



RIGHTS IN ACTION INC

Independent advocacy for people with disabilities

NEWSLETTER

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March – Issue 35

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Message from the Manager

Well it is March already... 2015 is shaping up to be another busy year.

Independent Individual Advocacy

We continue to work hard on supporting people with disabilities through *independent* advocacy. From July 2014 we have assisted 86 people, addressing over 199 separate issues. We also responded to over 90 enquiries and unfortunately turned away several people as we were unable to meet the demand.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

RIA aims to keep people well informed and prepare for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Queensland commencing July 2016. We will be distributing information and posting workshop announcements on our website.

NDIS has released a consultation paper - Proposal for a NDIS Quality and Safeguarding framework.

The government is asking for the **community's feedback** on the options developed for the quality and safeguarding framework for the NDIS. The consultation paper says: "Australian governments are looking at ways to make sure the national scheme will provide **good quality supports and will maximise the choice and control of participants**. It will also be important that the rights of people are protected and participants are safe from harm."

The consultation closes on 30 April 2015. Easy English information about the Safeguarding Framework:

https://engage.dss.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/NDIS_Consultation-Paper_Easy-English.pdf

Expression of Interest in Volunteering

RIA appreciates the interest of people wanting to help our organisation and our advocacy work. We will soon be coordinating a register of volunteers and asking people to complete and Expression of Interest in Volunteering Form which will be available on our website.

Rights In Action Inc

Staff

MANAGER

Robyn Renton

ADVOCATES

Bob Paten

Jasmine Cook

Dianne Wellington

PARTNERS IN RECOVERY SUPPORT FACILITATOR

Vacant

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Mary Klansek

FINANCE OFFICER

Ted Barber

VOLUNTEER

Ariel Pose

Management Committee 2014/15

PRESIDENT

Joseph Lynd

VICE PRESIDENT

James Barnes

SECRETARY

Bernadette Dimla

TREASURER

Allan Wilson

GENERAL MEMBERS

Jennifer McCabe

Mark Phillips

Janet Corcoran

FAREWELL to Jo Abbatangelo



Our Partners In Recovery Support Facilitator has left Rights In Action. On behalf of staff and our Management Committee we wish Jo all the best. We endeavour to promptly fill this employment vacancy. For further information please visit:

<http://www.fnqpartnersinrecovery.com.au/about/opportunities>

NDIS



For Queenslanders with intellectual or learning disability

You are invited to come to a

PLAN AHEAD workshop

& start your journey towards the National Disability Insurance Scheme

CAIRNS WORKSHOP

Tuesday 24 & Tuesday 31 March

9.30am – 12.30pm each day

ARC Disability Services

92 Little Street, North Cairns

A fun & free workshop, followed by lunch

2 x half day workshop over 2 weeks

Learn about the NDIS & what it means for you

The workshop is led by people with disability, for people with intellectual or learning disability. It is part of the *Ready to go* project

Please make sure you can come along on both workshop dates

A parent or carer is also welcome to come along as your support person

TO REGISTER:

3252 8566 or **1300 363 783** (local call)



Rights In Action will be closed for the following Public Holidays:

**Friday 3rd April
Good Friday**

**Monday 6th April
Easter Monday**

**Monday 8th June
Queen's Birthday**



4PM - 5:30PM

MONDAY—FRIDAY

**ANGLICARE
179 Lake Street
Cairns**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM:



Women with Disabilities

It is important for women with disabilities to maintain their **two-yearly breast screens**. [BreastScreen](#) Queensland have experienced female staff that understand and are happy to help all women with disabilities, and will do all they can to put you at ease.

If you would like to discuss any concerns prior to your appointment, contact BreastScreen Queensland on **13 20 50** and ask to speak to our specially trained nurses. The nurse will be able to advise which service will best meet your needs.

Spectacles Supply Scheme - SSS

Under the [Spectacle](#) Supply Scheme (SSS), you may be eligible to receive a pair of basic prescription spectacles, once every 2 years.

- Extras such as transitions, tinting, anti-reflective coating, UV guard and/or hard coat are not covered. If you would like these, you will need to pay for them yourself.
- You can have SSS lenses fitted to your existing or privately purchased frames. Contact SSS to discuss this option.

Eligibility

To apply for assistance under MASS, you must:

- Be a permanent resident of Queensland
- Have held a pensioner concession card, health care card or Queensland Government Seniors Card for at least 6 months

If you hold a Gold Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card, you may be eligible for spectacles from the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

How to Apply

Book an eye examination with an optometrist registered with SSS.

Your optometrist will help you to complete the "MASS 30 Spectacle Supply Scheme Application Form," attach their clinical assessment, and submit it to SSS.

The Applicant must complete the "MASS Centrelink Client Consent Form" that provides consent for SSS to contact Centrelink to verify your card eligibility.

For more information call SSS on **1300 443 570**

INDEPENDENCE WORLD



Empowering Living

- **Cheaper** Groceries and Medical Supplies – lower prices on the same products like the supermarkets
- Accessible Accommodation – best places to stay with all the information you need
- Quality Home Care for the aged and people with a disability at affordable prices. This includes one-off care, long-term care and live-in care.
- Independence aids and a range of mobility equipment for either sale or hire, short or long term.

Located at –

15 Main Street Arcade Lake Street, Cairns

For people who can't or don't want to shop in store or online, we have an Order Catalogue

For more information phone 40579918 or click on the link below –

www.independenceworld.com.au

Andrew's New Bike

[Andrew](#) loves bike riding and his old bike was hard to pedal up hills. One pedal kept falling off and the brakes were not working very well.

He really wanted a new bike so he talked to his Public Trust Officer who helped him to review his budget and save money to buy a new bike.

Andrew successfully SAVED \$600 to buy a brand new Avanti bike.

His new bike has disc brakes which give better control braking in all conditions and need less maintenance. The bike's innovative design and carbon fibre high tech frame makes it lighter, easier and less tiring to ride.

Apart from running errands and doing his grocery shopping, Andrew has been enjoying long bike rides around the Tablelands to places like Lake Tinaroo and visiting friends on the Tablelands and in Cairns.



Andrew's old bike



and his new Avanti bike!



Suicide & Self-Harm Prevention Conference, **Cairns Convention Centre from** **24th-26th June 2015**

A program is currently being developed that aims to challenge and stimulate discussion surrounding the Conference theme **of "Suicide & Self-Harm Prevention - Across the lifespan: different ages and stages"**.

The Conference is about bringing together researchers, practitioners, health workers within the suicide prevention sector, the community and anyone affected by suicide.

Click on the link below for more information:

<http://www.kochfoundation.org.au/Suicide-Prevention-Conference-2015.77.0.html>

BOLLYWOOD

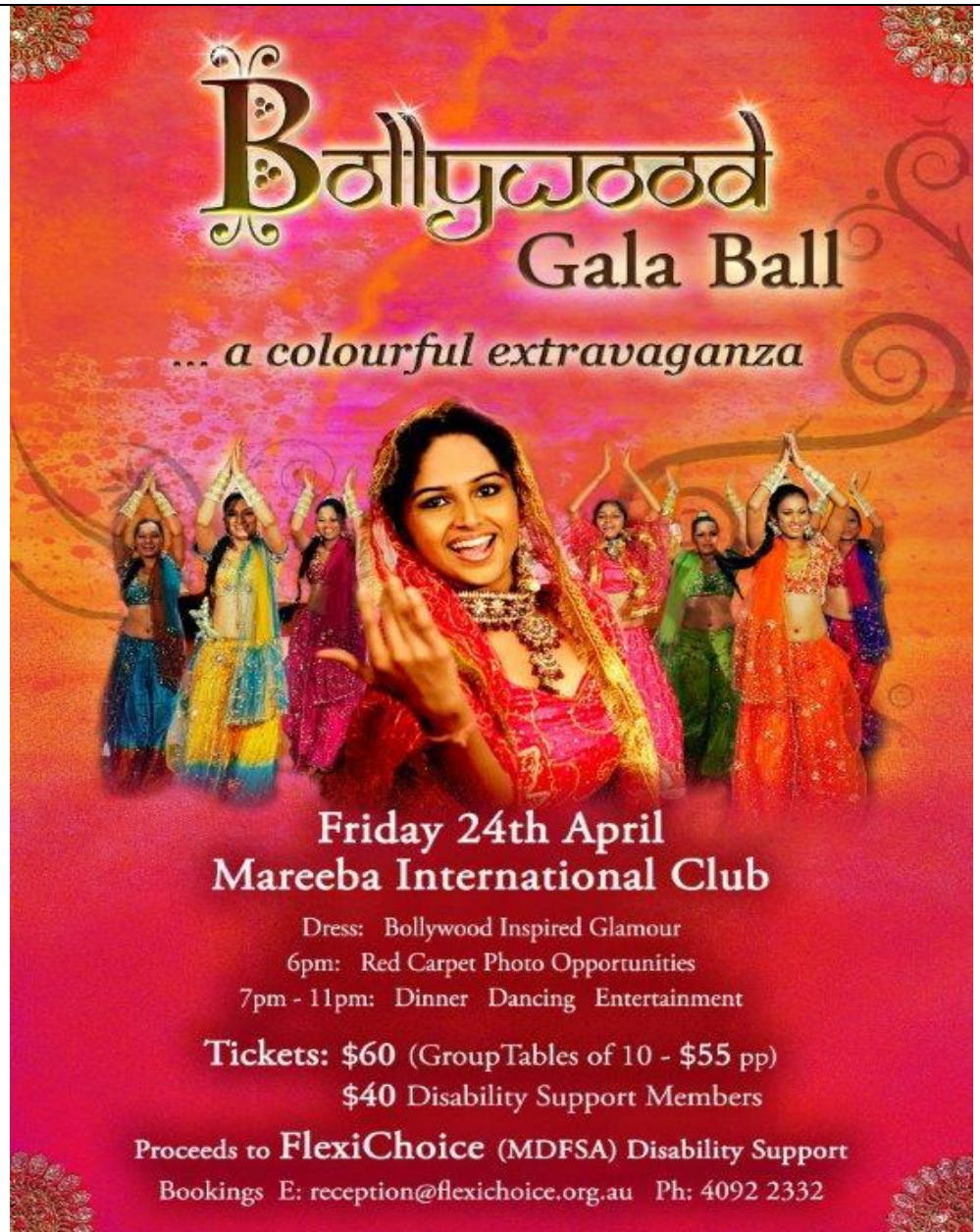
RIA Newsletter Articles

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 Klansek at our office on 40317377 or email info@rightsinaction.org

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

A vibrant poster for the Bollywood Gala Ball. The title 'Bollywood Gala Ball' is written in a large, ornate, golden font at the top. Below it, the tagline '... a colourful extravaganza' is written in a smaller, elegant font. The central image shows a group of women in colorful Bollywood-style outfits (sarees and lehengas) performing a dance. The background is a warm, glowing orange and red. At the bottom, the event details are listed: 'Friday 24th April', 'Mareeba International Club', 'Dress: Bollywood Inspired Glamour', '6pm: Red Carpet Photo Opportunities', '7pm - 11pm: Dinner Dancing Entertainment', 'Tickets: \$60 (Group Tables of 10 - \$55 pp)', '\$40 Disability Support Members', 'Proceeds to FlexiChoice (MDFSA) Disability Support', and 'Bookings E: reception@flexichoice.org.au Ph: 4092 2332'.

Bollywood
Gala Ball
... a colourful extravaganza

Friday 24th April
Mareeba International Club

Dress: Bollywood Inspired Glamour
6pm: Red Carpet Photo Opportunities
7pm - 11pm: Dinner Dancing Entertainment

Tickets: \$60 (Group Tables of 10 - \$55 pp)
\$40 Disability Support Members

Proceeds to **FlexiChoice** (MDFSA) Disability Support
Bookings E: reception@flexichoice.org.au Ph: 4092 2332



**From all the staff at RIA
we wish you all a safe
and Happy Easter**