

EDAC NEWS



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Summer 2005

Message from the President

It gives me great pleasure to present this report after 10 years of EDAC's operation. Over that 10-year period, I have been involved in EDAC in one form or another. I have seen it developed and grow to the great organization it is today. Over the last 10 years, EDAC has been able to provide individual advocacy to many people from NESB background and their families. EDAC also has been active in having input into various government policies to ensure that people that we represent are equally considered when government policies are introduced.

This year EDAC has assisted over 800 people for individual advocacy and information services. I am sure that our staff have helped them ably and contributed towards their achievements in acquiring a better quality of life for themselves and for their families. The issues that we have assisted include legal and paralegal matters, accommodation, social support, immigration and a range of issues which are complex because of the compounding effects of ethnicity and disability.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our hardworking staff members who demonstrate a real commitment to the work they carry out. It is also important that I acknowledge the work that the board members carry out remembering that the time they provide to EDAC is voluntary. EDAC is very fortunate in having quality board members who bring a lot of knowledge and skills to the organization.



I would like to thank the Disability Services Commission and the Department of Family and Community Services for their assistance in providing financial resources for the operation of EDAC. We also value the valuable support offered by ACROD, PWD WA, ECC, Multicultural Services and other ethnic and disability organizations. In conclusion, I wish you all the best for the rest of the year and the coming festive season.

Tony Vardaro

Message from the executive officer (excerpts from the annual report)

This year has been a challenging and exciting period for EDAC as it reaches 10 years since its inception. There has been an increasing growth of activities over the years, especially this year. We were grateful for the growth funding in advocacy provided by the DSC which had enabled us to reach more consumers through our individual and personal advocacy programs.

In this financial year EDAC, through its individual advocacy and information services, attended to 826 individual cases. Advocacy issues included housing, accommodation support, centrelink entitlements, education and legal matters. The emerging client target population for this year came from Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia, however, the Vietnamese and Chinese population were still among the highest in the number of individuals seen by EDAC. This year's systemic activities were focused on progressing service access for people with disabilities from CALD backgrounds through education in disability and cultural awareness. To attain *real* and *meaningful* social inclusion and cultural competency we believe that agencies need to have clear directions and support at management levels, including explicit policies on cultural diversity.

Projects were adjuncts to many successful advocacy activities that EDAC undertook this year, otherwise we would not have had the financial means to further the cause of advocacy and empowering our consumers through strategic training and information delivery.

Special thanks go to all staff who worked tirelessly in their respective areas and project work as without them we would not have achieved what we did. And specially, Veronica FitzGerald, who continues to put up with numerous work demands with her usual integrity and efficiency. As usual we are grateful for the recurrent funding that we received from the DSC and FACs. We sincerely thank all our clients, board members and those representing agencies that have continued to guide and support us in improving the lives and service outcomes for people with disabilities from CALD backgrounds.

Jenny Au Yeong

CaLD Support Workers Project

This is a partnership project between ELBA (a non-profit organisation assisting people with Spinal injuries in accommodation support) and EDAC. A non-recurrent grant was provided by the Disability Services Commission (DSC) to pilot a project in facilitating training of bi-lingual and bi-cultural people to undertake TAFE's Certificate III Community Services specializing in Disability. The aim of the project is to increase the number of workers in the disability field, especially in the areas of caring and supporting younger people with disabilities from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

A total of 28 students (from both semesters) graduated from the TAFE *Certificate III in Disability Course*.



Thornlie TAFE Students

An evaluation of this project confirmed that EDAC had developed adequate strategies to support the graduates seeking employment. EDAC also completed the database containing the relevant details of the graduates and the data is available for inclusion into a central website hosted by ACROD - www.ideaswa.net. We hope to conduct a follow-up of all the graduates to see if they are successful with finding employment in the disability area.

Thuan Geh presented the project outcomes at a recent DSC forum. For detailed information please refer to the project report and evaluation. You can download from our website or request a copy from the EDAC office.

Self Advocacy: "Let Me Speak"

EDAC has just completed a personal advocacy training manual through funding received from the DSC. The aim of the project is to enhance the self advocacy capacity of our CaLD consumers in order for them to address the gaps and barriers when accessing services in the community. A series of four focus groups were held with consumers, carers and service providers. Issues discussed centred on the respect and awareness of cultural practices in an endeavour to create a training manual.

At the end of the consultation process, the 'Let me Speak' manual was developed for use by people with disability from CaLD backgrounds. The design of the manual is primarily intended as a self-teaching resource that gives people the flexibility to move through the content at their own pace and adapt their learning to suit their own personal needs. At each step there are suggestions of resources available to further assist the development to self-advocacy and supportive skills. A copy of the manual can be downloaded from our website - www.edac.org.au EDAC also offers personal advocacy training to consumers.

Jenny presented this Advocacy Project at a recent DSC Forum.

Disability First Stop (DFS)

Disability First Stop is funded by the Disability Services Commission and is a network of agencies providing information, advocacy, supported referrals, help with individual planning and access to counseling or interpreters for individuals and/or their carers in the first two years of diagnosis of a disability.

Luba McMaugh, is the nominated advocate for this program at EDAC and has seen a number of migrants and refugees requesting translations of information about newly diagnosed medical conditions in their own language as well as disability services and support. She found there is little medical information translated into community languages. One particular request came from an LAC in the North West who was locating translated material on Down Syndrome in Malay for her clients who recently immigrated from Malaysia. The WA Down Syndrome Association indicated that they received no government funding and therefore had no means of translating any material in other languages.

Luba contacted a number of ethnic agencies and local groups without avail but finally (through the internet) located the Down's Syndrome Association in Singapore which had videos and literature available in other community languages including Malay. She was able to share the information with the LAC and the Down Syndrome Association of WA who now have this resource for provision to CALD clients in future.

Brochures about the services provided by DFS will soon be translated into 13 community languages. Ring Luba on 9388 7455 (or email: lmcmaugh@edac.org.au) if you need assistance or have questions.

Service Improvement: Meeting the Ninth Disability Services Standard from a CaLD Perspective

DSC has provided some funding to EDAC to develop programs, processes and or systems to enable agencies to more fully meet the intent of the newly introduced standard nine which is, *the protection of human rights and freedom from abuse and neglect for people with disabilities in the Western Australian community.*

Vivienne Palcic has been appointed to develop and present the ninth standard in a culturally responsive manner. She is being assisted by Harry Pickett who has been involved in previous disability service standards project. On the completion of Standard Nine they are also expected to provide training to CaLD consumers, carers and service providers.



Harry Pickett, Vivienne Palcic and Boris Turpin in discussion with consumers on the development of standard nine.

An extension of the Preventing Family Disintegration in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities Project:

The multicultural consortium comprising of four agencies including EDAC has been provided with additional funding by DCD to extend this project with the African communities. The previous project which was completed in 2004 was highly successful and had won an award from the National Crime and Violence Prevention.

Virginia Mangazva has been appointed project officer and is based at the Women's Health Care House. It is very likely that the consortium will be working with three African communities to raise awareness of issues surrounding family disintegration caused by domestic violence.

Congratulations!

EDAC's Management and Staff would like to congratulate the Hon. Margaret Quirk MLA for her recent appointment as Minister for Disability Services; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests; Seniors and Volunteering. We look forward to working with her to progress the rights and interests of people with disabilities from CaLD backgrounds and their families.

NEW FACES AT EDAC



Beatriz Andrew joined EDAC in April 2005 as an Advocacy Officer. Beatriz has wide experience in the workforce, having worked as a secretary in four different countries and in many different areas for over 20 years. Beatriz worked with refugees and migrants as a Spanish Interpreter for 10 years. Recently finished a Diploma in Community Services and has a special interest in advocacy and working with people from ethnic backgrounds.



Robyn Della Franca joined EDAC as a trainer and advocate in July 2005. She has already provided a series of training to support workers in understanding the cultural perspectives of the Disability Services Standards and cultural/disability awareness training.

PRIVATE TRUSTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

At the launch of the Carers Week 2005 the Prime Minister announced a \$200 million package which will make it easier for parents of people with severe disabilities to establish private trusts for the future care of their children.

From September 2006, parents or other immediate family members of a person with a severe disability will be able to establish a private trust worth up to \$500,000 for the future care of that person without being affected by social security income tests and gifting rules.

That means that income from the trust will not affect the person's Disability Support Pension. Gifts to the trust from the parents or immediate family members will not affect the donor's Age Pension or Department of Veteran's Affairs Service Pension. The \$500,000 limit will be increase annually in line with the Consumer Price Index. Information packages will be developed to assist parents in establishing these trusts.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

EDAC's AGM for 2005 was held on the 29th October in the Tom Dadour Community Centre. Elections were held to fill several vacancies on the Board of Management which now comprises:

President: Tony Vardaro
 Secretary: Pui San Whittaker
 Treasurer: John Cooke
 Members: Mrs Thankam Abraham
 Dr. Bernadette Wright
 Nihal Iscel
 Francis Adupa-Ekwang
 Dr Duc Dau
 Anne Tong
 Amira Aggag
 Boris Turpin



A sumptuous meal was served afterwards

WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES WA

EDAC continues to provide support and assistance to women with disabilities who have held monthly forums at the Niche for the last couple of years. They have had a very successful and productive year with many social gatherings and project activities.

They received a grant from the Office of Women's Policy for the "Having Fun and Feeling Good" project. A series of forums were held from January to June 2005 that included information on menopause, belly dancing, laughter yoga, public speaking, make up, and dressing well.



Women with Disabilities Group

They also received a grant from ACROD for the second year of Self Defense for Women with Disabilities which was attended by 12 women. A \$1,000 grant from East Metropolitan Health Service has resulted in the development of a project to support women with disabilities in finding accessible and affordable ways of getting involved in more physical activity to improve health and fitness, and reduce the effects of ageing. They continue to attract new members through word of mouth and advertising in the community. They attended various community meetings and functions to raise awareness of women with disabilities. These activities included an International Women's Day event and Women on Wellness Week, including domestic violence and provided input to a Women's Health Peak Body in WA.

They held their first planning committee meeting on 15th November 2005 to discuss incorporation and provide a formal structure to the group. For further information please contact **Rayna Lamb, Co-ordinator on 9388 7455**

LATEST COMMUNITY RESOURCES FROM THE OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS

WA Community Profiles

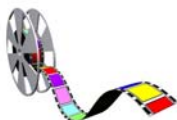
The second series of profiles, produced in conjunction with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, covering the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of 12 established and new and emerging communities represented in Western Australia is now available for downloading. They are Burma (Myanmar), Central and South America, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Iran, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Ukraine.

Culture and Religion Information Sheets

The Information Sheets aim to raise awareness and understanding of religious and cultural practices in the Western Australian community to assist service providers in the government and nonprofit community sectors in improving service delivery.

Directory of Services for New Arrivals in Western Australia

Updated 2005 edition of the Directory provides information on the many services available to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including contact details in the important areas such as housing, employment, education, child and aged care, as well as background information on discrimination, rights, and equal opportunities in Western Australia.



Vicinity in Motion

Linda Rawlings (Film Course Coordinator)
Renee Darbyshir (Film Club Recreation Officer)

As the first ever Vicinity Introductory Film Course winds down, the Vicinity Film Club is gathering momentum, thanks to the arrival of our first Vicinity Volunteer, Mr. Kerry Hand. Kerry is an avid enthusiast for all things film: especially filmmaking, film history and film-viewing, which makes him the perfect man for the job of facilitating the film club. Kerry's computer and organisational skills have proven very helpful indeed in his role of promoting and planning Vicinity events. Thanks, Kerry, for joining the Vicinity team: it's great to have you on board.

Another recent development in the Vicinity Project has been the collaboration between the Film Club and the students of the Introductory Filmmaking Course in planning the December Film Club event. This exceptional event will celebrate the culmination of the film students' hard work, creativity and commitment over the past 6 months, in a showcase of their 5 unique and moving films, for your viewing pleasure!

Copies of this collection of short films will be available for sale in DVD format for \$15 on the night. The film students are also planning a Silent Auction of "The Three Ralps" (intriguing isn't it?), and there will be Door Prizes and light refreshments too.

If you'd like to show your support for this innovative project, please join us to celebrate a year of milestones for the Vicinity Project, at the Palms Centre on Friday 9th December, 6-8pm (screening starts at 6:30pm). Numbers for this event are limited,

Please contact Linda Rawlings or Renee Darbyshir at EDAC for more information.

News from the Multicultural Family support group

The Multicultural family groups continue to meet monthly at EDAC, supported by the Red Cross.

A group of 12 Carers had a well deserved relaxing respite in Mandurah from September 9 to 11th. The mothers had a great time bonding, sharing, caring and laughing together.



Some families enjoying respite in Mandurah

They would like to thank Carers WA and Red Cross for their kind and generous funding. Carers WA provided \$1000 through their annual funding round and Red Cross provided them with \$500 through an Australian government initiated funding from the Commonwealth Carers Respite program.

National Ethnic Disability Alliance-NEDA

NEDA advocates at the federal level for the rights and interests of people from NESB with disability, their families and carers so that they can participate fully in all aspects of social, economic, political and cultural life.

Jenny, Nihal and Tony Vardaro attended their recent AGM and Launch of their Strategic Plans in Melbourne. Tony Vardaro was reelected President of NEDA. The Minister for Family and Community Services Senator Kay Patterson launched their Strategic Plans and the keynote address ***Disability, Diversity and Human Rights*** was given by Professor Leslie Swartz from the Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Leslie's speech was very inspiring and informative as he discussed the dilemma of mainstreaming services and the social model of disability.

We will endeavor to get a copy of his speech for the next EDAC News.

Harmony Week 2006 ***Show your support by getting involved***

The 2006 events will take place from 15-21 march under the theme of "Equality". The slogan for Harmony Week is "**Whatever our differences, we are all entitled to a fair go.**" Free resources are available from OMI to help kick start your activities.

Nominations for the 2006 Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests Multicultural Community Services Awards have also opened. These awards recognize Western Australians who have helped minority groups to participate more fully in our society. Nominations forms for the Awards are available on the OMI website at www.omi.wa.gov.au

Information booklets available in community languages

EDAC has received a number of translated information brochures and booklets, including those from the Dept. of Consumer and Employment Protection in languages such as Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatia, Vietnamese, Spanish, Serbian, Polish, Persian and Malay.

The Transcultural Mental Health Centre (a division of the Diversity Health Institute) has just produced a practical guide on *Promoting wellbeing* in eight community languages. For further translated information you may like to visit the website of the Diversity Health Institute www.dhi.org.au

Domestic Violence Resources to Help Diverse Cultures

Women and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds will benefit from new domestic violence publications launched recently.

Community Development Minister Sheila McHale said 'Violence in the Family' and 'A Guide for Families, Friends and Neighbors' would help new arrivals to Western Australia and those from non-English speaking backgrounds. "People from non-English speaking communities can experience problems with cultural differences, settlement, employment, finances and language barriers, which can contribute to family conflict," Ms McHale said. "It is vital we let families and communities know about support services that can help."

The publications are available in English and 18 other languages: Arabic; Amharic; Bahasa Indonesian; Chinese (simplified); Croatian; Dari; Farsi; French; Khmer; Kurdish; Portuguese; Polish; Russian; Serbian; Somali; Spanish; Swahili; Vietnamese. Violence, produced by the Family and Community Services.

These resources were funded by the Australian Government's Partnerships Against Domestic Violence, produced by the Family and Domestic Violence Unit and released in October to celebrate RAC Community Safety Month.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this news letter are not necessarily shared by all members of EDAC or its management Committee.

Changes to the Multi-Purpose Taxi (MPT) Coordination Arrangements

There has been an important change to the coordination arrangements for Multi-Purpose Taxis (MPTs) in Perth. MPT taxis are specialised taxis equipped to carry passengers who travel in their wheelchairs.

Following an Expression of Interest advertised in 2004, the Director General of the Department for Planning and Infrastructure has now appointed two Perth taxi dispatch services to undertake the role of an MPT Coordinator. The appointments commenced on 1 October 2005 and will be for an initial period of 2 years, with the possibility to extend the appointments to a maximum of 5 years. The decision to appoint two MPT Coordinators is to provide choice for MPT customers and MPT operators. This initiative is also expected to open the market to new MPT fleet management processes.

With effect from 1 October 2005 there are two numbers customers can call if they want to book a MPT taxi:

Black & White Taxis
Fauntleroy Avenue
Perth Domestic Airport WA 6104
Tel: 136294

Swan Taxi Co-operative Limited
1008 Wellington Street
West Perth WA 6005
Tel: 9422 2240

If you require any further information about the new coordination arrangements for MPT taxis please call Passenger Services, Department for Planning and Infrastructure on 9216 8000, quoting MPT Coordination.

Seasons Greetings

EDAC would like to wish you and your family a Safe and Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2006!



