



"MEDIA RELEASE"
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Where to next?

Gillard looks a serious problem!

When Angela Shanahan wrote a substantial article in last weekend's Australian paper she echoed the increasing angst of many in the national disability community when she said

"The (Federal) government has downgraded disability as an issue and a portfolio"

Disability Speaks has received many comments from people who feel that Gillard since her promotion to PM has lacked genuine passion for people with a disability and her comments have been largely tepid in response to direct questions and not volunteered. Gillard has rapidly acquired the reputation and is being seen as a stumbling block for critical disability reform.

Ms Shanahan makes the point in her article (copy attached) that Gillard under pressure could not even remember who the new parliamentary secretary for disability was!

Chris from Mt Osmond said "Gillard did not support pension increases and paid maternity leave and I doubt she will support NDIS. As a career politician I am not convinced she genuinely supports families, especially those with people living with disability or families and unpaid carers"

Disability Speaks is committed to driving NDIS

Our next scheduled meeting, open to all comers as usual will be held on Tuesday Oct 12th at 11.00am at Disability Information Resource Centre (DIRC) in Gilles street. Agenda items include,

- NDIS, what do we do next?
- Unmet need waiting lists in SA, action required?
- Proposed SA protest rally, Thurs Dec 2nd?
- Federal representation?

Please circulate this email widely and see you at the meeting!

Two other important events

The super strong on-line advocacy group **◆GetUp◆** is seeking feedback on what cause it should campaign for next: see <http://getup.uservoice.com/forums/60819-campaign-ideas>

Currently outperforming all other causes is a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

To keep this issue ahead of the pack, please take a moment to click on the link above and vote for **◆Advocating for an NDIS◆**.

An option box will appear so you can select how many votes you wish to allocate to this cause.

Getup has been hugely successful with other causes it has adopted.

Its backing would make a big difference to public awareness of an NDIS and to the likelihood of the Government following through on the current Productivity Commission review of the idea.

To learn more about the NDIS, go to <http://www.ndis.org.au/>

Plus

Registrations are now open for the **October 2010 SA Disability Conference, *Forward Together*** at Allan Scott Park, Morphettville Racecourse on Wednesday and Thursday, 13th and 14th October.

Day one of the conference is open to people with disability, their family and carers at the cost of a fully refundable \$25 deposit.

Both days of the conference are open for disability sector staff and interested parties at just \$75 per person per day. As spaces are limited and we're expecting a flurry of registrations, please register now.

Due to the delay in the opening of registrations (as a result of unforeseen circumstances), registrations will be open for only 14 days: they close at midday on **Tuesday, 5th October 2010**.

A total of 35 presentations, four keynote speakers and a number of displays will be on show over the two days of the conference on a range of topics: accommodation, autism, self-managed funding, carers, sleep, fetal alcohol syndrome, person-centred active support, eating/drinking and more.

Presenters include representatives from Disability SA, Minda, DANSA, ODACS, City of Playford, DIRC, Flinders University, Equal Opportunity Commission and others. [Check the website now for the conference program and registration forms.](#)

Speakers include:

- Minister for Disability, The Honourable Jennifer Rankine MP
- Dr Jeffrey Chan, Victoria's Senior Practitioner
- Dr Mark Barber, consultant in profound intellectual disabilities and severe communication impairment
- Monsignor David Cappo OAM, Social Inclusion Board chairperson
- Mr Bruce Bonyhady AM, chairperson of Yooralla and Solve! at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne and president of Philanthropy Australia Limited
- Ms Suzanne Carman, Executive Director of ODACS

See you on October 12th at DIRC, there is a lot of work ahead to drive real change

David Holst

Chair - Disability Speaks Steering Committee

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