

Disability Workforce Support Project Newsletter



Recognise and Respond through Trauma Informed Care, assisting Tasmanian health services to support survivors of sexual abuse who have a disability

August 2021



Tokyo Paralympic Games 24 August-5 September

It's less than fourteen sleeps to go before the opening ceremony of the 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo! Want to become a member of the official cheer squad?

Join AUS Squad today!

<https://www.paralympic.org.au/aussquad/>



Laurel House New Team Manager

Laurel House is very happy to welcome Lucy Anderson to the position of Team Manager!



Lucy is an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker and originally comes from New Zealand. Before settling in Australia 11 years ago, Lucy also lived in England and The Netherlands. Lucy has worked in both private and public hospitals, as well as the not-for-profit sector and is looking forward to being part of the Laurel House team.

Lucy comes to us from Geraldton Regional Hospital WA where she was a Senior Mental Health Professional.

Please send us your news, achievements, and activities of interest to share with the group. We want to hear your ideas about the project – and the newsletter.

kim.atkins@laurelhouse.org.au rebecca.ripperger@laurelhouse.org.au

BACKGROUND

Laurel House has received funding from the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) until 30 June 2022.

Using a co-design approach, we will develop and deliver educational materials and training that will build capacity of workforces to recognize and respond to sexual assault and associated trauma affecting people with a disability.



Call Laurel House Mon-Fri, 9-5pm:

Phone: 6334 2740 Launceston

6431 9711 Burnie

6424 9565 Devonport



Royal Flying Doctor Service

Steering group member John Kirwan is CEO of RFDS Tasmania.

RFDS vision: to improve health outcomes for all Tasmanians with a specific focus on remote and rural areas.



Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania has a dedicated team of rural, physical and mental health workers providing services in Break O'Day, George Town, Meander Valley, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Central Highlands, Meander Valley, Flinders Island, Dorset, Bruny Island, Tasman Peninsula and Huon Valley local government areas.



With support from the State Government and Rotary Tasmania, two new health hub buses (former public transport buses), have been renovated and repurposed to provide mobile clinics that can not only take specialists right to the doorstep of remote communities, but also serve as emergency response vehicles following a natural disaster.

Recently the RFDS has expanded its mental health services to support youth aged between 8 and 16 years living on the east and west coast of Tasmania.

Email: enquiries@rfdstas.org.au **Telephone:** 03 6391 0509 <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/tas/>

Mission Australia

Steering group member Paul Denny is Mission Australia Area Manager North & North-West Tasmania.



Mission Australia's Disability Employment Services – Disability Management



Services (DMS) helps people with disability, injury or a health condition to find a job, and then continue this support while they transition to ongoing employment. They also support the person's employers with training, and assistance to access a range of other supports. These supports can include wage subsidies and financial assistance to help with costs of modifying the workplace or purchasing adaptive technologies, or interpreting services.

See Disability Employment Service (DES - DMS) – Launceston Employment, Education & Training 53 Canning St Launceston, 03 6341 8900

<https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/servicedirectory/188-education-training-employment/disability-employment-service-des-dms-launceston>





Gippsland SL & RR Network (Sexual lives and respectful relationships)

Did you know that the SL & RR Network have fabulous online resources? Check out:

Mean As! A project inviting Māori men and women with a learning disability (this is the same as intellectual disability in Australia) living in New Zealand communities to tell us about their own stories about relationships and sexuality

In Aotearoa New Zealand, when people say “Mean As!” they usually mean something is pretty “awesome!” In the “Mean As!” Project, eight story tellers with a learning disability had an opportunity to “speak back” to the way we have been taught to read their lives by telling their own stories of relationship and sexuality, their own way.

The set of co-developed stories were also shared with William, Vanessa, Darryl and Cheryl, four emerging researchers with a learning disability given space to listen, interpret and respond to the stories they heard with a set of Key Messages.

In the Mean As! Library you will find:



Seven stories rich with the colour and vitality of real lives re-presented in ways storytellers decided upheld their mana/dignity, like songs and letters and pūrākau.



Recordings of those stories by actors who wanted to give them a voice self-advocates would recognise.

And More! See:

<https://www.slrr.com.au/research-resources/online-resources/>

<https://www.donaldbeasley.org.nz/projects/mean-as/>

Access magazine: connecting Tasmania's disability community Winter 2021, first edition out now!

Access Magazine was created to connect and inform Tasmanians with disability and celebrate their achievements and contributions to their community. It is Tasmania's only dedicated and locally produced disability focused magazine and is a part of the Tasmanian Disability Festival 2021.

Packed with inspiring stories and information on products and services for people with disability, their families and carers, Access magazine is a must read!

In this edition you will find stories on the Launceston Special Olympics 2022, the awe-inspiring band Silver Space, the Planning Inclusive Communities Research Project, and so much more!

You can download a copy from the Tasmanian Disability Festival website:

<https://www.tasmaniandisabilityfestival.com.au/>



Laurel House acknowledges with deep respect the palawa people, the traditional owners of lutruwita (Tasmania) Aboriginal land, sea and waterways. The palawa people belong to the oldest continuing culture in the world. They have cared for and protected Country for thousands of years. They knew this land, they lived on the land and they died on these lands. We honour them.

Disability Project Update

It has been a busy month for the project team, with Kim and Rebecca focusing on resource development. Currently:



- Draft guides for responding to disclosures of sexual assault have been finalised and sent to reference group members for feedback.
- Fact sheets and infographics have been finalised and are in the process of becoming available on the Laurel House website: <https://laurelhouse.org.au/get-educated/disability-workforce-support-project/>
- Online training is being developed and delivery has commenced. More training sessions are being scheduled for on-line or face to face delivery later in the year! Notices will be sent out by email and included in future newsletters.

Did you know...?



Bus Stop Films has been in operation since 2009, teaching film studies to adults with disabilities and others from marginalised communities. They use filmmaking and the film industry to change community attitudes globally around rights and contribution to society by people with disability.

The Inclusive Filmmaking Toolkit is a FREE resource created to provide screen and creative industries with an essential resource to help guide the sector to become more inclusive and disability-confident.

The toolkit was inclusively made by Bus Stop Films and Taste Creative, with funding support from the NSW Government through Screen NSW – download the toolkit today! <https://busstopfilms.com.au/inclusion-in-action/>

The Toolkit outlines best practice principles to provide the most appropriate support and achieve greater and more meaningful inclusion of people living with disability on both sides of the camera. With 18% of Australians identifying as living with disability, and as the largest minority group in the world, this is a *huge* part of the community that could, and should, be better represented in the industry.

The Toolkit will better enable filmmakers, production companies and creatives at all levels of the industry to ensure their filmmaking practice is inclusive and people with disability are better represented in stories about them!

You should also check out '**Inclusion in Action**' a unique training workshop for the screen industry, focusing on gaining a better understanding of the rights and capacity of people living with disability. Online sessions available.

<https://busstopfilms.com.au/inclusion-in-action/>



Review of the Public Trustee: have your say. Advocacy Tasmania can help with your submission!

The Tasmanian Government is conducting an independent review into the administrative and operational practices of the Public Trustee. The deadline for submissions is **Friday 20 August 2021**.

If you would like to make a submission telling the government about:

- your experience with the Public Trustee
- what you think about the organisation
- what changes you would like to see made

you can contact Advocacy Tasmania for assistance.

Call 1800 005 131, email contact@yoursaytas.org or

<https://www.facebook.com/AdvocacyTasmania/>

Otherwise, you can contact the state government review team directly, email PublicTrusteeReview@justice.tas.gov call 0477 107 137, or online at:

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/community-consultation/consultations/review-of-the-public-trustee>

The system is in poor health.

Your say can breathe new life into it.

The Public Trustee review is now open. But only until August 20th.

Time is running out to tell the government about our experiences and what we think, because nothing is going to change in this part of the world unless we act now.

Advocacy Tasmania can help you have your say, call 1800 005 131, email contact@yoursaytas.org or through our Facebook page.

Alternatively, email the review team: PublicTrusteeReview@justice.tas.gov.au or phone them on 0477 107 137.

Your Say
Advocacy Tasmania
[AdvocacyTasmania](https://www.facebook.com/AdvocacyTasmania)

Proposed Legislation: your right to protest. What charities need to know!

Charitable organisations and their supporters, especially those involved in advocacy, should be aware of federal legislation that will go before the Senate in October. The legislation will allow charities to be deregistered if their members or volunteers engage in any criminal activity, or are likely to engage in any criminal activity, however minor.

See explainer on the Human Rights Law Centre website:

<https://www.hrlc.org.au/factsheets/2021/6/28/acnc-proposed-governance-standard-3>

According to the HRLC, "If made, the regulations would discourage charities from promoting and having a presence at common peaceful protests. It would also make it much harder for charities to share their resources with community groups to support their advocacy.". On ABC Radio National Breakfast on 11 August, leading community advocate and previous CEO of World Vision, Tim Costello, advised that these changes specifically target charities and will have "a chilling effect" on advocacy. Mr Costello also said that the existing laws are sufficient to deal with any criminal conduct, and noted that the current ACNC Commissioner (Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission) had stated that these changes were not necessary.



NATSILS: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services.

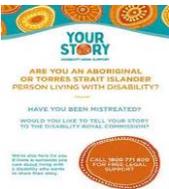
If you are an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person living with a disability who has experienced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation, NATSILS is here to help you to share your story with the Disability Royal Commission.

Your Story Disability Legal Support is a free, national legal service for aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living with disability, their family, carers and supporters and is independent from the Royal Commission.



Free, independent legal support to share your story with the Disability Royal Commission

- the service is **run by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisation** and exists to help you to protect and understand your legal rights.
- they offer expert legal advice and information that is culturally safe and accessible.
- they want to help you share your story with the Disability Royal Commission, while protecting your legal rights.



NATSILS advises to call them and have a yarn, you can call the free national helpline on

1800 771 800

<https://yourstorydisabilitylegal.org.au/Aboriginal-Torres-Strait-Islander-peoples>

* **The Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service is a member of NATSILS**

Save the Dates December 1st-31st

The Tasmanian Disability Festival provides your big chance to connect and participate in the Tasmanian disability community.



What you can expect

A multifaceted collection of exciting events and initiatives, including:

- An interactive expo that connects product and service providers with people with disability, their families and carers, providing them with information about the latest products, services, technology, aids & equipment
- An art exhibition and festival arts prize that aims to recognise the substantial artistic and creative talent within the disability sector while also providing a platform for sharing and connection
- A gala dinner and awards night celebrating excellence in the provision of support to people with disability by organisations and individuals from the disability sector as well as the broader community
- Access Magazine: Tasmania's only disability focussed and dedicated magazine.

To get your tickets, nominate people/organisations for awards, and find out more about the festival visit:

<https://www.tasmaniandisabilityfestival.com.au/>





The National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme was created in response to recommendations by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Assault.

The Royal Commission listened to thousands of people about the abuse they experienced as children. The abuse happened in orphanages, Children's Homes, schools, churches and other religious organisations, sports clubs, hospitals, foster care and other institutions.

The National Redress Scheme:

- acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions
- recognises the suffering they endured because of this abuse
- holds institutions accountable for this abuse, and
- helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse gain access to counselling, a direct personal response, and a Redress payment.

You can apply to the National Redress Scheme if:

- you experienced sexual abuse when you were a child (under 18 years of age), and
 - the abuse happened before 1 July 2018, and
 - an institution was responsible for bringing you into contact with the person who abused you, and
- you were born before 30 June 2010, and
- at the time you apply, you are an Australian citizen or a permanent resident.

Applications can be made any time before 30 June 2027.

See <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/> or call the National Redress Scheme on [1800 737 377](tel:1800737377)

Mon to Fri 8am - 5pm AEST



Steering Group members

Advocacy Tasmania
Department of Social Services
Disability Voices
Eskleigh Foundation
Laurel House
Mental Health Council of Tasmania
Mission Australia
Possability
Premier's Disability Advisory Council
Royal Flying Doctor Service
Self Help Workplace



To all our partners and supporters

Reference Group members, advisors and supporters

Acquired Brain Injury Association
Aged & Community Services Australia (Tasmania)
Circular Head Aboriginal Centre
Claire Woolley Psychology
ClientFirst Consulting
College of Health and Medicine, University of Tasmania
Community Care Tasmania
COTA (Tasmania)
David Hunnerup Counselling
Deakin University
Department of Communities Tasmania
Department of Health Tasmania
Department of Justice
Don Medical Centre
ELPE
Emily Dash
Engender Equality
Family Planning Tasmania
Forensic Medical Services, Tasmanian Health Service
Giant Steps
Gippsland SL&RR Network
Gippsland Disability Advocacy, Victoria
Glenview Community Services
General Practice Training Tasmania
GP Liaison, Tasmanian Health Service
Helping Paws Service Dog Training
Health Recruitment Plus

Hobart Communications Clinic
Jeannie McClymont, Occupational Therapist, Penguin
Karinya Young Womens Service
LEAP OT, Ulverstone
Migrant Resource Centre North Inc
Mosaic Support Services
Multicap
National Disability Practitioners
Northern Occupational Support Services (NOSS)
North West Residential Support Services
Patrick St Clinic, Ulverstone
Pinky
Primary Health North, Tasmanian Health Service
Primary Health Tasmania (PHT)
Robyn McKinnon Counselling
Royal Hobart Hospital
Rural Clinical School, University of Tasmania
SafeChoices
St Giles
Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS)
Student Services, University of Tasmania
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC)
TasTAFE
Wellways
Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA)
Youth, Family, and Community Connections, Burnie