



RIGHTS IN ACTION INC

Independent advocacy for people with disabilities

NEWSLETTER

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November 2012 – Issue 26

Rights In Action 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

FINANCIAL OFFICER

Ted Barber

Monday

Management Committee 2011/2012

PRESIDENT

Mark Phillips

VICE PRESIDENT

vacant

SECRETARY

Marleen Blake

TREASURER

Robert (Bob) Dollery

GENERAL MEMBERS

Lyndell Bourke

Sue Tomasich

Message from the Manager

Welcome to all readers to a late edition of our Newsletter.

We have been very busy over the past few months with some staff on a well desired break.

A huge welcome to new staff Jo Abbatangelo and Ted Barker.

Jo has been working part time since July to facilitate excellent advocacy outcomes for vulnerable people faced with isolation from our community and Ted has been engaged to assist us to evaluate our financial and risk management projects to strengthen our organisations future goals. I would like to sincerely thank Jo & Ted for professional assistance and contributions to our small team.

November also brings us to our annual RIA events. It is time to join us as a new member, renew your membership, and consider nominating for a member of our Management Committee. To help us celebrate 21/11/12, please join us at our Annual General Meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our RIA Management Committee and Staff

invite you
to join us at the
Mecure Harbourside – Blue Mango
Lake Street, Cairns
on

Wednesday, 21st November at 5.30pm for 6.00 pm start

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

To assist with catering, please contact Mary to confirm you can attend
on 4031 7377

Definition of Advocacy

“Advocacy strives to be emphatic and vigorous, functioning (speaking, acting, writing) with minimum conflict of interest, on behalf of the sincerely perceived interests of a person or group, in order to promote, protect and defend the welfare of, and justice for, either individuals or groups.”

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

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

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.

Public Advocate appointed in Queensland “Position has been reinstated”

After lengthy campaigning

Ms Jodie Cook has been appointed to the role of Public Advocate (Queensland) under the *Guardianship and Administration Act 2000*. The Public Advocate undertakes the functions of systems advocacy to improve life opportunities and outcomes for people with impaired decision-making capacity.

Further details about the Office of the Public Advocate, including access to publications is available online at www.publicadvocate.qld.gov.au



ASSESSING FITNESS TO DRIVE

The national driver and medical standards called Assessing Fitness to Drive (AFTD) have been revised to reflect current medical knowledge and the current transport environment. The purpose of these new standards is to improve road safety in Australia by assisting health professionals to assess the fitness to drive of their patients.

The new standards are effective from 1 March 2012. RMS will introduce a revised medical report form to support the new edition. However, medical reviews completed on old forms will continue to be accepted up to six months after the new standards begin.

New edition focus on the health conditions likely to affect driving including: Blackouts - Cardiovascular conditions – Diabetes – Hearing – Musculoskeletal conditions – Neurological condition. **Including** - Dementia, Seizures and Epilepsy, Vestibular disorders and other neurological conditions – Psychiatric conditions – Sleep disorder – Substance misuse – Vision and eye disorders.

See your GP or further information is available from the Austroads website – www.austroads.com.au

Models of Advocacy: -

Individual Advocacy – seeks to uphold the rights and interest of people with all types of disabilities on a one-to-one basis by addressing instances of discrimination, abuse and neglect.

IMPORTANT DATES

RIA AGM

21st November 2012

RIA Quality Assurance Audit

26th November 2012

International Day of People with Disability

3rd December 2012

International Human Rights Day

10th December 2012

Policelink

Non Urgent SMS for Deaf and Hearing Impaired people

0437 131 444

For example:

Non-urgent matters for which you can contact Policelink via SMS are:

- Returning home and finding graffiti sprayed on your fence or home
- Losing your wallet and not being able to find it
- Returning from shopping and finding your car broken or stolen
- Returning home and finding your house break in
- Involved in non-injury accident needing police visit

If you want ask any questions about Policelink SMS, visit the Deaf Services Queensland website or contact our office on TTY 07 3892 8501 or fax 07 3392 8511 and ask for Petra Svab or Jasmin Bellos.

www.deafservicesqld.org.au

Airline Customer Advocate

Have you had an issue in the past 12 months with an airline that you haven't been able to resolve?

The Airline Customer Advocate (ACA) provides free and independent service to eligible customers of major Australian airlines by facilitating the resolution of complaints about their services.

To find out more visit www.airlinecustomeradvocate.com.au or telephone **1800 813 129** to obtain a complain form. Unfortunately complaints can not be accepted over the phone.

Did you know....

That RIA collects statistical information recording gender, disability, age, geographical details, the number of enquiries and the referrals made to local services. If you are receiving advocacy, you have a file which contains your personal information, an authority form, your advocacy strategy plan and information on what we are doing to assist you. You can access your file but it is confidential to others and stored securely to *protect your privacy*. When you no longer need our assistance, we close your file and store it in archives for 5 years before it is destroyed.