

May 2019 Newsletter

Happy Mother's Day





# Newsletter

# Editors Note Steven

With the Federal Election occurring this month it is the ideal time to confirm that you are registered to vote and that you make sure that your vote counts. I remember my father refused to vote and that he would rather receive a fine than to vote for "any of those idiots". Then one day he discovered a cause, Pauline Hanson's One Nation, and became an avid supporter and voter appreciating the fact that he lived in a country where he could vote and could contribute to change if it was needed.

Best of luck to all of the candidates and remember the promises that you make...

The 2019 Brisbane Fresh Futures Market is fast approaching - Wednesday 8th May! This event is an information expo specifically for students who are living with disability who are thinking about their post school plans. For the 1st time in 10 years BigDog will not be attending as I have other commitments on that day but I wish Theresa and her team the best of luck for the day.



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# Mews Hound COVEY Story Enrol to Vote Australian Electoral Commission

### I have a disability, do I have to enrol?

Yes, you are required by law to enrol and vote in federal elections and referendums.

If you find it difficult to get to a polling place on Election Day, you can apply to become a General Postal Voter to receive your ballot papers in the mail. The AEC also provides mobile polling to some hospitals, and uses accessible polling places wherever possible. In cases where an accessible polling place is not available, alternative arrangements are in place to assist those people who may be unable to access a polling place without assistance.

If you have a physical disability that prevents you from writing, you can get someone else to complete and sign an enrolment form for persons unable to sign their name on your behalf.

Some people may require additional support to enrol and vote, such as people with an intellectual, cognitive or psychosocial disability. The AEC provides a range of information written in Easy English. Easy English is more accessible for people who have difficulty reading and understanding written information.

### **Assisted Voting**

A person who holds a power of attorney for a voter is not permitted to vote for an elector, as there is no provision for proxy voting in federal elections in Australia.

#### What if I need assistance to vote?

Assistance is provided if the polling official in charge of the polling place is satisfied that you are unable to vote without help. Polling staff are trained on how to assist you.

You can nominate any person (except a candidate) to assist. This person could be a friend or relative, a Scrutineer or a party worker. If you do not nominate someone, then the polling official in charge will provide assistance.

If the polling official in charge is the one providing assistance, Scrutineers have the right to be present while the ballot papers are filled in. If assistance is being provided by a person nominated by you, you and the nominated assistant enter an unoccupied polling booth. The assistant helps to complete, fold and deposit the ballot paper in the ballot box. In this situation Scrutineers ARE NOT allowed to enter the polling booth while the ballot paper is being completed.

# My relative or friend requires assistance to vote. Am I allowed to assist them?

If a voter requires assistance, they are able to choose the person who assists them, whether they vote at a polling place or submit a postal vote.

If the voter is required to sign a declaration envelope but is unable to do so, they must make a mark and it must be appropriately witnessed. The witness must identity the fact that the voter made the mark by adding the words 'his mark' or 'her mark' above the elector's mark; and printing the voter's given name(s) to the left of the mark, and the voter's surname to the right of the mark. The person acting as witness must then sign as the witness.

# nois Updates



# Myplace provider portal changes

### Acknowledging compliance

The NDIA recently added a new mandatory tick box when providers submit a claim through the myplace provider portal. The tick box promotes payment correctness by prompting providers to acknowledge their payment claims comply with the terms outlined in the NDIS Price Guide.

Providers will be unable to progress through the payment request screen until the price guide declaration is checked.

Registered providers are expected to comply with the NDIA's Terms of Business and the NDIS Price Guide. The NDIS Price Guide is available on the NDIS website.

# New date format accepted in bulk payment requests

In response to Provider feedback, the NDIA has improved the myplace provider portal bulk payment request process to allow for the Australian date format (DD-MM-YYYY) as well as the international date format (YYYY-MM-DD).

Previously, only the international date format was accepted when providers uploaded a CSV file. The bulk payment request step-by-step guide has been updated to reflect this improvement, and is available in the Provider Toolkit.

### Improved step-by-step guides

To help make it easier for providers to find in-

formation on how to use the portal, the NDIA has improved the format of the myplace provider portal step-by-step guide—restructuring the information into four smaller guides that can be downloaded from the Provider Toolkit:

Part 1 Using the myplace provider portal

Part 2 Maintaining your information

Part 3 Managing your correspondence

Part 4 Administering your services

### **National Disability Strategy beyond 2020**

Help shape the National Disability Strategy beyond 2020

Providers, participants, their families, carers and the community are invited to have their say on the priorities and actions of the National Disability Strategy.

All Australian governments are working together to develop a new strategy that supports the vision for all Australians with disability to experience equal rights, access and opportunity beyond 2020.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is hosting the first stage of consultation between April and June 2019 including:

- a public survey (from mid-April)
- 3.5 hour face-to-face community workshops in every state and territory
- online forums (from mid-May)

For more information or to register to attend a workshop visit the DSS Engage website.

# In the World of Dis-Ability



### **Commissioners**

Disability groups are demanding two commissioners for the newly announced disability royal commission step down for the "good of people with disability".

In a joint statement, the Australian Federation of Disabilities Australia (AFDO), Disabled People's Organisations Australia, and Disability Advocacy Network Australia called for John Ryan and Barbara Bennett to step down over conflicts of interest that the groups say will severely hinder the effectiveness of the inquiry.

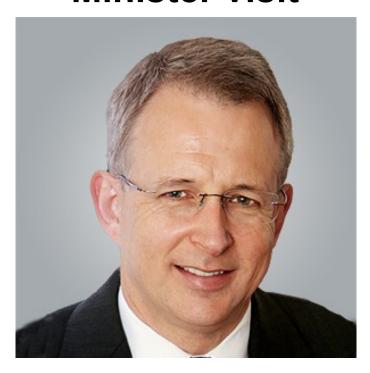
Concerns were raised over Ryan's senior role at the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, and Bennett's role as deputy secretary of the families and communities branch of the Department of Social Services – two departments likely to come under significant scrutiny during the royal commission.

"We understand that Mr Ryan and Ms Bennett are respected public servants who sought to make a positive contribution to ending abuse and violence through this royal commission," the statement said.

"However, we believe this work would be best served if they acknowledged their real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest and step aside. We call upon them to do this today in the best interests of people with disability, and the integrity of our royal commission."

It comes days after the three-year disability royal commission was officially launched by Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

### Minister visit



The Hon Paul Fletcher MP

#### Minister for Families and Social Services

Visiting Cobb+Co museum with Dr John McVeigh MP for Groom was Paul Fletcher MP who, as the Minister responsible for Social Services has a vested interest in the success of the NDIS and he was able to provide me with some of his valuable time to discuss my experience with the NDIS and seek my opinion on how I see the current situation.

I was able to voice my concerns around the long periods of time for reviews, the lack of or no contact or even updates around decision making and the loss of the personal touch that we experienced under the previous State system when providers had a Community Resource Officer (CRO) to assist with issues.

We both remain confident that NDIS will work.

Community NEWS

### **Show Time**



### **Royal Toowoomba Show**

#### **WIN NEWS Toowoomba**

Students from Clifford Park Special School have spent the day testing rides at the Toowoomba Royal Show, free of charge thanks to a great initiative.

The thrills and spills of sideshow alley attract kids of all ages but the noise and crowds can make it difficult for people with disability to join in on the fun.

To help include everyone in this quintessential show experience, the Toowoomba Show Society teamed up with the Showman's Guild to give students from Clifford Park Special School free and private rides as well as free show bags.

"The Showman's Guild of Australasia just open up their hearts every year in different places and this year it's Toowoomba, and really give them a good day at the show" said John Koehler the event organiser.

"It's just good to see the joy in the children's eyes when they're on the rides and the excitement of the bumps and the thrills," said Denis Janetzki Sub-Chamber President



# Community Partnerships

### Fresh Futures Market

Our best wishes to Theresa Madson NDCO Brisbane for the success of this important yearly event.

### **Save the Date!**



### WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019 FREE POST SCHOOL OPTIONS EXPO

### Brisbane City Hall 11am to 6pm

Connect with Local Resources and Support for your future Grab your free resource booklet!!!

The biggest and best information sharing event about Post School Options for people with disability the city has seen!

This free event is being organised by a committee represented by the following organisations:

NDCO, EQ, TAFE QLD, QDN, Mylestones, Inclusive Volunteering, Empowered Futures, Carers Link, DCA, Focal, Able, Independent Schools, Dept Social Services, iCare Support Services, Maxima, Endeavour.

### Advocacy

**Support Services** 

**Education** 

**Employment** 

Leisure

#### For more information:

Theresa Madsor NDCO

theresa madson@tafe qld edu a 0437 205 850

@Freshrutureswark

### Harmony Day

Changing Lives

**Show Time** 

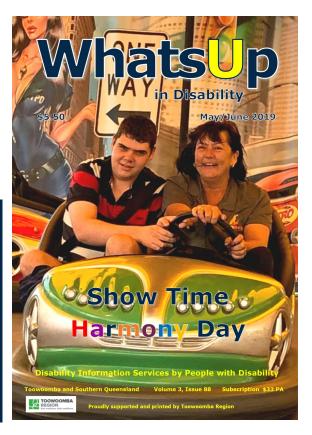
- Jet Star
- Victor's Moment
- NDIS Updates
- Assistive Technology
- Voting

Steven Paul President

May/June Magazine

WhatsUp in Disability

Stories in this issue include:



To obtain a copy of WhatsUp in Disability magazine or to be an advertiser, please contact WhatsUp via:

Office 4/33 Bell Street, Toowoomba

Email admin@whatsupindisability.org

Phone 4632 6678

Online www.whatsupindisability.org



## Victor enjoys a special moment





"When he first arrived at the club, we gave him a warmup tee shirt and he was over the moon. He's helped out with carrying the drinks and helped with the warmup as well."

During Saturday's encoun-

ter, the opportunity arose in the third quarter for Victor to run out onto the field alongside his team mates. He took it with both hands and sweetly slotted a goal to cap off a memorable afternoon for himself and his club.

"Hats off to Chinchilla for allowing us to get the footy down to Victor," Neumann said. "To be able to give a man an opportunity to do something he has always wanted to do and kick a goal in a game of footy was inspiring and a heartfelt moment."

Neumann gave a handball to Victor before he slotted the major, and he described it as an incredible moment to be a part of.

"It was spine tingling." Neumann said. "It was a good moment in community sport and it shows the reach of the game."

### Victor's first AFL goal a memory to savior

Sean Teuma Toowoomba Chronicle

Round two of the Allied Pickford's Cup fixture between South Toowoomba Bombers and the Chinchilla Suns at Heritage Oval seemed like a regular fixture.

Showing their class, the Bombers opened up a comfortable lead over the Suns, before laying the platform for a moment Victor Woodhouse will never forget.

Victor has an intellectual disability, but he has never let that stand in the way of one of his greatest passions, Aussie Rules.

"Victor is a big AFL supporter, loves his footy and loves getting around the boys," Bombers team mate Jeff Neumann said.

# What's happening in Queensland



QCOSS

Queensland Council of Social Service



# Changing Lives, Changing Communities

# Shelley Birrell, Senior Community Capacity Officer, QCOSS

In 2018/19, QCOSS, QDN and ADCQ held 14 Changing Lives, Changing Communities events across Queensland. These two-day events created new ways for people of each community to come together, envision and cocreate solutions by asking, "What will it take to create communities where everyone contributes, matters and belongs?"

To continue building our movement for change from the events, QCOSS has planned a momentum meeting in each of the locations. These meetings aim to continue to keep people in the community engaged and excited for the next Changing Lives, Changing Communities events.

#### What inspired you to be here?

Some of the responses included: Support and encouragement to continue the work, listen to others and learn, continue the energy from the event and support others – what we can do collaboratively is more than we can do individually, connect with people and continue to build relationships, start connecting the diverse pieces together and start achieving amazing things, stay informed, networking and continuing to use participatory processes

"If you go alone, you go quickly. If you go as a group, you go far"

Remove the barriers of connection – light at the end of the tunnel, keep the fire alive, community collaboration, kaleidoscope of different views, time to move, birds eye view, bring people together and pollination.

### WhatsUp in Disability involvement

Writing stories: putting people inside the heads of those with a disability

Still trying to find connections and supports to take the first step

- Looking for an accountability buddy
- Want to build and make an impact

What do we need to keep moving?

- Taking the leap one step at a time
- Telling profound stories

Visits to 'What's Up' for mentoring and opportunities



Photograph Gallery













# Travel Guide on Cruising



### **Pacific Dawn**

### **Cruise Tips**

### **Cruise Report**

First of all I need to say that the Pacific Dawn is an old ship and there are lots of areas where the layers of paint barely cover the orange rust.

It is also very wheelchair unfriendly.

But what the Pacific Dawn is, is it an ideal ship to undertake a mini-cruise. A number of theses cruises are themed around topics such as food and wine, comedy or even sports while P&O name their short cruises 'Sea Breaks'.

The cabins are generally very small and if you have over packed or if you are on the large size like myself, there isn't a lot of room to do your morning exercises.

But staying in your cabin is not the idea of taking a cruise. Get down to deck 7 and enjoy the restaurant, 2 themed bars, the theatre, a covered deck and wheelchair accessible toilets and you can basically go from one activity to another with fine food and drinks to boot.

We all had a great time when Victor and Caitlin were a part of the Karaoke concert.

The thorny subject of tips on cruise ships seems to be less of an issue for Australian cruisers since P&O, Princess and Carnival stopped charging gratuities.

P&O Australia eliminated all gratuities, leaving the choice to tip completely to each individual cruiser.

Still it was a lot of fun and I'm looking forward to the next cruise in the near future.

### **Packing**

Don't over pack

Know what the rules of the ship are (no power boards, alcohol etc)

Find out if there are any theme nights (Gatsby) and bring a costume or dress accessory

### **Dining**

Reserve your table in the restaurant early

Eating in the restaurant saves fighting the crowds in the food hall at breakfast or lunch

### **Ship Newsletter**

These useful itineraries include daily special offers, especially on sea days, such as a cocktail of the day, discounts or free drinks at the shops, spa raffles and discounted treatments.

### **Enjoy the free activities**

Stage shows, movies, trivia games, competitions or karaoke are fun and free.

Meet new people and have conversations

Don't be surprised to meet someone that you know on board, cruising is a very popular holiday activity and destination

#### **Mobile Phones**

Turn off Data Roaming

Better still switch to flight mode

Internet and data fees can be expensive

# Day Service with Sharon

### **May Special Event**

### Wednesday 8th May 2019

Main Roads Heritage Centre

Situated near the Toowoomba Airport the Heritage Centre contains lots of displays and machinery used in road building in Queensland.

# Main Roads Heritage Centre



The only road building museum in Australia and offers an exclusive perspective of the history of road building in Queensland.

Come discover how Queensland's road network has been developed, from the conditions under which road workers laboured, to the modern plant and equipment you see on roads today.



Wednesday 8th May 2019

**\$2.00 Entry** 

### **BigDog Day Service Toowoomba**

Paul Myatt Community Centre

11-15 Alexander Street

North Toowoomba 4350

#### Coordinator

**Sharon Price** 

Phone: 4512 6020

dayservice@bigdogsupport.com.au

### **May Fundraiser**

### Friday 24th May 2019

Morning Tea - Gold Coin Donation

All funds raised during May will go to the Cancer Council to support those impacted by cancer.



### **Hello** Evervone

You are invited to an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. Let's get together, enjoy some tasty treats, and together, we can support those impacted by cancer.

Host BigDog Support Services

Where 11-15 Alexander Street Toowoomba

Date Friday 24th May 2019

Time 10am to noon

Gold coin donation

RSVP by Monday 20th May 2019

Phone/Email admin@bigdogsupport.com





Rockhampton with SUZanne

Shyne on her first cruise





From Rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au:

Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow Presented by Rockhampton Regional Council

Sunday 5th May 7:30pm

The Pilbeam Theatre Victoria Parade



#### **Paris France**

Tragedy struck when the famed Notre Dame Cathedral, one of the most beloved landmarks in Paris, caught fire on Monday 15th April. The renowned Gothic church was in the midst of an \$180 million renovation.

The cathedral's famed spire, built in the mid-1800s, was lost in the blaze, but its two rectangular bell towers, seen as a highlight of the Parisian skyline, were saved.

Over 800 years old, Notre Dame de Paris Cathedral stands proudly at the city's centre with its famous rose windows, towers, gargoyles.

Dating back to its consecration in 1163, the building itself is a stone and stained-glass representation of Biblical stories and morals.

Like thousands of Australians who have visited Notre Dame we wish for a speedy restoration of this historic building.

### **BigDog Day Service Rockhampton**

206 Murray Street,

Allenstown, Rockhampton 4701

#### Coordinators

Suzanne Smith or Sarah Long

Phone: 4573 4611

ssmith@bigdogsupport.com.au

slong@bigdogsupport.com.au

# Safety matters with Steve

### **Tobacco & Lung Health**

Every year, on 31 May, the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day. The annual campaign is an opportunity to raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.

The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2019 is on "tobacco and lung health." The campaign will increase awareness on:

- the negative impact that tobacco has on people's lung health, from cancer to chronic respiratory disease,
- the fundamental role lungs play for the health and well-being of all people.

The campaign also serves as a call to action, advocating for effective policies to reduce to-bacco consumption and engaging stakeholders across multiple sectors in the fight for to-bacco control.



### **May Staff Training**

# disABILITY AWAREness An Introduction to Disability

Disability awareness is an important part of establishing inclusion for people with disability. Often our fears and discomfort about interacting with people with disability is based on lack of knowledge, uncertainties, and stereotypes that can influence your attitudes. It makes sense that the more informed you are the more likely that you will feel comfortable communicating and interacting with someone with a disability at work or in your community.

Misconceptions about people with disability are often the result of lack of awareness.

Developed as part of the Australian Government initiative, National Disability Coordination Officer Program, Disability Awareness Training is an eLearning training freely available in Australia. Its content is ideal for someone who has minimal or no knowledge of disability, and can be used as a refresher course to be applied across the workplace and community.

This training is designed to introduce you to four key topics that begin to increase your knowledge of disability. The modules include activities that can be completed as self-paced learning, or be used as a tool for face-to-face discussions in your workplace, community group, school or social network.

Please visit this site, complete the modules and submit your PASS email to the office

https://disabilityawareness.com.au

# Staff information with ANN

# easy**employer**"

complexity simplified

### **Availability feature**

Availability can be submitted through the application or the online portal. If a user needs to adjust or change their availability this can be easily completed through the application.

- 1. Login to the easy**employer** application
- 2. Select 'Availability' from the list
- 3. The date range will be displayed at the top of the page.
- 4. Weeks can be scrolled through by tapping the arrows located on either side of the date.
- 5. To change availability select a day by tapping on it.
- 6. Availability changes can be made by selecting one of the periods of time displayed.
- 7. A custom range can also be selected by tapping the 'Add a custom range' option.
- 8. The time that has been designated as unavailable will have an orange line next to it.
- 9. Once a period has been selected users can submit availability by navigating back to the week view and tapping the 'Submit' button.
- 10.Once submitted users will need to check that their availability changes have been accepted or approved by their supervisor/manager.

### Labour Day in Queensland

Public Holiday Monday 6th May 2019

Labour Day is an annual holiday to celebrate the achievements of workers. Labour Day has its origins in the labour union movement, specifically the eight-hour day movement, which advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest.











# May the Fourth be with you!

### Star Wars Day Saturday 4th May 2019

May 4 is called Star Wars Day because of the popularity of a common pun spoken on this day. Since the phrase "May the Force be with you" is a famous quote often spoken in the Star Wars films, fans commonly say "May the fourth be with you" on this day.

### **Lost Trades Fair**

### Saturday 4th May 10:00am - 4:00pm

Cobb+Co Museum 27 Lindsay St Toowoomba Master artisans and traditional tradesmen and women with hundreds of combined years of training will demonstrate and share their skills and talent for heritage trades at Lost Trades Fair in Queensland.

Tickets \$5 - \$18 pay at event

### **Hampton Festival**

### Sunday 19th May 2019 9:30am - 4:00pm

Chapman Park New England Hwy Hampton

Set in the unique atmosphere of our highcountry village under the majestic blue gums, the Hampton Festival is a vibrant celebration of local food production, regional artisans and music, local wine and craft beers. It offers visitors a unique and authentic high-country experience which highlights the autumn season, the natural beauty and bounty of local produce. Entry \$12 children free

### Mother's Day Sunday 12th May 2019

Many Australians follow the Mother's Day traditions that stem from observances in countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom. The Mother's Day date in Australia is the same as the date observed in the United States, which is the second Sunday of May each year.

I bet that you didn't know that it is an Australian who is credited with having started the tradition of giving gifts on Mother's Day: Janet Heyden, a resident of Leichhardt Sydney, started a campaign in 1924 to collect gifts for lonely aged mothers.

### **Mother's Day Classic**

2.5km walk or 5km run

The Mother's Day Classic is a nation-wide community based event that raises funds for breast cancer research. Come together on Mother's Day to remember, celebrate and honour those touched by breast cancer.

#### Toowoomba Community Services **Breakfast**

### Friday 24th May 2019 7:00am

Emerge Café, 1 Station Street Toowoomba Guest speakers Jen Shaw, Managing Director Emerge Café (Social Enterprise) and Dr John McVeigh Federal MP for Groom.

\$20 per person RSVP by 17th May



### REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY & WALK AGAINST DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

A community march to create awareness and bring an end to domestic violence. Join us at 4.30pm to paint posters for our Walk Against Domestic Violence or bring along your own posters and banners.

Inclusive of all genders. Families welcome.

March is approximately 700 meters.

Wednesday, 1st May 2019 4:30 pm - 7:30pm

Village Green Victoria Street, Toowoomba

This event is part of the 2019 Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month

- Poster painting starting at 4.30pm
- · Sausage Sizzle
- March starts 5.15pm
- Candle lighting vigil starting at 6pm
- Speeches

Registrations are not required

For more information contact the Domestic Violence Action Centre (DVAC) at



# JPs in the Community

### Justice of the Peace

This service is available at our administration office at 232 Ruthven Street Toowoomba (please make an appointment)

The JPs in the Community Program is also available through major shopping centres, libraries, court houses and hospitals.



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
Making a world of difference
20-26 May 2019

# **BigDog**

### **Contact Us**

**BigDog Support Services** 

232 Ruthven Street Toowoomba QLD 4350

PO Box 234 Harlaxton QLD 4350

(07) 4632 9559

1800 22 44 32

0427 408 698 (On Call)

www.bigdogsupport.com

# What's happening at







an NDIS service contract, using BigDog cleaning equipment.
Cleaning teams consist of 2 members and charged per person per hour









