

About BLITS

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BLITS e-news

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Message from the Chair

Welcome to the autumn edition of e-news. We trust that 2013 is shaping up to be a very productive and exciting year for you.

Lois Ford, past Chair of BLITS and Executive Director of Disability ACT, has been awarded an Australian Public Service Medal as part of the 2013 Australia Day Honours. On behalf of the BLITS board, I would like to congratulate and celebrate Lois Ford's award.



We are delighted that Lois has been publically recognised for her dedicated and passionate support for outstanding public service in the leadership of social justice for people with disability and in fostering the most fundamental shift in service reform and community attitude change in the ACT over the last ten years.

Dr Christopher Peters AM IO JP, 2012 Canberra Citizen of the Year, passed away on Saturday 23 February 2013 after battling complications associated with pancreatic cancer.

Chris was perhaps best known as a tireless advocate for the Canberra business community, having represented their interests as Chief Executive Office of The ACT and Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry since 1997. But his passion and capacity to give didn't end there. He was an active member of more than 20 mostly government boards. Chris's legacy of promoting opportunities and making a difference for all Canberrans will endure. Chris was a valued member of the BLITS Champions group, and his input and advice will be sadly missed.

On behalf of all of us associated with BLITS we send our sympathy and condolences to his family.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and publically welcome two new BLITS board members: **Jan Kruger**, Development Advisor of the Resource Team with LEAD; and **Jayne Johnston**, Executive Director-Tertiary Education & Performance with the Education and Training Directorate. We welcome them both to the team.

I would also like to welcome **Lorna Sullivan** who joined Disability ACT as the new Executive Director on Monday 11 February 2013. Lorna has an international reputation for her work in the field of disability policy and practice. I have had the privilege of working with Lorna in New Zealand and can confidently say that New Zealand's loss is most definitely Canberra's gain!

I know that Lorna welcomes the challenge to lead Disability ACT through the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. I invite you to read Lorna's profile included below.

Also included in this e-news is an update on the Everyone, Everyday teaching resource, an article about the 2012 ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards, plus our regular feature of a powerful profile. In this edition we focus on the 2012 ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards Excellence Award Winner, The ACT Social Enterprise Hub.

We trust you enjoy this autumn edition of BLITS e-news.

Graham Hambleton
Chair
ACT BLITS

2012 ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards

The 2012 ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards were presented at a gala dinner in Gandel Hall at The National Gallery of Australia on 4 December 2012 and was widely praised as a true celebration of inclusion in our community.

The MC, for the evening was comedian Stella Young and vocalist Rachel Leahcar provided the entertainment. Both women commanded the stage and impressed the audience with their own unique style - Stella's refreshingly feisty, fun and witty words juxtaposed with Rachel's sweet, heavenly voice.

ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher addressed the audience, thanking the sponsors for their continued support of the event and congratulating the winners on the recognition of their hard work and contributions to our community.

"These awards are an opportunity to raise awareness and promote the work being done throughout our community to create a more inclusive Canberra where everyone is valued and respected", Ms Gallagher said. "Each of the winners has made it their priority to establish or promote accessibility for people with disability in the Canberra community, through a range of initiatives".

Awards and commendations were presented across the ten categories with The Chief Minister and principal partners Drake Medox and MAXemployment co presenting the 2012 excellence award to the ACT Social Enterprise Hub.

Next year the ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards will celebrate its 10th anniversary. Building on this achievement and to commemorate the Centenary of Canberra, an additional category will be introduced: The Most Inclusive Centenary Event.

We look forward to sharing another inclusive and vibrant event with you in 2013.



General Manager ACT/NSW with MAXemployment Christine Shewry, General Manager Australia & New Zealand with Drake Medox, Gaye Barton, Jane Speechley representing the ACT Social Enterprise Hub and Chief Minister Katy Gallagher at the 2012 ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards.

Congratulations to the 2012 winners:

Chief Minister's Award for Excellence	ACT Social Enterprise Hub
Inclusion in Small Business	No winner awarded in this category
<i>Commendation awarded to: Pialligo Garden Lots</i>	
Inclusion in Medium to Large Business	National Mailing & Marketing
Inclusion - ACT Directorate or Agency	Canberra Theatre Centre
Inclusion - Commonwealth Government	No winner awarded in this category
Inclusion in Education and Training	St Edmunds College
Inclusion in Sports	Lord's Taverners Australia, ACT Branch
Inclusion in the Arts	Belconnen Arts Centre
Inclusion in Hospitality and Tourism	Novotel Canberra
Innovation in Inclusion	ACT Social Enterprise Hub
The Margaret Spalding Award (Inclusion by an Individual)	Mrs Louise Bannister

Commendation awarded to:

Mr Sava Matic

Lorna Sullivan, Executive Director, Disability ACT

I am delighted and privileged to be taking up the role of Executive Director of Disability ACT, especially at a time of such opportunity within both the disability sector and the disabled community in Australia.

I have spent my whole career working within the disability sector. I began my work just as the idea was emerging that people with disabilities might be able to be supported towards better lives by being supported outside of the large institutions operating at the time.



I was fortunate early in my career both to work in such an institution, and so come to understand firsthand the harm that can be done to people by the very systems designed to support them, and also to be involved in a large deinstitutionalisation process that enabled me to recognise the gifts and capacities that can emerge in people when the supports they receive are more open to what might be possible in their lives. Consequently I have spent my working life both within government, in community and in Non-government services in roles specifically focused on service and systems change that lead to a greater recognition of the life possibilities of people being supported.

For the last ten years I have been working as the chief Executive of a small change agency called *ImagineBetter*. The purpose of our work, both nationally within New Zealand and in a number of international arenas has been to work alongside of families, disabled people and the systems that support them to design and develop lifestyle supports that are determined and governed by the disabled person and the family themselves. I was part of a small group instrumental in the establishment of Individualised Funding within New Zealand and have continued to lead and foster alternatives to the bureaucratic systems that can so easily come to define and determine the life experiences of disabled people.

My experience with disability has not only been a professional one. I have been the National Advisor for *People First New Zealand* for the past 10 years and a National Executive Member of *Disabled Persons New Zealand*. I have lived my life with a physically disabling condition and along with my husband fostered a child with multiple disabilities.

I am deeply honoured to have been appointed to the role of Executive Director, I sincerely trust that my colleagues in Disability ACT and I will embrace the opportunities that will arise over the next few years and that together we will continue to position the ACT in the forefront of well considered development and advancement of life opportunities for people with disabilities.

Everyone, Everyday Teaching Resource



The Everyone, Everyday teaching resource for primary schools was trialled in 5 primary schools by 15 teachers during Term 4 of the 2012 school year. Years 3 and 4 teachers delivered 14 lessons to 350 students. The lessons focused on the fact that inclusion not only benefits children with disability, but enriches the lives of the whole school community.

The lessons examined the notion of 'Behavioural Access', and challenge students to explore how individuals, classes and whole school communities can take action to ensure children and adults with disability are valued and included in all aspects of school and community life.

Participating schools were Namadgi, Gowrie, Farrer, Mt. Rogers and Turner Primary Schools.

All lessons have been linked to the Australian Curriculum.

While the feedback to date has been very positive, a formal evaluation of the program is being completed by the University of Canberra. The evaluation report is due in March 2013. The report will be based on analysis of pre and post surveys with staff, students, principals and parents; interviews with focus groups; and observations of lessons.

Full implementation of the primary school resource (Kindergarten to Year 6) is planned for Semester 2, 2013.

The Everyone, Everyday project team, Megan Campbell and Maureen Howe, are presenting a paper on Everyone, Everyday at the Public Health Association of Australia's national conference in April. The conference theme is "Social Inclusion and Complex Needs."

The Autumn Powerful Profile:

The ACT Social Enterprise Hub

The ACT Social Enterprise Hub commenced in 2008 and was formally launched in June 2009 by a partnership made up of Social Ventures Australia (SVA), PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), The Snow Foundation, Mental Health Community Coalition (MHCC), ACT Health Directorate and Community Services Directorate.

The ACT Social Enterprise Hub is a virtual network, linking organisations with partners and business mentors to establish social enterprises - feasible and profitable businesses that also satisfy a social purpose of creating employment for people excluded from the labour market.

From catering to stationary, there are social enterprises throughout Canberra, making an enormous impact on the lives that they touch through inclusion.

Pro bono support is crucial to the Hubs' success and is a large part of what is offered by way of support to the social enterprises. The following organisations provide this highly valued support:

Bonobo Labs | Mel Hill Photography | Minter Ellison Lawyers | Papercut

The broad range of enterprises that The ACT Social Enterprise Hub have developed include:

Café Ink is operated by the Woden Community Service and engages disadvantaged people offering paid employment, skill development and training.

Magpie Blah! Blah! sells greeting cards based on John Beckhouse's distinctive drawings. Living with autism, as well as severe hearing impairment, John's art is now a form of self-expression and employment.

Paperworks provides participation of people that are socially marginalised due to their disability or disadvantage, through the creation of beautiful handmade paper.

Ronnie's Succulent Snails satisfies the hungry restaurant market with fresh snails. It also provides sustainable employment and a stimulating working environment for Ronnie, who has an intellectual disability and a chronic epileptic condition.

White Nile Catering The women of White Nile all arrived as refugees from Sudan and are working together to create a new life in Australia. The Hub has facilitated their inclusion in society through exotic Sudanese cooking.

Namana Co is a t-shirt business with a difference! Losing both arms in a childhood accident hasn't stopped Norman from pursuing his passion for design. When mainstream employment wasn't an option, Norman established Namana Co which custom print t-shirts on quality organic fabric. The t-shirt designs feature Norman's own original art as well as those of other local artists who face significant disadvantage.

BLITS is an ACT Government Initiative



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