

Welcome to another Active Participation Register E-mailout

The Active Participation Register (APR) project aims to empower people with disabilities by providing information on opportunities and events that enable people to have a say and have more influence in the community.

Interested individuals with any type of disability, carers, advocates and organisations who register their details with us are provided with news about conferences and consultations, opportunities to get involved in Boards, Committees and advisory bodies and relevant news & training opportunities that they may be interested in.

Apologies for any cross-postings or if you feel that any of this information is not particularly relevant to you. Please feel free to contact Southwest Advocacy if you no longer wish to receive information through the Active Participation Register.

Regards,

Robert Dick (Southwest Advocacy Association - Ph. 55 614 584)
Manager
Active Participation Register

People with hearing impairments or communication difficulties may contact us through -
National Relay Service: Ph. - 133 677

[Please note that material contained in APR E-mailouts does not necessarily reflect the policy of SWAA or the views of any staff members. Statements in APR E-mailouts do not comprise advice and readers should avail themselves of professional advice where appropriate.]

When a Hospital Bed is the Only Home There Is

The Age, 30th August 2009 – by Tom Reilly

"Too many disabled adults are on waiting lists for proper residential care".

Gayle Dunlop has been in hospital for 11 weeks, even though she's not sick. But Miss Dunlop, who was born with cerebral palsy, can't leave her bed at the Western Hospital because there's nowhere for her to go.

Since her birth 52 years ago, Miss Dunlop's parents, Matthew and Dawn, cared for her around the clock until she was admitted to hospital almost three months ago, when the Dunlops - both in their late 70s - realised they simply could not look after her any more.

Nor, it appears, can the Department of Human Services, which has failed to find Miss Dunlop a place in a residential facility. Miss Dunlop's case is not isolated. According to one senior source in Victoria's health-care system, there are dozens of people with disabilities occupying hospital beds for far longer than their medical needs necessitate.

The Dunlops' story highlights the chronic shortage of places in suitable residential care for people with disabilities. About 3500 people are on the official waiting list but the true figure is much higher as the list includes only those classed as being in "immediate" need. About 1400 of those listed are looked after by elderly carers.

"There's a chronic shortage of proper support for people with disabilities" said Kevin Stone, of the Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability. "Gayle certainly doesn't need to be wasting her life away in a hospital room or put in an old people's home."

Improved Indexation for Australia's Pensioners

Media Release, The Hon Jenny Macklin MP- 24th August 2009

A new Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI), was released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics that will better reflect price increases in goods commonly purchased by pensioners.

From 20th September 2009, this new index will be another tool used in the calculation

of the base rate of the pension for nearly three million age, disability, carer, wife, widow and veteran service pensioners.

Pensioner households can face cost of living changes which are different to those measured by the mainstream Consumer Price Index (CPI). For example, age pensioner households are estimated to spend 21.1 per cent of their household budgets on food, compared with 15.4 per cent for other households.

As part of the Australian Government's Secure and Sustainable Pension Reform, the base pension rate will be adjusted twice each year, in March and September, by whichever is the greater of the CPI or the PBLCI in the preceding six months.

As part of these reforms, the effective benchmark for single pensioners will increase from 25 to 27.7 per cent of MTAW. These new indexation arrangements will help provide a more liveable pension for Australia's pensioners.

These changes are enshrined in legislation and will help to deliver a stronger and fairer pension system that is secure and sustainable into the future.

**Safety Warning Issued For Motorised Mobility Scooters
Media Release, The Hon. Dr Craig Emerson MP – 10th August 2009**

A notice warning of the safe use of motorised mobility scooters has been issued by Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs Dr Craig Emerson.

"Since July 2000 there have been reports of 71 deaths in Australia directly related to accidents involving motorised mobility scooters," Dr Emerson said.

"Following advice from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), I have issued a notice warning consumers of the potential dangers associated with the use of these scooters. While mobility scooters allow people with limited ability to maintain active, independent lifestyles these injury statistics are alarming."

"The ACCC will invite a number of key stakeholders to form a Reference Group to develop a joint national approach to problems involving motorised mobility scooters," Dr Emerson said.

Due to the increase in popularity of motorised mobility scooters, the risk of associated deaths or serious injury is increasing. People who intend to use these scooters must ensure they have the necessary physical and cognitive skills to operate and manoeuvre them safely.

Self Advocacy in Motion

When: Wednesday 16th September 2009

**Where: Ross House, Level 4, 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne,
11am-1.30pm**

Register: For catering purposes please RSVP prior to the event via phone 96397222 or email - bim_statewide@yahoo.com.au .

Brain Injury Matters and OMABI Performance Group are hosting 'Self Advocacy in Motion'

Come along and learn more about self advocacy and be inspired by Neil Cameron, Ross Cottee and OMABI Performance Group, facilitated by Jarek Czechowicz.

For more information contact Lyn via phone 0418 811 143.

Women and Leadership Forum

When: Friday 25th September 2009, 2pm -4.30pm.

Where: The Jasper Hotel, Ground floor, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

Register: To register by Friday 18th September 2009 contact Anita via email - administration@leadershipplus.com or call 03 9481 7154. (Numbers are limited. Please let us know of any support you may require.)

This is a Leadership Plus and Victorian Women with Disabilities Network (VWDN) event.

This forum looks at leadership for women through an international and a local lens. Come and hear leaders talk about their own experiences and their ideas about

leadership and ways to improve opportunities for women, and in particular for women with disabilities, everywhere.

**For more information on speakers at this forum [click here](#).
For more information contact Anita via email - administration@leadershipplus.com or phone 9481 7154.**

Call for Speakers - OZeWAI 2009

When: 23rd – 24th November 2009

Where: Melbourne University

Register: To register visit website - <http://www.ozchi.org/mediawiki/index.php/REGISTER>

OZeWAI has been running since 1998 and provides a forum for national and international speakers to share ideas and learn about Web accessibility and adaptability.

OZeWAI is interested in hearing from you if you are planning a paper, presentation, or have some ideas that you'd like to present or have others work on at the forum. We are interested in all topics related to Web Accessibility.

Expressions of interest should be sent to Jonathan O'Donnell via email - jonathan.odonnell@rmit.edu.au

For more information visit website - <http://www.ozewai.org/2009w/>

WDVCS Seeking Women for Media Advocacy Training

The Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service of Victoria (WDVCS) has received funding to expand its media advocacy project to include the voices of women from culturally and linguistically diverse

backgrounds, and the voices of women with disabilities, who have experienced family violence.

The WDVCS is seeking women from a diversity of backgrounds who would be interested in training to be media advocates and to speak out, not only about family violence, but also about the additional barriers women from a diverse cultural background, and women with disabilities, may face when living with or leaving abusive relationships.

Both lots of trainings cover key family violence messages, self care, working with the media and public speaking.

To register your interest contact Jane Ashton, or leave a message on (03) 9928 9614 or email - jane.a@wdvcs.org.au

Free Briefing Session on the New Standards for Disability Services

When: Wednesday 23rd September 2009, starting 10am. Morning tea provided.

Where: Vibe Savoy Hotel, Spencer Street, Melbourne. Register: To register by Wednesday 16th September contact Jeff via phone 03 9693

3573 or email - jeff.blutman@saiglobal.com . You are able to register up to 3 people from your organisation.

The advent of the new Standards for Disability Services in Victoria (SDSV) on 1 July 2009 has created a stir in the disability sector.

SAI Global were involved in a pilot audit for the SDSV. Learn from SAI Global's experiences and their clients' experiences with SDSV and with the National Disability Program at this free Briefing Session.

For more information visit - <http://www.saiglobal.com/assurance> - or phone 03 9693 3573.

Disability Act 2006- Revised Policies

The policies developed to support the implementation of the Disability Act 2006 have been reviewed. The following policies are now available:

- **Disability Services Access Policy**
- **Disability Services Access Policy - An Implementation Guide**
- **Policy and Information Manual**

To download copies of these policies, visit the website - http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability/improving_supports/disability_act_2006#policy

If you would like to receive these publications in an accessible format and for more information phone 1300 336 731 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email - disability.legislation@dhs.vic.gov.au .

Glenelg Shire Council invites comments on the Draft Disability (Access and Inclusion) Action Plan 2009-2012, which is available on public exhibition for a 4 week period from 26 August 2009 until 25 September 2009.

The community and stakeholders are encouraged to prepare a written submission for Council's consideration.

The report is available via:

* Glenelg Shire Council's Website (www.glenelg.vic.gov.au)

- * Portland Customer Service Centre, Cliff Street, Portland.
- * DiscoverIT Centre (Portland Library), 38 Bentinck Street, Portland.
- * Casterton Customer Service Centre, 67 Henty Street, Casterton.
- * Heywood Customer Service Centre, 77 Edgar Street, Heywood.

All written submissions should be sent to:

Glenelg Shire Council
Draft Disability (Access and Inclusion) Action Plan 2009-2012
PO Box 152
PORTLAND 3305

Attention: Adele Kenneally

or email to: akenneally@glenelg.vic.gov.au

For further information contact Adele Kenneally, Group Manager
Community Development (ph: 5522 2205).

New Early Learning Centre To Support Children With Autism

Media Release, Joint Media Release with The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, and The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education Child Care and Youth - 7th September 2009

A new Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre in Perth will give young West Australian children with Autism Spectrum Disorders access to specialist early childhood services to help them reach their full potential.

Opening early next year, the centre will operate out of an existing Jelly Beans Child Care Centre in Warwick and will provide a minimum of 20 child care places for children aged 0 to 6 years with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin said it was one of six autism specific centres, which are part of the Rudd Government's \$190 million *Helping Children with Autism* package.

The centre will be staffed by trained child care workers and will offer programs run by speech pathologists, psychologists, occupational therapists and other professionals experienced in dealing with

autism.

Office of the Senior Practitioner - Process For Requesting A Review Of A Service Or Individual

The Disability Act 2006.(s27) provides the Senior Practitioner with powers in respect of the use of restrictive interventions or compulsory treatment by disability service providers.

These powers include seeing any person with a disability who is subject to restrictive interventions and investigating the use of restrictive interventions and accessing information about the person with disability.

The Senior Practitioner may also direct disability service providers to discontinue or report on the use of other restrictive interventions other than restraint and seclusion.

If you have any queries in relation to the review process please contact Frank Lambrick, Practice Leader via phone 90967176 or email - frank.lambrick@dhs.vic.gov.au.

Launch of Brain Injury Awareness Week

When: Sunday 13th September, 11am

Where: Melbourne Town Hall Supper Room

Register: To register contact Vanessa via phone 9845-2955 or email <mailto:info@brainlink.org.au>

You are invited to attend the launch of Brain Injury Awareness Week, which will be held from 14th - 20th September 2009.

Seminar on Improved Protections of the Rights of People with Disability

When: Tuesday 15th September , 4.30pm - 6pm

Where: Training Room, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, 3/380 Lonsdale St Melbourne

Register: RSVP by Friday 11th September to email

elizabeth.green@humanrights.gov.au or via phone 9284 9869.

(The venue is wheelchair accessible and has a hearing loop. Please advise of any other support requirements that would assist you to participate fully when you RSVP.)

The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission and the Australian Human Rights Commission are holding a seminar on significant developments in the protection of the rights of people with disability.

These include Australia's ratification of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and the commencement of the *Disability Discrimination and Other Human Rights Legislation Amendment Act 2009*.

Key speakers include;

- Graeme Innes, Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission will discuss the implementation of the UN Convention in Australia
- Christine Fougere, Deputy Director, Legal Section, Australian Human Rights Commission will provide an overview of the changes to federal disability discrimination legislation.

The seminar will be opened by Dr Helen Szoke, Chief Conciliator/Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.

This seminar will be of interest to people with a disability, advocates and service providers who would like to learn more about important recent changes to disability rights protections in Australia.

Peer Mentoring Program for People with an ABI

When: Monday 21st September, Thursday 24th September and Monday 28th September. Focus groups will run from 11am - 2pm.

Where: Ross House 247 Flinders Lane Melbourne

Register: To RSVP contact Lyn via phone 96397222 or Kerry via phone 9894 7006. A light lunch will be provided.

Brain Injury Matters (BIM) and the Summer Foundation with the generous support of the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) are

doing a project to find out what people with ABI would like to see included in a mentoring program.

Peer mentoring can achieve:

- A chance to provide social and emotional support, reduce isolation and offer hope to others for the future
- A chance to provide someone else with an understanding of the process of adjustment to acquired brain injury
- A chance to provide someone information about resources and services
- A chance to help partners gain skills and the confidence to be responsible for their own future

You are invited to come along to a focus group and have a say.

There will be a presentation on existing peer mentoring programs, more about the project and a chance to have a say.

Financial assistance may be available to assist people who may have difficulty attending a session. If you are likely to require support please call Kerry on 9894 7006.

The Great Debate "Has Life Improved for People with Disabilities?"

When: Wednesday 23rd September 2009, 1pm – 4pm
(Registration opens at 1.15pm)

Where: Hume Global Learning Centre, 1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows

Register: Cost \$55 per person. Parking on site. Attendant Support provided. Coffee, Tea and Biscuits provided

We know that people with disabilities are living longer and that the services have almost doubled over the past 10 years – but has life improved for people with disabilities?

This provocative debate aims to explore the gains experienced by people with disabilities as well as identifying areas needing improvement.

Key Note Speakers Include:

Arthur Rogers - Executive Director, Disability Service Division, DHS

Julie Philips - Manager, Disability Discrimination Legal Service

Dr. George Taleporos - Lecturer, Advocate & Comedian

David Craig - Executive Officer, Action for Community Living

Adam Jones - Volunteer Solicitor, DDLS

Stella Young - Comedian, Broadcaster and Advocate

For more information contact Josie via phone 043 884 6584 or Marie via email - Maree.Ireland@field.org.au .

Australian Centre for Human Rights Education (ACHRE)

Direct applications for the Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate in Applied Human Rights will be accepted from 1st October 2009. Please note that applications received before this time will not be processed.

Postgraduate Information Session will be held on Wednesday 21st October 2009

The ACHR Education will be running an information session on the Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate in Applied Human Rights on Wednesday 21st October, 6pm, at the State Library of Victoria, Conference Centre. (Enter via La Trobe Street, Melbourne)

For more information and to register your interest visit -

<http://www.rmit.edu.au/postgrad> or contact Stefanie via phone (03) 9925-3145 or email - stefanie.andrews@rmit.edu.au
