



## December 3rd - "The International Day for People with a Disability"

**As 2010 draws to a close in a year when there was much talk but little has changed we recap the year and recognise our champions**

**In 2010 Disability Speaks supported by the Intellectual Disability Association, S.A. and the S.A. Physical Disability Council delivered**

- **Five public and community forums on key issues, attended by nearly 1500 people in total**
- **Delivered 120,000 direct mail letterbox flyers to the community, carrying key disability messages**
  - **Posted 32 Media releases distributed to nearly 4,000 recipients ( any many more online virally, we estimate some 50,000 supporters read our messages)**
- **Attended countless meetings and discussion groups with other advocates, NGO's and state and Federal Government representatives**
  - **Had published 4 newspaper columns, which really strike a cord with local media**
- **Published a number of full page and half page adds in state and local papers pushing the disability barrow**
- **Presented on 12 TV/news interviews, 23 live to air radio interviews and 2 in studio hour long sessions**
  - **Had lunch with Bill Shorten (cost us \$122)**
- **Had lunch with Tony Abbott (cost us \$1,000 but the next day he did commit publicly to supporting NDIS)**
  - **Gatecrashed a Liberal fund raising luncheon, and received wide spread applause**
    - **And pushed very hard for NDIS at every available opportunity**

### **What we really want for Christmas .....above all else is?**

**Prime Minister Julia Gillard to declare " I will deliver a National Disability Insurance Scheme in 2011"**

**Many thinks there is as much chance of that happening as finding the real Father Christmas in bed with the missus?**

**Our money is increasingly on NDIS wont happen in a substantial form while Julia is the boss,**

**(Can some one please make Bill Shorten Prime Minister soon)**

### **Most Inspirational! Kurt Fearnley (again!)**

**With another commonwealth games gold medal and a fighting third in the New York Marathon former Paralympian, and four time winner of the New York Marathon Kurt seemed to spend was everywhere lobbying and advocating for disability access and rights. Long may you inspire and lead by your exploits Kurt and may you one day choose to run for Parliament. That will scare the bastards !**

## **Best Hope for the Future! The Hon Kelly Vincent MLC S.A. (d4d)**

Describing herself as the quintessential, accidental politician after winning. The job with no real political or public disability advocacy background Kelly will be around for seven more beautiful years at least. With her natural intelligence escalating experience this once in a lifetime opportunity will on the back of Kelly's sterling efforts deliver generational change in S.A. Go girl!!!

Let's make it a new year's resolution to get Kelly's name, face and voice in the media on a daily basis

## **Those that are gone in 2010? Dr Paul Collier (d4d)**

At a state level when no one was charged with murdering their child this year. Premier Mike Rann was probably relieved. Given S.A. critical needs waiting lists jumped 57% and funding went up 3.1 % that was more to do with good luck than additional support. The release last week of the AIHW report on Disability health showing 48% of people with a disability had considered suicide passed without a ripple in the national media. It is highly likely and very sad that no doubt some probably succeeded in this aim.

The loss of many advocates who have fought for a better disability deal are too numerous to mention.

Special mention must however go to our own Dr Paul Collier who would have chuckled at the irony of his passing 3 days before the State election and the subsequent election of Kelly to parliament.

Rest in peace Paul , you and many others are sadly missed

## **2010 Media Leadership! Matt & Dave ABC 891 Adelaide**

Since 2004 when Dignity for Disabled first developed from a coffee group to a public awareness campaign and now a real life political party Matt Abraham and David Bevan have been like bulldogs chewing a bone. At every opportunity they raise the disability angle and push for the big issues. On behalf of the 20,000 South Australians living with disabilities that need to have their voices heard Matt and Dave take a bow!

## **2010 OUR FINAL CHRISTMAS PRAYER!**

May Monsignor David Cappelletti show the courage and vision he displayed when publicly standing up to the Rann Government on the proposed Regency Park Community centre closure and deliver an insightful and stinging rebuke via the Social Inclusion Board, SA Disability Report in 2011. There seems little doubt that Mr Cappelletti will call it as it is..... There is a \$100 million dollars per annum missing and it does not matter how hard you work on better person centred planning, individualised funding and client directed support .

Mr Cappelletti will no doubt deliver a manifesto that demands consumer choice as the core of all future planning and focus, but without follow up cash support, in huge lumps his report may end up just another one of many gathering dust in that large room in Parliament house where so many good ideas are shelved.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

To the hundreds and hundreds of people who send messages and support to Disability Speaks, often highlighting their own special circumstances and daily battle for dignity . Your support motivates our volunteers to continue to work tirelessly to maintain the highest level disability message.

Extra special thanks to those generous people who donated cash to our cause to enable us to run newspaper ads and fund future public meetings.

**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.**