



Issue 2, March 2011

# purple orange

The e-newsletter of the Julia Farr Association

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## Productivity Commission's Draft Report on Disability Care & Support

Earlier this month the Productivity Commission released its draft report on the future of disability support funding in Australia. The report recommends the introduction of a tax-funded National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), intended to give eligible people reliable, portable funding for disability support.

Proposed features include key elements of Individualised Funding, where people have the choice for how their funding is spent, and administered, on their behalf, including receiving the funding directly.

[Purple Orange](#) has prepared a PowerPoint summary of the report's main features, and is currently consulting on the draft via [The Loop](#) conference program in South Australia. If you would like a copy of the PowerPoint summary, you can send us an email request by emailing [admin@juliafarr.org.au](mailto:admin@juliafarr.org.au). If you want to get copies of either the complete draft report or the condensed version from the Productivity Commission, click [here](#).

A further round of consultation is now under way. The Productivity Commission will be holding public hearings in main cities around Australia, and people can also send in submissions. Click [here](#) for more details about hearing dates, or click [here](#) for more details about making a submission.

We think there are many encouraging signals within the draft report, and that it can be further strengthened through people's feedback. We encourage everyone with an interest in this topic to let the Productivity Commission know what you think.

If you would like assistance with making a personal submission to the Productivity Commission, or if you would like to us to include your views in our submission, then please contact us at [admin@juliafarr.org.au](mailto:admin@juliafarr.org.au) or by ringing (08) 8373 8333.



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## Michael Kendrick brings Deep Quality to Adelaide in May

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[Purple Orange](#) will host a leading voice in the international disability community, **Dr Michael Kendrick**, in May 2011 to deliver *Deep Quality: a two-week leadership course in Optimal Individualised Service Design (OISD) in South Australia*.

Based on the success of this course elsewhere in Australia, the South Australian Deep Quality event will address person-centred approaches to supporting people living with disability, and the gap between ideal and realistic service delivery.

This course will be an invaluable experience for anyone involved in developing progressive policy, funding or service delivery who is creative, innovative and rigorous about individualised service quality.

The course will be held in two related sessions;

- Week One: May 2-6, 2011
- Week Two: May 30–June 3, 2011

The cost for this intensive two-week program is \$2,700 per person (early bird registration before 28 March) or \$3000 after 28 March.

As this is the first time Deep Quality has been delivered in South Australia, there has already been considerable interest in Dr Kendrick's course. To avoid disappointment, please register your interest by emailing Purple Orange at [admin@juliafarr.org.au](mailto:admin@juliafarr.org.au) or calling (08) 8373 8333.

A flyer and registration form can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

## 100 Leaders Project: Stories from people living with disability

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The current national debate about disability insurance and Individualised (self-directed) Funding will benefit from real stories of how people living with disability can be assisted into lives of choice, personalised support and citizenship.

One of [Purple Orange](#)'s current projects is *100 Leaders: Stories from people living with disability*. This project will tell the stories of people who have taken leadership of their lives and are now building the life they want to live, and aims to provide access to a rich seam of resources about the 'how' of this process.

Research Officers Kerry Telford and Alicia Fidock from Purple Orange will be coordinating this exciting project on behalf of [In Control Australia](#), collecting and publishing the stories of 100 leaders from across the nation. The stories will be published in accessible formats.

Robbi Williams, CEO of the Julia Farr Group hopes that an "anthology of personal authority and citizenship" will be a powerful force for change.

"Imagine having the stories of a hundred Australians who have taken control and built a much richer life through personalised funding and assistance – this could help achieve critical change in the way our governments, service agencies and communities think and feel about disability," Robbi says.

Launched earlier this year, the project is quickly gaining momentum, with forty inspiring leaders offering to share their stories since January. Family members reflecting on, or wanting, a valued life for a loved one living with disability are also invited to assist them to tell their story.

Leaders are able to tell their story in a number of ways, which may include the written word, PowerPoint presentation, video or audio presentation, or a recorded interview with a research officer – and ideas on other forms of storytelling are welcomed.

Participation in the project is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time, for any reason, and all information will be treated in confidence as directed by the participant.

Kerry believes that the key to successful highly personalised support approaches is access to information about options at the time when it is needed and the experience of others who have tried such options.

"This is the resounding message coming from the stories that have been collected so far," Kerry says.

"People who have the right information at the right time are able to make informed decisions and take calculated risks. The 100 Leaders project is about sharing this information to empower other people living with disability."

To become involved or to seek more information on the 100 Leaders project please contact Kerry Telford on email [kerryt@juliafarr.org.au](mailto:kerryt@juliafarr.org.au) or phone (08) 8373 8333.



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## AGOSCI 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Conference takes to Adelaide streets

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The [Julia Farr MS McLeod Benevolent Fund](#) supports adults whose ability to live independently is temporarily or permanently impaired or in jeopardy as a consequence of an acquired brain injury or a degenerative neurological condition.

As part of its grants program, Julia Farr MS McLeod is proud to be a sponsor of AGOSCI's 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Conference, to be held in Adelaide from 11-14 May 2011.

[AGOSCI](#) is an organisation promoting the interests of people living with disability who have additional complex communication needs.

The theme of this year's event is *Taking it to the Streets*, and is designed to encourage innovation & action while increasing awareness of persons with complex communication needs.

Attendance at the conference is encouraged for individuals experiencing communication difficulties, family and community members, teachers, speech pathologists, occupational therapists and other professionals, as well as people working outside the sector whose contributions will expand the scope of the field.

With keynote speakers including **Barbara Collier**, Executive Director of Augmentive Communication Community Partnerships (Canada), **Dr Rhonda Galbally AO**, Director of Rhonda Galbally Associates (Australia), and **Darryl Sellwood**, Director of the Australian Communication Exchange (Australia), the conference promises to be one of the most inspiring, thought provoking and fun AGOSCI conferences yet.

For more information on the 2011 AGOSCI Conference please click visit [here](#). Individuals or organisations interested in further information about the Julia Farr MS McLeod Benevolent Fund should click [here](#) or call (08) 8373 8333.

## Have your say: Disability Standards for Education 2005 survey

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Due to overwhelming interest, we have extended the deadline for you to have your say about the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* until **11 April 2011**. Thank you to everyone that has already participated.

[Purple Orange](#) would like to know about peoples' experiences within the education system, whether it is pre-school, school, higher education or other education institutions.

The Disability Standards for Education 2005 were introduced to clarify the obligations of education and training service providers, and the rights of students living with disability, under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

The Australian Government is currently reviewing the Disability Standards for Education 2005 which focus on ensuring students living with disability are able to access and participate in education on the same basis as other students.

If you think the education system could be better for people living with disability, this is your chance to have your say.

We have created a survey using the questions the Australian Government has developed as part of their review. We value your input, and would appreciate if you took a few moments to respond to our survey. The survey should only take a few minutes of your time.

If you have something to say on this topic, we encourage you to complete the survey and/or forward this email to people with an interest in this topic. The information gathered through this process will allow us to develop a consolidated submission, highlighting the impact on the rights of students living with disability to be respected and promoted.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to learn about the Disability Standards for Education 2005 we encourage you to take a few moments to get an understanding of the document. A copy of these standards can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

If you would like to know more about the review of the Disability Standards for Education 2005, or you would like to provide your own separate submission, information can be found [here](#).

Access the survey before 11 April 2011 by clicking [here](#), or copy and paste this URL into your web browser: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Disability\\_Standards\\_for\\_Education\\_2005\\_survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Disability_Standards_for_Education_2005_survey)

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing this survey please contact Alicia Fidock, Research Officer, on (08) 8373 8311 or email [aliciaf@juliafarr.org.au](mailto:aliciaf@juliafarr.org.au).



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## Parents' Forum

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[Purple Orange](#) would like to put a call out to all parents of school-aged children living with disability (aged 5-18 years) to join their Parents' Forum.

Formed in 2010, this forum is an opportunity for parents to access and share information about issues and opportunities relating to their children getting a 'fair go' at an inclusive life, and to identify public policy issues and solutions that can bring about helpful change.

Project Officer Georgina Edwards coordinates the forum, that has most recently been consulted on two Purple Orange submissions (reviews of funding for schooling, and the Disability Standards for Education 2005) looking into education issues faced by children living with a disability.

"By consulting parents we can respond to issues with real opinions and lived experience," Georgina says.

The Parents' Forum will soon be asked to provide feedback on a proposal to develop a Circles Program in schools – an initiative to build support networks and friendships among student peers in mainstream schools.

The group does not meet on a regular basis; rather it is convened when topics of interest arise. Parents who are interested in being involved in this forum should contact Georgina Edwards on (08) 8373 8333 or email [georginae@juliafarr.org.au](mailto:georginae@juliafarr.org.au).

## National Disability & Carer Congress is making every Australian count

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*The National Disability and Carer Congress 2011: Make Every Australian Count*, will be held on 2-3 May 2011 at Etihad Stadium, Melbourne.

Convened by the [National Disability & Carer Alliance](#), this event represents a not to be missed opportunity to examine, analyse, debate and discuss the proposal for a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The conference will examine the interim report on Disability Care and Support released by the Productivity Commission, hear from international experts regarding developments in disability policy around the world, and, most importantly, feature the hopes for reform of people living with a disability, their families and carers.

Attendees will also have the chance to hear what our elected representatives believe needs to be done to better support people living with a disability, their families and carers in the community. The time has come for transformational change - come along and hear what the future holds for people living with a disability, their families and carers, and the organisations that support them.

Registrations close at 5.00pm on Wednesday, 27 April 2011. To access online registration, the conference brochure and program please click [here](#) or contact Miriam Sosin on (02) 9256 3133 or email [miriam.sosin@nds.org.au](mailto:miriam.sosin@nds.org.au).



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## Self-directed Support: Making it Happen, Sydney's Big Event Conference

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[In Control Australia](#) is a group of individuals and organisations who aim to bring about systemic policy change in Australia to enable individuals living with disability and their families to self-manage their support.

[Purple Orange](#) is actively supportive of the movement, with our CEO Robbi Williams acting as National Convenor of In Control Australia, and our Communications Officer Brigette Elliott acting as Executive Officer.

In order to further our goals of helping people living with disability towards lives of personal authority and active citizenship, we will sometimes share information about In Control events.

The NSW Chapter of In Control Australia is holding **The Big Event 2011** - a two-day conference in May, with the theme of **Self-directed Support: Making It Happen**.

This event will be held at the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club in Sydney on May 10 & 11. More details and registration forms will be available shortly. Any queries can be addressed to Michael Bleasdale at [michaelb@pwd.org.au](mailto:michaelb@pwd.org.au).

## We Value Your Feedback!

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At Purple Orange we are working hard to make our communications as accessible as possible.

If you have trouble accessing this any part of this e-newsletter please contact our Communications Officer Brigette Elliott at [bridgettee@juliafarr.org.au](mailto:bridgettee@juliafarr.org.au) or phone (08) 8373 8333.

Additional information on the work of Purple Orange can be found on our website [www.juliafarr.org.au](http://www.juliafarr.org.au), and in Robbi's [Purple Orange blog](#).

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