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May - June 2015 Volume 9, Issue 51

Rob Pyne becomes the first quadriplegic elected to parliament in Australia

ABC News Online article

A far north Queensland man has become the first quadriplegic Member of Parliament anywhere in Australia. Rob Pyne was sworn into state parliament after winning the seat of Cairns with a swing of 17 per cent after preferences.

Mr Pyne said disability issues will be one of his passions and hoped to inspire younger generations. "There's issues still around access to transport, access to premises and access to education. "So let's clear the hurdles so we can have more and more people with disabilities achieving in future years."

Parliament modified for better wheelchair access

The 150-year-old Queensland Parliament had to undergo numerous renovations to accommodate Mr Pyne. Parliament's Clerk Neil Laurie said the most major change was removing two seats and their desks in the chamber to create a bay for Mr Pyne to reverse his wheelchair into.

Mr Pyne's wife Jenny is his carer, and travels with him wherever he goes, including flying to and from Brisbane with him for sittings. "There are still people out there who think you need legs to do a job, the ability to walk, he's gone out and he's proved them all wrong," she said.

Read the full **ABC News Online** article at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-29/first-quadruplegic-elected-to-queensland-parliament/6356944>

Disability Carers News

[Optimising support for informal carers of the long-term disabled to enhance resilience and sustainability](#)

Loretta Piccenna, Loyal Pattuwege, Russell Gruen, Peter Bragge | National Trauma Research Institute
18 November 2014 | Optimising carer resilience has direct benefits to carers, and additional benefits to the overall care support system by reducing dependence on paid care.

People with severe and chronic disabilities represent a significant proportion of the population who require assistance to live in their own home and be a part of the community. In addition to assistance from the paid carer workforce, this assistance is provided by family, relatives or friends who are not paid or formally trained in the provision of care and support. These informal carers assist with a variety of tasks including activities of daily living, emotional care and support and accessing medical care and ongoing therapy to optimise independence. There are 2.7 million people in Australia who provide informal (unpaid) care to a person with a disability or long-term health condition, of which 770,000 provide the majority of care and support to people with a severe disability. Given their substantial contribution

to care provision and the physical, emotional and other impacts of providing care, it is important to understand the experience of informal carers and address their support needs. In recent years, studies have elucidated the substantial effects of providing care on the psychological, physical, social and other impacts of providing care to a person with a long-term disability. There are a range of interventions to mitigate these impacts, which are provided in Australia through a variety of national and local government and nongovernment entities with varying efficacy. Optimising carer resilience has direct benefits to carers, and additional benefits to the overall care support system by reducing dependence on paid care.

This NTRI Forum aims to investigate effective strategies for providing support (excluding skills-related education and training, i.e. manual handling and transfers) to informal carers that can help to optimise their resilience, and the sustainability of the long-term disabled.

An evidence review of literature identified 25 relevant reviews and primary studies and a further 16 ongoing primary studies. The overall results of reviews of carer support interventions were inconclusive, therefore firm conclusions regarding what works and doesn't work cannot be made. However, evidence was reported as 'good' for educational and psycho-educational interventions, counselling and psychosocial interventions and multicomponent interventions; Evidence for care co-ordination and family support interventions was described as 'promising'; Evidence for technology-based interventions was conflicting in the setting of Dementia, but more positive in the area of catastrophic injury; Evidence for respite care was described as 'not strong', and although benefits were reported, the importance of additional support strategies in conjunction with respite care was emphasised. Similarly, emerging positive evidence in favour of support groups was reported, however additional concurrent support strategies were recommended. Passive information dissemination alone was found to be ineffective. The review also outlined a range of factors to consider in interpreting this evidence and identified implications for practice and research.

Australian Policy Online article at

http://apo.org.au/sites/all/modules/pubdlnet/pubdlnet.php?nid=53297&file=http://apo.org.au/files/Resource/briefing_document_informalcarersupport_final_.pdf

Featured Conferences

18 - 19 May 2015

Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity.

Waikiki, Hawaii. <http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/>

9 - 11 September 2015

Asia Pacific Autism Conference (APAC15).

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Queensland. www.apac15.org.au

15 - 16 September 2015

26th PANDDA 2015 Conference,

Professional Association of Nurses in Developmental Disability Australia.

Novotel Hotel, Parramatta, NSW.

www.pandda.net

29 September – 12 October 2015

Cruising for Change: Centre For Disability Studies Learning Journey 2015.

Diamond Princes New Zealand Cruise Departs Sydney. Centre For Disability Studies. SEE ATTACHED FLYER.

Inquiries Sam Arnold sam.arnold@sydney.edu.au

Disability Housing News

Housing shortage flagged as biggest hurdle to NDIS

A shortage of appropriate housing for people with disabilities could become the biggest obstacle to the successful implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, according to a new study.

Research by the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of NSW found that while the personalised approach of NDIS packages would be welcome, there was concern about a lack of suitable accommodation and work opportunities. Project leader Associate Professor Karen Fisher said the research, commissioned by Family and Community Services, revealed gaps in the \$22 billion scheme to be fully implemented in 2018.

More than 120,000 people with disabilities in NSW are expected to get packages under the scheme which aims to give them greater choice over where and how they live. The NDIS does not cover the cost of housing, which is

expected to put further pressure on the state's stretched social housing system which already has almost 60,000 applicants on the waiting list.

Read the full **Sydney Morning Herald** article by Rachel Browne at <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/housing-shortage-flagged-as-biggest-hurdle-to-ndis-20150408-1mgded.html>

Effective Personalised Housing Support for People with Disabilities - Case Study Analysis

[Australian Journal of Social Issues, The](#)

International policy trends favour personalised approaches to housing support for people with disabilities. Previous research is inconclusive about whether these approaches are effective compared to group home support in the way they use government resources and benefit clients, partly because...

Housing and care for older and younger adults with disabilities

[Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute](#) by [Catherine Bridge](#)

While there is a considerable body of research relating to housing, disability and care, there have been very few studies that have looked at policy linkages across all three areas

Disability NDIS News

Warning that people with a disability would be at risk of poor quality support if service prices remain too low

People with a disability would be at risk of poor quality support and struggle to find a place with providers if service prices remain too low, a disability peak body warns.

Pricing has been just one of the problems identified in the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in the ACT, National Disability Services chief executive Ken Baker said.

"The price underpins service quality and choice, if the price is too low there won't be enough providers to offer services or the quality of service they will offer will be inadequate," he said. "In general across Australia the new prices [under the NDIS] are less than providers have been receiving."

Read the full **Canberra Times** article by Clare Colley at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/warning-that-people-with-a-disability-would-be-at-risk-of-poor-quality-support-if-service-prices-remain-too-low-20150323-1m5cs4.html>

Disability Carers News

Caring for the carer: home design and modification for carers of young people with disability

Laura Davy, Toni Adams, Catherine Bridge | Home Modification Information Clearinghouse | City Futures Research Centre, University of NSW.

31 July 2014 | This paper focuses on carers, that is those who deliver informal (unpaid) care to young people with disability, and particularly those carers who share their home with the person they are caring for, as well as the housing design considerations that may support carers in their caring role.

This HMinfo Occasional Research Paper focuses on carers, that is those who deliver informal (unpaid) care to young people with disability, and particularly those carers who share their home with the person they are caring for, as well as the housing design considerations that may support carers in their caring role. In this report, paid carers are referred to as support workers, and their role is clearly differentiated from that of carers, who are unpaid. It should also be noted that many people with disability are themselves the carer for a partner or family member. Both carers, who are usually family members or partners, and support workers, who are paid to provide care to a person with disability, need supportive and safe environments in which to care for people with disability. The definition of a carer is:

"A person of any age who provides any informal assistance, in terms of help or supervision, to persons with disabilities or long-term conditions, or older persons (i.e. aged 60 years and over). This assistance has to be ongoing, or likely to be ongoing, for at least six months."

This research adopts a definition of disability that understands it as the product of interaction between an individual and their environment. Whether or not a particular physical condition is experienced as disabling depends on the natural and built environment, social, political and cultural structures, and interpersonal processes of the individual

concerned. In addition, Eley et al highlight that both people with intellectual disability and their carers are ageing, and the concurrent ageing of these groups poses specific challenges in providing suitable housing.

For the purpose of this research, the concept of 'care' is defined as the provision of assistance to a person with disability or chronic health condition or frail older person, to ensure their health, safety and wellbeing. Care is generally triaged into:

- formal care delivered by waged staff or trained volunteers
- informal care delivered by unpaid carers, usually family members; or
- self-care, a newly evolving conceptual category that will be referenced in this report insofar as it impacts on the degree of care provided by carers. The ABS describes self-care as the capacity to undertake tasks associated with: showering or bathing; dressing; eating; toileting; and bladder or bowel control.

This HMInfo Occasional Research Paper will focus on the unpaid (informal) carers of young people with disability (<65 years) only, and from the following perspectives:

1. What tensions, if any, may exist between a carer's needs and the needs of the person with disability in home design?
2. What design features of the physical home environment would enable carers

Disability Issues In The Media

[McClure report proposes sweeping changes to Australia's welfare system](#)

Patrick McClure | RN Breakfast, Patrick McClure | ABC Radio National

25 February 2015 | Many disability support pensioners will be shifted to a revamped version of the Newstart allowance if the Government accepts the findings of the McClure inquiry into Australia's costly welfare system.

Mass Media and Disability

IDEAS for a New Millennium project, World Institute on Disability.

Mass Media and Disability is an overview of research and advocacy projects internationally to improve the image and expand the presence of people with disabilities in the mass media.

The report includes an analytical overview of improvements in disability portrayal on television, films, public education programs and schools-based awareness projects; an overview of research on disability imagery; and in-depth reports on approaches in Australia, Germany, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa, the UK and the U.S.

Also featured is a summary of workshops featuring disability and mass media experts, held in Moscow in 2002 in association with Russia's first international disability film festival. The film festival was supported by Rehabilitation International (RI) and WID through the IDEAS for the New Millennium project. Recommended websites and books are also included in the final report. This report has been issued by RI as one of the products of the IDEAS.

- [Download Free PDF: Mass Media and Disability](#)
- [Download Free TXT: Mass Media and Disability](#)

[Study to determine true costs of dementia care](#)

For the first time Australia will have a robust economic evaluation of the cost of quality dementia care in residential aged care to inform policymaking and service planning. **Australian Ageing Agenda** article at <http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/2015/04/01/study-to-determine-true-costs-of-dementia-care/>

Featured Organisation

New IDEAS Website

We're pleased to announce we have launched our [new website](#) recently. We are still busy updating some of the content, and we hope in the coming months it will be full of interesting, relevant and useful information.

We encourage you to visit, have a look around and please give us any feedback both good and things that could work a little better.

Also, if your organisation or group has any upcoming events you would like to promote, please feel free to submit them via our events calendar here: <http://www.ideas.org.au/event/list/upcoming>

IDEAS publish a very informative email newsletter – and it is FREE to subscribe directly.

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Disability News

WHO – New WHO Department to include disability issues

The World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, has announced the creation of a new Department for Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention (NVI). This new Department, which results from the merger of the Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability (VIP) and the Department for Management of Noncommunicable Diseases (MND), is officially established. NVI will support regions and countries to strengthen their capacity to address these major health and development challenges in an integrated way in the context of the new realities of the post-2015 era. The WHO Director-General has appointed Dr Etienne Krug, former Director of VIP, as Director of NVI. (<http://www.who.int/topics/disabilities/en/>)

Disability News

Patterns in use of aged care: 2002-03 to 2010-11

While permanent care in a residential care facility remains a key service for many older Australians, in recent years **greater emphasis has been placed on the provision of home-based support**. This report examines how this shift has affected the way that people use aged care programs, and investigates the initial take-up of care. The analysis shows that use of aged care programs before entering permanent residential care is increasing, as is the use of any aged care services in a person's last year of life. AIHW catalogue number (CSI 20). View the [media release](#) and download the [full report](#) for free online.

Disability News

Who says I can't sing? Musical justice for people with intellectual disabilities

This report explores the complementary roles of **music therapy and community music** for people with disabilities. It compares two existing music programs through The Salvation Army Brunswick and Able Australia, in order to identify overlap and points of distinction. The adult participants in these programs were engaged as co-researchers in the investigation, offering their perspectives through focus group interviews, regular written feedback mechanisms and quality of life questionnaires.

The driving force behind this investigation has been the belief that music is a basic right of all people. Although children of all abilities are encouraged to participate in music making, this expectation becomes less common with age.

Article <http://apo.org.au/research/who-says-i-cant-sing-musical-justice-people-intellectual-disabilities>

Report [Download Report Here](#)

Scholarships & Fellowships News

Fulbright Scholarships

<http://fulbright.com.au/>

Information for Australian applicants <http://fulbright.com.au/applicants/australian-fulbright-applicants>

Applications for the 2016 Fulbright Australian Scholarships open 1 May 2015 and will close 1 August 2015
[Check their web site updates AFTER 1 May for next year's scholarships information]

[Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarships](#)

For promising postgraduate students to complete their Australian PhD; to undertake study in any field; or to support enrolment in a U.S. postgraduate program. This scholarship supports an 8-10 month program.

[Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholarships](#)

For successful researchers who have completed their PhD in the past five years to undertake postdoctoral research in the U.S. This scholarship supports a 3-12 month program.

[Fulbright Senior Scholarships](#)

For academics (generally at Associate Professor or Professor level) to undertake research or teaching at a U.S. institution. This scholarship supports a 3-6 month program.

[Fulbright Professional Scholarships](#)

For aspiring mid-career professionals in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors to undertake training or research programs in the U.S. The scholarship is also open to people based in academic institutions whose primary research focus is professional or industry based, i.e. CRC or research institutes. This scholarship supports a 3-4 month program.

Disability Nurses & Residential Care Workers

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Disability News

Disability Council Community Feedback Report on the NDS NSW Implementation Plan (2012-2014)

The Disability Council NSW **Nothing about us without us – Community Feedback Report on the NDS NSW Implementation Plan (2012– 2014)** has been uploaded to the Disability Council website.

In early 2014, Council commenced a series of consultations with representatives of consumer and peak groups in the disability sector. The Council sought feedback about how the Plan was developed, about how the actions in the Plan have affected the lives of people with disability, and what they would like to see in a future plan.

The NSW Government has made a strong commitment, through the *Disability Inclusion Act (2014)*, to ensuring the inclusion of people with disability in the broader community. The report is the first in an ongoing consultation process during which Council talks with and listens to people with disability and their allies and documents their feedback about how this commitment has been translated to reality.

Council is heartened by the responsiveness of all the organisations and their willingness to contribute to this important reform. Council will continue its engagement with the disability community to ensure that the NSW Government hears about how its reforms are affecting people with disability in their everyday lives.

Please [click here](#) to download the report (pdf or word format).

Books & Publications

Online Safety for Children and Teens on the Autism Spectrum: A Parent's and Carer's Guide.

Nicola Lonie. Children and teens with autism are particularly vulnerable to online dangers and this practical handbook explains how you can help your child to navigate websites, chat rooms and social media safely. Advice is given on key concerns such as parental control, social networking, grooming, cyberbullying, internet addiction and hacking. Paperback / softback 2014, 9.21in x 6.14in / 234mm x 156mm, 128pp ISBN: 978-1-84905-454-6. [More Information](#)

[Activities for Older People in Care Homes](#)

Sarah Crockett. This handbook is an indispensable companion for others in this role, providing useful background on dementia, the importance of activities and how to get to know residents through life story work. Paperback / softback 2013, 9.21in x 6.14in / 234mm x 156mm, 208pp ISBN: 978-1-84905-429-4 [More Information](#).

Sentencing Contradictions: Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System. First published in the October 2014 edition of Parity, *Homelessness and the Law: Access to Justice*. Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

Person-Centered Diagnosis and Treatment in Mental Health

Peter Ladd, AnnMarie Churchill. A reference manual for diagnosis and treatment of mental health conditions using a person-centered, holistic approach. Designed to complement DSM assessments, it covers a range of conditions and patterns including depression, bulimia, OCD, abuse, bullying and loss. In each case the client is involved in the diagnosis and treatment plan. Paperback / softback 2012, 352pp ISBN: 978-1-84905-886-5.

Australian legal system Overview of the Australian legal system, including the way in which the legal system is part of the overall structure of government. ISBN/ISSN 1:13224301

Making Individual Service Funds Work for People with Dementia Living in Care Homes

Gillian Bailey, Helen Sanderson. Through clear practical examples, this book demonstrates how Individual Service Funds can dramatically improve the quality of life of people with dementia living in care homes, showing what works and what doesn't. Paperback / softback 2014, 9.21in x 6.14in / 234mm x 156mm, 144pp ISBN: 978-1-84905-545-1 [More Information.](#)

Skating on thin ice: This discussion paper looks at the close relationship between homelessness and mental illness, and considers alternative strategies. Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

AAA launches new community care magazine

The sector's anxious wait for final details on the CHSP; the debate about whether community care organisations are ready to deliver the new underlying focus on reablement; and why CDC is a big deal for providers – just some of the hot topics explored in the recent issue of **Community Care Review**. (Australian Ageing Agenda news item) <http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/2014/12/12/aaa-launches-new-community-care-magazine/>

Australian Ageing Agenda (AAA).

Australian Ageing Agenda (AAA) is an independent and authoritative bi-monthly publication for people who work in or around the aged care and retirement sectors in Australia. It provides a broad range of news, education and opinion with an emphasis on knowledge sharing and research translation.

Each issue also contains regular updates on relevant business and financial issues along with a selection of well researched features on crucial systems and operations, clinical care, technology, built environment and other issues relevant to the 'ageing sector'. AAA leads the way with the industry's most comprehensive conference details and remains Australia's number one source of news and information about ageing issues and aged care.

<http://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/about/>

Policies & Guidelines

ADHC NSW Practitioner Standards

Working with People with Chronic and Complex Health Care Needs: provides general information on medication management, admission and discharge to and from hospital, and transition of children with disability who have chronic and complex health needs to adult services. It also provides an overview of the broad range of complex health issues a nurse supporting people with disability will encounter.

A practice package and appraisal have been developed for Working with People with Chronic and Complex Health Care Needs:

- [Working with People With Chronic And Complex Health Care Needs Practice Package \(PDF\)](#)
- [Working with People With Chronic And Complex Health Care Needs Appraisal \(PDF\)](#)

- See more at: http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/delivering_disability_services/core_standards#sthash.yjPf5pkc.dpuf

Mealttime Management for Nurses: provides nurses with general information on some of the swallowing and mealttime issues health professionals face when supporting people with an disability and how to manage these.

A practice package and appraisal have been developed for Mealttime Management for Nurses:

- [Mealttime Management for Nurses Practice Package \(PDF\)](#)
- [Mealttime Management for Nurses Appraisal \(PDF\)](#)

- See more at: http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/delivering_disability_services/core_standards#sthash.yjPf5pkc.dpuf

Sensory processing: This standard covers the complex area of sensory processing. A practice guide and appraisal have been developed for sensory processing:

- [Sensory processing practice Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [Sensory processing appraisal \(PDF\)](#)

- See more at: http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/delivering_disability_services/core_standards#sthash.yjPf5pkc.dpuf

Augmentative and alternative communication guidelines: This looks at the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication – frameworks, strategies, systems, assessment and prescription incorporating person centred planning, evidence based functional AAC goals and use of outcome measures. Resources will be available by December 2014

- [Augmentative and Alternative Communication Practice Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [Augmentative and Alternative Communication Appraisal \(PDF\)](#)

- See more at: http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/delivering_disability_services/core_standards#sthash.yjPf5pkc.dpuf

Directories Online

National Public Toilets Map

[National Public Toilet Map](#) is a great tool used by your clients, people with disabilities and their carers, to find an accessible toilet. The map:

- Provides the location of over 16,000 publicly available toilets across Australia
- Reduces the stress of not being able to find an accessible toilet when out and about
- Provides choice, freedom and independence for people to get out and enjoy their lives

Help the Spinal Cord Injuries Australia update the National Public Toilet Map!

Your clients care about accessible toilets because it affects their everyday lives, and we need volunteers to help update the map in their local area. We are also offering \$100 gift vouchers to volunteers. Help us update the map by sharing the call for volunteers with your clients:

- Share it on your **social media** networks. To accompany this [graphic](#), here is a suggested Social Media Post : *Join people across NSW who are updating accessible toilets on the National Public Toilet Map - volunteers receive a \$100 gift voucher. Email: accesstoilets@scia.org.au or visit: <http://bit.ly/NSWAccessibleToiletsProjectSCIA>*
- Share it in your **newsletters or other communications** to your clients by using this [Media Release](#) or this [advertisement](#).
- Share it on your **website**.
- Distribute this [flyer](#) (we can post you copies if you'd like).

Thank you for supporting this fantastic project, if you have any questions please contact me on accesstoilets@scia.org.au or 1800 819 775.

Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show with Ross (Your Editor of the Global Gazette)

Proudly sponsored by **Global Disability & Health Care Services**

Tuesday night 9 to 12 pm for all Australian blues, roots, jazz, folk and contemporary music. Weekly studio guests. Blues, Folk and Jazz Gig Guide and music.

Internet Radio Streaming worldwide online at www.alive905.com.au [follow the Listen Live links]

Over 150 Australian artistes have been featured studio guests on the Alive 90.5 fm Australian Spectrum Show.

The studio guests coming up include: = Keith Hall & Pat Dow Band, Rosie McDonald RAPT, The JHD Revival band, Harry Brus Band, Phun Uke, Isaiah B Brunt, Wolf Mail, Dubious Blues Trio, Lachy Doley, Cameron James Henderson, The Pigs, Glen Bidmead, Kerosene, Alex Bowen, Finn, Arc Riders, Bowen & Clare, Swampouse Blues Band, Helmut Uhlmann, Mitch Granger Sydney Blues & Roots Festival and many more in 2015. **Join our 5,000+**

Facebook Likes or follow our studio guest announcements at

<https://www.facebook.com/Australian.Spectrum.Show.Alive90.5fm>

Expenditure on mental health services

This section updated in March 2015 reviews the available information on [recurrent expenditure](#) (running costs) for mental health-related services. [Health expenditure](#) (what was spent) and [health funding](#) (who provided the funds) are distinct but related concepts essential to understanding the financial resources used by the health system. Data on expenditure and funding, calculated in both [current](#) and [constant](#) prices, are derived from a variety of sources, as outlined in the [data source](#) section. All constant prices figures are adjusted to 2012–13 levels. Further information on health expenditure is available in *Health expenditure Australia 2012–13* (AIHW 2014).

- Over \$7.6 billion, or \$332 per person, was spent on mental health-related services in Australia during 2012–13, an increase from \$302 per person (adjusted for inflation) in 2008–09.
- \$4.6 billion was spent on state and territory specialised mental health services, an average annual increase of 3.2% between 2008–09 and 2012–13. Of this, most was spent on public hospital services for admitted patients (\$2.0 billion), followed by community mental health care services (\$1.8 billion).
- Expenditure on specialised mental health services in private hospitals was \$330 million during 2012–13.
- The Australian Government paid \$906 million in benefits for Medicare-subsidised mental health related services in 2012–13, equating to 4.9% of all Medicare subsidies. Expenditure on psychologist services (clinical and other) (\$391 million) made up the largest component of mental health related Medicare subsidies in 2012–13.
- The Australian Government spent \$788 million, or \$34 per person, on subsidised prescriptions under the PBS/RPBS during 2012–13, equating to 8.3% of all PBS/RPBS subsidies.

Full details at the **Australian Institute of Health & Welfare** web site at <http://mhsa.aihw.gov.au/resources/expenditure/>

Grant News

Rehabilitation Appliances Program - Department of Veteran's Affairs

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/provider-programmes/rehabilitation-appliances-program-rap>

The Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) **assists entitled veterans, war widow/ers and dependants** through the provision of aids and appliances to minimise the impact of disabilities, enhance quality of life and maximise independence when undertaking daily living activities.

The programme provides safe and appropriate equipment:

- according to assessed clinical need
- in an effective and timely manner, and
- as part of the overall management of an individual's health care.

RAP appliances are available to Gold and White card holders assessed by an appropriately qualified health provider (e.g. Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, General Practitioner).

Research & Demographic Reports

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders: a review of interventions for prevention and management in Indigenous communities

This resource sheet defines fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) and provides currently available estimates of their prevalence in the overall Australian population and in the Indigenous population. It reviews the Australian and international literature published since 1990 on the effectiveness of programs that aim to prevent FASD or to alleviate its effects. Evidence on the effectiveness of Australian and Indigenous specific programs is also assessed, including those programs that have been developed and implemented in partnership with Indigenous Australians. AIHW catalogue number (IHW 148). Download the [full report](#) for free online.

[Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders: strategies to address information gaps](#)

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare This bulletin identifies ways to facilitate the collection and reporting of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders-related information in Australia.

Healthy life expectancy in Australia: patterns and trends 1998 to 2012

Between 1998 and 2012, life expectancy at birth has risen by 4 years for boys and nearly 3 years for girls. And because disability prevalence rates have been falling over this period, the gain in disability-free life expectancy has been even greater for boys (4.4 years, compared with 2.4 years for girls). Older Australians have also seen increases in the expected number of healthy years, but this has been accompanied by more years needing assistance with everyday activities. Over this period, the gender gap in life expectancy narrowed across all ages, and the gap in the expected years living free of disability also reduced across most ages. AIHW catalogue number (AUS 187). View the [media release](#) and download the [full report](#) for free online.

Psychological disability, 2012

Australian Bureau of Statistics. The number of people in Australia with a psychological disability increased between 2009 and 2012.

Use of aged care services before death

This bulletin examines people's use of aged care services in the 8 years before death, using the cohort of 116,481 people who died in 2010-11 aged at least 65. Overall, 80% of these people had used aged care in the 8 years before death, and three-fifths were aged care clients when they died. Just under half of the cohort began using aged care more than 4 years before their death. AIHW catalogue number (CSI 21). View the [media release](#) and download the [full report](#) for free online.

Private hospital-based ambulatory psychiatric services

Some people's mental health support needs are best met by a stay in a specialised mental health facility; for others support can be met in an ambulatory, 'outpatient' like setting. In a private hospital context, this type of care is referred to as hospital-based 'ambulatory' psychiatric care. These hospitalisations do not involve an overnight stay and, but rather are provided on an admitted 'same day' basis. Compared to the public hospital ambulatory psychiatric care data presented on this website, the private sector data may include some same-day procedures, such as ECT, which are excluded from the public sector data. Private hospital-based ambulatory psychiatric care is provided in either private hospitals with psychiatric beds or private psychiatric day hospitals (PMHA 2014a)

- In 2012–13, there were 16,174 private hospital-based ambulatory psychiatric [episodes](#) in either private hospitals with psychiatric beds or private psychiatric day hospitals.
- There were 15,688 private ambulatory care psychiatric patients who received 204,490 care days in 2012–13. The average number of care days per patient was 13.0 days.
- The rate of private hospital-based ambulatory psychiatric patients was highest for patients aged 35–44 and 45–54 (both 10.7 per 10,000 population).
- Major affective and other mood disorders (35.5%) and Alcohol and other substance use disorders (13.3%) were the most common principal [diagnostic groups](#) recorded for private hospital-based ambulatory psychiatric episodes.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare web page <http://mhsa.aihw.gov.au/services/pmha/>

Download full report at <http://mhsa.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=42949672951>

And data tables at <http://mhsa.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=38654706309>

Featured Course

FREE Intellectual Disability Mental Health e-learning

3DN provides free eLearning about intellectual disability to professionals, carers, and consumers. Our goal is to improve your knowledge, skills and confidence, leading to better mental health and wellbeing for people with an intellectual disability. This site was designed to be an interactive education resource for everyone with an interest in intellectual disability mental health. The site has been divided into specific sections to cater to health professionals, disability professionals, consumers, and families/carers. This site has been developed collaboratively, and was funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services (Ageing, Disability and Home Care), the NSW Ministry of Health (Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office), and the Health Education and Training Institute. The content of the modules was developed by a team of professionals with clinical, project and research experience and representing the health, welfare and disability sectors. People with an intellectual disability also had a role in developing content for the site, as you will see when you progress through the modules.

Developed by the Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) that was established in 2009 following a competitive tender process. They are funded by Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) within the NSW Department of Family and Community Services. Professor Julian Trollor is the head of 3DN and the Chair of Intellectual Disability Mental Health. Julian is a neuropsychiatrist and has a

clinical appointment within the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, including practicing at the Clinic for the Assessment of Neuropsychiatric Disorders in Intellectual Disability (CANDID).

Start your learning today by registering with a 3DN account. It's totally free and you can cancel your account at anytime.

<http://www.idhealtheducation.edu.au/>

ONLINE EDUCATION DIRECTORY

Online professional development is an easy way to access further education – especially valuable for shift workers – so we have researched some options and put them on our web site at

http://www.globalcarestaff.com/page/online_education.html

Education Resources

Culture and Madness: A Training Resource, Film and Commentary for Mental Health Professionals.

Begum Maitra & Inga-Britt Krause. Culture and Madness is a training resource that critically approaches the subject of culture by questioning commonly held professional and cultural assumptions and biases. It outlines how mental health professionals can develop the skills in observation, analysis and critical thinking which are central to good mental health practice. The resource combines film, research and clinical scenarios to demonstrate how cultural influences pervade mental health thinking, practice and policy. At its heart is a 150-minute DVD, How Culture Matters. In articulating the subtle and textured place of 'culture' in the everyday lives of all communities, this resource will encourage mental health professionals to adopt a reflective approach to practice and to pursue a more flexible approach to cross-cultural mental health theory and practice. 2014, 336pp
ISBN: 978-1-84905-352-5.

OHCHR: The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: A Training Guide

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Training Guide is for facilitators of training courses on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol who are already familiar with the international human rights system. The Training Guide's methodology is interactive and promotes a participatory approach. Its modules can be used to develop tailored training courses to meet the needs of specific audiences (Government officials, health professionals, civil society, employers' organizations, etc.). It is also helpful as a general information resource on the Convention and its Optional Protocol.

(<https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=24268>)

Positions Vacant

Residential Care Workers - Disability & /or Mental Health Care (Agency Casual Work)

Email: Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com **Free phone: 1800 009 292**

We are a leading casual staff agency offering a variety of shifts to care workers throughout the greater Sydney region, Hunter, Central Coast, Illawarra, Southern Highlands and Blue Mountains. Currently we are seeking experienced care workers to work with people who have a disability. Plenty of shifts available. Weekly pay. Choose your own days & shift availability. Must have previous experience in a similar role. Drivers License and First Aid Certificate required. Ability to communicate effectively with people who have a disability is essential. Must be able to work as part of a team. For more information call 1800 009 292 or forward your resume along with contact details of two referees to:

Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com

Registered Nurses & Endorsed Enrolled Nurses specialised in disability, mental health and general (casual agency work)

Email: Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com **Free phone: 1800 009 292**

One of the market leaders in the public, private mental health, disability, and general health fields. Global can offer you plenty of shifts in private and public hospitals, disability, mental health services, dual diagnosis and disability special care areas. An agency founded and run by Registered Nurses, we can assist you in finding work in a variety of locations. Choose the hours and shifts to suit your lifestyle. Must be registered to practice in Australia. **Excellent pay rates. Weekly pays.** Why not forward your resume to Employment@GlobalCareStaff.com or phone to speak to one of our friendly consultants who can help you make that great career move. Free phone: 1800 009 292.

See Current Positions Vacant at <http://www.globalcarestaff.com/plugins/job.cgi>

Conference Calendar

See a more comprehensive listing of conferences at our web site

http://www.globalcarestaff.com/page/conference_calendar.html

2 - 5 May 2015

Print Disabilities Conference. Adelaide, South Australia. <http://printdisability.org/conference/>

3 – 7 May 2015

The Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists' Annual Congress. Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland. www.ranzcp2015.com

4 May 2015

Inclusive Communities Symposium Sydney. Aerial Function Centre, University of Technology, Sydney
<http://nationalrespiteaustralia.com.au/national-conference/inclusive-communities-conference-2015/>

4 May 2015

Autism Creating Positive Outcomes in Complex Scenarios. Sydney Inner West.
<http://enews.autismspectrum.org.au/pub/pubType/EV/pubID/z54b604158647b253/nc/z54c998a8cc70d818/interface.html>

4 - 8 May 2015

P.A.R.T. Train The Trainer. Brisbane. Predict, Assess and Respond To Aggression/Behaviours of Concern Course. MTU Training Concepts. <http://www.mtu.net.au/>

6 May 2015

The Confident Board Member Workshop. Dubbo. 9.30am – 12.45pm NCOSS. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-confident-board-member-legal-and-review-tips-for-people-who-govern-nfp-community-organisations-tickets-16115770704>

6 May 2015

Working with Other Organisations: From MOU's to Mergers. Dubbo. 1.30 – 4.30pm NCOSS & Justice Connect. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/working-with-other-organisations-from-mous-to-mergers-tickets-16291034924>

6 - 7 May 2015

ACS NSW & ACT State Conference. Grand Pavillion, Rosehill Gardens, Sydney.
<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/103816/229709/?eb=157409>

7 May 2015

The Confident Board Member Workshop. Sydney. 9.30am – 12.45pm NCOSS.
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-confident-board-member-legal-and-review-tips-for-people-who-govern-nfp-community-organisations-tickets-16115770704>

7 May 2015

Working with Other Organisations: From MOU's to Mergers. Sydney. 1.30 – 4.30pm NCOSS & Justice Connect.
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/working-with-other-organisations-from-mous-to-mergers-tickets-16291034924>

7 May 2015

ATSA Independent Living Expo. Royal International Convention Centre, Brisbane, Queensland.
<http://www.atsaindependentlivingexpo.com.au/>

7 – 8 May 2015

Residential Aged Care Management Conference. Hotel Ibis, Therry Street, Melbourne.
<https://www.ausmed.com.au/course/residential-aged-care>

7 – 8 May 2015

National Service Integrated Housing Conference. Marriott Resort Surfers Paradise, Queensland.
<http://www.qld.lasa.asn.au/events/national-service-integrated-housing-conference-2015>

7 – 8 May 2015

Understanding and Promoting the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People. Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
<http://www.criticalagendas.com.au/National/understanding-promoting-the-mental-health-wellbeing-of-young-people-may-7-15>

11 May 2015

Inclusive Communities Symposium Sydney. Aerial Arts Centre, 100 St Kilda Road, Melbourne.
<http://nationalrespiteaustralia.com.au/national-conference/inclusive-communities-conference-2015/>

11 – 17 May 2015

Schizophrenia Awareness Week

12 May 2015

The Confident Board Member Workshop. Shellharbour. 9.30am – 12.45pm NCOSS.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-confident-board-member-legal-and-review-tips-for-people-who-govern-nfp-community-organisations-tickets-16115770704>

12 May 2015

Working with Other Organisations: From MOU's to Mergers. Shellharbour. 1.30 – 4.30pm NCOSS & Justice

Connect. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/working-with-other-organisations-from-mous-to-mergers-tickets-16291034924>

13 May 2015

The Confident Board Member Workshop. Sydney. 9.30am – 12.45pm NCOSS.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-confident-board-member-legal-and-review-tips-for-people-who-govern-nfp-community-organisations-tickets-16115770704>

13 May 2015

Working with Other Organisations: From MOU's to Mergers. Sydney. 1.30 – 4.30pm NCOSS & Justice Connect.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/working-with-other-organisations-from-mous-to-mergers-tickets-16291034924>

13 May 2015

Moving into a Person Centred Practice World NCOSS Symposium. Newcastle West. NSW To Register:

<https://eventbrite.com.au/event/16031571863/>

13 - 14 May 2015

ATSA Independent Living Expo. Rosehill Racecourse, Sydney, NSW.

<http://www.atsaindependentlivingexpo.com.au/>

13 - 16 May 2015

AGOSCI 12th Biennial Conference. Royal International Convention Centre, Brisbane. Australian Group on Severe Communication Impairment. <http://www.agosci.org.au/conf2015/conf2015.htm>

14 May 2015

The Confident Board Member Workshop. Newcastle. 9.30am – 12.45pm NCOSS.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-confident-board-member-legal-and-review-tips-for-people-who-govern-nfp-community-organisations-tickets-16115770704>

14 May 2015

Working with Other Organisations: From MOU's to Mergers. Newcastle. 1.30 – 4.30pm NCOSS & Justice

Connect. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/working-with-other-organisations-from-mous-to-mergers-tickets-16291034924>

14 May 2015

Moving into a Person Centred Practice World NCOSS Symposium. Woolloomooloo, Sydney, NSW. To Register:

<https://eventbrite.com.au/event/16032050294/>

14 May 2015

When Policies Aren't Enough: Abuse in Human Services. West Ryde, NSW. Foundations Forum.

<http://www.foundationsforum.info/current-workshops.html>

14 May 2015

Moving into a Person Centred Practice World NCOSS Symposium. Parramatta, Sydney, NSW. To Register:

<https://eventbrite.com.au/event/16032071357/>

15 May 2015

Moving into a Person Centred Practice World NCOSS Symposium. Wollongong, NSW. To Register:

<https://eventbrite.com.au/event/16032107465/>

18 - 19 May 2015

Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity. Waikiki, Hawaii. <http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/>

18 - 19 May 2015

Australian & New Zealand Eating Disorders & Obesity Conference. Outrigger, Surfers Paradise, Queensland.

<http://eatingdisordersaustralia.org.au/>

19 - 22 May 2015

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training. Bankstown Sports Club, NSW. <http://www.crisisprevention.com/Training-and-Events/Nonviolent-Crisis-Intervention-Training-Prog-185?country=Australia>

20 - 21 May 2015

NDS Regional Support Worker Conference: Ballina. National Disability Services. <http://www.nds.org.au/projects/article/159>

20 - 22 May 2015

The Future of Home & Community Care Conference. The Grace Hotel, Sydney. Akolade. <https://www.akolade.com.au/Microsite.aspx?id=151&subpage=Overview&pid=579>

20 - 22 May 2015

Australian & New Zealand Addiction Conference. Outrigger, Surfers Paradise. <http://addictionaustralia.org.au/>

21 - 22 May 2015

Carers NSW Biennial Conference. Novotel Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney. conference@carersnsw.org.au

21 - 22 May 2015

IASSIDD Americas Regional Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii Convention Centre. <https://iassid.org/conference/index.php/ARC/ARC/index>

22 - 23 May 2015

Aspects of Aged Care Conference. Newcastle, NSW. <http://empowernurseeducation.com.au/aspects-aged-care-conference>

23 May 2015

Gearing Up Expo for people with disability. Hobart, Tasmania. <http://gearingupexpo.com.au/>

25 - 29 May 2015

P.A.R.T. Train The Trainer. Darwin. Predict, Assess and Respond To Aggression/Behaviours of Concern Course. MTU Training Concepts. <http://www.mtu.net.au/>

26 May 2015

Brain Injury NSW Service Provider Workshop: Overview & Providing Support. Newcastle, NSW. Call 02 9868 5261

26 - 27 May 2015

Organisational Sustainability in the NDIS. Sydney Boulevard Hotel. <http://transitioningndis.com/>

28 May 2015

World MS Day (Multiple Sclerosis)

2 -5 June 2015

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training. The Greek Club, South Brisbane, Qld. <http://www.crisisprevention.com/Training-and-Events/Nonviolent-Crisis-Intervention-Training-Prog-189?country=Australia>

3 -4 June 2015

Sustainable Models for Affordable Housing. Brisbane. <http://housingmodels.com/>

6 June 2015

Gearing Up Expo for people with disability. Launceston, Tasmania. <http://gearingupexpo.com.au/>

10 June 2015

The Confident Board Member Workshop. Sydney. 9.30am – 12.45pm NCOSS. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-confident-board-member-legal-and-review-tips-for-people-who-govern-nfp-community-organisations-tickets-16115770704>

10 June 2015

Working with Other Organisations: From MOU's to Mergers. Sydney. 1.30 – 4.30pm NCOSS & Justice Connect. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/working-with-other-organisations-from-mous-to-mergers-tickets-16291034924>

11 June 2015

The Confident Board Member Workshop. Lismore, NSW. 9.30am – 12.45pm NCOSS.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-confident-board-member-legal-and-review-tips-for-people-who-govern-nfp-community-organisations-tickets-16115770704>

11 June 2015

Working with Other Organisations: From MOU's to Mergers. Lismore, NSW. 1.30 – 4.30pm NCOSS & Justice Connect. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/working-with-other-organisations-from-mous-to-mergers-tickets-16291034924>

19 June 2015

Critical Social Futures: Querying Systems of Disability Support. University of NSW. Hosted by The Australian Sociological Association, the University of Sydney and the Centre for Social Impact, UNSW Australia. TASA Critical Disability Studies Thematic Group. <https://www.tasa.org.au/events/symposium-disability-support/>

24 June 2015

DeafBlind Awareness Week

24 June 2015

Brain Injury NSW Service Provider Workshop: Overview & Providing Support. Springwood, NSW. Call 02 9868 5261

25 - 26 June 2015

Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Conference. Hotel IBIS - Therry Street, Melbourne, Vic. AusMed. <https://www.ausmed.com.au/course/alcohol-and-illicit-drugs>

25 - 26 June 2015

i-Can v5 Facilitator Training Workshop. Sydney. Centre for Disability Studies. <http://cds.med.usyd.edu.au/i-can-v5-facilitator-training>

30 June – 2 July 2015

PASSING Masterclass – service design: Social Role Valorisation. Brisbane, Qld. Contact: [Values in Action](#)

13 - 17 July 2015

P.A.R.T. Train The Trainer. South Australia. Predict, Assess and Respond To Aggression/Behaviours of Concern Course. MTU Training Concepts. <http://www.mtu.net.au/>

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http://www.globalcarestaff.com/page/conference_calendar.html

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