

DWE NEWSLETTER

December 24th 2010



Introduction: Hello readers! **Merry Christmas to everyone!** Welcome to our newsletter. Theme today is about 'change' as we head towards the New Year. We've had a change of State Governments, a change to the way HACC services are delivered and a change to a new decade - as of next week!

Soapbox: As Christmas Day is almost upon us, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our clients, colleagues, followers and friends in the industry for being part of our journey this past year. Thanks also to all those people who have contributed or regularly send positive responses to our newsletters – we value your input – keep them coming! We have enjoyed every one of our contracts and our interaction with you all. **We hope that you have a safe, fun, loving and healthy festive season.** We look forward to more interaction with you into the New Year.

Our news: Although we are predominantly 'disability consultants', we do engage in work outside the disability industry. As an example, DWE has been selected to deliver the training for the **Active Service Model (ASM)** to HACC service providers and their staff across the Grampians Region. I am sure most of you have heard of HACC services (Home and Community Care). The aim of the HACC Program has always been to support people at home and in the community preventing inappropriate admission to long term residential care. However, research about ageing and prevention of chronic diseases shows that people who remain physically and mentally active and engaged with family and community interests and activities do better at keeping their independence for longer. People want to remain independent - being able to do things for yourself is something that we may take for granted but it is a very important part of who we are and is crucial in terms of our confidence and self esteem.

It is with this in mind that the ASM has been developed. The ASM aims to support people in a holistic way to keep as physically and mentally active and therefore as autonomous and independent as possible. The ASM is a change to how HACC services are delivered to some clients and it encourages people to look at the opportunities they have to remain fit and able to do things for themselves, for as long as possible and move away from a model of 'dependency'. A person might think they can no longer do something and be reluctant to try but they can gradually work with HACC staff towards a specific and achievable goal, step by step.

For example, if a person is motivated to achieve the goal of attending church again, then they may be interested in ways to improve their stamina and walking. Viewing a person's needs in a holistic way assists us in understanding motivations, strengths, challenges, interests etc.

By the way, we are available to offer the training in other Regions that need the help of a qualified trainer.

Other news: New Minister announced

The incoming Premier, Ted Baillieu has announced that Ms Mary Wooldridge (electorate Doncaster) is Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister for Community Services which includes the disability portfolio. The Office for Disability, the Office for Women's Policy and the Office for Youth will all be transferring from the Department of Planning and Community Development to the Department of Human Services while the Office for Senior Victorians will move to the Department of Health.

Mary's contact details are Electorate Office Suite 2, 1020 Doncaster Road, Doncaster East 3109, phone 03 9841 5166, email mary.wooldridge@parliament.vic.gov.au and website <http://www.marywooldridge.com/>

Ramp Up - New Disability Website Unveiled - Joint Media Release of Senator Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, and Senator Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, 3 December, 2010

A lively new website will provide a space for discussion, news, debate, humour and general information for people with disability, their families and people working in the sector.

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas, launched the new Ramp Up website, an initiative by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, funded by the Australian Government. The website was launched as part of celebrations for the United Nations' International Day of People with Disability..

"Whether you live with a disability, have a family member or friend living with disability, work in the sector or just want to get a better understanding of disability issues, Ramp Up will be a lively community space in which to learn more and have a say," Senator McLucas said.

Ramp Up will include material developed for the website by the ABC, as well as blogs, opinion articles and features that explore issues that affect people living with a disability. It will also provide an important space for community discussion.

"The site provides a forum for people with disability and their families and friends to connect, while at the same time providing a space for the wider community to learn more about disability issues," Senator McLucas said.

You can view the Ramp Up website at <http://www.abc.net.au/rampup/>

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