



"MEDIA RELEASE"

18.03.2010

"The Final Word!"

With just two days to go!

For the final comments on the election Disability Speaks asked the major political parties to summarize in their own words how they see things and what they have to offer if elected on Saturday.

On behalf of the Disability community we would like to thank them for their time and effort in doing so and for their ready availability and accessibility during the election period. Copies of each parties responses are attached and please note a number contain links to further information and party websites regarding disability services.

We would also like to thank all those people who using the online technology available have helped circulate the disability message via their databases and mailing lists to thousands of interested recipients. Information is power and by keeping people informed of the crisis in disability services and the direction of developments we believe we take small steps to maybe one day reaching far better and long overdue outcomes. We strongly encourage you do distribute this material widely.

The next meeting of the Disability Speaks steering committee will be held at the Disability Information Resource Centre (DIRC) at 1.00pm on Thursday 15th April at 1.00pm. These are open meetings and any interested persons are welcome. No doubt there will be much discussion on the election out come and very importantly the federally proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which will certainly occupy much thought and interest in the disability community in 2010.

We wish Dignity 4 Disability well in the election as they chase the elusive 11th upper house seat and thank all those people who responded with kind words regarding the sad loss of Paul Collier. Their thoughts will be passed to the family.

The response below seemed ironical and we share it with you!

Dear David,
Thank you for that fitting and sincere tribute to Paul.
On March 11th 18 years ago Paul received a Sir Charles Bright Scholarship to assist him with his studies.
The strangely ironic thing is that it was presented by
"The Hon Mike Rann M.A. M.P., Minister of Employment and Further Education"
We remember a fine young man.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Penn
Administrator
Sir Charles Bright Scholarship Trust.

Disability Speaks is committed to building our database and maintaining disability advocacy and communication for the long term. Thanks again for your support and good luck to all parties on Saturday. We live in a great country and a democracy and for that we should always be grateful. We also live with the great joy and pleasure that being part of the disability community brings all of us at times.

David Holst

Chair

Disability Speaks Steering Committee

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"Disability Speaks will distribute on behalf of any organization that meets suitable criteria online information that is of wide disability community interest via our database that now numbers nearly 4,000 recipients for Govt, advocacy groups and other major disability organizations. We hope in the lead up to elections, state or federal we can distribute policy and support information from political groups. Such distribution is not in any way endorsement by Disability Speaks. From time to time Disability Speaks will also distribute media releases commenting on developments in the disability sector. We strongly encourage you to forward all releases to your friends, clients and disability supporters and encourage them to subscribe direct. To do so simply send an email subject "subscribe" to the address below.

Email: disabilityspeaks@internode.on.net

If you would like to be removed from the database please advise by return email. Disability Speaks has no affiliation with any political party or service provider, is self funded and run by volunteers.