



JFA Purple Orange Newsletter

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Looking Back at 2013

2013 was another busy year for JFA Purple Orange and a significant year for the disability community with the launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Our work throughout the year has been underpinned by our four Strategic Directions:

- Whole System Reform
- Amplification of Voice
- Capacity Building
- Support for Initiatives.

The introduction of the NDIS demanded a lot of our attention in 2013. We received funding through the Commonwealth Government's Practical Design Fund to run Values Based Leadership Development Workshops which focussed on how service agencies can use their values, and the leadership of those values, to navigate to individualised funding and supports. We also received support through the Fund to explore the potential of an eMarket to be used by NDIS participants. The reports on both of these projects are publically available on the NDIS website at www.ndis.gov.au/document/204.

This year we published the second edition of our *Model of Citizenship Support*. This was a big piece of work for us, and the Model has been really well-received, including from service agencies interested in using it as a framework for transitioning to personalised supports. Based on the Model's key themes, we're now running a capacity building program for people living

with disability and their families. With funding assistance from the South Australia Government, the program is running in metropolitan and regional South Australia, at least until the end of 2014. The program was also recently extended into the Australian Capital Territory, with funding support from the ACT Government and in collaboration with local agencies Adacas and *Imagine More*. For more information about these workshops, including extending their availability to your area, contact us.

During the year we also released research and evaluation reports. This included the latest bulletin on our *tellus* survey, based on data collected during 2011 from nearly 900 people living with disability and family members.

We also reported our evaluation of a service agency's transition to individualised budgets for families seeking respite support. The results have revealed important opportunities for control and choice. Information about these reports is available at www.purpleorange.org.au/publications.

In 2013 JFA Purple Orange worked collaboratively with a number of local councils on planning for authentic inclusion. This work has variously included reviewing council policy, undertaking consultation with community and council stakeholders, developing access and inclusion plans, and converting these to frameworks for implementation and staff capacity building.

We have continued our examination of issues in inclusive education. Following a substantial literature review at the end of last year, we recently hosted a series of workshops on inclusive education (see next item).

We also launched our new JFA Purple Orange website in 2013 and we invited you to visit it at www.purpleorange.org.au. We also launched new websites for the Julia Farr Housing Association (www.jfha.org.au) and the Julia Farr MS McLeod Benevolent Fund (www.jfm.org.au) and we invite you to visit these websites and explore the work of our other Julia Farr Association bodies.

We remain deeply grateful to all the people living with disability, their families and supporters who shared their stories with us this year. This has helped deepen our understanding of people's hopes and concerns, which we then apply to all our policy work.

On behalf of the board and staff, we thank you for continued support throughout 2013, wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and look forward to connecting with you in 2014.

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Inclusive Education with Dr Robert Jackson

During November JFA Purple Orange hosted a series of workshops on inclusive education for parents of children living with disability, teachers and support staff, and school principals.

The workshops were facilitated by Dr Robert Jackson, an Adjunct Associate Professor at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. Dr Jackson has spent many years working with families, teachers, schools and education systems on the rationale and practicalities of inclusive education.

More than 80 family members attended the two workshops titled *Inclusive Education for your Child* which focussed on the true nature of inclusive education and what it can mean for a person's life chances. The workshops also included practical information to assist families to engage their local school in the goal of inclusive education.

The other two workshops *Building a School that Includes All Students: What can be achieved by inspirational leadership* and *Teaching to Diversity: Including all in the mainstream* lesson for principals and teaching staff respectively, attracted more than 40 teaching professionals. These workshops explored how to teach to a classroom of diverse students and creating a school community that is inclusive and fosters the wellbeing of all students.

We received great feedback on the workshops and we thank everyone who attended. If you were unable to attend but are interested in this workshop topic, please contact our office at admin@purpleorange.org.au or call us on (08) 8373 8333; we're always happy to explore running further events on any topic if there are enough people wishing to attend.

Projects for Young People

Continuing the inclusive education theme, we have continued our hosting of the Julia Farr Youth Mentoring, and we now have 11 mentor relationships in place, with a new eMentoring platform currently being tested before it goes live in early 2014.

We remain involved with the Circles@School initiative, run by Community Living Project, and have just learned that the Department for Education and Child Development intends to provide an additional two years of funding for this initiative. This is great news, as it is already producing good outcomes for the students involved.

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Join Us at the Julia Farr Youth Conference

The Julia Farr Youth Conference program is now available.

The conference is for young people living with disability and professionals interested in empowering young people.

The topics cover all the things that matter to young people living with disability, including connecting with other young people, having a voice, living independently, transition skills and tips about travel and employment. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear other people's life stories and learn how they navigated some of the tricky things in life.

All of our conference speakers live with disability and/or work in the disability sector.

The conference will be hosted by Julia Farr Youth – a group of young people aged 16-30 who live with disability and advocate on issues affecting young people living with disability.

The full program and registration form is available from our website www.purpleorange.org.au or call us on (08) 8373 8333 with questions or comments.

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Model of Citizenship Support 2nd Edition – Order Today!

You can now order printed copies of the Model of Citizenship Support 2nd Edition from JFA Purple Orange.

The Model, written by JFA Purple Orange CEO Robbi Williams, is a framework for advancing people into good valued lives.

It is based on the premise that each of us wishes to live a good life, and that a good life is built upon, and maintained through, four key areas of capacity and growth.

These key areas are termed the Four Capitals and comprise:

- Personal Capital
- Knowledge Capital
- Material Capital
- Social Capital.

The Model is anchored on the concept of Citizenship and how that might be advanced and upheld in the lives of people living with increased vulnerability, including:

- people living with disability
- older people
- people living with ongoing mental health issues
- homeless people
- anyone else whose circumstances mean they are at greater risk of being excluded from typical life chances.

The Model of Citizenship Support 2nd Edition is available for purchase for \$35 each incl. GST + optional postage and handling of \$3.95 each incl. GST Australia wide.

To order a copy, please download and complete and order form available from our website www.purpleorange.org.au.

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Save the Date – Metropolitan Workshops in 2014

In 2013 JFA Purple Orange offered a series of capacity building workshops for people living with disability and their families.

We are pleased to announce we will be offering these workshops again in 2014.

The workshops assist people to build their capacity to get the most out of their life and support funding.

Save the date for:

Wednesday 12 February, 2014	You and Your Life
Friday 14 February, 2014	Making a Plan
Wednesday 19 February, 2014	Choices and Voices
Wednesday 26 February, 2014	Connected
Wednesday 5 March, 2014	Choosing Your Personal Assistance
Wednesday 12 March, 2014	My Home My Castle
Wednesday 19 March, 2014	Safeguarding for a Good Life

The Department for Community and Social Inclusion has contributed funds towards this program.

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Join us in Mt Gambier, Berri and Port Augusta

In late 2013 we held capacity building workshops in Mt Gambier.

We had a great response and received positive feedback from all the participants.

We are keen to replicate these workshops throughout regional South Australia in Berri and Port Augusta.

If you are interested in attending these workshops, please contact us at admin@purpleorange.org.au or call us on (08) 8373 8333.

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Christmas Closure

JFA Purple Orange will be closed from Tuesday 24 December 2013 until Monday 6 January 2014.

On behalf of the staff and board of the Julia Farr Association, thank you for your support throughout 2013.

We look forward to your ongoing support as we continue to work towards improving the life chances of people living with disability.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

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