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Women With Disabilities WA Inc

Newsletter – January 2013

Welcome to 2013!!

I'm looking forward to another productive and exciting year for WWDWA Inc. Welcome to our new members, we hope that being involved with WWDWA Inc will be an enjoyable experience for you, and encourage you all to get involved with our Monthly Forums and other events. They're lots of fun!

In this newsletter you can read about two important Senate Inquiries for people with disabilities. The National Disability Insurance Scheme Draft Bill Senate Inquiry and The Senate Inquiry Into Sterilisation Of People With Disabilities. You can make your own individual submission to either or both inquiries, or contact WWDWA Inc and we will include your views in our submission to the NDIS Draft Bill. We are also happy to pass on your input to the Sterilisation inquiry to Women With Disabilities Australia, the national organisation for women with disabilities, to include in their submission.

It's very important that the voices of women with disabilities be heard, and I hope your voice is one of them.

See you at the forums!
Rayna Lamb
Coordinator

Monthly Forums held for women with disabilities at Subiaco Arts Centre, 180 Hamersley Road, Subiaco (map on page 4). Wheelchair accessible with ACROD parking and close to accessible public transport. Sign Interpreter and personal care assistance available – please notify us of your requirements a week prior to forum.

17 February - 2 to 4 pm – Anna Johnson, Australia's Youth Delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women – Ending Violence Against Women

17 March - 2 to 4 pm – Tony Serve – Using Social Media to Change the World!

RSVP to Rayna on 9244 7463 or 9388 7455 or email rayna@wwdwa.org.au by Friday prior to forum.

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME DRAFT BILL SENATE INQUIRY

The proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) legislation was presented to the federal government on the 29th Nov 2012 and will be voted on in early 2013. It is essential that the Australian government “gets it right” and they need to hear your views. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity! WWDWA Inc will be sending a submission to the Senate Committee with our members' thoughts and opinions on the Draft NDIS bill. You are also able to put in an individual submission. The following links will give you more information on the submission process and the bill itself:

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/towards/ndis-draft-legislation/>

<http://www.disabilitydirectory.net.au/product/understanding-the-ndis-bill/>

(Please note, the information at this link has been put together

entirely by volunteers with no funding or support from government to do this)

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=clac_ctte/ndis/info.htm

Although the date due for submissions is 25 January 2013, you can ask for more time. WWDWA Inc has been given until 8 February 2013 to send in our submission. So please call or email me by Thursday 7 February to let me know what you would like WWDWA Inc to tell the government about the NDIS bill.

SENATE INQUIRY INTO STERILISATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Senate Inquiry into sterilisation is a critical inquiry for all people with disabilities. It is so important that the voices of people with disabilities are heard in this Inquiry – in whatever way works for the individual and/or organisation concerned. The Terms of reference are very broad and are not just about surgical sterilisation. Among other things, the Inquiry will look into the choices people with disabilities have about:

- contraception
- whether or not to have a baby

It will also look at things like:

- What sort of information people with disabilities have access to about sexuality, relationships, their bodies;
- Whether doctors and other professionals need more training about the rights of people with disabilities to make their own decisions;
- How people with disabilities are treated differently when it comes to their reproductive rights;
- What sort of assistance people with disabilities might need to be able to manage their own reproductive health care;

It is really important that people with disabilities tell the Senate Inquiry their views on some of these issues. It doesn't have to be a lengthy document or a formal submission. You can just send an email if you want. Or you can ring them up, or ask them to ring you up. Or you can tell Women With Disabilities Australia or WWDWA Inc what you think and we can tell the Inquiry on your behalf.

Women With Disabilities Australia would strongly encourage everyone to contribute to the Inquiry in some way. The Committee has developed a Plain English version of the Terms of Reference which is available on WWDA's website at: <http://www.wwda.org.au/senateinquiry2012.htm>

If you would like to share your ideas, views, thoughts, experiences etc with the The National Disability Insurance Scheme Draft Bill Senate Inquiry or The Senate Inquiry Into Sterilisation Of People With Disabilities, you can do so in the following ways:

Phone: (02) 6277 3515

TTY: (02) 6277 7799

Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Don't hesitate to contact them if you need any assistance with your submission, including more time to submit your views, or being sent more information about the inquiries.

Or by post to:

Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

You can submit your views anonymously if you wish.

In The News: Single parent pension warning an 'error'

Centrelink will contact tens of thousands of single parents who were wrongly told to destroy their concession cards after moving to Newstart dole payments.

Human Services Minister Kim Carr told Fairfax Media the "computer-generated" letters declaring the discount cards invalid weresent in error and admitted they would have caused confusion.

Senator Carr said that despite the letters, all single principal carers on Newstart were entitled to a pensioner concession card and associated discounts.

"New cards will be issued immediately and be received by people by the end of the month," he said.

The comments came after Fairfax Media on Sunday highlighted how Centrelink had issued letters to single parents telling them their parenting payment had ended and they should "destroy this [pensioner concession] card immediately after [December 31, 2012]".

Senator Carr said the letters issued last month were automatically generated when people moved off the single parenting payment.

"I acknowledge that the computer-generated letter would have caused some confusion," he said. "I have spoken to the secretary today and the department has agreed to contact every person affected to explain again that the concession cards will continue."

The recently formed Single Parent Action Group is planning protests around the country when Federal Parliament resumes on February 5 - including a march from Old Parliament House to new Parliament House in Canberra.

Samantha Seymour, a spokeswoman for the group, said the rally aimed to show it was unacceptable to force people to live under the poverty line while raising children.

Early on Saturday 2 February, Women With Disabilities WA Inc's YahooGroups account was hacked and spam was sent out to mailing list members and others on WWDWA Inc's Yahoo email account address book. We apologise for any inconvenience or distress caused by this, and WWDWA Inc's Yahoo account has been now closed down.

We have set up a new mailing list, which is more secure and professional. If you were not on the email list previously and would like to be added, please email info@wwdwa.org.au Or you can go to http://www.wwdwa.org.au/mailman/listinfo/wwdwa_wwdwa.org.au

Volunteers

In order that forums and other events that we have can run smoothly, we rely heavily on the support of volunteers.

Volunteers are needed to assist in the physical tasks of setting up venues and supporting women who need assistance during the forums.

If you know women who would be interested in helping out please let Rayna know.

