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Physical Disability Australia - Bulletin August 2011

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Welcome to the August edition of PDA's e-bulletin.

Of interest this month is the announcement of funds to improve access to conferences for people with disabilities, something much needed when registration fees are so costly. Included in this article are the organizations that will receive this funding.

This month has also seen the announcement of the Carbon Tax, so there are some articles on how this will affect everyone, including those on Disability Support Pensions.

The productivity commission is due to provide its final report on the National Disability Insurance Scheme to the government by July 31st. The government will then reply in November. This will be an exciting time to see what develops.

National News

[Access to Telecommunications Review Launched](#)

Source: Media Access Australia, July 22nd, 2011

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The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy has launched an inquiry into access to telecommunications services which include telephones, the National Relay Service (NRS), mobile devices and the Internet.

To read more: http://www.mediaaccess.org.au/latest_news/australian-policy-and-legislation/access-to-telecommunications-review-launched

\$6bn scheme for the disabled

Source: The Age online, August 1, 2011

By: Peter Martin

VICTORIA has been chosen to test a \$6 billion national disability insurance scheme that its backers claim will be the biggest social reform since Medicare.

The scheme, which is among recommendations from the Productivity Commission to be delivered to the government today, will provide high-quality long-term support to anyone who acquires a significant disability, regardless of whether it was related to work and regardless of the state in which it took place.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/6bn-scheme-for-the-disabled-20110731-1i6k5.html>

Pensioners to get carbon tax compensated

Source: ABC news online, July 9, 2011

Pensioners will be given an up-front increase to their payments as part of the Federal Government's carbon tax package.

The Government is understood to have settled on a carbon price starting at \$23 per tonne, but a key focus of the plan will be household compensation.

To read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-07-09/pensioners-to-get-carbon-tax-compensation/2788002>

Household Assistance Package

Source: FaHCSAIA

You can visit <http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/> to find out about the Household Assistance Package. Alternatively you can call *1800 057 590* for more information.

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Extra Support for Pensioners and Self-Funded Retirees

Source: The Hon Jenny Macklin MP media release, July 10, 2011

The Gillard Government will provide Australia's 3.4 million pensioners with extra payments that at least offset all of their expected price impact under a carbon price.

To read more:

http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/Pages/ExtraSupportforPensionersandSelfFundedRetirees_10july2011.aspx

Improving access to conferences for people with disability

Source: The Hon Jenny Macklin MP media release, July 6, 2011

People with disability will be supported to participate in a range of conferences across the country following the announcement of around \$320,000 to conference organisers.

To read more:

http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/improve_access_conference ppl_disability_06072011.aspx

Breaking the Silence; boarding houses and abuse

Source: Ramp Up website, July 22, 2011

By: Sonya Price-Kelly

With tales of abuse and neglect pouring from the recently-opened doors of Grand Western Lodge in NSW, disability advocates are calling for the immediate closure of licenced boarding houses along with sector reform.

To read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2011/07/22/3275799.htm>

Draft baseline study for new National Human Rights Action Plan

Source: Disability Rights Blog

The Attorney General's Department has commenced consultation on a draft "Baseline Study" on human rights in Australia as part of the process of developing a new National Human Rights Action Plan. Background information, the draft Study and consultation questions are all available from the link provided.

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To read more: http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination_AustraliasHumanRightsFramework_NationalHumanRightActionPlan

Program helps younger people with disability find appropriate accommodation

Source: The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website

An estimated 1,141 people have been helped by the Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) program during its four years of operation to 2009–10, according to a report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

To read more: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/media-release-detail/?id=32212254715>

Disability Support Services – “Here to, Where?”

Source: LISA Inc

This is an insightful, interesting article on the NDIS.

‘Without a proper and fair action plan to implement the Productivity Commission’s recommendations, everyone will be jockeying for personal advantage, again, as usual.’

To read the full article:

http://www.lisainc.com.au/images/stories/Disability_Support_Services.Here_to_Where.pdf

\$36 million in Home & Community Care Projects for NSW

Source: Minister for Mental Health & Ageing, July 21, 2011

Commonwealth Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler and NSW Minister for Ageing and Disability Services, Andrew Constance today announced that almost 400 NSW communities will benefit from nearly \$36 million in Home and Community Care (HACC) services.

To read more: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-mb-mb077.htm>

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Younger Disabled still stuck in Aged Care

Source: ABC news online, July 21, 2011

By: Meredith Griffiths

Many younger people with serious disabilities are still being forced to live in aged care homes despite a COAG push to move them out of nursing homes, disability support advocates say.

Many seriously disabled people under 50 have no choice but to live in aged care facilities because it is the only way they can get the care they need.

To read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-07-21/young-disabled-people-in-aged-care/2804118>

Australian Disability Enterprises showcase products and services

Source: FaHCSIA website, July 20, 2011

Thirty Australian Disability Enterprises from across Australia gathered in Brisbane today to showcase their products and services to potential customers.

Opening the third *Australian Disability Enterprise Expo* at the Brisbane Convention Centre, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas, encouraged the commercial and government sectors to utilise the services of disability enterprises.

To read more:

http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/aus_disability_enterprises_showcase_20072011.aspx

Students with Disability denied access to quality education

Source: Ramp Up, July 1, 2011

By: Carl Thompson

The vast majority of people with a disability want to work, and with all the recent talk of welfare reform in the sector it would appear that the government wants the same.

Australians have been told over and over again that quality education is the key to employment. This is true just as much (if not more so) for those with a disability.

To read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2011/07/01/3258838.htm>

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Disability groups say jobs scheme falls short

Source: Canberra Times, June 2, 2011

By: Jenna Hand

A \$1.2billion scheme aimed at helping people with disabilities find jobs is falling short of expectations as some contractors focus more on getting paid than helping their clients find sustainable work, disability groups say.

To read more: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/disability-groups-says-jobs-scheme-falls-short/2213938.aspx?storypage=0>

Researchers make arthritis genetics discovery

Source: ABC news online, July 12, 2011

By: Annalise Moore

Queensland researchers hope a discovery into the genetics of arthritis will help to produce a new treatment. To read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-07-12/researchers-make-arthritis-genetics-discovery/2791630>

Purple Orange Tell us Survey

With the upcoming release of the final Productivity Commission report on the merits of a NDIS, and leading up to a government announcement in November, the findings of this survey will help Purple Orange, and you, to amplify the issues and challenges people living with disability experience and why a NDIS would enable people to have authentic choices and personalised support arrangements.

Why your involvement is important

We want to build our collective understanding of the lived experience and views of people living with disability, and to use this information to influence positive change.

We would really appreciate you taking time to complete the survey – it is comprehensive and will take a few minutes of your time, but we are looking to build a rich resource of experience.

Every person that completes the survey **will go into the draw to win an iPad 2.**

How you complete the survey

There are several ways to be involved:

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Complete the survey online by clicking on the following link

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/JFA Living with Disability Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JFA_Living_with_Disability_Survey)

Obtain a hard copy version by calling Purple Orange on freecall 1300 857 327 or (08) 8373 8333 or emailing admin@purpleorange.org.au

Completing an electronic version of the survey and saving the completed version on a CD which can be sent back. To obtain the electronic version please contact us as above

Calling Purple Orange on 1300 857 327 or (08) 8373 8333 and giving your responses verbally over the phone

You have until August 15th to complete the survey.

International News

TV Show to Tackle Dating with Disabilities

Source: Disability Scoop website, July 22, 2011

By [Shaun Heasley](#)

The dating life of people with disabilities will be the focus of a new reality show on British television dubbed "The Undateables."

The show — set to air next year on England's Channel 4 — will follow people with a wide range of conditions including Asperger's syndrome, Tourette syndrome and narcolepsy.

<http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2011/07/22/tv-dating-disabilities/13584/>

State News

Western Australia

Western Australia: Developments in Access Tourism

Source: Access Tourism NZ, July 22, 2011

By: Sandra Rhodda

Western Australia is moving ahead with the development of Access Tourism in that state.

[Accessall areas: accessible tourism strategic directions plan for Western Australia](#) was launched by the Hon Sheila McHale, Minister for Tourism and Disability Services in November 2007. The Plan was developed by the Accessible Tourism Reference Group to identify ways to expand tourism options for people of all ages and abilities and increase the customer base for tourism operators.

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To read more: <http://www.accesstourismnz.org.nz/2011/07/western-australia-developments-in-access-tourism/>

New South Wales

Booklet: Leisure for youth and adults with disabilities on the Northern Beaches 2011

Source: Warringah Disability News

This free yellow-covered A5 size book has 44 pages of details of recreation and leisure activities for people with disabilities aged 15+ in and around the Northern Sydney area. Sections deal with accessibility, leisure (art, craft, dance, drama, gardening, music), communication (colleges, libraries), holiday camps, social clubs and groups, sport activities, transport and the LINCS database. For your copy (May 2011), email Marjorie on janzm@warringah.nsw.gov.au or phone 9942 2686.

Conferences and activities

Tamworth NDIS Forum

Community Forum to discuss the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Tuesday the 16th of August
10:30am to 12:30pm
WESTS LEAGUES CLUB, Phillip Street West Tamworth
To RSVP email daniel.kyriacou@ndis.org.au

NSW Champions Training

The Every Australian Counts campaign will be holding three training sessions in August in Sydney. The three sessions will cover the three key campaign activities: campaign communications; campaign lobbying and grass roots campaigning.

Talking to your MP
August 4 – 10am – 2pm

The do's and don'ts of lobbying politicians. Tips on how to get your MP's attention and what to say when you have it.

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Telling your Story
August 11 – 10am – 2pm

Basic training in one on one campaign communications and how to talk to print, radio and TV journalists

Grass Roots Campaigning
August 17 – 10am – 2pm

How to build a network of supporters, plan local events, campaign online and on the streets
All events will be held at the Northcott Conference Centre, 1 Fennell St, North Parramatta, NSW, 2151

Places are limited so RSVP is essential to daniel.kyriacou@ndis.org.au

Assistive Technology Workshops in NSW

Ability Technology will be conducting assistive technology workshops in 15 country towns in NSW in August-September. The workshops are on the theme "Personal Independence Technology" and will focus on environmental control, telephones and iPads/iPhones etc. There are PDF leaflets for each venue - please let me know if you would like me to send you one or a set. There will be limited scope to undertake preliminary assessments or training of individuals while on the trip - these would have to be organised in advance.

The workshops will be held in the following centres:

15 August Forster
16 August Port Macquarie
17 August Coffs Harbour
19 August Tweed Heads
22 August Lismore
24 August Armidale
29 August Tamworth
30 August Dubbo
31 August Orange
1 September Bathurst
12 September Batemans Bay
14 September Bega
16 September Cooma
19 September Wagga Wagga
20 September Queanbeyan

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For more information, please email info@ability.org.au
Dr Graeme Smith
Ability Technology
02-99079736

Walk with me - Parramatta

Source: Warringah Disability Newsletter

What: Hundreds of people of all abilities will come together across Australia in September to walk together to promote a person first and not their disability, as well as to raise vital funds for respite services. It is a great way to spend a Sunday, with entertainment and a number of sporting and family focussed activities planned. Northcott Disability Services runs Walk With Me in NSW; the national organisation is Ability First Australia. Create a team, sponsor one.

When: Sunday 18 September, 10am-2pm

Where: The King's School - Doyle Oval, Pennant Hills Road, North Parramatta (enter via Tara Anglican School for Girls, Masons Drive).

RSVP: Register on www.northcott.com.au/events.php

Statewide Consultations Person Centred Approaches – Living Life My Way

The NSW Government wants to better understand the needs of people with a disability, their families and carers in order to build a NSW disability service system that puts decision making control, choice and flexibility for people with a disability at the centre of their support plan. More than 100 consultations with people with a disability, their families and carers, as well as workshops with service providers, will be held from 1 August to 2 September in NSW. To register, call 4984 2554 or go to www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about/strategies/person_centred_approach/person_centred_approaches_consultations.

See exact times and venues

www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/file/0009/238851/Consultations_schedule.pdf

- Castle Hill – 10 and 17 August – Castle Hill RSL, 77 Castle Street, Castle Hill 2154.
- West Ryde – 11 and 12 August – Ryde Eastwood Leagues, 117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde 2114.
- Parramatta – 15 and 16 August – Northcott Disability Services, 1 Fennell St, N Parramatta 2151
- Hornsby – 18 and 19 August – Hornsby RSL, 4 High Street, Hornsby 2077.

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2nd Annual National Disability Summit 2011

15 - 16 September 2011 | Novotel Melbourne on Collins

Paving a future direction for disability policy reform in Australia. Meet with industry colleagues and leverage experience from organisations from right across the country. Hear the latest policy and funding issues from key government decision makers at IIR's 2nd Annual National Disability Summit.

To learn more: <http://www.iir.com.au/conferences/healthcare/national-disability-summit/registration>

Kate the conference producer has advised they are not registered with the Companion Card, however they are happy to offer the discount rate of \$300+GST for pensioners to attend. Carers can attend for free if they are assisting a delegate attendee.

If you would like to register at a discounted rate please email Kate at Kate.Campbell@iir.com.au

FREE Membership!!!

Want to become a member of PDA? Does your organisation want to become an associate member?

Then contact PDA at pda@pda.org.au or go to our website: www.pda.org.au and complete the form and return to us. It's free if you have a disability and \$27.50 if an organisation.

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Thank you and Regards
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