



Purple Orange

The e-newsletter of the Julia Farr Association

Issue 10

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New JFA Purple Orange website

The Julia Farr Association has completed the transition to their new brand identity JFA Purple Orange with the launch of a new website www.purpleorange.org.au.

JFA Purple Orange CEO Robbi Williams says the new accessible website is a great source of information and news about issues affecting people living with disability and their families.

"Our work includes research, consultation, training, policy, publication and evaluation; we produce a lot of good information," Mr Williams says.

"Our vision is that people living with disability are living ordinary valued lives characterised by rich personhood, active citizenship and personal growth," he says.

Julia Farr Board Chair Dr Lorna Hallahan says information is of vital importance for people to have control and choice in their lives.

"The website has been launched at a critical time for people living with disability and their families, with disability policy and practice undergoing significant change both locally and nationally," Dr Hallahan says.

"With discussions about a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) it is essential people living with disability and their families have access to the information they need to make informed choices," she says.

JFA Purple Orange CEO Robbi Williams is on two national expert groups announced by the Federal Government earlier this year to inform design of the NDIS and Board Chair Dr Lorna Hallahan is a member of the NDIS National Advisory Group.

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Build your capacity – New training opportunities

JFA Purple Orange has launched a range of new capacity building workshops tailored towards people living with disability and the families and friends in their lives. The workshops cover a range of disability topics including:

- **You and Your Life:** Thinking about who you are and the life you could live.
- **Choices and Voices:** Finding information and being heard.
- **Making a Plan:** Moving towards the life you want
- **Connected:** Navigating into the community.
- **Choosing your Personal Assistance:** What you might look for when choosing a person or agency to assist you.
- **My Home, My Castle:** Creating your sanctuary.
- **Safety vs Safeguards:** Choosing your perspective on life's risks.

All workshops costs \$15 per person including GST and are held at Our Space, 104 Greenhill Road, Unley, between September and November 2012. [Click here](#) for more information and to download a registration form.

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The NDIS: What's happening?

Disability has been in the news so much lately that one could be forgiven for feeling confused about what exactly is happening and where. A principal cause of confusion is that there are two separate policy reforms taking place, one in South Australia and one nationally, albeit with obvious connections. So let's recap.

At the beginning of this year the South Australian Government made its policy announcement that individualised funding would be made available to all people living with disability currently receiving six hours of public funded support each week. This was as part of a range of recommendations adopted from the Social Inclusion Board's *Strong Voices* report.

The offer of individualised funding is being rolled out in three phases; the first phase is underway with more than 2000 people receiving letters. However, at this stage it is not clear when people taking up the offer can begin to use an individual budget. Note that some people are already accessing individualised funding as part of a pilot that pre-dated *Strong Voices*.

In line with this policy commitment, the South Australia Government prioritised disability growth funding in the recent State Budget. This included a funding commitment in relation to being a launch site for the new National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The NDIS has its roots in an idea raised at the Australia 2020 summit held in 2008. This triggered work into the nature of investment in disability. Meanwhile, following Australia's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Australia consulted on a National Disability Strategy, and this produced the *Shut Out* report that spoke of the continued exclusion experienced by people living with disability. In developing the National Disability Strategy, and mindful of the initial work on investment in disability, the Australian Government tasked the Productivity Commission to look into the future of disability care and support. Among other things, its subsequent report recommended a new approach to disability funding, using a social insurance model. This was based on meeting the full costs of 'reasonable and necessary support' for every eligible person, with this much larger disability budget (from \$6 billion to over \$14 billion annually) being covered from general taxation revenue or a new levy. As a result, the Australian Government made a commitment to establishing the NDIS.

The attention has now shifted from 'if' to 'how'. At the national level, the first question was whether the political opposition would be supportive, especially given the timeframe for implementation would span at least two general elections. In essence, the federal opposition has signalled support, but if the government changes during the implementation of the scheme, we could see changes to timelines for the full introduction of the scheme, depending on competing priorities including imperatives relating to getting the country's budget into surplus.

The states and territories are generally supportive, but there is a complex conversation about who pays for what, and the extent to which any parts of the existing state and territory systems are somehow adopted into the national arrangements. This is all tied-up with ongoing focus on the financial relationship between the state, territory and federal governments.

Depending on how negotiations travel, this could mean the difference between a genuinely national scheme and a federated or hybrid scheme where there are local differences. The risk of the latter is that it may not deliver the fairness, portability, and overall behaviour change in the system people might need to get a fair go at a good life.

With disability now a key topic for the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), it has established a Select Council of Disability Ministers and Treasurers to work on the reform. Reporting to the Select Council is a Senior Officials Working Group comprising senior bureaucrats from the various Australian governments.

Minister Jenny Macklin also appointed a NDIS Advisory Group to provide input to the process. This group includes JFA Board Chair Lorna Hallahan. In turn, the minister appointed four national Expert Groups to provide technical input to the Advisory Group. JFA CEO Robbi Williams was appointed to two of these groups – *National Approach to Control and Choice* and *Eligibility and Assessment*, while Lorna Hallahan co-chairs the expert group on *Quality Safeguards and Standards*. A fourth group is looking at sector capacity issues. These groups have commenced their work which will run until the end of 2013 in the first instance.

The Federal Government set aside funds in its recent budget, to establish momentum towards the proposed NDIS. The federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) who are working with state and territory counterparts, identified 11 'building blocks' to help the design of the NDIS, and there was a flurry of commissioning activity to gather information, with research reports delivered on or around 30 June. It is not yet clear if when or how these reports will be made available to a wider audience. However some of these reports will find a way to the expert groups for review, all of which include perspectives from people living with disability and from service agencies.

As a result of the recent meeting of COAG, several NDIS launch sites have been announced, commencing from 1 July 2013. These sites are:

- South Australia, focusing on children up to the age of 14
- Tasmania, focusing on adolescents and young adults
- Australian Capital Territory
- Victoria's Barwon region (including Geelong)
- New South Wales, Hunter Valley.

This means there is much work to be completed between now and 1 July 2013 so the launch sites have something to launch. This will include the development of enabling legislation nationally, and also the design of NDIS processes and tools.

The Federal Government has established the NDIS Launch Transition Agency to implement the first stage, and has appointed CEO, David Bowen, who comes with a strong, relevant background in social insurance, most recently as CEO of the New South Wales Lifetime Care and Support Scheme.

With these policy commitments in place, together with a series of announcements about implementation, it would be easy to assume disability support is about to change for the better. However, the drama lies in the detail and there is much that could happen during the design and implementation phases of the NDIS that could affect its potency for Australians living with disability. Now is the time for the greatest vigilance to help ensure the values and sentiments are properly coded into the scheme so that people are genuinely supported to access a good life.

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2012 Disability and Ageing Expo

On Friday 17 August JFA Purple Orange participated in the 2012 Adelaide Disability and Ageing Expo held at the Adelaide showgrounds.

The expo provided a valuable opportunity to chat to people living with disability and their families about some of our key projects and initiatives including:

- the Julia Farr Youth Mentoring Program - an innovative program in which a group of young adults living with disability mentor children and adolescents also living with disability.
- our new capacity building workshops for people living with disability and the family and friends in their lives.
- work regarding individualised funding and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- the Julia Farr Housing Association.
- the JFA Noske Christmas Fund.

Contact us on admin@purpleorange.org.au if you would like more information about any of the above projects and initiatives.

The day was a success, despite the heavy rain, with many people visiting our stall. Thank you to all those who visited us – we look forward to seeing you again next year.

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Connect with us

Did you know JFA Purple Orange has a Facebook page? You can connect with us online at www.facebook.com/JFAPurpleOrange. Our page is a hot spot for news, events and information about issues relevant to people living with disability, their families, support networks and wider community.

You can also connect with the JF Youth Group at www.facebook.com/JFYouth.

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Service Transformation to Consumer Directed Care

JFA Purple Orange recently completed an independent evaluation of an initiative using an individualised funding model to transform respite services on behalf of service agencies Cara and ACH Group.

The three key goals of the initiative were to:

- engage and empower people to transform their funding to consumer directed care
- develop change management within Cara and ACH Group to support the ongoing implementation of consumer directed care
- share the learning experiences of Cara and ACH group with external agencies to encourage a move towards consumer directed care.

Though the sample size was small, the findings were very interesting, with early signals that the availability of individualised funding (even though the amounts involved were small) had a positive impact on people.

[Click here](#) to read the report in full.

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TellUs

The first report from the latest TellUs survey will be released shortly. TellUs is a survey used to gather information on a comprehensive range of lifestyle issues reported by people living with disability and their family members.

This series of Tellus reports is based on a survey of nearly 900 people, collected over a 13 month period. The timing of these research findings could be highly significant given the current deliberations about the NDIS.

For more information please contact Research Officer Alicia Fidock on (08) 8373 8333 or email aliciaf@purpleorange.org.au.

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Could you be the next mentor?

The JF Youth Group is looking for additional mentors for their Mentoring Program.

The Mentoring Program provides a unique opportunity for young adults living with a disability to become a mentor and offer their experiences and advice to school students living with disability.

Typically, a good mentor on this program is someone who can be a positive role model and can assist a mentee to develop their skills to successfully get through their school years.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor please contact Project Officer Georgina Edwards on (08) 8373 8333 or email georginae@purpleorange.org.au.

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Siblings and disability study

The Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) is looking for people to participate in a research study about siblings, disability and young adulthood.

They are talking to young people living with disability and their non-disabled siblings (where both are aged 16-25) about how disability affects or plays a role in their sibling relationship and affects what happens in their lives during young adulthood.

For more information, visit www.siblingsanddisability.com or contact Ariella Meltzer at the Social Policy Research Centre (University of New South Wales) a.meltzer@unsw.edu.au or call (02) 9385 3747.

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Visit our Perspective 2012 art exhibition

The theme for Perspective 2012 is Change. With disability reform firmly on the national and state agenda, we are hoping for big changes in how people are supported to live good lives.

Perspective 2012 is proudly associated with the SALA (South Australian Living Artists) festival. The exhibition is open from 9:00am – 5:00pm at JFA Purple Orange, 104 Greenhill Road, Unley.

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We value your feedback!

At JFA Purple Orange we are working hard to make our communications as accessible as possible. If you have trouble accessing any part of this e-newsletter please contact our Information and Communications Officer Susan Peterson at susanp@purpleorange.org.au, phone (08) 8373 8333 or call 1300 857 327 (cost of a local call from most phones). Additional information on the work of Purple Orange can be found on our website www.purpleorange.org.au, and in Robbi's [Purple Orange blog](#).

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