



The Gippsland Carer



RACV Support for Carers



A recent grant from the RACV Community Funds Program has provided much needed support for Carers Place in Morwell.

Local Moe Branch Manager Bill Ellis came to visit recently to present the cheque. Funds received will provide administration support for our Carer Centre. This will support the Carer Mentor to visit carers in their homes and assist with linking them to services, providing information and education.



Housing & Accommodation in Gippsland

The first meeting of our new Housing Accommodation Subgroup has taken place, with another one planned this month.

After only one meeting we have already had many further enquiries by interested persons, from both the community and service providers.

The subgroup are first looking at options in Latrobe City before looking further afield.

The group is considering what options are around that have been successful in other places, what locations could be considered as well as looking for business partnerships that can assist in the funding and building of housing and accommodation.

Gippsland Carers will also be hosting a workshop/forum in May which will be focussed around accommodation and housing.

We will be hosting a guest speaker from the

Mornington Peninsula Carers Group where they have built the "Hastings" model.

We will be looking for feedback from local carers to find out what they are in need of, what their ideas are for successful accommodation options and what they think might be a workable project.

The forum will be held on Tuesday 26th May, 2015 at Kernot Hall in Morwell. Registration for the day will commence shortly.

Inside this Issue:

Carer Mentor comes to you	Page 2
Housing Subgroup	Page 1
Membership Form	Page 8
Innovation Frenzy	Page 3
Forum Details	Insert



Rest In Peace Judy

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing on of one of our long term committee members, Judy Ferguson after suffering from illness for some time.

Judith Ann Ferguson

14th June 1941 - 21st January 2015



Judy was well loved by all members of the committee, and was the quiet achiever.

Judy was a carer for a long time, caring for her son, even till the very end, and had a good understanding of the troubles that faced carers in today's society.

Several committee members attended the funeral in Sale to pay our last respects and pass on our condolences to the Ferguson family.



*Are you an unpaid family carer?
Do you know all the supports and options that are available?
Do you need some help or advice to find these things out?
We Can Help!*

Gippsland Carers Association have a Carer Mentor, Melissa Marr, who is helping unpaid and family carers to find the information and links to services that they need.

Melissa travels around in our little red car, Suzi, visiting carers all over Gippsland.

Melissa has been busy contacting service providers and finding out information so that carers can get the assistance they need.

If you would like a visit or phone call from Melissa, please give us a call or send us an email.

Melissa is also coordinating our GCA Support Group. If you would like more information on this, please contact us!

Our hours are Tuesday to Thursday, 9am to 4pm. If it is outside this time, please leave us a message and **we'll get back to you as soon as we can.**

Or drop in for a visit and see us at Carers Place—no appointment is necessary!

Office:
Carers Place
185 Commercial Rd, Morwell
(03) 5133 3343
info@gippslandcarers.org

Melissa Marr:
(0429) 892 260
carermentor@gippslandcarers.org



From the President's Desk



There is no message from our president this time, as she has recently had a car accident and is still recovering. She is okay, but bruised and battered, and not up to writing newsletter articles.

The Innovation Frenzy

Extracts from an article by Max Jackson & Marg Ryan, 3 March, 2015

What is truly new in accommodation for people with disabilities? - Is there really a housing model or approach or design in accommodation that has not yet been tried?

Innovation in disability accommodation

Over recent years the call for innovation has become a catch-cry in the advertising of funding initiatives in terms of disability accommodation.

What is meant by the word innovation? Does it mean there is a requirement for a completely new, never yet tried approach or model? Must it be something original and more effective and something that breaks the mold? Or does it mean taking an existing model and applying new technology? Is it the underlying suggestion, that it must be new, never before tried but above all else it must be innovative in the true sense of the word of being original? By a process of **elimination this seems to suggest that submissions tainted by the 'old' or that dare reflect anything of yesterday's models will not be funded.**

Therefore, if both current and yesterday's models are knocked out of the running for new funding, the question must be asked - Is there really a housing model or approach or design in accommodation that has not yet been tried that is truly original?

What does innovation mean in terms of disability residential accommodation?

In order to address this question we must firstly ask: What residential accommodation options are available in the community? Then we must also ask ourselves: What models or approaches are currently operating in the disability sector? And further: What models or types of accommodation are rejected under the new philosophy?

When considering a broad sweep of the types of accommodation settings available to non-disabled people and those known by the writers to have been applied in the disability sector, the options for disabled residential accommodation it effectively reduces the options to three (Living in family home with family, single person living alone in a house or unit, or individual supported accommodation)

Equal opportunity

Along with the right to be treated like others in the community is also the much-promoted concept of choice, this being that people with disabilities have the right to choose where they live, with whom and in what type of accommodation. Yet, despite this immutable right, if the option sought through a funding application is anything other than that deemed to innovative, it will be rejected.

Equally, by rejecting reasonable models that already exist or exist for the rest of the community, where is the choice for those people with disabilities who want to move out of the family home? Where is the choice for those aging parents who are forced to continue to have to care for their sons and daughters with disabilities in the family home because there is no other option? And, where is the choice for those families who might join together and who seek other accommodation options, or who are self-starters and initiate submissions for funding?



Earlier this month thousands of Every Australian Counts supporters emailed the head of the National

Disability Insurance Agency to ask them to release their plan for housing under the NDIS.

The response?

The housing options paper prepared by the Agency over twelve months ago has been binned!

Instead they are going to discuss the issue again at the next national meeting of disability **ministers in April. Yep, that's it. More talk,** when what we need is action.

For Mandi who is only 30 and has been living in aged care facilities for the last four years, a discussion next month is not going to solve her living arrangements.

For 75-year-old Greg who is worrying about what will happen to his daughter when he and **his wife can't care for her anymore, a discussion between ministers won't give him** the peace of mind he needs.

It is taking too long for the governments to come up with a plan and so we are making our own. The Every Australian Counts DIY Disability Housing Plan

We need your help. Tell us what kind of housing you need to support you to live your life to the full, or tell us what options you want available for someone that you support.

We'll compile all your responses and present them to the ministers ahead of their April meeting.

It really is time to take housing out of the too hard basket. Share your story today. The more stories we collect, the stronger the pressure for action.

Yours

John Della Bosca

For the Every Australian Counts team.



SENATOR MITCH FIFIELD
 ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES
 MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE
 SENATOR FOR VICTORIA

18-March-2015

MEDIA RELEASE

FUNDING EXTENSIONS FOR DISABILITY AND CARER PROGRAMMES

The Abbott Government today delivered certainty to thousands of people with disability, carers, families and their advocates by extending funding for a range of programmes transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The Assistant Minister for Social Services, Senator **Mitch Fifield**, said the Government's priority was to ensure continuity of services to families and carers as the transition to the NDIS begins.

"Families, carers and children will continue receiving quality care and services as there will be no interruption as programmes migrate to the NDIS," Minister Fifield said.

Minister Fifield said the Government had extended funding to the following programmes:

- Helping Children with Autism (HCWA)
- Better Start for Children with Disability (Better Start)
- Young Carers Respite and Information Service (YCRISP)
- Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability (OTD)
- Respite Support for Carers of Young People with Severe or Profound Disability (RSCYP)
- National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP)

The contract extensions will provide around \$47 million to service providers across the country.

Minister Fifield said the Government will extend funding for key support elements of the HCWA package and Better Start initiative through to 30 June 2016. This applies to all support elements that have not fully transitioned into NDIS trial sites and are not provided as part of NDIS.

"As these are extensions to current funding agreements, there is no need for providers to re-apply for funds," Minister Fifield said.

A funding extension to 30 June 2016 covers the Young Carers Respite and Information Service, Respite Support for Carers of Young People with Severe or Profound Disability (RSCYP), and Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability (OTD) programmes where providers have not fully transitioned into NDIS trial sites and are delivering services either to young carers, carers of young people with severe or profound disability, or students with permanent and significant disability.

"I have moved to ensure certainty for these critically important programmes supporting young carers and those looking after young people who live with disability," Minister Fifield said.

Minister Fifield also announced funding assurance to current providers of the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP), with a 12-month extension to all agreements.

More than 11,500 people received support through the NDAP in 2013-14.

Existing three-year agreements with providers were due to expire on 30 June 2015, but have now been extended until 30 June 2016.

"The extension allows advocacy groups to continue supporting people with disability while planning takes place for the future of the NDAP," he said.

"As the NDIS rolls out across Australia, NDAP providers will continue to assist people with disability to participate in decisions that impact their lives, including helping them access both the NDIS and mainstream services."

Victoria is set to receive approximately an extra \$9.9 Million.

Accommodation Subgroup

The first meeting has been held for the Housing Accommodation Subgroup and by the time you read this, the second meeting will most likely also have taken place.

There has already been great interest shown by family carers, members of the community and service providers in getting this group up and running.

Meetings will be co-chaired by Latrobe City Mayor, Cr Dale Harriman, who has always shown support for the association.

In order to cater for the needs of the growing group, our meetings will be held at Latrobe Regional Art Gallery meeting room.

If anyone is interested in finding out more information about the group, or would like to join, please feel free to contact the office on 5133 3343 or info@gippslandcarers.org (Tues—Thurs) to find out more.

The group will be meeting on the fourth Wednesday each month, at 10:30 am.

Meetings are scheduled for:

- 25th Mar - 22nd Apr
- 26th May (Forum) - 24th June
- 22nd July - 26th Aug
- 23rd Sep - 28th Oct - 25th Nov



SOUTH GIPPSLAND CARERS

South Gippsland Carers is a group of carers and families of people with additional needs and frail aged

We are there for all carers who live in the South Gippsland region, and we provide support, social get-togethers, information sharing and regular meetings

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month during school Term 10am – 12 noon .

Memorial Hall Meeting Room 2 Michael Place Leongatha (opposite the Post Office)

Next meeting: March 24th Guest Speaker from Carers Vic speaking on Lowering the cost of your Electricity Bill, etc

For more information please contact

Heather: 56 689 243, or Sheron 5662 3285

Details for the remainder of 2015:

28th April - 26th May - 23rd June - 28th July
25th Aug *** - 22nd Sept - 27th Oct - 24th Nov

*** THIS MEETING ONLY IN COMMUNITY HOUSE, BRUCE ST. LEONGATHA

Austism Spectrum Disorder (A.S.D)
Community Support Group
Trafalgar

Monday March 23rd 6.30pm

Trafalgar Primary School, School Road Trafalgar. New parents are always welcome so if you know of anyone else who would like to come along please feel free to invite them.

For information contact

Raelee Hill Assistant Principal 5633 1566;

Rachel 0413 276 167 sebrach@bigpond.com ;

Yvonne @ Parent To Parent Gippsland 1800 010 453
yvonne.waite@noahsarkinc.org.au

Have your say on
NDIS quality and safeguards

Are you interested in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?

The Australian and state and territory governments are working together to develop a new national quality and safeguarding framework for the NDIS.

It's about making sure people with disability are provided with quality support, choice and control to pursue their goals and aspirations.

What do you think are the best ways to ensure that people have access to high quality supports?

Take a look at the consultation paper to see what issues are being considered.

Think about how the different quality and safeguarding options affect you or those you care for.

Perhaps you have some new ideas for maintaining quality and safety.

Have your say on any of the key topic areas:

- building capacity
- monitoring and oversight
- National Disability Insurance Agency provider registration
- systems for handling complaints
- ensuring staff are safe to work with participants
- safeguards for participants who manage their own plans
- reducing and eliminating restrictive practices in NDIS funded supports.

How to get involved

You can get involved by making a submission, joining the discussion in the online forum, completing a questionnaire or attending a public meeting.

Visit engage.dss.gov.au to download the consultation paper and fact sheets and have your say today.

The consultation closes on 30 April 2015.

Disability Employment Service Providers Trial

Posted: Thursday, March 19

The Federal Government has announced an 18-month trial of new ways for Disability Employment Service providers to work with jobseekers and employers - a move that has been strongly supported by the disability sector.

"The trial is just one of many red tape reduction measures being undertaken across Government as part of the Coalition's red tape repeal day," Assistant Minister for Social Services, Senator Mitch Fifield, said.

The [Omnibus Repeal Day \(Autumn 2015\) Bill 2015](#) (the Bill) is aimed at amending or repealing legislation across seven portfolios that affect business, individuals and the community sector that are not the subject of an individual stand-alone bill.

"The proposed changes will give DES providers greater flexibility to determine the way they deliver services to people who are in the 'ongoing support' phase of their DES participation. The changes will also reduce administration requirements," Senator Fifield said.

"From 1 April 2015, DES providers, participants and employers will be empowered to decide how best to work together while participants are in the ongoing support phase, rather than being required to conduct mandatory face-to-face meetings."

All 141 DES providers across 2276 sites nationally will be able to participate in the 18 month trial.

"Some 12,198 people with disability and their employers (754 DMS participants and 11,444 ESS participants) will directly benefit from this announcement," Senator Fifield said.

"Providers will be able to work with participants to determine the most effective method of engagement, which may include video conferencing, email, or telephone to better fit the needs of participants and their employers.

"There will also be a relaxation of participant plan update requirements, and providers will now be able to contract third-party providers as part of their ongoing support services.

"This will free up providers' time to focus on providing direct support to participants and their employers, as well as increasing flexibility to enable the purchase of the services participants need.

"All DES services are contracted until 2018, providing an opportunity to reshape the system at that time."

Peak industry body, Disability Employment Australia (DEA) has welcomed the trial saying that at its best it will significantly reduce red tape and unnecessary compliance.

DEA CEO Rick Kane told Pro Bono Australia News that the sector is keen to see the detail within the trial.

"The area of ongoing support for disability employment is essential to maintaining jobs and building capability and confidence for employees," Kane said.

"We hope to hear the details within the next couple of weeks and the aim is to get as many services providers on board as possible."

He said the announcement of the trial was an example of how good communication and respectful dialogue between the Department, the Minister and the disability employment sector could improve the program and deliver better outcomes for the participants.

Martin Wren, CEO of NOVA Employment which operates out of Sydney and services more than 1300 disability employment candidates, said the **Government's move "to remove mindless red tape is truly welcome"**.

"The Minister has made steady and progressive improvements towards addressing the administrative burden [facing the sector]," Wren said.

"Up until now the system has not worked for many of the recipients with its one-size-fits all approach and the trial will allow them to customise their service."

See more at:

<http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/>

Accommodation &
Housing Forum/Workshop
Tuesday 26th May
Registrations now open
Contact the office for more information.

New Sale Specialist School –
Parent Action Group (NSPAG)

- ⇒ Does your child have a disability & attend school in Sale?
- ⇒ Would you like your child to attend Sale Specialist School?
- ⇒ Are you interested in helping to get the NEW Sale Specialist School completed?

Friday March 27th 11am

Five Star Community Meeting Room

(off Raglan St between McCole & 2-5 Howard St
Entry via driveway from Howard St or through gate from McCole St). All interested persons welcome.
Contact Heather 5184 1321 haflynn@activ8.net.au

SUPPAUT—TRARALGON

Latrobe Region Parent/Family Support group
for those with kids with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

SUPPAUT is a parent-run group that aims to support one another as parents/families of a child/children with Autism. We share our own experiences, problems, joys, successes and support each other with a listening ear and understanding. It is a very informal gathering, sometimes a guest speaker is invited. All parents/carers/family members are welcome to attend and children/siblings are welcome too.

We meet every LAST THURSDAY of the month – except during School/Public Holidays.

At LATROBE SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL,
Hickox St, Traralgon
(Please enter through 1st gate & sign in at the Office)

From 10.30am – 12.30pm

ALL WELCOME TO COME FOR A CUPPA AND A CHAT!

For more info or enquiries about the group phone
Louise Varsaci 51750877 or email
varsaci@aussiebb.com.au

2015 meeting dates:

March 26th - April 30th - May 28th - June 25th
July 30th - Aug 27th - Oct 29th - Nov 26th

Parent Support in Morwell

- * Do you have a child (any age) with a disability?
 - * Would you be interested in an informal Support Network?
 - * Would you like to share a coffee & chat with other parents in a relaxed place?
 - * What can you learn / share with each other?
- If you have answered yes to the above, we would like to catch up with you. The next meeting will be on
Monday March 23rd from 9:30am – 11:30am
Morwell Performing Arts Centre McDonald Street

For more details, all queries & to express interest contact
Yvonne @ Parent To Parent Gippsland
yvonne.waite@noahsarkinc.org.au
03 5135 3131 / 1800 010 453



Carers Support Group

Meeting Information for 2015

- 4 Feb
- 4 March
- 1 April *
- 6 May
- 3 June
- 1 July *
- 5 August
- 2 September
- 7 October
- 4 November
- * School Holidays



Meetings are held on the
First Wednesday
of each month.
10:00 am—12:00 pm

*Call Melissa to confirm
(0429) 892 260*

Gippsland Disability Advocacy
8 Hopetoun Ave, Morwell VIC 3840



Gippsland Carers
Housing Subgroup

Regional Art Gallery
Commercial Rd, Morwell

Wednesday 25th March
10:30 am

22nd Apr - 26th May (Forum) - 24th June
22nd July - 26th Aug
23rd Sep - 28th Oct - 25th Nov



Autism Social Participant (ASP)
Family Day

The ASP Family Day is for families caring for a family member on the autism spectrum who wish to participate in an environment to promote socialising and play with other families living with similar challenges.

The ASP Family Day is to encourage all members of the family to participate as we are a diversity friendly group, sharing interests and information with others about living with the autism spectrum in East Gippsland.

*We ask that you wear something blue every time so
as other families can identify you.*

You are welcome to bring your own food and drink as well as other support items that will enable you to relax and enjoy the company of other families. This group will be meeting on the last Sunday of every month and we hope that you can all participate.

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
All Abilities Park, Princes Hwy, Bairnsdale

Dates in 2015:

29th March - 26th April - 24th May - 28th June - 26th July
23rd Aug - 27th Sep - 25th Oct - 29th Nov - 27th Dec

**Application for Membership 2014-2015
Gippsland Carers Association Inc**

AINA0035748T - PO Box 937, Moe, VIC, 3825

Membership Application or Renewal Form

Membership Cards for 2014-2015 are YELLOW.
All memberships are now due for renewal.

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Address _____

State _____ Post Code _____

Phone () _____

Email _____

I am a (please circlet)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Carer | Former Carer |
| Supporter | |
| Carer Family | Support Group |
| Small Agency (<5 staff) | Large Agency (>5 staff) |

Membership Fees:

Carer / Former Carer / Supporter	\$ 5.00
Carer Family / Carer Support Group	\$10.00
Small Agency	\$30.00
Large Agency	\$50.00
Agency Request for Mail List only	\$20.00

Tax Invoice

Gippsland Carers Association Inc.
ABN 20547306121
PO Box 937 Moe, Victoria, 3825

Carer / Former Carer / Supporter	\$ _____
Carer Family / Carer Support Group	\$ _____
Small Agency	\$ _____
Large Agency	\$ _____
Agency Request for Mail List only	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Your donations are gratefully accepted to assist us to "Make a Difference" for all caring families. Donations over \$2.00 are Tax Deductible.

Payment can now be made via Paypal, using your credit card. For more details visit our website: www.gippslandcarers.org

**Carers Place
185 Commercial Rd,
Morwell**



We are open to Carers and the public on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9.00am to 4.00pm

For information, links to services, peer support and peer advocacy-we can help!

**Drop in or phone for an appointment
03 5133 3343
A/H call 03 5127 1904**

Our Carer Mentor can come to you! Please call **Melissa** on **(0429) 892 260** for an appointment or information about Carer Support Groups.



The Gippsland Carer is published quarterly by the COM of the Gippsland Carers Association as a service to carers. The opinions expressed are those of individual authors, not necessarily those of GCA Inc. AIN: A0035748T

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