



ASSERTION



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While all reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the content of this newsletter, the editor, Barwon disAbility Resource Council or its Committees and staff will not be held responsible for any false or



QUALITY ASSURANCE

Our organization is working on continuous quality improvement in all areas of our work.

The Advocacy part of our work will shortly be undergoing external quality assurance.

This might mean that you will receive a feedback form or survey and we might also contact you to ask if you would be willing to talk to an external person (auditor) about our service, what we can do to improve and what we do well.

This is to ensure that we are meeting all of the standards that we should, including Privacy, Dignity and Confidentiality and Protection of Human Rights and Freedom from Abuse and Valued Status.

Please contact us if you want any further details and we would be happy to talk to you about this.

BDRC acknowledges the support of:

- Give Where You Live
- Department of Human Services, Victoria
- Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- And our Alcoa Access Awards and Alcoa Access Map partners: Alcoa, City of Greater Geelong, Encompass Community Services, Free to Smile



Chairperson Update



So our winter woollies are out of moth balls, welcome to our winter newsletter. Some winter warming news of wins for people with disabilities and their families. Sourced from other articles, such as from The Advertiser – by David Jean, 13th June 2012 (Adelaide)

Tears of joy as Federal Government intervenes to allow British police officer Peter Threlfall into South Australia

THE Immigration Minister has ordered his department to allow British policeman Peter Threlfall and his family into Australia.

Chris Bowen's intervention followed revelations in [The Advertiser yesterday](#) that the family had been denied visas because Mr Threlfall's 25-year-old step-daughter, Sarah, has autism.

Mr Threlfall last night likened the backflip to winning the lottery.

He said SA Police had told him his original job offer as a constable in Ceduna would be honoured, and he hoped to be in Australia by September. "This is unbelievable. I just can't get over it," Mr Threlfall said from London.

"I knew it was achievable, it was just getting the right person to overturn this bad decision, but it was so hard to get to that person. My wife is in tears - we are so happy."

The Threlfalls were originally denied visas because an Immigration Department medical officer deemed Sarah's condition would place a burden on health-care and community services in Australia.

This was despite the fact Sarah has two jobs and plans to study as a hairdresser in Australia. Disability advocates last night applauded Mr Bowen's intervention, but demanded the immediate scrapping of the "discriminatory" policy behind the original decision.

Intellectual Disability Association of SA chairman David Holst and Greens immigration spokeswoman Sarah Hanson-Young both called on the Government to bring immigration policies into line with a 2010 parliamentary report on the issue.

"This case, like similar ones in recent years show why there must be reforms to the health waiver requirement," Ms Hanson-Young said.

"The Greens call on the Government to fulfil the recommendations from the Enabling Australia 2010 parliamentary inquiry report, particularly raising the 'cost threshold' of the health requirement and those criteria affecting family migration."

Opposition immigration spokesman Mitch Fifield said there needed to be greater flexibility in cases such as that of the Threlfalls.



Chairperson Update continued...



Mr Threlfall hoped his case would help ensure policy change after the Immigration Department deemed Sarah could be a \$500,000 burden on Australian healthcare and social services, despite assurances she was employed, largely self-reliant and rarely sought medical assistance in London.

"You can't adopt a hypothetical situation without taking into account any positives," he said.

A spokesman for Mr Bowen said after learning about the case he had asked the department to "facilitate entry for the family".

Migration Institute of Australia state president Mark Glazbrook said cases such as this were too common.

"There is this general assumption that certain conditions will have a high cost and because of that the visa will be refused, even when you can get strong evidence to say there shouldn't be a high cost," he said.

National Disability Insurance will begin to be implemented by mid next year for 10,000 Australians with disabilities, the where and the how are still to come.

The draft state disability plan 2013 – 2016 is available for feedback until Wednesday 11th July 2012. The key areas of the plan, as taken from the summary Draft Victorian state disability plan 2013 – 2016.

- 1) A strong foundation for learning, jobs and health.
- 2) Protecting rights and promoting participation.

- 3) Access to neighbourhoods, spaces, buildings and transport.
- 4) A contemporary approach through system reform and continued work towards a viable National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Below is the link for the Draft Victorian state disability plan 2013 – 2016.

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/stateddisabilityplan>

I hope you enjoy reading our winter newsletter.

Tina Gulino
Chairperson

SHANNON PARK CENTRE POOL IS NOW IN OPERATION

With a depth of 1.32m and a water temperature of 36 degrees, a ceiling host to enable access from change rooms directly to the pool, fully accessible facilities including high/low change tables, the new Hydrotherapy Pool in Barwon is available for use. Contact Shannon Park Centre on 52215444

The pool is available for hire on weekdays, weekends and evenings.



TAXIS

From the Chair:

When looking at protecting rights and choice, and thinking about this in terms of getting out and about, our focus this newsletter is on using taxis.

Whether you use a taxi or a maxi taxi, everyone's rights are the same because you are the paying customer. These rights include having a regular driver and you are able to phone them directly to organize your bookings; and travelling in vehicles of your choice. You also may make taxi or maxi taxi bookings using a taxi network.

The Taxi Industry Inquiry Report, commissioned by the Victorian State Government, chaired by Professor Alan Fels AO and assisted by Dr David Cousins AM, has now been released in draft form. Assert 4 All made input to the Taxi Industry Inquiry through a workshop conducted by the Committee for Geelong. The draft report called "Customers First: Service, Safety, Choice is now out for public comment and submissions or comments need to be received by 13 July 2012.

You can get involved in the Inquiry and find the draft report at www.taxiindustryinquiry.vic.gov.au or contact Assert 4 All ph: 0352218011 or info@bdrc.org.au and we will send a copy to you.

I have a couple of the draft recommendations from the Taxi Industry Inquiry I would like to share:

- Removing anti-competitive constraints and allowing services to innovate with more competition between taxi networks and between taxis and hire cars, and by removing regulation that prevents taxis from doing more flexible work.
- A more effective, independent future regulator that is better informed, has more flexible powers and is focused on outcomes.

If you have any urgent or ongoing issues regarding maxi taxis and other taxis, contact the:

Victorian Taxi Directorate (VTD) on 1800 638 802

Assert 4 All carries out systemic advocacy alongside people with disabilities, their carers and families. You can contact us if you have any issues regarding maxi taxis and other taxis.



ASSERT 4 ALL—ALCOA ACCESS MAP OF GEELONG



The current edition of the Alcoa Access Map Geelong is now available, free of charge, produced by Assert 4 All (a division of Barwon Disability Resource Council) and supported by Alcoa.

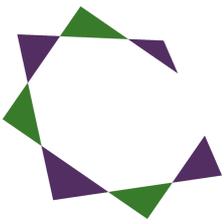
The map helps people with limited mobility to use and enjoy all that the City of Geelong has to offer.

The map includes location of:

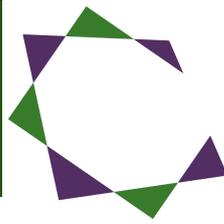
- Accessible parking bays
- Accessible toilets
- Public seating
- Accessible telephones
- Audible crossing lights
- Fully accessible route
- Accessible shopping hours only route
- Gradients up to 1 in 14
- Gradients over 1 in 14

This handy map is suitable for visitors, tourists and the Geelong community. We can also supply copies to community agencies, tourism operators, hotels and motels and businesses.

Please phone the Assert 4 All Office on (03) 52218011 and leave your mailing address, if you would like copies mailed to you, or email info@bdrc.org.au



DISABILITY SUPPORT FUND




DISABILITY SUPPORT FUND

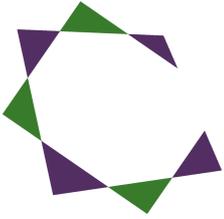
The Disability Support Fund (DSF) assists people with a psychiatric disability access community based health, social vocational and recreational options that would not otherwise be available.

Some examples of things that have been funded are: Art classes & equipment; Computer courses; Gym memberships; Music lessons; Bicycles and safety equipment; Cooking classes; Karate lessons; Driving lessons; Musical instruments, and Bus trips for groups.

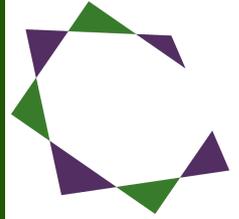
The DSF also has Agency & Self Help Carer Group Initiative funding. This has been used in the past for speakers, to pilot program initiatives and specific short term projects with clear outcomes such as independent living skills or recreational and vocational options.

If you want to access the DSF and have a psychiatric illness, are a case manager, service provider or a carer of a person with a psychiatric illness or simply want to get some more information call Carmel Hendriks on:

(03) 5221 8498
 041 732 3396 Mobile
 1800 626 724 Rural Toll Free
 (03) 5229 5665 Fax
 email: dsf@bdrc.org.au
www.bdrc.org.au/dsf.html



**ADVOCACY IN GEELONG,
SURFCOAST, QUEENSCLIFF,
BACCHUS MARSH AND
GOLDEN PLAINS**



Advocacy for Clients

Do you want more information about the advocacy we provide for clients?

Request a copy of our Information for Advocacy Clients Booklet by calling 0352218011 or send an email to info@bdrc.org.au

This booklet will give you information about our organisation and the service it provides including who we help, what we can help you with and what happens when you first contact Assert 4 All.

ASSERT 4 ALL Advocacy

**Geelong
Surfcoast
Queenscliff
Golden Plains
Bacchus Marsh**

**Contact our Advocacy Intake:
1300 942 773**



Alcoa Access Awards



About the Alcoa Access Awards

ASSERT 4 ALL (A Division of Barwon disAbility Resource Council) and Alcoa Foundation proudly presented their 8th Alcoa Access Awards in December, 2011. These awards are supported by the City of Greater Geelong.

The Awards are to recognize achievement in access including physical, social and information.

The Awards were conceived to acknowledge that organizations are making an effort to improve their access and to encourage other businesses to see the benefits in doing the same.

Increasing access may even increase your potential profit by 25%.

The Awards are open to any organization, regardless of size, located in the Geelong, Surf Coast, Queenscliff and surrounding region.

Background

“GOOD ACCESS IS GOOD BUSINESS”

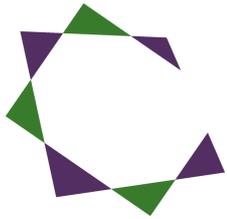
Did you know that 19% of the Australian population has some form of disability? This only sets to increase in the future due to our ageing population.

Then add in the impact this has upon family members, carers, partners of people with disability that are restricted in where they can go.

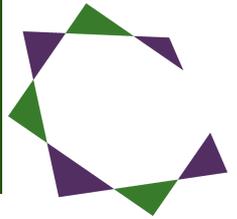
This swells the market to 25% of the population who are affected by disability. Not to mention that access affects everybody from a young parent with a pram to a senior citizen.

Given Geelong, Bellarine, Surf Coast and Queenscliff and the surrounding areas' commitment to tourism as a great place to visit and stay, it would seem that without good access, business and the community are missing out on a quarter of the market place or 25% of potential profit.

Tourism research indicates that people with disabilities are usually accompanied by between 2 to 5 people.



Alcoa Access Awards Continued



Objectives

- Focus on the positive side of access – award the business/organisation for the effort to improve access. The winner may not have perfect access but the award is to commend them for what they have achieved. Hopefully this will encourage the winner to continue to improve their business/organisation.
- To commend and promote the businesses, organisations and individuals who have made the effort to increase access to the community.
- To acknowledge businesses, organisations and individuals who recognise;

“GOOD ACCESS IS GOOD BUSINESS”

- To inspire corporate Geelong to aim to achieve better access and in doing so also be recognized.

Alcoa Access Awards Major Partners



Silver Partners





Alcoa Access Award Winners 2011



Alcoa Access Awards To recognise excellence in physical, social and information access.

Accommodation featured well in the Alcoa Access Awards last year with Countrywide Cottages winning their third award. Also Chifley Hotel & Apartments Geelong picked up an award for making their accessible rooms even more accessible with the option of bed blocks so a hoist can be used under a bed.

Tuckers Funeral and Bereavement Service were presented with an award today and this was very special in the history of the awards. Tuckers have attended the Alcoa Access Awards presentation evenings over the past few years. In redeveloping their Geelong West administration building they were inspired by previous award evenings to really look at their facilities and make an effort to include disability access in their planning.

For surfers and those who want a dip at Ocean Grove, the new amenity block caters for all, including anyone who uses a beach wheelchair and Barwon Coast Committee of Management won an award for this.

ASSERT 4 ALL (A Division of Barwon disAbility Resource Council) Executive Officer Carol Okai said she congratulated all the winners of the Alcoa Access Awards.

“The judges have been kept busy again with increased nominations. It’s great to see more people thinking and acting about access for all” Ms Okai said.

The other well deserved awards went to Buckleys Entertainment Centre, ernieBROWNS, Kaisercraft, Subaru Geelong and Bob Pettit Reserve Playspace and Sensory Garden, Jan Juc.

Glen Pasque, Manufacturing Manager, Alcoa Australia Rolled Products Point Henry, said he also congratulated the winning businesses on their successes “Alcoa is proud to be the founding partner of these prestigious awards which recognise businesses that improve people’s lives by providing physical and social access to people with a disability”.

ASSERT 4 ALL CURRENT STAFF

Executive Officer/Advocate	Carol Okai
Disability Support Fund Project Officer	Carmel Hendriks
Advocacy Project Officer	Angela Larcombe
Advocacy Project Officer	Sam Purcell
Administrative Officer	Anita Winkler
Marketing Advisor	Glenda Dowling

A 4 ALL

Access Advisor	Frank Harvey
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BDRC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Tina Gulino	Chairperson
Susan Williams	Deputy Chairperson
Rod Lambeth	Treasurer
Dianne Thomson	Secretary
Lynne Foreman	
Barbara Donovan	
Simone Stevens	
Ingrid Hindell	



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