



Windermere®

*everyone is someone
in our community*

Disability Services

Spring 2011 Edition

Disability Team Update

Over the last 12 months, Disability Services has been participating in a DHS Demonstration Project for Redevelopment for Flexible Support Packages "My Way". As Project Manager Jeannie Mawditt has been instrumental in redeveloping the intake tool the team uses when a person is being referred for support, as well as contributing to the development of the Priority Needs Register, and policies/procedures and resources around self managing services. Along with Jeannie, Julie Pierce joined the team as a Support Coordinator as part of the Demonstration Project.

The project was completed in August, and Disability Services at Windermere continue to implement the new intake tool and Priority Needs Register. Whilst we had to say a sad farewell to Jeannie, Julie was successful in obtaining an ongoing position with the Disability Team, taking over Linda Grellman's case management position.

DHS will be completing a review of each of the 4 demonstration projects which ran across the state. Outcomes of the project may lead to improved guidelines for Flexible Support Packages.

Carer Wellbeing Workshops

The Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre Southern Region and Windermere are presenting a series of workshops, facilitated by Carers Victoria. The series of workshops are scheduled to run over four sessions from October to December, with each workshop covering a different topic.

1. Impact on Caring ~Thursday 13th October
2. Caring for Yourself ~ Thursday 27th October
3. Dealing with Professionals ~ Friday 18th November
4. Relaxation & seasonal lunch ~ Thursday 8th December

All sessions are free and are running from 10am-12pm followed by a light lunch until 1pm. The sessions are being held at Suite 3, level 1, 31 Princes Highway, Dandenong.
Please RSVP by 30th September to 9212 3000.



National Disability Insurance Scheme Update

As you may or may not be aware Julia Gillard announced in August that the Government shares the vision of a National Disability Insurance Scheme and will begin to work towards laying the foundations of accepting

the recommendations of the Productivity Commissioner's report and introducing a new way to fund disability supports. All states and territories have signed up towards establishing a NDIS. Although all have agreed to an NDIS, there is still a long road ahead with developing a national disability scheme, timelines and funding. The Baillieu government has put it's hand up to run a trial. So we are on our way to having better access but it is still a matter of watch this space at the moment....

The Disability Team

Acting Manager:	Tracey Millen
Coordinator:	Ainsley Rosario
Team Leader:	Debby Conlon

Case Managers/Facilitators:

Tracy Leak, Jenni Harvey, Nicole Thomas, Sarah Riches, Kamilia Stephan, Pam Campbell-McLean, Tamara Campbell-McLean, Julie Pierce, Cheryle Koesemans.

Disability and Continece Support Scheme Administration:	Teresa Gibson
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Communication Access

We can all recognize the wheelchair access sign for people with mobility issues. But what about people who have communication difficulties and would like to access the community independently? Scope has been working hard to develop a symbol that is universally recognized for communication access. Scope has recently developed a symbol that lets people know whether a shop or service is communication accessible.

Good communication is good business and Scope has been working with some shopping centers and particularly some shops on developing resources and materials in how to make communication more accessible.

For more information about the new symbol and how the Communication Resource Centre can support you please visit Scope's website www.scopevic.org.au and search for Communication Resource Centre.



Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria

The Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria (DVRCV) is starting a project at examining and addressing the issue of family violence against women with disabilities.

Research and evidence has shown that women with disabilities compared to woman without a disability are:

- At a significant higher risk of violence
- Have fewer pathways to safety
- Experience more diverse violence
- And experience violence at the hands of more perpetrators

DVRCV is looking to recruit woman with disabilities to participate in some training sessions and to work with DVRCV to develop and deliver a forum around the issues.

If you are interested in participating or know of some one who would be ideal for this program please contact Rachel or Lorraine at DVRCV on 9486 9866.



DisabiliTEA

On the 2nd August, the Disability Team held a DisabiliTEA as part of the NDIS Every Australian Counts campaign.

The tea was one of more than 900 held across Australia to help highlight the need for a change in the way people with disabilities are supported.



Changes to Medicare

Important changes to some Medicare benefits. There has been a name change to the "Enhanced Primary Care Plan". This is now known as the **Chronic Disease Management Plan**. People can access a Chronic Disease Management Plan for access to Allied Health Professionals such as Physiotherapists, Speech Pathologists, Chiropractors, Dieticians, Podiatrists, etc. Your local GP can assist with writing up a Chronic Disease Management Plan, just remember to ask reception for an extended appointment when booking your appointment.

The "Mental Health Care Plan" has also had a name change just to keep us on our toes. It is now referred to as the **Better Access to Mental Health Care Plan**. The Better Access to Mental Health Care plan is available to anyone who is feeling a little overwhelmed. The plan provides you with 12 sessions of individual therapy with a Psychologist, Occupational Therapist or a Social Worker as well as 12 group sessions per calendar year.