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***Physical Disability Australia - Bulletin January 2012***

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

Welcome to 2012 members, a year which I hope brings you better health, happiness and accessibility. We'll be fighting for better accessibility and rights for people with disability this year as I believe this is a big determinate for better health and happiness in our lives.

Of interest to everyone is the NDIS and there is a new website where you can keep up to date.

There are new DSP impairment tables which come into effect as of July 1, 2012. You can read about these in the bulletin.

And finally there are many conferences and forums beginning to be announced, including PDA's Annual General Meeting on January 27.

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**[ACT Board Member needed to represent people with physical disability](#)**

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PDA is seeking a board member from the ACT. If you, or someone you know might be interested, please refer them to Sue Egan, [pda@pda.org.au](mailto:pda@pda.org.au) or 02 6567 1500 for more details.

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## **National News**

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### **National Disability Insurance Scheme – new website**

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The NDIS has a new website, designed to keep people up to date with Government's progress. It will provide easy-to-read information, up-to-date news, disability and carer resources, and fact sheets on reform of disability care and support services.

To keep up to date: [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)

### **Reforming the Disability Support Pension**

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Source: Media release from Hon Jan McLucas, December 14, 2011

A new report released today confirms the Gillard Government's reforms to better target the Disability Support Pension (DSP) are working.

Read more:

[http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/disability\\_support\\_pension\\_141211.aspx](http://www.janmclucas.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/pages/disability_support_pension_141211.aspx)

### **New app gives hearing impaired access to public announcements**

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Source: Media Access Australia, December 9, 2011

Australian Communication Exchange has developed a smartphone app that displays text-based public announcements for people who are Deaf or hearing impaired.

To read more: [http://mediaaccess.org.au/latest\\_news/general/new-app-gives-hearing-impaired-access-to-public-announcements](http://mediaaccess.org.au/latest_news/general/new-app-gives-hearing-impaired-access-to-public-announcements)

### **Arts access for people with blindness and low vision in NSW**

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Source: Arts Access Australia E-news, December 2011

By: Zhila Hasanloo, AAA Intern

This research report delivers a comprehensive listing of a variety of arts activities and events in NSW, either offered exclusively or as accessible options for people with blindness or low vision.

To read more: [http://www.artsaccessaustralia.org/uploads/Arts\\_access\\_for\\_people\\_with\\_blindness\\_and\\_low\\_vision\\_in\\_NSW.doc](http://www.artsaccessaustralia.org/uploads/Arts_access_for_people_with_blindness_and_low_vision_in_NSW.doc)

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## Accessible Tourism Survey

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Source: IDEAS newsletter, December 23, 2011

IDEAS NSW and Wendy van Lubek (student at the international University of Tourism) are working together to create a database on Accessible Tourism. The first stage of this database creation is the collection of information by way of your thoughts and experiences in relation to travel and disability. A survey to assist in this information gathering is at <http://www.thesistools.com/web/?id=234896>

## New global accessibility map to be launched in 2012

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Source: Arts Access Australia E-news, December 2011

The Rick Hansen Foundation need your help to populate the tool with your accessibility reviews before it can be launched to the general public. Now is your chance to have your say! This tool is an opportunity to help provide accessibility information to others; to reward those that do accessibility well and encourage improvement in those that don't.

Please click [here](#) (or go to [www.globalaccessibilitymap.com](http://www.globalaccessibilitymap.com) and click 'share my location') to start submitting your reviews.

The Rick Hansen Foundation would also welcome any feedback or questions you may have on the user experience with the Global Accessibility Map (contact Rachel Nelken: [rnelken@rickhansen.com](mailto:rnelken@rickhansen.com))

## Payroll Tax rebate for businesses who hire employees with a Disability

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Source: Warringah Disability Newsletter" – December 8, 2011

The NSW Government has introduced Payroll Tax rebate Scheme to Parliament that will give businesses a payroll tax rebate of up to \$4,000 for hiring a person with a disability. This bill intends to bridge the gap in the unemployment rate of people with a disability and the rest of the community.

To read more: [www.osr.nsw.gov.au/taxes/payroll/faqs/disability](http://www.osr.nsw.gov.au/taxes/payroll/faqs/disability)

## Shut In Campaign

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Source: Shut In e-bulletin December 2011

Shut In is the national campaign to raise awareness about people with disability in institutions, take action to close institutions and to advocate for housing and supports that enable people with disability to live in the community in the same way as everyone else.

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### **Endorse the Campaign**

The Shut In Campaign is seeking endorsements to strengthen our voice to governments and policy makers that the human rights of people with disability must be promoted, protected and fulfilled.

To Endorse the Campaign, write an email to [info@shutin.org.au](mailto:info@shutin.org.au) with:

Your Name, Your Organisation/Business (Optional), Your Email Address, Your Postcode,

A message of support (Optional)

Both individuals and organisations can endorse the campaign. Endorsements will be published on the Shut In website, as well as used to support publications or position statements prepared by the Shut In Campaign.

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### **Rebates on Electricity and Gas Prices for Residential Customers**

Source: Warringah Disability Newsletter – January 4, 2012

The NSW Government introduced a range of financial measures to support vulnerable customers or those on a low / fixed income, to deal with price increases announced by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) from 1 July 2011. Some people may be eligible for all three. To speak to someone about any rebates or other energy information, phone the Energy Information Line on 1300 136 888 (translation services available) or visit [www.energy.nsw.gov.au/customers/rebates](http://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/customers/rebates).

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### **International News**

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#### **Judge: NYC taxi agency must help disabled riders**

Source: Wall Street Journal Online, December 23, 2011

A federal judge on Friday barred the city's Taxi and Limousine Commission from issuing permits for taxicabs unless they're accessible to people who use wheelchairs, a decision that was praised by advocates for the disabled as a milestone that could have national implications.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/APb16bc0f332f940dc81eb3f450cab136d.html>

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#### **New Zealand developed sensor technology to clamp down on disabled parking rogues**

Source: Global Accessibility News, December 29, 2011

Abuse of disabled parking bays could become a thing of the past, thanks to new technology that can catch able-bodied drivers who hog the spaces.

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<http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2011/12/29/new-zealand-company-developed-sensor-technology-to-clamp-down-on-disabled-parking-rogues/>

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**State News**

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**New South Wales**

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**Hospital Launches disability work experience program**

Source: Mt DrUITT Standard, December 20, 2011

By: Lawrence Machado

Special projects will be launched early next year to help people with disability find work placements in the community.

The Blacktown Mt DrUITT Hospital management said the new BMDH Disability Workforce committee has developed an official Transition To Employment (TTE) and work experience program.

To read more: <http://mt-druitt-standard.whereilive.com.au/news/story/hospital-launches-disability-work-experience-program/>

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**Victoria**

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**Myki cheaper and easier as rollout continues**

Source: Minister for Public Transport Victoria, December 22, 2011

The cost of a myki public transport smartcard will be markedly reduced while annoying fees for replacement mykis will be abolished, Minister for Public Transport Terry Mulder said today. Mr Mulder said the Coalition Government would simplify myki by reducing the purchase cost of an adult myki card from \$10 to \$6 and from \$7 to \$3 for concession travellers effective from 1 January 2012.

To read more: <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/2831-myki-cheaper-and-easier-as-rollout-continues.html>

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**Disabled Persons Taxi Advisory Committee (DPTAC) Expression of Interest**

Source: Transport Victoria

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The Victorian Taxi Directorate (VTD) is calling for Expressions of Interest from interested parties to apply to be a member of DPTAC. VTD encourage members from the Multi Purpose Taxi Program, Wheelchair Accessible Taxi users, disability organisations/advocacy groups and peak bodies to submit a nomination application. Membership of the committee will be for two years. Meetings will be held three times a year at Department of Transport, Melbourne. The nomination information is available at [www.taxi.vic.gov.au](http://www.taxi.vic.gov.au)  
Please complete by 5pm, 10 February 2012

For further information please contact the David Clunn on 86830605 or call me on 86830604.

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## **South Australia**

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### **You can help us capture the 'good oil' on Adelaide's taxi accessibility**

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Source: Purple Orange

Recently, concerns about waiting lists for accessible taxis for Christmas Day have again been raised in the media. This highlights that the availability of reliable transport continues to be an issue for people living with disability.

In response to this, Purple Orange is setting up a web-based feedback mechanism to collect the lived experiences of people who are relying on accessible taxis in South Australia over the next few months.

#### **What information is Purple Orange interested in?**

We want to hear people's experiences using accessible taxis and these experiences can be positive or negative.

You can access the survey via the Purple Orange website [www.purpleorange.org.au](http://www.purpleorange.org.au) .

If anyone has difficulty accessing a computer or using an electronic survey tool they can call Alicia Fidock, Purple Orange Research Officer on (08) 8373 8311 or freecall 1300 857 327 to complete the survey over the phone.

#### **How many times can I complete the survey?**

You are invited to complete an electronic entry **each time** you use, or assist someone to use, an accessible taxi. The survey will be open until 15 January 2012.

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## **Biggest opportunity yet for South Australians living with disability to be in control**

Source: Purple Orange, December 19, 2011

The Julia Farr Association welcomes the South Australian Government's announcement today that Individualised Funding will become the cornerstone of the disability services system.

To read more:

[http://www.juliafarr.org.au/documents/40896.6584375\\_Biggest%20Opportunity%20yet%20for%20South%20Australians%20living%20with%20disability.pdf](http://www.juliafarr.org.au/documents/40896.6584375_Biggest%20Opportunity%20yet%20for%20South%20Australians%20living%20with%20disability.pdf)

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## **Queensland**

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### **Queensland camping ground for PwDs in development**

Source: accesstourismnz.org.nz, December 21, 2011

Noosa, Queensland is well-known for its many spectacular beaches and sub-tropical climate. The area is set to launch a tourism first, with the construction of camping grounds catering to people with disabilities and their families. It is planned for completion in May, 2013.

To read more: <http://www.accesstourismnz.org.nz/2011/12/queensland-camping-ground-for-pwds-in-development/>

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## **Conferences and activities**

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### **ACAA National Conference 2012 – “Setting the Standard”**

When: May 23-25, 2012

Where: 93 Barret Drive, Alice Springs Convention Centre, Desert Springs, NT

ACA Australia is a national membership-based professional association for people working to achieve accessibility of the built environment for people with a disability. It is the peak national body for access consultancy in Australia and a major partner in advancing equity of built environmental accessibility for people with a disability

The conference theme for 2012 is “Setting the Standard”. This is most appropriate as not only has this year seen the introduction of the Premises Standards, but it also provides the opportunity for members to be informed regarding the new standards in terms of access to the built environment. A diverse range of speakers will present on relevant topics.

For more information visit [http://www.access.asn.au/conferences\\_and\\_events](http://www.access.asn.au/conferences_and_events) or contact Joe Manton on 0419 134 849

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## Annual General Meeting of Physical Disability Australia Ltd

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When: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2012

Time: 2.30pm

Where: Teleconference

Welcome:

Apologies:

Attendance:

Business:

1. Acceptance of Minutes of previous AGM as a true and accurate record.
2. Formal adoption of the new constitution for PDA which has prior approval by members in August/September 2011.

Motion: *"That the constitution of Physical Disability Australia Ltd, approved by members, be accepted as the new constitution for PDA from the time of this motion."*

Mover and Seconder needed.

3. Annual report 2010 – 2011 (President, Executive Officer, Treasurer reports)
4. Annual Financial Report – 2010 – 2011
5. Appointment of Rendell Ridge of Max Peck & Associates. Tasmania as Auditor for the year 2011 – 2012
6. Board members for 2011 – 2012
7. Office Bearers to be selected at first board meeting following AGM
8. Conclusion of Business for Annual General Meeting.

**RSVP: 02 6567 1500 or [pda@pda.org.au](mailto:pda@pda.org.au)**

## Polio Health and Wellness Retreat:Body/Mind/Spirit

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When: April 26-29, 2012

Where: SurfAir at Marcoola, Qld

Polio Australia will host its third *Polio Health and Wellness Retreat: Body/Mind/Spirit* in April 2012. Watch for details at [www.polioaustralia.org.au/?page\\_id=39](http://www.polioaustralia.org.au/?page_id=39).

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## **NDS NSW Annual State Conference 2012**

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Source: Warringah Disability Newsletter – January 4, 2012

What: In view of a future National Disability Insurance Scheme and the current shift towards individualised, portable and self-directed funding arrangements, a new vision and role for disability service providers is emerging. To make NSW NDIS ready by 2014 and to support the capacity of the NGO service sector, sessions will explore how to enable choice, how to prepare for the future, and what external factors to consider.

When: 13 -14 February 2012.

Where: Hilton Hotel, Sydney.

Info: See conference details and register online at [www.nds.org.au/events/1317882370](http://www.nds.org.au/events/1317882370). For registration and general enquiries, contact Miriam Sosin on 9256 3133 or email [miriam.sosin@nds.org.au](mailto:miriam.sosin@nds.org.au).

## **ACOSS 2012 Conference – Australian Council of Social Service**

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Source: Warringah Disability Newsletter – January 4, 2012

What: Policy-makers, researchers and those engaged in social services or advocacy will examine “Sharing the wealth of the lucky country’ with various Australians discussing the policy and practice to put equality in Australia at the forefront of public debate. New research shows that the post-tax income of Australia’s poorest households has been falling while the richest households continue to earn more.

When: Thursday 29 March to Friday 30 March, 9am-5pm.

Where: Australian Technology Park, Locomotive Street, Eveleigh NSW 2015.

Cost: Early bird (20 Jan) - member / non-member / concession: 2 days \$485 / \$620 / \$95, 1 day \$255 / \$310 / \$55. Deadline 2 March 5pm.

RSVP: See [www.acoss.org.au/whats\\_on/conference/acoss\\_national\\_conference\\_2012](http://www.acoss.org.au/whats_on/conference/acoss_national_conference_2012) to register.

## **Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity**

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Source: UN Enable Newsletter, December 2011

When: 26-27 March, 2012

Where: Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu

“Living to our complete potential” – the 28th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii. It will bring together academics, community leaders, self advocates, specialists and Government officials. The event will also include the International Forum on the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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For more information: <http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/internationalforum/2012>.

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### **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](mailto:pda@pda.org.au) or go to our website: [www.pda.org.au](http://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  
Joanne Hutchins  
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