



Issue 8

# Purple Orange

The e-newsletter of the Julia Farr Association

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## Disability, sex and the media

In case you think we're crafting our headlines to sell newspapers, this heading relates to our recent response to media activity on the issue of disability and the sex industry.

People don't always find this an easy topic to climb into, but we were invited by the media to respond to recent commentary. We released our paper yesterday, and you can find a copy [here](#). Feedback has been immediate and positive, and here's a selection:

*"This is a good paper on a sensitive subject."*

*"Thanks so much for this; Simple, factual and unemotionally rendered. Well done."*

*"Thank you for this email; it is a potent and considered reflection of the issues."*

## Individualised Funding a reality for 2000 South Australians

Earlier this month the South Australian Government announced the first stage of a major rollout of Individualised Funding. More than 2000 people living with disability are now eligible to take up an Individual Budget for support, managed by themselves or someone they nominate.

JFA Purple Orange warmly welcomed this news—it was a significant day for the South Australian disability community, and for all South Australians who believe in a good life for everyone.

You can read the Government's announcement [here](#), and our response [here](#).

For those who don't yet know (where have you been?) Individualised Funding is an approach to disability funding that places the control with the person living with disability so that she or he can choose the supports that will work best for them.

JFA Purple Orange will do all it can to support the successful introduction of the new arrangements, particularly because there are several important practical matters to be addressed along the way.

For example, in the first phase of the rollout, eligible people will have an Individualised Budget at a similar dollar amount as they had under previous arrangements. However, for this system to be fully in place, there will need to be a *resource allocation system* that links a sensible assessment of a person's support needs with a corresponding amount of dollars.

There is good evidence elsewhere on how this can be designed and introduced in a way that serves well the person living with disability *and* the government funder.

**We will be running an event on Resource Allocation Systems in both Adelaide and Sydney in June, involving UK's John Waters. Contact us if you would like further information.**

Secondly, it is important that people have the option to access a *facilitator* to assist them build a personal vision, convert this to a plan, and run that plan. This is important otherwise, as has been evidenced elsewhere, people may simply buy what they had before without knowing about, or exploring, other possibilities.

And thirdly, an effective system must also find ways to *grow community capacity to be welcoming and inclusive*, so that people living with disability don't have lifestyles solely defined by paid support, but instead by active membership of the wider community.

To help people imagine what might be possible when a person is in charge of their own life, JFA Purple Orange has developed the [100 Leaders Project](#)—a website publishing the stories of people living with disability who have taken control, who have a vision of what is possible, and who are taking personal action towards a good life.

We encourage you to explore the site; be inspired, or join the Project by contributing your own story. You can also register to receive newsletters and updates from [In Control Australia](#) by emailing [admin@incontrol.org.au](mailto:admin@incontrol.org.au).

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## Deep Quality team welcomes Wisconsin's Dennis Harkins

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JFA Purple Orange is pleased to announce that we have secured the involvement of Dennis Harkins as a co-facilitator for this year's [Deep Quality](#) event. Working alongside Michael Kendrick, Dennis will add a further international perspective.

Dennis is a Madison-based international consultant on self-directed supports and self-determination, and one of the founders of [In Control Wisconsin](#). He has an extensive track record in supporting people living with disability into mainstream open employment.

Dennis's primary focus is on helping to make sure that a person's strengths, and a family's strengths, are properly integrated into communities and service systems. He is currently leading In Control Wisconsin's initiative to enable all adults who receive long-term support to have a place that looks like, feels like, and is their own home.

Held over two weeks (Week One 14-18 May, and Week Two 4-8 June 2012), the Deep Quality event provides a unique, in-depth opportunity for people currently in leadership roles (and people with leadership potential) to develop their capacity as change agents, bridging the gap between what is hoped for and what is possible for services to deliver.

The 2011 Deep Quality course was sold out, and bookings are very strong for this year's event. Please [click here](#) for more information and registration details, or contact us today to secure your place at Deep Quality 2012.

## Calling all artists: Perspective 2012 explores Change

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As our annual art exhibition has grown each year and taken on a personality of its own, we have decided to give the event its own name: *Perspective*.

The exhibition will continue to explore themes relevant to the disability community and this year, for the first time, *Perspective* will proudly be associated with [SALA](#) – the South Australia Living Artists festival.

With disability reform firmly on the national and state agendas, we are hoping for big changes in how people are supported to live good lives. The theme for *Perspective 2012* is **Change**; we want to explore how people interpret and experience change when things are different in their lives and their communities.

You can get more information and submission forms [here](#). Artworks are due to JFA Purple Orange by 29 June 2012, for an exhibition launch on 30 July 2012. While many established artists submit work to the exhibition, it does not matter if you have done little or no artwork previously; this exhibition might be your opportunity to discover a new strength.

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## Social Housing: Being a Social Landlord in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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Last week, JFA Purple Orange hosted a symposium discussing “What does it mean to be a Good Social Landlord for tenants living with disability?”

The symposium shared key findings from research conducted by the University of Adelaide's Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning (CHURP), and funded by JFA Purple Orange's sister entity the [Julia Farr M S McLeod Benevolent Fund](#).

There was considerable interest in this symposium with over 40 people attending. Participants of the symposium were keen to explore the findings of the researchers and to reflect on policy and practice considerations.

The report identifies key characteristics of a socially-minded landlord and provides an insight into the housing preferences for people living with a disability. The report also maps the context in which social landlords currently operate and highlights the challenges and tensions that socially minded landlords contend with as they aspire to meet the needs of tenants living with disability.

A key issue for social landlords raised in the report is the extent to which the provision of housing and the role of landlord are separated from the role of personal support provider. JFA Purple Orange also identified several other ethical challenges that need to be carefully navigated.

Participants at the symposium were keen to explore the good and better practice implications for their work and discussed the opportunity and challenge of aligning or adjoining these to existing codes of practice or quality standards.

Michael Dummin, General Manager of the Lutheran Community Housing Support Unit, attended the symposium and found the dialogue informative.

“The session surrounding the code of practice not only contributed to the research, but provided an opportunity for me to understand the wider issues in the Social Housing sector,” Michael said.

Tricia O'Donovan from Housing SA recognised the importance of the research for progressive policy.

“Research projects such as this one are important, as they add to the evidence base for policy development,” Tricia said.

“This research was also enhanced by the involvement of tenants—people living with disability—so it had a very authentic ring to it.”

If you would like to review the report it can be accessed [here](#).

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## Supported Decision Making trial is changing lives

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South Australia's [Office of the Public Advocate](#) recently released their 2011 [Annual Report](#), which included a summary of progress of the Supported Decision Making initiative, in which JFA Purple Orange has a collaborative role.

Supported Decision Making is a model which assists people living with disability into lives of personal authority and active community participation.

So far, over twenty people have participated in the initiative, signing agreements with supporters who then assist them to make decisions in ways that reduce the need for a substitute decision-maker (a formal guardian).

Project Coordinator Cher Nicholson says that the results of this trial initiative have been life-changing for many participants.

“One of the big findings is that once people gain confidence making smaller decisions, their confidence quickly snowballs, and they want to go for broke and to make all their own decisions, and this is very empowering,” Cher says.

“Where supporters are family members, we have also seen a growth in relationships; where supporters feel less pressure to be protective, and become passionate advocates of the ‘can do’ attitude of the participant.”

Some places are still available on the program, which is due to finish its trial phase in November 2012. People interested can contact Cher Nicholson on (08) 8342 8214.

The Supported Decision Making trial has been part-funded by the [Julia Farr M S McLeod Benevolent Fund](#), JFA Purple Orange's sister entity. The fund provides grant funding for

innovative initiatives that are closely aligned with our core values of Personhood and Citizenhood.

If you would like more information on the Fund, please [email us](#) or call (08) 8373 8333.

## Everyone's talking about the NDIS

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It is encouraging to see that talk about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is bringing many Australians together.

In February, a coalition of advocacy groups and consumer-governed organisations from around the nation met in Adelaide at the JFA conference venue *Our Space* to explore a collaborative approach to the key issues relating to the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

*Our Space* also hosted a meeting of the national [NDIS Advisory Group](#), who also took the opportunity to meet with the SA Government's [NDIS SA Taskforce](#), whose membership includes JFA Purple Orange CEO Robbi Williams.

Established at the start of 2012, this taskforce is providing advice to the South Australian government on several key aspects of disability reform in SA, especially in the light of the proposed NDIS.

If you have any ideas or issues to share about the NDIS in South Australia, do please get in touch with us, and we will make sure those views are heard by the NDIS SA Taskforce.

*If you would like to enquire about holding your event in Our Space - our accessible, fully serviced conference facility - please contact us at [admin@purpleorange.org.au](mailto:admin@purpleorange.org.au) or call us on (08) 8373 8333 or 1300 857 327.*

## We Value Your Feedback!

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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 Communication Officer Brigitte Elliott at [brigittee@purpleorange.org.au](mailto:brigittee@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](http://www.purpleorange.org.au), and in Robbi's [Purple Orange blog](#).

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