

Carers Representation Program E Bulletin: 20 January 2011

Welcome to the fortnightly Carer Representation Program E-Bulletin
Informing you of Mental Health committee updates, news, events and more. This issue:

What's on in January, February & March 2011
Mental Health Advisory Group established
Mental health consumer and carer stigma survey
Introducing the new Carer Representation & Policy Officer

What's on in January, February & March 2011

Events for Family Carers

Carers Craft Group

Members work on their own craft items, group projects and learn new craft skills in a friendly environment. Join us for a chat and morning tea.

When: 9.30 – 12.30pm on the fourth Thursday of the month. Commencing Thursday 27th January
Where: Carers ACT Carers Hub 80 Beaurepaire Cres, Holt

Private Viewing - Ballet Russes The Art of Costume

Where: National Gallery Of Australia, Parkes Place Parkes
When: Wednesday 23rd February at 10:30am
Please meet in the foyer of the National Gallery of Australia at 10:15am
Cost: FREE for Family Carers, bookings essential

Centrelink Visit

Accessing Carer Payment, Carer Allowance and Carer Payment (Child).

When: 10am-12 Wednesday 23rd February
Where: Carers ACT 80 Beaurepaire Cres Holt

Carers Day Trip to The Royal Canberra Show

Come and join us for a day at the Royal Canberra Show. Entry fee, morning tea and transport provided.

When: Friday 25th February 10am – 3pm
Where: Bus departs from Carers ACT 80 Beaurepaire Cres Holt

Autumn Seasonal Lunch

Carers are invited to enjoy the beginning of Autumn with a yummy lunch in the Carers Hub.

When: Wednesday 16th March 12pm- 2pm
Where: Carers ACT Hub 80 Beaurepaire Cres Holt

For more information or to book into any of the above activities please contact Eleanor on 6296 9900 or eleanorok@carersact.asn.au

Mental Health Advisory Group established

The Minister for Mental Health and Ageing announced on 23 December 2010 that he had been asked by the Prime Minister to establish and chair a new Expert Advisory Group on Mental Health to provide the Federal Government with advice on reforms needed in the mental health sector.

Membership of the group comprises:

- Professor Patrick McGorry AO, Executive Director, Orygen Youth Health and Australian of the Year.
- Monsignor David Cappo AO, Vice-Chair, Australian Social Inclusion Board.
- Professor Ian Hickie AM, Executive Director, Brain and Mind Research Institute.
- Dr Andrew Fuller, Clinical Psychologist, Department of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne.
- Dr Pat Dudgeon, Clinical Psychologist, School of Indigenous Studies, The University of Western Australia.
- Ms Janet Meagher AM, Divisional Manager (Inclusion), Psychiatric Rehabilitation Australia.
- Dr Christine McAuliffe, General Practitioner.
- Ms Sally Sinclair, Chief Executive Officer, National Employment Services Association.
- Professor Frank Oberklaid OAM, Director, Centre for Community Child Health, The Royal Children's Hospital.
- Mr Toby Hall, Chief Executive Officer, Mission Australia.
- Mr Anthony Fowke AM, President of Association of Relatives and Friends of the Mentally Ill (ARAFMI) Australia.
- Dr Christine Bennett, Chief Medical Officer, Bupa Australia.

Mental health consumer and carer stigma survey

A reminder that the Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA) is undertaking a consumer and carer survey about the behaviour of health professionals towards people with mental illness. If you would like to take part in the survey go to: <http://mhca.org.au/stigmasurvey/index.php>. If you have any questions about the project, please do not hesitate to contact Rachele Irving, Acting Deputy CEO on 6285 3100 or via email at rachele.irving@mhca.org.au

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Carer Representation & Policy Officer

Hello my name is Hediye Fitzgerald and I would like to introduce myself to you all. I have joined Carers ACT in the role of Carer Representation & Policy Officer. Prior to joining Carers I worked as part of the team at the Mental Health Council of Australia. I have personal experience as a Carer. If you would like to contact me I am available Tuesday to Thursday on 02 62969952 or you can email me at hediyef@carersact.asn.au