



# RIGHTS IN ACTION INC

*Independent advocacy for people with disabilities*

## NEWSLETTER

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**June/July 2012 – Issue 25**

### Rights In Action Inc Staff

MANAGER

**Robyn Renton**

ADVOCATES

**Bob Paten**

Monday – Friday

**Jasmine Cook**

Tuesday – Friday

**John Hartigan**

Tuesday – Thursday

**Jo Abbatangelo**

Tuesday - Wednesday

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

**Mary Klasek**

Monday – Thursday

### Management Committee 2011/2012

PRESIDENT

**Mark Phillips**

VICE PRESIDENT

**Lynette Carter**

SECRETARY

**Marleen Blake**

TREASURER

**Robert (Bob) Dollery**

GENERAL MEMBERS

**Lyndell Bourke**

**Sue Tomasich**

### Message from the Manager

Over the past three months RIA has made significant progress in addressing our Strategic Plan and providing *independent* individual advocacy assistance to people with disabilities.

Some achievements include:

- provided advocacy assistance 42 people with disabilities in Cairns Yarrabah, Mareeba and Atherton
- assisted 17 people with information and referred 9 people to access alternate local services
- Governance training for members of our Management Committee
- updating our website design [www.rightsinaction.org](http://www.rightsinaction.org) with further development to occur in the near future
- a FaHCSIA Service Agreement July 2012 to June 2015 to provide advocacy for people with disability residing in Cairns, Yarrabah, Atherton & Mareeba
- an extension of our Disability Services Service Agreement to June 2014 to provide advocacy for people who receive P300 funding (psychiatric disability) and reside in Cairns, and people with disabilities who live in institutional settings such as supported accommodation, young people in aged care facilities, hospitals and prison in Atherton & Mareeba.
- attended training for the implementation of the National Disability Advocacy Standards to ensure RIA gains Certification prior to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013. (RIA already has Quality Assurance Certification under the Queensland Disability Advocacy Standards.) as a mandatory requirement of ongoing funding.
- Attended the 4<sup>th</sup> National DANA (Disability Advocacy Network Australia) Conference – Advocating for Inclusion

### IMPORTANT WEB LINKS

**Cairns City Council – Access for All Directory**

<http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/community-information/disability-services>

**Australian Human Rights Commission**

[http://www.hreoc.gov.au/disability\\_rights/](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/disability_rights/)

**Queensland Advocacy Incorporated (QAI)** <http://www.qai.org.au/>  
(Queensland systemic advocacy and current projects)

## NEWS WANTED RIA Newsletter Articles

We encourage members, local services and the community to provide stories, interesting articles and advertisements for our quarterly Newsletter. Our Newsletter is distributed **free** of charge by emails, post or by accessing our website.

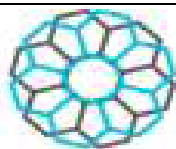
If you would like to contribute to our next Newsletter, please contact Mary Klasek at our office on 40317377 or email [info@rightsinaction.org](mailto:info@rightsinaction.org)

*NB: Sometimes space is limited and we reserve the right to decide on the content of The RIA Newsletter*

## NAIDOC WEEK

1 – 8<sup>th</sup> July 12

The theme for NAIDOC Week 2012 is  
**Spirit of the Tent  
Embassy: 40 years on.**



QUEENSLAND ACTION FOR  
**Universal Housing Design**

The latest edition of the Livable Housing Design Guidelines is available on the website. [www.livablehousingaustralia.org.au](http://www.livablehousingaustralia.org.au) or [www.lha.org.au](http://www.lha.org.au)

Livable Housing Design is a voluntary guideline to provide access features in mainstream housing.

LHA's primary objective is to encourage buyers, the residential building and property industry and all levels of Government to adopt livable housing features in all new homes being built in Australia.



## NATIONAL "SHUT IN" CAMPAIGN

'Shut-In' is the national campaign to raise awareness about people with disabilities in institutions, to take action to close institutions and to advocate for housing and supports that enable people with disabilities to live in the community in the same way as everyone else. '

'Shut-In' is a human rights campaign that is underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). One of the most pervasive human rights abuses experienced by people with disability is their segregation and isolation from the community in congregate care facilities.

Article 19 of CRPD [*the right to live independently and be included in the community*] is derived from traditional rights to liberty, security and freedom of movement.

Accommodating people with disabilities in institutional accommodation is a clear breach of these fundamental human rights. Governments continue to fund this form of accommodation, and in some cases have rebuilt institutional accommodation for people with disabilities.

The 'Shut-In' Campaign, launched on *International Day of People with Disabilities* 2011, calls on governments to take immediate action to close all residential institutions accommodating people with disabilities, including those operated by non-government and private sectors, and allocate and provide the resources necessary for people to move to individualised community based housing and support options that will support their inclusion and participation in the general community.

The 'Shut- In' Campaign website brings together information and resources, personal stories from people who have lived in institutions, State and Territory reports on advocacy actions and events and information about how to get involved in supporting the campaign. For more detailed information visit the 'Shut-In' website at [www.shutin.org.au](http://www.shutin.org.au)



## SPORTING WHEELIES AND DISABLED ASSOCIATION

Visit: <http://www.sportingwheelies.org.au/about-us>

Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association has been helping Queenslanders with a disability to lead active, healthy lives through participation in sport, recreation and fitness since 1977. We support people with a range of disabilities including people with an acquired brain injury, amputations, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida, spinal cord injury, other neuromuscular and orthopedic conditions and vision impairment (partial or total vision loss). Current local activities include:

### Tenpin Bowling

Thursdays: 1.30pm – 4pm  
Go Bowling Cairns  
93 Pease Street, Manoora

Cost: \$12.00 per player for two games and a hot or cold drink between games. Carers bowl for the same price.

### Exercise on the Esplanade

Expressions of interest are being called for an exercise class to be run on the Esplanade on weekends. If interested please contact the Cairns office on 4033 1487 or email: [cairns@sportingwheelies.org.au](mailto:cairns@sportingwheelies.org.au)

### Tablelands Women's Support Service

Provide supported accommodation, case management & related support for women & their children escaping domestic violence

#### CONTACT DETAILS

5 Beatrice Street Atherton,  
Phone 4091 5100

#### OPENING HOURS

9am – 4.30pm

#### REFERRAL

9am – 1pm No appointment necessary  
1pm -4.30pm Phone access only

### Women's Centre Cairns

#### CONTACT DETAILS

12 Scott Street, Cairns

Phone 4051 9366

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

#### AFTER HOURS

Contact DV CONNECT

1800 811 811

## Media Release

JENNY MACKLIN MP

Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
Minister for Disability Reform  
SENATOR JAN MCLUCAS

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers

### CEO appointed to lead NDIS Agency

6<sup>th</sup> July 2012

The Australian Government has appointed David Bowen as CEO of the body responsible for coordinating the implementation of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Mr Bowen brings a wealth of experience to his new role as CEO of the NDIS Launch Transition Agency.

Mr Bowen has been a consultant to the insurance industry, health and disability sectors and was a member of the Independent Panel which advised the Productivity Commission in its inquiry into a national disability care and support scheme. A lawyer with a strong background in administrative and insurance law, Mr Bowen was also one of the architects of the NSW Lifetime Care and Support scheme and its inaugural CEO. He is the Chair of the National Injury Insurance Scheme Advisory Committee and previously also General Manager of the NSW Motor Accidents Authority for 11 years.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme Launch Transition Agency has

## Reminder

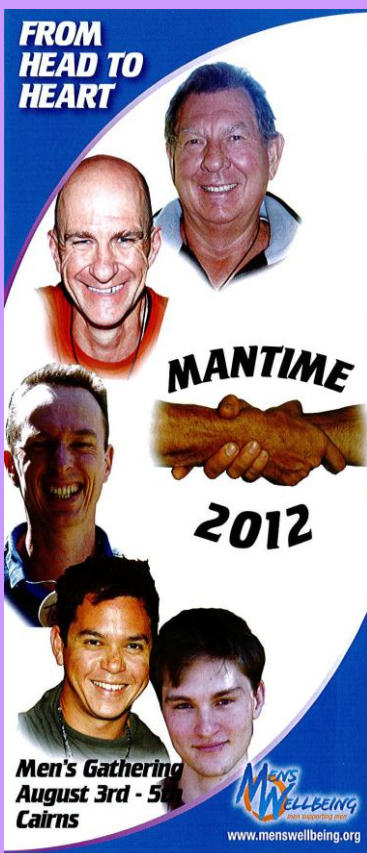
Our Newsletter is now available on our website, via email or we can post you a copy.

**Please contact Mary on 40317377 if you do not want us to send you our Newsletter.**

## IMPOTANT DATE

Disability Action Week  
9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012

“Empower, Enable,  
Everybody”



been funded by the Australian Government to implement the first stage of an NDIS. The Agency will be working with all jurisdictions to ensure improved support for people with a disability, their family and carers.

The Gillard Government is delivering \$1 billion over four years to start rolling out the first stage of an NDIS. The first stage of an NDIS will begin in mid-2013 and will provide care and support to around 10,000 people with significant and permanent disabilities in selected locations across the country.

From mid-2014, the reach of an NDIS will be expanded to bring the total number of eligible people up to 20,000. These individuals will have their needs assessed and be supported to develop individual plans to deliver ongoing personalised care and support over their lifetimes.

Our commitment means this Labor Government will start delivering an NDIS a year ahead of the timetable set out by the Productivity Commission.

We want Australians with disability, their families and carers to start benefiting from this fundamental reform as quickly as possible.

### Key Features of an NDIS

The scheme will:

- provide eligible individuals with the care and support they need when they need it;
- give individuals decision making power, including being able to choose their service provider;
- provide high quality, evidence-based services which manage life-time costs of care;
- be simple to navigate and link to mainstream and community services;
- recognise the essential care and support of families and carers and support them in that role;
- facilitate each individual's access to community participation, education and employment; and
- be managed on an insurance basis.

## Men's Wellbeing

Mens Wellbeing is a not-for-profit organisation run mostly by volunteers.

### Who attends a Men's Gathering?

We have men aged from 18 to 80+ from all walks of life, careers and social backgrounds. We find there is no “typical” gathering attendee. Men who attend are usually seeking a better way to define themselves and a better way to live their lives.

**Gatherings like ManTime are not common in Far North Queensland and is a special opportunity for men to come together in a caring and supportive environment to share, learn and enrich out journeys.**

At ManTime, it's all about choice. You choose what you want – be it a workshop, relaxing, swimming in Lake Tinaroo, taking some quiet personal time for reflection or spending time making new friends. It's totally up to you.

***“Our journey as men does not have to be a solitary one”.***

For more information write to [admin@menswellbeing.org](mailto:admin@menswellbeing.org) Or call Jase on 0416 021 060 or Heinz on 0419 656 727