



RIGHTS IN ACTION INC

Independent advocacy for people with disabilities

NEWSLETTER

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March 2013– Issue 27

Rights In Action Inc Staff

MANAGER
Robyn Renton

ADVOCATES
Bob Paten
Monday – Friday

John Hartigan
Tuesday – Thursday

Jo Abbatangelo
Monday - Friday

ADMINISTRATION
OFFICER
Mary Klansek
Monday – Thursday

Management Committee 2013

PRESIDENT
Mark Phillips

VICE PRESIDENT
Lyndell Bourke

SECRETARY
Marleen Blake

TREASURER
Robert (Bob) Dollery

GENERAL MEMBERS
Sue Tomasich
Bernadette Dimla
Joseph Lynd
Jennifer McCabe

Message from the Manager

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter.

Firstly, I would like to introduce three new members to our Management Committee; Bernadette Dimla, Joseph Lynd and Jenny McCabe. If you would like to read about the people on our Committee please link to our website at www.rightsinaction.org

I also have the pleasure to announce our new arrival -
Cienna Jaye Rose Cook.



Our first RIA baby! Congratulations to parents Jasmine & Chris Cook. Jasmine is on maternity leave and will be back in her role as Advocate in July 2013.

Finally, A big welcome to Jo Abbatangelo who is our new Advocate



As a great up holder of human rights, it is with great pleasure and indeed enthusiasm that I join the team here at Rights in Action.

*Over the past 25 years I have worked in the community services sector with people from a wide range of cultural and socio economic backgrounds in both urban and remote settings. The needs of our most vulnerable citizens should be everyone's business. Human dignity is paramount to living a fulfilled life and to improve the quality of that life is what advocacy and support is all about. I look forward to working with you all sometime in the near future. **Jo Abbatangelo***

Register to receive the updates on the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** <http://www.ndis.gov.au/talking-about-ndis/sign-up/>

Rights In Action provide active support for the individual by speaking, acting or writing, with or on behalf of the person, in order to promote, protect and defend their welfare and human rights.

RIA Advocates will be at the following venues between 10.00am to 1.00pm

Mareeba

Community Support Services

212 Walsh Street

20th March

17th April

15th May

19th June

Atherton

Community Service Tablelands

13A Herberton Road

3rd April

1st May

5th June

We advocate for people with disabilities who have been unjustly treated because of their disability.

Issues may relate to:

Health
Employment
Housing
Education
Discrimination
Services

To make an appointment please contact us on 4031 7377

Leaders for Tomorrow Program

Leaders for Tomorrow is an individual leadership development program which has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to develop the leadership capacity of people with disability.

People with a board range of skill levels and leadership interests are encouraged to apply. The program committed to including a variety of participants reflecting the diversity of the Australian community.

The Leaders for Tomorrow program is delivered nationally by NSW Consumer Support and Training Project (Hunter TAFE) & E-QUAL (Enhancing Quality)

Applications for this final intake commencing May 2013

For more information or an application form visit

www.leadersfortomorrow.com.au

or call 1800 648 021



**SMS access to 000
(police, fire, ambulance)**

**for hearing and speech impaired will start
in July 2013**

Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, has announced that people with hearing or speech impairments will be able to contact triple -0 via SMS for the first time, under a new and improved National Relay Service (NRS).

http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2013/016

Why is Advocacy Needed

For most people, making your own decisions and choices, is a matter of some considerable importance. It is an aspect of personal freedom that most of us take for granted. Having control of our own life is the root from where self-identity is expressed and a major factor in determining quality of life. We all need advocacy at some time in our lives to help us attain this control so that we can have our say.

Yesterday is history,
tomorrow is a mystery,
and today is a gift,
that's why they call it
the present.
"Eleanor Roosevelt"

Australian National Disability Abuse and Neglect Hotline

<http://www.disabilityhotline.org>

Did you know ...

The Australian Human Rights Commission leads the implementation of the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#). This Act makes disability discrimination unlawful and aims to promote equal rights, opportunity and access for people with disabilities.

Human Rights -
Human rights are
about recognising
and respecting the
inherent value and
dignity of ALL
people.

LOCAL PEER NETWORK for SELF DIRECTED FUNDING

by Leslee Hogan

My name is Leslee Hogan and I have a son with a catastrophic ABI. Sam has very high physical care needs, including complex daily therapy programs that are delivered by his support workers. I've been self-directing Sam's YPIRAC package for approximately 4 years. Co-ordinating Sam's program has enabled me to ensure that Sam's health and therapy needs are met in his home, by workers who receive training that is relevant to Sam's needs. Sam's program is truly person-centred. It is based on Sam's individual needs and pre-injury interests. Taking responsibility for rostering means that Sam and I have a level of flexibility in our lives that we could never have achieved via a traditional disability service.

Self-direction has not been all plain sailing. Recruiting has been an issue at times as it is for all disability programs. Skilling up untrained workers to provide "high care" support is no small feat. Then there are those high stress times due to illness or other factors, as in the life of every family. At those times I find it helpful to access some support for myself from an empathic professional who understands co-ordination and carer issues. Being responsible for decisions about expenditure means I can purchase professional services as they are needed. We use a particular physiotherapist who specialises in ABI to train our workers.

My vision is to be part of a network of people with disabilities and their families who are directing their own support. I believe a network of people who are self-directing could provide support to one another and assist those who are beginning the self-direction journey. Such a network could also provide information and assistance in regard to administration of funds, recruiting, and support worker training. It could potentially offer support management to those who prefer not to hand their lives over to traditional services, but who are unable to program-manage themselves. I see the latter possibility as a great option for carers who are aging and wish to ensure their loved one continues to receive person-centred support when they're gone.

As a first step towards developing such a network in North Qld, I have started a Facebook page as a manageable way of connecting interested people. The page is a place to share information and experiences and raise questions about self-direction options in a North Qld context. Please visit [Self Directed Support North Qld](#) and give the page a Like to help build the connections. We got 61 Likes in the first 2 days and that gave us a reach of 1,500 people. If you are self-directing I'd love you to go the page and share your story. If you'd like to hear more about the possibilities of a peer network for self-direction, please join us for **"A Conversation with Les Scaife"** to hear about the work of West Lancs Peer Network in the UK.

For Information on **"A Conversation with Les Scaife"** visit www.rightsinaction.org under Announcements

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 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



Reminder

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

FIRST PEOPLES DISABILITY NETWORK AUSTRALIA

The First Peoples Disability Network (Australia) is now online. The website includes a section on publications which has several documents related to the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

For more information follow the link - www.fpdn.org.au

OR

<http://fpdn.org.au/images/documents/SBStrategicIssues140213.pdf>

nq
women's legal service

NQ WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES

North Queensland Women's Legal Services would like to advise that their contact number for appointments and general enquiries is now - (07) 4772 5400 Fax 4772 5315



Queensland Advocacy Incorporated
Justice Support Program

Do you have a disability? Have you been charged with an offence? Do you need help to access services or support?

If you have a disability, the Justice Support Program is a QAI initiative designed to respond to your needs in the Justice system. We can:

- Help you get legal advice or representation and Try to resolve the issue.
- Advocate with service systems to acquire appropriate and responsive supports like housing, personal assistance, counselling and Help you to comply with Court orders

http://www.qai.org.au/images/stories/docs/info/JSP_flier_v2.pdf

 1300 130 582