



JFA Purple Orange Newsletter

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Your New Look Newsletter

Welcome to the February 2015 edition of your new look JFA Purple Orange newsletter! The new format makes it even easier for you to catch up on all the latest news, information and events from JFA Purple Orange. We hope you like the way it looks and functions, and invite you to provide us with any feedback you have – especially with regard to access.



Funding Changes in the Disability Sector

The last few months have been monumental for many peak disability advocacy organisations. Changes to the Department of Social Services grant system has left many organisations high and dry without the security of future funding.



These organisations include Blind Citizens Australia, Deaf Australia and the Deaf Forum of Australia, Physical Disability Australia, Down Syndrome Australia and Brain Injury Australia. These peak bodies play a vital role in supporting people living with disability and acting as their voice. They are the experts on their subject matter and play a critical role in charting the diversity of disability experience. The government's decision to cease funding to these groups is catastrophic because it undermines the diverse voices within the disability community at a time when those voices need to be heard the most during the NDIS rollout.

At the end of January the situation developed with the Minister for Social Services, the Hon. Scott Morrison, announcing the Government would provide new bridging funding to "ensure continuity of front line community services" affected by the grant tendering process.

Minister Morrison said the bridging funding would ensure service gaps don't emerge in critical online services. "Providers of ongoing frontline services under the grants programme will have their funding extended to 30 June 2015 while new services are properly established and clients are appropriately referred," he said.

We have been very vocal on this topic, issuing email alerts to our stakeholders highlighting our thoughts and recommendations, and commenting in the media about our concerns – particularly in *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *Pro Bono Australia*. You can read more from us about this issue [on our website](#).

National Inquiry into Abuse

The Senate has announced it will launch a national inquiry into the abuse of people living with disability in institutional and residential settings in Australia.



The announcement is a welcome relief for many disability advocates who have been campaigning for a national inquiry following the joint Fairfax Media/ABC *Four Corners* investigation which uncovered multiple instances of alleged abuse at Yooralla.

The Assistant Minister for Social Services, Mitch Fifield, said a national inquiry was not appropriate because disability services were a state-based issue. However, Greens Senator Rachel Siewart, who initiated the inquiry, said it was ridiculous to consider abuse a solely state issue.

"It is happening all over the country and needed a national approach. This is an important step towards shining a light on an issue that has gone unacknowledged for too long," Senator Siewart said.

You can read more from us about this issue [on our website](#).

Workshops with Melanie Schlaeger

On February 27 February Melanie Schlaeger joined us once again at JFA Purple Orange for workshops with young people living with disability, their families and supporters.



Melanie is a vibrant 27 year old woman living with Cerebral Palsy who is making the most of the opportunity to have choice and control in her life.

During the workshops Melanie shared her experiences of leaving school and how she organises her personal support arrangements so that she lives a good life. Melanie is passionate about individualised support and the importance of treating people with dignity and respect regardless of their disability.

Board of Directors Vacancy

JFA Purple Orange invites people with an understanding of governance and lived experience of disability to register their interest in servicing as a Board Director of the Julia Farr Association.



Board members meet monthly at the JFA Purple Orange office in Unley, Adelaide.

To apply, please send your resume and a letter stating why you would like to apply for the position by email to admin@purpleorange.org.au or by post to PO Box 701, Unley Business Centre, SA, 5061. Applications close COB Monday 9 March 2015.

If you have any questions about this position please contact us on (08) 8373 8333 or email admin@purpleorange.org.au.

What are You Planning for 2015?



Are you planning an event for 2015? Why not hire a room through Our Space at JFA Purple Orange. Our Space is fully accessible, affordable and catering can be arranged. For more information call us on (08) 8373 8333 or email us at admin@purpleorange.org.au



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