



"MEDIA RELEASE"

4.09.2009

"Pick a Winner"

When Disability Minister Jennifer Rankine announced earlier this year that Disability S.A. would launch a pilot program on self managed funding in the fourth quarter of 2009 there was an overwhelming sector positive response that this was a step in the right direction.

Disability Speaks like most major advocacy groups in SA supports this service delivery model being available to those who choose to use it. It is already proven in other jurisdictions and well overdue!

The steering committee of Disability Speaks thinks that such an important program deserves a very special name. It has been suggested that we encourage interested people to send to Disability SA their own suggestions on what this service model could be called. It is commonly expected that this pilot will quickly become a full blown service program. As such the name will need to

- reflect the opportunity, diversity and choice such change delivers
- go the distance as the program develops over coming years
- be reflective of the range of clients who may choose to use such a program
- highlight the excitement and positive attitude of this strategic step
- meet with the Ministers approval (She has not asked for this free advise but we are sure she will take it in the spirit it is intended)
- may even include a logo suggestion?

Disability Speaks advises that it has no official role in the selection of this program name and is running this program for a bit of fun and as a positive program to give the disability community in SA a chance to look ahead. Our role as advocates is not just to criticize, but to also to work with government and DSA to develop new and innovative ways of developing sector resources in a sustainable manner, while always ensuring services are client centred and outcome focused.

This impending DSA program is exciting!!!!

We look forward to a healthy community reaction and are sure DSA will consider all submissions submissions should be sent to disabilityinfo@dfc.com.au

IMPORTANT; For Information

You may have noted above Disability Speaks has dropped the tagline of Dignity 4 Disabled from its logo. While some of the steering committee of Disability Speaks, including Disability Speaks Chair David Holst was instrumental in the D4D program that ran from 2004-2007 the original program closed down after the last federal election. Mr Holst said "I understand that there are some who would like to run an electoral group under the D4D banner at the next state election. If that happens I wish them well! But I have moved on and will no longer be involved in a political party. I have no political leaning and support who ever genuinely supports those with a disability. My personal focus is on my family, our family needs and contributing to Disability Speaks which is building a communication platform and a presence that will publicly advocate for better recognition and a better deal for people with a disability, hopefully for years to come." Mr Holst added "Like many in the Disability sector I am on numerous boards and advisory groups including the Minda Advisory Group (MAG) where my daughter is a client and the soon to be publicly launched IDASA. We often don't elect to join the disability sector and one can not opt out easily in many instances."

"Disability Speaks will distribute on behalf of any organization that meets suitable criteria online information that is of wide disability community interest. We have offered to distribute information via our database that now numbers nearly 5,000 recipients for the Government, DSA, ODACS and any other organizations that are relevant. We hope in the lead up to any election, state or federal we can distribute policy and support information from any political group that choose to use this medium. Such a distribution will not in any way be endorsement of any political group by me or Disability Speaks. This information will be widely read as will any DSA releases that reflect new services like the self managed funding program above, information of which we have offered to distribute for DSA free."

"We hope this communication model Disability Speaks is building continues to be widely accepted as beneficial. The numbers of recipients signing on has certainly been very encouraging. Please do what you can to encourage you associates to subscribe direct."

DISABILITY SPEAKS

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