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Stay Informed

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Keep the date free 22 October 2014

6pm: Panel Presentation: ***Ageing with a disability***

St Helens Community Centre

184 Glebe Point Road, Glebe

With Presentations by

Annette Mitchell

(PDCN Researcher)

*"Report on Impact of Ageing on the needs of
people with a disability 2014"*

Margaret Kay

(Senior Policy Officer– Ageing and Disability Local Government
NSW) *"Role of Local Government in supporting Inclusion"*

Richard Hawkins

(A/ED Carers & Disability Access & Inclusion

Department of Family and Community Services | Strategy & Policy)

"Implementing The National Disability Strategy in NSW"

PDCN Annual General Meeting to follow at 7pm

Dementia and Physical Disability Workshops August to November 2014

Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) and **Alzheimer's Australia NSW (AlzNSW)** are delivering a skill-based educational program at no cost for community service providers supporting clients who have a physical disability and dementia within the Metro North region. These workshops have been delivered throughout NSW in 2013 and continue in 2014 and 2015.

August 6-7 **Taree**

September 17-18 **Marrickville**

October 15-16 **Queanbeyan**

November 5-6 **Dubbo**

To register for a workshop, please go to

<http://www.fightdementia.org.au/new-south-wales/education--training-in-nsw.aspx>



Following the launch of the I'm Okay: Emergency Readiness for people with disability website, we have received an overwhelming response from stakeholders who have continued to promote the website. The purpose of the 'I'm Okay' website is to enhance the knowledge and capacity of

people with a physical disability to increase their ability to respond to an emergency situation or disaster. The website assists people to devise an action plan to ensure their needs are met in an emergency situation as well as educating stakeholders on the needs of people with a physical disability improving their ability to respond to emergency situations that people with disability may face.

PDCN is always aiming to improve the website by adding information and resources that can assist people in being prepared in the event of emergencies. If you have any information you would like to share, you can forward this information to admin@pdcnsw.org.au.

The website also has a 'blog' feature where you can share tips, or stories about emergency

Support Planning Funding

PDCN is pleased to announce we have received a grant from NSW Government, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) to provide support planning to individuals with disability until December 2015 under their Ready Together initiative.

This initiative continues the Stronger Together 2 investment and reforms to expand individualised support and funding arrangements. PDCN have previously received funding to run the **'Getting Ready: Living the Life I Want to Live'** workshops under this initiative. Getting Ready Together seeks to build the capacity of people with disability to make decisions, to exercise choice and control over their lives and to transition to individualised funding arrangements and the NDIS.

The support planning model aims to help people with disability (together with their families, carers and supporters) to think about and identify their goals and aspirations before they enter an individualised funding arrangement. It will also help people identify support providers and plan their supports once they have an approved individualised funding arrangement in place.

PDCN is in the process of developing a consumer-focused implementation plan, which we will be presenting to ADHC in August for approval. By the time the next newsletter comes out, we will be able to provide you all with more information on how we will be providing this support planning and

Life Support Equipment and Electricity Supply

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of two young men in Perth recently after an interruption to their power supply. Our thoughts are with their families and friends at this difficult time.

It is impossible to prevent all risks that electricity disconnection can cause. However, there are some steps you can take to access protections from disconnection if you or someone in your home is registered as a user of life support equipment with your electricity retailer.

Your electricity retailer and distributor are important businesses that help make these protections happen. The electricity retailer is the company that sends you your bill. The electricity distributor (or network) is the company that is responsible for the poles and wires and getting the power to your home.

Step One: Contact your electricity retailer and let them know that someone in the home uses life support equipment

The electricity retailer will require written confirmation from a registered medical practitioner. It is a good idea to call them and ask what kind of documentation they need— as they may have a form that you can ask your doctor to complete.

Have your electricity bill handy when you call as you may need to provide your account number and other details that will help the electricity company identify your home.

Step Two: Ask your doctor to provide written confirmation that someone in the home is using life support equipment

Step Three: Send written confirmation to your electricity retailer

The electricity retailer should send you an acknowledgment of receipt of this information. If you don't receive this promptly, it is important that you follow up with the company to ensure your home is registered as a place where life support equipment is being used.

Responsibilities of electricity retailers

Once you have provided confirmation from a medical practitioner that life support equipment is being used in the home, your electricity retailer must not arrange for electricity to be disconnected. They must also register your home with the electricity distributor-the business that provides the poles and wires- so the distributor can make alternative arrangements if they need to do any maintenance or in the event of an emergency situation, such as a bushfire.

Your electricity retailer must provide you with an emergency contact number for the distributor that is charged at no more than the cost of a local call.

Responsibilities of electricity distributor (continues over page)

Life Support Equipment and Electricity Supply (continued)

used, the electricity distributor must:

- Provide the account holder with general information about planned or unplanned interruptions
- Information to help with the preparation of a plan of action in case an unplanned interruption happens
- An emergency contact number for the distributor
- Four business days written notice of any planned interruptions

Your responsibilities

If someone in the home uses life support equipment, you must let the retailer know and provide the necessary documentation to get protection from disconnection.

Please note this information is relevant to NSW.

You need to inform your electricity retailer if the person no longer requires life support equipment or no longer lives at the premises.

If you make any change to your electricity account, it is important that you make sure your home is still registered as having life support equipment in use. This is even important if you stay with the same retailer but have moved or have changed to a new account.

If you have changed to a new electricity retailer, you will need to register with them and provide them written confirmation from a medical practitioner that life support equipment is in use at your home.

Life Support Rebates

The NSW Government offers a range of Life Support Rebates to assist with the cost of running equipment. You can find more information about these rebates at:

www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/energy-consumers/financial-assistance/rebates/life-support-rebates Or call Service NSW on 13 77 88

Please note this information is relevant to NSW

PDCN Forum of Organisations 2014

Provides a vehicle for PDCN to seek input from organizational members about some of the issues for people with physical disabilities that PDCN is working on, and provides opportunities to explore possibilities for collaborative work. The Forum of Organisations meets twice a year.

The next forum of Organisation meetings for 2014 will be 5 September 2014

3pm – 5pm Meeting Room St Helen's Community Centre 184 Glebe Point Road, GLEBE

rsvp: admin@pdcnsw.org.au or lachlan.hazelton@pdcnsw.org.au



**‘Getting Ready’: Living the life I
want to live
(a free workshop for people with
physical disability)**

The focus of the workshop is gaining more control over your life by identifying what is important to you, set goals and make a plan to achieve goals:

- Provide opportunity for individuals through discussion and personal reflection, to identify and focus on what is important to them
- Assist individuals in identifying skills and supports, they may need to attain their specific goal
- Gain Information about funding initiatives
- Enable greater self awareness and confidence in individuals
- Interactive workshop learning from the experiences of others

Developed by people with physical disability, for people with physical disability, facilitated by people with physical disability

**To register for a free workshop or to find out more information please contact:
admin@pdcnsw.org.au or call (02) 9552 1606**

‘Getting ready’ is a consumer capacity building activity as part of Stronger Together 2 an initiative of Ageing, Disability & Homecare, Department of Family & Community Services NSW

Physical Disability Council of NSW
3/184 Glebe Point Road
Glebe NSW 2037

Phone: (02) 9552 1606
Fax: (02) 9552 4644
E-mail: admin@pdcnsw.org.au
www.pdcnsw.org.au

**Ordinary People
Ordinary Lives**

Workshop Facilitation

Getting Ready is a free workshop run over two days

The restricted number of participants, the diversity of facilitator life experience and the face-to-face nature of the facilitation style all contribute to the effectiveness of the workshops.

- Conducted in two half-day sessions with a night in between for reflection and preparation .
- Optimum number of participants for each workshop is five people, but will accept up to 10 people
- The workshop is conducted by two facilitators, at least one of whom has a physical disability.

Upcoming workshops below

Date	Location	Address	Time
11-12 August 2014	Randwick	Randwick Bowling Club 2 The Ave, Randwick NSW 2031	Day 1—1.15pm arrival, workshop 1.30pm to 4.30pm Day 2—9.45am arrival, workshop 10am to 1pm
18-19 August 2014	Armidale	Armidale Dumaresq Council Function Room, 135 Rusden Street Armidale NSW 2350	Day 1—1.15pm arrival, workshop 1.30pm to 4.30pm* Day 2—9.45am arrival, workshop 10am to 1pm *Community Consultation will run from 5pm to 7pm for those who wish to attend
1-2 September	Mona Vale	Community Care Northern Beaches Ltd. Unit 7/8 L1 Pittwater Place. 10 Park St. Mona Vale NSW 2103	Day 1—1.15pm arrival, workshop 1.30pm to 4.30pm Day 2- 10.45am arrival, workshop 11am to 2pm
8-9 September	Goulburn	Annie's Room Best Western A Trappers Motor Inn 2 Lockyer Street Goulburn NSW 2580	Day 1—1.15pm arrival, workshop 1.30pm to 4.30pm Day 2—9.45am arrival, workshop 10am to 1pm
22-23 September	Coffs Harbour	Manuel Room, Country Comfort Coffs Harbour, 353 Pacific Hwy, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450	Day 1—1.15pm arrival, workshop 1.30pm to 4.30pm Day 2—9.45am arrival, workshop 10am to 1pm
20-21 October	Wyang	Tasman Board Room Mingara Recreation Club Mingara Drive Tumbi Umbi NSW 2261	Day 1—1.15pm arrival, workshop 1.30pm to 4.30pm Day 2—9.45am arrival, workshop 10am to 1pm

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