



RIGHTS IN ACTION INC

Independent advocacy for people with disabilities

NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Manager

Hi Everyone. We are already half way through the year and there have been lots of positive developments to let you know about. So, lets start with whats new at RIA. Welcome to Angelika Williams (Advocate) and Jennifer McCabe (Assistant Manager) who have joined our team.

Thank you to our funding bodies, Department of Social Services, Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and Queensland Health who have continued to acknowledge the importance of independent advocacy and extended and increased our funding until 2021.

In April 2019, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, and Minister for Families and Social Services, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, announced the establishment of the [Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability](#) (the Royal Commission). Chair of the Royal Commission. Mr Sackville will be supported by five other Royal Commissioners - Ms Barbara Bennett PSM, Dr Rhonda Galbally AC, Ms Andrea Mason OAM, Alastair McEwin AM, and The Hon John Ryan AM. The 2019-20 Federal Budget has allocated funding to enable to the Royal Commission to provide appropriate arrangements for people to engage and tell their stories. The Royal Commission will produce a final report by April 2022 will help to inform Australian governments, institutions and the wider community on how to prevent, and better protect, people with disability from experiencing violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in the future.

The 1st July 2019 marks several milestones for Queenslanders with a disability.

The [National Disability Insurance Scheme](#) (NDIS) has now rolled out across Queensland and available in all areas. People are encouraged to access the scheme and obtain funding to support their individual needs, goals and aspirations and to ensure they have the full potential to be included in their community. If you know someone who lives in Cairns, Innisfail, Marreeba, Atherton, Yarrabah or Mossman and they need help to register for NDIS Access please contact Mission Australia Local Area Coordinators on **1800 860 555**.

If you know someone living in the Far North rural or remote regions, you can call us on **40317377** or complete a [Request for NDIS Access Rural & Remote Form at NDIS Access – Rural & Remote](#)

The [Queensland NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission](#) has opened its doors. Although they are based in Brisbane they can be contacted on **1800 035 544**. The Commission is a national body established to ensure NDIS participants receive quality services from NDIS registered and unregistered providers. They are independent regulatory body. NDIS providers will need to be registered with the Quality & safeguards Commission and meet with quality standards and code of conduct requirements. Anyone can make a complaint about a registered or unregistered provider, provide feedback or seek clarification on where to get help. Registered providers also have obligations to report incidents to the Commission such as deaths, abuse, assault, sexual misconduct and unauthorised use of restrictive practise.

If you are an NDIS participant and need help to make a complaint, contact us on **4031 7377** or [Request for Advocacy Assistance Form at Request for Assistance](#)

Rights In Action

Staff

MANAGER

Robyn Renton

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Jennifer Mc Cabe

SENIOR ADVOCATE

Bob Paten

ADVOCATES

**Dianne Wellington
Marlene Levasseur
Angelika Williams**

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Mary Klansek

JCU VOCATIONAL PLACEMENT

Symon Magus

RIA Board of Management 2018/2019

PRESIDENT

James Barnes

VICE PRESIDENT

Jane Simpson

SECRETARY

Bernadette Dimla

TREASURER

Allan Wilson

GENERAL MEMBERS

Jan Corcoran

The Quality and Safeguards Commission do not assist with complaints about NDIS or your NDIS Plan. If you are unhappy with NDIS decisions about your plan, RIA can help you with a NDIS Appeal. This can be an internal review or an external review to the AAT. Please contact us for further information or [NDIS Appeals Request Form](#)

In closing, just a reminder that if you would like to provide us feedback or have any suggestions on how we may improve our assistance to people with disability please let me know by calling me on 40317377 or robyn.renton@rightsinaction.org

I look forward to hearing from you! Robyn 😊



Welcome Angelika

[Angelika](#) Williams is RIA's newest Advocate who commenced into the role the last week of March 2019.

Before starting as an Advocate with Rights in Action, Angelika worked at the Dept Communities Disability Services for 2 ½ years as a Service Advisor in the SAT Intake and Assessment team.

Angelika also worked as a Wellbeing Mentor for Anglicare NQL for 12 months, case managing and supporting Carers and parents to individuals diagnosed with an ABI, a psychosocial or mental illness as well as parents whose young or adult children were diagnosed ASD or Asperger's. Angelika did a lot of travelling to towns as far south as Tully, north to Thursday Island; out west to Mount Isa, up to Ravenshoe and across the Atherton Tablelands.

Other jobs Angelika has held over the years include working in a Centrelink Call Centre; as a Legal Secretary for Native Title; she was a Team Leader and Employment Consultant in both Disability employment services and mainstream employment agencies i.e. Job Active and a few short-term roles whilst living interstate in places such as Perth, Darwin, Ingham and Rockhampton.

With many years' experience and skills in working with, supporting and assisting people with a disability, Carers and families in our community ~ Angelika is passionate about social justice, equity for all and advocacy on matters where people have been blatantly discriminated against or their human rights have been violated.

Outside of work, Angelika enjoys glamping (camping in style), is patiently creative on a sewing machine; is unreservedly addicted to social media just for the photos or a good laugh; loves a bargain/sales and prefers to spend time with her family and extended families.

Free 12 month mail redirection for special circumstances

Family and domestic violence is the biggest cause of homelessness in Australia. If you need help staying connected, Australia Post will make sure your mail still gets to you. You'll also have the one-off option of free PO Box access for up to 22 months. If you are a victim of domestic violence, apply at any Post Office in Australia. You need to complete a mail-redirection form and bring either an intervention order, statutory declaration from the police, or notice on an approved letterhead from a supporting agency. [Read More](#)



Membership fees are a small contribution of \$5.00 per year or \$20 for 5 years. However, we do accept more generous financial donations.

Membership benefits include:

You receive our quarterly Newsletter that provides current information on local services, systemic issues and campaigns, changes to government legislation, social events and activities.

You can contribute to the direction of our organisation by attending meetings and providing your views and feedback that is welcomed and valued.

Financial members are encouraged to nominate as a Board member at our annual general meeting.



Donations help us promote the rights of people with disabilities by addressing systemic issues and campaigns, presentations and static displays, social events and activities.

<https://www.givenow.com.au/httpswwwrightsinactionorg>

RIA Meets the DFV High Risk Team



Jane Simpson, Kylie Maher & Marlene Levasseur

RIA Staff members Marlene, Angelika and Board Member Jane recently attended a Domestic and Family violence prevention month event hosted by the Cairns DFV High Risk Team. The networking morning tea was held at Wharf One Café and was an opportunity for the non-government service sector to meet High Risk Team members and hear about their role in increasing community and personal safety.

The High-Risk Team model is one of the recommendations from the Qld Government *Not Now Not Ever report (2016)* into prevention of violence predominantly against women and children in our state. Cairns is one of five sites Queensland wide where this multi-agency approach to reducing harm due to DFV is being trialled.

The local team consists of representatives from QPS, Corrections, Courts, Child Safety Youth Justice and the local CRDVS as lead NGO agency. The High-Risk Team case manages referrals using a collaborative approach of information sharing and safety planning to reduce risk of harm or lethality and to better hold perpetrators to account.

Domestic violence is when one person behaves in a way that controls or dominates another person and causes them fear for their safety and wellbeing.

RIA recognises that regardless of age, ability, cultural identity, sexuality or gender everyone has a right to live without fear.

Domestic violence is often a pattern of abusive and controlling behavior that can take many forms. It happens in intimate, family or informal care relationships and people living with disabilities can be particularly at risk.

It is recognised that women living with a disability are vulnerable to high rates of violence, especially sexual assault and intimate partner violence. There is also a need to better understand their experiences and to improve access to support and justice responses to such violence

ANROWS - Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety www.anrows.org

If you or anyone you know is experiencing Domestic and Family Violence contact - DV Connect on 1800 811 811 anytime 24/7.

QCAT

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal

Client Survey

The [Queensland](#) Civil and Administrative Tribunal's (QCAT's) [2018-19 client survey](#) is now open for your views.

QCAT wants to learn about your experience at QCAT and whether the tribunal met your needs.

In previous years, this survey has helped us to improve our staff training, expand our website and correspondence information and assess how we deliver our services across Queensland.

The survey takes just five minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous, and you cannot be identified through this survey

If you wish to comment on, or inquire about, a particular case, please email enquiries@qcat.qld.gov.au.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts on how QCAT is delivering accessible justice in Queensland.

We value your time and thank you for participating.

Survey provide by The QCAT Team

Coming Soon - New Services for Carers



[The](#) Australian Government is rolling out a range of new early-intervention services and support for carers in 2019. These new services can help you reduce stress, improve wellbeing and get the support you need.

New services to give you support and skills

[Carer Gateway](#) is setting up services to give you support and skills.

From July 2019, you will be able to get:

- Phone counselling
- Online connection to other carers
- Self-guided coaching

From September 2019, you will be able to call just one number to find the help you need. They will help you with:

- Carer support planning
- Tailored financial packages
- In-person counselling
- In-person coaching
- In person connection with carers
- Emergency respite care

For more information visit the website - [carergateway](#) or call [1800 422 737](#)



1300 Ride Share – 1300 74 33 74

What areas do we service?

[Cairns](#) and surrounding areas, Port Douglas and Mossman, Gordonvale, Yarrabah and Kuranda

8.00 am – 7.00 pm (also pre bookings out of hours).

Wheelchair Transport

Can transport clients with fold up walkers and wheelchairs. Currently don't have facilities to transport people who have motorised wheelchairs.

1300 Rideshare have child seats/restraints but these need to be arranged during pre-booking.

Flexible Service and Assistance – at no extra charge

Flexible and usually can amend bookings to suit delays in appointments, when the unexpected happens at NO extra charge. Will assist clients to their door if needed.

Pre-Booked – Fixed Price

Fixed price assists with budgeting. Monthly invoice can be issued per client.

Cairns Disability

Expo 2019

FREE ENTRY

The Cairns Disability Expo is happening at –

Cazalys

344 Mulgrave Road

Parking & Entry via P2-Rear Carpark

Tuesday 16th July 2019

Morning – 9am – 12pm

Evening - 4pm – 7pm.

This event is now a fully open to the public event for all ages

This event showcases supports, services and providers available in the Cairns region for people with disability – and to enhance linkages between providers, educators, families, and more.

My apologies. Date and times have been changed since the March Newsletter.

Pets

Will transport your pet with you as long as they behave. If you take them to the beach bring a towel for them to sit on for return journey.

All drivers are subject to an AFP Police Check, medical and meet TMR Drivers Authorisation criteria.

For more information call Cheryl Cook on 0408 486 571 or send an email to info@1300rideshare.com.au

NQ Connect - 1300 059 625

NQ [Connect](#) is a free and safe telephone and online counselling service for people in northern Queensland.

NQ Connect provides help and support for people who are worried and stressed. You can get in touch if you're concerned about things like: -

Anger management - Anxiety – Depression – Drug & alcohol abuse – Grief & loss – Isolation & loneliness – Suicidal thoughts – Relationship & family problems – Wellbeing – Work stress

Professional counsellors listen, support, and help you cope. They work with you to develop a personalised strategy that will help you manage your stresses and worries better. Help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Call or visit <https://nqconnect.com.au/> to speak to a counsellor.

Minister for Transport & Main Roads

The [Palaszczuk](#) Government is committed to ensuring all Queenslanders have access to safe and reliable transport. We believe that everyone should have access to safe and comfortable taxi services too.

To ensure that people who rely on wheelchairs for travel outside of their homes have the same access, our government has announced an assistance package to help replace the ageing wheelchair accessible taxi (WAT) fleet.

Over the next four years, our government will provide \$21 million to assist WAT operators to replace their ageing vehicles, starting with the oldest vehicles first. WATs aged eight years or older will be eligible for 50 per cent funding for gradual vehicle replacement from 2019-20 through to 2022-23.

Funding will also be available for other taxi operators to convert up to 65 conventional taxis and make them wheelchair accessible. This will boost Queensland's WAT fleet by 10 per cent.

This follows the announcement in May 2019 committing \$6 million to continue the Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS) for a further year, and the continuation of incentive payments for WAT drivers to give priority to TSS members.

The assistance package to WAT operators will encourage them to modernise Queensland's WAT fleet. Please rest assured that we are committed to delivering proper, accessible transport options for all Queenslanders.

by Mark Bailey MP

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

DISCLAIMER:

Our Newsletter is a way to share information.

The information published is intended for general information only. RIA checks that information is factual however we are not responsible for any opinions or Articles provided by other services.

Information is not considered professional advice.

Media Release from the Minister

Federal Government takes action to get younger people out of aged care homes.

The [Federal](#) Government has unveiled a national action plan to reduce the number of younger people living in aged care facilities.

Minister for Families and Social Services, Paul Fletcher, and Assistant Minister for Social Services, Housing and Disability Services, Sarah Henderson said it is unacceptable that nearly 6,000 young Australians, almost 200 under the age of 45, are living in residential age care facilities.

“The Federal Government recognises the aged care system is designed to support the needs of older people. It is not designed or necessarily well-equipped to meet all of the needs a younger person with disability may have,” Mr Fletcher said.

Minister Fletcher said the Government has been working with key stakeholders to set ambitious but achievable goals to get younger people out of residential aged care.

For more information about The Younger People in Residential Care – [Action Plan](#)



DESMOND

FREE Diabetes Education Programs

[This](#) is a one-day course specifically designed for people with type 2 diabetes. DESMOND, short for 'Diabetes Education and Self-Management for Ongoing and Newly Diagnosed', will help you understand and manage the changes type 2 diabetes can bring to your life. Presented in a small group, learning practical information about food choices, physical activity and medications.

Whether you have been recently diagnosed or have been living with diabetes for some time, you should receive the support and information you need to manage your diabetes well.

These education programs have been specifically designed to support you to become the expert in your diabetes management. Our fully trained educators will help you increase your knowledge and understanding of diabetes, as well as it being a great opportunity to meet and share experiences with others living with diabetes.

These programs are offered at **no cost to you**. Even if you have already attended, we encourage you to join us again and you are welcome to bring a partner or a friend along with you. **You must register to attend each workshop**, as places are limited.

MAREEBA: Friday, 26 July 2019, 9.00am - 4.00pm

Mareeba Hospital, Mareeba Community Health (Meeting Room)
21 Lloyd Street, MAREEBA QLD 4880

ATHERTON: Friday, 20 September 2019, 9.30am - 4.30pm

Halloran's Hill, Centenary Drive, ATHERTON QLD 4883

CAIRNS: Part 1: Tuesday, 3 September 2019, 1.00pm - 4.30pm

Part 2: Tuesday, 10 September 2019, 1.00pm - 4.30pm

Cairns North community Health (Maratta Room)
381 Sheridan Street, CAIRNS QLD 4870 To register - [DESMOND](#)