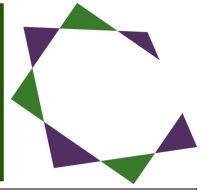




ASSERTION



ASSERT 4 ALL, A Division of BDRC, 48 McKillop Street, Geelong, VIC, 3220

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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 misleading information supplied herein.

WELCOME

Welcome to our Spring newsletter.

The Barwon region is now well and truly underway with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), previously called DisabilityCare Australia. The agency itself will now be known as National Disability Insurance Agency.

Our staff and Board have all participated in the introduction of the NDIS and there is more about this inside this newsletter.

We now look forward to the establishment of the national headquarters of the NDIA in Geelong.

For us, the most important aspects are that people with disabilities have played an active part in the NDIS development and its launch in Geelong and that all individuals will now be able to look forward to fully living their lives, with their own choices and dignity.

Kind regards
Carol Okai
Executive Officer

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Just email your request to info@bdrc.org.au



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)



NDIS is now in the Barwon region. By now you would have heard about this, and possibly started on this pathway. Under the previous government this was called DisabilityCare Australia.

The scheme is a new way of funding individualised support for people with disability that involves more choice and control and a lifetime approach to a person's support needs.

It will focus on early intervention, recognising that timely support can minimise the impact of a disability. It will provide assistance at the right time, rather than only once people reach crisis.

Barwon Disability Resource Council has taken an active role in campaigning for the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) generally and to be introduced in the Barwon region and for the National Headquarters to be sited here.

We congratulate the work of all involved in the Barwon region to achieve this great outcome.

We have also actively been engaged in:

- Assisting many of the organizations who carried out Practical Design Fund projects for DisabilityCare Australia.
- Carol Okai, Executive Officer, represented the organization on the Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA) Practical Design Fund project advisory group, developing Advokit.

Whether you are a person with a disability, a family member or an independent disability advocacy agency, you can access Advokit to inform you about the rights and entitlements of people with disabilities under the NDIS and about how to engage with DisabilityCare Australia to achieve supports that suit the wishes and circumstances of a person with disability.
www.advokit.org.au

- Assisting DisabilityCare Australia to ensure that people with disabilities were represented on all selection panels to employ over 100 staff in Geelong for the Barwon launch site. We understand that the Barwon launch site has employed 20% of people with lived experience of disabilities at Executive level, and 14% overall.
- Meetings with DisabilityCare Australia staff to inform them of our service and to engage with them about issues that will affect people with disabilities living in the Barwon region.



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) continued



- Assistance for clients to raise their awareness of Disability Care Australia/ NDIS and how to make first contact.
- Advocacy for clients who are having their initial meetings with Disability Care Australia/NDIS planners and local area co-ordinators.
- Participating as part of the Disability Advocacy Alliance Barwon (DAAB), a group of legal and general advocacy services in Barwon, supported by Victorian Legal Assistance Forum, to share information and discuss ways of assisting clients in the NDIS system.

When and where is NDIS available?

NDIS is rolling out in stages because it's a big change to the current system. It is being introduced gradually to ensure that they get it right and to ensure it's sustainable.

Locations that start from July 2013

Barwon area of Victoria	People aged 0-64
Hunter area of New South Wales	People aged 0-64
South Australia	Children aged 0-14
Tasmania	Young people aged 15-24

Locations that start from July 2014:

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	People aged 0-64
Barkly region of the Northern Territory	People aged 0-64

From July 2016, NDIS will continue to extend to more locations and age groups across Australia.

Once it is rolled out around the country, NDIS will support around half a million Australians living with a permanent and significant disability.

For further information call

National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) on 1800 800110 or
www.disabilitycareaustralia.gov.au

For advocacy with NDIS please contact us. Please understand that we have a huge demand for our services at this time (with no additional funding) but we will make every effort to assist you, particularly with your first appointment. Consulting the advokit www.advokit.org.au may assist you. If you do not have internet access, please phone us and we will provide a printed copy of the advokit or other suitable format.

Assert 4 All receives accreditation at audit

Assert 4 All recently received notification that we have fully complied with the requirements of the National Disability Advocacy Standards.

This was in partnership with Grampians Disability Advocacy Association (GdA). NCS International carried out the audit at Assert 4 All's Bacchus Marsh office, and at GdA's Daylesford and Ararat offices.

We wish to thank our clients who agreed to their files being available to the auditors and for attending one-on-one interviews with the auditors.

We wish to thank GdA, the Assert 4 All Board of Management and Staff for their work prior to the audit.

At all sites the auditors found that GDA and Assert 4 All meets the advocacy standards including agency management, privacy and confidentiality, providing access to advocacy and meeting clients' individual needs.

Assert 4 All will continue to engage in continuous improvement and the next stage of the quality management process is a surveillance audit to be carried out over one day on 2014.

For more information about this audit process in Bacchus Marsh and Golden Plains, and how to be involved in the future, please phone Assert 4 All on 1300 942 773.

TrailRider

The TrailRider is an all-terrain wheelchair that allows for people with physical and mobility issues to get out in the great outdoors and explore some of the Surf Coasts most stunning parks and reserves.

The one-wheeled chair is a cross between a wheelbarrow and a sedan chair. The wheel supports the rider's weight while the handles at the front and back allow two, three or four helpers to guide the rider up and down tracks.

The chair can be booked for free through the Surf Coast Sport and Recreation Centre located on Beach Road, Torquay next to the Visitor Information Centre and Surf Coast World Museum.

Phone: 03 5261 4606 for more information.



Geelong Central Mobility Access Directory

This is a new resource that will assist people using mobility aids, parents with prams and others to plan their trip into Geelong before leaving home. The directory is a database that has information about access to buildings such as stairs, doorways and accessible toilets. You are able to search by term or location or browse by keyword.

The directory is located at :
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/directory/access

The directory was carried out in partnership with City of Greater Geelong and Assert 4 All.

For more information on the directory contact :
Rural Access on 5272 5272



Special Needs Dentistry at Melbourne Dental Clinic

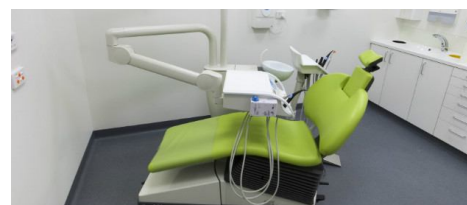
Melbourne Dental Clinic (MDC) is a brand new comprehensive, not-for-profit private dental centre, located at Level 1/723 Swanston Street, Carlton 3010.

They are properly set-up to manage patients with a range of special needs ranging from disabilities (intellectual and physical) to those with complex medical issues such as Autism, Physical disability, Cerebral Palsy and other conditions.

They have complete wheelchair access with a ramp out the front and spacious lifts.

The four 'specialist suites' at MDC are designed with extra space in mind, allowing for carers to be present during treatments. Each is wheelchair-friendly and fitted with specialty equipment, like a hoist so that patients can be safely transferred to the dental chair.

Contact them on 03 9035 8402
or for more information go online at
www.umdc.com.au





Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service Buying Service



The Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service Buying Service is a free Victoria wide telephone service which aims to get lower prices on essential household goods for Centrelink Concession Card holders and not for profit community groups.

Goods that can be purchased through the Buying Service include fridges, washing machines, dishwashers, TV's, air conditioning and heating units.

How to use the Buying Service:

1. Contact Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service Buying Service via phone, email or fax with the items you would like. You will need to provide the brand, model number and general description of the item required.
2. They will make enquiries for prices and will generally advise you of the quote within 48 hours.
3. There is no obligation for you to purchase. If you do wish to go ahead, they will place the order on your behalf and the trader will contact you directly to arrange payment and delivery.

IMPORTANT

The Buying Service does not finance your purchase. Items must be paid for on or before delivery as agreed with the trader.

The Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service Buying Service operates Monday - Friday between the hours of 10am-3pm.
Call 03 9495 9655 or Email: buyingservice@goodshepvic.org.au

For more detailed information on the Buying Service go to their website: www.goodshepvic.org.au





Assert 4 All in Bacchus Marsh



Assert 4 All, a division of Barwon DisAbility Resource Council, offers advocacy in the town of Bacchus Marsh.

Grampians DisAbility Advocacy offers advocacy in the rest of the Moorabool Shire. Grampians DisAbility Advocacy and Assert 4 All have a successful partnership arrangement to deliver a quality advocacy service that focuses on promoting rights, social and economic inclusion for all.

The Moorabool Shire Aged & Disability Services team is generous in their support of Assert 4 All advocacy work and strong collaborative work has evolved from this.

The advocate also works closely with the Rural Access Worker in a networking and broader systemic approach.

The Child & Family Services (CAFS) Housing workers have also assisted the advocate on numerous occasions and a flow of referrals can transfer between the organisations depending on the needs and supports for the client.

Working in Bacchus Marsh has highlighted the principles of a rights based approach for individuals and the commitment to the National Disability Advocacy Standards. Respect for individual needs, opportunity for decision making and choice. The right to privacy, dignity, confidentiality and opportunity to participation are important ethos of advocacy and a collaborative approach between the person, their carer and family, support workers and service providers.

For more information about Advocacy in Bacchus Marsh, please phone Assert 4 All on 1300 942 773.

Leonie Dillon
Advocate



Grampians disAbility Advocacy and AED Legal Centre achieved human rights decision in High Court



We wish to congratulate Gordon Prior and Michael Nojin, who with the support of AED Legal Centre and Holding Redlich, had a significant win for the rights of people with disability in a High Court hearing in Melbourne on 10 May this year. Mr. Prior has an association with Grampians disAbility Advocacy.

With thanks to Grampians disAbility Advocacy, here is the background to the case.

In December 2012 a majority of the full Federal Court determined that the use of the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool unlawfully discriminated against people with disabilities.

Mr Prior's legal team successfully argued that the competency section in the BSWAT is fundamentally discriminatory and has the effect of keeping wage rates for people with an intellectual disability unreasonably low, to the point that some people earn \$2 an hour or less.

The Commonwealth of Australia made an application for special leave to the High Court, appealing the decision of the Federal Court.

The application for special leave to appeal was rejected by Their Honours, Justices Crennan, Kiefel and Keane, bringing the long-running case to an end.

Mr Prior was joined by Michael Nojin of Coffs Harbour in bringing the matter to court, with the support of AED Legal Centre.

Legal Manager of AED Legal Centre, Kairsty Wilson, said the decision was "the last nail in the coffin" for the use of the BSWAT in Australian Disability Enterprises (formerly known as Business Services or sheltered workshops.)

The case was argued in court for almost five years, supported by the pro bono efforts of Holding Redlich barristers Herman Borenstein, SC and Dr Kris Hanscombe, SC; and Lachlan Armstrong. Mr Borenstein, Dr Hanscombe and Mr Armstrong received the 2013 Victorian Bar "Public Interest/Justice Innovation Award" for their dedication to the BSWAT case.

Paul Cain, of the National Council on Intellectual Disability, has been an outspoken opponent of the BSWAT for a decade. He was called as an expert witness in the ground-breaking case.

"Today's decision is a triumph for the human rights of people with intellectual disability in Australia," Mr Cain said.



Grampians disAbility Advocacy and AED Legal Centre achieved human rights decision in High Court continued



“NCID recognises the courage of Gordon, Michael and Michael’s mother Elizabeth. Their willingness to stand up for their human rights has been justified at the highest level,” he said.

We understand that the Commonwealth Government is preparing a response to the High Court decision.

Assert 4 All is aware that there are several Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) operating in the Barwon and Bacchus Marsh areas. We understand that BSWAT is used in some of these ADEs and some other competency based tools are used that do not provide fair wages.

We are aware of several instances in this region where wages of less than \$4 per hour are being paid.

Our position, expressed at a recent meeting in Melbourne to discuss BSWAT, is that all people have a right to a fair and equitable wage. That means that people with disabilities should be supported to participate in the open workforce at full rates of pay. If that is not possible, due to the effect of disability on their workplace productivity, then the best current system is the Supported Wage System. The Supported Wage System aims to increase employment opportunities for people with disability by providing an industrial relations framework that enables the legal payment of a productivity-based, or pro-rata wage. Supported Wage System is a process that allows employers to pay a productivity-based wage that matches an independently assessed productivity rate.

We would be happy to discuss this matter with you if you are a worker in an ADE – you may not know whether your workplace is an ADE, but if you have a disability and work for a very low wage in supported employment, it probably is an ADE. We are also happy to discuss this matter with the management of ADE’s in this region and how we can support them to provide meaningful employment and fair wages.

It’s now time for people with disabilities to move across to a system that respects their fundamental human rights.

Please contact Carol Okai for any enquiries regarding this matter.

ASSERT 4 ALL CURRENT STAFF

Executive Officer	Carol Okai
Disability Support Fund Project Officer	Carmel Hendriks
Advocacy Project Officer	Angela Larcombe
Advocacy Project Officer	Leonie Dillon
Advocacy Officer	Kate Carroll
Administrative Officer	Anita Winkler
Marketing Advisor	Glenda Dowling

A 4 ALL

Access Advisor	Frank Harvey
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For individual advocacy in
Bacchus Marsh, Golden Plains,
Geelong, Queenscliff and Surfcoast
(Torquay, Anglesea and surrounding area only),
please phone Assert 4 All Advocacy enquiries
on 1300 942 773.

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BDRC/Assert 4 All acknowledges the support of:

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Victorian Government

Department of Social Services

Alcoa Access Awards and Alcoa Access Map partners:
Alcoa, City of Greater Geelong, Encompass Community
Services, Free to Smile

Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association (GdAA)

Members of QAN (Quality Assurance Network)

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Website: www.bdrc.org.au
Email: info@bdrc.org.au

**If you are deaf or have
a hearing impairment or
speech impairment,
contact us through the
National Relay Service:
TTY 133677
Speak and listen users 1300 555 727**

ABN: 83 121 194 660