



**People With
Disabilities**
ACT Inc

OUT & ABOUT WITH ABILITY

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR MAY

On 21st April 2009 Sue Salthouse from Women with Disabilities of Australia (WWDA) and I meet with Amanda Bresnan, a Greens member of the Legislative Assembly, and her advisor about the solution for the WATS problems in the ACT. Sue and I recommended that the ACT Government should have more regulation of the use and maintenance condition of WATS. A roundtable meeting of government, taxi operators and people with disabilities was proposed. It will be difficult for a conscientious WATS driver to attend a meeting. If you know a reliable, efficient, helpful operator could you ask them about their suggestions for solutions to the WATS problems and let Kylie Mahar at PWD ACT Inc the ideas.

I presented the outline of the Information Book that PWD ACT Inc is developing to a meeting of the Strategic Governance Planning Committee on 4th May 2009. This Committee is trying to develop an Information Strategy based on an initiative in other States called "Through the Maze". If you have any information about any aspect of your disability, please forward your suggestion to PWD ACT Inc on phone number 6286.4223 or pwdact@shout.org.au.

Our monthly meeting on 12th May 2009 will be a planning day for the Governance committee to develop a plan for the next few years to build on the progress that has been made with PWD ACT Inc in the last few years. It will be possible to develop on-going policy documents for the organisation as well as more effective methods to promote people with disabilities within the community.

Kylie Mahar, the Executive Officer, and Alison Chinn, the Treasurer, attended the Disability Service Providers meeting that Disability ACT held to discuss the provision of services to people with disabilities in the ACT. There was an increase in funding for Accommodation Support and Individual Support packages. Further information about the numbers of people with disabilities who receive services in the ACT can be obtained from the Executive Officer.

On ANZAC Day the War Memorial is able to give people with disabilities tickets to the ceremony that is held in the forecourt of the War Memorial at 11am. If you are interested in attending this ceremony next year it is worthwhile to contact the War Memorial before 25th April 2010.

The Keen Report has developed a new framework for the ACT Equipment Scheme. On 7th May 2009 there is a consultation with ACT Health Department officers for people who provided submissions to the review in 2008. Kylie Mahar will attend the consultation at Health Care Consumers Association for PWD ACT Inc. It is important for people with disabilities to have more input into the provision of equipment by the ACT Government.

Our recent President, Dennis Staback, is now living in Queanbeyan Nursing Home in Campbell Street, Queanbeyan. If anyone is in Queanbeyan it would be great if you could visit him. Kylie Mahar has been to see him a number of times.

Margo Hodge OAM
ACT Volunteer of the Year 2008

NEW PWD ACT WEBSITE LAUNCHED



We have had web designer Michael Mecham completely re-design our website as the old website contained a lot of out of date information. In line with our policy of trying to hire people with disabilities first, Michael has a neuromuscular condition that requires him to use a wheelchair.

Please check it out and let us know what you think. You can register for the online discussion forum and let us know your thoughts on the new website and any other disability issue that is bothering you.

The website has been designed to be as accessible as possible to people with all kinds of disabilities. If you have trouble accessing any part of the site, please let us know and we will endeavour to fix any accessibility problems.

WWW.PWDACT.ORG.AU

PAT ON THE BACK

We would like to give a big pat on the back to our outgoing board member Justin Ray. Justin has made a huge contribution to this organisation and will be missed. Justin is currently undertaking an Advanced Diploma in Media Production and is looking for a new job. Due to his disability Justin is experiencing a tough time searching for employment which is why he has had to give up his board position with us. We feel this is a great shame and hope that he finds someone to give him a go soon.

Good luck with your future endeavours Justin.

DHCS – DISABILITY POLICY FRAMEWORK 2009-14 HAVE YOUR SAY TO IMPROVE OPPORTUNITIES & OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

The ACT Government is updating its policy framework to improve outcomes and opportunities for Canberrans who have a disability. The policy will guide priority areas for disability through to 2014.

The updated framework will build on the work of the current ACT disability framework, *Future Directions: A Framework for the ACT 2004-2009* as well as assist in achieving goals outlined in *Challenge 2014 – A ten year vision for disability in the ACT*.

Community conversation forums will be held during May and June 2009. These forums are an opportunity for all interested community members including people with disability, their families and carers, the community, business and government agencies to comment on six key strategic priorities that have been developed by the ACT Disability Strategic Governance Group – a group comprising government and community members.

Forums will be held at **12 noon; 1pm; 5 pm and 6pm** on the following dates:

Tuesday 26 May
Wednesday 27 May
Tuesday 2 June
Wednesday 3 June

Hellenic Club, Woden
Burns Club, Kambah
Belconnen Library
Ainslie Football Club

If you have a disability, or care for someone who does, and need assistance in attending or participating in a community forum, please contact us (details below). The ACT Government can help with arranging equipment or reimbursement of costs up to \$50.

Forums for people with disability, carers and other community members will also be arranged through community based services in locations across the ACT.

Submissions can also be made in **writing**, over the **phone** or through **audio tape** by **26 June 2009**. For more information or copies of the consultation document, contact:

T: Sam 6205 7199 or Fiona – 6207 5594

E: disability.sgg@act.gov.au

Information at: www.dhcs.act.gov.au/disability_act/sgg

Post: Strategic Governance Group, Disability ACT,
GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

ACTION BUSES

TEMPORARY BUS STATION LOCATIONS DURING THE BELCONNEN TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

COMMENCING 25 MAY 2009

PWD ACT representatives attended a free ACTION bus tour of the new temporary bus station locations. Attached to this newsletter are maps of the new bus station locations. An ACTION representative on the tour said that ACTION will have staff at these bus stations until people have become familiar with how they work.

Please ring ACTION Customer Service on 13 17 10 if you have any further questions. Or log onto www.action.act.gov.au.

When the redevelopment is complete only the Cohen Street Station will remain. The location of the permanent stations has not been confirmed yet.

We are pleased to note that ACTION conducted these information tours with an accessible bus.



INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE TO BE MOVED FROM WESTON TO THE VILLAGE CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL, KAMBAH

Are you aware that ACT Health - Aged Care and Rehabilitation Services are planning to move the Independent Living Centre by October 2009 from its current central location in Weston to the isolated Village Creek Primary School?

PWD ACT consider this to be contradictory to the National Disability Agreement signed by ACT Government that came into effect in January 2009 and breaches a commitment for the reform agenda in particular for priority area 9 ***Access to Aids and Equipment*** and Article 19 & 20 of the UN Convention.

Other concerns are;

- No specific consultation to date of users although there is a proposed public meeting on 25/5 at 6.30pm at Village Street Primary School
- The move is not cost neutral e.g. new stationary, significant cost to advise equipment suppliers of changed location of their equipment, plus physical cost of move together with building works at new location
- Waste significant refurbishment cost of the recent Weston Centre upgrade and at a time when ACT Government is going into a deficit.
- The service will be closed to users during pack-up, move and re-set-up for several days.
- The closure adds to the existing 4 weeks waiting for OT assessments by users.
- It is difficult to accept that its new isolated location in Kambah will benefit users.
- It is not on an improved accessible bus route.

- Anyone using WATS to the new location from the north side of Weston can expect to pay an additional \$10 each way to their WATS fare.
- Kambah is not central.
- What benefits can users expect to receive in return for supporting this move?

2010 LORD'S TAVERNERS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUNG ATHLETES WITH A DISABILITY



The Lord's Taverners Australia, ACT Branch Scholarship Scheme for young aspiring athletes with a disability provides funding to such athletes who are residents of the ACT and its region who are registered with an ACT sporting organisation. It is designed to help them achieve their long term sporting goals.

The scholarship period is 12 months, from 1 January to 31 December 2010. The timeline for the election process is outlined below:

- Closing date for applications **Wednesday
30th September 2009**
 - Announcement of successful applicants **23rd October 2009**
- All disabilities are eligible for assistance
 - Athletes in the age group 12 – 20 will be considered for eligibility

For further information about the Lord's Taverners Scholarships for Young Athletes with a Disability, please contact:

Andrew Crawford
ACTSPORT
Operations Officer – Disability, Events & Professional Development
100 Maitland Street
Hackett ACT 2602

Phone: 6247 0260
Fax: 6257 3018
E-mail: andrew@actsport.com.au

PWD ACT ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST MONTH

- 7/5 - Executive Officer, Kylie Mahar & former Vice President and member, Ian Trehwella, attended the Health Care Consumer's Association meeting with representatives from ACT Health for feedback about the Keen Report of the ACT Equipment Scheme
- 12/5 PWD ACT held a 3 hour planning meeting with a consultant to brainstorm PWD ACT's future direction
- 14/5 PWD ACT sent comments to the review of the Keen Report
- 14/5 President, Margo Hodge, EO, Kylie Mahar and Sue Salthouse met to discuss the Disability Employment Project
- 15/5 Administration Assistant, Maida Kajkic and EO, Kylie Mahar, attended the Tuggeranong FAHCSIA Expo and Forum for National Volunteers Week
- 21/5 EO, Kylie Mahar, attended the ACTION free bus tour for the changes to the Belconnen bus interchange

PWD ACT SOCIAL GROUP

Facilitator: Sarah Ferguson sarahf@shout.org.au

OUTING TO SEE THE FILM 'MARY & MAX'

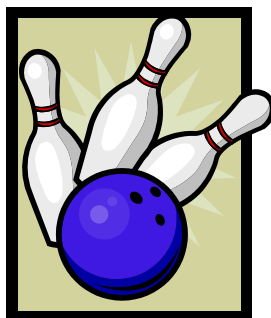
I'm very happy to say that the PWD Social Group's May outing was very successful. Nina, Ross, Tiziana, a new person – Cathy-jane, Mary and her friend Lauren and I all enjoyed the amazing film 'Mary and Max' with its incredible clay figures. It was great having about half an hour to socialise before the film too.

I hope that the June PWD Social outing will be just as successful.

With a big smile from Sarah.

UPCOMING OUTING:

TEN PIN BOWLING



- Friday 9th June 10:30am
- AMF Bowling Belconnen
- 1 Emu Bank, Belconnen
- \$5 per game (please bring your Disability Support Pension card if you have one)
- Free customer parking
- We could play 2 games
- We can have lunch afterwards
- Wheelchair accessible

Please let Sarah know if you will be coming as she has to book the correct amount of lanes

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA
ASSISTED TOURS**

SOFT SCULPTURE – 24 April – 12 July 2009

An exhibition that looks at the ways artists use unconventional materials to challenge conventional sculpture.

Saturday 6 June 2:30pm
Descriptive Tour

Descriptive and touch tour for blind and sight impaired visitors with trained voluntary guides

The building work is still in progress and access to the Gallery continues to be compromised for people with a disability visiting the Gallery in mini buses. Disabled spaces are available in the underground car park, accessible from Parkes Place, from where visitors can call security for lift access.

Lift access to the Gallery is available from the underground car park. Mini bus parking is only possible in Parkes Place from where visitors will enter the Gallery via the ramp. Please call the number below for more information.

Please call the front desk at the Gallery on 6240 6522 if these instructions are unclear or for more information.

National Gallery of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra

Bookings (02)6240 6519 or education@nga.gov.au



PWD ACT Memberships are now **FREE for people with disabilities!**

Please contact us if you would like to be a member.

FREE PWD ACT MEMBERSHIP

DEFINITION

OF DISABILITY

PWD ACT uses the definition of disability that is in the Disability Discrimination Act, this broad definition includes:

Organisational Name	Address	Email Address	Phone:
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- Physical
- Intellectual
- Psychiatric
- Sensory
- Neurological, and
- Learning disabilities, as well as
- Physical disfigurement, and
- The presence in the body of disease-causing organisms.

This covers a disability which people:

- Have now,
- Had in the past (for example: a past episode of mental illness),
- May have in the future (eg: a family history of a disability which a person may also develop).



ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS

Om Physic	8 Yabtree Pl, Isabella Plains ACT 2905	info@omphysic.com.au	6248 7716
RSI & Overuse Injury Association of the ACT	Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St, Canberra ACT 2601	rsi@cyberone.com.au	6262 5011
Stroke Association of ACT	PO Box 220 Deakin West ACT 2600	jobeirne@velocitynet.com.au	6269 2636
ACT Deafness Resource Centre	PO Box 3239 Weston ACT 2611	actdrc@iimetro.com.au	6287 4395
Sharing Places INC	PO Box 704 Mawson ACT 2607	admin@sharingplaces.com.au	6290 1964
ACT Down Syndrome Ass.Inc	PO Box 717 Mawson ACT 2607	admindsa@actdsa.asn.au	6290 0656
CHC Affordable Housing	PO Box 6239 O'Connor ACT 2602	chc@communityhousingcanberra.com.au	6248 7521
YMCA Canberra	Crn Maclaurin & Eggleston Cres Chifley ACT 2606	brett.bowden@ymca.org.au	6281 0124
Belconnen Community Service	26 Chandler St Belconnen ACT 2617	Karen.etheredge@bcsact.com.au	62640200
Nationsheart	27 Rae St Belconnen	office@nationsheart.org.au	62531 672
Tandem	PO Box 3301 Weston ACT	admin@tandem.org.au	6287 2870
Nican	PO Box 110 Mitchell ACT 2911	info@nican.com.au	6241 1220

Please support the organisational members who support PWD ACT.

NationsHeart Christian Community

www.nationsheart.org.au

HIT THE HIGHWAY - a group of families with kids aged 5-10 with special needs meet fortnightly. For further information visit their website.

A FREE COMMUNITY MEAL is served weekly at NationsHeart on Tuesday nights at 6pm. Come along for a time of food, fun and connection as we meet together over a hearty meal. Phone 6253 1672

THE FOODHUT CO-OP is open

- Tuesday nights from 5:30 - 7pm

- Thursday: 3 - 4.30pm
- Friday: 9.30am – Midday.
- NationsHeart is an outlet for Foodbank NSW whose aim is to provide food donated by supermarket chains and manufacturers to people in need. The FoodHut Co-op is available to anyone in need or on a limited income. A donation is charged for the goods in order to cover freight costs. A yearly membership of \$2 is charged to cover administration costs. It is NationsHeart's hope that FoodHut will help relieve some pressure on families' and individual's weekly budget.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ACT DISABILITY INFORMATION BOOK

PWD ACT are putting together an information booklet for people with disabilities in the ACT. We would like it to contain useful, practical information that helps make the lives of people with disabilities easier.

Are there any tips you want to share with others that you wish you had been told earlier? Are there any services that you would recommend to others? Is there an activity that you have found to be fully inclusive? Do you know of businesses that go out of their way to be accessible?

We want to know about this information so we can share it with all people with disabilities living in or visiting the ACT in a compact, easy to read booklet.

Please send us your suggestions by email, post or phone.



PWD ACT CONTACT DETAILS

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 717
Mawson ACT 2607

OFFICE LOCATION

SHOUT
Building 1
Pearce Community Centre
Collett Place
Pearce

Phone: 02 6286 4223

Fax: 02 6286 4223

Email: pwdact@shout.org.au

Website: www.pwdact.org.au

“For people with disabilities,



by people with disabilities.”

PWD ACT NEWSLETTER

PWD ACT's newsletter is an easily read, compact and timely way of keeping members and supporters informed about our advocacy work, issues and coming events. We strongly encourage people with disabilities to send feedback on systemic advocacy issues directly to us on the above contacts. Please send us an email if you would like to receive your PWD ACT newsletter 'Out & About With Ability' electronically, as this will save our environment. This newsletter is provided with the assistance of the ACT Government through Disability ACT.



dhcs | ACT

department of
disability, housing &
community services