

BLITS E-Newsletter - September 2012 Release 1

BLITS E-NEWS



Welcome to the Spring edition of BLITS E-News.

In this edition you will find articles on:

- Everyone Everyday;
- 10th Anniversary - ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards; and
- Launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme ACT.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Hambleton

Chair

ACT BLITS

Everyone Everyday

Everyone Everyday is a disability awareness program for ACT schools. The initiative is a partnership between Business Leaders Innovative Thoughts and Solutions (BLITS) and the ACT Government. The awareness program aims to positively influence community attitudes and behaviours around disability and raise awareness about disability with school students - who will become the next generation of decision-makers.

The Everyone Everyday Competition - 101 ways to include people with disability - is a key element of the Everyone, Everyday program and is a creative ideas competition for ACT school students to generate interest and awareness. Launched in December 2011, the competition invited students to use words, drawings or photos to show how they would include people with disability in everyday life. The response from students was very encouraging with over 90 inspiring entries received.

The judging process was carried out by Mr Michael Milton, ambassador for the Everyone Everyday program, Mr Alasdair Roy, Children and Young People Commissioner from the ACT Human Rights Commission, Ms Jayne Johnston, Executive Director of Schools in the Education and Training Directorate and members of the Minister's Youth Council: Ms Nip Wijewickrema and Ms Anna Kaufman. We thank them all for their support of the program.

The Everyone Everyday Competition Awards Ceremony was held at the CSIRO Discovery Centre on Wednesday 8 August 2012 with over 200 people attending the awards presentation and luncheon. The Minister for Community Services, Joy Burch, the Minister for Education and Training, Dr Chris Bourke and Mr Michael Milton attended the event and enjoyed presenting awards to the 25 prize winning students and teachers.

Minister Burch commented that it's not every day she is able to hand out such a terrific range of prizes and she thanked the BLITS board for the opportunity. The prizes were provided by our very generous sponsors: Canberra Milk, Steve Patrick Electrical, Dendy Cinemas, Canberra Theatre Centre, The Cultural Facilities Corporation, Questacon, Warehouse Circus, Capital Careers, Canberra Centenary Unit, Hi Hat Recording Studio, Elizabeth Yuen, Sport and Recreation Services, Croissant D'or French Bakery, Amanda Charles, Cockington Green Gardens, The National Zoo and Aquarium, Zone 3 Laser Games Belconnen, The Canberra Glassworks, Jeremy Lasek, The National Museum of Australia and Westfield Belconnen. We thank them all for their highly valued support. All of the prize winners were thrilled to receive such great prizes.

The winning entries will be published in a book, which Minister Burch will launch as part of the International Day of Disability celebrations in December 2012.



*Everyone Everyday Prize Winners
Wednesday 8 August 2012 CSIRO Discovery Centre*

Back row from Left to Right:

Therese C Neal, Sarah Edwards, Sarah Wilson, Maddison Scott, Michael Milton, Ben Mackonis, Troy Kozlowski, Minister Chris Bourke, Cassie Howe, Lea Vignon, Fiona McIntosh, Samantha Sutton and Keelin Howe.

Front row from Left to Right:

Laura Heymans, Lydia Radvanyi, Christine Brittan, Misty Pocknall, Minister Joy Burch, Amira Hibberd, Sophie Wilson, William Sutton, Chloe McGoldrick

Everyone Everyday Curriculum Resource

Another key element of the awareness program is a curriculum resource for ACT teachers to raise student awareness about the inclusion of people with disability. The resource will include a set of classroom activities that are evidence based and align with the new Australian Curriculum and the ACT Schools Curriculum Framework - Every Chance to Learn.

The pilot resource is currently being written by a project officer who is a teacher. The Education Directorate is working with us on this resource with a writing group meeting regularly to support the development of the pilot.

We look forward to the pilot being implemented in a small number of primary schools in term 4, 2012 with students in years 3 and 4. The University of Canberra is working with Disability ACT on evaluating the pilot.

ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards

Tuesday 4 December 2012

Gandel Hall

National Gallery of Australia

The Inclusion Awards acknowledge the outstanding achievements of business, organisations and individuals who have clearly demonstrated their commitment to encourage, welcome and support people with a disability in their workplace, business and community.

Please save the above date and join us in celebrating the vision that a small change can make such a big difference.

If you would like further information or assistance to complete your Inclusion Awards submission, which is due by COB Wednesday 12 September, please contact the awards coordinator:

Lisa McClelland

e: inclusionawards@blits.org.au

p: 6205 2122.

The Launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the ACT

The ACT has committed to being a launch site of the NDIS commencing in a phased roll out from July 2013. The NDIS is a major change to how governments and service providers support people with disability, their families and carers. The NDIS is about enabling people to take control

over the supports they access and enabling them to tailor those supports to meet their needs.

The ACT Government has established an NDIS Expert Panel and a taskforce to support the ACT as a launch site for the scheme. The BLITS Board is delighted that two of its Board members have been asked to join the Expert Panel - Glenn Keys and Craig Wallace.

Consultation about the design of the system with people with a disability, their advocates and service providers is a vital part of the ACT's participation in the NDIS.

The BLITS Board congratulates the ACT Government for putting its hand up to be part of this exciting project.

Community Meeting - Open to All

The ACT Government, People With Disabilities ACT and National Disability Services invite you to a public information meeting about the launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the ACT

5.30 - 7.00pm

Wednesday 12 September 2012

The Foyer, Belconnen Arts Centre, Emu Bank, Belconnen

Accessible parking is available and live captioning, an Auslan interpreter and a hearing loop will be operating.

For more information please visit the ACT NDIS information site at

www.act.gov.au/NDIS or contact the Disability Information Service on 6207 1086.

For further information about the NDIS please go to www.act.gov.au/NDIS

