

Southwest Advocacy

July 2013 News

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Southwest Advocacy acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs & also that of the Victorian Government.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

It has been quite some time since I put a report in our newsletter due to us primarily being extremely busy but mainly because I have been doing the same thing, which is getting everything right within the organisation for our accreditation. Well, we have had our audit and came out of it with flying colours, so now have our accreditation. I would like to thank the members of our Committee of Management and the users of our service who assisted on the day the auditors came. It was a fantastic contribution put in by all and certainly assisted greatly in our success in the accreditation process. We will now go through an audit each year, but not to the extent of the first one and having done it once we now know what we have to do to continue to comply with the Standards. Everyone enjoyed having lunch together too. Food is always important in making a good day better.

Due to the upcoming sale by the Presbyterian church of our premises, Southwest Advocacy has relocated to 50 Kepler St. Warrnambool. Our new premises is much smaller but pretty much has everything we need to continue to provide the service in the same professional manner to which the users of our service are accustomed. Unfortunately there are two steps at the Kepler St. entrance but we do have disability access through the rear entrance and anyone who has trouble with steps is welcome to use the rear entrance. We also have disability accessible toilets at the rear of the premises.

Southwest Advocacy has now taken over the responsibility of co-ordinating Advocacy Southwest, a self advocacy support program for people with an intellectual disability so I will be including information about that program in our Newsletters and encourage anybody interested to come along to our meetings every two months. You can contact us here if you would like some information.

We have also been able to keep Roz Rantall on for a day a week after completing the audit and are hopeful of being able to increase that to two days in the near future. Roz is a great asset to our organisation.

Regards

Adele Markwell
Executive Officer

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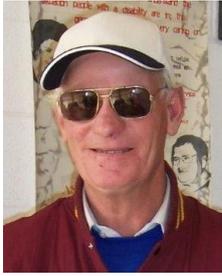
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**Southwest Advocacy News is also now available at
www.southwestadvocacy.org.au**



Advocates celebrate human rights win for Stawell man

Gordon Prior had a significant win for the rights of people with disability in a High Court hearing in Melbourne on May 10.

In December 2012 a majority of the full Federal Court determined that the use of the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool unlawfully discriminated against people with disabilities.

Mr Prior's legal team successfully argued that the competency section in the BSWAT is fundamentally discriminatory and has the effect of keeping wage rates for people with an intellectual disability unreasonably low, to the point that some people earn \$2 an hour or less.

The Commonwealth of Australia made an application for special leave to the High Court, appealing the decision of the Federal Court.

The application for special leave to appeal was rejected by Their Honours, Justices Crennan, Kiefel and Keane, bringing the long-running case to an end.

Mr Prior was joined by Michael Nojin of Coffs Harbour in bringing the matter to court, with the support of AED Legal Centre.

Legal Manager of AED Legal Centre, Kairsty Wilson, said the decision was "the last nail in the coffin" for the use of the BSWAT in Australian Disability Enterprises (formerly known as Business Services or sheltered workshops.)

The case was argued in court for almost five years, supported by the pro bono efforts of Holding Redlich barristers Herman Borenstein, SC and Dr Kris Hanscombe, SC; and Lachlan Armstrong. Mr Borenstein, Dr Hanscombe and Mr Armstrong received the 2013 Victorian Bar "Public Interest/Justice Innovation Award" for their dedication to the BSWAT case.

Paul Cain, of the National Council on Intellectual Disability, has been an outspoken opponent of the BSWAT for a decade. He was called as an expert witness in the ground-breaking case.

"Today's decision is a triumph for the human rights of people with intellectual disability in Australia," Mr Cain said.

"NCID recognises the courage of Gordon, Michael and Michael's mother Elizabeth.

"Their willingness to stand up for their human rights has been justified at the highest level," he said.

The Commonwealth Government is preparing a response to the High Court decision.

This article was sourced from Grampians disAbility Advocacy newsletter and Southwest Advocacy congratulate GdA on their contribution towards this massive success for people with disability who are employed under BSWAT.



What is Disability Care Australia

Australians with significant and permanent disability will for the first time have the power to choose the support they need and how that support is provided, with the launch of DisabilityCare Australia.

As of July 1, 2013, four launch sites across the country have opened for business - Geelong and the Barwon area in Victoria, the Hunter area in New South Wales, in South Australia for children and in Tasmania for young people.

DisabilityCare Australia will give Australians the peace of mind that if they, their child or a loved one has significant and permanent disability, they will get the support they need, when they need it, over their lifetime.

More than 26,000 people with disability, their families and carers will benefit from the first stage of DisabilityCare Australia.

DisabilityCare Australia has started getting in contact with these people through their current providers and has already made appointments with many of the people who are due to move into the scheme during July.

People with significant and permanent disability in the launch sites who are not accessing specialist disability supports can contact the scheme at any time.

DisabilityCare Australia's Local Area Coordinators will work one-to-one with people with disability to link them into their communities, and DisabilityCare will provide comprehensive information and referral service to help people with disability access mainstream, disability and community supports.

When and where is DisabilityCare Australia available?

DisabilityCare Australia is rolling out in stages because it's a big change to the current system. We are introducing it gradually to make sure we get it right and to ensure it's sustainable.

Locations that start from July 2013

- Barwon area of Victoria.....People aged 0–64
- Hunter area of New South Wales.....People aged 0–64
- South Australia.....Children aged 0–14
- Tasmania.....Young people aged 15–24

Locations that start from July 2014

- Australian Capital Territory.....People aged 0–64
- Barkly region of the Northern Territory.....People aged 0–64

From July 2016, DisabilityCare Australia will continue to extend to more locations and age groups across Australia.

Southwest Advocacy is now also coordinating the running of Advocacy Southwest, a program promoting self advocacy for people with disability so I will include some information about Advocacy Southwest in each newsletter.

Self-Advocacy ...For People with a disability will be valued members of the community, have their voices heard and rights supported It is making your own choices in life, big and small. It is learning about your rights and responsibilities. It is living the way you want to, and respecting the right of others to do the same.

Mission Statement

Give training support and information to all members / consumers to develop their skills as self advocates.

Provide information and education to the community about self advocacy and the rights of the people who have A Disability.

Develop strong links with other advocacy and community groups.

Objectives

To provide a meeting place for people with A Disability where we can help each other to learn more about our rights and become more responsible in the community.

To develop our skills and confidence so that we can speak for ourselves and make our own decisions

To make people in the community more aware of the rights, needs and abilities of people with A Disability.

To develop meeting skills so that we can all take an active part in meetings.

To speak and act on behalf of other people with A Disability.

To build up support in the community and at all levels of Government for people who want to speak for themselves.

To employ people with A Disability in positions in the office with training support as needed.

Cont.....

To make sure that people with A Disability know about any good resources and training programs for our members and staff by networking with other groups in VIC Australia and all over the World.

To provide an example to the whole community, of a service run well, for and by people with A Disabilities.

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.

**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



Any donations or bequests to Southwest Advocacy would be greatly appreciated and help to benefit the organisation in its work to provide Advocacy & Information to people with a disability in the Southwest of Victoria. These donations or bequests would be tax deductible because of the charity status of Southwest Advocacy Association Inc.

Would you like to receive Southwest Advocacy News via E-mail?

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.



Warrnambool & District **FOOD SHARE**

Warrnambool & District Food Share (WDFS) is a rural branch of Foodbank Victoria established to provide critical support – in our case food – through our partner agencies to individuals and families who for various reasons may be experiencing immediate and personal distress due to a financial emergency or domestic crisis. We act as the food clearing house for all our partner agencies enabling them to concentrate on offering counselling, support, advocacy and other assistance. Our clients include people who are unemployed, low-income earners, victims of domestic violence, those with mental illness, refugees, sole parents, elderly, disabled or homeless persons.

We are run by a board of management, made up of interested individuals and representatives from some partner agencies (WDEA, South West Advocacy Association, Lifeline) and Warrnambool City Council, who set policy and employ a .6 coordinator to manage operations.

Through a formal registration process we work in partnership with local schools, providers of free community meals, churches, hospitals and agencies which provide emergency relief to clients. We now have 55 partner agencies.

We are also fortunate to have regular support from most of our local major food stores, Warrnambool's three Coles and three Woolworth/Safeway stores and Aldi, greengrocers Materias and Peaches and Lions Co with occasional support from other businesses. Food is also sourced weekly from Foodbank Victoria's Melbourne warehouse and less often from the Second Bite program.

We know, from the feedback we get every day from our partner agencies and the welfare officers in schools and the tertiary education system that without our food hampers many Warrnambool and district residents would often go hungry.

We also know that we are helping give families and individuals back some control over their finances by temporarily taking the burden of food costs off their shoulders to help them pay off unexpected or heavy medical, school or power bills.

The amount of food we collect and give away each month is staggering. For example during June we collected a total of 1,661 kg of food locally and distributed 5,149 kg via 41 partner agencies to around 102 households, 13 schools and 13 community soup kitchens.



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enterprises

western district
employment access

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www.wdea.org.au

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Vehicle Detailing

Price List

- \$50.00 Complete Care
- \$65.00 Complete Care 4WD
- \$100-150 Complete Care Truck
- \$25.00 Wash Only
- \$35.00 Wash Only 4WD
- \$25.00 Interior Only
- 35.00 Interior Only 4WD
- \$100 Clay Polish
- \$120 Clay Polish 4WD
- \$70.00 Cut & Polish
- \$90.00 Cut & Polish 4WD
- \$250 Full Detail
- \$275 Full Detail 4WD
- \$140 Interior S/C + Wash
- \$160 Interior S/C + Wash 4WD
- \$100 Standard Steam Clean.
- \$125 Standard Steam Clean 4WD.
- \$ 110 Clean BBQ
- \$ 5.00 each filter cleaned

We can also clean your Motor Bikes, Caravans or Boats.

Please note that all prices are subject to condition of vehicle

For further information on our prices and services call 55 622598 (between 8.00am to 4.00pm Mon – Fri) or email: jameschapman@wdea.org.au