



A peak consumer voice for people with disabilities in Canberra

PWD Bulletin #23

JANUARY 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to everyone!!! I hope that 2008 is a year of good health and good cheer for all of you.

PWD ACT is looking forward to a productive year after we were able to secure our funding just prior to Christmas by signing a funding agreement until March 2008 when a revised Schedule will be provided to us with the more permanent agreement for the next 3 years.

December also saw Ian Trehwella and I, along with Ian Goodacre from Advocacy for Inclusion, have a meeting with Minister Hargreaves about the issue of WATS. He was very keen for us to work with his Department of Territory and Municipal Services to come up with solutions to this on-going problem.

PWD ACT also wrote a letter to the Disabled Parking Review Administrators about our concern with the limited extent of the Disabled Parking Review that was conducted until 21st December. We pointed out that the biggest problems were the regulation and monitoring of the disabled parking spaces, the size and number of the spaces and the assessment process for the disabled parking stickers.

We have also asked the Territory and Municipal Services Department about the status of the Updated Action Plan for Accessible Public Transport 2004-2007 now that the 5 year review process is nearly ended. What of the future for accessible public transport in the ACT?

It was a good opportunity to meet some of the members of PWD ACT at the gathering on 4th December at the Pearce Community Centre for the International Day of Disability. I would like to thank Kylie Mahar for the organisation of the event.

Margo Hodge

President

‘GETTING INTO THE ARTS’ FILM & THEATRE WORKSHOPS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

We only have a handful of vacancies left in our workshops. If you're interested please let us know as soon as possible.

- 3 vacancies in *Directing for the Stage – working on short scenes*
Monday 18th February 4pm

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PWD ACT ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST MONTH

- ❖ PWD ACT was closed for the Christmas and New Year break
- ❖ A clean up and re-organisation of PWD ACT's archives and files has been undertaken
- ❖ 8/1/08 PWD ACT's founder Ian Reynolds attended our committee meeting and spoke about the history of the organisation

UPCOMING PWD ACT ACTIVITIES

- ❖ PWD ACT's film and theatre workshops begin on the 4th February 2008

PWD ACT MEMBER FORUM

We have introduced a new section to the PWD ACT newsletter. We're giving members the opportunity to talk about their particular disability and the effect it has on their lives.

Please send in your stories.

SPECIAL ACCESS EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA

- **Tuesday 5 February 12:45pm. Happy Anniversary: 40 years since the Referendum** explores what gains have been made, and what role contemporary indigenous artists take in giving voice to indigenous people. Auslan sign interpretation will be included. Free. Exhibition Galleries
- **Saturday 16 February 9:30am. Australian Surrealist Art Exhibition: carer's tour** is a private viewing for carers in collaboration with Carers ACT. Bookings essential: 02 6296 9917. Project Gallery and Orde Poynton Gallery (meet in Gallery Foyer)
- **Sunday 24 February 2:30pm. National Australia Bank Sculpture Gallery** is an Auslan sign-interpreted tour. Free. Bookings essential: 02 6240 6519. (Meet in Gallery Foyer)

CHANGE TO SENIOR'S CONCESSION ON ACTION BUSES

On Monday 29 October 2007, holders of an ACT Seniors Card (who are not on an aged pension) became eligible to purchase a concession ticket in the peak periods when travelling on an ACTION bus.

Prior to 29 October 2007, holders of an ACT Seniors Card (not on an aged pension) were not eligible to purchase a concession ticket in the peak periods. To use a concession ticket, you must show the driver your ACT Seniors Card.

If you have any questions, please contact ACTION's Call Centre on 13 17 10 or email ACTION@act.gov.au

**Mobility International USA's (MIUSA)
4th International Women's Institute on Leadership and Disability (WILD)
August 12 - September 2, 2008 Eugene, Oregon, U.S.A.**

Since 1981, MIUSA has been pioneering short-term international exchange programs for people with and without disabilities from over 90 countries. As a non-profit organization, MIUSA is dedicated to empowering people with disabilities around the world to achieve their human rights through international exchange and international development.

Contact information:

Mobility International USA
WILD 2008

E-mail: womenleaders@miusa.org

APPLY NOW! Application deadline: FRIDAY APRIL 4, 2008

Late applications will be accepted as space permits. Application materials are available in alternative formats upon request.

Generous scholarships are available.

MIUSA is currently accepting applications from emerging and established women leaders with disabilities who are:

- From Africa, Asia, Eurasia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Oceania/Pacific
- First time visitors to the USA and have NOT participated in a MIUSA WILD program
- From an organization led by and for people with disabilities, or by and for women, with particular attention to issues of women and girls with disabilities; or employed in a business or program committed to inclusion of women and girls with disabilities
- **Women with disabilities who are from rural areas and/or indigenous backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply** Generous scholarships are available for this program.

The WILD program will include workshops, site visits and practical activities on priority issues for women with disabilities, including:

- Leadership for economic empowerment, including employment policy, legislation, private sector partnerships and coalition building
- Educational rights and opportunities including specialized and inclusive schools, policy and legal rights, services and accommodations for accessibility
- Career planning and higher education, including policies and support systems for women and girls with disabilities
- Employment strategies for women with disabilities including training models, supported employment, microenterprise, private sector partnerships, career mentorship and skill-building
- Health and family issues including parenting, health care and violence prevention
- Accessible transportation and communities including policy and implementation, public advocacy, model transport systems, solutions for accessibility
- Using the media and coalition building
- Organizational development and sustainability, including funding resources and strategies, and fostering partnerships with community organizations and businesses
- Cultural, team-building and community service experiences
- Goals and action plans to strengthen collaborative relationships with other organizations and/or businesses and to implement plans for the employment of women with disabilities locally, regionally or internationally

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The official languages of WILD are English and American Sign Language (ASL). Other disability-related accessibility arrangements will be negotiated to ensure full participation of all program participants.

APPLY EARLY! Limited space available!

MEMBERSHIP PRICES REDUCED

PWD ACT is no longer in the GST system, so we don't need to charge GST on memberships anymore, resulting in the lowering of membership prices.

- An Individual disability membership will now be **\$5**
- An Associate (non-disability) membership will now be **\$10**

- Organisational Membership (consumer disability organisation) **\$10**
- Organisational Membership (Associate) **\$20**

Now there is no excuse for those of you who haven't renewed your membership for 2007-2008!

PWD ACT BULLETIN

PWD ACT's Bulletin has been introduced as an easily read, compact and timely way of keeping members and allies informed about advocacy work, issues and coming events.

Your views – we're listening!

We strongly encourage people with disabilities to send feedback on systemic advocacy issues directly to us.

Call (02) 6290 1984 or email the office pwdact@shout.org.au

Please send us an email if you would like to receive your PWD ACT Bulletin electronically, as this will save our environment.