

DISABILITY ACT

ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Information Meeting

MEETING REPORT

9 MARCH 2010

This report is a summary of the major issues that were discussed at the last quarterly *Accommodation Support Services Information* meeting which was held on 9 March 2010.

Information – Advocacy for Inclusion Project

Ms Robyn James, Project Worker – Advocacy for Inclusion

Ms Robyn James, Project Worker from Advocacy for Inclusion addressed the meeting. Advocacy for Inclusion is undertaking a project to look at the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities living in group homes and other supported accommodation.

The project will examine nutrition, diet and sense of wellbeing through interviews primarily with the person with a disability. The project is expected to be finalised in June 2010. The information from the project is expected to be used to develop training for people with disability and their support networks.

Mr Whale and Ms Starick, Senior Manager Accommodation Support Service, have identified a group of potential people with disability in the group homes with a variety of support needs. Disability ACT will be approaching their family members / guardians to seek their involvement.

If you have a family member who would like to participate in the project please contact Robyn James on ☎6286 9422 or contact the Disability ACT Network Coordinator.

Introduction – Disability ACT Quality, Safety and Risk Manager

Ms Agnes Sarlay - Disability ACT Health Manager

Mr Whale introduced Ms Agnes Sarlay (Aggie) to talk about her experience and role. Ms Sarlay has worked in the health area for over 30 years as nurse in the public and private sectors and 6 years experience working in the area of Quality

Safety and Risk Management both in the private sector and ACT Health. Aggie commenced working in Disability ACT in May 2009.

Her role with Disability ACT has been to:

- conduct investigations and risk assessments;
- analysis individual, systemic and strategic risk, health and safety issues;
- provide clinical support to Disability ACT support staff in regard to client health care needs.
- review of Admission and Discharge from hospital procedures for Disability Clients in consultation with ACT Health.
- liaising with ACT Health when clients are in hospital or have been taken to Accident and Emergency

Aggie has been involved with General Practitioners in regard to annual Medicare comprehensive health assessments for people with Intellectual Disabilities.

Update / Discussion – Future Directions

Ms Fiona McIntosh – Disability ACT Policy Officer

Ms Fiona McIntosh, Disability ACT Policy Officer, gave a presentation to the meeting on *Future Directions: Towards Challenge 2014*, released late last year, a policy framework to improve outcomes and opportunities for Canberrans who have a disability.

Next Meeting

8 June 2010
4.30 pm to 6.30 pm
Beaufort Room, Level 1
Nature Conservation House,
Cnr Emu Bank and Benjamin Way
Belconnen.

The framework, developed by the Strategic Governance Group through extensive consultation in May and June 2009, will guide priority areas for disability policy and service delivery through to 2014. It builds on the work of the previous framework, *Future Directions: A Framework for the ACT 2004-2008* as well as assist in achieving goals outlined in *Challenge 2014 – A ten year vision for disability in the ACT*.

Ms McIntosh detailed the 6 strategic priorities. A 12 month implementation plan has been developed and is focusing initial action until October 2010. There are 42 commitments in the implementation plan and action has commenced on 33 of these to date.

An implementation plan for 2010 – 2014 will be developed in consultation with individuals, families and community and government stakeholders by September 2010.

Ms McIntosh went through the action of 7 new action groups that have been established to implement Future Directions : Towards Challenge 2014.

Further information can be accessed on the Disability ACT website at http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/disability_act/sgg or if you have questions or feedback you can contact Ms Fiona McIntosh on ☎ 6207 5594.

Information – National Disability Strategy and National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Mr Andrew Whale – Director Disability ACT

Early last year the Commonwealth established the Disability Investment Group (DIG). The Group's role was to explore innovative funding ideas from the private sector that will help people with disability and their families access greater support and plan for the future.

A copy of the DIG report , "The Way Forward – A New Disability Policy Framework For Australia" can be accessed at

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/pubs/policy/way_forward/Documents/default.htm.

Productivity Commission Project - Disability Care and Support Public inquiry

The Productivity Commission is undertaking an inquiry into a National Disability Long-term Care and Support Scheme. The inquiry will begin in April 2010 and report by July 2011. For more information and to register your interest the

inquiry home page is at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support>.

You can register online or download form from inquiry home page.

The principal recommendation in the DIG's report was the commission of a comprehensive feasibility study on a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Exploration of the possible model of a NDIS is part of the Productivity Commission inquiry scope.

The proposal is that a NDIS would provide a lifetime approach to care and support for people with disability and would replace the current arrangements for funding specialist disability services based on prioritisation basis. Eligible people would be entitled to services determined on an individualised plan and needs basis, giving them access to an appropriate whole-of-life suite of services and support. The costs of a NDIS may be funded from general revenue or through a Medicare-like levy.

Discussion – Suggestions for Future Meeting Themes and Presenters

Mr Andrew Whale – Director Disability ACT

Mr Whale asked for suggestions for future meeting topics, commenting that the themed meetings have been working effectively. Suggestions were made in relation to Housing ACT, Public Trustee and the ACT Disability and Community Services Commissioner as future attendees / presenters.

Service Agreements were also raised as a theme for a future meeting. Mr Whale advised that the Department was working on a proposed Services Agreement that would be provided to families later this year for discussion. The aim of the Service Agreement is to clarify the relationship between Disability ACT as the service provider and the clients of our Accommodation Services.

Ideas or comments for Future Meeting Topics and Presenters should be forwarded to andrew.whale@act.gov.au.

Who can I contact for information?

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