



Newsletter of Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre Winter June 2011

EDAC NEWS

Promoting the rights of people with disabilities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds [CaLD] and their families

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Chief Executive Officer's Report

It has been a very busy and productive few months, with lots happening within the disability and mental health sectors.

EDAC continues to play a significant role in advocating for the rights of people with disabilities from CaLD backgrounds.

We presented to the Productivity Commission at a public hearing in April 2011 as well as provided a written response, on the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme [NDIS].

Whilst EDAC has expressed support for the NDIS we raised a number of concerns and recommendations. We strongly advocated that the complexities and vulnerabilities of people with disabilities from CaLD backgrounds be acknowledged in the implementation of both NDIS & NDII [National Disability Injury Insurance].

EDAC also indicated that professional and independent advocacy is crucial to equity and fairness in the implementation of the NDIS. To read our full submission, please visit EDAC's website.

To register your support for the NDIS please visit www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au

The National Disability Insurance Scheme also dominated the agenda at the recent National Disability Congress in Melbourne attended by our Systemic Advocate, Arlene Gregory and myself. The highlight for me is always in learning about the practices of individualised programs and interagency networking.

In April, I was proud to represent EDAC at the official opening of the Kimberley Disability Advocacy Service at our new Broome office, together with our partners, Andrew Jefferson, Executive Director of People with Disabilities WA and Sandra Collard, Chairperson of the Aboriginal Disability Network. Although it was raining, it did not dampen the support and enthusiasm on the day.

Whilst in Broome, together with Geraldine Mellet, from WA NDIS Campaign branch, we facilitated a consultation forum with disability consumers and family members who shared with us their personal stories and the barriers of service access in rural and remote regions.

Recent budget announcements by both Commonwealth and State governments have seen extra funding going into the disability and mental health sectors. These funding increases are largely welcomed however there is always more that needs to be done in supporting people with disabilities and their families.

Our staff have been busy with an increasing number of individual advocacy cases, participating in a range of consultations and networking within the disability and multicultural sectors. In coming weeks EDAC has planned consultations involving CaLD consumers/carers and interagency meetings. We are also looking forward to participating in the Human Rights workshop organised by the National Ethnic Disability Alliance [NEDA] in Perth on 24 June 2011. Please register your interest and attendance.

EDAC has recently undergone an independent Quality Evaluation, commissioned by the Disability Services Commission and we are very pleased with the findings, which commends the work done by EDAC staff.

I would like to thank all those who participated in this evaluation specially our clients, their families and carers. The EDAC Board of Management extends special thanks to all our staff for their ongoing commitment and for doing an excellent job.

As we go to print, EDAC is upgrading its IT and computers and I would like to extend a special thanks to Lotterywest for providing much needed funding for these technology upgrades.

In concluding I would also like to congratulate Bernadette Wright, EDAC Board member for her recent appointment to the first State Mental Health Advisory Council.

We, at EDAC, remain committed to being a voice for people with disabilities from CaLD backgrounds and if you have any issues please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards
Jenny Au Yeong

**Kimberley Disability Advocacy
Broome Opening Ceremony**



The official opening of the Kimberley Disability Advocacy was held in Broome on 7 April 2011. More than 30 people from local community services, government agencies, indigenous communities and individuals attended. Official proceedings included a Welcome to Country by Jimmy Edgar of the Yawuru community, official speeches and local entertainment.

Jenny Au Yeong, CEO attended together with Andrew Jefferson, Executive Director of People With Disabilities, and Sandra Collard from the Aboriginal Disability Network. Our funding body, Department for Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs [FaHCSIA] was represented by Tony Familiar, Deputy Manager from the Indigenous Coordination Centre.

Jenny said "The opening was fantastic and a great opportunity to showcase our advocacy service and for us to network with local service providers and members of the Kimberley community."

“This important service is funded by FaHCSIA and together with our partners, providing much needed services to people with disabilities throughout the West Kimberley.”

“This service was initially established in Derby in April 2010 and we are pleased that we now have a permanent presence in Broome. Our Disability Advocate, Marlena Kahika provides outreach services to Derby and Fitzroy Crossing. I would like to thank everyone who helped out with organising this successful event.”

The Kimberley Advocacy Service is at Mamabulanjin Complex, Dora Street, Broome Mobile: 0409 110 264

CaLD and Disability Consumer Reference Group Meeting

We would like to invite interested individuals from a CaLD background, with a disability or mental illness to attend our network meetings.

At our July meeting we will have an information session on the role of HADSCO (Health and Disability Services Complaints Office).

At our quarterly meetings we aim to:

- Provide networking opportunities to share information and experience.
- Discuss and brainstorm current issues in disability.

DATE: THURSDAY 21 JULY 2011

TIME: 10 AM - 12 NOON

VENUE: EDAC, 320 ROKEBY RD
SUBIACO

Public Transport available Bus 25 or 97 stops near EDAC.

RSVP: Please call Veronica on 9388 7455 or email admin@edac.org.au by Monday 18 July 2011.

Vice President Runs for EDAC!!



Our Vice President and long serving member of the EDAC Board of Management, John Cooke is an avid triathlon runner and a Wannabee Triathlete.

John, a lawyer, recently competed in the Ironman Lanzarote in Spain on 21 May 2011 and will also compete in the Ironman Busselton on 4 December 2011. This year John has made a commitment to compete in these two events and to raise funds supporting EDAC's work.

John explains “An Ironman is a triathlon which involves a 3.8km swim, 180km bike-ride and 42 km run. As part of my preparation for these major events for at least 12 months now, I have been training 3 hours a day and up to 7 times a week.”

If you would like to read more about John's training, journey and participation in other events please go to http://iwantakonaspot.blogspot.com/2011_02_01_archive.html

John went on to say “In my experience, people from all walks of life who take part in triathlons soon realise that what seems extraordinary in the beginning can be overcome with dedication and perseverance. By providing a voice for people with

disabilities and advocating for their rights to realise their potential is a similar journey of possibility.”

If you would like to contribute to our fundraising appeal, please send your donation to EDAC or make payment through Bankwest BSB 306 089 Account No: 011 451-0.

All donations are tax deductible and we thank you for your generosity.

CaLD and Disability Interagency Network Meeting

You are invited to our network meetings, for all service providers who work with people with disabilities and with clients from a CaLD background.

Network meetings are held quarterly and provide opportunities:

- To learn more about different culturally and linguistically diverse agencies and disability services.
- To share information and network.
- To discuss common issues in the disability and CaLD sectors.

DATE: 21 JUNE 2011
FROM: 9:30 FOR 10 AM START – 12 NOON
VENUE: MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
GROUND FLOOR, SUBIACO
ARTS CENTRE, 180
HAMERSLEY ROAD
SUBIACO

RSVP: Please call Veronica on 9388 7455 or email admin@edac.org.au by Monday 20 June 2011.

Next meeting 20 September 2011 – Please *remember* to put this date in your diaries

State Budget 2011

The State Budget was released on 10 May 2011 with announcements of \$151 million over 3 years for additional housing for people with severe disability and the funding of new respite centres in York, Clarkson, Rockingham and Gosnells.

A further \$5.7 million has been allocated for Intensive Family Support services and funding increases to the Western Australian Motor Industry Foundation, to expand its vehicle fleet by 10 vehicles, so as to assist families caring for someone with a disability, with their transport needs such as attending medical appointments.

In mental health, the Mental Health Commission will allocate 51% of its total \$531 million budget towards community health services provided by government and community service organisations, including early intervention support.

Commonwealth Budget 2011

The Commonwealth Government announced substantial funding increases in mental health services, funding for early intervention services for children with disabilities, and the establishment of a National Mental Health Commission.

New requirements have been introduced for those on Disability Support Pensions, by allowing people with a disability to work more without jeopardising their benefits. For those in receipt of a Disability Support Pension who are under 35 years of age and with some capacity to work, can now develop participation plans with Centrelink. These plans may involve programs with employment

services, training, rehabilitation or volunteering.

Additional funding has also been made available for emergency relief and financial counselling services for those families and individuals experiencing financial difficulties and hardship.

For detailed information about these and other announcements please go to website: www.budget.gov.au

[News from Arlene Gregory, Systemic Advocate – Visits to Melbourne and Sydney](#)



Arlene & Jenny at Etihad Stadium at the NDS Conference in Melbourne on 3rd May 2011

I attended the National Disability and Carer Congress in Melbourne on 2-3 May with Jenny Au Yeong, CEO and Angelo Cianciosi, President of EDAC.

Over 1000 participants from all around Australia attended this congress and it was abuzz with participants contributing to the plenary and panel discussions on disability issues including the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Guest speakers and carers alike shared their experiences, with some moving accounts being given by carers on how disability and the lack of

supports impact on their families on a daily basis, whilst others expressed enthusiasm for the new National Disability Insurance Scheme.

These issues were also picked up by SBS Television in a joint interview with Jenny Au Yeong and Diana Qian from Multicultural Mental Health Australia.

After the conference, I visited the peak disability bodies in Melbourne and Sydney – ADEC, MMHA and MDAA. These multicultural agencies advocate for the rights of people with disabilities from CaLD backgrounds, and have similar goals to EDAC.

I also attended a cultural awareness training workshop organised through MDAA on “Working with Diversity”. It really inspired me and strengthened my resolve in working with people with disabilities.

Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity and I am very grateful to EDAC for this enriching experience!

[EthnicAbility Radio Update](#)

‘EthnicAbility’ continues to hit the airwaves with new team members Suresh Rajan and Arlene Gregory.

Both Suresh and Arlene will be joining the weekly broadcast on 6EBA Radio, whilst Zel Iscel is on annual leave from July to September.

Suresh Rajan, our Treasurer, is an avid supporter of the program and has been Chair of the EthnicAbility Steering Committee since September 2009.

Suresh brings to this program his extensive media skills having previously been a presenter for several years, on commercial radio.

Last week Suresh presented a segment on the issues surrounding migration and disability and interviewed Ms Sibylle Kaczorek, Executive Officer of NEDA.

Interesting topics are discussed on a weekly basis and remember to tune in on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:00pm on World Radio 6EBA - 95.3FM.

If you missed any radio interviews please go to our website, www.edac.org.au. We also welcome any feedback, which you can send to ethnicability@edac.org.au

Welcome Halina Krapez



My name is Halina Krapez and I have recently started working at EDAC as an Advocacy Officer. After graduating from Curtin University with a Bachelor of Social Work, I have worked mainly with people from CaLD backgrounds.

My previous employment has been at the Department of Immigration, Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre, various migrant centres, Mundaring Shire, Swan Districts Hospital and Midland Information Debt and Legal Advocacy Service.

When I am not working I am a Carer for my daughter, who has an intellectual disability. I have been active on numerous parent lobby groups, and part of a Parents Talk Team, speaking to medical and other

primary health professionals, in raising awareness of issues that affect families caring for someone with a disability.

I am from a CaLD background myself and my first language is Polish even though I was born in England. I have lived in South Africa and now Australia, so I have been a migrant twice!.

At EDAC I work three days a week on Tuesdays and Fridays at Subiaco and on Wednesdays at Maddington.

I look forward to meeting new clients and should you require any assistance, please call EDAC for an appointment.

The Maddington office is located at Wattle House, 40 Orr Street, Maddington. Telephone 9493 2447 or Mobile 0411 686 112.

Vale Yusuf Akbas

It is with great sadness that we advise of the passing of Yusuf Akbas. Yusuf was a valued member of EDAC's Consumer Reference Group and a strong advocate for people with disabilities. He was also a guest speaker on the EthnicAbility program.

We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to Yusuf's family and friends.

For all other enquiries

Please contact EDAC during office hours on Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. Telephone 9388 7455 or Freecall 1800 659 921.