

# EDAC NEWS



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**AUTUMN**  
**June 2007**

## **CONNECT@HYDE PARK** (Zel Iscel)



EDAC was invited by the Town of Vincent to display a stall and present a workshop at Connect at Hyde Park – an event to celebrate harmony day on 18th March 2007, as part of Harmony Week.

Besides the information displayed at the stall, we also arranged a badge making exercise for the children. This activity attracted many children and kept them busy while their parents browsed through our brochures, pamphlets and other information, and chatted with us about EDAC and our work.

The workshop, entitled 'Ability to Achieve' took three common activities – painting, basketball and a game of skittles – and challenged people to perform these activities using alternative methods. The task of painting a picture was undertaken using the mouth, the ball was shot into a basketball hoop with players sitting on chairs, and contestants were blindfolded when playing skittles and forced to rely on their hearing as sounds were made to identify the whereabouts of the skittles. Each activity was demonstrated by a person with disability.

A big thank you goes to Monica McGie, a professional artist who paints with her mouth and Scott Hiles, a recreational wheelchair basketball player, for demonstrating their skills. Thanks also to Zehra, who provided much-needed assistance in the stall and at the workshop. EDAC's staff members must also be thanked for offering their time and effort, particularly on that sweltering hot day.

Feedback was provided to the Town of Vincent regarding the difficulty in accessing parts of Hyde Park for wheelchair users. All in all, the day was very successful in creating a positive awareness for people with disability in the minds of children and adults predominantly from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.



## **ETHNICABILITY EMPOWERMENT** (Zel Iscel)

The EthnicAbility Empowerment project was launched along with the Open Your Mind Count Us In project on 7th February 2007. The project has been received with enthusiasm by the CALD disability community, as demonstrated by the high number of participants who attended the launch and subsequently registered for the workshops.

The EthnicAbility Empowerment Project provides an opportunity for CALD people with disability to learn how to produce, plan and present a radio program and operate a radio console. Twelve participants are registered and all have shown ongoing dedication and interest in the workshops through their regular attendance and constructive feedback.

Tony Serve, a professional presenter on radio station, 882 6PR, is providing the training for our participants. Tony has often expressed his joy in working with his students and meeting the challenges they present for him. One such challenge is the need to pace his workshops at a speed that is suitable for the students who have an intellectual disability without losing the interest of those who have disabilities other than intellectual.

The Course is due for completion in July. Subsequent to the course, we hope to have some graduates working on EDAC's radio program, 'EthnicAbility' which goes to air on 95.3 6EBA FM Every Tuesday from 11:30 am – noon.

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Welcome to this edition of EDAC news. As usual it will be interesting, informative and hopefully you find some articles useful in assisting with your day to day activity and management of disability.

Last weekend I attended a Symposium, *on Australian Muslims Sharing Achievements -Bringing communities together* and later an Expo at the Herb Graham Centre where we held a stall to inform the community about EDAC and disability. Apart from displaying our pamphlets we also distributed a booklet; *Islam - A Guide for Service Providers working with People with Disabilities* (the outcome of a joint project with the Muslim Women's Support Centre). We also offered mouth painting as a practical exercise to understand some physical aspects about disability. The kids found the exercise fascinating and queued for a turn but the intended message may not have been understood. Despite the wet weather the Expo was well attended. It's a fantastic initiative to enhance social integration by promoting awareness and understanding of Islam, cultures and values, including disability.

We are saying farewell to Amy Berson, our project and systemic advocacy worker who has accepted an internship position with the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development in Bangladesh. Although we miss her dearly we understand this is an opportunity that comes possibly once in a lifetime and she'll make a great contribution towards the project and the people she will be working for. We wish her the very best.

I hope you enjoy reading about the development of current projects and perhaps feel enticed to play a part in some of them. Get in touch with us if you do.

Jenny Au Yeong

### **VICINITY RECEIVES WA SCREEN AWARD!** (Linda Rawlings)

The Vicinity Film Project has seen the new year in with some more very special accolades with two of the short films from the 2006 Student DVD receiving recognition at the WA Screen Awards including "Best Documentary Production" for Meet the Eye. This 4min. film evolved from the video-diary that Iveca Lendich captured from his wheelchair during his time as a student of the Vicinity Filmmaking Course. Iveca's haunting hallway images became a dream and then a poem before being woven together to create a powerful invitation for the viewer to 'stop' and deepen their connection with people with disabilities. Iveca received the award with Linda Rawlings – Vicinity Project Manager, at the red-carpet event at His Majesty's Theatre in March.

Also present at the Awards event was Wendy Crothers, who wrote, directed and contributed artwork for the delightful animation Never Bin in Love Before. This love

story, starring two GSI bins, was given a Special Mention at the Awards ceremony to encourage Wendy to continue her work with animation. As she is deaf, a slide was projected on the stage to enable Wendy to experience the accolade from the WA film industry. The WA Screen Award evening is the major film industry event of the year in Western Australia and to have two disability films honoured for their excellence was pretty exciting for Vicinity!

The 2007 Vicinity Filmmaking Course held on Mondays started on the 7th of May at DADAA's Beach Street headquarters in Fremantle. In response to feedback from the Think Tank held in December, the Vicinity Filmmaking Course will now incorporate and rejuvenate the Vicinity Film Club! The idea is for students to use this fortnightly

film-going event to inform their understanding of filmmaking while creating the opportunity to mix with past graduates and others interested in the movies. The Vicinity Film Club will be held at the same cinema, at a regular time each fortnight starting in June. Vicinity is also planning the first public screening of all 16 short films that have been produced over the two years of the project. This will be a fund-raising and promotional event for Vicinity and is scheduled for July. Please ring EDAC to register your interest in attending these events.

The Vicinity Film Project's production arm has also been busy recently with the documentation of a lecture by, and interview with, lawyer Rosemary Kayess, who formed part of the Australian delegation to the UN General Assembly committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New York. This production was commissioned by DSC and will be screened on Channel 31 in conjunction with a panel discussion.

Linda Rawlings is currently handing over the Vicinity reins to Gari-Emma Perry who comes to the project with a rich background in acting, script-writing and filmmaking as well as experience working with diverse communities. Linda will still be around for a while and plans to catch up with the graduates and Friends of Vicinity at the public screening in July. Gari-Emma is keen to link-up with anyone interested in Vicinity, so please ring 0420 988 304 and be warmly involved in continuing to grow this fabulous project. To purchase a copy of the 2005 and/or 2006 Vicinity Student DVD, please contact EDAC.

### **OPEN YOUR MIND COUNT US IN** (Amy Berson)

On Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the participants in EDAC's Open Your Mind Count Us In project undertook their group project – an outing to the WA Museum, the State Library of Western Australia and the Art Gallery of WA. The outing was a culmination of a ten week program that included sessions on goal setting, communication, assertiveness, telephone calls and planning.

The participants all contributed to the planning of the excursion. Chris, Lyn, Danielle, Manuel, Paula, Maia and

Amy all had a great time checking out the exhibitions at each of the three venues. Although there was not nearly enough time to explore each venue fully, it provided a taste of what was available and many of the participants were keen to go back another time for a longer period. The outing was captured on video by Maia and a lot of fun was had by all.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BENCHBOOK

EDAC made a submission regarding the Equal Opportunity Benchbook, which has been commissioned by the Chief Justice of Western Australia. EDAC's contribution focused on the needs of CaLD people, people with disabilities and CaLD people with disabilities. Particular emphasis was placed in our submission on the need for preventative and proactive strategies plus the need to consider cultural and disability factors in a court setting.

## HOUSING CRISIS COMMITTEE FOR CALD PEOPLE

One of the groups that has been hardest hit by the housing shortage in Perth has been people from CaLD backgrounds. For this reason, EDAC has been actively participating in the Housing Crisis Committee for CaLD people, which has been convened by Nihal Iscel from the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka (and EDAC board member). This committee has been exploring different strategies to tackle this problem, including lobbying federal and state members of parliament, liaising with the Equal Opportunity Commission and developing petitions.

## WE HEAR YOU [www.edac.org.au](http://www.edac.org.au)

As a direct result of feedback concerning our popular webpage, EDAC has implemented changes which include

- Keeping the site constantly updated
- Calendar of events
- Multilanguage page
- Resources and publications can be downloaded
- All EDAC radio programs available
- Photo Gallery
- Useful links

## EDAC SAYS FAREWELL TO

**Dr Anne Atkinson:** Anne retired from EDAC as the Training Coordinator to concentrate on her other duties.

**Linda Rawlings** (VICINITY Project Manager) has decided for a change in directions after achieving very successful outcomes for her project. We welcome Gari-Emma Perry who is taking over the Vicinity.

**Amy Berson** is going to Bangladesh to work as a Child Rights Advocacy Officer with a local Bangladeshi

organization, through Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development.

## ACROD LTD HAS CHANGED ITS NAME TO: National Disability Services Limited (NDS)

The new generic e-mail address is [ndswa@nds.org.au](mailto:ndswa@nds.org.au) and the web page is [www.nds.org.au](http://www.nds.org.au). Individual e-mail addresses have changed but the original addresses will continue to function for some time.

NDS will continue to manage the mobility parking program and the program will continue to operate under the registered business name of ACROD. Similarly the Companion Card scheme will also continue to operate as it has previously.

## COMMISSIONER INNES WARNS- every vote counts

With a Federal Election expected later this year, politicians are focusing on making every vote count. In view of this, federal Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes AM reminds politicians that they must recognise the needs of all members of their electorate.

"I remind all politicians - and those aspiring to be politicians - of the need to consider the votes of the four million Australians with disabilities - 20 per cent of your voters," Commissioner Innes said. Commissioner Innes has proposed a five point checklist for politicians to consider:

1. Is your electoral office clearly sign-posted and is there a level entrance without steps?
2. Do you have sign language interpreters, hearing loops and wheelchair access at all your public events?
3. Is your website accessible to people using voice or Braille reading software rather than a screen?
4. Are the newsletters or other material you circulate available on request in alternate formats such as large print or Braille?

Have you included disability issues as part of your policy platform? "If you can answer 'yes' to all of these questions, then you are on the way to better meeting the needs of voters with disabilities; people who could just make up those extra votes to get you over the line," Commissioner Innes said. "Successful politicians will be the ones who communicate and consider the needs of all of us, not just those who can hear, see or walk up steps."

## AUSTRALIA SIGNS LANDMARK TREATY ON HUMAN RIGHTS & DISABILITY

The Australian Government has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New York in March. The Convention adds to existing human rights laws by confirming that people with disability are entitled to the full range of human rights. It also provides clearer goals for

governments throughout the world to work towards ensuring human rights in practice for people with disability.

Source: Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission  
[www.humanrights.gov.au](http://www.humanrights.gov.au)

## COMPANION CARDS ACCEPTED AT THE BIG SHOWS!!!

Did you know there are plenty of big name and new theatre shows now accepting the Companion Card in Western Australia?!

You must call BOCS Ticketing on 9484 1133 to make companion Card bookings for the below shows. For more information visit [www.bocsticketing.com.au](http://www.bocsticketing.com.au)

## FOR ALL OF YOU INTERESTED IN RENTING REAL ESTATE.

You don't have to pay letting fees. So if you know any real estate agents or anyone that does remind them that they can be fined \$5,000. Ring Consumer Protection if you have any problems.

Dept of Consumer and Employment Protection  
Level 7 219 St George's Tce  
PERTH WA 6000

Locked Bag 14 Cloisters Square  
PERTH WA 6850

Tel: (08) 9282 0497 Facs: (08) 9282 0727

Mob: 0417911430

Email: [mchi@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:mchi@docep.wa.gov.au)

[www.docep.wa.gov.au](http://www.docep.wa.gov.au)

## Join us for Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's premiere season of SPLAT!

Through our hero's eyes & lots of paint & paper, enter a colourful & imaginative world of ships & islands...monsters & magic...rides to outer space... crazy critters... clowns... people & places. SPLAT! is non verbal and explores colour, shape, movement and puppetry as a language to celebrate difference.

### SCHOOL HOLIDAY SHOWS

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> June, Sat 7<sup>th</sup> July to Sat 21<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

(No shows on Sundays or Public Holidays)

Times: 11am & 2pm. Duration: 50 mins.

### PRICES

Adults at Child Prices: \$14.00 each;

Groups of 4+ \$12.00 each; Groups of 10+ \$10.00 each.

Carers: Complimentary

Venue: Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, 1 Short St Fremantle (opp Fremantle Train Station)

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL on 9335 5044. Suitable for every one but perfect for ages 4-11.

## 2007/08 STATE DISABILITY BUDGET

(Extracts from press release from Sheila McHale, MLA, Minister for Disability Services)

The recurrent level of funding for the Disability Services Commission will have increased from \$166.852m in 2000/01 to \$360,480m in 2010/11, an increase of \$193.628m. Growth funding totaling \$14.623m will be available from the State Government to provide for additional support for people with disabilities and their families in 2007/08.

This includes an additional \$6.9m for accommodation support for 117 people. .. A total of \$6.7m will be available for a range of individual and family support strategies, including respite and family support to some 180 carers; Post School Options or Alternatives to Employment for 130 people; access to local area coordination for an additional 250 families; and enhanced access to therapy support and aids and equipment for an estimated 670 people.

## \$12 Million to Support National Disability Advocacy Program

(Extracts from Senator The Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Community Services)

The 2007-08 Federal Budget will provide \$12.2 million to fund improvements to the highly successful National Disability Advocacy Programme (NDAP), including the introduction of a vital new independent quality assurance system...

"A key aspect of the package will be the introduction of an independent Quality Assurance system for disability advocacy services, which will help ensure a consistent quality of service across the network," Senator Scullion said.

This funding will provide the following enhancements to the National Disability Advocacy Programme (NDAP):

- ✓ a 20 per cent growth in program funding;
- ✓ increased promotion of disability advocacy services across Australia; and
- ✓ introduction of an independent Quality Assurance system for disability advocacy services.
- ✓ The enhancements to the programme will:
  - assist in meeting some of the unmet demand for individual advocacy services by increasing the level of support available to people with disability and their families;
  - improve geographic coverage of disability advocacy services in rural and regional areas;
  - ensure that people with disability and their families can more easily access disability advocacy services; and
  - ensure that people with a disability and their families receive quality services.

([http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/Minister5.nsf/content/budget07\\_\\$12million\\_ndap.htm](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/Minister5.nsf/content/budget07_$12million_ndap.htm))

**NEED ASSISTANCE?**  
**Contact Advocates at EDAC:**  
**(08) 9388 7455**

