



**People With
Disabilities**

ACT Inc

'OUT & ABOUT WITH ABILITY'

Volume 2 * Issue 10 October 2009

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Please Visit Our Website

www.pwdact.org.au

Register for the Discussion Forum. This month's issue is Taxis. Let us know your suggestions, comments and stories.

14 November World Diabetes Day

16 November International Day for Tolerance

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER

Hello, as this is my first report as President following the AGM I would like to briefly introduce myself. My name is Justin Le Couteur. I work with the Federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, otherwise known as DEEWR.

I moved to Canberra in 2004, after growing up, studying and working in North East Victoria. I have a Bachelor of Business in Tourism Management and Marketing from Charles Sturt University.

I would like to thank our outgoing President Margo Hodge for her direction and enthusiasm during her Term as President and for taking on the role of Secretary this year.

Some important dates and meetings from the last month are:

- 11th September - a meeting of Information Book Committee was held. We attended a WATS meeting with WATS Consortium.
- 17th - September we attended a Steering Committee of ILC move.
- 22nd September - We met with Disability ACT and there was an article in the Canberra Times about Access issues.

If any one has anything they would like to talk about please let Kylie or Maida in the office know. I am happy to arrange a time to meet with you at the office, or wherever may suit you. If you prefer, you can leave me a message and I will call you back.

Finally I would like to thank all my fellow board members for their willingness to be involved in the PWD ACT Board. I look forward to working with you all.

Justin Le Couteur
President



DISABILITY ACT

PUBLIC LAUNCH OF FUTURE DIRECTIONS : TOWARDS CHALLENGE 2014

The ACT Disability Strategic Governance Group is a unique governance arrangement which provides advice and strategic direction to the Chief Executive of DHCS on the implementation of whole of community responses and the desired outcomes of government funded services and supports.

The ACT Government has released [Future Directions : Towards Challenge 2014](#) which is a policy framework to improve outcomes and opportunities for Canberrans who have a disability. The framework, developed by the Strategic Governance Group, will guide priority areas for disability policy and service delivery through to 2014.

The updated framework builds on the work of the current ACT disability framework, Future Directions: A Framework for the ACT 2004-2008 (extended to 2009) as well as assist in achieving goals outlined in Challenge 2014 – A ten year vision for disability in the ACT.

Six strategic priorities underpin the policy framework. The priorities are:

- 'I want the right support, right time, right place'
- 'I want to contribute to the community'
- 'I want to socialise and engage in the community'
- 'I want to know what I need to know'
- 'I want to tell my story once' and
- 'I want a quality service system'

Disability ACT has lead responsibility for implementing this Framework in collaboration with individuals and their families and carers, stakeholders, services providers, other ACT Government agencies and the community. A 12 month implementation plan has been developed by Disability ACT with information from the consultations and in collaboration with ACT Government agencies. This will focus initial action until October 2010.

Each strategic priority has a number of identified measures of success. These measures will assist in telling us if the strategic priorities are making a difference in the outcomes and opportunities for people with disability in the ACT.

For more information or printed copies of any documents listed, contact:

Strategic Governance Group
Disability ACT
GPO Box 158

Telephone: Sam (02) 6205 7199 or Fiona (02) 6207 5594
Email: disability.sgg@act.gov.au Fax: (02) 6205 0940

Link to the Summary Report:
http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/disability_act/ssgg/consultation_summary_report

H1N1 INFLUENZA '09 VACCINATION PROGRAM

ACT Health is participating in the national roll out of pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine. The vaccine, called Panvax® H1N1, will be available from General Practitioners in the ACT from 30 September 2009.

The nationally agreed priority groups for this vaccine include:

- Health care workers;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- Pregnant women;
- Individuals with moderate to severe obesity;
- Children (aged 10 years and over) in special schools;
- Parents and guardians of children aged 0 to 6 months; and
- Those considered vulnerable to severe infection with H1N1 (aged 10 years and over).

The vaccine will be initially offered to those in the nationally agreed priority groups. Flexibility exists, however, for vaccination to be given opportunistically to concerned individuals or family members of vulnerable people.

People in priority groups who are unable to see a GP should ring the Community Health Intake line on 6207 9977 to make an appointment at a clinic.

Panvax® H1N1 is a one dose vaccine for people aged 10 and over. It may take up to two weeks for individuals to develop immunity to H1N1 influenza '09. Further information regarding vaccination for those aged 9 years and under will be available following the conclusion of clinical trials in children.

Members of priority groups and other concerned individuals should discuss the vaccine with their health care provider.

For more information on the Panvax® H1N1 vaccine visit the ACT Health website at www.health.act.gov.au



RELEASE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION REPORT

Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, released the report of the National Human Rights Consultation Committee.

In December 2008 the Rudd Government asked the Committee to conduct a nationwide Consultation to examine the protection and promotion of human rights and responsibilities in Australia.

The Committee has conducted the most extensive consultation on human rights issues in Australia's history, receiving more than 35,000 submissions and conducting over 65 community roundtables and public hearings across more than 50 urban, regional and remote locations.

The report contains 31 recommendations and provides important information about what we do well and assesses options for addressing the areas where we can do better.

Overwhelmingly, the report finds that Australians support the protection of human rights. They also, however, believe more can be done.

The key debate, therefore, is not about whether we protect human rights - it is about how we protect human rights.

The Consultation has demonstrated that there are many views on how human rights and responsibilities should be protected, promoted and realised, including on the merits of a Human Rights Act.

Importantly, it has also shown that there are many other important ways to protect and promote human rights including, for example, through enhanced education and improved parliamentary scrutiny.

The Australian Government will carefully consider the Committee's report and outline its response in the coming months.

The report is available online at www.ag.gov.au or at www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au

COMPANION CARD APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE AT PWD ACT

**At your request we will send you an application form
Phone: 02 6286 4223**

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

Email: companioncard@act.gov.au

MAKING A COMPLAINT TO THE ACT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Your Complaint must be submitted in writing in order for the Commissioner to act on it. It is not essential that you use the complaint form, but it is recommended, the form will help you to provide the information they need. Or, you can visit the Human Rights and Discrimination section of the website, and click on 'How to Make a Complaint'

www.hrc.act.gov.au

human.rights@act.gov.au

Postal Address: GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU ACT LAUNCH OF THE CONTACT DIRECTORY 2009/2010

The CONTACT directory is Canberra's Community Information Handbook

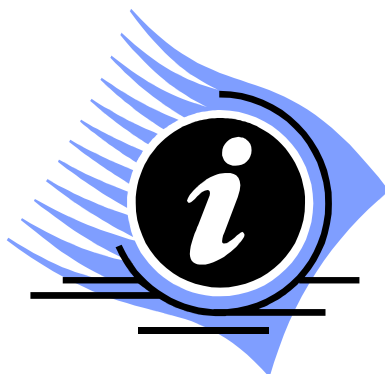
If you're looking for information about your community, the Contact Book, Canberra's community directory, has the information you need. With over 3000 non-profit and community organisations available at your fingertips - complete with contact details, descriptions and locations.

Cost: \$16.50 GST inc. (Shipping costs: 1-3 \$9.00, 4+ \$12.00)

Phone: 02 6248 7988

Address: Room G02, Ground Floor

New Griffin Centre Genge St Canberra City



**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE TAXIS COMPLAINT LINE,
THROUGH CANBERRA CONNECT**

PHONE: 13 22 81

To make a complaint, please phone Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 (you can also use TTY 6207 0494 or the National Relay Service 133 677, or the Translating Interpreter Service 13 14 50). The Canberra Connect operators now have a WATs complaint form and will collect relevant information from you. Canberra Connect will put together all the statistics and will make a monthly report to Kerry Bell, the Manager of Public Transport Regulation at TAMS.

They will also give you the direct complaints numbers for each Taxi network so you can also make your complaint direct to the taxi service if you wish to do this as well. Don't JUST do this, or the statistics will not get back to TAMS.

TAMS has begun to impose fines where appropriate as well

PAT ON THE BACK

The Winners of the 2009 ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards

Raytheon Australia receives Award of Excellence for services to people with a disability

Raytheon Australia is an industry leader in defence, government and commercial electronics, systems integration, support services and special mission aircraft. Raytheon began a partnership with Koomarri's Australian Disability Enterprises program in 2002 and has been partnering ever since. Raytheon has also become involved in a number of other community initiatives.

Others winners include: Legs Dance for Inclusion in Small Business; Raytheon Australia for Inclusion in Medium to Large Business; Canberra Connect Shopfront Service for Inclusion in Government Agency or Department; Mpowerdone for Inclusion in Sports; Marsden Arts Group for Inclusion in the Arts; The Canberra Labor Club for Inclusion in Tourism & Hospitality; Music for Everyone for Inclusion in Education & Training.

The Margaret Spalding Award for Inclusion by an Individual is Eric Martin of Eric Martin & Associates

Congratulations to all the Winners

PWD ACT ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST MONTH

- 12 October Employment Project Meeting with Margo Hodge, Sue Salthouse and Executive Officer Kylie Mahar
- 9 October EO Kylie Mahar's Diploma of Management Graduation
- 13 October PWD ACT October Board Meeting
- 17 October PWD ACT Social Group met
- 22 October The 2009 ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards attended by Kylie and Clinton Mahar, Nicole O'Callaghan and Maida Kajkic
- 23 October Draft Strategic Public Transport Plan Meeting with TAMS and consultant, Ian Trewhella PWD ACT Vice President, Margo Hodge PWD ACT Secretary, Kylie Mahar EO PWD ACT, Christina Ryan General Manager Advocacy for Inclusion, Brooke McKail and Samara Rahman from ACTCOSS, Anna Saxon Taylor and Kerry Snell from Health Care Consumers Associations, Carol McKenzie and Bryan McGuinness
- 27 October ACT DAC Meeting attended by President Justin Le Couteur
- 28 October The Launch of Contact 2009/2010 Canberra's Community Information Handbook attended by Administration Officer Maida Kajkic

PWD ACT SOCIAL GROUP

Facilitator: Sarah Ferguson sarahf@shout.org.au

The PWD ACT Social Group Outing on 18th October 2009.

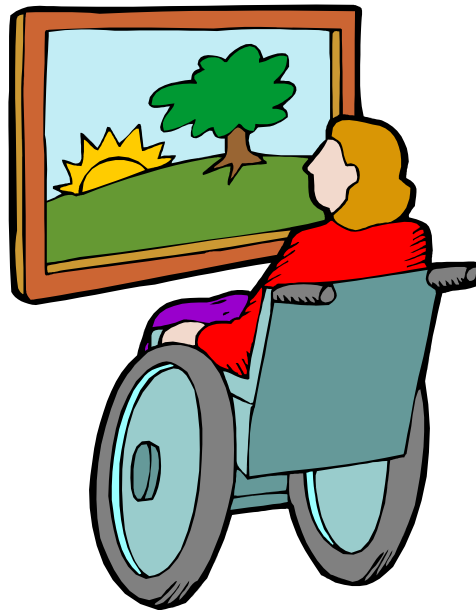
Nina and I very much enjoyed the film we saw at the Dendy Cinemas in Civic. We met early to ensure we would get tickets before they sold out, and to have a good friendly chat. We also enjoyed yummy “Muffin-Break” muffins during our chat!

The animated film “Up” that we saw is very good and was very much enjoyed by both Nina and myself. The film’s story is very imaginative and creative, and the characters are both whacky and wonderful!

The PWD ACT Social Group Outing for November will be announced shortly.

Please contact Sarah if you would like her to inform you about what the Social Group will be doing.

GETTING INTO THE ARTS



Art Exhibition

See 33 highly commended art works in this prestigious exhibition of national and international artists from the South Australian Museum.

Queen Victoria Terrace Canberra Oct 16 2009 UNTIL 15 Nov 2009 - Free

Australian Style I: Architecture

National Portrait Gallery, Canberra Oct 16 2009 UNTIL 8 Nov 2009

See the first in a series of exhibitions exploring contemporary Australian identity through creative process. Australian Style. **Free**

Music at Midday Concert - 30 November 2009

Canberra Theatre Centre in association with the Royal Military College host the Music at Midday Concerts six times a year, with proceeds supporting many local charities

The lunchtime concerts, held at 11am and 12.30pm showcase the talents of the RMC Band and presented with Canberra Theatre Centre provides an opportunity to give something back to the community. Entry to the concerts is by gold coin donation, with all proceeds going to a local charity.



Gold Coin Donation

Inclusive Performance Arts in the ACT

The ACT Community Arts Office has initiated an 8-week intensive pilot program that will develop a group devised physical theatre performance piece in Canberra.

The project is a test case for best practice inclusive arts in the ACT and engages performers with and without disability.

The model offers a space that is inclusive of difference and values equally the role of all participants.

The inclusive nature of the model means that participants, regardless of ability and experience, work collaboratively through a 7-week program to build a performance piece that is reflective of the contribution that each person brings to the creative process. A public performance will be held in week 8 at the Belconnen Community Theatre. (Details closer to the date)

To deliver meaningful outcomes this project relies on a supportive framework and a facilitated process that creates a base from which to explore ideas and make art.

In keeping with a participant driven philosophy the project is artistically facilitated rather than directed by Morgan Jai-Morincome with Bren Weatherstone. Andy Heaney will work collaboratively with the group over the next month to record and produce a sound scape for the performance. The project is also being documented by media artist/photographer Glen Ryan. In addition to the workshops and public performance in December, a DVD, photographic exhibition and limited edition book will be launched in 2010.

For more info please contact:

The ACAO manager@actartsofficers.org.au

ACT Community Arts Office

Level 1, North Building 180 London Cct,

Canberra City www.actartsofficers.org.au

Manager: Andy Heaney manager@actartsofficers.org.au 0450 960 903

Arts Ability: Caro RoachArtsability@actartsofficers.org.au 02 6247 1882

Indigenous Arts: Neville 'Neilliao' Neilliao@actartsofficers.org.au 02 6247 3314

Multicultural Arts: Jorge Bagnini mao@actartsofficers.org.au 02 6230 5994



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY EVENTS Something
for everyone

NationsHeart Christian Community

www.nationsheart.org.au

ROUGH DIAMONDS is a social group open to all for times of connection, learning, fun, food and conversation. Aimed at seniors and people with special needs, Rough Diamonds meets on alternate Wednesdays from 10am - 2pm.

For more information call NationsHeart on 62531 672 or

Email office@nationsheart.org.au

TWILIGHT IN THE JUNGLE COCKTAIL EVENING

RSPCA ACT and The Spastic Centre would like to invite you to Twilight in the Jungle Cocktail Evening to help raise much needed funds for these two well respected local charities.

The Cocktail Evening will be hosted by The Woden and Black Mountain Schools (who cater for students with special needs) in conjunction with St Edmunds College to provide an evening of exquisite food, great entertainment, live auctions and the chance to support schools and charities based in our Canberra community.

When: 6:15 for 6.30 Thursday 12th November 2009 **Where:** The Lion Boardwalk @ The National Zoo & Aquarium **Tickets:** \$50 per person (tickets are limited) Tickets can be purchased by contacting:

St Edmunds College - 62390647
The Spastic Centre – 6258 3200 or CLeRuez@tscnsw.org.au
RSPCA ACT – 6287 8109 or tfoley@rspca-act.org.au

WHEELIES

Spinal Cord Injuries Awareness week is coming up and here's your chance to meet fellow wheelies. Join us to swap stories, network and enjoy a day out at the **National Museum of Australia** on **Sunday November 15**, from **11am-2pm**.

The NMA has excellent access, lots of accessible toilets and plenty of space. Bring lunch or dine at the NMA cafe.

For enquiries contact **Trevor Robinson** on **0408 935 956**

BELCONNEN COMMUNITY SERVICES

TERM 4 PROGRAMS 2009

CASTAWAYS

9 Week Programme. Tuesdays, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Group Lunch 12:30 to 1:30,
buy from the café or BYO PER TERM \$50

LIVIN SKILZ 4 U

9 Week Programme. Thursday mornings, from 9:30am to 12:30 \$60 PER TERM

CLEVER CRAFT

9 Week Programme. Thursday afternoons, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.
Note: no supervised group lunch \$50 PER TERM

CERAMICS

9 Week Programme. Friday mornings, from 10 to 12:00 \$50 PER TERM

XMAS CRAFT

4 Week module in October. Wednesday afternoons 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Group Lunch
12:30 to 1:30, buy from the café or byo. \$30 MODULE

BE DRAMATIC!

4 Week module in November. Wednesday afternoons 1:30pm to 3:30pm. Group Lunch
12:30 to 1:30, buy from the café or byo. \$30 MODULE

PHONE: 6264 0232 FAX: 6251 9952

EMAIL bridges@bcsact.com.au WEBSITE: www.bcsact.com.au

VENUE: Belconnen Community Centre at Swanson Court, Belconnen

THE RICHARDSON FESTIVAL OF BELONGING

The Richardson Festival of Belonging will be held on the **Richardson Oval (May Gibbs CI)** on **Saturday 14th November 2009, 10am to 3pm**. The event includes a program of events, performances, information and market stall, rides etc. The festival promotes mental wellbeing and social inclusion.

Community Groups are very welcome to have a stall at the event, please contact Karen ottdk@grapevine.com.au for an email PDF copy.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR SPORTS

REGULAR FIXTURES

Wheelers meet fortnightly on Saturday mornings during school terms to play soccer, rugby and hockey.

Everyone who uses an electric wheelchair is welcome to come along and play.

Regular fixtures are fun for everyone:

They provide beginners with a wonderful opportunity to learn the skills and rules of the games and give seasoned players an opportunity to hone their skills.

Experienced players help younger players to develop .

Come and join in the fun

When: Fortnightly on Saturday mornings -during school term

Time: 10.30 am - 12.00

Where: Lake Ginninderra College Gymnasium

For more details about the ACT Wheelers please contact any of the following:

Coach - Terry Gallagher

Mobile: 0417 218 654

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).

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

Please support the organisational members who support PWD ACT

PWD ACT'S Latest Organisational Members

Woden Community Service Inc

26 Corinna Street, Woden ACT

Visit: <http://www.wcs.org.au/>

Ph: 02 6234 6820

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	admindsa@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	communityeventscalendar.com.au	communityeventsteam@communityeventscalendar.com.au	62558287
Nationsheart Christian Community	Crn 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@arthritisact.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

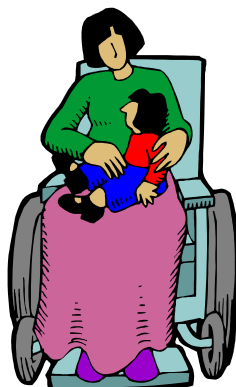
Phone: 02 6286 4223

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.

