



Newsletter of Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre - Spring, September 2010

EDAC NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This report, like most of the others I have written comes at a busy time for EDAC. We have been involved in a very intense election campaign federally and EDAC worked very hard to ensure that disability issues in the culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities were kept at the forefront of the major parties minds. We, in conjunction with a few agencies conducted pre election forums in some of the key federal seats so that these issues continued to be at the forefront of their thinking. It would appear that the disability voice is being heard with both major parties announcing significant increases in funding for the sector. EDAC and its peak body National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) will work to continue to have the voice of CaLD community members with disabilities heard.

Aside from the pre election forums, we have made submissions to the Productivity Commission and other agencies on issues that impact on our constituent stakeholders. One submission that we made was to the Disability Services Commission (DSC) on the process they undertake in advertising and recruiting of CaLD employees. Some of the issues we raised were as follows:

- Advertisements needing to be in languages other than English

- Acceptance of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test results obtained by migrants to Australia as sufficient
- Amending their email address from one that was very long to a far shorter one
- Using Ethnic media for their advertisements
- Simplifying the language of their advertisements

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Hopefully, these submissions will be incorporated into their advertisements and the cultural diversity of the Commission will be increased further.

There are also some important forums that EDAC is organising around the Advance Health Directive. This is an important document and I urge you all to attend some of these sessions. We have also prepared a submission on mental health to the newly formed Mental Health Commission. We also welcome the new Mental Health Commissioner Eddie Bartnik. Mr Bartnik's appointment is a forward step in the area of mental health and we hope to work closely with him.

On matters closer to home, our Chief Executive Officer, Jenny Au Yeong is on long service leave and we have a Relieving Chief Executive Officer, Wendy Rose. Wendy is no stranger to the sector having been a board member for many years. We welcome Wendy on board and look forward to the continued good work of Jenny and all our staff.

Our AGM is coming up soon and we hope to see you all there.

John Cooke
President

PERSON CENTRED APPROACH

The Community Living Initiative aims to establish a broader range of alternative community living arrangements for adults, which are sustainable, culturally appropriate, and outside the traditional models of accommodation. Each community living arrangement is 'person-centred' and emphasises key elements of a 'home' in the community and 'a good life' such as valued relationships,

choice, contribution, security for the future and challenge.

EDAC will be organising a number of forums / consultations on Person Centred Approach in Mirrabooka, Gosnells and Subiaco. If you are a person from CaLD background who has a disability, you and your family are welcome to join our consultations and provide input on what supports you would need to live independently in the community. The next Consultation is on:

**Date: 21 October 2010,
from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Venue: Subiaco Arts Centre,
180 Hamersley Road
Subiaco**

NOTICE OF EDAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Saturday 23rd October 2010
from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Venue: The Palms Community
Centre, Cnr Rokeby and
Nicholson Roads, Subiaco.

Lunch will be included. Everyone is welcome but please RSVP your attendance by Monday 11th of October for catering purposes. Please call EDAC on 9388 7455 for agenda and program.



EDAC's AGM 2009

ETHNICABILITY GETS STRONGER

The 2009-10 financial year saw EDAC's radio program, 'EthnicAbility' growing much stronger, taking on important projects and covering many significant issues.

From November 9th 2009, broadcasting of 'EthnicAbility' commenced on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:00 pm. This has meant that people who were not available during the day are now able to listen to the program. The program is still broadcasting from 6EBA FM world radio, 95.3 Mhz. It can also be accessed live via the internet at www.6eba.com.au.



Sanja Vuksanovic and Zel Iscel

DSC funded a project where 15 people with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds were interviewed about the supports they use in order to maintain a quality standard of living. The purpose of the interviews was to encourage other people with disabilities from CaLD backgrounds to also use services to assist them achieve their goals and ambitions.

We have received positive verbal feedback from listeners on how inspirational the interviewees are. The programs are also being promoted by the DSC itself so we are hoping they will continue to make an important

impact long after they have been broadcast on 'EthnicAbility'.

The project also consists of a training component. We are unable to hold any training this financial year even though we have had significant enquiries. However, all people with disabilities from CaLD backgrounds and carers are invited to a media and advocacy training session on October 29th 2010. Further information about the training is provided in this newsletter.

From October to December 2009, NEDA funded five programs on 'EthnicAbility' where migrants with a disability and a family member of a person with disability applying to migrate to Australia were interviewed. This was part of the response to an inquiry into the treatment of people with disability in the Australian migration system convened by the Joint Standing Committee on Migration (JSCOM).

These programs were geared to demonstrate the important contributions people with disability are making, and can make, to the wider Australian community and their own small communities. While EDAC retains the recorded programs, NEDA carried the transcripts of the programs in its submission. Since its broadcast, quotes from the interviews have been used in NEDA's press releases, as well as those of the JSCOM and other organisations.

The 2010-11 financial year also looks to be a promising one with more projects and exciting interviews pending. If you have ideas for an interview or would like copies of programs, please contact Zel on 044 772 4001.

ADVOCACY AND MEDIA TRAINING:

If you are a person from a CaLD background who has a disability and are interested in making your voice heard, you are welcome to join EDAC's training on Advocacy and Media.

The training will be fun and informative with some inspirational presentations. Tony Serve, Radio Announcer on 6PR will talk about how simple equipment like your mobile phone can be used to make your voice heard. Mili Vojnavic, formerly trainer and Radio Announcer on 6EBA FM, will discuss types of questions and how to answer them. Sanja Vuksanovic and Zel Iscel will talk about the representation of people with disabilities in the Australian and world media.

**DATE: 29 OCTOBER 2010,
FROM: 12:30 PM TO 4:00 PM
VENUE: UNDERCROFT ROOM,
SUBIACO ARTS CENTRE,
180 HAMERSLEY ROAD
SUBIACO**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND
TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL
VERONICA ON 9388 7455.**

EDAC'S NEWS FROM THE KIMBERLEY

I have just started in a new role as EDAC's Regional Advocacy Officer in the West Kimberley. Since starting, I have had the opportunity to visit and introduce myself to potential clients, numerous service providers, agencies and Government Departments. The main purpose of these meetings has been to introduce them to the services we, at EDAC, are able to provide to them.

I travel between Broome and Fitzroy Crossing to attend meetings, to network with other agencies and also to get to know people. As I become more established, the service is becoming noticed as the first Advocacy service here in the Kimberley. Most of the service providers were pleased to hear that the service was not based in Perth but here in Derby. This also allows us to cover all the communities nearby.

Our clients have found the service useful and feel comfortable in their own environment and surroundings when we discuss information with each other. I have established a circuit each month to attend the towns and communities, provide support to other agencies, clients and involve our services within the townships.

This has been a great initiative from EDAC and to all the service providers who have helped and shown great support, EDAC extends its thanks.

So if any of you require information on our new service here in the Kimberley, please don't hesitate to call me on 0409 110 264 or email me at marlenakahika@edac.org.au and we'll arrange a camp in the outback....

Marlena Kahika
Regional Advocacy Officer



Kimberley

NDAP QUALITY CERTIFICATION TRIAL

EDAC was selected as one of the 12 agencies to participate in this trial. The trial involved the agency meeting the 24 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) established in the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP).

EDAC elected to be part of the trial as the Management Committee was confident with its quality practices. Besides EDAC did not receive any non-conformances from audits carried out by the DSC and Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, FaHCSIA (2009 S14K audit). Approximately, a day per week was allocated to identify gaps and develop appropriate processes and materials to meet the KPIs. Workshops were also held for various groups e.g. Management Committee, staff and clients to address the issues about the trial.

In late May 2010, EDAC was externally audited by the International Standards Certifications (ISC) Pty Ltd, represented by Joe Sarkies and Consumer Technical Expert James Bennett at the Subiaco premises. The audit involved Subiaco and also Carnarvon services. Jenny Pearson, the project evaluator joined the auditors at the conclusion of the audit. All participants were encouraged to provide feedback.

The report from ISC indicated that EDAC met the requirements of all the KPIs. ISC also identified some areas for improvement. The trial is due to be completed in October 2010.

Thanks go to all the EDAC Management Committee, staff members, clients and volunteers for their participation in the audit.

STRATEGIC PLANNING DAY

EDAC held its Strategic Planning Workshop on 24 July 2010. Clients, Management Committee members, staff and volunteers attended.



EDAC's Strategic Planning

Dr Ron Chalmers, the Director General of the DSC opened the day with a talk on the big picture issues impacting EDAC. This was followed by questions and answers. It was greatly appreciated that Dr Chalmers gave up his valuable time to contribute to the EDAC's future directions planning.

The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Martin White, the General Manager of Transwa from the Skillsbank and Alumni Relations organisation. His facilitation skills were much appreciated by the participants.



Jenny Au Yeong, Martin White and John Cooke

At the conclusion of the session a discussion document was circulated

and after receiving feedback the document will be uploaded to our website.

DISABILITY CARE AND SUPPORT SCHEME UPDATE

The Productivity Commissioners involved in the inquiry into the Disability Care and Support Scheme visited Perth on the 22nd and 23rd of July. The aim of the Commissioner's visit was to hear the stories and discuss the changes needed to repair the current 'broken' system of disability services.

Background information and further clarification of CaLD issues and needs were later addressed in EDAC's written submission. The Productivity Commission is currently reviewing all submission and is expected to publish their draft report in February 2011.

EDAC would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted in this important submission, including the participants who attended our consultation sessions at our office and provided input by mail, email and phone calls. EDAC's submission to the Productivity Commission is at www.edac.org.au

STATE GOVERNMENT SERVICE PROVISION REFORMS

In 2009 the Western Australian Economic Audit Committee produced the report: *Putting the Public First: Partnering with the Community and Business to Deliver Outcomes*. The report made 43 recommendations that identified the need for better collaboration with government departments and service providers.

The aim is to provide services that are flexible, people-centric and based on an individual service design.

The state government is supportive of the reports broad direction. The Department of Premier and Cabinet has begun implementing some of the key recommendations, with significant changes to services planned within the next five to ten years.

The team involved with implementing these recommendations are "*keen to get the message out about the work that it is doing and to engage with people with an interest in the reforms*".

For more information about these reforms and current progress visit <http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Publications/EconomicAuditReport/Pages/Default.aspx> or contact Emma Colombera on 9222 9948

CONSUMER REFERENCE GROUP IN ACTION (CRG)

EDAC has established a CaLD and Disability Consumer Reference Group to provide ongoing input into EDAC's systemic advocacy issues.

At the second meeting of the CRG two Local Area Coordinator District Managers talked about the range of services available from the DSC.

A Management Committee member will represent the reference group at EDAC's quarterly network meeting with other service providers to help them understand the issues and barriers which impact people with a disability who are from CaLD backgrounds.

The next meeting of the CRG will be in November 2010. If you are interested to join please contact Maranda Ali at EDAC or email maranda@edac.org.au

DISABILITY NETWORK GROUP (DNG)

EDAC has set up a CaLD and Disability Network Group to provide learning and sharing opportunities but would also help to identify any systemic issues impacting our client group.

The next meeting of the DNG network group will be in December 2010.

ADVANCE HEALTH DIRECTIVE

EDAC in conjunction with the Department of Health is conducting a series of forums for CaLD communities around the provision of information about Advance Health Directives (AHD) and Enduring Powers of Guardianship (EPG).

The AHD allows a person to make anticipatory decisions regarding their future healthcare. The EPG allows family and other members of the community (appointed by the patient) to make decisions regarding the treatment or the refusal of treatment by medical professionals on a person's behalf.

The first of these forums was conducted on Friday 17th August primarily for service providers in the CaLD sector. Some of the feedback was that this document contained very important information. Further consultations on AHD with the service providers and the community will be organised shortly.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Mental Health Week is an annual event held nationally to promote

positive mental health messages. This year it occurs from 10th to 16th October. During this time there will be a number of opportunities to find out about services and support groups in your local community. If you see stalls at local shopping centres and parks we encourage you to go up to them and find out more about how you can maintain a positive mentally healthy lifestyle. You will also be able to find out more about services that can help you or someone you know with mental health issues.

There are some very good websites you can access that provide information and resources about mental illness and how to maintain good health. Two such websites are: www.mmha.org.au and www.sane.org

Key Dates for Mental Health Week 2010

- Mental Health Week: 10th - 16th October 2010
 - A number of events are held throughout the metropolitan area and in regional centres
- World Mental Health Day: Sunday 10th October 2010
 - The theme for this year is "Being mentally healthy is about choices"
- Stress Less Day: Wednesday 13th October 2010
 - You're encouraged to do something fun and stress-free, on your own or with a group of family and/or friends

For more information about mental health week and ways you can get involved in activities in your community or to promote an activity go to the following website:

www.waamh.org.au and follow the link to mental health week.

Carers Week 2010

Carers Week 2010 will run from 17th to 23rd October, during which the role of carers is recognised and highlighted. There are many activities and functions that will be run by a number of agencies. Some of the statistics around carers make for interesting reading. These are documented below and have been taken from the website of Carers Australia

www.carersaustralia.com.au:

Australia has almost 2.6 million carers, and nearly 500,000 of these are primary carers – the people who provide the most care ([ABS 2004](#)).

- 350,000 Australians under the age of 25 provide care to a family member who has a disability, or a mental or chronic illness with 170,000 carers under the age of 18 ([ABS, 2005](#))
- 620,000 of Australia's carers were born outside Australia with 366,700 born in other than main English-speaking countries
- 454,000 carers over the age of 65 ([ABS, 2004](#))
- Nearly 2 million carers are of prime working age (15-64) ([ABS, 2004](#))
- 31,600 Indigenous carers over the age of 15 ([ABS, 2008](#))

Carer's Week is an opportunity to recognise the valuable work of CaLD Carers.

STUDENT AT EDAC

Pascal Lapierre



Pascal arrived in Australia in 2008 from Mauritius with his wife and child. Since they arrived, they had another child. He is currently studying at Polytechnic West in Thornlie, a Diploma in Community Services and is doing his work placement at EDAC.

"I'm very passionate about multicultural and disability issues", he said. He chose EDAC to do his work placement because he believes that EDAC is doing a great job in the community providing systemic and individual advocacy for people from CaLD backgrounds with disability with their problems of accessing support services. "EDAC is also helping to establish the links between cultures", he said.

Prior to coming to Australia, Pascal worked in Africa in the shipping industry as a General Manager of Sales and Marketing for 23 years. He then decided to change his career and work in the welfare sector in the community.

Pascal has done some work placements at Identity WA, Activ and now at EDAC. When he completes his Diploma, Pascal will be looking for a job in the community welfare sector next year.