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July Newsletter 2010

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Saying

***It Is Likely That You Have Experienced Some Major Changes In Your Life.
If so, your Charm Factor Will Be At An All Time High.
Accept Compliments And Know You Are On The Right Track***

DPA's telephone messages

Thank you for leaving your messages.

Do not forget to leave **your telephone number first**, then your message as it certainly makes a difference as we can promptly return your call.

Co-ordinator's Comments

Note: Coordinator's Comments

Kia Ora Everyone,

Please check out Page 6 as we had a bereavement of a valued colleague and friend who will be truly missed.

Our City Council have asked recently how you feel about our recreation facilities and we thank you for your correspondence. Your response and/or attendances with the recent Health Service forums plus rally to support keeping significant hospital services is still occurring and welcomed! Our community forum held on Monday 5 July had important people attending so we would like to thank speaker Murray Georgel and Colleen Barry plus Lyn Horgan for answering some of the questions you wrote in with. Ethel Robinson was great with her support! Proposals are still coming forward-we welcomed your feedback and love hearing of your experiences.

Finally, yes as many of you would have heard car-parks at the hospital, are to be paid for as of February 2011 with essential part funding going to the hospital as is other facilities throughout New Zealand!

If you are aware of anyone who would like to receive our newsletters or be on the REES (Registry of Emergency Evacuation Situations database) then get them to either call or e-mail DPA and I will send a form out.

We welcome seeing you up here on the 3RD Floor, Westside Chambers, The Square, Palmerston North. If you have any issues you feel require addressing then keep them coming in as we love your feedback and being able to assist! We would like to state our appreciation for your recent membership plus generous donations.

Delysse Kennard DPA PN Coordinator

President's Corner

Note: President's Corner

Greetings to you all,

Half the year has now gone and winter has hit with plenty of wet weather and the usual coughs and colds. Out and about in the community there have been whisperings in the community about internet scamming. With the new age mode of communication being electronic it has become easier for scammers to take advantage of ordinary people. A good rule to live by is 'if it looks too good to be true then it is probably a scam'. If you are approached by email or text and believe that it could be a scam you can easily check with either the Police or go to the website www.consumeraffairs.govt.nz/scams

If you have trouble getting Mobility taxi's for nights out at the movies, theatre or a function Gold & Black Taxi's are very accommodating with bookings. If you book in advance the drivers will endeavor to meet your needs and will put extra vans on. For further information phone Gold & Black Taxis on 351 2345 On a closing note check out the new Palmerston North DPA website which is updated regularly with information and events.

Christine



To: NEC, Regions, Others
From: Wendi Wicks
National Policy Researcher
Date: July 15 2010

Welfare Justice: the Alternative Welfare Working Group

On 8 July the group Welfare Justice: the Alternative Welfare Working Group was launched.

The group aims to:

- **Have a lot more people take part in debating welfare reforms.**
- **Hold public meetings in different parts of NZ so that people can go along, participate and have their say**
- **Invite people to put in submissions**
- **Write an alternative report that reflects what the community sector is saying.**

Since the Welfare Working Group was announced, there has been a significant level of unease among disabled people (and the wider community) about what might happen. Some of the suggestions that have come out, such as social insurance are problematic. There is not a disabled person's voice and expertise anywhere in the Working Group. We have pointed this out, but there has been no change.

So the Alternative Group wants to ensure people have a say in the debate.

Group members are:

Mike O'Brien (Chair), associate professor of social policy and social work, Massey University

Sue Bradford, beneficiaries and unemployed people's organisations

Wendi Wicks, DPA

Mamari Stevenson, Welfare law lecturer at Victoria University

Bishop Muru Walters, Anglican Social Justice Commission

Paul Dalziel, Professor of Economics, Lincoln University

DPA will still make submissions to the Welfare Working Group: there is always the possibility that something constructive can happen by this channel. We are keen to participate in as many ways as possible in the debate, and DPA would be very pleased if the Welfare Working Group put forward sensible and well-founded proposals. However, disabled people are encouraged to contribute submissions to Welfare Justice, the Alternative Welfare Working Group.

People can join the Alternative Welfare Working Group's page on Facebook, or they can go to the website <http://www.alternativewelfareworkinggroup.org.nz>. They can also send submissions to the Alternative Welfare Working Group by the 15th of August.

More details will follow, but if you have any queries please e-mail wendi@dpa.org.nz

Disabled people

Note: Arc-Disabled People article from Neon

People with disabilities face considerable difficulties securing and sustaining employment and problems of underemployment. Disabled people with tertiary qualifications experience the same level of unemployment as non-disabled people without qualifications and in general disabled people are twice as likely to be unemployed as non-disabled people. Data on the employment situation of disabled people is limited.

A Southland participant using a wheelchair said “you have to work harder to prove your worth”. “At work I find that I try to keep one step ahead of everyone, always planning and preparing in advance so that in my role I don’t appear to be incompetent, needy or different from anyone else.” A disabled person from Auckland talked about “the feeling that you need never to be a burden, always reasonable, as good as everyone else but better”. Another described this as self-stigmatising, “it’s really tough and burns you out”. A deaf job-seeker in Hawke’s Bay said “All they look at is what we can’t do, not what we can do.”

The people we spoke to indicated that successfully gaining employment or indeed an interview is a major challenge. A group of Deaf in Hawke’s Bay talked about the multiple barriers inherent in the recruitment process. They talked about assistance needed for preparing Curricula Vitae (CVs), phoning prospective employers and organising an interpreter for the rare occasions when they got a job interview. There is no resident sign interpreter in Hawke’s Bay. Sadly the interpreter was often perceived by prospective employers as a support person rather than as an impartial interpreter.

Fears that lack of hearing created a higher risk in terms of health and safety were also prevalent. We were told Deaf people “listen with their eyes” and are just as aware (if not more) of what is going on in their surroundings than hearing people. “The primary issue is lack of understanding because if there is understanding then there’s a will on the part of employers to provide the tools or provide the environment that is required to help someone with hearing loss work,” said Chris Peters, a journalist with a hearing disability.

Employers appeared to be unwilling to give disabled people a go and were apprehensive about what employing a person with a disability might entail. A Christchurch group told us that a critical task is to “reduce the fear about what disability might mean for employers. Accommodating special needs doesn’t have to be a big deal, everyone has special needs.”

Incorrect assumptions were made about what an individual disabled person might need to make employment work.

Conversations about the practical implications of employment were avoided. For example, a group of blind people meeting in Wellington told us that interviewers did not ask about how guide dogs might behave at work and instead assumed that the dog would be as boisterous and disruptive as their family pet.

We observed that employers were much more likely to be supportive and accommodate a person’s needs if they had acquired their disability after being employed, because the employer and co-workers already have a relationship with the person and want to make it work. In one case a

A Waikato public servant with visual impairment spoke about the effect of his disability on his work. In his role, he had received great support from his employer to acquire assistive technology that would allow him to do his job. This included a large monitor, document magnification equipment as well as having a supportive manager. *“I just had to pluck up the courage to say I needed some help,”* he said.

40-year-old who had suffered a stroke took 18 months to return to work but when an approach was made to his employer, he was welcomed back and a job created with new boundaries reflecting the genuine skills of the stroke victim. Employers with a disabled family member are also more likely to be open to employing a disabled person. We heard that the state sector could do more to model good practice in providing equal employment opportunities to disabled people.



One participant summed up the need for attitudinal change by employers when he said, “If we were to look at [disabled] people as **Note: Pic beside of lady in wheelchair at office.**

an investment rather than look at them as a pathology or as a disability and if we were to look at people’s abilities rather than disabilities, I think we would be in a different spot”.

A particularly vexed issue is whether or not to disclose experience of mental illness. An Auckland group of people with experience of mental health issues are of the view that disclosure on application forms or unexplained gaps in CVs means they are unlikely to be offered a job interview. However, non-disclosure carries the risk that their needs will not be accommodated should they become unwell, and in extreme cases be dismissed for dishonesty. Legal considerations include the appropriateness of questions in the application form and the steps taken to avoid discriminatory practices. One participant with experience of mental illness said “The crux of the argument around disclosure is that there is still a lot of stigma around employability - there’s the view that if you’ve got a mental illness you’re actually not employable. You can’t handle stress, you’re potentially dangerous to yourself and to others, you are a lot of extra work, you’re unreliable, you will take lots of time off.”

Hi All



Note: Council Logo

Please know that this is a trial that Council is undertaking and that they will not be painting all existing mobility car parks at present. New installations only will be considered and monitored at this stage - please also note the last line of Dan's email that if successful the blue will be added to mobility parks with compliance issues.

Regards SANDI MORRIS Transportation Planner

Mobility Exemption (or Disabled Car Park Permit); is administered by CCS Disability Action Group (CCS) and the fee is held by their agency for cost recovery. Councils agreed concession as part of this scheme is an additional 30 minutes time on the posted limit. CCS agrees that time paid for at the meter should offset Councils costs for signs/markings/maintenance, however, permit holders do not currently pay at the meter and the method of measuring the 30 minute concession is by chalking methods. Remember you can contact council on 356 8199 with any concerns whether it be trees obscuring your access, footpaths or traffic crossings where signals are not operating correctly or anything else related.

Dan Tate states that Palmerston North City Council will be trialling blue paint in three of the new mobility spaces to be installed in the City. According to research, the blue paint works well as a deterrent to non-mobility card holders using the space as it makes it far more obvious to these drivers that they should not park there. These new markings will consist of the entire space being marked in blue, but it will still have a yellow wheel chair symbol between two yellow lines.

Two of the new mobility parking spaces set for the trial are located at the Vogel Street Shops (one outside the pharmacy and one outside the Roslyn Library) and the other one will be on Broadway Avenue at the Terrace End shops (near the pharmacy and the Westpac Bank).

If the trial works, the blue markings may be added to PNCC mobility parking spaces in which there is frequent problems with non-mobility card holders using them.

DAN TATE Traffic Engineer (Developments) Palmerston North City Council

Malcolm Cameron (13/10/1938-28/6/2010 June 2010)

DPA PN & Districts are disheartened to report the loss of Malcolm Cameron on 28 June 2010, Malcolm was a cherished Disabled Persons Assembly PN & Districts committee member who passed away peacefully.

Malcolm was involved with DPA for several years with his volunteered services, at our forums and sustain numerous with his helpful advice and wealth of knowledge, bringing camaraderie to so many around the community both over in Feilding and in the Manawatu.

We wish his family the best with their commiserations.

Committee Dates

4.30pm Start

- **August 12th**
- **October 14th AGM**
- **December 9th**



Note: pic of calendar

Wheelie Bin Update

With the introduction of the new wheelie bin recycling service, PNCC will offer assistance to those who require it, with taking out to the kerbside for emptying and returning to storage, the wheelie bins and crates. If you have members who require this service please ask them to contact the RECYCLING HOTLINE 06 351 6399. Please also remind your members that if they find the 240L recycling wheelie bin too large and difficult to handle we will exchange it for a smaller 80L recycling wheelie bin.

This service is new to us as well, and we are working out the best way to provide the service, particularly to less able people. We will have our staff contact people who request this service to work out how we can best assist them, and we will also be asking them to sign a form indicating that they agree to our collection staff going on to their property.

Regards,
Katherine Stannard



Note: pic of snail recycle bin