



# Having Your Say Newsletter



Issue 2 July 2011

## Newsletter from Advocacy Tasmania and Speak Out

This newsletter is to give you information about the Area Advisory Groups and keep you in touch with the latest news about Disability Reform in Tasmania. In this issue we will talk about the changes to Respite and in the north and south, changes to Community Access (Day Support Services).

### Funding Cuts



Due to government budget cuts Advocacy Tasmania and Speak Out will lose one position each. We were each funded one advocate position to support people through the reforms.

This will mean:

- This will be our last newsletter.
- The reforms have meant lots of changes. There have been many more calls for help to advocates. Unfortunately there are still many problems with people getting services, but now there will be fewer advocates to help.
- Advocacy Tasmania and Speak Out will now only be able to take on the most urgent cases.
- We will not be able to support clients at AAG meetings.
- We will not be able to support consumer engagement committees which were part of the Reform funding.
- But we will keep the website going and pass on your views to the AAGs and the government.

These are some of the ongoing issues that you have told us about:



- Over 200 people on waiting lists for Individual Support Packages
- ✗ Only around 15 Individual Support Packages have been given out from January to June 2011
- ✗ Adult respite beds are booked out months in advance
- ✗ Many people are waiting for supported accommodation and public housing
- ✗ People not happy with their housing
- ✗ Lack of case management
- ✗ Waiting lists for advocacy support
- ✗ Lack of community education
- ✗ Not enough advocacy support for parents with disability whose children are in state care



Reminder! You can have your say about this loss of advocacy funding or other issues on the blog at:

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

On the website, you can leave comments about things you think are important and that you would like the Area Advisory Group in your area to think about when they are planning for services for people with disability.

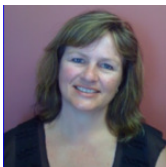


# News from the North West

## Respite



As you may be aware Optia are now running the respite centres in Burnie and Latrobe.



Tammy Smart is the Family Liaison Coordinator for children's respite in Latrobe. She is talking to clients and families about what they want to do during their stay at respite.



Mark Deverell is the Family and Community Services Manager. He is happy to talk to people about adult respite.

While both adult and children's respite is booked out and has waiting lists; if you have an urgent need they would try to fit you in.



If you haven't used Respite before and would like to, you should ring the Gateway Services – 1800 171 233

## Area Advisory Group

The AAG has a plan for services for people with a disability in the North West. If you would like to know what is in this plan or have a say about it, you can get it off the blog at [www.yoursayaag.org.au](http://www.yoursayaag.org.au) or contact your advocate for a copy.

In the North West, the AAG wants to know how they can find out what you want in the plan. They have a consumer engagement committee who are looking into this.



Due to funding cuts, advocates may not be able to attend these meetings, but if you want to be involved you can contact the Community Partnership Team at Disability Services – 6440 7082.

## News from the North

### Respite



Optia is now running respite in Launceston. Mark Deverell is the Family Liaison Coordinator as well as the Family and Community Services Manager.

If you haven't used respite before and would like to, you will need to go through Gateway Services 1800 171 233.

### Community Access (Day Support)

Government run day support services are now being run by non government organisations. They are:



New clients should contact Gateway Services on 1800 171 233.



Advocates have been working to support clients to have a say about their new community access services.



People are really pleased that they now have a choice and were asked what they wanted to do. They are also happy that they are getting out and about more.

If you don't go to a community access service and would like to be part of these new and exciting programs you need to contact the Gateway. There may be options that have not been available in the past.

### Area Advisory Group (AAG)

The last forum to consult people with disabilities was held in September 2010. The AAG in the north have not yet set dates for their next disability community forum. Phone number to contact North AAG: 6336 2494

# News from the South East and the South West

## Respite



Supported Tenancy Accommodation and Respite (STAR) are now running Respite in the South West.



The Respite Program Manager is Darryleen Wiggins. For new clients to find out if you are able to access Respite, ring the Gateway Services – 1800 171 233.

If you have used respite in the past, you can book through Darryleen on 6244 9444.



Adult Respite is almost fully booked. If you know when you want to use Respite, **book early**.



**Picture: Official handover of adult respite at Lutana.**

Cassy O'Connor – Minister for Human Services

Rhonda Duharte – Chief Executive Officer, STAR

Darryleen Wiggins – STAR Respite Program Manager

## Community Access (Day Support)

Government run day support services are now being run by non government organisations. They are:





New clients should contact Gateway Services on 1800 171 233.

Advocates have been working to support clients to have a say about their new community access services.

Clients are reporting that they like their new community access programs. They like how much they are getting out and about in the community and lots of different programs to choose from.

Some clients are still getting used to the changes with staff and costs

Some clients have chosen to attend a mix of different programs which has been very exciting.

### **Area Advisory Group (AAG)**

The AAG has a plan for services for people with a disability in the south west. If you would like to know what is in this plan or have a say about it, you can get it off the blog at [www.yoursayaag.org.au](http://www.yoursayaag.org.au) or contact your advocate for a copy.



South East AAG: 6230 7689

South West AAG: 6230 7759

## Introducing the Acting Director of Disability and Community Services – Ingrid Ganley



Ingrid has worked in many roles across Disability Services for about 15 years.

Many of you may know her from Disability Services or have met her at the Speak Out Conferences where she has run different workshops.

You may also know her from her outside life in drama productions.

She has spent the past 2 years managing the disability reforms.

She has enjoyed this role and feels that the reforms will improve outcomes and services for people with disabilities in Tasmania.

She is excited about the future direction of services to people with disabilities in Tasmania because there will be a stronger focus on person centred planning especially with the introduction of individualised funding.

## What's important to you?

It is important that people who get help from services are able to say what they think is important for them.

You can contact us on the website [www.yoursayaag.org.au](http://www.yoursayaag.org.au) ,or



Speak Out, 18 Goulburn St. Hobart 7000 ph. 6231 2344  
[manager@speakoutadvocacy.org](mailto:manager@speakoutadvocacy.org) fax 6231 2207



Advocacy Tasmania PO Box 426 Sandy Bay 7006 ph 1800 005 131  
[advocacy@advocacytasmania.org.au](mailto:advocacy@advocacytasmania.org.au) fax 6224 2411



or tell the Area Advisory Group Convenors  
South West 62 307 759                      South East 62 307 689  
North 6336 2494                              North West 6440 7084

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On this page, there is a list of issues. Please put a tick next to the ones you think are important and send it back to us if you can.

Name (Optional).....

- Not enough advocacy**
- Transport**
- Individual Funding**
- Housing**
- Attitudes (how people with disability are treated by other people in the community)**
- Jobs**
- Community Access (Day support)**
- Access to Respite**
- Social activities and sport**
- Access to Gateway Services**

**Other**.....