

Physical Disability Australia Ltd

P O Box 38

Willawarrin NSW 2440

Phone: 02 6567 1500

1300 781 786

Fax: 02 6567 1500

Email: pda@pda.org.au



Physical Disability Australia - bulletin Nov 08

1. New website for Physical Disability Australia Ltd

www.pda.org.au

Physical Disability Australia (formerly Physical Disability Council of Australia Ltd - PDCA) is launching an exciting new website this month to reflect the changes within the organization over the last few years.

Changes to date have been:

- 1) The previous PDCA Board consisted of 16 people nominated by a State or Territory Physical Disability organization or council. This has now changed to 8 board members, 1 from each State or Territory and nominated by members in that state or territory, and directly elected by those same members. All Board members are People with disability.
- 2) We have changed our name to Physical Disability Australia taking out the words 'Council of ' to be more in line with who we really represent and work for rather than emphasis on the council itself.
- 3) We recently held elections across Australia and have a new board. With new active members representing people with disability in their own state or territory.
- 4) We have a new website www.pda.org.au which is being launched this week. The new website will be more innovative, professional looking and have many dynamic and interesting areas and articles and will be regularly updated.
- 5) In addition we have employed a new Communications Officer, Lois Gilmour who commenced in the week starting 17th November. Lois will be responsible for keeping the website up to date, producing a monthly bulletin for members and interested others who subscribe to the bulletin and also for the quarterly newsletter which is to be reinstated. This is a part time position and in line with our policy on employment, Lois is also a person with a disability. Welcome Lois.

2. National Disability Strategy Consultations

Physical Disability Australia has been conducting consultations in support of the Commonwealths new National Disability Strategy development. The Strategy aims to develop a co-ordinated approach to disability policy and services throughout Australia and remove barriers currently impacting on people with disability. We welcome input from all people with disabilities and anyone interested in the future of disability policy and services.

The Discussion paper is available for review at:
<http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/nds.htm> comments close at 5:00pm AEST 1st December. This is a unique opportunity for people with disability their carers family friends and workers to contribute to the development of future policy and structure of disability services.

The National Disability Strategy is an important tool to ensure that Australia meets the principles within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Australia recently ratified.

The consultation covers many important questions that can aid in developing a comprehensive Strategy for the future of disability policy and services. These include:

1. What do you think should be included in the National disability Strategy?
 - a. What are the greatest barriers that people with a disability face to participating fully within the community and what specific local or national actions could be taken to overcome these barriers.
 - b. What areas of research do you think should be a priority to better inform the National Disability Strategy
2. We are interested in your personal experiences
 - a. Please tell us in your own words about any time that you or someone you care for or support, experienced barriers to participating in a community, social or work event
 - b. What local action has made a positive difference to your life or other people with disability, their families and carers?
 - c. What local action has made a positive difference to the life of someone you care for or support?
3. Do you have any other comments, thoughts or ideas about the National Disability Strategy?

Physical Disability Australia is calling on all People with Disability and all interested parties to contribute to this important process of change by:

- Reviewing the discussion paper at
<http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/nds.htm>

Contacting Physical Disability Australia via phone 1300 781 786 or email pda@pda.org.au with your input

- Mailing your comments to - National Disability Strategy
PO Box 7442
- Emailing your comments to nds@nationalmailing.com.au

Comments close at 5:00pm AEST 1st December.

To find out more you can visit our website launched soon at <http://www.pda.org.au>

3. Disability Sector News Summary (links to full articles provided)

➤ National Disability Strategy Youth Roundtable

19/11/2008

Young people with disability met to discuss the barriers they face at the National Disability Strategy Youth Roundtable in Melbourne today.

"The Roundtable was a great opportunity for young people with disability to come together and bring creative, forward-thinking ideas and solutions to break down the barriers many of them experience," Mr Shorten said.

"The limited opportunities to participate in community life, with barriers to whole-of-life education and employment opportunities, especially during transitional stages, is a major issue for young people with disability.

"For example, access to quality education is recognised as the best path to economic participation and greater independence..

"It is important for these future leaders to develop a strong network and to collaborate closely as we embark on the development and implementation of the National Disability Strategy.

Full Article

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/billshorten.nsf/print/youth_roundtable_19nov08.htm

➤ Community and Disability Services Ministers Advisory Council - Media release Summary

Disability Services: Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference Communiqué, Nov 08

Key Points –

State and territory Disability Ministers have recently met in Melbourne and endorsed the strong progress being made on implementing the new National Disability Strategy.

Ministers agreed that Improved outcomes for people with a disability their families and carers are central including

- Better measurement of need
 - Improved data collection and nationally consistent methodology for estimating potential demand for disability services by mid 2009
- National population benchmarks
 - Agreed to support for aging carers respite services and tailored approaches such as individual support packages
- Workforce capacity
 - Review of existing skills framework
 - Industry reference group including employers unions and all jurisdictions

- Identification of workforce requirements in 10-20 years
- National career pathways for disability sector and strategies for retention and skills growth

As Part of the reform agenda, ministers agree to improve national harmonization of aids and equipment schemes run by states

Ministers also agreed to the proposed national framework for the Australian Disability Parking Scheme

Full Release - <http://www.csmac.gov.au/home.aspx> [7 November 2008 CDSMC Communiqué](#)

➤ \$500,000 to expand advocacy for people with disability

The Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, has recently announced that the Australian Government is providing funding of up to \$500,000 per year across five metropolitan areas to further expand individual advocacy support for people with disability.

Combined with 10 regional areas previously announced to receive new funding for individual advocacy, this brings total funding to expand the delivery of individual advocacy services and improve service coverage to \$1.5 million per year. Funding is from the 2007-08 Federal Budget measure to fund improvements to the National Disability Advocacy Program. This funding will further improve access for people with disability to individual advocacy support, assisting them to overcome barriers such as abuse, neglect and discrimination so that they can fully participate in the community.

Full Article - [FASCIA disability e-news - 500,000 to expand advocacy](#)

➤ Announcing Finalists for the 2008 National Disability Awards

Fifteen exceptional Australians have been announced as finalists in the 2008 National Disability Awards. The finalists were selected from approximately 240 great nominations across the five award categories.

All finalists are inspiring individuals who have made unique contributions to the lives of people with disability.

Full Article - [FASCIA disability e-news - 2008 National disability awards finalists](#)

➤ HomeReach: new weekly segment from SBS Radio

Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care (DADHC), 17 November 2008

Minister for Ageing and Disability Services Paul Lynch today launched the 2008 HomeReach series at the Sydney studios of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS).

Mr Lynch said HomeReach provided valuable, multilingual information about the home and community care sector.

He said the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) had been working in partnership with SBS since 1993 to deliver the HomeReach series.

The HomeReach website is www.sbs.com.au/homereach

Full Article - [Homereach article at CommunityNet](#)

➤ Give people with disability a go with Opportunity: new publication & website - FaHCSIA

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities & Children's Services, 18 November 2008

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, Bill Shorten, today launched a new publication which outlines compelling reasons for including people with disability as customers and employees.

"Opportunity includes tips on becoming confident about meeting the needs of employees and customers with disability, as well as important statistics, case studies and a checklist of actions businesses can take to make their products and services more accessible.

For the full article visit –

[CommunityNet - Give people with disability a go](#)

To visit the website and download the publication goes to

<http://www.disabilityconfidence.org.au/>

➤ Budgeting for disability – On Line Opinion Article

Melinda Tankard Reist, 12 November 2008

So, you thought discrimination against people with a disability was a thing of the past?

Think again.

German doctor Bernard Moeller and his wife Isabella have been denied permanent residency in Australia because their 13-year-old son Lukas has Down syndrome.

Dr Moeller and his family moved to Horsham to relieve a chronic doctor shortage. The Immigration Department has refused the Moeller's application for residency because it says Lukas' condition would be too much of a burden on Australia.

"Lukas is discriminated against because of his disability and we thought that it would be different in Australia," says Dr Moeller. "It's really unfair, not only to Lukas, but to our family and to the community at Horsham because we've settled in really well and we love it here."

The Kayani family also suffered this discrimination. Refugee Shahrzad Kayani sought to bring his wife and three daughters from Pakistan to join him after he became an Australian citizen. But he was denied family reunion because his youngest daughter has cerebral palsy.

The family had undertaken to cover all her care. Devastated by the Government's enforced separation, Mr Kayani set himself alight outside Parliament House and later died.

Why is this system of apartheid against the disabled allowed to continue?

Full Article - [Melissa Tankard Budgeting for Disability Article](#)