

CITIZEN ADVOCACY - SUNBURY & DISTRICTS Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013

Office 5, 36 Macedon Street
Sunbury 3429
Tel: 9744 7378 Fax: 9740 8535
Mobile 0408 178 614
Email: casunbury1@bigpond.com
dabela@citizenadvocacysunbury.com.au
Web: www.casunbury.net

Postal Address:
P.O. Box 420
Sunbury 3429

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter for 2013.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we successfully completed the 1st stage of our audit against the Disability Advocacy Standards. I'm even happier to report now, that we have completed the 2nd and final stage of the audit, resulting in an excellent report and many positive and inspiring comments from protégés and advocates. The development and improvement of our policies and procedures and operating systems to help make us more streamlined and effective in the office could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of our admin assistant and committee of management along with the input of other CA programs. It very quickly became evident to the auditors when talking to a sample of protégés and advocates that the bond and friendship between the two people was strong, long lasting and greatly valued and effective as well as something valued by the community. I thank everyone involved for their words of encouragement and very positive feedback, documented in the report. We hope to have the final Audit Report on our website soon and encourage everyone to read it as it is your program and something to be proud of.

As stated in the article below, people currently living in State Care (e.g. Community Residential Units) are faced with the proposal by DHS of a rental increase of up to \$5000 per year. This sudden increase will affect many vulnerable people placed in this situation. For those that are both in State care and have Administration through State Trustees the chances of someone speaking up on this issue on their behalf may be less than for those that have family or other independent administrators. Advocates who have protégés potentially affected by this issue and require information or support are encouraged to contact the office.

Some of you will know or remember John Armstrong who was Chairperson and an advocate in the program some years ago. We are lucky to have John, living back in Sunbury and are able to take advantage of his vast knowledge and experience of Social Role Valorisation theory and the lives of people with disability in our communities. An invitation to a workshop he is conducting for us is attached to this newsletter and I would encourage you to come along and listen to this inspirational speaker.

On a final note: the office has a new coffee machine and we would love to have a coffee with you! Please drop in any time.



Regards, David Abela (Co ordinator)

Disgusting Inequity by DHS Victoria

The Age, Thursday, May 23, 2013

Presented by Lifestyle in Supported Accommodation (LISA) Inc.

My brother, who has a range of disabilities, has lived most of his life in state care. For many years he lived a very institutional life, sleeping in a large dormitory, wearing communal clothes. Under government policy he was de-institutionalized in the early 1990s and moved into community housing. In the recent Victorian budget, hundreds of disabled people, living in state care, were asked to fund a rent increase of up to \$5000 a year, effective December 2013. The increase is being used to fund additional places in state care. To date, the community response has been muted and the silence of advocacy groups astounding. Once the rent increase applies, my brother will be left with \$100 a week for pharmacy, lunch, clothing, toiletries, school fees, transport and social outings. While many Victorians were thrilled at seeing an NDIS secured, the Victorian government is implementing a mean policy, dressed up as equity. What is fair about banishing more people to a greater level of poverty? Looks like re-institutionalization to me.

Barb McLennan,

Newtown, NSW

LISA Comment:

There are two costs in supporting vulnerable people, most of whom have an intellectual or multiple disability and cannot care for themselves without significant support. One cost is the service fee. This is that which pays the support staff. For each resident in a DHS group home, this is around \$128,000pa. This funding is from government block funding. The other fee is paid by the resident from their disability support pension. This is for their daily living, for rent and housekeeping (food and utilities). At present this is around 50% of their DSP, allowing them to pay for their day services, medication, dental, pharmacy, clothes and some basic recreational activities within their ability. For many years, the Department of Human Services has fully (service fee) funded its own group home services, but not similar services provided by non-government service providers. They have, therefore, been forced to charge their residents more daily living fee, or provide less support staff, to compensate. People with a lifelong disability, which inhibits them caring for themselves, are being punished for being so, if they are expected to contribute towards their support costs – support staff wages. This was never the intention of the NDIS. Yet this proposed DHS increase in fees, is clearly an attempt to have their residents contribute towards their support costs, disguised as 'board and lodging' - the daily living fee, which is currently adequate. No cost of living increase would ever equal a 50% increase on daily living in one hit. We call on the DHS to closely examine its longstanding bureaucratic mismanagement and corresponding financial waste, fully fund the support costs for all supported accommodation group homes throughout the State of Victoria and leave the current daily living fee as a factor of cost of living. This is a straight out cost of living tax by a state government on our most vulnerable people, and not the intention of the NDIS. The original intention of the NDIS being to provide support to the level of the person's needs.

One of six residents living in DHS group home New Living Costs and Charges

Scenario 1

Pension; \$1700.00 pm 75% = \$1275 pm for B&L. Remainder, \$+425 pm

Day Service, -345 pm

Medication, - 40 pm

Clothing, - 60 pm

Personal Exp -160 pm

Balance -180 pm

Notes:

- The pension figure is that which appears on the person's bank statement.
- The balance in Scenario 2 is the best, but is worse than a person in aged-care, where their balance is \$60 per week, not \$50 per month, or \$53pw Inc. personal expenditure.
- Only essential items have been included in expenditure. It should be noted that the personal expenditure is that calculated by DHS staff.

Scenario 2

Balance \$-180.00 pm

CAPS + 41.67 pm

Mob +188.50 pm

Balance \$+ 50.00 pm

LIFESTYLE IN SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION (LISA) INC.

Tel: [03-9434-3810](tel:03-9434-3810) Email: info@lisainc.com.au or vk3qq@optusnet.com.au

Web: www.lisainc.com.au www.lisa-aus.blogspot.com

NOTE: We are always interested in feedback and information; general, specific, good or bad.

If you wish anonymously: Our mail address is, 73 Nepean Street, Watsonia, 3087

Complaints Resolution & Referral Service (CRRS)

Who are they?

There are 10 Standards that Commonwealth funded disability services (like ours) must follow to get money from the Government. If a service does not follow the Standards you can complain to the **Complaints Resolution & Referral Service (CRRS)**. A copy of the Standards is included in your Citizen Advocacy Sunbury & Districts Inc. Handbook.

What is the CRRS?

The CRRS is a service that helps people with disability sort out complaints about disability employment and advocacy services funded by the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services.

Complaints Resolution & Referral Service

Free Call: 1800 880 052 Telephone Typewriter: 1800 301 130 Fax: 02 8412 7199

Email: crrs@workfocus.com Postal Address: PO Box 126, St Leonards, and NSW 1590

National Relay Service: 1800 555 677 and ask them to call CRRS for you

For an interpreter who speaks another language: 13 14 50 and ask them to call CRRS for you.

My Passion for Music

Article written by Heather Smith - Protégé

Hello everybody, my name is Heather Smith and my advocate is Lyn Plummer.

I live in Craigieburn with my husband Gavin and perform everyday tasks independently as a married couple. I found out about Citizen Advocacy through my Counsellor at Mill Park Community House. I think that David Abela and Lyn do their jobs so wonderfully to just make so everybody is happy with the results on what is going on.

My interests and hobbies are story writing, doing my own computer work, listening to music (especially on YouTube), watching horror movies, collecting pictures of my favourite music performers and collecting music related magazines. I grew up listening to my parents' music and got to know and learnt to like songs of the late 1950s, 60s and 70s. My parents both used to have the radio dial tuned to Good Time Oldies Gold 104, then as I was growing up I started digging deeper to the late 1950s and early 1960s music. This station would play music from artists like the Beach Boys, Buddy Holly and The Drifters.

At the moment, I am very interested in obscure 1950s and 1960s music from the "teen-sound era" which is what it is called these days. When I was a child of 12 years old and going on into my early teenage years, my favourite songs were "Over the Rainbow" by Billy Thorpe & the Aztecs, "A Little Ray of Sunshine" by Axiom, "Rubber Ball" by Bobby Vee, "Runaway" by Del Shannon and "Slipping Away" by Max Merritt & the Meteors. Some of the genres of the 1950s through to the 1970s are classic rock, rock 'n' roll, rockabilly, doo wop, teen sound, instrumental rock, '60s pop and merseybeat.

The general word of music to me, in my opinion, is The Beach Boys, Buddy Holly, The Drifters, Bobby Vee, Del Shannon and sometimes Bobby Rydell. With the music of Bobby Rydell, it would be categorized in the general world of music, with his popular songs and also in the obscure world of music, with his less known songs. The obscure world of music, in my opinion, is Kris Jensen, Dean Randolph, Frank Gari, Terry Stafford and The Spark-Plugs. In this era of music, there were also one-hit wonders, which meant the artists would only have the one hit (in the general world of music) but would also have other minor songs (which would be categorised in the obscure world of music). Some one-hit wonder artists, in my opinion are Terry Stafford (song: Suspicion), Steve Alaimo (song: Everyday I Have to Cry), Kris Jensen (song: Torture), Joanie Sommers (song: Johnny Get Angry), Marcie Blaine (song: Bobby's Girl), James Darren (song: Goodbye Cruel World) and Joey Powers (song: Midnight Mary). These one hit wonder artists did have their one hit song (in the general world of music) but they had other minor songs, which are rare obscurities.

There were also answer songs, in this era of music, which is a follow up song from another original song for an example "Save the Last Dance for Me" by The Drifters (original) and "I'll Save The Last Dance For You" by Damita Jo (follow-up) or "Midnight Mary" by Joey Powers (original) and "Midnight Joey" by Lorna Dune (follow-up). My favourite song from the teen-sound era is "Bewildered" by Yale Benson, which I discovered on a YouTube Channel.

I hope you have enjoyed reading my article on 1950s through to 1970s music.
Heather Smith.

Heather (right) with her Advocate Lyn.



If undeliverable return to:
CITIZEN ADVOCACY -
SUNBURY
P.O. BOX 420, SUNBURY 3429
The Citizen Advocacy - Sunbury
Newsletter
Print Post approved PP344751/008

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**Postage
Paid
Australia**

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
If so, please complete these details and return to:
Citizen Advocacy-Sunbury, P.O. Box 420,
Sunbury 3429.

Name:.....

New Address:.....
.....

Telephone:.....

Email:.....

UPCOMING ADVOCATE LEARNING EVENT

Sunbury & Districts has been given an opportunity to learn from the experience of John Armstrong, senior Social Role Valorisation Trainer.

The purpose of this workshop is to address:

- How do people get accepted by others?
- What kinds of experiences do people have when others embrace them?
- What direction might an advocate pursue in improving the experiences of life for a protégé?
- What is the strongest safeguard for protecting the life of someone from potential danger?

These and other questions will be answered in this interactive and fun session over one and half hours with John Armstrong, a past advocate and Committee Chairperson of this program who has trained with Dr Wolf Wolfensberger--the originator of Citizen Advocacy.

We encourage all Advocates to take advantage of this inspiring Workshop to help their protégé to achieve a better life.

This workshop will take place on:

Monday 17th June at 7.00pm

At The Citizen Advocacy Office, 36 Macedon Street Sunbury

There will be pre-workshop drinks and nibbles served at 6.30pm

To RSVP contact David Abela on 97447378
Or via email at casunbury1@bigpond.com.au by Monday 10th June