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Physical Disability Australia - Bulletin June 2011

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National News

Supporting Australians with disability into work – Media Release

Source: fahcsia website, May 10, 2011

The Gillard Government is improving support for Australians with disability to help them into work where possible, while providing an essential safety net for Australians unable to work.

This media release on the budget includes what changes there will be to the Disability Support Pension, what support there will be for pensioners to participate in work, support for employers, and new rules for overseas travel for people with severe disability

To read more: http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/mediareleases/2011/Pages/b05_10052011.aspx

Budget gets it right for disabled

By: Graeme Innes

Source: The Australian online, May 19, 2011

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Personal disclosure No 1: My family income is more than \$150,000. I come from a politically conservative family background, and I have a school-age daughter.

So I should be opposing the budget announcements to reduce middle-class welfare by freezing the threshold for family tax benefit at the \$150,000 level, right?

Wrong. I'm all for it.

To read the full story: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/budgets/budget-gets-it-right-for-people-with-a-disability/story-fn8qf1nz-1226058484580>

Funds pulled from dental health scheme

By: Jennifer Macey

Source: ABC news online, May 11, 2011

Dental health is one of the big losers in this year's federal budget, with the Government axing a \$3 billion Chronic Disease Dental Scheme.

Dentists say this will leave many chronically ill patients without subsidised access to quality dental care. But there is also hope changes to funding could eventually lead to a national dental health scheme.

To read the full story: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/05/11/3214209.htm>

Call for disability quota in public service

By Naomi Woodley

Source: ABC News online, May 25, 2011-05-27

The Federal Government is not shy of trumpeting its commitment to Australians with disabilities, but today the Disability Commissioner criticised the Government's own record on employing people with disabilities.

The Government centred this year's budget around participation in the workforce, and it especially made much of its efforts to help people with disabilities get off welfare and back into work. But Disability Commissioner Graeme Innes says the low number of disabled workers in the Commonwealth public service is shameful.

To read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/05/25/3226932.htm>

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Disability Care and Support Draft Report

Source: Disability Council NSW e-newsletter

The Productivity Commission is currently in the process of writing its final report on the feasibility of a long-term disability care and support scheme, due to be handed to the Australian Government by 31 July.

As you may be aware the Commission released a detailed Draft Report in February this year outlining its recommendations of what a long-term disability care and support scheme could look like. The Commission has engaged in a thorough consultative process which involved the hosting of public hearings and an invitation to the public to provide written submissions to the Commission.

To read more: <http://disabilitycouncil.e-newsletter.com.au/link/id/z47d9d9d3a233Pz4dd323888bbe7269/page.html#z46323409a871>

NSW Government to get behind NDIS

By Eoin Blackwell

Source: smh.com.au , May 26, 2011

The NSW government says it will aggressively get behind a proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and wants the initiative to be trialled in the Hunter Valley region. Disability services minister Andrew Constance on Thursday said the coalition supported a national overhaul of disability insurance, which would cover the cost of care and medical treatment for people with a disability.

To read the full story: <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/nsw-govt-to-get-behind-ndis-20110526-1f5fo.html>

National Disability Carer Congress 2011 – Making every Australian count

Source: Disability Council NSW e-newsletter

The National Disability and Carer Congress was held on 2nd and 3rd of May at Etihad Stadium, Melbourne. Members of the NSW Disability Council and secretariat staff attended the momentous event.

Over 1,000 participants attended the congress which examined the interim report on Disability Care and Support released by the Productivity Commission, particularly the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

To read more: <http://disabilitycouncil.e-newsletter.com.au/link/id/z4de452cde5b51227Pz4dd323888bbe7269/page.html#z4d1d272c2fa2422>

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Would you rather a set top box or some workplace support?

By: Todd Winther

Source: RampUp website, May 12, 2011

The Gillard Government is not really committed to a 'Welfare to Work' policy. It might make for a memorable news grab to satisfy the media pack, but the latest Budget delivered by Treasurer Wayne Swan more closely resembles a 'Welfare to Turf' strategy. The government has directly targeted pensioners to punish the most vulnerable in society, not to enhance their lives, nor to increase the nation's productivity.

To read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/articles/2011/05/12/3215349.htm>

Statement on Review of Funding for Schooling

Source: Ministers' Media Centre website

The Gillard Government is committed to ensuring that every Australian child has access to a great education. That's why we have tasked a panel of eminent Australians, led by Mr David Gonski, to conduct a Review of Funding for Schooling. We have made it clear to the panel that the review needs to be an open and transparent process, with all Australians who care about the future of schooling given a chance to have their say.

To read the full story:

http://www.deewr.gov.au/ministers/garrett/media/releases/pages/article_110530_115842.aspx

Taxi Industry Inquiry Background paper released

The Taxi Industry Inquiry, lead by Professor Alan Fels, has released a background paper on the Taxi Industry to begin its public consultation on its review.

You can download the paper from the inquiry's website:

PDF format:

[http://www.taxiindustryinquiry.vic.gov.au/DOI/DOIElect.nsf/\\$UNIDS+for+Web+Display/6FE6D7BA53C6F1C4CA25788C00100781/\\$FILE/taxi_industry_inquiry_setting_the_scene.pdf](http://www.taxiindustryinquiry.vic.gov.au/DOI/DOIElect.nsf/$UNIDS+for+Web+Display/6FE6D7BA53C6F1C4CA25788C00100781/$FILE/taxi_industry_inquiry_setting_the_scene.pdf)

RTF (Word) format:

[http://www.taxiindustryinquiry.vic.gov.au/DOI/DOIElect.nsf/\\$UNIDS+for+Web+Display/5450BF14DFF8BFCFCA25788C001F8377/\\$FILE/taxi_industry_inquiry_setting_the_scene.rtf](http://www.taxiindustryinquiry.vic.gov.au/DOI/DOIElect.nsf/$UNIDS+for+Web+Display/5450BF14DFF8BFCFCA25788C001F8377/$FILE/taxi_industry_inquiry_setting_the_scene.rtf)

You can find out more about the inquiry at their website:

<http://www.taxiindustryinquiry.vic.gov.au/web36/Home.nsf>

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Managers' Guide: Disability in the Workplace – 2nd Edition

Source: Warringah Disability newsletter

The 2nd edition of Australian Network on Disability's popular guide was launched at its conference, Raising the Bar 2011, on 11 May. The 2nd Edition has been revised to include new case studies, updated information about disability legislation, more information about accessibility and current resources and initiatives to assist managers and supervisors to effectively manage employees with disability throughout the entire employment cycle - from initial recruitment to leaving employment.. It is available in hard copy as well as HTML for intranets. Download an order form at www.and.org.au/content/view/199/34 with cost per copy being \$11 member / \$14 non-member for 1-49 copies, then reducing with quantity. Contact rachel.butler@and.org.au or phone 9261 3922 for a quote on delivery & GST.

What's in a name?

The language of disability changes quickly. Different terms are used within and outside of Australia. It's political, personal and can be very confusing.

So Arts Access Australia is working with its members and the wider sector to look at two different ways of talking about disability, so we can recommend and train others in what is best practice language. But we need your help.

Please take five minutes to complete this survey about the language of disability. Responses are due by the 1st of July.

Or to find out more the definitions and language of disability, read more...

Survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M7VDG7S>

Dental experiences wanted

My name is Ghadir Omran. I am a freelance journalist for the Victorian Government website Divine.

I am writing an article about experiences of people with a disability and dental work they have had done or are looking to have done.

Please contact Ghadir Omran ghadir628@hotmail.com about your dental experiences.

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International News

Paralysed man walks after epidural treatment

By: Anna Hipsley

Source: ABC news online, May 20, 2011

In a medical first, an American man paralysed from the chest down has regained movement in some of his limbs.

Rob Summers has been in a wheelchair since he was hit by a car in 2006, but with assistance has now taken his first steps in four years.

It is early days but scientists say their research brings new hope to people with spinal-cord injuries.

To read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/05/20/3222084.htm>

Report finds people with disabilities exploited at work

Source: PDCA email discussion list

WASHINGTON – In a report released today, the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) found a total failure of the disability service system to provide quality work for people with disabilities. The report focuses on the problems with segregated work, sheltered environments and low wages and highlights a massive breakdown between good federal and state policies and their implementation and oversight.

To read more: <http://www.ndrn.org/en/component/content/article/24-hompagestories/261-report-finds-exploitation-at-work.html>

State News

Queensland

Calls for mobility scooter rules after train fatality

Source: ABC news online, May 8, 2011

There are calls for state governments to address emerging safety issues with mobility scooters after a woman died when her scooter collided with a train in Brisbane yesterday.

To read the full story: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/05/08/3210666.htm>

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Tasmania

Disability funding runs dry

Source: ABC news online

The Human Services Minister has admitted that the money to help Tasmanians living with a disability to remain independent has run out.

Cassy O'Connor has confirmed about 285 people living with a disability are waiting for "individual support packages" which provide help to allow them remain in their own homes and communities.

Ms O'Connor says all the funds within the budget have been spent.

To read the full story: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/05/27/3228841.htm>

Victoria

Call for more protection for disabled

Source: ABC news online, May 19, 2011

Disability advocates are urging the Victorian Government to change the state's racial and religious tolerance act, to protect people with a disability.

In Victoria, it is illegal to vilify someone on the basis of race or religion, but the act does not cover the disabled.

To read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/05/19/3220790.htm>

New South Wales

NSW to have strongest client focused disability and ageing system by 2015

Source: Disability Council NSW e-newsletter

The NSW Government intends to build the strongest client-focused service arrangements for ageing and disability in the country during its first term in office.

The Minister for Disability and Minister for Ageing, Andrew Constance recently addressed the 2011 NSW HACC and Community Care Conference in Sydney and said: "The NSW Government is committed to expanding and enhancing the community care and disability service system, and I am personally committed to ensuring that the second phase of Stronger Together is even stronger and more effective for people with a disability, their families and carers."

To read more: <http://disabilitycouncil.e-newsletter.com.au/link/id/z44de452cde7d6f555P45904264c1ec78a8cf82/page.html#z44dc773ddc068a905>

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Blind but seeing red over train announcements

Source: ABC news online, May 16, 2011

The Federal Disability Discrimination Commissioner has taken the unusual step of formally complaining to himself about the lack of station announcements on Sydney trains.

Graeme Innes says RailCorp agreed in 2007 to ensure there were audible announcements every time a train pulled into a station.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/05/16/3217541.htm>

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

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, email Marjorie on janzm@warringah.nsw.gov.au or phone 9942 2686.

Conferences and activities

Disabled Wintersport Australia & Austin Health invite you to Ski Camp 2011

When: CAMP 1: Aug 5th – 7th
CAMP 2: Sept 9th-11th

Where: Skiing at Falls Creek, staying at Howman's Gap (about 15mins from the slopes)

Who: Anyone with a spinal cord injury or amputation that would love to try skiing! (And family/friends)

What does it include?

2 night's accommodation, meals, equipment hire, tuition, lift tickets, transport, ski guides and more!

COST?

ALL THIS FOR ONLY- Participant: \$ 680, Carer: \$315

Confirm your spot on a Camp by ringing Campbell on (03) 9490 7343, or
campbell.message@austin.org.au

Due to limited spaces and equipment, not everyone may be catered for. Please send this to Campbell Message, Community Integration & Leisure Services, Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre, 1 Yarra Boulevard, Kew, 3101, or call 9490 7343

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Name:

Contact Details:

(Ph. and/ or email):
Injury Level:
(Note: a carer is required for all personal care needs)

Transport required (Y/N)?
Any others?

Invitation to join Theatre Project in Lane Cove

What? Recreation Rendezvous is starting a one-year theatre project for adults aged 18-64 with disabilities of any level. The group will decide the name of the project. Larry Boyd, an experienced drama teacher and artistic director, will teach new skills of movement, acting, voice, music and stage craft, as well as imagination and creativity. This is an enjoyable way to meet new friends and spend quality time in friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

When? Wednesday, 6 - 8pm, starting 20 July and continuing to June 2012.

Where? The Lane Cove Seniors Centre, 180 Longueville Road, Lane Cove.

Cost? \$12 per workshop, to be paid in advance for a minimum of 5 sessions.

RSVP? Phone Olga, Senior Recreation Lifestyles Consultant, on 9420 8555 or olga@recrend.org.au.

Australian Paralympic Committee – Talent Search Day

Australian Paralympic Committee – Talent Search Day

What? People with physical disabilities and vision impairment of all ages are invited to see if they display the athletic potential to achieve Paralympic level competition in athletics and swimming. A series of testing including general measurements as well as sport specific tests helps coaches from the targeted sports be the “talent spotters”.

Where? Hurstville Aquatic and Leisure Centre, Cnr of King Georges & Forest Rd, Hurstville NSW 2220

When? 26 June, 10am – 2pm.

RSVP? Registration is essential so contact Kara Retford, Development Coordinator NSW / ACT, on kara.retford@paralympic.org.au or 9704 0531.

Sports Without Borders Conference

Monday, June 27, 2011, Moonee Ponds, Victoria
Sport is a major tool for promoting social inclusion and social cohesion. It's important, and we've got to get it right

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The 2011 Sports Without Borders Conference will bring together sportspeople, sporting clubs, government, local government workers, sports administrators and educators to learn the facts, hear the stories, and learn about new practices and next practice solutions.

The stellar list of speakers includes Sports Without Borders head James Demetriou; journalists Paul Kennedy and Martin Flanagan; academics Justen O'Connor, Sue Dyson and Ruth Jeanes; politicians Mark Arbib, Kate Lundy and Hugh Delahunty; media experts Brett de Hoedt, Chris Gillard and Raef Akehurst; and inclusion, volunteering and sports administration experts Paul Fleay, Jason Mifsud, Carmel Guerra, Judy Flanagan and Sue Vardon.

If you play, work in, administer, umpire, coach, or care about sports and communities, this conference is a must.

Find out more here: www.ourcommunity.com.au/swb2011

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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.

Unsubscribe - Please send a reply email with Unsubscribe in the subject heading to communications@pda.org.au and I will do so as soon as possible.

Subscribe - We also encourage any interested parties who would like to receive future bulletins to send an email with subscribe in the subject heading to communications@pda.org.au and the email they wish to subscribe and they will be added to future bulletins.

Thank you and Regards
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