



"MEDIA RELEASE"
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"2009, OUR CHAMPIONS!"

December 3rd - The International Day for People with a Disability

On this the very special day for people with a disability Disability Speaks would like to acknowledge those who inspire us and drive us to seek a better world for people with a disability. Whilst acknowledging thousands of people with a disability, their families and carers regularly perform marvellous feats there are a few we would like to publicly acknowledge

Most Inspirational!

Kurt Fearnley

Paralympian, four time winner of the New York Marathon, he hiked the Kokoda Track and courtesy of national TV was beamed into millions of house holds across Australia. What a remarkable man!

If that was not enough, he flew home and blew Jetstar through the roof for the dismal way in which they manage travellers with disability. Take a bow Kurt you are a champion of the disabled for 2009. Long may you inspire and lead by your exploits!

Best Hope for the Future!

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd

When our National leader announced he had instructed the Australian Productivity Commission to report back on a National Disability Insurance scheme he has put a peg in the ground to change the face of disability services in Australia for ever. Make no mistake, the NDIS will happen..... it is only when and in what form. There is no going back for our Prime Minister and he knows it. Like the paid maternity leave community challenge NDIS is coming. Congratulations Kevin, you may just be the political leader that has been needed by the disability sector for decades.

Your father in law would be as proud of you as we are!

Against all odds!

Neil Sachse, Neil Sachse Foundation

One of the toughest and most talented to play AFL football his commitment to finding a cure for spinal injury is extraordinary.

With 400 new cases a year joining the 10,000 Australians living in this position the foundations wonderful work will no doubt one day and hopefully soon restore mobility to many.

Confident, polished and polite Neil is remarkable in his positive can do attitude and inspires us all!

Brighten our days!

The Tutti Ensemble (Minda Inc .)

With over 1,000,000 hits on their website Tutti charms and inspires everyone who hears them sing!

God's angels reside in the hearts and minds of this dedicated band of young South Australians who take disability voices to the world

Their "Very Tutti Christmas" show on Dec 16th will be special

www.tutti.org.au

Media Leadership!

Leon Byner 5AA Adelaide

For his determined and unforgiving challenging of the state government for failing to pass on the 5% funding premium from the Federal Government to SA Disability service providers.

For mainstream media to professionally and determinedly pursue recalcitrant governments on disability matters inspires us all and gives us hope. Thanks Leon on behalf of the 20,000 South Australians living with disability who need to have their voices heard!

Courage under Fire!

Monsignor David Cappo Executive Member SA Cabinet

For publicly stating and confirming that there is no plan in SA to address the disability crisis and that underfunding is chronic.

His comments following the tragic death of Peter Eitzen, allegedly murdered by his mother in July highlighted at the highest levels that the distress is known, understood and ignored!

Lets hope the coronial inquiry delivers a damning report on the SA Disability system that makes Peters tragic loss in some small way a catalyst for a better future for people with disability.

Having a Dip! **Dignity 4 Disability (2)**

The recently registered SA political party planning on contesting the next SA election in March 2010

We wish them luck and hope they can raise the disability debate in the lead up to the election

and win some valuable preference votes!!!

The attached flyer highlights a meeting they are holding tomorrow Friday 4TH Dec at Parliament House, North Tce

(note : David Holst is not an organizer of D4D)

SPECIAL THANKS

To the hundreds of people who send messages and support to Disability Speaks, often highlighting their own special circumstances and daily battle for dignity. Your support motivates our volunteers to continue to work tirelessly to maintain the disability message.

Extra special thanks to those generous people who donated cash to our cause to enable us to run newspaper ads and fund future public meetings. Thanks to the people at DIRC, Sandy, Karen and co who's blood boils at the injustice of the disability support available

Thanks also all of Adelaide's Media outlets, for maintaining disability on the agenda and continuing to carry our message

They know injustice when they see it and report it well!

and to those well intentioned people who sent messages highlighting our grammatical and spelling errors

Nice to know someone reads our stuff!!!

Your thoughts are appreciated.

Enjoy December 3rd 2009, It is a very special day!

P.S. the new Disability Speaks website is www.disabilityspeaks.com.au it's not great but like everything DS does we are hoping to do better next year.

**David Holst (Chair)
Disability Speaks Steering Committee
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