



Southwest Advocacy News

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CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

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If you have an e-mail address you can help us save paper & postage costs by receiving our newsletter via e-mail. Please contact Margaret on 5561 4584 or just send us an e-mail message notifying us of your email details to receive future editions of SWAA News electronically.

**HAVE YOU VISITED SWAA'S WEBSITE:-
www.southwestadvocacy.org.au**

TAXI SERVICES AND WHAT THEY MEAN TO REGIONAL VICTORIANS

The Taxi Industry Inquiry is a wide-ranging review of Victoria's taxi industry. The inquiry will recommend a set of reforms to the Victorian Government focused on achieving better outcomes for the travelling public in the areas of service, safety and competition. Taxis play an important role in regional Victoria, connecting communities where there is limited access to public transport services.

What the inquiry has heard so far

The inquiry received more than 180 submissions, many from regional Victoria. The submissions and consultations highlight that not only are regional taxi issues very different from metropolitan Melbourne, but also that transport and the delivery of taxi services vary from town to town and region to region.

Taxi use in regional communities

Feedback suggests that during the day elderly people accessing social and health services are the major taxi users, while at night passengers are often younger returning home from hotels and pubs.

In many regional communities where there are limited transport or community transport options, there is a heavy reliance on taxis, particularly by people with mobility disadvantage, which makes taxis a vital social service. The Multi Purpose Taxi Program offers subsidised taxi travel but, for many people in remote locations, using a taxi is still cost prohibitive.

As a result, people may choose not to travel or limit their travel due to cost or suitable transport options. The inquiry is interested in whether more flexible taxi services (such as taxi-buses) could uncover a wider customer base and different user groups.

Contact the Taxi Industry Inquiry

You are welcome to contact the inquiry and provide feedback in the following ways:

Email: taxiindustryinquiry@transport.vic.gov.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com.au/TaxiIndustryInquiry
Write to: Taxi Industry Inquiry
Locked Bag 20046
Melbourne VIC 3001
Phone: 1800 829 444



For detailed information and an online survey for Taxi Users go to:
www.taxiindustryinquiry.vic.gov.au

(Taken from Grampians disAbility Advocacy Newsletter—March 2012)

BIG BOOST FOR HEARING IMPAIRED STUDENTS

Sydney based technology company, Ai-Media has received \$1.7 million to help commercialise its Ai-Live technology, which delivers real time speech captioning to laptops, tablets, iPads and other web-enabled devices.

Ai-Live has already proved effective in pilot studies in New South Wales and Victorian schools and has now received an Australian Government grant to help commercialise the system.

Fast, accurate speech-to-text technology could make a crucial difference in schools and workplaces for people with hearing difficulties.

Ai-Live allows quick delivery of accurate text by relaying audio to a remote trained operator who re-speaks, with punctuation, into special speech recognition software.

To read the full story online, visit:

www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2011/12/big-boost-hearing-impaired-students



(Taken from Grampians disAbility Advocacy Newsletter—March 2012)

CONTRIBUTIONS To SWAA NEWS

We welcome any contributions to the newsletter in the form of letters, stories, articles and news items relevant to disability issues.

Items printed in SWAA News do not necessarily reflect the views of SWAA, staff or Committee of Management

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is a great way to support our work, and we are very keen for people who have used the service to become members. Members receive our quarterly newsletter and other mail outs about disability issues and can have a say in the running of Southwest Advocacy by voting at our Annual General Meetings.

Membership of Southwest Advocacy is free.

If you would like to become a member please contact Southwest Advocacy for a membership form.

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Australian Disability and Indigenous Peoples' Education Fund

Contact: Frank Hall-Bentick Chairperson
Unit 4, 65 York Street, Richmond Victoria 3121

Tel: 03 9429 4210 Email: info@adipef.org.au
www.adipef.org.au

The closing dates for the Education Fund are every six months at the end of March and September each year.

Our next deadline is 31st March 2011.

Enquiries Welcome.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the Land on which we live. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present, and to all Indigenous people and recognise their continuing spiritual connection to the Land.

Background

Following thirty years involvement in disability advocacy, Frank Hall-Bentick has asked his sisters Lesley and Annette and a group of friends Rae, Lyndall, Cath, Ros and Jody to help him setup and run an education fund for people with disability. Titled the Australian Disability and Indigenous Peoples' Education Fund (ADIPEF), the fund will assist indigenous and non-indigenous people with disability to participate in both formal and informal education programs through small grants.

Frank has a life long disability and along with other members of his family has experienced many years of hospitalisation, special schools and disability services. For the last thirty years Frank has been involved in disability advocacy and the empowerment of people with disability locally, nationally and internationally. Realising that the work to empower people with disability is ongoing he has long considered the best way to support this is through further education and learning.

In April 2008 he with his sisters and these friends set up the Australian Disability and Indigenous Peoples' Education Fund (ADIPEF) under the auspice of the Melbourne Community Foundation. This Fund will assist people with disability gain empowerment through access to formal and informal education programs.

They believe the importance of education should not be measured in

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graduate degrees and diplomas or in salaries people achieve or careers people have undertaken and achieved. The importance of education should be measured by peoples' continual learning of cultures, relationships, history, tolerance and honing the skills to apply this learning.

Unfortunately for many people with disabilities their early years are more about cure and rehabilitation than stable, well grounded education. The skills to make and retain careers, relationships and friends are developed while they attend school however continuing disruption of this education impacts greatly on this learning. For many children presently attending school medical treatment and rehabilitation continues to disrupt their education. Many indigenous people with disabilities experience further disruption to their education due to poverty, isolation, lack of services, family breakdown.

Education is continuously growing, developing, changing, so many people undertake courses to begin again the education they never completed or to keep abreast with these new developments. With the development of technology, education has become more accessible for people with disabilities leading to people completing higher levels of education which in turn can lead to more complex and skilled work. For many people with disabilities from both indigenous and non-indigenous backgrounds, education can go a long way to not only developing their skills but also their self esteem and the pride of their family, friends and community.

For many, a small financial grant will enable them to undertake a course. This education fund is about helping people complete or undertake courses and programs through providing small grants.

Our fund is looking to distribute small six monthly grants of up to \$2,500 to assist people with disabilities to continue their learning.

Contact Frank at info@adipef.org.au

Eligibility

People with disabilities of any age may apply for any assistance to help with both formal and informal education. While people may need assistance to complete the application, we would like a letter in the persons own words telling us why they want to learn.

Deadlines for Applications

March 31st, 2012

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September 30th, 2012

March 31st, 2013

September 30th, 2013

How to Apply

Download the form below, complete it and send it back to us. Any questions please contact us.

Word [ADIPEF Application Form](#)

PDF [ADIPEF Application Form](#)

How can I donate

To help us with this work you can donate to the Education Fund. Click on the form below, complete your details and send it back to us.

[ADIPEF Donation Form](#)

Credit card by [Australian Communities Foundation](#) webpage.

Forms for Printing only

[ADIPEF Brochure](#)

[ADIPEF Flyer](#)

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Australian Disability and Indigenous Peoples' Education Fund
a sub-fund of the Australian Communities Foundation

[Australian Communities Foundation](#)

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**Are you receiving Active Participation Register
Mail outs?**

**Don't miss out — contact SWAA on 5561 4584 &
complete a registration form today.**

You can help Southwest Advocacy by passing this newsletter on to someone else who might be interested in reading it after you.



DISABILITY SUPPORT FUND

The Disability Support Fund (DSF) assists people with a psychiatric disability access community based health, social vocational and recreational options that would not otherwise be available.

Some examples of things that have been funded are: Art classes & equipment; Computer courses; Gym memberships; Music lessons; Bicycles and safety equipment; Cooking classes; Karate lessons; Driving lessons; Musical instruments, and Bus trips for groups.

The DSF also has Agency & Self Help Carer Group Initiative funding. This has been used in the past for speakers, to pilot program initiatives and specific short term projects with clear outcomes such as independent living skills or recreational and vocational options.

If you have a psychiatric illness, are a case manager, service provider or a carer of a person with a psychiatric illness and want to access the DSF or simply want to get some more information call Carmel on:

(03) 5221 8498
041 732 3396 Mobile
1800 626 724 Rural Toll Free
(03) 5229 5665 Fax
email: dsf@bdrc.org.au
www.bdrc.org.au/dsf.html