

RASP Newsletter # 5



Part of Gippsland Community Legal Service, Anglicare Victoria

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GIPPSLAND FIRSTS

It would come as no surprise to most readers that there is an ENORMOUS amount of talent and innovation in Gippsland.

Here are two examples of great achievements and "firsts".

"New Waves" Self Advocates resource centre.

New Waves, will be open for business in November 2009. This exciting new resource centre will be manned and run by people with disability for people with disability. Some of the centre's aims are to;

- Act as a Self Advocacy information and support centre for people in Gippsland,
- Develop a brief Self Advocacy / Advocacy education resource,
- Provide Self Advocacy education to people living in Community Residential Units,

The Centre will initially open 2 days per week.

Partnerships / Services and people supporting the Self Advocates;

- ASIST (DHS),
- Gippsland Disability Advocacy Inc.,
- RASP
- Reinforce Inc.
- SARU
- GETT Centre GippsTAFE
- Latrobe City Rural Access.

New Waves is the first "stand alone" Self Advocates resource centre in Victoria. And is a credit to the Self Advocates who have worked so hard and committed themselves to this project.

Look for further announcements regarding the opening of New Waves.

"Making It Happen" Aboriginal Youth Justice Forum.

Victoria's first Aboriginal youth justice forum was held on Friday August 14th at Traralgon little theatre.

Over 90 secondary school students from across Gippsland participated in case study discussion.

Displays from a wide range of service providers including;

- Gippsland Community Legal Service / RASP,
- Legal Aid,
- Berry Street,
- Consumer Affairs Victoria,
- GCASA,
- Appropriate Dispute Resolution,
- Koori Education Centre,
- Koori County Court,
- YSAS,
- GippsTAFE

“Making It Happen” Aboriginal Youth Justice Forum. (continued).

The forum was a great success, thanks to the support, coordination and organisation of a most committed team including Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative (GEGAC) and Regional Aboriginal Justice Action Committee (RAJAC) .

COMMUNITY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Centre, is a community legal centre that works only on disability related legal issues.

Villamanta can provide valuable resources and community education sessions and they are keen to hear from Gippsland!

Community Education sessions are available for community members, service providers and workers.

Please contact Sue Wolter at Villamanta directly on 5229 2925 to discuss your needs and to find out more about Villamanta’s excellent community education options.

RASP Community Education

RASP is also available to provide Community Education and Information sessions.

Our flexible and interactive sessions are available **FREE OF CHARGE** for community and staff groups. They cover issues such as;

- Enduring Powers of Attorney,
- Discrimination
- Sexual Harassment.

Please contact Dale on 5135 9555 to discuss your groups’ needs.

COMING EVENTS

Gippsland Regional Advocacy Forum

Now in it's third year, the Gippsland Regional Advocacy Forum 2009 will be held;

- At Morwell RSL Cnr Elgin and Tarwin Str
- On Wednesday October 28th
- Between 10AM and 3PM

The forum is organised my members of the various Self Advocate networks from across Gippsland.

The Self Advocates are supported in planning and running the forum by;

- Gippsland Disability Advocacy Inc.
- Latrobe City Rural Access.
- RASP.

This year’s theme is;

“HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND”

and will look at what Human Rights means to everyday people and in everyday language.

We are honoured to have Dr Helen Szoke, CEO, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Victorian Human Rights Commission as our key note speaker.

Dr. Szoke will be joined by representatives from Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service and the Human Rights Law centre on a discussion panel.

Encourage all of your clients to put WED 28th OCTOBER in their diaries NOW!

For further information please contact Tracey Cook at Gippsland Disability Advocacy on 5133 9440.

You are a human being. You have rights inherent in that reality. You have dignity and worth that exists prior to law. ~Lyn Beth Neylon

“Future Options Expo”

A great opportunity for students, parents and Disability Service Providers!

- Sale Expo September 1st
- Bairnsdale Expo September 15th

The expos will be conducted by Gippsland East Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) Local Community Partnership, in conjunction with GippSport and the Sale Specialist School and East Gippsland Specialist School

SEE ATTACHED FLYERS

Victoria Law Foundation “Law Talks”

Law Talks, the first initiative of its kind in Victoria, is a travelling program of free legal information sessions for regional communities and schools.

Law Talks is coming to Sale on, Wednesday September 9th.

The sessions will cover;

- Disputes and dispute resolution,
- Enduring Powers of Attorney,
- Consumer Rights,
- Wills.

Further details are available at:

www.victorialawfoundation.org.au/education/law-talks

and through local media.

DID YOU KNOW?

Under Victorian and federal acts, it is generally unlawful for someone to ask you for information about your disability that may be used to discriminate against you.

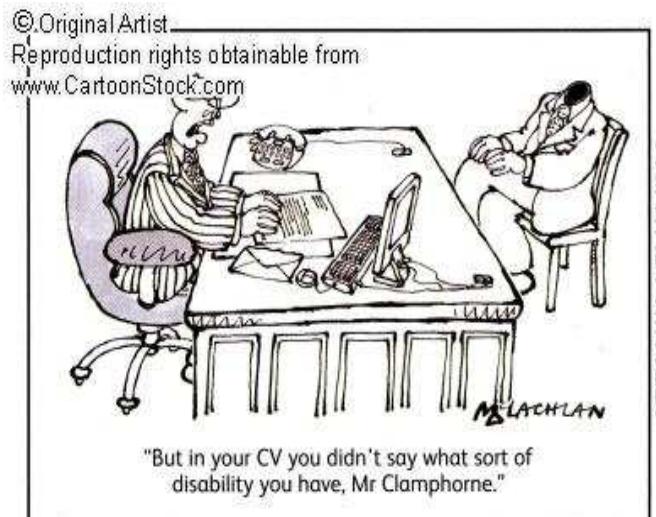
For example, it might be unlawful in a job interview or when applying for some sort of service for someone to ask about your disability or how it affects you.

If your disability could be aggravated by the job, you are expected to let your employer know. However if there is no likely problem for you or the employer, it is not necessary to disclose your disability.

Remember that it is not unlawful for someone to ask you about “adjustments” that you may need to ensure that you are not treated less favourably because of your disability.

This edition’s “Did You Know” is from the publication, “Using disability discrimination law” which is produced by Victoria Legal Aid, Disability Discrimination Legal Service and Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc.

Please feel free to contact these services or RASP for a free copy.



GIPPSLAND REGIONAL ADVOCACY NETWORKS

There are 6 Regional Advocacy Networks across Gippsland, one in each Local Government Area (Shire).

These self advocacy networks are run by people with disability, with some support from;

- Gippsland Disability Advocacy Inc.
- Gippsland Disability Resource Council Inc.
- RASP
- Rural Access Project Officers

Each of the networks meet to discuss local issues, and to provide mutual support.

They are achieving some great results locally, as well as planning the annual Gippsland Regional Advocacy Forum.

If you or your clients / family / friends are interested in attending the next meeting in your area, please contact:

Tracy Cook
Gippsland Disability Advocacy
gippsadv@bigpond.com
5133 9440

GOT SOME NEWS????

**Please contact Dale on 5135 9555
If you have an event or news you would like included in the RASP newsletter.**

The RASP Newsletter is quarterly:

**March
June
September
December**

FROM GippSport

Welcoming and Inclusive Clubs

This GippSport program will guide clubs toward becoming more welcoming and inclusive and allow all people within our community to become involved in sport and active recreation. **(from gippsland.sportslink.org.au)**

For more information about this great program, follow the links at:

www.gippsland.sportslink.org.au

Two other upcoming events from GippSport:

Free Pole/Nordic Walking Come and Try Day.

Lifeball Skills Development Day

Flyers of both these event are attached.

LINKS & NEWSLETTERS

"Noweyung Paper" is a most informative newsletter from the folks at Noweyung Centre in Bairnsdale.

If you would like to receive Noweyung News by email please contact:

Bronwyn at Noweyung Reception. Ph: 5153 0111 or email her at enquiries@noweyung.org.au



Future Options Expo

Date: Tuesday, 15th September 2009
Time: 1.30 to 4.30pm
Venue: St Mary's Hall Bairnsdale

Schools, parents and students are invited to attend a 'Future Options Expo'.
You will have the opportunity to:

- ✓ Talk with organisations that can help you to gain skills and employment opportunities
- ✓ Gather information regarding education, training and employment pathways
- ✓ Talk with providers of specialist services about their programs

The expo is for teachers, student support officers, integration aides, students and parents to learn about the options that young people have when they leave school.

We have invited several organisations who are able to help young people when making the transition from school to post school life, including training and employment. The aim of the expo is to provide information to prompt students and parents to think about post school options and to help them make decisions about their future.

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