

DISABILITY ACT

MEET THE DIRECTOR

Meeting Report

10 March 2009

This report is a summary of the major issues that were discussed at the last quarterly *Meet the Director* meeting which was held on 10 March 2009.

Future Meeting Formats

ANDREW WHALE, DIRECTOR

Disability ACT would like to invigorate future meetings by introducing themes for each meeting and by seeking feedback on how the meetings can be formatted to best suit the needs of attendees.

The issue will be discussed in more detail at the June meeting, however ideas are welcome before then.

Advice about the theme for the June meeting will be included in the reminder letter to be sent out in May.

Ideas or comments should be forwarded to andrew.whale@act.gov.au.

Family Governance Forum

IAN ROSS, PROJECT OFFICER, ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Disability ACT in association with Community Connections and FLY will host a workshop on 3 April 2009 at the Manuka Stadium Function Centre to discuss:

*What contributes to a good life; and
What makes a good home.*

Presenters from Canberra and interstate will share insights about their successes and struggles with these questions and they will discuss how people who have a disability have been able to develop lives “on their own terms” within their communities, and the innovative ways in which families, allies and services have assisted them through working with the individuals to develop personalised supports.

The Forum will cost:

\$150 for People employed by an agency or professionals; and,
\$45 for people with a disability, families and allies.

Sponsorships are available.

On 4 April 2009 there will be an opportunity for people with disabilities, their families and allies to have further conversations with a number of the key presenters. Places are limited so you should book early.

Bookings and additional information can be obtained by calling the Disability ACT Information Service on (02) 62071086.

A more detailed flyer will be made available closer to the date of the workshop.

Case Manager Role

KATE STARICK, SENIOR MANAGER ACCOMMODATION SERVICES AND PIETA MAGUIRE, CASE MANAGER

For the duration of the next four and a half months a case manager position is being trialled in Disability ACT. The role is currently occupied by Pieta Maguire and is

designed to work intensively with clients as they go through any period of major change, such as when they are leaving school, upon retirement or if they are having problems at home, etc.

The case manager will work to better connect all the people and organisations that a client may be having contact or involvement with.

Feedback on the effectiveness of the trial will be given at the next meeting.

Update on Staffing Issues

DEB STRATFORD, SCHEDULING OFFICE
COORDINATOR

Christmas Staffing Report.

There were some late changes of staff over the Christmas period due to changes in client needs. This caused some short term difficulties but overall things did go smoothly.

Some DSO2 and DSO3 staff negotiated with the team to ensure familiar staff would be rostered on.

Staff did work one on one with the scheduling office in relation to increase timeframes and to complete the changeover of shifts.

Staffing in General

Disability ACT has almost reached the maximum level of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions as provided in the budget. This is a huge improvement on this time last year when the staffing numbers were down by approximately 75.

The ratio of approximately 75% of DSO staff being employed by Disability ACT and the other 25% being agency staff, has remained constant over the past year.

Consistency and Strategies to Staff Houses

The Scheduling Office has the mechanisms and processes in place to

ensure consistency of staffing. We do welcome suggestions from the houses.

Resources are used in the most effective way and the temporary staff registers are used as required to fill DSO2 and DSO3 vacancies until relevant recruitment action can be taken.

Flu Vaccinations

KATE STARICK, SENIOR MANAGER,
ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT SERVICES

With the winter period almost upon us, Disability ACT will be talking to parents and guardians in the near future to encourage them to have their child vaccinated with the Flu Vax. The aim of this is to protect the health of the client as well as to reduce the risk of a pandemic breaking out.

Disability ACT will also conduct a planning exercise in the near future with the Community Recovery and Emergency Planning team to cover any contingencies that might arise. Arrangements for the exercise are currently being progressed.

Remaining Meeting Dates in 2009

9 June 2009

15 September 2009

8 December 2009

Meetings are held at NDS House, 33 Thesiger Circuit, Deakin, 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

Andrew Whale
Director, Disability ACT