

Purple Orange

The e-newsletter of the Julia Farr Association

Friday 20 July 2012 Issue 9

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State Budget 2012-13

On Thursday 31 May, South Australian Treasurer Jack Snelling released the State Budget 2012-13 which included \$212.5 million in funding over five years for the disability sector. JFA Purple Orange welcomed the State Government's investment in the disability sector and believes the disability community will be encouraged by the increased investment despite current economic pressures. Click here for a copy of the Email Alert we issued at the time.

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Report on the National Disability Agreement

On Thursday 14 June the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council released their third report on the National Disability Agreement. The Agreement has three outcomes for governments to achieve the objective that people with disability and their carers have an enhanced quality of life and participate as valued members of the community. The outcomes are:

- People with disability achieve economic participation and social inclusion
- People with disability enjoy choice, wellbeing and the opportunity to live as independently as possible
- Families and carers are well supported.

The Key findings were:

• From 2003 to 2009, there was no significant change in the national labour force participation rate or the national employment to population ratio for people with disability—rates remain significantly lower than for people without disability.

- In 2009, people with profound and severe disability continued to face formidable barriers to social, community and economic participation, as they did in 2003.
- In 2009, around one in three people likely to be eligible for specialist disability services said they needed more formal assistance than they were receiving.
- The labour force participation rate for carers of people with disability significantly improved between 2003 and 2009. However they continue to have lower labour force participation rates than non-carers.

Overall the results are disappointing and reinforce the importance that there are major changes in the way disability support happens in Australia.

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Perspective 2012

Entries are now closed for JFA Purple Orange's annual Perspective 2012 art exhibition. The theme for this year is 'Change'. Thank you to all artists who submitted artwork. We had a huge response to this year's theme and choosing the final exhibitors is going to be a challenge. The exhibition launch will be held on Monday 30 July and runs until the end of January 2013

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Deep Quality Roundup

For the second time JFA Purple Orange held the Deep Quality workshop Design in May and June. Deep Quality is an intensive two-week leadership course led by Dr Michael Kendrick. Approximately 30 people attended the course from South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria, who are currently in leadership roles or are aspiring leaders

Dr Kendrick is a well-respected voice in the international disability community. He heads Kendrick Consulting which is a small specialised firm principally focussed on leadership and emerging developments in the fields of disability, mental health and ageing. The firm undertakes work with governments and non-government organisations as well as grass roots initiatives devoted to the needs, issues and rights of disadvantaged people.

The course was aimed at people involved in developing progressive policy, funding or services, and addressed the increasing attention on person-centred approaches for supporting people, as well as bridging the gap between what is hoped for, and what is realistic, for services to deliver.

During the course, participants explored the stages of thinking, judgement and decision-making involved in creating genuine and meaningful person-centred results in people's lives. This was achieved by examining the underpinning issues that must be addressed if options for people are to be sustained over time, and working directly with individuals living with disability, mental illness or who are ageing, and their families and personal networks, to prepare individualised plans.

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John Waters Roundup

JFA Purple Orange hosted a week-long series of workshops in June with the UK's John Waters. John is from In Control in the UK and has been at the forefront of In Control's work assisting UK local authorities to implement personalised budgets (individualised funding, self-directed funding etcetera), with a particular focus on developing Resource Allocation Systems (RASs) – the means by which a price is put on people's support needs.

Co-facilitated by Robbi Williams, John presented two workshops in Adelaide titled Putting a Price on Support Needs in Individualised Funding: The UK Experience and The Impact of Individualised Funding on Funding and Services: The UK Experience aimed at self-advocates, advocacy agencies and consumer-led organisations, and human service agencies respectively.

In addition to these workshops, John and Robbi discussed key issues regarding RASs with Minister Ian Hunter and Premier Jay Weatherill, which felt like good timing given the State Government's recent policy and budget commitments to the disability community. Overall, John and Robbi met with several hundred people across South Australia, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, including government stakeholders, non-government agencies and people living with disability and their families.

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We Value Your Feedback!

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