

DRAS NEWSLETTER 2010

AUTUMN EDITION

Visit our website to find out more about DRAS - www.dras.org.au

Welcome to the 2010 Autumn Edition of the DRAS Newsletter

We hope you are feeling enthused by the 'cooler' weather and the first signs of winter appearing, with more much needed rain forecast.

The first half of this year has seen DRAS complete the requirements of the "Leading with Standards" Pilot Project which commenced in June 2009. The Leading with Standards Project's aim is to support agencies with the implementation of a best practice system for involving & managing volunteers. DRAS utilises the services of volunteers on the agency's Board of Management. Volunteers have also assisted DRAS in areas such as administration duties and office maintenance.

DRAS is currently in a recruitment phase in relation to our Board of Management. We are canvassing for expressions of interest from suitable candidates to join our volunteer Board. People of all abilities are welcome to apply. All applications will be looked upon favourably. Further information on how to apply and a position description can be obtained via the DRAS office at 38 Myers Street, Geelong or 5221 8033 during business hours.

The Rudd Government's review of the National Disability Advocacy Program continues. The area of Quality Assurance has seen much consultation and input from working groups within the disability advocacy sector over the past year or so. It is anticipated that the changes recommended in relation to Quality Assurance will be acted on in late 2010.

Cathy Bolger—Manager/Senior Advocate
Kay Goldsworthy—Administration Officer

Information, articles and Links: -

- DRAS
- Disability Standards Access to Premises
- Deaf People—SMS emergency service
- Deaf Australia Advocacy
- Bethany—Support for families at Risk of Homelessness
- National Ethnic Disability Alliance
- Encompass—Material Aid Centre
- Back to Back Theatre—"Frankenstein"
- Mediation and Training Services Barwon South West Encompass
- Leisure Options
- Vision Australia/Consumer Affairs
- Guide Dogs Victoria
- Victorian Government Initiative — Emergency Contacts
- Create
- Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc
- Volunteering Geelong



If you would like to advertise or promote your community service or program in future editions of our Newsletter, please contact DRAS Phone: 03 5221 8033 or email: info@dras.org.au

DISABILITY RIGHTS & ADVOCACY SERVICE INC.



38 Myers Street, GEELONG 3220
Ph: 03 5221 8033 Fax: 03 5223 2701
Email: info@dras.org.au
[www: dras.org.au](http://www.dras.org.au)
ABN: 46 403 060 535

DRAS is canvassing for expressions of interest from suitable candidates to join our volunteer Board of Management. People of all abilities are welcome to apply.

We have vacancies in the specific areas of Quality Assurance, Risk Management and Marketing. However all applications will be looked upon favourably.

Position description:

- Candidates must possess a commitment to the empowerment of people with disability via advocacy.
- Knowledge of the disability service sector would be advantageous but is not mandatory.
- Being team orientated and willing to support DRAS' vision and core values is mandatory.
- Candidates must possess the knowledge, skills and desire to actively fulfil the Governance role of a board member.
- Candidates must display an interest in the work of the agency, be willing to participate in BOM duties and attend a monthly board meeting.
- Candidates must be able to apply either personal or professional skills and experience to enrich the performance of the board.
- Candidates must be willing to undertake their duties in a timely and professional manner as a representative of DRAS.

Additional information:

- All Board members are volunteers
- Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month excluding January
- Board meetings are held at United Way, 248 Malop St Geelong
- Board meetings commence at 5.30pm
- A National Police Check is mandatory

Further Information:

Visit our website www.dras.org.au for information on who we are, what advocacy is, our vision and core values.

Interested candidates are required to forward:

A **covering letter and resume** outlining their interest, skills and reasons for applying.
Applications to be addressed to:

Cathy Bolger
Manager
DRAS
38 Myers Street
Geelong Vic 3220

I am happy to speak with any interested candidate and can be contacted on 5221 8033 during business hours or via email cathy@dras.org.au

Cathy Bolger

Manager/Senior Advocate

Disability Rights and Advocacy Service Inc.

DISABILITY STANDARDS FOR ACCESS TO PREMISES

The Australian Government has launched the Disability Standards for Access to Premises, which for the first time set the minimum access requirements for people with a disability to publicly accessible buildings.

The Standards cover features such as accessible lifts, stairs, ramps, toilets and corridors and include buildings such as office blocks, shops, hotels, motels, and common areas of new apartment buildings.

By requiring better access to buildings, the Standards will ensure that people with a disability can access employment, services and the community on an equal basis with other Australians.

The Standards will also provide greater certainty for business by providing for national consistency and reducing different regulatory arrangements. They will also provide the basis for improved arrangements for disability access in the Building Code of Australia.

The Disability Standards for Access to Premises will commence on 1 May 2011.

The Government will work with industry to ensure it has all necessary information prior to the implementation of the Standards. The Government has also agreed to undertake a review of the Standards within five years of their commencement.

The finalisation of these Standards represents an important part of ensuring an inclusive Australian society that enables people with a disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens.

The Standards will contribute to the Australian Government's 10-year National Disability Strategy which is being developed in consultation with the community and disability groups. The strategy will be released later this year and will represent a long-term plan to address the barriers faced by Australians with a disability.

The Disability Standards for Access to Premises and related documentation is available at www.ag.gov.au

Deaf people to get SMS emergency service

Deaf Australia is delighted with the announcement that the Australian Government will establish an SMS emergency service for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

The move was announced by the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy in an address to the CommsDay Summit in Sydney.

The announcement follows a feasibility study into the provision of an SMS emergency service, conducted by ACMA in 2009.

Deaf Australia has been advocating for an SMS emergency service for a number of years. Following a forum and roundtable discussion on access to emergency services hosted by Deaf Australia in 2008, where it was agreed that “something is better than nothing” ACMA agreed to conduct the feasibility study.

“We are absolutely delighted with this news. Finally Deaf and hard of hearing people will be able to feel more safe when they go out into the community because they will be able to call emergency services if they need them,” said Deaf Australian President Kyle Miers.

Deaf Australia congratulates the Minister of this progressive step forward for equal access for Deaf and hard of hearing people.

Currently Deaf and hard of hearing people are only able to access emergency services by using a TTY (telephone typewriter) or computer modem and calling the National Relay Services on the dedicated 106 EMERGENCY NUMBER.

TTYS are not portable, so when a deaf or hard of hearing person leaves their home or workplace they have no access to emergency services.

With the establishment of an SMS emergency service Deaf and hard of hearing people will finally have access to emergency services regardless of where they are.

Deaf Australia Advocacy

As the national consumer organisation that represents Deaf people who use Auslan (Australian Sign Language), Deaf Australia practices systemic advocacy. Systemic advocacy means that Deaf Australia lobbies for improvements that affect all of the Australian Deaf Community, not only an individual Deaf person.

Deaf Australia lobbies on issues of human rights and ensuring that Deaf people achieve equality of opportunity and full participation in society and the economy. The Deaf Australia Board decides what issues Deaf Australia will work on. The Board makes these decisions based on their knowledge of the Deaf Community, and on what our members tell us about what is important to them. Deaf Australia holds community consultation meetings to find out the Deaf Community's views on particular issues. Members can also contact the Deaf Australia office to discuss issues.

The particular issues that Deaf Australia works on at any given time is also influenced by what is happening in the world around us - for example, reviews of legislation that has an impact on Deaf people, government inquiries into particular issues, changes in government policy and programs, changes to services and products.

Deaf Australia advocates for the rights of Deaf people. Deaf people have a right to participate equally in the Australian society and economy and they want to participate fully and equally. Deaf people have much to contribute. Unfortunately many barriers stand in their way, and these barriers can be very difficult to break down. It takes a long time and a lot of effort to make even small changes. But Deaf Australia endeavours to break down these barriers.

Visit www.deafau.org.au/advocacy/index.php

Deaf Australia also works within the Deaf community to help make our community strong. We run information sessions and workshops for Deaf people, in Auslan, so that they can have access to information in a language they understand. We work with our state branches to develop the skills of Deaf people.

Deaf Australia organises many community events such as Deaf TV and film nights and National Week of Deaf People.

Deaf Australia receives some funding from government. From time to time we also receive funding from other organisations for special short term projects. A recent example has been the "Networking Australia's Deaf Youth" project that was funded by the Telstra Foundation. We always need more funding to help us do all the things that need to be done to make life better for Deaf people.



Encompass Community Services Inc

400 Pakington Street, Geelong 3220
Ph (03) 5222 3377

ENCOMPASS is pleased to announce that we are the new service provider of United Way Geelong Region's MATERIAL AID VOUCHER system. The vouchers system will operate from ENCOMPASS HOMESTART located on the corner of Gheringhap & Corio Streets in Geelong and will be open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm.

Enquiries:

Contact Encompass Material Aid Centre

Ph: 5221 0667

Or United Way Ph: 5229 4364



BACKTOBACKTHEATRE

THEATRE OF SPEED

PRESENTS

Thursday 27 MAY 12pm
Thursday 27 MAY 7.30pm
Friday 28 MAY 12pm
Saturday 29 MAY 7.30pm
STOTT THEATRE
Old Courthouse Building
Corner of Little Malop & Gheringhap Sts, GEELONG



In a dynamic theatrical interpretation of Shelley's classic novel, THEATRE OF SPEED question who is different, who is powerful, and who is more human – 'Man' or 'Monster'?

ALL TICKETS \$5
BOOK: (03) 5221 2029
or via email at info@backtobacktheatre.com

PHOTO Scott Livingston

THEATRE OF SPEED is a Geelong based experimental theatre project initiated by Back to Back Theatre.



This project was funded by grants from GM & WM Wilson Charitable Trust and John Theobald Summer Charitable Trust managed by ANZ Trustees.



Mediation and Training Services Barwon South West

Wanting to communicate better?

Do you find yourself arguing with some people when all you really want to do is get your point across?

We all wish that we could get along better with some people.

It is unrealistic to believe that everyone will like us and that we will all get along, but what can we actually do to improve our relationships with others?

- Come along to one of our 'How To deal With Difficult People' two hour workshops and increase your skills and knowledge on conflict management.
- Improve your working and home environment for the better.
- Are you part of a management team and find yourself needing to resolve issues with staff all the time?

Want to increase your staff or family's problem solving skills? Enrol in the August 2010 mediation course for a quick 3 day crash course or complete the full 6 days to become accredited Australia wide as a mediator.

Ring: 0431 930 935 or email: pam@conflictsolvers.com.au



Leisure Options

**Great Holidays
and Travel for
people
with disabilities**

Operating since 1994, Leisure Options is Australia's favourite provider of supported holidays for people with disabilities.

We specialise in local, national and international holidays for individuals and groups with:

- Physical & intellectual disabilities
- Acquired Brain Injuries
- Elderly or Frail
- Anyone requiring a Travel Companion

With our kind, friendly and professional travel companions you are sure to enjoy a fun-filled, hassle free holiday.

Call Leisure Options today and start planning your next holiday.

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Toll free: 1300 363 713

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Port Melbourne VIC 3207

www.leisureoptions.com.au

Travel Licence No. 32915

Phone: 03 5256 3344

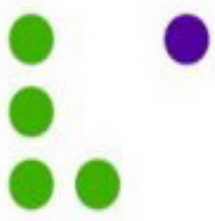
Toll Free 1300 363 713

Fax: 03 5256 3444

Email:

mail@leisureoptions.com.au

www.leisureoptions.com.au



**vision
australia**

blindness and low vision services

For more information please contact

1300 847 466

Or visit

79 High Street, Belmont

Vision Australia is the leading provider of blindness and low vision services in Australia.

We work in positive partnership with people who are blind or have low vision to help them achieve the possibilities they choose in life.

We do this by developing practical solutions to everyday challenges that are tailored to a person's level of vision.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Vision Australia works in partnership with Consumer Affairs to produce accessible versions of various publications the most recent of these is: -



“10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CREDIT”

Promoting freedom and independence after vision loss



Diabetic Retinopathy



Retinitis Pigmentosa



Cataracts



**Field Loss from
Acquired Brain Injury**



Glaucoma



**Age-related Macular
Degeneration**

We offer the following **FREE** services across
Victoria through domiciliary or residential training:

- Guide Dog Mobility
- Intensive Orientation and Mobility
- Children's Mobility
- Acquired Brain Injury Mobility
- Low Vision Advisory Service

Chandler Highway Kew Victoria 3101
Telephone 03 9854 4444
Facsimile 03 9854 4466
www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au

Emergency contact numbers (24 hours 7 days a week)

People experiencing homelessness

Call **1800 825 955** for a local response between 9:00am to 5:00pm
(Calls outside these hours are diverted to Salvation Army
Crisis Services)

Women and children who are experiencing family violence

Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service

1800 015 188

People who need someone to talk to

(This is not a homelessness response)

Lifeline 13 11 14

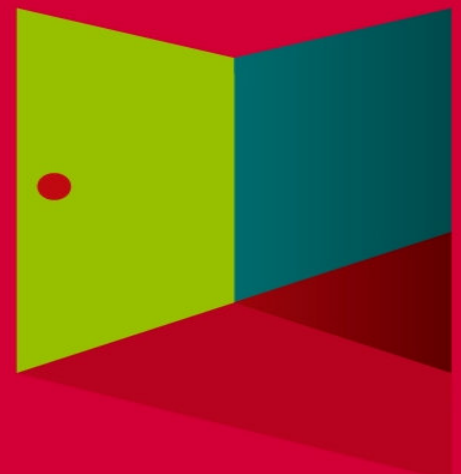
- Are you homeless or worried you might be soon?
- Are you feeling unsafe or experiencing violence where you live?
- Do you have nowhere to sleep tonight?
- Could you use some support to help you stay housed?
- Do you need information about your housing options?

To speak with a housing and support worker you can call

1800 825 955 (free from landline phones)

or you can call your local entry point listed overleaf. The worker will discuss with you the services and supports that may help.

**If you are experiencing
homelessness you can call
1800 825 955
to speak directly with a
housing and support worker**



Disability Support Services

CREATE offers individualized support to young people with a disability in areas of training, employment, self advocacy, self esteem and support and encouragement in the life areas of their choice. Our aim is to support people into work, training and inclusion within the community.

**For further Information
please contact : Dianne Rhodes**

NATIONAL ETHNIC DISABILITY ALLIANCE

(NEDA) - Is the national peak organisation representing the rights and interests of people from non-English speaking background (NESB) with disability, their families and carers throughout Australia. A community based, non-government organisation funded by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. NEDA has a small secretariat and is governed by a Council of state and territory representatives. The majority of Councillors are people from NESB with disability, their families and carers. www.neda.org.au



CREATE (Geelong) Inc.

285 Melbourne Road, NORTH GEELONG
PO Box 146, Corio 3214

Phone: 03 5240 2100

Fax: 03 5277 1795

Email: headoffice@creategeelong.com



Volunteering Want to know more?

Volunteering Geelong will provide you with advice & information about where to start
There are over 400 volunteer positions available within community organisations in the Geelong Region

Phone: 5221 1377
87 McLarty Place, Geelong

manager@volunteeringgeelong.org.au

www.volunteeringgeelong.org.au

**Volunteering
GEELONG**

Got a disability rights problem?

Want **FREE** phone information, advice or referral?

**Ring Villamanta Disability Rights
Legal Service on Free Call**

1800 014 111 from anywhere in Victoria

The advice line is open

1 pm to 3 pm - Monday to Friday

This number is for people who have a disability or anyone ringing for them.

Other people may ring us on

(03) 5229 2925

[Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc](#)

Information on disability rights available on our website

[ADMINISTRATION](#)

[APPOINTING AN ENDURING GUARDIAN](#)

[CAPACITY AND CONSENT](#)

[CHILD PROTECTION](#)

[CHOOSING A LAWYER](#)

[CONTRACTS](#)

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[SEXUAL RIGHTS](#)

[STERILISATION](#)

[VOTING](#)

www.villamanta.org.au

Villamanta is a Victorian Community Legal Centre that works only on disability related legal issues. Our main purpose is to make sure that people in Victoria who have a disability can know about the law, and can use the law, to help get their rights. We work mostly for people who have an intellectual disability.

If you would like to advertise or promote your community service or program in future editions of our Newsletter, please contact DRAS.

All it takes is a phone call to: 03 5221 8033 or email us at: info@dras.org.au

