

Disability ACT

Meet the Director Meeting Report

10 June 2008

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 June 2008.

Commonwealth State & Territory Disability Agreement

ANDREW WHALE, DIRECTOR, DISABILITY ACT

The five-year Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) provides the national framework for the delivery, funding and development of specialist disability services for people with disabilities.

The CSTDA 3 has been extended until 31 December 2008. Bi-lateral agreements have been extended until 31 December 2008.

Following the Disability Ministers meeting of 30 May 2008, Australian Government agreed to match the ACT Government's \$15.8 million funding boost for accommodation and support services announced in the 2007-08 ACT Budget.

\$15.23 million of the money will go to additional individual support packages, flexible respite care options, more supported accommodation places, and increased community access places.

In addition \$1.69 million of capital funding has been allocated to the ACT, which will be used to provide additional accommodation options.

Review of Role of Government

LEANNE POWER, DIRECTOR

Ms Power provided an update on the Review of the Role of Government. The Review focused on the strategic priorities that need to be considered in the delivery of disability services over the next 5-7 years.

Through a very comprehensive consultation process with a wide range of stakeholders, the Review has delivered a set of 12 recommendations that, together with the recommendations from the Evaluation of Future Directions, continue to bring us closer in reaching the aspirations articulated in *Challenge 2014*.

The final think tank report is available on Disability ACT website at <http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au>.

Next Quarterly Meet the Director Meeting

9 September 2008

NDS House

33 Thesiger Circuit, Deakin

4.30pm to 6.30pm

All parents, family members and guardians are welcome.

aCe

LOUISE COOPER-FINCH, MANGER, DISABILITY ACT INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE TEAM

Ms Cooper-Finch advised on the transition of aCe to LEAD effective from 16 June 2008.

Advancing Competencies through Experience (aCe) aCe is an activity-based program that runs each week from Monday to Friday for people who have a disability provided by Disability ACT since 1997 providing opportunities for people with a disability who have completed school and are not ready or may not be able to enter full time work or training to learn new skills, develop friendships and access the community.

The ACT Government stated its intention to move the aCe Program to the community in 2006 and from that time, Disability ACT undertook a consultation process with families, clients and staff of aCe to talk about how this might best happen.

Face-to-face meetings were held, information sheets and letters prepared and strategic stakeholders in government were regularly briefed. In addition an advisory group comprising family representatives, client representatives, client advocacy groups and Disability ACT staff was set up to provide guidance on the change process.

A tender process was held earlier this year and LEAD (formerly Community Programs Association) was identified as the preferred tender. LEAD is a large service that provides a wide range of community access and vocational services and is committed to providing individually tailored services in regular community settings. They are also a registered training organisation and provide career pathway opportunities to client of their vocational services.

aCe will transition to LEAD in two stages over an 18-month period and Disability ACT is working closely with LEAD and aCe participants to ensure a smooth transition.

Stage 1 of the transition to LEAD including delivery of full services was completed by 13 June 2008. Disability ACT will maintain a partnership role during Stage 2 to monitor the transfer of service over the next 18 month transition period. No concerns have been raised about the transition. Forty six community access options have been offered to participants with an increased range of activities. All activities are in the community.

Team Leader Training

KATE STARICK, SENIOR MANAGER
ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT

Ms Starick advised on the team leader training which commenced on 4 June 2008.

Team leader training package has been designed specifically for team leaders (DSO 2s). DSO 1s who has the potential and interest in team leading are also invited to attend this training.

Topics covered in the training includes:

- Role of a team leader
- Knowing (and shaping) your environment
- Managing yourself and knowing your leadership style
- Team dynamics
- Performance management
- Delegation
- Managing upwards and outwards
- Chairing meetings
- Practice issues in leading support workers

This course will be incorporated into the Disability ACT training calendar.