

Active Participation South West



A Southwest Advocacy Association & Rural Access Project

The Information Bulletin March 2007

Introduction

As most people on the Active Participation Register will be well aware of by now, Southwest Advocacy Association (“SWAA”) is now managing the Register. SWAA will still be working in closely with the Rural Access Program on the project, so, if for some reason you are not able to contact SWAA you can still contact Richard Stone at Rural Access (ph 55 594 864), but in the first instance please contact Robert Dick at SWAA (ph. 55 614 584).

Things that may interest you

Victorian Charter of Human rights and Responsibilities

In 2006 Victoria became the first Australian State to enact a Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. The Charter came into effect on 1 January 2007 and sets out a range of rights and freedoms that are protected by law. Further information about the Charter and how it affects you may be obtained from the Equal Opportunity Commission (ph. 1800 134 142).

Youth Disability Advocacy Service (“YDAS”)

Victoria now has a statewide advocacy service that is specifically for young people up to 25 years of age that was established in 2006. YDAS can be contacted on Ph. 1300 727 176 and their website address link is www.yacvic.org.au .

Disability Consultants: Nothing About Us Without Us

This project is an information product and lists disability consultants who have personal experience of disability.

The Database of Disability Consultants will:

- Provide an entry point to connect the corporate, government and non-government sectors to the particular expertise that disability consultants who have a disability offer.

- Offer broader options to consultancy service buyers by including consultants with experiential based expertise in the mix.
- Be a marketing tool for disability consultants who have experience gained both through their own disability and through prior work in any of the following: consulting, training, information provision, policy development, disability awareness, guest speaking, life experience, and leadership.
- Support diversity and contribute to more inclusive services and products in the community we all share.
- Assist to promote a culture in which people with disability are perceived as competent and have an economically valued role in the wider community.

Accessible Transport Watch

This project is looking to gather information about how accessible public transport is across Victoria and whether public transport is meeting the Standards set out under the Disability Discrimination Act. The project Co-ordinator is hoping to recruit people with disabilities who are interested in gathering information about public transport in their area to be used in a report that will be produced at the end of the project. Training will be offered to participants. Interested people should contact Glenn Cardwell - ph. 9 654 50 50 or e-mail glenn.cardwell@vcoss.org.au .

Quality of service experienced by people with disabilities when using taxis – study

The Equal Opportunity Commission Victoria is undertaking a study in order to examine any issues relating to quality of service experienced by people with disabilities when using taxis. This information will be used to guide improvements to the taxi industry and may be included in a submission to government departments.

If you would like to discuss any queries, or participate in the survey over the phone, please contact Kristina Hoel on (03) 9281 7113 or e-mail her at kristina.hoel@eocv.vic.gov.au

2007 One & All Festival Committee

If anyone would like to be part of the 2007 One & All Festival Committee please contact Chelsey Reis Rural Access Ph 55 594 828. The first meeting for 2007 will be held in March 2007.

Victorian Electoral Commission

Rural Access jointly with Southwest Advocacy will be contacting the Victorian Electoral Commission to raise issues about the lack of access to Polling Venues in the South West. If anyone is interested in being part of this representation please contact Richard Stone at Rural Access Ph 55 594 864.

SWAA Committee of Management Vacancies

Southwest Advocacy Association still has two vacancies on its' volunteer Committee of Management. SWAA is an independent, not-for-profit, community organisation that has been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to provide advocacy and information to people with all types of disabilities throughout south west Victoria since 1993. Under its' Constitution SWAA must try to ensure that at least half of its' Committee is made up of people with disabilities, so people with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply. For further information, please contact SWAA on 55 614 584.

DHS Disability Act Consultative Committees

The Department of Human Services is still seeking nominations from people with disabilities who are interested in participating in the following consultative committees.

1. Access and planning

This group will focus on developments in the areas of access to services including priority criteria and guidelines around the individual planning process.

2. Residential services

This group will focus on developments related to the provision of residential services including residential respite and Community Residential Units.

3. Quality services/complaints and review

This group will focus on the development of standards and performance measures for service providers and systems for managing complaints.

4. Restrictive intervention and compulsory treatment

This group will focus on the requirements and responsibilities of service providers who use restrictive interventions or compulsory treatment and the rights of people subject to these practices.

The Next Bulletin

The next Active Participation Register Bulletin will be sent out in about two months, but, remember, if you want to contact us, you can do so by mail, telephone or e-mail:

Mail: Robert Dick
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31 Princess Street Warrnambool 3280

Phone: 55 614 584

Email: swadvocacy@bigpond.com