



EDAC NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I was elected in the position of President when Nihal Iscel joined the EDAC staff. Congratulations Nihal on a successful appointment as Advocacy Manager. Having been with the Board for a number of years and worked in the multicultural field she is very familiar with EDAC's work and no doubt will make a sterling contribution.

It has been a busy period for all EDAC Staff and Management all round, as it's nearly the end of this financial year and we recently went through a Trial Certification by an independent body – International Standards Certifications Pty Ltd. This was conducted by two auditors James Bennett and Joe Sarkies from New South Wales and they did a professional and thorough job.



Auditors James Bennett, Joe Sarkies, Vice-President Angelo Ciansiosi, Evaluator Jenny Pearson, Jenny Au Yeong and Thuan Geh.

The site audit took three full days followed by an evaluation meeting with Jenny Pearson, an independent consultant contracted by FAHSCIA. EDAC was one of 12 advocacy agencies nationally chosen to take part in the Trial Certification. EDAC staff, board members and 15 clients selected by the auditors were interviewed.

EDAC had just been informed that we met all the requirements of the 24 Key Performance Indicators with no non-conformities. This successful outcome is attributable to the hard work of the whole EDAC team, especially Thuan and Jenny in ensuring that we

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continue to provide a quality service for our clients and meet all the disability standards and outcomes.

On behalf of all Board members I thank them for a job well done.

John Cooke

CEO's REPORT

I had the opportunity to attend the National Disability Summit held in Melbourne on the 29th and 30th April. The event attracted an overwhelming response from about 300 people. The presentations covered a range of topic on disability reforms, from service providers' perspectives of current funding and systems to the

views of consumers and carers advocating for a person centred approach, individualised funding and empowerment of people with disabilities. There were some key principles proposed for the formation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme but no specifics on how the scheme should look like. The proceedings of this Summit is available for download on <http://www.iir.com.au/I1007SP>.

Since the Summit the Productivity Commission released issues papers and a set of questionnaire for respondents. EDAC has already received feedback from some consumers and carers but there will be further consultations. We will compile all your views and present them in a written submission to the Productivity Commission.

As our President has already eluded, this is an extremely busy period for us, with the end of financial year activities, coupled with many consultations and reviews, including the Planning Options and Services for People Ageing with a Disability; Disability Services Standards; Productivity Commission Inquiry on long term disability care; various Training Workshops on Cultural Diversity and a Trial Certification that EDAC is involved in. On the whole it has been a challenging and successful year.

Jenny Au Yeong

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO NATIONAL LONG-TERM CARE AND SUPPORT SCHEME

The Australian Government has asked the Productivity Commission to undertake a public inquiry into a long term disability care and support scheme, including a national disability insurance model.

Amongst other things, this inquiry will examine:

- how a scheme should be designed and funded to better meet the long-term needs of people with disability, their families and carers;
- how to determine the people most in need of support, the services that should be available to them, and service delivery arrangements;
- the costs, benefits, feasibility and funding options of alternative schemes;
- how the scheme will interact with the health, aged care, informal care, income support and injury insurance systems;
- its impacts on the workforce;
- how any scheme should be introduced and governed;
- what protections and safeguards should be part of the scheme.

Two issues papers and a set of questionnaire are available on the Productivity Commission's website www.pc.gov.au. A public hearing will be held in Perth on the 22nd July at the Novotel Hotel from 9am to 5pm.

To register on line, visit:
www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support/public-hearings/register

EDAC is preparing a response to the Productivity Commission Inquiry. A consultation meeting was held recently at the Subiaco Arts centre to get your feedback. In case you have been missed out there is still time to give your views and comments. Please ring Maranda Ali on 93887455.

DISCUSSION FORUM: WA PERSPECTIVES ON A LONG TERM DISABILITY CARE AND SUPPORT SCHEME

The Disability Services Commission in collaboration with members of the Disability Coalition of WA, is hosting a forum to explore local ideas and issues about the development of a future long term disability care and support scheme.

The forum is an opportunity for people with disability and their families and carers, sector organisations and other stakeholders to consider the issue and discuss their point of view, prior to a Productivity Commission inquiry in July.

When: Tuesday 22 June 2010, 9.30 am - 12.30 pm including morning tea

Where: Duxton Hotel, 1 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

Registration: email elecia.wheat@dsc.wa.gov.au or phone 9426 9729 by Tuesday 15 June

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RACISM

Our advocate, **Paran Kuppusamy** attended a symposium held at Murdoch University on the 19 & 20 March 2010. He said, "..... *it was a worthwhile event - I learnt so much and met and networked with many participants*".

The theme was Anti – Racism, Leadership and Practice. It demonstrated that "Race" has no Socio-biological validity but is used widely as a concept in political cultural discourse".

There were many well known speakers covering a range of topics on racism, such as,

- Discrimination and Racial Vilification;
- Aboriginal deaths in custody and treatment and attitude towards our indigenous communities;
- Racism in the schools;
- Labelling and stereotyping;
- African Women's voices;

Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia launched the African Women's Council of Australia.

The pinnacle of the first day was the speech on Science and Racism by Prof Sylvester J Gates from the University of Maryland and a member of President Barrack Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. He traced the history of the early existence of all human beings back to Africa and claimed our African origins. He also elaborated on Darwin and Einstein's encounters and methods on how one race degrade and instil inferiority towards another.

Jane Elliot, a speaker from the USA (best known for her work on "Blue eye, brown eye") advocated for a Bill of Rights for Australians.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Women's Subcommittee of the ECCWA has been celebrating the International Women's Day (IWD) for several years. This year's IWD celebration took place on 8th of March 2010 at the Health Department and the theme was "*Empowering Women to overcome poverty*".

A total of 128 people attended including representatives from different ethnic communities, Government, non-government organisations and Members of Parliament.

Presentations included gender pay gap and gender equity; housing; climate change; employment and training; women in domestic violence; mental and general health issues. Zel Iscel, a staff member of EDAC spoke on the *Intersections of gender, disability and human rights*.

Leadership Awards for outstanding services to ethnic women were presented to four WA women. They were Margaret Lobo, Soroptimist from Soroptimists International, Vivienne Pillay, Manager of Multicultural Women's Advocacy Service, Susanne Chance, Refugee and Migrant Health Nurse and Jenny Au Yeong, the Chief Executive Officer of EDAC. Congratulations Jenny!



Vivienne Pillay, Manager of Multicultural Women's Advocacy Service, Susanne Chance, Refugee and Migrant Health Nurse and Jenny Au Yeong (seated)

EDAC WELCOMES

Nihal Iscel (Manager of Advocacy Services)



Nihal has qualifications in Psychology and worked for Edmund Rice Centre for many years before joining the Multicultural Services Centre of WA as a Family Relationships Adviser. Nihal has previously served on EDAC's Board of Management. She was elected ECCWA's vice President in 2007 and was Chair of the Women's SubCommittee. We are fortunate to

have her at EDAC.

Maranda Ali (Systemic Officer)



She is a qualified community welfare worker and is the Coordinator of the disability sub-committee with the Muslim Women's Support Centre. Maranda is also a carer of a son with an intellectual disability and Autism. She has worked with us on various projects in the past including cultural awareness training and we are delighted she is joining the EDAC team as our Systemic

Advocate.

Marlena Kahika (Regional Advocate – West Kimberley)



Marlena Kahika has been appointed as the Regional Advocate and completed her orientation and training in Perth in late April.

Marlena is of Maori descent and has lived and worked in Derby for the past three years. She has extensive local network and knowledge. We welcome her on the team. She will be advocating across sectors and supported by the partnership agencies.

- **Moving Expenses:** assistance with the costs of moving where the client is moving into more manageable premises (eg from large family home to a unit or private rental to public housing rental) or into specialised accommodation such as retirement, nursing or other supported accommodation.
- **Living Expenses** (non-recurrent): assistance with unforeseen costs eg urgent household repairs.

Contact EDAC on 9388 7455 for further information or assistance with any of the above information.

REGIONAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY WEST KIMBERLEY

The Regional Disability Advocacy (RDA) is funded by the Dept. of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FAHCSIA) through the National Disability Advocacy Program. This is a partnership between the Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre (EDAC), People with Disability (PWDWA) and the Aboriginal Disability Network (ADN). This service is for all people with disability living in Broome, Derby and Fitzroy Crossing.

SENIORS ASSISTANCE SERVICE

The Seniors Assistance Service (SAS) commenced operation in May 2006 to provide advocacy and financial assistance to maintain or enhance the quality of life of seniors.

Clients who meet the following eligibility criteria can be referred to the SAS:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people aged 45 years or over;
- Non-ATSI people aged 55 years or over who hold a Pensioner Concession Card or a Health Care Card.

Financial assistance which may be considered:

- **Medical or Health** related items: assistance with the cost of items such as multifocal spectacles, public provided dentures or dental treatment, hearing aids, mobility and independent living aids and other medical costs excluding medications.
- **Funerals:** assistance with the costs associated with hosting a funeral where the applicant is directly responsible for the payment of the funeral.

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

A consultation workshop was held with CaLD consumers and carers at the Subiaco Arts Centre on the 25 May 2010, facilitated by Jacqui Softly, Disability & Access Consultant and assisted by Maranda Ali, our systemic advocate.

The National Standards for Disability Standards for Disability Services are rules that service providers have to follow so that people with disabilities have access to good quality support and service.

Some feedback from consumers/carers include:

- Lack of awareness of disability standards and where to access information;
- Disability standards should be adopted across governments and services in their provision of services for people with disabilities including means of social inclusion and participation.
- Consumers said they won't sure how to exercise their rights within the disability standards and believed it was not explicit enough.

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY (ABI) COMPLEX NEEDS ADVOCACY PROJECT

Our CEO was invited onto Headwest's ABI Complex Needs Advocacy Project steering group. The objective is to establish and trial a best practice model of individual advocacy for people living with ABI in Western Australia who have complex needs. This project is working across government and communities in a partnership initiative.

People living with acquired brain injury often have complex needs such that they can fall through the gaps of the various systems that are in place to support them. This can require complex advocacy, working to resolve complicated problems with multiple existing systems that are not working as well as they should.

The project will be completed by June 2011.

PLANNING OPTIONS AND SERVICES FOR PEOPLE AGEING WITH A DISABILITY

EDAC provided a submission to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee recently on planning options for people ageing with a disability with special reference to the cultural diverse communities.

Although the baby-boom generation is believed to have contributed to the current ageing population in Australia, immigration equally has played an important role in population growth after World War II. These immigrants and their children, including refugees and humanitarian entrants who arrived in the 70s and 80s are also among the ageing population and many had disability due to pre-migration trauma and experiences and labour intensive jobs they held.

EDAC outlined the inadequacies of disability and aged care services as sole provider of support and services for people ageing with disabilities. EDAC called for collaboration across governments and (CaLD) community sectors and greater flexibility of service provisions for this group.

People ageing with disability from a multicultural background should be considered in the context of their cultural and language complexities and pre migration trauma and experience. It's about understanding their cultural and linguistic differences as well as barriers, attitudes and discrimination they encounter in our community when accessing services. Attitudes of stigma and shame as a result of disability can sometimes cause self-imposed concealment and isolation in some ethnic communities leading to social exclusion by some people. Often, aged migrants regress to their own native language that poses difficulty in determining and providing appropriate care and support.

People ageing with disability should be encouraged and assisted to maintain a healthy and quality life style through incentives in Centrelink benefit and/or tax concession. There is some resistance among people ageing with disability to move to aged care facilities and therefore greater flexibility and options for transitioning to age care is necessary. Improvement in community support and participation is also needed. A copy of our

submission will be on the website once it's been approved by the Senate inquiry team.

FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES ON THE CALD AND ABORIGINAL PERSPECTIVES RELATING TO THE DISABILITY SERVICES STANDARDS

EDAC in collaboration with Disability Services Commission (DSC) has been providing workshops designed to help Commission funded services to develop culturally responsive policies and practices to meet the current Disability Services Standards.

Organised Workshops:

Aboriginal Cultural Training and Disability Services Standards on Tuesday, 15th June, 9.30am – 4.30pm at the Subiaco Arts Centre.

Culturally Inclusive Disability Services Standards (two workshops) on Wednesday, 16th June, 9.30am – 12.30pm and 1pm – 4pm at the Subiaco Arts Centre.

MULTI LINGUAL BROCHURES ON WORKSAFE TO ASSIST MIGRANT WORKERS, THEIR EMPLOYERS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ADVISORS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

EDAC has a number of *Worksafe* brochures available but you can also contact them direct on 93278775 or download from their website: www.worksafe.wa.gov.au

NATIONAL ETHNIC DISABILITY ALLIANCE'S (NEDA) DISABILITY DATA REPORT LAUNCH

Angelo Cianciosi (vice President) and Nihal Iscel (Advocacy Manager) were at NEDA's Disability Data Report Launch by the Parliamentary Secretary on Disability Services, Bill Shorten at Parliament House, Canberra.

The disability data report findings demonstrated the inequities experienced by people with disabilities from culturally diverse backgrounds.

The facts are that:

- One in every four people with disability is a person of either first or second generation Non-English Speaking Background (NESB), representing approximately one million people across Australia.
- The proportion of people born in a non-English speaking country who use Commonwealth State and Territory funded accommodation support

and employment services is lower than the proportion of people born in an English speaking country who use these services.

- People born in a Non English Speaking Country are approximately four times less likely to receive accommodation support services than people born in English Speaking Countries.

NEDA, together with all state ethnic disability agencies will continue to advocate for the rights and equal participation of people with disabilities from culturally diverse backgrounds and their carers/families.

EDAC'S CONSUMERS' REFERENCE GROUP

The CaLD Disability Consumer Reference Group met on the 14th May 2010 to provide advice and feedback on systemic advocacy issues relating to disability. They acknowledge the importance of consumer participation and input in ensuring that EDAC is able to more accurately reflect their needs.

They will continue to meet every 3 months. Included in each meeting will be opportunities to increase skills and knowledge on disability advocacy. At the last meeting they requested more information and training on the types of services and self-advocacy skills for the 2010 meetings.

The next meeting will be held on 13th August 2010 from 10am till 12pm at EDAC. Lunch is usually provided.

A few places are still available for people who would like to participate. If you are interested to become a member, please contact Maranda Ali at EDAC.

2010 FEDERAL ELECTION

The Federal Election shall soon be upon us, with some predicting the election to be held in August or September 2010. EDAC recently held a meeting with Brendon Barlow from the WA State Office for the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to discuss some of the issues impacting CaLD people with a disability throughout the enrolment and voting process at this election.

Some of the issues were, limited information provided to diverse ethnic groups, lack of information in accessible formats; including audio recordings in various languages; and the limited number of bi-lingual staff members available on Election Day. Brendon has

agreed that these issues need to be addressed and is eager to work with EDAC and CaLD community groups to inform citizens about the enrolment and election process and help to enlist more bi-lingual workers on election day.

The website for the AEC is a quick resource to find out if you are enrolled, are eligible to enrol, change your details or apply to express an interest in working as a polling official for this election. You can visit the website at www.aec.gov.au or contact AEC on 13 23 26; alternatively you can contact EDAC for guidance.

DIVERSIT-e AUSTRALIA'S FIRST DIVERSITY HEALTH MAGAZINE

This national electronic publication provides a forum to highlight the health issues of people from cultural and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities across Australia.

Diversit-e aims to address the latest services, programs, projects, policies, research and initiatives in multicultural health as well as provide an opportunity for CaLD consumers and carers to share their stories.

The Diversity Health Institute Clearinghouse produces the e-magazine four times a year and distributes it to subscribers across Australia and internationally.

Diversit-e has been available since June 2010.

To subscribe or view the magazine, visit www.dhi.gov.au. Subscription is free.

ACCESSING SERVICE FROM ETHNIC DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTRE

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