

GSNV UPDATE

May 2004

GSNV NEWS

Overcoming Genetic Challenges Across Victoria

On Friday 23 April the GSNV was very proud to run our first ever conference outside of Melbourne. It was held at Latrobe Convention Centre Traralgon, and was attended by around 50 people. With guest speakers Jon Whitty and Dr George McGillivray from Genetic Health Services Victoria, and workshops run by the Collective of Self-Help Groups, Carers Victoria and the GSNV, there was something for everyone. The major outcomes of the day were a list of issues highlighted by the participants on the day for the GSNV to take an advocacy role with, and a core group of families with very rare conditions who are keen to continue to meet regularly. Warm thanks go to Helen Johnson, our local conference organiser, plus the Reichstein Foundation for funding this very worthwhile project. Our next non-metro conference will be held in Ballarat on Friday 18 June. Contact us now to get involved!"

GROUPS' EVENTS



New Group ozED

Congratulations to new group ozED! ozED – Australian Ectodermal Dysplasia Support Group Inc, aims to provide support, information and education for individuals and families affected by Ectodermal Dysplasia (ED). ozED is also planning to produce education packages for health and other community professionals that work with individuals with ED and their families. ozED extend an invitation to

anyone affected by ED, their families, friends or any interested professionals to make contact and consider joining the group. Visit www.ozed.org.au or phone (03) 9755 5626 after 7.00pm for more information.

The Annual Magnificent Trivia Night

The Short Statured People of Australia (SSPA) Victorian Branch invite you to test your brain power at The Annual Magnificent Trivia Night on Saturday May 29th at the St Marys Tennis Club in Dandenong. Tickets are \$10 and all proceeds raised on the night will go towards the 2004 SSPA Annual Convention. Contact Rob and Marie Millard on 9700 1538 for tickets.

CleftPALS AGM

Speakers include orthodontist Denise Lawry, and maxillofacial surgeon Jocelyn Shand. The meeting starts at 1pm in conference rooms A and B, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, 10th floor, Royal Children's Hospital and afternoon tea will be included. Contact Tania Bourier on 9782 9603 for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Looking After Yourself

Are you a mature woman? Do you care for a family member or friend with a disability, chronic or mental illness? Do you come from a culturally and linguistically diverse background? Do you live in the Northern Metropolitan Region? Then this day is for you! CarerLinks North invite you to come along, meet other carers, enjoy being spoilt and find out about how to look after your own health. Set aside Thursday 13th May, bookings are essential, call 9495 2500 for details.

Standing up! Speaking out! Making change! (free seminar)

All you ever wanted to know about advocacy and social action. Speakers include Julian Burnside, Moira Rayner, Phil Cleary, Aowham Aldujayli, Cam Walker, Kate Shaw, and many more... When: Thursdays 6.00-8.00pm April 22, April 29, May 6, May 13, May 27. Where: Arrow on Swanston, 488 Swanston Street. RSVP on (03) 9925 2910 or visit <http://advocacy.tce.rmit.edu.au>

CENTRELINK

Centrelink Hospital Liaison Officers

Centrelink have employed staff to support families under the care of various hospitals including the Mercy, the Royal Melbourne, the Alfred, St Vincents and the Royal Children's. Families who have children at RCH and who would like to see either Sarah or Alison should contact the Social Work Department on 9345 6111. Sarah and Alison are available on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 2.30pm.

More on Centrelink

Centrelink offers Michael Calyzopoulos, Policy Consultant, to talk to community and support groups about maximising the chances of success when applying for carers allowance or carers payment, the appeals process and to clarify the system! If you or your group would like to contact Michael, call Jo on 8341 6215 for more details.

MONEY

General Community Grants

The Department for Victorian Communities (DVC) was created in December 2002 to provide a focus for the Government's activities around strengthening communities and supporting more integrated Government services. Visit <http://www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au/> for more information or phone 03 9208 3641.

The R E Ross Trust

The R E Ross Trust aims to assist people in communities who are helping themselves and others in ways that can be sustained into the future. Visit www.rosstrust.org.au or phone (03) 9690 6255 for details. Grants are ongoing for funding up to \$5,000.

Neville Smith Foundation

Aims to disburse grants to smaller groups' that often miss out or are unable to access other foundations. Closing date for applications is 16 June 2004 by mail. Visit www.frnsfoundation.com or phone (03) 9682 0655 for details.

ART

Film Festival

Arts Access, the peak body for arts and disability in Victoria, takes pleasure in announcing that the inaugural 'The Other Film Festival' will take place from Friday 3 until Sunday 5 December 2004. The Other Film Festival is particularly proud to announce Academy Award winner, Adam Elliot, as the Patron of Australia's first disability film festival. The festival will coincide with International Day of People with a Disability on 3 December. Deadline for film entries is 31 July 2004. Filmmakers can download an entry form from the website, email info@artsaccess.com.au or call 03 9699 8299 TTY 03 9699 7636. Contact Nerida Weller on 03 9699 8299 or email nweller@artsaccess.com.au

PRIVACY

"Choosing Your Path. Disclosure: It's A Personal Decision"

This resource has been developed for students and employees with disabilities as well as employers, educators and support services. The resource provides information about the options a person with a disability has when deciding to disclose their disability, the benefits and disadvantages of disclosing, as well as providing some key considerations to achieving effective disclosure. Check out <http://sites.uws.edu.au/rdlo/disclosure/>

Private Health Insurance

Private health insurance - should you bother? When does it really make a difference? And why do you always seem to end up with a heap of bills to pay anyway? (wasn't the insurance supposed to take care of that?) If private health insurance is leaving you bamboozled, check out Health Matters' popular consumer guide on the topic, for the most up to date information <http://www.abc.net.au/health/cguides/privatehealthins.htm>

CONFERENCES

Paradigm to Practice, CIDA conference, Melbourne, 20th-21st May

The Council of Intellectual Disability Agencies (CIDA) aims to explore the ways in which the new paradigm in supporting people with disabilities can be translated into practice, canvass ideas for addressing the challenges involved with doing so and showcase strategies which have worked in Australia and overseas. For more information contact CIDA on (03) 8415 0155 or email cida@bigpond.com.au

Volunteering-Evolution, Devolution or Revolution? Melbourne, 2nd-4th June

Recent developments and interest in the work of volunteers and the role that they play has highlighted that volunteering is both a movement *in* change and *for* change, and the 10th National Conference on Volunteering aims to provide the opportunity to reflect on this. Visit www.volunteeringaustralia.org or phone 9509 7121 to find out more.

Communities in Control 2004, Melbourne, 7th-9th June

Building stronger communities through greater support for community. The conference will investigate why action is needed to support communities, how communities can be transformed and why a revolution is needed now. Those attending this year's conference will hear a number of national and international speakers talk about tackling the challenges facing communities. Among the speakers will be Federal Treasurer, Peter Costello, who will outline his Vision for the Future - challenges for community, government and business. For more information phone (03) 9320 6800 or visit www.ourcommunity.com.au/conferencebrochure2004

7th National Deafblind Conference 2004 'Deafblind and Moving On' Melbourne, 2nd-5th July

The Australian Deafblind Council in conjunction with The Deafblind Association (Vic) proudly present the 7th National Deafblind Conference 2004. The event will focus on how people with deafblindness will move into the future, inspiring others to overcome their challenges through opportunities that can make a significant difference to their lives. Key Note speaker is Mark Landreneau from Seattle Lighthouse, USA. Contact Anne Rose on (03) 9824 4288 or visit www.dba.asn.au/conference/conference.htm for details.

WEBSITES

Y Connection, a group of 17-30 year olds with a physical disability, have launched a new Australian website at www.yconnection.org.au Y Connection was formed to give young people with disabilities the confidence to do what they want with their lives. The site includes information and advice on relationships, communication, conflict, sexuality, fitness, relaxation and attendants. All of the content has been written by young people and provides a revealing perspective that is not often documented.

REMINDER

Next Committee Meeting

Monday May 17th 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 Ellis in the GSNV office on (03) 8341-6315 or email info@gsnv.org.au