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April 10, 2012



“Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

[Mark Twain](#)

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From our Members

We are grateful and pleased to have received feedback from you about our new website and our latest newsletter. The whole GSNV team, and in particular Lynley Donoghue and Hilianty from MCRI IT have worked tirelessly on bringing our new website and customer relationship database from a concept to a reality. Here are a few comments from you, our members about our new website and latest newsletter.

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Ooh, new website! Exciting! Looks good, too! (Catherine) *Thanks Catherine!*

I just wanted to drop a line to thank you for your email, and the brilliant article in the newsletter on FAST. Your website is also looking amazing. Cheers, Jen Kyriacou FAST Australia *Thanks Jen.*

Thank you for the newsletter. The format looks amazing, it is really easy to read, and is very interesting. Well done. Cheers, Sharon. *Thanks Sharon, we look forward to seeing you one day soon.*

The new website looks great! Kind regards, Michelle Hoare, President – CAHSGA, www.cahsga.org.au *Thanks Micelle*

Thanks Penny! The website looks fantastic!! It's clear and easy to navigate. The colours are also very suitable for the content. Well done, Stephanie *Thanks Stephanie*

Wow! I have just looked through both the newsletter and the new web site and wow is the best I can come up with. Well done Penny, Louisa, Lynley and Stephanie (and sorry if I've left anybody out - you too!) for the terrific newsletter. It is so very professional and full of great info and looks so polished and 'readable'. I like having Moira's picture next to her spiel, having that spiel and also the committee list and dates. It's very exciting, - keep up the terrific work, team!

The web site is great! Congratulations on this huge effort and stacks of work - it looks great. I clicked on a few things and went for a wander about the site. I found it easy to manoeuvre through, although I noticed when I clicked on 'Support Groups' and (I think it was called) 'Families' nothing happened. Perhaps sometime down the track we can have a 'committee only' tab, too, where we could have minutes from meetings, and any other documents that we need for committee?

Congratulations again, team - you all deserve a huge pat on the back - fabulous results!! :-)
Yvonne :-)

Thanks Yvonne for your feedback. We are currently updating all our Support Group and Families information. We hope to have this information ready to upload within the next few weeks. A section for committee, students and health professionals is planned for

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Stage 2 of our content upload.

Hi Penny,

Keep up the good work. Here is a suggestion for groups with rare diseases. If a person with a rare disease goes into hospital, it is often difficult for staff and Drs to either understand or know treatment or care.

The Australian Pompe's Association designed a patient care folder for all its members to take to hospital if admitted. It covers all areas it saves either a patient or a family member having to explain to ever changing shifts what is possible and how the patient needs special care in some areas I attach a copy of our design. Please feel free to use it with adaptations for different cases. Helen Walker, President, Australian Pompe Association

Thanks Helen, it can be so valuable when we share resources and knowledge. Please find attached Pompe's Patient Care Folder. Also, stay tuned for information about an upcoming GSNV workshop for support groups and individuals. The purpose of this workshop is to share your useful resources, like Pompe's Patient Care Folder. If you or your group has created a useful resource we'd love to hear about it. Please contact us at info@gsnv.org.au or call our office on (03) 8341 6315 to register your interest to attend our workshop and/or to share your useful resource.

Resources

Robotic Mobilization Device

I just received this site this morning from O/S Worth following through <http://tekrm.com/> click on the Gallery link and look at some of the videos. There is no price listed for the device, but I would assume as demand increases the price would drop. Maybe insurance would help to pay for this.

Helen *Thanks Helen, what an incredible difference this would make for people with mobility issues.*

Service Seeker - Connecting people with services

Service Seeker is freely available online **24 hours a day, seven days a week**. The directory is readily searchable by agency name, keyword and free text search and can be refined by

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geographic area.

The information can also be provided in **hardcopy & CD-ROM** directories and is the basis for the S2S electronic referral system. The records provide not only contact and address information, but also detailed and precise descriptions of the services offered by the organisations providing those services.

For more information about Infoxchange Service Seeker, visit
www.serviceseeker.com.au.

For more information about S2S Wait List and the full range of service coordination programs, visit www.s2s.org.au

Community

Every Australian Counts: 'Make it Real' Rally

Dear NDIS supporter,

You would have recently received an email from the Every Australian Counts campaign about the **NDIS Make it Real** rallies we are planning on having in capital cities around Australia on Monday 30 April. In Melbourne, the event will be held at Federation Square on Monday 30 April from 12 noon. Rallies are being held to send a clear message to our political leaders and the broader community that the time has come for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Enough talk - 2012 is the year to Make it Real!

30 April has the potential to be huge and as you are aware staging events of this scale pose a few logistical challenges. To this end, I am again calling on your goodwill and commitment to the NDIS cause to seek volunteers to help make Melbourne a big success.

We will need volunteers in the lead up to the event and on the day to help with:

- pre-event promotions
- development of campaign materials for the day – eg: banners, placards etc

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- assistance setting up the venue on the day and packing up
- logistical support on the day – eg: Marshalls to direct people around the venue, people to staff info booths, people to assist with media, people to assist people who need a hand getting around etc
- Transport to and from the event.
-

I am sure there will be many other tasks as well. To view our promo clip and to sign up as a rally builder, visit: <http://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/rally/>

In the interim, please spread the word throughout your networks and let's work together remember to keep driving people to www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au as we still need help, please email me. **James O'Brien**, State Campaign Coordinator - NDIS
Email: james.obrien@ndis.org.au Web: everyaustraliancounts.com.au

Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (the ACNC) starting in July 2012

07 March 2012

GO TO [Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission](#)

In May 2011 the Federal Government announced that the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) would commence operations from 1 July 2012 and that it would initially be responsible for determining the legal status of groups seeking charitable, public benevolent institution, and other not-for-profit (NFP) benefits on behalf of all Commonwealth agencies.

The announcement stated that the ACNC would be an independent statutory body headquartered in Melbourne with a presence in Canberra; that the ACNC Commissioner would report to Parliament through the relevant Minister and back office services would be provided by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) including IT support and payroll.

The ACNC has a budget of \$53.6m over four years from 2011 – 2014, including the IT build. The formation of the ACNC is the start of reform that has been sought for many years by the sector.

What the ACNC will do

Initially the ACNC will concentrate on the charitable sector rather than the entire not-for-profit sector.

The ACNC's role will be to:

Establish and maintain publicly searchable register of charities.

Establish one-stop-shop which enables charities to: apply for charity registration, apply

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for an ABN, access Commonwealth tax concessions, and access state and territory tax concessions, with potential to access other services.

Work with Commonwealth & States and Territories to implement [‘report-once, use-often’ passport](#).

Promote public trust and confidence in sector.

From 1 July 2012, all new applications for registration for charitable endorsement will go through the ACNC. Registrations of existing endorsed charities will be automatically transferred from the ATO to ACNC.

From [1 July 2013 a statutory definition of ‘charity’](#) will be activated and applied to all new registrations. The ACNC information portal will be fully operational together with a publicly searchable database. Critically, reporting requirements for every charity on the register will be activated, based on three tiers:

Small – revenue up to \$250,000 and not a DGR (deductible gift recipient).

Medium – revenue of up to \$1 million if a DGR; or between \$250,000 & \$1 million if not a DGR.

Large registered entity – revenue greater than \$1 million.

Make Public Transport Accessible for Everybody! - Come to the All Aboard Campaign Launch

We are fighting for trains, trams and buses that everyone can get on; stations and stops that are accessible, safe and comfortable; and information that everyone can find and use.

Inaccessible is unacceptable!

The All Aboard Action Network is a collaborative initiative between accessibility advocates, community sector organisations and local government to raise concerns about the level of access provided by Victoria’s public transport system.

For more information about the All Aboard campaign, including ways to get involved, is available at: <http://www.facebook.com/allaboard4access>

For more information about the campaign launch, contact Llewellyn at the Victorian Council of Social Service, on phone 9235 1000 or email llewellyn.reynders@vcoss.org.au

Sociability: Social Media for People with a Disability

Dr Scott Hollier, Media Access Australia, March 2012

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The SociABILITY report is designed to help ensure that the one in five Australians who have a disability are not left on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Funded by the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network grants scheme, the report explains the current state of social media accessibility and guides users through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Skype and blogging.

Media Access Australia researcher, Dr Scott Hollier, conducted an eight month qualitative study among people with a sensory or mobility impairment. Through this research, social media users with disabilities were able to share their tips and tricks so that others can gain access.

The report and accompanying tip sheets provide solutions to the accessibility barriers found in each social media tool and give guidance on computers, mobile devices and assistive technologies.

Dr Hollier says social media growth has exploded in Australia since he last conducted a Social Media Access Review in 2009. Facebook for example has ten million users in Australia and 1.9 million users a month access Twitter.

“We used to get questions from people like ‘Should I be using Facebook or MySpace?’” said Dr Hollier. “Now the questions are a lot more specific, like ‘How can I access Facebook and how can I use Twitter?’”

Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes, endorsed the project. “It’s critical that, as we get more and more connected as a community, people with disability are not left out. This report will be a very useful tool in ensuring that does not occur.”

To download the, Sociability report in either PDF or Word format, visit:

<http://www.mediaaccess.org.au/online-media/social-media>

Conferences/Seminars/Workshops

Being Person-Centred is Everyone's Business - This seminar series provides a rare opportunity to hear from renowned International presenters that have been at the centre of driving person centred approaches.

Find out more visit www.disabilitynews.infoxchange.net.au

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Managing Difficult Calls Workshop -In this 4 hour workshop, to be held in Parkville, the following areas will be covered: preparing for difficult calls; managing the caller who is acutely distressed, aggressive, bewildered or confused; coping with complaints; simple, effective stress management techniques to use while on the phone and; looking after yourself after difficult calls.

To find out more visit www.healthnews.infoxchange.net.au

An Evening With Joanne Webber

Joanne Webber, Inclusive Development Officer at CBM, will be joining us to talk about education and employment pathways for individuals with Asperger Syndrome. Harnessing student capacity and realising potential in individuals with Aspersers is crucial for any individual and parent regardless of age and stage in life. This session will support the journey towards identification of capacity, pathways and services when planning further education and employment options.

Topics to be covered:

- student success stories
- tips on harnessing skills and abilities
- subject and course selection
- TAFE and University services for students with Asperger Syndrome
- Employment pathways and services

Joanne Webber has over 15 years experience in education and employment for people with disabilities. With post graduate qualifications in secondary education and careers counselling, she is committed to fostering access to opportunities which enhance skills and interests of people from all disability groups. Joanne has been responsible for tertiary transition camps, seminars, presentations and the development of resources such as the 'Aspirations' tertiary transition CD for students with Asperger Syndrome.

DATE: Wednesday, 13th June 2012

TIME: 7.30—9.30 pm, followed by a light supper

VENUE: MS Society Nerve Centre, 54 Railway Road, Blackburn

(Parking is available at the rear - enter off Solwood Lane). Melway 47 J10

COST: ASSN Vic members: ■\$10 single

Non-members: ■\$15 single*

TO BOOK: Book and pay online at www.trybooking.com/XBA

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DIZZINESS ~ A WORLD WIDE PROBLEM

An Australian & UK Perspective on Managing Vestibular Disorders

Vestibular Disorders include: BPPV; Meniere's Disease; Vestibular Neuritis; Migraine-associated Vertigo; Endolymphatic Hydrops; Labyrinthitis; Perilymph Fistula; Ototoxicity.

Meniere's Australia presents keynote speakers:

Natasha Harrington-Benton, Director, Meniere's Society UK
& Professor Stephen O'Leary B.Med.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.A.C.S

William Gibson Chair and Head of Otolaryngology, The University of Melbourne

Sunday 6th May 1.45 - 4.30pm

FJ Rose Auditorium, Deaf Children Australia, Corner High Street & St Kilda Road Prahran.

www.menieres.org.au

Bookings recommended by 4th May as seating is limited

Registration Form: Dizziness ~ A World Wide Problem

Cost: \$20.00 (MA Members \$15.00, Health Professionals \$50.00)

Workshop for Healthcare Professionals interested in the field of EB

Overview of Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) for Healthcare Professionals

Friday 27 April 2012, Novotel Melbourne St Kilda - 16 The Esplanade, St Kilda, VIC 3182

1-day Workshop presented by DEBRA Australia :: www.debra.org.au :: Ph 07 4693 7003

(National Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association of Australia)

Guest Speakers will include

- Sharon Cassidy *EB Nurse Specialist (Lower North and South Islands) DEBRA NZ*
- James Elder *Consultant Ophthalmologist Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne*
- Maline Glogauer *Clinical Psychologist*
- James Lucas *Paediatric Dentist Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne*
- Kieran Moran *Consultant Paediatrician Sydney Children's Hospital*
- Louise Stevens *Clinical Nurse Consultant BrightSky Australia, for the National EB Dressing Scheme*
- John Su *Consultant Dermatologist Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne*

Topics covered during the workshop

- Overview of EB
- Wound care and the National EB Dressing Scheme
- Genetics of EB

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Workshop target audience

Healthcare professionals interested in EB and / or caring for patients with EB, such as;

- Paediatricians
- GPs
- Nurses & wound care nurses

For further information please phone Sue at DEBRA on 07 4693 7003 or email secretary@debra.org.au

Registrations close Wednesday 4th April 2012

2012 Communities in Control Conference

I am writing to warmly invite you and your colleagues to join me at the 2012 Communities in Control Conference at the Moonee Valley Racing Club in Melbourne. This year's conference (our last!) is set to be the best yet, with a fantastic line up of speakers and entertainers, and the unique Grants Bootcamp as a curtain raiser.

Who participates?

Once a year, representatives from all types and sizes of not-for-profit and community organisations, and those who work with them at all levels of government, gather to exchange ideas and wisdom, be re-energised and inspired, and address the major issues facing Australia's community organisations. It's Australia's largest (yet intimate), most popular, best priced community conference.

The 2012 Conference includes a stellar list of speakers including:

THE HON JOAN KIRNER AM - much loved and highly respected former Premier of Victoria, community advocate and educational reformer

DR NATASHA CICA - ethicist and political and social commentator

DR ANDREW CHARLTON - economist, author of Choosing Between Progress or Planet

GEORGE MEGALOGENIS - veteran political commentator and respected author

SCOTT RIDDLE - Google's manager of strategic syndication partnerships (Australia/New Zealand)

DAMIAN OGDEN - founder and Executive Director of Campaign Action

MARGARET SIMONS - award-winning author, journalist and Centre for Advanced Journalism director

SAMANTHA THOMAS - Public health sociologist and a Senior Research Fellow at Monash University

Plus performances from VIKA AND LINDA BULL - singers and entertainers

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JUDITH LUCY - comedian and writer

I will again be joined at this year's conference by CEO of CatholicCare, Fr JOE CADDY. *And on the Sunday before the conference, we have the Grants Bootcamp, a one of a kind event that brings together community groups from around the country with around 40 leading community grantmakers from philanthropy and all levels of government.*

Further information

For more information on the Conference and the Grants Bootcamp, please view the attached brochure, go to: www.ourcommunity.com.au/cic2012 or don't hesitate to call or email us.

NATIONALLY ACCREDITED QUALIFICATIONS IN HEALTH CONSUMER LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

Health Issues Centre in partnership with the Victorian Quality Council will be offering these training programs once again for consumer leaders and health service staff.

The Course in Consumer Leadership (22095VIC) provides consumers with the foundation skills to engage and promote consumer engagement in health services (commencing May 2012).

The Vocational Graduate Certificate in Consumer Engagement (220929VIC) provides experienced consumer leaders and health service staff with the advanced skills and knowledge to develop and implement strategic consumer engagement in health services and government and non-government bodies (commencing April 2012).

Places in both courses are limited.

CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION: 16 April 2012

For further information, including training program details, outline of courses and to download a Registration Form please visit www.healthissuescentre.org.au

Rebuilding from the ground up - a National Disability Insurance Scheme

- Seminar
- Wednesday 11 April 2012 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
- Melbourne, Victoria



Disability doesn't discriminate. And yet for Australians with disability, where you live or

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how you or a loved one acquires a disability can radically change the care and support you receive. Last year the Productivity Commission reported into disability care and support in Australia, describing the current system as “underfunded, unfair, fragmented and inefficient.” The Productivity Commission recommended a complete overhaul of disability care and support, through a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The Australian Government has taken up the mantle for change. At this Grattan Institute event, Jenny Macklin, the Commonwealth Government’s first Minister for Disability Reform, will discuss the Government’s work to build a National Disability Insurance Scheme. An NDIS requires the complete redesign of the delivery of disability care and support based on commercial insurance principles, to insure all Australians against the cost of care for significant and permanent disability. It seeks to tailor care and support based on individual need, and for the first time, will give people with disability and their carers more choice and control over the care and support they receive.

Minister Macklin will speak, then take part in a Q&A hosted by Grattan CEO John Daley. Venue: State Library Victoria, Village Roadshow Theatrette, Entry 3, 179 La Trobe Street, Melbourne

Presented By: [Grattan Institute](#)

Event website: <http://grattan-disability.eventbrite.com/>

Event Email: events@grattan.edu.au

In Setting Goals Together Workshop

When &
Where: Thursday 19 April 2012, 10:00am – 3:00pm
CAE, Room B427, 253 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Register: Complete the Registration Form available at:
<https://www.etches.com/sgt>

Cost: \$275 inclusive of GST

In a person centred service environment focusing on self-directed approaches and encompassing individual support packages, being able to support people with disabilities to plan, set, measure and review goals is critical. This workshop provides disability service professionals with an understanding of a tool - Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS) - specifically designed to set and measure goals set jointly between the worker and a service user.

Participants will develop a working understanding of Goal Attainment Scales (GAS) and

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their application to their work, with particular focus on setting, reviewing and measuring SMART goals. The scales provide an individualised, criterion referenced measure of change, providing a clear expression of plans, outcomes and a measure of attainment of these goals.

At the completion of this workshop, participants will have a practical understanding of:
Setting specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely (SMART goals)
Applying the Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS) tool
Enabling the active participation of a service user and their supporters in the attainment of their individual goals

Planners, Facilitators, Case Managers and others involved in setting and measuring goals with service users will find this workshop of practical use. Managers will also learn how GAS can be used to support their organisations quality and performance indicators.

For more information, contact field on 03 9982 0101 or email
breanna.penny@field.org.au

Personalized medicine: the triumphs and the challenges

Professor Paul Waring, Chair of Pathology and Head, Department of Pathology, The University of Melbourne

Date: Wednesday 18th April 2012

Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Venue: Sunderland Lecture Theatre, Level 2 (ground floor), Medical Building, corner of Grattan Street and Royal Parade, The University of Melbourne

ALL WELCOME

FREE ADMISSION

RSVP and further information: mdhs-rsvp@unimelb.edu.au (03) 8344 9800

Personalized medicine: the triumphs and the challenges

Sunderland Lecture Theatre, Level 2 (ground floor), Medical Building, Corner Grattan Street and Royal Parade, Australia

April 18, 2012

06:00pm - 07:00pm

Professor Paul Waring, Chair of Pathology and Head, Department of Pathology, The University of Melbourne.

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All welcome and admission is free.

RSVP and further information: mdhs-rsvp@unimelb.edu.au

t: (03) 8344 9800

Support Groups

Down Syndrome Victoria Peer support groups

You can connect with your fellow Down Syndrome Victoria members all year-round. Down Syndrome Victoria runs a network of peer support groups state wide:

Family Network Groups:

There are a number of Family Network Groups across Victoria which are available to families of children with Down syndrome. Groups are run by volunteers, who are usually parents themselves. Some groups are for Blokes only; and some are for parents of people 15+ - group meeting times vary. Please see the map on our [website](#) or contact [Sue Blandford](#) if you would like to know if there is a group in your area.

If there are no suitable groups in your area and you are interested in getting local families together, contact Sue for information and help on how to set one up.

RAZZ-MA-TAZZ -complimentary family variety show tickets

Down Syndrome Victoria has been offered tickets to the amazing RAZZA-MA-TAZZ: A family variety show to be held at Festival Hall on Saturday 12th May 2012.

RAZZA-MA-TAZZ is a live theatre show of international standard performers steeped in the traditional disciplines of clowning, juggling, balancing, puppetry, acrobatics and unique comedy routines; all performed to the highest degree of skill and entertainment value.

Where and when:

FESTIVAL HALL SATURDAY 12TH MAY 2012 11.00AM

How to request tickets:

send your request for tickets through before Monday 16th April 2012

Tickets are only offered to current Down Syndrome Victoria members. Not currently a member? [Join now](#) and get membership benefits all year round.

email rsvp@dsav.asn.au including main contact full name, address phone and email number of tickets required - *please only request tickets that you will definitely use*. One ticket per person is required for entry, e.g. 5 children and 1 adult = 6 tickets

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Down Syndrome Victoria thanks the Immune Deficiencies Foundation Australia for making this offer possible.

Getting back to basics: Intellectual disability & open supported employment

An evening with Christy Lynch

Thursday, May 3, at the Carlton Football Club

Christy Lynch is renowned both in his native Ireland and on the worldwide stage for his pioneering work in achieving supported open employment for people with intellectual disability. He is back in Australia by popular demand and conducting a five city speaking tour around the country.

Full details of this evening presentation for parents and carers will be available shortly. Fees will be \$16.50 for Down Syndrome Victoria members and \$35.00 for non members. Please RSVP with your name and email address to register your interest

In the News

Media Releases

Building Innovative Accommodation for People with Disability

Date: 3/04/2012

Joint Media Release with: **The Hon Julia Gillard MP**, Prime Minister and the **Hon Jan McLucas**, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers Senator for Queensland
Twenty-one organisations across Australia will share \$60 million to help build community-based accommodation for adults with severe or profound disability. People with disability need access to a range of supported accommodation models that will allow them, and their carers, to participate as valued members of their communities.

The *Supported Accommodation Innovation Fund* will help address a shortfall in supported accommodation and respite for people with disability.

It will encourage innovation and drive change in the way supported accommodation services are provided.

Negotiations for funding agreements are in progress with the successful 21 organisations, which will be responsible for 27 projects, providing 169 new supported accommodation and respite places across the country.

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This is 19 more places than we originally committed to delivering.

The new places will be available to people with severe or profound disability. Some of the places will be provided for people with ageing carers or people in rural and remote communities, and there are specific projects that will be provided for Indigenous communities.

The new innovative accommodation includes a vertical village with an accessible gym, and homes designed with leading edge technologies based on world's best practice in sustainable housing, including home automation with motion detected lighting, and electronic devices to enhance hearing and speech difficulties.

This initiative will also help reduce the number of young people with disability who are cared for in nursing homes or those at risk of placement in residential aged care.

These projects, which are to be completed by June 2014, build on the Australian Government's \$100 million capital injection in 2008 to build more than 300 supported accommodation places, which are on track to be delivered this year.

For more information on the Supported Accommodation Innovation Fund go to www.saif.govspace.gov.au or for a list of successful projects see attachment.

Budget to start disability scheme

Updated: 07:07, Saturday March 31, 2012

Substantial start-up funds will be set aside in the upcoming budget for the national disability insurance scheme.

The Weekend Australian reports funding for the \$15 billion program will begin to be rolled out even though the federal government is insistent on returning the budget to surplus in 2012/13.

While the scheme is not due to be fully operational until 2018, Treasurer Wayne Swan has hinted that existing programs will be reduced or axed to find savings in the face of shrinking revenue.

Initial funding in the May budget will enable the creation of a National Disability Insurance Agency to administer the scheme.

Legislation is expected to be introduced into parliament later this year.

The idea of a disability insurance scheme was initially pushed by cabinet minister Bill Shorten when he was parliamentary secretary for disabilities in the Rudd government.

Families Minister Jenny Macklin has championed the idea for almost four years.

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Updated: 07:07, Saturday March 31, 2012
SkyNews.com.au

Explainer: The National Disability Insurance Scheme

Nicole Brady (The Age)

April 8, 2012



Australia has an "underfunded, unfair, fragmented and inefficient" disability support system. *Photo: Andrew Quilty*

A YOUNG woman in Queensland who suffered a spinal injury in a diving accident at her local pool spent nine years in legal action against the council and the pool lessee, lost, and relies on her ageing parents for 24-hour care.

A single mother in Wodonga worries endlessly about her son, 18, born with a chromosomal abnormality that caused intellectual disability and severe physical impairments. As an adult, his days at a wonderful local school are over; meaning that unless she can somehow find the money, his regular sessions with speech and occupational therapists will end. Local day programs are overstretched, as is the respite care she desperately needs.

A family with a daughter, 4, born with cerebral palsy, moved from Queensland to Victoria and were shocked at the difference in support services. "In Melbourne service

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levels vary from the eastern suburbs to the western suburbs. As we live in Keilor, we are ineligible for additional services that friends living in the eastern suburbs receive. This level of inequity is beyond absurd - it borders on discrimination."

These **stories** of heartbreak despair and - most strikingly - of love and dedication were told to the Productivity Commission as it researched what it found to be Australia's "underfunded, unfair, fragmented and inefficient" disability support system.

Two ageing sisters who have cared for their intellectually disabled brother since their mother died 21 years ago detail their frustrations with the system, as does a man whose mental illness has left him unable to work and forced him to live in a caravan as he battles authorities for assistance. Parents bemoan the wait for a wheelchair for their children, others lament the time it takes to get an appointment for early intervention services for toddlers diagnosed with autism.

The then parliamentary secretary for disabilities Bill Shorten told the commission: "It has been said to me that the best thing to do for someone who has fallen off the roof of their home and suffered a spinal injury, is to bundle them into the car and drive it into the nearest lamp post. That grim piece of gallows humour reflects the sad truth that getting adequate compensation for a person with a serious injury is still a lottery. State borders, the whim of the courts, and the cause of the injury play a far greater role than need, fairness or justice."

The Productivity Commission agreed with the lottery analogy, noting that serious disability can happen to anyone - "a simple fall can lead to quadriplegia and an illness to severe brain damage". It found the level of support for Australians with serious disabilities varied dramatically depending on how and in which state the disability occurred.

The commission recommended Australia set up a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), along the lines of Medicare, to provide coverage for people with a serious disability.

The commission's report and recommendations were well received, with broad agreement across the major parties and state and federal politics that Australia's system of looking after people with disabilities is a mess and reform is urgently required.

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The Gillard government has committed to the NDIS, but is yet to announce how much money will be dedicated to it and how many people will be covered.

The federal opposition has talked about needing to have a strong budget surplus before the disability insurance scheme can be funded, although Opposition Leader Tony Abbott wrote in a recent opinion piece: "The Coalition intends to work constructively with the government to implement the NDIS as quickly as possible."

Disability support services currently cost more than \$7 billion a year, with \$2.3 billion from the federal government and about \$4.7 billion from states and territories. Commonwealth and state disability ministers and treasurers are discussing how to share the cost of a new system. It is estimated that, properly funded, the NDIS would cost \$13.5 billion a year, almost double current spending.

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/national/explainer-the-national-disability-insurance-scheme-20120407-1wimv.html#ixzz1raZbwz4I>

Hospital parking fees are enough to make you sick

- **by: *Peter Mickelborough***
- **From: [Herald Sun](#)**
- **March 17, 2012**

HOSPITALS are accused of pilfering the pockets of the ill and their already suffering families after pushing their parking costs up by as much as 50 per cent in the past year.

Victoria's cash-strapped hospitals made almost \$50 million in parking fees and fines in 2010-11, a staggering \$6.2 million or 15 per cent jump on the previous 12 months.

The Herald Sun has found shocking evidence of profiteering as our biggest hospitals ignore calls to rein in parking fees.

Monash Hospital fattened its parking revenue by almost half to a state-topping \$10 million in 2010-11 thanks to a new multi-storey carpark and a rise in fees.

Chronic Illness Alliance executive officer Christine Walker said lack of funding was forcing hospitals to recover costs via car parks.

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Ms Walker said the size of the increases should be ringing alarm bells with consumer watchdogs like Consumer Affairs Victoria or the ACCC.

"There are a lot of businesses that simply can't put up their prices by 30 or 40 per cent without justification. They would be accused of profiteering if they did," she said.

The 10 biggest public hospitals have raked in more than \$232 million from parking in the past seven years, grabbing almost half that amount in the past two years.

The Austin beefed up its daily rate last year from \$20 to \$30, while the Royal Children's lifted its day rate by a third to \$25 and upped the price of a one-hour park 40 per cent to \$7.

Sufferers of chronic conditions such as cancer or cystic fibrosis require constant hospital visits and are among the hardest hit.

Cystic Fibrosis Victoria acting social support services manager Monica Lay said sufferers had no choice but to pay for parking.

"It significantly burdens someone already in a financial situation where they have to pay for expensive medication and it makes it worse for families and people with CF," she said.

Ms Lay said discounted parking arrangements at some hospitals had decreased as more hospital car parks were managed by commercial operators.

The nearest city-run car park to the Melbourne, Women's and Children's, in Elgin St, Carlton, has not raised its hourly rate of \$2 or its daily charge of \$14 in the past year.

Hospital debt across the state hit almost \$160 million in 2010-11.

The Victorian Healthcare Association, which represents public hospitals, said hospitals were under a lot of pressure to find ways to meet operating costs.

Discount Parking at RCH

Please note, if your child is a recipient of a HealthCare Card you are eligible for

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discounted parking at The Royal Children's Hospital.

The discounted rate will be \$8 per day.

To receive a concession car park ticket you will need to take your car park ticket to the Security Officer on the lower ground level (near emergency), show him/her your child's Healthcare card and your ticket will be exchanged for a concession ticket.

Wilson Parking is in the process of obtaining permanent discount car parking cards for eligible families and carers. (as had been previously available in the old hospital).

For eligibility for a Healthcare Card and Carer's Allowance , please visit the Centrelink website at

http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/carers_allow_child.htm

Grants

Doncaster East & Templestowe Village Community Grants Program

Applications close: 13 April, 2012

Area: The Doncaster East and Templestowe Village Community Grants program will support programs and projects in the Doncaster East and Templestowe Village area

Audience: Charitable and not-for-profit organisations can apply for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities. Contributing to their development in building social capital, community welfare, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

Details

The Community Grants Program is administered by Community Enterprise Foundation™ and made possible by the generous support of the Donaster East and Templestowe Village Community Bank® branches.

The Community Grants Program is designed to:

Make better, targeted use of funds that are responsive to community needs

Provide a simpler application process

To be more responsive to the needs of communities

Support project that make a positive contribution to Donaster East and Templestowe Village

Applications close Friday 13 April 2012

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For more information visit the website at

https://applications.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au/Find_Funding_Here/index.aspx?itemDetails=452

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) supports events and activities through sponsorship. We see sponsorship as a potential opportunity to increase community awareness of government messages and policies, and to communicate departmental strategies and initiatives.

DPCD receives numerous requests for sponsorship each year. Unfortunately, not all requests can be funded and priority will be given to proposals that meet general sponsorship criteria.

General Sponsorship Criteria

The event organiser must be an incorporated company and have values, activities, products and purposes consistent with those of DPCD

Sponsorship activities should support the achievement of DPCD goals and objectives and be aligned with key themes and priorities

The event must provide good promotional and media opportunities for the department

The event must be targeted to one or more of the department's key audiences

Public liability insurance, and any other insurance category appropriate to the activities of the proposed project, must be confirmed (with the provision of a certificate of currency from your insurer) prior to the completion of a Sponsorship Agreement

DPCD Values

We collaborate and build partnerships

We focus on sustainable social and economic outcomes

We deliver results that make a difference

DPCD Strategic Directions

Improved planning and design for sustainable communities

Better access to housing, infrastructure, jobs and services

Increased opportunities for participation

Excellent organisational performance

How to apply for sponsorship

Please read and complete the [DPCD sponsorship application form \(Word 1.1 MB\)](#) for your request to be considered. Supporting documents may also be attached.

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All requests for DPCD sponsorship must be submitted at least eight weeks before the event for which sponsorship is sought. Any questions about a sponsorship proposal and all submissions must be emailed to sponsorship@dpcd.vic.gov.au.

Ritchies Community Benefit Card Program

Ritchies' Community Benefit Card Program donates a percentage of the money spent by our customers to their nominated club, school or charity. Customers! Would you like us to donate money to your service or sporting club, your children or grandchildren's school or kindergarten, your local hospital, or your favourite charity, every time you shop with us? The Ritchies' Community Benefit program can raise funds for your favourite club, school or charity at no extra cost to you!



Do you belong to an organisation that is likely to be seeking funds this year?

Imagine!

No more preparation of lengthy grant applications!

No conditions on how you spend the money!

No performance monitoring!

You control the amount you receive!

Ritchies' Community Benefit Card program is simple to work with and participate in!

Ritchies' Community Benefit Card program offers savings for customers and fundraising dollars for nominated organisations at the same time!

Here's how it works!

Ask for your free Ritchies Community Benefit Card at your nearest Ritchies supermarket or liquor store.

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Enter the name of the community group that you would like to be the recipient of a donation from Ritchies.

Your Ritchies Community Benefit Card will be issued and can be used, immediately! You can choose to have a key tag to place upon your key ring or you might prefer the convenience of a Plastic Card to place in your wallet or purse. You might prefer one of each. The card or key tags are free and the choice is up to you!

Your completed Application Form is returned to Ritchies Head Office, where your Community Benefit Card number and the CB number for your community group is entered into Ritchies computer.

Every time you shop you will be asked by one of Ritchies friendly cashiers to present your Community Benefit Card!

Your card will be scanned at the register, which will automatically allocate 0.5% of the money you spend to your nominated organization, as long as they are achieving the minimum of \$2,000 spent each month.

There are also hundreds of weekly specials that have extra discounts for Ritchies Community Benefit Cardholders. These 'CB' specials are clearly marked with red shelf tickets bearing the Community Benefit logo.

Ritchies also have CB Mobile/Multimedia for even more special offers! You must be 18 years or over to receive the mobile offers. The cashier will link your mobile phone number to your Community Benefit Card number and you instantly become registered to receive an MMS/SMS message detailing exclusive CB Mobile offers on groceries and liquor. Or you might prefer to receive an email. You'll save or be rewarded on all items that feature the CB Mobile/Multimedia logo.

** Ritchies reserves the right to change the terms of any of its cards, programs or clubs at any time.*

Help yourself to savings and help your favourite club, school or charity at the same time with your free Community Benefit Card.

For more information visit Riches website at <http://www.ritchies.com.au/benefits.html>

Shanahan Foundation Grants

Provider: Shanahan Foundation

Category: Community Services & Development

Funding: Max per grant: \$30,000 Total Pool: \$500,000

Closes: 13 April 2012

Purpose: To provide funding for a wide range of charitable purposes.

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Overview: The Shanahan Foundation provides community support to organisations that seek to improve disadvantage in Australian.

The current focus of the Foundation includes:

- Indigenous issues;
- Children and Families; and
- Older People

Who can apply: Non-profit organisations across Australia.

How to apply: Mail

Further Information

Contact Details: Shanahan Foundation

Email: strataus@bigpond.net.au

The Sisters of Charity Foundation will provide financial support for programs selected according to strict funding guidelines.

Eligibility Criteria for Grants from the Foundation

The applicant organisation's mission and operations, and the proposed program, are consistent with the guidelines of the Sisters of Charity Foundation.

The applicant is able to demonstrate the knowledge and the expertise necessary to implement the program as well as the skills necessary for the sustainable management of the program and the responsible stewardship of resources.

The applicant organisation has the support of its Board, or in the case of an individual, the proposer's supporting authority.

The organisation is not-for-profit and has "Income Tax Exempt Charity" (ITEC) status or "Deductible Gift Recipient" (DGR) status.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation favors programs that:

"fall between the cracks" of other funding sources

are not associated with well established organizations with significant reserves and or are capable of raising their own funds

are not eligible for funding from government or other sources.

The Board of the Sisters of Charity Foundation Limited reserves the right to exercise its discretion in granting funds to support programs related to the mission of the Sisters of Charity and their ministries.

Do you need assistance with your application?

If you are unsure about whether your program meets the criteria, or alternatively, if you

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are having problems completing an application, please make contact with the Foundation.

Chief Executive Officer

Sisters of Charity Foundation Limited

Level 7, 35 Grafton Street

Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Email: foundation@rscoffice.com

Phone: 02 9367 1211

All information given will be treated as confidential.

For more information visit the website at

<http://www.sistersofcharityfoundation.com.au/eligibility.html>

Community Wellbeing

Community Wellbeing grants in action

Community Wellbeing has two main focus areas.

Smaller grants (under \$50,000) are used to support community-based organisations with strong volunteer components to deliver programs targeting disadvantage, poverty and the general wellbeing of the community.

The **large grants** program seeks to improve the life chances of individuals and families by supporting projects and programs targeted at the prevention of homelessness, with a focus on early intervention and programs that work with disadvantaged families, women, young people and children who are at risk.

This area also makes grants in the name of [The Alec Prentice Sewell Gift](#) in recognition of the gift he bequeathed to the Foundation.

For more information about grants from the Ian Potter Foundation visit their website at <http://foundation.ianpotter.org.au/community-wellbeing>

The Marian and E H Flack Trust

Who does the Trust support?

The Trust supports institutions conducting medical research, welfare, social/family support and aged care. Thus, fields of interest include -

- Aged care
- Health and wellbeing

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- Special purpose housing and accommodation
- Medical research
- Mental health
- Social welfare

Each year the Trust receives significantly more applications than the funds available for distribution can support. Applicants should understand that their requests may be scaled back or not approved, at the sole discretion of the trustees.

Applicants should -

- Have a broad community reach and profile
- Demonstrate sound management and service excellence in meeting community needs
- Have a high degree of community and/or volunteer involvement; and
- Connect their operations with the community they seek to assist

The Trust does not fund -

- Projects designed to benefit a single individual or family
- Operating expenses
- Operating deficits
- Conferences or seminars
- Public fundraising appeals or special events
- Travel or transport costs
- Political organisations
- Overseas projects

Further Information

Website: <http://www.flacktrust.org>

Appl. Form: <http://www.flacktrust.org/application.doc>

Contact Details: Mr Peter Hordern , Chairman of Trustees The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust

Telephone: (03) 8608 2844

Fax: (03) 8608 1165

Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation Grants

Provider: Trust Company Ltd

Category: Community Services & Development

Funding: Max per grant: \$50,000

Closes: 15 May 2012

You must be a charitable organisation with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status to apply for this grant

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(See Part 3 for more information)

Purpose: To assist those charitable organisations providing homes, hostels, or other facilities for aged persons in necessitous circumstances within the State of Victoria.

Overview: The grants are for immediate expenditure items and are paid immediately to successful applicants. Items may include furnishings, equipment and the like and assistance is limited to a maximum amount of \$50,000.

Funds will only be provided to Victorian organisations which are charitable and hold appropriate Australian Taxation Office endorsements.

Pledges are for any amount (within the limits of the trust's capacity) and are provided for large capital expenditure such as rebuilding projects which may be in the planning stage where a commitment of future funding is being sought.

Regrettably, due to the number of applications we receive, we are not able to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications. Please note the decision of Trustees is final and not subject to any appeal process

- Applications will be assessed twice a year with the closing date 15 May and 15 November.
- The assessment process takes approximately 4 weeks from the closing date and all applicants are notified in writing. During this period Trustees may request further clarification from you regarding your application.

How to apply: Mail

Further Information

Website:

http://www.thetrustcompany.com.au/philanthropy/funding/ian_rollo_currie.asp

Contact Details: Trust Company of Australia

Email: philanthropy@thetrustcompany.com.au

Telephone: (03) 9665 0200 **Fax:** (03) 9620 5826

Pathways to Employment Grants

Provider: Inner North Community Foundation

Category: Education, Employment & Training

Funding: In the past grants have averaged \$15,000 but there is no set limit. In 2011 the Inner North Community Foundation distributed \$216000 to 14 organisations ranging from \$6,600 to \$30,000.

Closes: 31 May 2012

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You must be a charitable organisation with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status to apply for this grant

(See Part 3 for more information)

Purpose: Projects providing pathways and breaking down barriers to employment for disadvantaged members of the community in the Inner North of Melbourne (within Darebin, Moreland and Yarra)

Overview: The funding is to support organisations which provide pathways to employment (not necessarily vocational) for disadvantaged members of the community (ie people affected by mental illness, physical or intellectual disability, refugees, migrants, people in touch with the criminal justice system, or youth at risk of disengagement from school and training)

Priorities: Priority is given to organisations based within the cities of Yarra, Darebin and Moreland, but consideration will also be given to organisations which are providing services within this geographic region even if not based there.

Limitations: Capital works, deficit funding, retrospective funding etc.

Who can apply: Must have TCC, DGR optional

How to apply: Mail, Email

Further Information

Website: <http://www.innernorthfoundation.org.au/>

Contact Details: Sharon Nathani Inner North Community Foundation

Email: info@innernorthfoundation.org.au

Telephone: (03) 8689 1967

Maldon & District Community Grants Program

Category: Youth

Funding: Various

Closes: 10 April 2012

You must be a charitable organisation with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status to apply for this grant

(See Part 3 for more information)

Purpose: To offer grants to benefit charitable and not-for-profit organisations for the benefit of Maldon & District.

Overview: The Community Grants Program is administered by Community Enterprise Foundation™ and made possible by the generous support of the Maldon & District Community Bank® Branch

The Community Grants Program is designed to:

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- Make better, targeted use of funds that are responsive to community needs
- Provide a simpler application process
- To be more responsive to the needs of communities
- Support charitable projects that make a positive contribution to Maldon and surrounding communities

Priorities:

Currently, preference will be given to projects that support:

- families, children and youth initiatives
- public health programs and services
- community capacity building projects
- public education, including tertiary education, school building and libraries
- innovative community services
- cultural and arts initiatives
- aged care service
- disability service and
- environmental projects.

How to apply: Mail

Further Information

Website:

https://applications.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au/Find_Funding_Here/index.asp

Contact Details:Community Enterprise Foundation

Email: foundation@bendigobank.com.au **Freecall:** 1300 304 541

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Keeping up to Date

Please continue to notify GSNV of your change of contact details either by calling the GSNV office, or via email to info@gsnv.org.au. We have launched an exciting new website and database but still finalising the upgrade. Please bear with us as we make the updates.

GSNV is an umbrella organisation representing and supporting some 130 organisations and many more families and individuals across Victoria.

South Building, Level 9, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

Royal Children's Hospital

Flemington Road

Parkville, Vic 3052 (Australia)

Ph: (03) 8341 6315

Fax: (03) 8341 6390

Web: www.gsnv.org.au

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