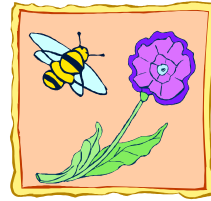


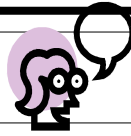


# Diverse Abilities Newsletter September 2011



September  
2011

## Pam's Piece



Inside this issue:

Hello everyone,  
I am delighted to announce that the funding submission Centacare lodged early this year for a Volunteer Host Program was successful! It means that Centacare is about to embark on a "first" with respect to recruitment, screening, assessment and training of volunteers.

The volunteer host program is community based respite that will be provided to families caring for their child aged 0-12 years. The successfully recruited volunteer host will be matched to the family and child and the volunteer host will provide the care, support, including recreational support, to the child with a disability, at the volunteer's own home, one weekend a month.

We are very excited to be given such a great opportunity to provide real community based respite which we know has many benefits for families, children and the community.

The Volunteer Host Coordinator position has been recently filled by Mary Elwin.

Mary is in the process of sourcing and developing Host Program specific policies, procedures, training handbooks etc. before the new program can commence recruiting volunteer hosts.

We are thrilled to have Mary on board who comes to us with extensive experiences in working with families in a range of contexts, including child safety, family day care and children with disabilities included in pre school programs.

Take care.  
Pam

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### *Service Values and Principles*

Centacare is committed to providing services to people with disabilities that enrich and enhance their quality of life by utilizing a developmental model. Aspiring for a "good life" that reflects age appropriate and enriching and broad experiences for people with disabilities is what underpins all of what we do.

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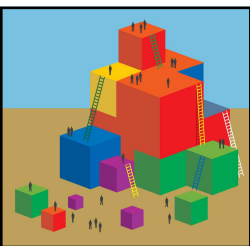
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## Community Inclusion Program News



Over the recent school holidays, I had the opportunity to attend a 3 day conference in Canberra which focused on Social Role Valorisation (SRV). SRV provides guideposts to individuals, families and communities to identify and build on social roles, for example: girl, daughter, brother, student, researcher, etc in order to reverse the devaluation and wounding that is experienced by those most vulnerable in our society. The presenters were from all walks of life who had found that SRV resonated with their vision to genuinely value individuals in our society. The stories and experiences

shared at the conference were powerful testimonies to the grounded ideas contained in SRV. I am looking forward to later on in the year when our team will be attending a 2 day training workshop which goes into depth about the ideas, principles and vision of Social Role Valorisation.

If you are interested in further information regarding SRV, you can google "Social Role Valorisation" on the web or give us a call.

Cheers—Mary



## Respite House News



Since our last car boot sale was such a success, we will be having another one this month. We had a professional inspect our ageing air-conditioning unit, who advised that it was of a very good quality and we would

be better off just giving it a really good service and having the ducts checked and fixed instead of replacing the unit. This expense we will be able to cover with the proceeds of our last boot sale.

Due to this achievement, we are having another boot sale this month! Come and join us for a bargain hunt, Sausage Sizzle, or put up your own stall for a small fee (Bay Areas: \$12.00, Tables: \$5.00).

If you would like to participate or donate, please contact Tricia Boyd or Antje Malan at Centacare

on 4772 9000.

**Date: Saturday 29th October, Time: 8am - 11am.**

All Proceeds will go to the new Respite House Sensory and Edible Garden with wheelchair accessible beds.

On a sad note, we have had to say goodbye to Mita Ghosh, who has been with us for many years and who has moved to Brisbane. We wish her all the best with her new life in the big city! We have also been able to welcome some new staff over the last few months: Davina Bullimore, Rhianna Fowkes and Tegan Forster are some of the new, friendly faces you will meet at the Respite House.

Have a good last three months of the year - hard to believe that Christmas is already around the corner!

Antje—Respite House Supervisor

## Trinity House News

With Spring now upon us, the yard and gardens were covered in leaves but that was no deterrent for entering this year's Garden Awards. We put in a late entry, giving us little time to enhance the gardens before judging was to take place the following day. Unfortunately, we did not win but received a pot plant for our efforts.

In July, one of our residents accompanied his family on a holiday in Cairns, experiencing the many tourist attractions and enjoying a cappuccino and some edible delights on each outing. During this time, another of our residents had the misfortune of being admitted to hospital, but after a week was on the mend. With only one resident at Trinity House, staff took the opportunity to undertake some cleaning tasks that time does not usually allow.

August is a time when Mount Isa comes alive with horses and cowboys for the annual Rodeo and the Mardi Gras on the Friday night. Two of the residents attended the night, opting to watch the parade rather than join the many Centacare staff who put large amounts of time and effort into producing an incredible float. An entertaining night was had by both residents and staff, ending the night with a walk home, a large purple toy monkey and many glowsticks in tow. One of the residents also had the opportunity to attend the final day of the Rodeo action.

Attending the Mayors Morning Tea at the Civic Centre was an enjoyable outing for both the resident and the staff who accompanied her, with an array of food and local entertainment. She is looking forward to hosting her own morning tea, inviting the clients from the Respite Centre to Trinity House this week.

In September, another of our residents was admitted to hospital, which resulted in a phone call from the hospital staff requesting assistance with the care needs of the resident. Staff lent a helping hand.

A request for a new clothes line was met with approval and a new washing machine was a necessity when the old washing machine flooded part of the house.

Trinity House had a visit from some of the Townsville Spinal Team staff and LifeTec to lend assistance and ideas for encouraging and improving life skills of the residents. We were sad to see Jessica, one of our staff members, leave in July. Terry joined the team in August, lending some balance to what was an all-female team.

Cheers to all—Wanda—Trinity House Supervisor.



## QLD Disability Service Standards, #9 Protection of legal and human rights and freedom from abuse and neglect



Upholding the legal and human rights of each person with a disability and taking action to prevent and/or respond to allegations of abuse and neglect.

This standard is intended to ensure the service provider implements policies and practices that:

- Are underpinned by the principles contained in relevant Commonwealth and State Legislative and Human Rights instruments.
- Empower and support service users to exercise their human rights enshrined within the principles of the *Disability Services Act 2006 (Qld)*.
- Take a pro-active duty-of-care approach to the prevention of abuse and neglect of service users.

### Service Standard Indicators

9.1 The service provider has current policies and practices

protecting the rights of service users that are consistent with Commonwealth and State legislation and relevant human rights instruments.

9.2 The service provider supports service users/supports in exercising their legal and human rights.

9.3 The service provider has effective policies and practices in place that demonstrate prevention of any form of sexual, financial, physical, mental and verbal abuse or neglect.

9.4 The service provider has procedures in place for critical incident reporting, that respond in a timely and effective manner to allegations or abuse and neglect.

9.5 The service provider has a documented improvement plan detailing strategies for protecting service users from abuse or neglect.

### “Looking forward to community living” (visit [www.disability.wa.gov](http://www.disability.wa.gov))

Amy is a 22 year old woman who loves socialising, shopping and having her hair done. Amy has spina bifida and uses a wheelchair to get about. Until recently, Amy lived with her mum, her sister and young niece.

Two months ago, Amy was offered a suitable one bedroom unit and she moved in right away. Amy had dreamt of having her own place since she was 18 and longed to move out of home like many of her friends had done. Two years ago, her LAC helped Amy develop a plan for her future using person centered planning.

While living at home, Amy was receiving a small amount of Family Support funding to pay for a support worker to assist her with personal care and transport to work. When Amy moved out of home, she contacted the Disability Services Commission and has been able to retain her funding and uses it to employ the same support worker. Amy’s mum and sister help Amy with some of the cooking and cleaning and her best friend takes her shopping each Saturday.

Amy is loving her new home and filling it with things that are special to her. She regularly has her friends over and is happier that she has been in a long time.



## Services & resources

### Queensland Parents for People with a Disability

QPPD is a statewide organization which advocates and promotes the rights and entitlements of people with a disability as valued and participating members of their community.

QPPD believes that people with disabilities belong in the community and to have the opportunity to pursue their hopes, dreams and aspirations to lead good and fulfilling lives.

Membership is open to any person who has a son or daughter with a disability including natural, adoptive or foster parents. Associate membership is open to any other person who is interested in furthering the organization’s objectives. Please visit the website at [www.qppd.org](http://www.qppd.org) for more information.



### Some handy websites

[www.deadlystories.qld.gov.au](http://www.deadlystories.qld.gov.au)

The *deadly stories campaign* celebrates the many achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and their communities across Queensland. Promotional activities, regional events and the deadly stories gallery provide an opportunity to share challenges and triumphs and salute the everyday success stories of Indigenous Queenslanders.

[www.livewire.org.au](http://www.livewire.org.au)

Livewire is a free and safe online peer support program connecting socially isolated individuals affected by a serious illness, chronic condition or disability.

[www.cru.org.au](http://www.cru.org.au)

CRU exists to support the development of leadership and authentic change which enhances the possibilities for people with disabilities to belong and participate in community life. It aims to challenge ideas and practices which limits the lives of people with disabilities and inspires and encourages individuals and organizations to pursue better lives for people with disabilities.



September 2011



The Accessing Townsville Guide has been developed to assist people to access the various shops, restaurants, attractions, and services Townsville has on offer. It also helps to identify appropriate and accessible accommodation. It is a valuable tool for everyone with limited mobility including people with a disability, seniors, and parents with strollers. Download this guide at <http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/community/disability/Pages/accesstownsville.aspx>.



Grandparents Day will be held on 6 November 2011 at Riverway, Thuringowa from 11.00am to 2.00pm. This is a free event. Activities will include a craft table where children can make special cards/certificates and write letters to show how much they love their grandparents. Everyone is welcome with a special invitation to grandchildren who live with their grandparents. Please visit the Department of Communities website at [www.communityservices.qld.gov.au](http://www.communityservices.qld.gov.au) for more information on this special day.

The Spinal Injuries Association will be holding their annual Cruise for a Cause event beginning at the Willows Shopping Centre at 9.00am on Sunday, 13 November 2011. Around 120 classic cars and motorbikes will cruise through the streets of Townsville before going on display at the Strand Park for judging. Cruise for a Cause is a free event and a fun day out for all the family! Spectators can arrive at the Strand Park at 9.30am to view the cars. There will be face painting, slot cars, a jumping castle and a BBQ. Please visit [www.spinal.com.au/how-to-help/2011-cruise-for-a-cause-2/](http://www.spinal.com.au/how-to-help/2011-cruise-for-a-cause-2/) for more news on this event.



## REFLECTION

Over the past couple of months, the team has been given the opportunity to participate in various training workshops dealing with change and raising awareness of the diversity of those around us. This has given us, the team, time to reflect on the way we do what we do and those that we work with to do what we do. These reflections suggest that the way we do what we do is influenced greatly, albeit unknowingly, by those who work with us and support us. It is an uplifting experience when we once again re-discover that those with whom we work share similar values and understandings; and have the courage of their convictions.



## Mission Statement

Centacare extends the social services ministry of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Townsville to improve the wellbeing of the many communities in which we work. Informed by the Gospel values of dignity, respect and justice for all, Centacare assists, supports and strengthens individuals, families and communities. We embrace cultural diversity and are committed to providing services with compassion, respect and integrity.

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**Disclaimer:** Centacare provides a range of information from many sources that is of interest to people with a disability. While we endeavour to check the material for suitability, generally, the content is outside our control. We therefore cannot and do not accept responsibility for it. When in doubt, please contact Centacare.