



"MEDIA RELEASE"
23.04.2010

"National Disability Insurance"

The start of something really big!

Following closely on the exciting confirmation of Kelly Vincent of d4d as a Member of the SA Legislative Council, a public meeting was held at Glenelg last Monday. The meeting, attended by over 130 people, was hosted by the Intellectual Disability Association of SA (IDASA). The Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Disability, Bill Shorten, outlined the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). He also reminded us that the battle for solutions to the Disability crisis in SA is only just beginning.

Kelly, who attended this meeting (to an enormous ovation), was subsequently quoted in the SA Advertiser

"It was obvious the current scheme doesn't work"

"It looks like NDIS has great potential to make some much needed change in the disability sector".

(Copies of the Advertiser article and Editorial are attached for your information)

d4d is a fledgling political party and will need the continuing full support of the disability community. It does not have the financial and material resources of the Government or major political parties. d4d's major resource is the estimated 20% of the South Australian population who have a disability or who care for them.

While Kelly provides us with new options and a new hope that we CAN and WILL change disability services in South Australia, Mr Shorten's message strongly reminded us of the need for a united team, rolling up our sleeves and setting about helping, in whatever ways we can, Kelly Vincent and d4d to really make the next eight years count!

"Disability Speaks - Where are we heading?"

With the SA election over, Disability Speaks (DS) will continue to circulate information as widely as possible, continue to ask the difficult questions of Government and support Kelly and d4d. To help DS get the disability message out, the meeting of the DS Steering Committee on April 15th, which Kelly and her support team attended, agreed on the following:

- Disability Speaks will continue as an independent advocacy group without any formal links to any political party, including d4d,
- Disability Speaks will continue to circulate key information, host public events and work to increase public awareness of disability issues, including circulating d4d information,
- Receivers of DS circulars and releases will be encouraged to contribute their views and opinions for possible inclusion in future circulars,
- The proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was accepted by Disability Speaks as a major opportunity for change. DS has formed an NDIS Sub-Committee. This Sub-Committee will meet at:

DIRC, 195 Gilles St. on Thursday April 29th at 1.00 pm.
 Anyone with an interest in NDIS is welcome.

National Disability Insurance is an exciting concept that is being warmly received across the broad disability community. Nearly all major SA service providers and advocacy groups attended the IDASA meeting and the questions from the floor highlighted the acute need and the necessity of a long term solution. More information can be viewed at the NDIS website at <http://www.ndis.org.au/index.php>

The Rudd Government has commissioned a feasibility study of the many possible variations and methods of operating such a scheme. The report by the Australian Productivity Commission is due in July 2011.

The introduction of such a scheme, while demanded by the wide disability sector, may not be politically popular. With a Federal election later this year, Disability Speaks has already begun lobbying for either NDIS or a better alternative.

SA Liberal party sources were highly embarrassed by the recent SA state election fiasco where the SA Liberal party, who had committed \$68 million dollars for new disability funding in 2006, offered only \$10.2 million dollars in 2010 despite the crisis worsening.

Disability Speaks Chair David Holst explained,

"When the Liberal Party, which achieved 4.8 electoral quotas in the upper house, lost the final seat to Kelly Vincent and d4d, we can only hope the SA Liberal brains trust added that seat to seats like those won by Chloe Fox and Grace Portelesi for the ALP where the disability vote may well have been the difference. With d4d regularly picking up between 1.5% and 2.5% of votes in seats they contest and Kelly/d4d now in the Parliament, any political party who believes there are no votes in disability may live to regret such folly. There is no doubt that NDIS will be a huge vote winner in the Federal election. While we have been informed Federal Liberal leader, Tony Abbott, will very soon make a statement on Liberal Disability policy, we will wait and see! Disability Speaks has already met with local Federal Liberal powerbroker Christopher Pyne and new SA Disability Shadow Minister Vicki Chapman to voice our concerns at the local Liberal policy debacle. We will now wait with great interest to see how highly the Federal Liberals rate fixing the national disability crisis as a priority"

David Holst
Chair

Disability Speaks Steering Committee

0418555683

www.disabilityspeaks.com.au

"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.