



PWD Bulletin #2

www.pwdact.org.au

Ph: 6290 1984

Fax: 6286 4475

pwdact@shout.org.au

15 April 2005

To: PWD members/friends

Community Nursing PROTEST tomorrow

People with Disabilities ACT (PWD ACT) have **slammed** a decision by ACT Health to **stop bowel care services to Canberra people with paraplegia and quadriplegia days prior to a public meeting** called to discuss service issues.

In response **a protest action will now be held at 3.30 pm following the public meeting** which runs from 2.00pm till 3.30pm on Saturday, 16 April 2005 at the reception room in the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Protest the cuts!

In a shocking move, ACT Health yesterday *stopped* key bowel care treatments for people with disabilities despite medical advice they are needed to avoid placing people with disabilities in life threatening danger and that the technique is practiced successfully in interstate spinal units.

PWD President Craig Wallace said the actions were 'breathtaking coming just days before a public meeting to discuss service issues. Some people feel that *it's a punishment or a warning about speaking out* and that's of concern – it is strange timing. There is an escalating sense of crisis and fear'

As a result of these and other provocations PWD will now be inviting people with disabilities, families and carers to **participate in a protest action immediately following the public meeting from 3.30 pm in Civic Square.**

This protest meeting will consider a number of resolutions which call on the ACT Health Minister to intervene to balance workplace safety issues with the rights, health and safety of people with disabilities.

PWD encourages people with disabilities to **engage positively in the public meeting but also to join protest actions** following the meeting.

Support from Opposition Leader

PWD welcomes support in the campaign from ACT Opposition Leader Brendan Smyth who issued a media release calling for a **stay of execution** for people with disabilities - a copy of his release accompanies this Bulletin.

Call to the ANF

Clients call on the Australian Nursing Federation to join us in seeking a negotiated agreement that respects the rights of workers AND people with disabilities.

Craig Wallace called on all the stakeholders, including the ACT Branch of the Australian Nursing Federation, to start acting in solidarity with people with disabilities in our struggle for dignity, human rights and basic healthcare. If those rights suffer, eventually we all lose'.

Other news:

Consumer Strengthening Workshop – Wednesday 25th May @ ACROD House
PWD has renewed its Consumer Strengthening Project with the appointment of Beth Micklethwaite to lead the project for three months.

A key part of the project is a **PWD Workshop on 25th May at ACROD House**, an accessible venue in Deakin.

The workshop is for people with disabilities **who would like to develop their skills as community leaders.**

The morning sessions will focus on committee skills to help people with disabilities represent their views to policy-makers.

The afternoon will explore media management, public speaking and lobbying, with advice on what works from politicians and other interest groups.

If you would like to attend you do need to register - please contact PWD on 6290 1984 to put your name down. A program will be issued nearer the time.

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 is issued monthly and 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 (02) 6290 1984 or email the office
pwdact@shout.org.au