



PWD Bulletin #1

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30 March 2005

To: PWD members/friends

Public Meeting: Community Nursing

People with Disabilities ACT (PWD ACT) and ACT Health have called a public meeting to discuss a range of issues in connection with community health services, especially community nursing. The meeting will be held from 2.00pm till 3.30pm on Saturday, 16 April 2005 at the reception room in the ACT Legislative Assembly.

PWD advocacy in action

This public meeting will provide an opportunity for people to share experiences and discuss service issues with senior officials from ACT Health, including Chief Executive Tony Sherbon.

The meeting follows several months of advocacy work by PWD on behalf of a number of service users and in conjunction with the Paraquod representative for the ACT and Southern NSW.

The ACT Health Care Complaints Commissioner, Phillip Moss, will chair the meeting. Venue is wheelchair accessible and two attendant carers will be on hand. Please ring the PWD office on (02) 6290 1984 to discuss any additional participation needs.

New office contacts

PWD welcomes several new faces to the office:

- *Executive Officer*, Megan Richards
- *Office Manager*, Amanda Spencer
- *Consumer Strengthening Project officer*, Beth Micklethwaite
- *Arts Development Officer*, Adam Moynihan

People interested in contacting PWD can call the PWD office via SHOUT on 6290 1984.

New website and email address

PWD's website has undergone a major revamp and will be re-launched shortly at a new address - www.pwdact.org.au. The site will contain heaps of information and links including how to join us & back editions of PWD's journal the *Disability Reporter*.

PWD will also soon have a new email address for most business - pwdact@shout.org.au

2005 Management Committee

The 2005 PWD ACT Management Committee is

- *President*, Craig Wallace;
- *Vice President*, Donna Hodgson;
- *Secretary*, Dennis Stabback;
- *Treasurer*, Paul Robertson; and
- *Committee members*: Ian Reynolds and Michael Johnston.

Wheelchair taxi services

PWD continues to push hard for improved services to users of Canberra Cabs and will be providing input to a new committee announced by the ACT Government on this issue. We are keen for feedback on the quality of services provided to taxi users with disabilities, especially by wheelchair accessible taxi's. Please contact the PWD Office.

Arts development

PWD ACT has appointed an Arts Development officer to explore and develop opportunities for homegrown mixed ability theatre in the ACT. This exciting project follows last years first ever Canberra Disability Arts Festival. While it's early days, PWD is keen to hear from performers, writers, directors & artists as well as arts organizations that might be willing to contribute or partner with us. Please contact Adam Moynihan via the office.

Employment changes

PWD was involved in recent employment and workforce participation consultations convened by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Together with our national colleagues at People with a Disability (Australia) and local organizations we strongly advocated that any reforms of employment and income support systems need to avoid coercion and focus on addressing barriers to participation including cost of disability. We also advocate a wide and thorough consultation process.

PWD Bulletin

This bulletin has been introduced as an easy read, compact and timely way of keeping members and allies informed about advocacy work, issues and coming events. It will be issued monthly as needed.

PWD will continue to publish the *Disability Reporter* twice a year with detailed analysis and information on disability issues. Contributions welcome.

Your views - we're listening!

We strongly encourage people with disabilities to send feedback directly to us on systemic advocacy issues. Call or email the office – our staff & volunteers work part time hours so sometimes need a little time to respond but we're keen to hear from you.