



**People With
Disabilities**

ACT Inc

'OUT & ABOUT WITH ABILITY'

Volume 2 * Issue 9 September 2009

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**World Mental Health Day
10 October 2009**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR AUGUST

As mentioned in my July President's Report, Ian Trehwella and I had a meeting with Jon Stanhope, the Chief Minister on 8th July 2009. We discussed the complaints about the WATS services and the Chief Minister said that complaint phone calls about WATS services would be accepted by Canberra Connect on 13 88 21. Please call Canberra Connect about any problems that you have with the Wheelchair Accessible Taxis.

On 20th August, representatives from Women with Disabilities Australia, Advocacy for Inclusion and PWD ACT Inc met with a consultant from The Sports Commission about a national program called Sport CONNECT which connects sport and people with a disability. He wanted to know how to increase participation of people with disabilities in sports. We said that in Canberra that transport, the cost of sport participation and the inaccessibility of many venues were the greatest barriers for a person with a disability participating in sports.

Some of our members attended a "Come and Try Day" at the Sports Mpowerdome in Tuggeranong on 29th July 2009.

I represented PWD ACT Inc at a Transport Roundtable where the Sustainable Transport Action Plan was discussed. The priority for this plan was to encourage people to use more public transport or to walk or cycle to work and recreation in Canberra. If there was more accessible public transport and venues, people with disabilities would be pleased to assist in creating a sustainable future.

On 11th August Mike Swift, Liz Clarks and Jenny Bowler from ACTION have offered to meet with PWD ACT Inc to discuss the issues that people with disabilities find in travelling on the bus system in Canberra.

During the month of August the Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) will be conducting a review of the taxi industry including the Wheelchair Accessible Taxis (WATS). PWD ACT INC has been asked to contribute to the review by checking the Terms of Reference for the Review as well as providing input into the review.

In response to a letter written to Katy Gallagher, Minister for Health, about the move of the Independent Living Centre to the former Village Creek School in Kambah it was suggested that PWD ACT Inc provide a representative to be on the Steering Committee for the move. However there has to be a realisation of the inaccessibility of the venue to people with disability in Canberra. .

2008 ACT Volunteer of the Year
President

NEW BOARD ELECTED

At the recent AGM on 25th September PWD ACT elected a new board of management.

President: Justin Le Couteur

Vice President: Ian Trehwella

Treasurer: Alison Chinn

Secretary: Margo Hodge

Board Member: Sarah Ferguson

Board Member: Nicole O'Callaghan

PWD ACT thanks outgoing board members Mignonne King, Secretary, and Justin Ray, Board Member, for all the hard work and effort they put into PWD ACT during their time on the board.

We also thank outgoing President Margo Hodge for her dedication and inspired leadership during her term as President. She has worked tirelessly for PWD ACT during this time.

COMPANION CARD LAUNCHED IN THE ACT

ACT Minister for Disability, John Hargreaves launched the ACT Companion Card Scheme on 2 September 2009.

The companion card, funded by the ACT Government through the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services - is specifically for people with a significant, permanent disability who require attendant care support from a companion to access community ticketed activities, events and venues.

Cardholders can show their card at participating businesses or venues to be issued with a second ticket for their companion at no charge.

The card will provide people with a disability who need attendant care, with an opportunity to be part of our community at paid events or activities - in the same way that others can be - without additional cost.

There are already 16 businesses in the ACT that have become part of the scheme.

The ACT scheme is part of a national scheme with reciprocal arrangements with other states and territories. This will allow ACT cardholders to use their card at over 1800 participating businesses across Australia that currently accept the card.

To become a member you need to complete the Companion Card Application Form. If however you are a current member of the ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme the department can use some of the information previously supplied under the Taxi-Subsidy Scheme. However, your membership of the ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme does not automatically provide you with membership eligibility to the ACT.

For more information about the Companion Card visit <http://www.companioncard.act.gov.au/> , phone (02) 6207 1086 or Email: companioncard@act.gov.au

COMPANION CARD Application Forms available at PWD ACT
(On your request we will send you an application form)

Phone: 02 6207 1086

PAT ON THE BACK

We give a big pat on the back to our member Robert Altamore and his involvement with the ACT Companion Card. Robert, who was presented with the number one card at the launch, commented that he was delighted to see the ACT Companion Card as a reality.

“The ACT Companion Card was an initiative of the ACT Disability Advisory Council which asked the ACT Government in 2004 to introduce a companion card similar to the card then just introduced in Victoria. I represented the Council on the initial consultations with Government, business and the disability community which established the case for the companion card and demonstrated the community and business support for this initiative,” Robert said.

“I am pleased that people with disabilities in the ACT now have a card which gives them access to a variety of community, cultural, social and sporting events and the services and facilities of many Canberra businesses.”

“There is still work to be done to increase awareness of the card among people with disabilities and encourage more Canberra businesses and institutions to recognise the card and I know that PWD will be supporting the companion card in this way,” Robert said.

PWD ACT ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST MONTH

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1 September | Meeting about the Employment Project |
| 2 September | Launch of the ACT Companion Card attended by Executive Officer (EO), Kylie Mahar and Administration Assistant (AA), Maida Kajkic |
| 9 September | Launch of the Children and Young People’s Equipment Loan Services attended by AA Maida Kajkic |
| 11 September | Meeting re: PWD Disability Information Booklet attended by President Margo Hodge and member Ian Trehwella |
| 14 September | EO, Kylie Mahar and member Ian Trehwella attended meeting at Health Care Consumers Association re: relocation of Independent Living Centre and other services to Village Creek |
| 14 September | PWD ACT Social Group met |
| 18 September | Meeting with President, Margo Hodge, Treasurer, Alison Chin and member, Ian Trehwella re: Disability Information Booklet |
| 18 September | Meeting with President, Margo Hodge and Christina Ryan from Advocacy For Inclusion |
| 20 September | Advocacy Groups Combined Meeting with representatives from PWD ACT, Advocacy For Inclusion and ADACAS |
| 25 September | PWD ACT AGM held at Pearce Community Centre |

PWD ACT SOCIAL GROUP

Facilitator: Sarah Ferguson sarahf@shout.org.au

A few members of the PWD Social Outing Group attended Floriade together. It was enjoyable and worth the visit.

NEXT SOCIAL GROUP OUTING

The October Outing will be a Film at the Dendy Cinema in Civic. I will be forwarding the details to our members closer to the time of the event.

Kind regards, Sarah.

THERAPY ACT HAVE LAUNCHED THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EQUIPMENT LOAN SERVICES ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2009

Therapy ACT works in collaboration with clients, their families, and other key people in the client's life. The focus of intervention is to assist the client to develop skills to enable them to maximise their participation in their community.

SCYPELS provide children and young people with developmental delays and disabilities, aged 0-16 years, with access to a variety of equipment for loan and trial.

This equipment loan service will provide specialised equipment for loan such as wheelchairs, seating systems, hoists, standing frames, walking frames, postural support cushions, personal care items, shower commode and bath chairs and communication devices. Where there is a long term need for equipment this scheme will enable clients to access required equipment whilst funding is being sourced.

If you have any questions about **SCYPELS** please contact the Project Management Team or a member of the Steering Committee on: **(02) 6205 1242**.

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR A FREE ENGINE IMMOBILISER?

The ACT Government is currently subsidising the cost of car engine immobilisers to ACT residents who own a pre 2001 vehicle. People with a health care card or a pension card may qualify for a full subsidy for the installation of an engine immobiliser in their vehicle. Even if you do not hold these cards, you may still qualify for a subsidy of \$100 towards the cost. An immobiliser protects your car by temporarily interrupting the power supply to the fuel pump, the starter motor, and/or the ignition. Without power to these systems, your vehicle cannot start. The immobiliser is fitted by an authorised installer and is a

short process, which will generally take less than a day. These installers are located throughout Canberra.

To find out more, please call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.



EMERGENCY CALLS

www.relayservice.com.au

The National Relay Service provides three ways to contact emergency services

- by TTY
- by ordinary phone
- by internet relay.

If you find yourself in an emergency which is either life threatening or where time is critical, you can use one of these services.

106 TTY emergency service

The 106 TTY emergency relay service is the world's first national text-based emergency service. It provides access for TTY users to fire, police and ambulance and is available 24 hours a day, every day. If you rely on a TTY to make calls, you can dial 106 in an emergency. 106 calls are given priority over other NRS calls.

How 106 works

- **Simply dial 106.** This is a toll-free number.
- You will be asked if you want police (type **PPP**), fire (type **FFF**) or ambulance (type **AAA**). Note: **Speak and Read** (or *voice carry over*) users just need to say "police", "fire" or "ambulance" to the relay officer.
- The relay officer will dial the correct service and stay on line to relay your conversation with the emergency service.
- Because a TTY is connected to a fixed line, the emergency service can locate where you are calling from - you will be asked to confirm your address.
- The 106 service can **only** be dialled from a TTY. It **cannot** be accessed by:
 - an ordinary phone
 - text message (SMS) on a mobile phone, or
 - internet relay

Speak and Listen callers

There is a separate emergency call procedure for Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) callers who use an ordinary phone or mobile rather than a TTY.

VIRGIN BLUE'S NEW POLICY FOR TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES



Virgin Blue travellers with special needs no longer have to buy an extra ticket for a carer.

Virgin Blue has announced major changes to its rules affecting the elderly and people travelling with disabilities.

Travellers with special needs who can understand and respond to emergency situations can travel by themselves without having to purchase another ticket for a carer.

The airline made the changes after complaints and consultation with Australia's peak disability and advocacy groups and the Human Rights Commission.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities Bill Shorten says the previous policy was not fair.

“The Rudd Government is pleased that out of court disability activists and Virgin Blue have been able to resolve some of the arguments they have been having between themselves”, he said.

“This airline has modified its position and it recognises that people with disabilities are important passengers and they are going to make it a little easier for people to fly.”

ACT ASSOCIATION FOR DISABLED SPORT AND RECREATION ACTAADS INC

ACT residents with a disability are invited to apply for a **\$1000 grant** (five available)

The grants are to assist people with a disability further develop the skills that will help them participate fully in the wider community. Send your application to:

Don Allan OAM

Secretary ACTAADS Inc

17 The Pines Ave Sundown Village, Narrabundah ACT 2604

Tel: 6239 7919 Mob: 0409 308 410 email:dca@netspeed.com.au

NEW WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TAXIS COMPLAINT LINE, THROUGH CANBERRA CONNECT PHONE: 13 22 81

A form has been developed to assist the Canberra Connect team collect pertinent information from the caller, to enable the Department to undertake investigations of the complaints. Callers will also be given the complaints phone numbers for the taxi networks, to allow them to call and lodge a complaint directly with the network if they wish. Transport Regulation and Planning Office of Transport also requested to receive a monthly report on the number of calls received through Canberra Connect on WAT complaints.

WAT information is issued by the Road Transport Authority to assist users of wheelchair accessible taxis. Taxi Networks are required under the ACT Road Transport legislation to provide a minimum standard of service to all passengers.

SEEKING THE VIEWS OF ACT WOMEN AND GIRLS

Canberra women and girls are encouraged to take an on-line ACT Government survey in the coming days that explores the challenges facing women and seeks ways to overcome them in the future.

Responses to the survey will inform the next ACT Women's Plan 2010-2015.

The on-line survey can be found on the Women ACT website at www.women.act.gov.au.

For more information, contact the Office for Women on 6207 2552 or women@act.gov.au

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Something for everyone



WODEN VALLEY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

The second annual Woden Valley Community Festival will be held on Saturday 31 October at Eddison Park (Cnr Launceston St and Yamba Dr, Phillip - opposite Canberra College)

If you would like to be involved, please do not hesitate to contact

Emma Walter
Community Development
Woden Community Service Inc
on 6234 6820 or email: wodenfestival@wcs.org.au

MUSIC FOR EVERYONE

Don't miss Music For Everyone's fun-filled holiday **musical**: *GINGER MEGGS!*

It's on at the Belconnen Community Theatre from 30 Sept-7 Oct

They're very happy to take group bookings from any community and social support groups, seniors groups, leisure groups etc: this show is enjoyable for all ages and great value at only \$8 a ticket! There is disabled access and room for 6 wheelchairs in the theatre and they are happy to facilitate groups with special needs. For groups of ten or more, there's one free ticket for accompanying carer/worker.

Please make your group bookings directly with Music For Everyone on 6230 7190 or download booking form at www.mfe.org.au Vivienne Winther - Artistic Director.

MCCUBBIN LAST IMPRESSIONS 1907-17

ASSISTED TOUR

Wednesday 14 October 10.30 am

You are invited to a special-access tour led by voluntary guides for people with disabilities and their carers

Free / bookings essential (02) 6240 6519 Exhibition Galleries

(meet in the gallery foyer)

A FREE ZOO TOUR

The Spastic Centre is running a free Zoo Tour sponsored by the National Zoo and Aquarium for young people with cerebral palsy aged 12-18 (carers also free of charge)

Saturday 10th October 1pm-5pm

RSVP by Wednesday 30th September to Alison Call (02) 6258 8723 or email areardon@tscnsw.org.au



SWIMMING EXPO FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Swimming ACT in conjunction with Swimming Australia, the Australian Paralympic Committee, the Australian Sports Commission and Sport and Recreation Services, is holding a Swimming Expo for people with a disability (including high support needs) on Sunday, 1 November 2009.

The expo is aimed at people of all ages with a disability, who are interested in learning about swimming opportunities and/or would like to try swimming and possibly get involved in swimming on a regular basis.

Local coaches will be available for feedback and advice. Entry is free, but to register for the day people need to fill in a registration form and send it to Swimming ACT by Friday, 24 October 2009.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact:
Swimming ACT on 02 6257 4837 or Melanie Kleeberg Project Officer Disability Sport P:
02 6205 8552 F: 02 6207 2071
Email: melanie.kleeberg@act.gov.au www.tams.act.gov.au/play/sport_and_recreation

BOCCIA AUSTRALIA

Cerebral Palsy Boccia Australia, is organising a national championship, May 4-7, 2010 at The Australian Institute of Sport. This annual event is held in each state and next year Canberra will be the host.

For more information contact: Julie Lyons Secretary – CP Boccia Australia on
Ph: (07) 3286 6725 Or email bocciaaustralia@powerup.com.au

SOFTBALL & FITNESS DAY

Softball Canberra would like to invite you to come along and join in a fun and enjoyable afternoon of softball that is **accessible for people with disabilities**. They'll run through some softball skills and then play a fun game.

Thursday, 8th October 09 at the Hawker International Softball Centre Walhallow Street, Hawker
From 4pm to 6pm (followed by a free sausage sizzle)

Enquires to: Tom Sutton - LEAD Access 02 6257 7088 or tsutton@lead.asn.au
David Ratcliffe - LEAD Access 02 6257 7088 or dratcliffe@lead.asn.au

ACT DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

BUDDY WALK – ACT

When: Saturday 17th October

Time: 11 am (registration 10-11am)

Where: Regatta Point

For more information on this event and early bird registration go to:

<http://www.dsansw.org.au/downloads/Buddy%20Walk%20Reg%20Form%202009%20web.pdf>

Also the ACT Down Syndrome Association will be holding a Family Fun Night at McDonalds in Cowlshaw Street, Tuggeranong, on Monday 12th October between 5pm and 8pm.

During this time, 20% of all proceeds will go directly towards our fundraising efforts for the inaugural Canberra Buddy Walk on Saturday 17th October.

For information on this event contact Rossi Young Phone / Fax 02 6290 0656
Email admindsa@actdsa.asn.au Web www.actdsa.asn.au

WELL, ABLE & MOBILE

“HAVE A GO DAY”

Fun, fitness and recreational activities day for women with disabilities and/or mental health issues

Date: Saturday October 31 2009

Time: 10 am – 2pm

Location: YMCA Health and Wellbeing Centre, 7/100 Maitland St, Hackett

For further information contact YMCA on 6281 0124 or woden@ymca.org.au

Disability access and assistance with transportation is available

THE HEART FOUNDATION FREE MORNING WALKS

The Heart Foundation is conducting free, exclusive morning walks through the gardens of Floriade. Come and enjoy the stillness of the gardens before the gates open to the public. Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 7.30am, Saturday & Sunday 8.30am. Numbers are limited so call Joanne on 62825744 to book a walk for your family and friends

USEFUL WEB LINKS

www.dhcs.act.gov.au/disability_act/serviceswww.concessions.act.gov.au/

www.communitiesonline.org.au/index.php

www.accesscity.org.au

www.canaccess.org.au

Ausport.gov.au/disability

www.specialolympicsact.org.au/

www.actwheelers.org.au

www.mpowerdome.com.au

PWD ACT Memberships are still **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 Disability Discrimination Act definition of disability, this broad definition includes:

- 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).

Please support the organisational members who support PWD ACT

ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS

Organisational Name	Address	Email Address	Phone:
ACT Deafness Resource Centre	PO Box 3239 Weston ACT 2611	actdrc@iimetro.com.au	6287 4395
ACT TPI	PO Box 5792 Turner ACT 2606	secretary@acttpi.org	6286 3593 / 6291 9185
ACT Down Syndrome Ass.Inc	PO Box 717 Mawson ACT 2607	amindsa@actdsa.asn.au	6290 0656
Advocacy for Inclusion	PO Box 3653 Weston Creek ACT 2611	info@advocacyfoinclusion.org	6286 9422
Belconnen Community Service	26 Chandler St Belconnen ACT 2617	Karen.etheredge@bcsact.com.au	62640200
Brocklebank's Woodcraft	8 Fitzherbert Pl Bruce ACT 2617	hugh_brocklebank@hotmail.com	6251 6369
CHC Affordable Housing	PO Box 6239 O'Connor ACT 2602	chc@chcaffordablehousing.com.au	6248 7716
Community Events Calendar	communityeventscalender.com.au	communityeventsteam@communityeventscalender.com.au	62558287
Nationsheart Christian Community	ern Maclaurin & Eggleston Cres Chifley ACT 2606	nationsheartc@onnect.org.au	62531672

Nican	PO Box 110 Mitchell ACT 2911	info@nican.com.au	6241 1220
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
Sharing Places INC	PO Box 704 Mawson ACT 2607	admin@sharingplaces.com.au	6290 1964
Stroke Association of ACT	PO Box 220 Deakin West ACT 2600		6269 2636
Tandem	PO Box 3501 Weston Creek ACT 2611	admin@tandem.org.au	6287 2870
YMCA Canberra	Crn Maclaurin & Eggleston Cres Chifley ACT 2606	brett.bowden@ymca.org.au	6281 0124
Arthritis ACT	PO Box 4017 Weston Creek ACT 2611	info@arthritisaact.org.au	6288 4244

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.



