

## Inform *Extra* News Bulletin April 2010

### From the editor

In this edition you will find information regarding a diverse range of topics and events including:

- Information for current CAAS clients
- New standards for General Practice
- Research participants needed-‘time use and spinal cord injury’
- New disability access standards
- Pilot gender analysis workshops with women with disabilities
- Reform of anti-discrimination legislation

*(Information contained in this bulletin comes from many information sources and is not necessarily the opinion of Independence Australia or its affiliates, or those of its employees or volunteers.)*

We encourage you to forward this newsletter to your networks.

Editor: Jen Sykes

### **Independence Australia news**

#### **Racing for the Roses**

On Friday 19th March, Independence Australia and the Robert Rose Foundation staged the fifth ‘Racing for the Roses’ fundraising event at the prestigious Moonee Valley Racing Club. Three hundred and twenty ‘well dressed and keen to spend’ guests helped raise money through ticket sales and fundraising activities on the night. Existing relationships were cemented and new ones built, all of which are invaluable to Independence Australia and the future of our vital services. Early in the evening, we heard from former client, employee and friend, Dale Sheppard, who talked about life with a spinal cord injury. Throughout the night many guests walked away with competition and raffle prizes as well as some fantastic purchases from the major and silent auctions.



The night concluded with a surprise performance by opera singer, long time ambassador and friend of Independence Australia and the Robert Rose Foundation, Tim Mc Callum. Tim amazed the crowd with a wonderful rendition of "Time to Say Goodbye", which was fitting given his impending plans to travel over to Canada and spend some time with Cirque du Soleil.

### **News for CAAS clients.**

As reported in the last bulletin, the Contenance Aids Assistance Scheme (CAAS) will become the Contenance Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS) from 1 July 2010.

CAPS will replace the CAAS and will be managed by Medicare Australia. The funds will provide greater choice and will be paid directly into the individual user's bank account for purchasing continence products. As a national distributor, Independence Australia is equipped to facilitate a smooth transition for current CAAS customers to the new CAPS. Our Contenance Nurse Advisor is available to provide expert advice to healthcare professionals, carers and individuals free of charge. We also offer free delivery Australia wide for CAPS and Community orders over \$245.

Please email customer service on [customerservice@independenceaustralia.com](mailto:customerservice@independenceaustralia.com) if you wish to register and receive information about CAAS/CAPS changes and offers with Independence Australia.

## **Disability news**

### **New Disability Access Standards**



The Australian Government has launched the Disability Standards for Access to Premises, which for the first time set the minimum access requirements for people with a disability to publicly accessible buildings. The Standards cover features such as accessible lifts, stairs, ramps, toilets and corridors and include buildings such as office blocks, shops, hotels, motels, and common areas of new apartment buildings. By requiring better access to buildings, the Standards will ensure that people with a disability can access employment, services and the community on an equal basis with other Australians.

The Standards will contribute to the Australian Government's 10-year National Disability Strategy which is being developed in consultation with community and disability groups. The strategy will be released later this year and will represent a long-term plan to address the barriers faced by Australians with a disability.

The Disability Standards for Access to Premises and related documentation is available at: [www.ag.gov.au](http://www.ag.gov.au)

### **Standards for General Practice – height adjustable examination beds**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has proposed making it mandatory for general practice surgeries to have height adjustable examination beds in order to meet industry standards. RACGP has issued its draft 4th edition of the Standards for general practices and has taken the opportunity to propose height adjustable examination beds become a required item.

Height adjustable examination beds will: assist general practice teams to reduce the risk of injury to all patients; limit the risk of misdiagnosis or non-detection of serious medical conditions; reduce the occupational health and safety issues for health practitioners, and; reduce the risks associated with legal responsibilities under discrimination law.



For more information on the campaign to improve access to height adjustable examination beds, including access to research on the consequences for people with a disability, see [humanrights.gov.au/disability\\_rights/health/open0807.htm](http://humanrights.gov.au/disability_rights/health/open0807.htm)

### **Promotion for Pap Test Screening for Women with Disabilities**

It has been identified that women with disabilities are not having regular Pap Test screening. The Well Women's Clinic at the Women's Hospital is attempting to address this situation and promote services to women with disabilities.

They offer

- Free Pap tests - smaller sized speculums are available
- Breast awareness education
- Screening for sexually transmitted infections
- Referral to other hospital services as needed
- Access to bigger rooms and a hoist for women with physical disabilities
- Double appointments as required (please ask for it if needed)
- Interpreters
- Free childcare

The new hospital is serviced by a super tram stop and there is wheelchair access. The best access is from the lower ground, 20 Flemington Rd, Parkville.

If you have any questions please phone Pip Brennan or Sue Giffney on 8345 3128. To make a booking phone Maria on 03 8345 3037.

## **Other Government news**

### **Reform of anti-discrimination legislation**

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Attorney-General Robert McClelland and Minister for Finance and Deregulation Lindsay Tanner announced the Government's intention to streamline federal anti-discrimination legislation into one single comprehensive law. A single Act will address current inconsistencies and make the system more user-friendly by clarifying relevant rights and obligations. It will also provide the opportunity to review the complaints handling process and the related role and functions of the Australian Human Rights Commission. The Government intends to develop exposure draft legislation as the basis for consultation with stakeholders and the public.

### **Enhancing human rights education**

Minister for Education Julia Gillard and Attorney-General Robert McClelland outlined a comprehensive suite of education initiatives to ensure all Australians have access to

information about human rights. These measures form the centrepiece of Australia's Human Rights Framework and reflect the key recommendation of the report by the National Human Rights Consultation Committee that education must be 'the highest priority for improving and promoting human rights in Australia.'

The Framework outlines a number of practical, positive initiatives to enhance human rights education including increasing support for human rights education in schools and across the community, investing in the expansion of the Australian Human Rights Commission's role in community education and the development of toolkits and guidance materials.

## **For your Interest**

### **Housing Resource & Support Service**

#### **Board Member Wanted**

Housing Resource & Support Service Inc. (HR&SS) is a not-for-profit organisation for people of diverse abilities who wish to live independently in the community. HR&SS provides case management, service coordination, community development, accessible housing, planning and individualised support packages within the disability sector. HR&SS has a commitment to social justice and equal participation for all within the community. For more information please visit [www.hrss.com.au](http://www.hrss.com.au).

A vacancy currently exists on the HR&SS Board.

The constitution of HR&SS requires that all members of the Board must have a disability. We welcome applications from persons of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and persons from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

Skills in any of the following areas would be highly valued:

- \* **Experience in the disability sector, especially in housing and community access.**
- \* **Strategic planning for not-for-profit organisations.**
- \* **Marketing and communication skills**
- \* **Welfare and community sector work**

Skills in any of the following areas would also be of interest:

- \* Finance or accountancy
- \* Legal and regulatory issues
- \* Management and service delivery
- \* Governance and administration
- \* Previous experience on committees or boards is also preferred, and experience operating within a governance model will be highly regarded.

Current time commitments to the Board are one two-hour meeting every two months and working groups as allocated (usually one monthly).

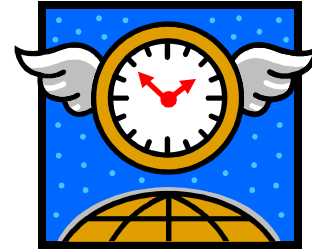
#### **For further information please contact:**

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## Research

### Time Use and Spinal Cord Injury - Call for volunteer research participants

The Department of Occupational Therapy at Monash University is undertaking research on the impact of spinal injuries on people's time use.



Their aims:

1. To understand the impact of spinal injuries on time use and daily activities
2. To understand the impact of secondary health conditions associated with spinal injuries on day-to-day life
3. To assess people's satisfaction with life following spinal cord injury
4. To determine the relationship between these factors in order to better tailor service planning and delivery for people with spinal injuries

Adults aged 18 to 65 years who have sustained a spinal cord injury are invited to participate. They are offering a \$30.00 gift voucher to thank people for the time taken to complete the research process.

Participation involves completing an interview (which includes filling out some questionnaires) and four days of time use tracking using our customised personal digital assistants (PDAs) or a wristwatch and paper-based surveys. Interviews will be conducted at a time and place of convenience to you and the more details please contact us. We strongly encourage all interested people to contact the **Occupational Therapy Department** at Monash University on **9904 4719** or **Libby** on **0421 356 359**.

**Your participation is greatly appreciated**

## Workshops & training

### Pilot gender analysis workshops Women with disabilities

#### 2 DAY TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Workshop 2: Melbourne 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010, 9.30 to 4.30pm

*Registrations for Workshop 2 close on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010*



The pilot workshops will provide an opportunity for interested women with disabilities to come together and learn about gender, gender analysis and discuss women's and disability issues that impact on our lives. Registration is free and will include a light morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Participants must meet their own travel and accommodation expenses.

To request a registration form for the **Pilot Gender Analysis Workshops with Women with Disabilities** please contact Unifem Australia on (02)6285 8254 or [workshops@unifem.org.au](mailto:workshops@unifem.org.au)

## Arts

### Façades

You always have to look beyond the surface. From the ancient myth of Narcissus to the urban myths of corporate development in today's Melbourne, vanity, self-obsession and money have woven webs of deception and destruction. In its forthcoming production Façades, Fusion Theatre looks at how people on the margins are not always victims but, can turn the tables on the greedy and ruthless. Fusion Theatre is a celebration of disability arts, talents and performance and is proudly sponsored by the City of Greater Dandenong.

Where: Keysborough College, Chandler Campus, 28 Isaac Rd Keysborough

When: Tuesday 25 May at 12.00pm and 7.00pm / Wednesday 26 May at 12.00pm and 7.00pm

Tickets: \$7.00 (carers and companion card free)

Bookings: 0411 052 389

### Perfectly imperfect

This highly emotive dance-drama takes a no-holds-barred look at the ethics of parenthood for women with disability. Kate, a mother with cerebral palsy, invites her son's three wheely aunts to his 15th birthday. What should be a celebration of 'miracle' boy's life, disintegrates into recrimination and hostility, triggering revelations of long hidden secrets, repressed memories and personal tragedies. Wheel Women use wheel chairs in daily life. Written and Directed by Larry Boyd

When: Thursday 17 June, 7.30pm, Friday 18 June, 12.30pm & 7.30pm, Saturday 19 June, 12.30pm & 7.30pm

Where: Lawler Studio, Melbourne Theatre Company, Southbank Blv. Southbank

Tickets: \$25, \$22 conc, \$20 groups of 10+

Companion card free with client

Bookings: By phone on 8688 0800 or online at

[www.mtc.com.au](http://www.mtc.com.au)

### Music at Government House

Arts Victoria and Chamber Music Australia have assembled a programme of performances that will continue their tradition of bringing music to the people.

If you are interested in attending, please register via the Arts Victoria website:

[http://www.arts.vic.gov.au/content/Public/About\\_Us/Governors\\_Recital\\_Series.aspx](http://www.arts.vic.gov.au/content/Public/About_Us/Governors_Recital_Series.aspx)

The concert will feature students from the Australian National Academy of Music performing Sextet No 1 in B flat major by Johannes Brahms.

Date: Wednesday 19th May, 2010

Function concludes at approximately 12 noon

Location: Government House Melbourne

Address: Government House Drive, Melbourne Vic 3004 (Melway Ref: 2G A11)

Admission: Free

Parking will be available within the grounds of Government House from

9.45 am. Guests must be seated by 10.30 am. Function concludes at 12 noon.

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