



RIGHTS IN ACTION INC

Independent advocacy for people with disabilities

NEWSLETTER

www.rightsinaction.org

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Rights In Action Inc Staff

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Monday – Friday

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Monday - Friday

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OFFICER
Mary Klanske
Monday – Friday

Management Committee 2013

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Managers Update...

Since our last Newsletter there have been several changes for RIA. Like some other Queensland NGO's, RIA had a decrease in our Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services funding and Queensland Health has offered us a Service Agreement commencing 1st July 2013.

I'm pleased to report that our advocacy efforts for the 65 people with disabilities, over 100 enquiries and 27 referrals to other local services continue to "raise the bar" of our professional work. This was reflected in our recent joint National Disability Advocacy Program and the new Human Services Quality Framework audits conducted by Global Mark Certification. A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the 3 day audit process, especially to the 14 people interviewed - including people receiving advocacy assistance, family/carers, service providers and the Office of the Adult Guardian, Townsville. We will continue to investigate avenues for ongoing sustainability however it is unfortunate that due to our lack of resources we had no capacity to assist 9 people who were seeking of assistance.

We also say farewell to John Hartigan and wish him every success in his future endeavours. John had worked as a part time Advocate since 2010 and achieved very positive outcomes for his clients in Atherton & Mareeba.

I would also like to thank the Mareeba Community Support Services and the Community Service Tablelands in Atherton for providing us a venue to meet people in these areas. We will continue to investigate affordable and accessible office space in this region and would like anyone who knows of suitable rental property to contact us.



We connect those that have, with those that need

If you have quality items to donate it's easy to GIVIT!

<http://www.givit.org.au/>

Events

Cerebral Palsy Awareness week
31st July – 6th August

National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day
4th August

National Homeless Persons Week
5th – 11th August

Seniors Week
17th – 25th August

Hearing Awareness Week
25th – 31st August

Disability Action Week
September

World Suicide Prevention Day
10th September



NDIS |

National Disability Strategy 2010 – 2020 sets out a shared vision and a commitment to action from all Australian Governments to improve outcomes and whole-of-life opportunities for people with disability in Australia.

The report is now available at

<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/key-projects/national-disability-strategy-2010-2020/implementing-the-national-disability-strategy-2010-2020>



Australian Human Rights Commission

everyone, everywhere, everyday

Support for Indigenous people with disability

The First People's Disability Network Australia will receive \$900,000 over three years to assist Indigenous Australians to understand and access support from DisabilityCare Australia.

Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda said the funding would help close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage by ensuring the benefits of DisabilityCare Australia are realised for Indigenous people.

He said the prevalence of severe or profound disability among Indigenous people is around twice the rate for non-Indigenous Australians.

Funding to improve access to services for Indigenous people with disability follows this week's Budget commitment of \$1.6 billion to Indigenous health, education, welfare reform and other services.



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

Monday 10th June – Queens Birthday and Friday 19th July Cairns Show Day



Rights in Action would like to Thank



for their continued support.



7 - 14 July

2013

We value the vision:
YIRRKALA BARK PETITIONS 1963

The theme for NAIDOC Week July 2013 - We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963.

This year's theme proudly celebrates the 50th anniversary of the presentation of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions to the Federal Parliament. In August 1963, the Yolngu people of Yirrkala in northeast Arnhem Land sent two bark petitions – framed by traditional ochre paintings of clan designs – to the Australian House of Representatives. The petitions protested the Commonwealth's granting of mining rights on land excised from Arnhem Land reserve and sought the recognition by the Australian Parliament of the Yolngu peoples' traditional rights and ownership of their lands. Asserting title to Yolngu country under Yolngu law, the petitions were the first traditional documents recognised by the Commonwealth Parliament and helped to shape the nation's acknowledgment of Aboriginal people and their land rights. While appealing for the recognition of Yolngu rights to land, the Bark Petitions were a catalyst in advancing changes to the Constitution in the 1967 referendum, the statutory acknowledgment of Aboriginal land rights by the Commonwealth in 1976, and the overturning of the obstacle of the concept of terra nullius by the High Court in the Mabo Case in 1992 that recognised the traditional rights of the Meriam people to their islands in the eastern Torres Strait.



Queensland Celebrations <http://www.naidoc.org.au/naidoc-events/calendar/?state=QLD&check=Check>



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



The Tablelands Health and Wellbeing Expo, held in Atherton on the 21st April was a highly successful event with over 100 booths participating on the day. **Rights In Action** spent the day speaking with people across the region with the majority of discussion focused on the NDIS. Thanks to Queenslanders With Disability Network (QDN) on their handout on “Frequently Asked Questions and Other Information on the NDIS” - a popular little handout on the day.



Inspiration....

“Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words.
Keep your words positive because your words become your behaviour.
Keep your behaviour positive because your behaviour becomes your habits.
Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values.
Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny.”

Mahatma Gandhi