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Physical Disability Australia - Bulletin December 2011

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

There has been a lot happening this past month, with several announcements on the National Disability Insurance Scheme from the government, including a new website to keep people updated.

International Day of Persons with a Disability took place on December 3, with many events held around the country. There were some global and national announcements made, which you can read about in this bulletin.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the bulletin.

[PDA Annual General Meeting deferred to January 2012.](#)

PDA has deferred the Annual General Meeting to January 27th after receiving permission from ASIC to do so. This will now be held by teleconference at 2.30 pm and there will be room for approximately 20 members to listen in also. If you would like to be one of the participants, phone us on 02 6567 1500 or email pda@pda.org.au to reserve a place.

Agenda will include: Acceptance of New Constitution.

2.30 27th January, 2012 – telephone dial in numbers will be provided to those who RSVP and reserve a position.

National News

Report card damns disabled quality of life

Source: smh.com.au, November 30, 2011

By: Jessica Wright

Australians living with a disability have the worst quality of life in the developed world and their employment opportunities have hit rock bottom, according to a report issued today.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/report-card-damns-disabled-quality-of-life-20111129-1o562.html#ixzz1fjIPGV8z>

Labor endorses National Disability Insurance Scheme

Source: ABC News, December 3, 2011

The ALP national conference has endorsed a National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Federal Government had already committed to the scheme but today Prime Minister Julia Gillard moved a resolution to include it in the Labor party platform.

Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-12-03/labor-endorses-national-disability-insurance-scheme/3710744>

Every Australian Counts – including those with disability

Source: Australian Human Rights Commission, December 1, 2011

Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes said today that more needs to be done to improve the opportunities for people with disability in our society.

Read more: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2011/121_11.html

Accessible transport report

Source: Australia For All Alliance

The report is the accumulation of two years of research into the lack of accessible transport for people with disabilities. Conducted by PDA member Sheila King, this is another research project that earns Sheila more accolades for taking on this work. PDA will be working with Sheila in the new year to move further into the issue of transport compliance for people with disabilities.

To read the report: <http://db.tt/CuTzUScz>

Designing a National Disability Insurance Scheme

Source: Government Media Release, December 3, 2011

The Gillard Government today announced a new agency will be established to lead the Commonwealth's work to design the launch of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Read more:

http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/ndis_3dec2011.aspx

Deadline of 2013 on Disability Cover Plan

Source: smh.com, October 16, 2011

Plans for a national disability insurance scheme will be accelerated by the federal government, which will tell the states this week it wants the foundations ready a year earlier than projected.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/deadline-of-2013-on-disability-cover-plan-20111015-1lq89.html#ixzz1csY6PUte>

Increase in use of disability services

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, October 14, 2011

The number of Australians using disability support services continues to increase, according to a report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Between 2004-05 and 2009-10, the number of Australians with disability using employment services rose by 83%.

Read more: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/media-release-detail/?id=10737420216>

Time to Get on the Bus

Source: PIAC, 17 October 2011

A disability discrimination claim against Murrays Australia Limited is being heard by the Federal Court. The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC), acting on behalf of Ms Julia Haraksin, claims Murrays is in breach of the national Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport.

Read more: <http://www.piac.asn.au/news/2011/10/time-get-bus-landmark-disability-discrimination-claim-hearing-against-murrays-federal-c>

Women in Wheelchair takes Jetstar to court for Discrimination

Source: news.com.au, November 2, 2011

By: Angela Saurine

A disabled woman is taking Jetstar to the Australian Federal Court seeking a declaration that the airline's "two wheelchair policy" is discriminatory.

Sheila King, 75 was banned from a Jetstar flight from Adelaide to Brisbane in August 2008 because the flight already had two passengers requiring wheelchair assistance

Read more: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/travel/news/woman-in-wheelchair-takes-jetstar-to-court-for-discrimination/story-e6frezi0-1226182350298>

Commonwealth Vow to beat Polio

Source: The Sunday Telegraph, October 30, 2011

By: Gemma Jones

Commonwealth heads, including the leaders of Britain and Canada, have joined forces with billionaire Microsoft founder Bill Gates in a mission to eradicate polio from the world.

The leaders' pledge came after British Prime Minister David Cameron met with Julia Gillard to discuss the world economy ahead of the G20 summit in France next week.

Read more: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/commonwealth-vow-to-beat-polio/story-fn6b3v4f-1226180507049>

What do Employers think about workers with a Disability

Source: Warringah disability newsletter

This new study shows that employers generally agree that people with disability have a good attitude towards work, but many have the misconception that people with disability are less productive.

See for more information:

www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/ResearchStatistics/ProgEval/Documents/EmployerServicing2011.pdf

Community organisations to reduce violence against women with disabilities

Source: Fahcsia media releases, October 24, 2011

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP and Kate Ellis have announced new funding today to community organisations supporting women with disabilities to take action to reduce violence against women.

Read more:

http://www.kateellis.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/ellis_m_reduced_violence_24october2011.aspx

150,000 of Australia's lowest paid workers including 120,000 women are set for a pay rise

Source: The Daily Telegraph, November 10, 2011

By: Patrick Lion

About 150,000 of Australia's lowest paid workers - most of them women - would be given pay rises under a \$2 billion package announced by the federal government.

In Sydney, Prime Minister Julia Gillard today announced that she would put a joint submission on equal pay with the Australian Services Union to Fair Work Australia.

Read more: <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/of-australias-lowest-paid-workers-including-120000-women-are-set-for-a-pay-rise/story-e6freuy9-1226191139695>

Improving the lives of people with disability worldwide

Source: Fahcsia, December 5, 2011

The Australian Government today announced support to improve the lives of people with disability worldwide at a symposium on the World Health Organisation and World Bank's *World Report on Disability* in Sydney.

Read more:

http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/jmc_m_pwd_5december2011.aspx

ACCAN Standing Advisory Committee vacancies

Source: WWDA

ACCAN is currently recruiting one member for its Standing Advisory Committee on Consumer Affairs (SACCA) and a member for its Standing Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (SACDI). The Standing Advisory Committees provide advice to ACCAN on communications issues. The focus of the Standing Advisory Committee on Disability Issues is to give advice on accessibility technologies, such as Emergency Services, Captioning Quality, Web Accessibility, Applications for people with complex communication needs, etc.

For the application form and Terms of Reference for the SACCA and SACDI, please click on the links below.

[SACCA position available](#)

[SACDI position available](#)

It is expected that the successful applicants will attend the next meeting of the Standing Advisory Committees in February 2012 at the ACCAN office. The term of appointment will be from February 2012 to 30 June 2013. Applications close **5pm, 21 December 2011**.

Citalopram and heart problems – changes to recommended doses

Source: Therapeutic Goods Administration

The TGA is advising that citalopram should no longer be used at doses greater than 40 mg per day. A recent study by the Forest Research Institute in the USA has shown that higher doses of citalopram can cause abnormal changes in the electrical activity of the heart. The maximum recommended daily dose of citalopram is now 40 mg.

Read more: <http://www.tga.gov.au/safety/alerts-medicine-citalopram-111104.htm>

Real time speech captioning delivers for the hearing impaired

Source: Australian Government media release, December 5, 2011

People with hearing impairments could benefit greatly from a new Australian invention which delivers real time speech captioning to laptops, tablets, iPads and other web-enabled devices. The technology, known as Ai-Live, allows live speech to be streamed as text in seconds.

Read more:

<http://minister.innovation.gov.au/carr/mediareleases/pages/realtimespeechcaptioningdeliversforthehearingimpaired.aspx>

Guidelines for the Prescription of a wheelchair or scooter

Source: BIA NSW 2011 EBulletin, November 3, 2011

Lifetime Care and Support Authority in conjunction with Enable NSW have recently released a publication "Guidelines for the prescription of a seated wheelchair or mobility scooter for people with a traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury", providing recommendations that range from the goals and evaluation, assessment and review, capacity and performance and risk of injury, wheelchair features, through to propulsion, training, transport and maintenance. The guidelines are intended to inform and guide occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

To download the publication, go to www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/publications or www.lifetimecare.nsw.gov.au/Resources.aspx.

National Dialogue on Physical Disability

Physical Disability Australia have created a blog site for the National Dialogue on Physical Disability as part of our year long event (to 2012) to determine our way forward for the people we represent. Therefore as a person with a physical disability we would like to hear your views on this important subject to help inform us for next year when we hold a round table (read Forum) where real people with physical disability will be invited (and paid for) to attend a national Round Table to both celebrate and to strategise the ways forward for PDA www.pda.org.au.

If you wish to be part of this important event, then start talking, discussing, arguing (friendly of course) through this blog.

<http://www.blogger.com/blogger.g?blogID=4780416588165543752#overviewstats>

You will need to register, then tell us your thoughts on physical disability, especially topics on what is included in physical disability?

Personal Invitations to the forum will be based on how much input individuals have during the next 6 months. So come on.....have your say.

Sue Egan

Physical Disability Australia is CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Individuals are cordially invited to bring their expertise into any of the following committee groups, and to help further the work of PDA. You do not need to be a member, or a person with a disability but it helps to know about disability, not just good intentions.

Volunteers needed to participate in any of the following:

- Aids and Equipment Project – need people from Qld, Victoria, NSW, to make up the full committee.
- Ageing and Disability Project – need people interested in this issue to participate in a committee setting
- Wellness and Health Issues for people with physical disability – committee members needed.
- Obstacles to employment – we need information and instances of the obstacles people with physical disability experience in attempting to gain employment. This can include lack of training, lack of personal support, lack of jobs available, discrimination, no transport and many more. However we want to be able to document these instances into a full report to government.
- Public Transport – progress committee. This committee will take the report produced by Sheila Kind of Access for all, and research where all states and territories are with their compliance to move toward accessible transport and consider why this is so slow.

Contact pda@pda.org.au or 02 6567 1500 (local call cost)

International News

Wheelchair Users Stage 'Roll-In' Protest Against 'Taxi of Tomorrow'

Source: November 3, 2011

By Mary Johnson, DNAinfo Reporter/Producer

Wearing yellow buttons stating "Separate is NOT equal," a dozen advocates in wheelchairs rolled into the "Taxi of Tomorrow" exhibit near Madison Square Park Thursday to raise concerns about the lack of disability access in the city's forthcoming fleet of cabs

Read more: <http://www.dnainfo.com/20111103/murray-hill-gramercy/wheelchair-users-stage-rollin-protest-against-taxi-of-tomorrow#ixzz1csUMyhU5>

Disabled Children: Help further their education petition

'Disabled Children: Help further their education to complete a higher education degree', is a petition pushing to achieve the inclusion of clear provisions under the country based Disability Acts Globally i.e. United States of America, Australia, United Kingdom, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa, South America and Canada

To read more about what we're trying to do and to sign my petition, click here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/disabled-children-help-further-their-education-to-complete-a-higher-education-degree>

Ban calls on Countries to work for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

Source: United Nations Website, December 2, 2011

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for governments, civil society and the global community to work alongside persons with disabilities, saying their participation is essential to achieve inclusive and sustainable development worldwide.

Read more:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40602&Cr=persons&Cr1=disabilities>

State News

Victoria

Better Bus Access – Report of the Bus Access Forum

The Bus Access Forum hosted by VCOSS and COTA Victoria on 1 September 2011 has produced a report. Copies of this report are available from the VCOSS website: www.vcooss.org.au

If anyone wishes to receive a paper copy of the report, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Lane by email (Michelle.Lane@vcooss.org.au) or phone (9654 5050) and she will be able to arrange a copy to be sent you.

Tasmania

\$3.4 Million for Tasmanian Health and Medical Research

Source: Department of Health and Ageing, October 17, 2011

The Menzies Research Institute will benefit from the single largest investment in health and medical research grants in Australian history, the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing announced today.

The Gillard Labor Government is providing \$673.7 million for 1,140 grants to support researchers, research projects and research institutions Australia-wide.

Read more: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-mb-mb128>

National Health reforms Delivers for Hobart

Source: Department of Health and Ageing, October 4, 2011

Patients in Hobart and surrounds will benefit from better access to emergency treatment, sub-acute hospital beds and cancer services as a result of the Gillard Government's historic national health reforms.

Read more: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-nr-nr201.htm>

South Australia

Access to Adelaide library increased for people who are blind and vision impaired

Source: Media Access Australia, October 26, 2011

Onkaparinga City Council has been successful in their bid for 15 DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) digital playback devices under the Australian Government's \$1 million Increasing Accessibility Library Initiative, giving people with print disability in South Australia greater access to library materials.

Read more: http://www.mediaaccess.org.au/latest_news/general/access-to-adelaide-library-increased-for-people-who-are-blind-and-vision-impaired

Social Inclusion: Strong Voices

Source: South Australian Government

This afternoon the South Australian Premier released the Social Inclusion Board's Disability Reform Blueprint, titled Strong Voices.

Strong Voices sets out the Board's recommendations for reform across six key areas including: Creating accessible and inclusive communities, Providing choice, taking control, Strengthening rights, protection, advocacy and safeguards, Early investiture, Diversifying housing choices, and Shaping accessible and inclusive services.

To access a copy of the document:

<http://www.socialinclusion.sa.gov.au/files/Strong%20Voices%20-%20Social%20Inclusion%20Board.pdf>

A text only version: <http://www.socialinclusion.sa.gov.au/files/Strong%20Voices%20-%20screen%20reader%20version.htm>

If you require part or all of this publication in a different format, please contact the Social Inclusion Unit by calling (08) 8226 0916.

Person Centred Approach Consultations

The *NSW Government* wants to improve the lives of Aboriginal people with a disability and want to make the lives of families and carers easier. They want to create a system where Aboriginal people with a disability, their families, carers and communities have more say in decisions about the support given to them and more choice in the services they use.

To do this, the Aboriginal Disability Network NSW*/wants to talk to Aboriginal people with a disability/*, their families and their carers. We want to know what you need so that disability services can be made better.

The Aboriginal Disability Network NSW will facilitate Aboriginal consultations around the state, to hear your views. The current consultation dates are listed below and for further information: contact the office of the Aboriginal Disability Network NSW on 02 9519 5005 or juner@adnsw.org.au

Tuesday 13th Dec -- Grafton

Wednesday 14th Dec -- Casino

Thursday 15th Dec -- Ballina

Friday 16th Dec - Tweed Heads

NDA NSW Annual State Conference

Source: Warringah Disability Newsletter

When: 13-14 February 2012

Where: Sydney Hilton Hotel

What: A new vision and role for disability service providers is emerging as the system overhaul enables people with disability to exercise greater choice and voice in the services and supports they need to live. This includes a future National Disability Insurance Scheme and the current shift towards individualised, portable and self-directed funding arrangements.

RSVP: Registrations will open early December - see <http://www.nds.org.au/>. For registration and general enquiries, phone Miriam Sosin on 9256 3133 (miriam.sosin@nds.org.au). For sponsorship, exhibition or advertising opportunities, contact Julie Walton on 9256 3115 or julie.walton@nds.org.au

FlashMob

Source: WWDACT

When: Saturday, March 3, 2012

RSVP: December 19, 2011

As part of the Women's Services Network Summer of Respect campaign (an antisexual violence and respectful relationships campaign) WWDACT is producing a FlashMob event to highlight and promote respect for women with disabilities and recognition for the strong, confident and amazing women we are!

What is a FlashMob?

A FlashMob is a seemingly 'spontaneous' event where an issue is highlighted through dance or song in a public arena. In the case of WWDACT, a FlashMob is a dance event to a mash up of Pink's *Raise Your Glass* and Aretha Franklin's *Respect*.

WWDACT invites members and supporters to be involved in this contemporary form of awareness raising.

Although FlashMobs seem to be a spontaneous gathering, a lot of work goes into them. WWDACT needs approximately 100 people to participate. WWDACT would like to produce a FlashMob with as many women with disabilities as possible, which is why we are calling on every member to participate.

(WWDACT will provide transport). RSVP by calling Nicole on 6290 2166.

If some members and supporters do not wish to participate in the performance component of the FlashMob, that's okay because we have lots of behind-the-scenes jobs! Although I stress that WWDACT would like the majority of performance participant's to be members and supporters.

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 plus GST.

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Thank you and Regards

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