The dArpa ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Was held on Tuesday 16th October 2007 at 6:30pm

At the Disability Information and Resource Centre (DIRC),
195 Gilles St, Adelaide

Neil Lillecrapp (former director of DIRC) regaled the 20 people who attended with tales from his misspent youth and some humorous anecdotes from conferences he has attended and we all enjoyed the excellent food provided by Minda Catering. A great night was had by all, so a big thank you to Neil.

The dArpa 3rd State Conference

held 16th—17th July 2007 at Flinders University of South Australia was a success with many interesting speakers presenting their papers concerning Health and Disabilities — Issues and Strategies for Change.

Congratulations to Alicia Dean and Emilie Ripinskis who were the winners of the draw to win a two day pass to the conference (unfortunately Emilie was in Alice Springs and could not attend!).

Brian Matthews opening dArpa’s 3rd State Conference
Monday 16th July 2007

The first day of dArpa’s 3rd State Conference began with Professor Trevor Parmenter who set the tone of the conference with an interesting presentation concerning Integrated Health Services for People with a Disability. Professor Trevor Parmenter has had a long and noted career in the disability field and is contemplating retirement in the near future so we were very fortunate to have him take part in our conference.

Lunch, Morning and Afternoon Tea at the Conference was prepared by the Minda Incorporated Catering Department. Many conference attendees commented on how delicious the food was and all at very reasonable prices. If you need a caterer for your next event, please contact the Catering Department on 8422 6200 or by email audra.fletcher@minda.asn.au. dArpa also used the Minda Catering department for the October AGM and everyone had a good feed!!

Minda Incorporated catering department

As well as presenting at the conference, Annette Herbert supplied the unique Uneke® Wheat Wedges, the gifts given to each of the presenters.

Uneke Wheat Quilted Heat Packs and other products can be viewed on the web at www.instantwheatheat.com.au

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The second day of the conference was opened by Sue Miers who spoke passionately about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Related Disorders and Australia’s lack of attention in this important area. We strongly recommend you visit www.nofasard.org.au for more information.

On both days of the conference participants had the choice of two interesting presentations running concurrently. All presentations were professionally recorded and a DVD is currently being put together that will be available for purchase later in the year.

ARTIST’S WITH A DISABILITY

The dArpa 3rd State Conference provided Artists with a Disability the opportunity to display and sell their Artwork. Conference participants were asked to vote for their favourite piece of Artwork. There were joint winners of first prize, congratulations to Darren from Minda Incorporated and Rob from the Autism Association.
Entertainment at Conference

Each day of the conference ended with a performance by people with disabilities. The first day of the conference ended with a performance by No Strings Attached. The second day ended with a performance by the girls from the Del Sante All Abilities Rythmic Gymnastics Club. The Del Sante Gymnastics Club are looking for more members, of all abilities. If interested please contact Kay Sellers on 8325 0680 or Charmaine Mahar on 8346 8762.

Post Conference Dinner

The Conference ended with a dinner at the Morphettville Junction. The food and company (of course!) was wonderful, but not as good as the entertainment. Michelle was sensational on the keyboard and Fine Lines had everyone up and dancing well into the night. We would recommend both entertainers at any event, contact Tony Doyle to book on 8212 0390 or tdoyle.visions@bigpond.com

Upcoming Events - see http://darpa.asn.au/

The Music Works - on at the Governor Hindmarsh again on Tuesday November 2nd
Arts as Therapy Information and Support Network - Assessment & Evaluation - 5th November, 2007, 7 - 9pm, Seaview Downs.
Foundation Stones for Achieving Quality. A Training for Evaluation and Change (TEC) event, November 13, 2007,
Sommersault Sessions starting first week in October, 2007
Cultures of the body Research Group - "Ordinary Lives: Narratives of Disability", Friday 16th November, 4-7pm, Sat 17th November, 10am - 4pm. Free Event.

Call for Papers and Presentations
Combined Conference on Brain Injury - 2nd International Conference on Alcohol and other Drug Related Brain Damage + Brain Injury Australia National Conference AND MORE

First payment for carers of children with disability will occur in October
Carers of children with disability under 16 years who are receiving or are eligible to receive the Carer Allowance (Child) on 1 July this year will receive a payment of $1,000 to help meet the needs of their child. Announced as part of the Australian Government’s Disability Assistance Package, the Child Disability Assistance tax-free payment can be used for anything that helps. The payment will automatically be paid to eligible families in October 2007 with future payments being made annually on 1 July. More information: Disability Assistance Inquiry Line 1800 101 888, TTY 1800 260 402 or check the FaCSIA website.
LATEST NEWS FROM NDS

What should the new Business Service sector brand be called?
“For some time FaCSIA has received feedback from various sources that the term ‘business service’ is not widely recognised by those who would buy products from the sector, people with disability, their families and carers. In mid 2007, market research commissioned by the department and undertaken by Colmar Brunton Research identified that ‘potential customers, existing customers and business services’ managers feel that the term ‘Business Services’ is too generic’. The report also states that ‘many potential and existing customers feel the term ‘business services’ refers to administrative services that businesses can use such as accountancy or consultancy services. They feel the term ‘business services’ needs to be replaced with a brand name that captures the idea of high quality products and services tailored to suit business needs’.

A list of brand names were tested with existing and potential purchasers and business services managers through the market research process. ‘Bizability’ ranked top among business service managers and existing and potential customers, however, it does not easily communicate what the sector actually does without further explanation. The next highest ranking brand name was Disability Employers Australia, so this name (with a variation in word order) will be voted upon. The name ‘Australian Network of Disability Enterprises’ will also be tested but is similar to some already in use in the industry. A survey has been conducted seeking opinions about this and results will be released once analysed.

Research on employer strategies and mental illness
DEWR has engaged a consultant – Jenny Pearson and Associates - to conduct research and analysis of employer initiatives for the recruitment and retention of people with mental illness.

The project aims to identify and describe strategies used by employers to recruit and retain people with mental illness and to manage the impact of mental illness on their organisation. The project will analyse the potential for these strategies to be used by other employers in Australia. The consultant would like to interview 50 or more small, medium and large employers from a range of industry types (including the public sector) and located in metropolitan, regional and rural/remote areas. The project is due to commence on the 5 October 2007 and will be completed this financial year.

A Welcome Boost for Autism Services
National Disability Services (NDS), has welcomed promises by both the Australian Government and the Opposition to expand support and services to children with autism. The Government has promised to invest $190.7 million in diagnostic, early intervention and education services to children with autism, with additional assistance for children with high level needs. According to a detailed study completed early this year, one in every 160 Australian children aged between six and 12 years has an autism spectrum disorder. “Specialist support during the early stages of life is critical to helping these children develop, learn and participate in family and community life,” said NDS’s Chief Executive, Ken Baker. “With this announcement the Government has provided strong foundations for longer-term planning. Its challenge now is to ensure that services for people with autism, where required, are also readily available later in life.” At present, parents can be forced to wait for up to two years for a diagnosis of their child’s autism condition, with particular difficulties in rural and remote areas, and many children don’t receive the services they need. NDS also welcomed Federal Labor’s announcement today that, if elected to government, it would establish specialised child care and early intervention services for children with autism. “Ideally, mainstream child care centres would be equipped to respond to the needs of children with autism, but the reality is that these children often have unique needs which require specialist services,” said Dr Baker.
MORE NEWS FROM NDS

National Recreation Guidelines launched
NICAN has published National Recreation Guidelines to assist in the further development of consistent, meaningful and individualised recreation opportunities for people with disability based on:
- Recreation and leisure are major contributors to quality of life
- People with disability are individuals and have the same rights as all citizens
- People with disability should have full community access
- Participation in recreation is skill-related
- Participation in decision-making is essential
- Continuous improvement is required to obtain optimal outcomes for all.

The guidelines provide a starting point for any organisation to use, personalise and adopt and can be downloaded from http://www.nican.com.au/education/rec_guidelines.asp.

AsiaPacificDisability – Looking for Writers

AsiaPacificDisability are looking for submissions for a new disability magazine Fulcrum Magazine. People with, about, for and pretty much anything pertaining to disability … APD would like to know about it.

People with disabilities who would like to share their stories are especially encouraged to submit their ideas. If you would like to pitch story ideas, or get involved, please send your resume/some clips. If you don't have any of these, contact APD to see what can be set up.

www.fulcrum-magazine.com

NEWS FROM MINISTER WEATHERILL

NEW DISABILITY ADVISORY GROUPS TO INFORM GOVERNMENT ON DISABILITY ISSUES

The State Government is improving the way it receives advice on disability issues by giving people with disabilities and their relatives and carers greater roles in two new representative groups announced by Disability Minister Jay Weatherill. The Minister's Disability Advisory Council and the Disability Advisory Network of South Australia are an important part of the reforms to government disability services introduced last year.

The restructured Minister's Disability Advisory Council has a greater emphasis on members with a disability themselves, or those with experience with disability (such as a carer, parent or family member). “The Council’s mandate is to look at more than the circumstances facing any one individual - rather it will be giving me advice across the whole spectrum of disability,” Mr Weatherill said. “I want it to be a forum for strong and robust discussions with the expertise to provide advice to me as Minister without fear or favour.” I'm very pleased to announce that I have appointed Dr Lorna Hallahan as Chair and Neil Lillecrapp the Deputy Chair. The role of the Minister’s Disability Advisory Council is to provide strategic advice to the Minister for Disability on directions and advice on issues to do with access and inclusion across the whole of South Australia.

The other independent advisory body - the Disability Advisory Network - is made up entirely of people with a disability and is aimed at representing the voice of people who actually use disability services. It has wide representation across the regions and disability groups: Chair Jim Kidd, Deputy Chair Gayle Rankine. Representing people with brain injury: David Haslam, Peter Lane, Will Swart, Lisa Roncoli, Angela Bartlett. Representing people with intellectual disability: Richard Hilyard, Ian Cummins and Aaron Inglis. Representing people with a physical disability: Jamie Anne Albrecht, Gus Raddock, Heather Linton and Susan Naisbitt.