.au/directions4md for details.

Paediatric Constipation & Faecal Incontinence Conference, Melbourne, 12-14th August

State of the art knowledge and discussion on chronic constipation and faecal incontinence in children. Invited speakers are specialists from a wide range of disciplines including surgery, medicine, gastroenterology, allied health, education and community. Contact Julie Jordan-Ely on 9738 8533 or visit www.nidkids.org.au for more information.

**VCOSS Congress 2004: Strategies for Equality and Inclusion,
Melbourne, 5th-6th August**

The Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) Congress is an annual event, focusing on ways to achieve greater equity and social justice in Victoria. The Congress provides a forum to engage in dialogue about pro-active strategies to address key needs, issues and challenges in our community, and ways in which all sectors can strengthen the capacity of Victorian communities. Contributions are sought from all sectors of the community to highlight strategies across policy, program and legislative areas. For more information email vcoss@vcoss.org.au or visit www.vocss.org.au

First National Ageing and Disability Conference, Hobart, 25th-26th August

The theme of this conference will be creating diversity, focusing on ageing with a life-long disability, disabilities associated with ageing and the impact of ageing on people caring for family members with a disability. For more information contact the National Industry Association for Disability Services (ACROD) Tasmania on (03) 6223 7290, email mkennedy@acrod.org.au or visit www.acrod.org.au

Australian Autism Conference 2004, Canberra, 1st-3rd October

Autism Association ACT and The Autism Council of Australia present the Biennial Australian Autism Conference titled 'Autism Spectrum: Pathways To Understanding'. Expressions of interest in attending or offers to present a paper or poster presentation are now being sought. For more information check out the website <http://autismact.homemail.com.au>, email asd.conference04@homemail.com.au or contact the Autism Association ACT on (02) 6286 8887.

Deafness Expo, Melbourne, 30th October

The national Deafness Expo will bring together information about all services and technology relevant to Deafness. This includes information about education, employment, hearing aids, communication, sign language, technology, hearing loss prevention, the 2005 Deaflympics and more. The expo will appeal not only to people who are hearing impaired and Deaf people, but their families and the general community. The aim is to raise awareness and encourage the involvement of individuals, their families, business, government and the broader community. Promotional opportunities provided by the expo will be extensive, and trade and sponsorship documents are available from the organisers. For further information: Cathy Clark 133677 and quote (03) 9269 8354 (TTY), Wayne Driscoll 9642 8848 or Steve Robin 0414 606 341, email sr@asnevents.net.au

REMINDER

Next Committee Meeting

Monday 21st June at 6pm

Conference Room B

10th Floor RCH, Flemington Rd Parkville

All members and interested parties are very welcome to attend our meetings!

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