



Issue 4

Purple Orange

The e-newsletter of the Julia Farr Association

Published 24 June 2011

Dates for your diary	In this issue
Purple Orange Art Exhibition <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submissions close - 30 June 2011• Launch of Exhibition - 25 July 2011• Exhibition runs - 25 July–March 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations to Government Education Inquiries• Success of Deep Quality Event in SA• Art Exhibition Submissions Closing Soon• Artists Invited to Participate in Research• This Month's Important Alerts

Purple Orange's Key Recommendations to Government Education Inquiries

Part of the work of Purple Orange involves responding to both State and Federal Government inquiries about issues that impact on the lives of people living with disability. We consult with the disability community through mechanism such as our *tellus* survey, *Loop* conferences and topic specific surveys to identify the issues people experience which are then amplified in our submissions.

Recently, Purple Orange has presented three submissions to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) that have focused on education. Our key recommendations are summarised below.

Review of Disability Standards for Education 2005

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Inquiry

Purple Orange recommends that the Department:

- Use the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as the context for the Disability Standards for Education.
- Consider and respond to the concerns, views and suggestions highlighted by students living with disability, families, and other key stakeholders resulting from consultations including the need to:
 - Raise awareness about students living with an Autism Spectrum disorder and the additional supports they may require
 - Raise awareness about the rights of students living with disability
 - Assess the support needs of students living with disability on an individual basis
- Use terminology that is easy to read and understand.
- Provide more information about what constitutes reasonable adjustment.
- Introduce an independent body (with membership including people living with disability) to:
 - Undertake audits of education providers to assess compliance with the Disability Standards for Education
 - Oversee decisions made about reasonable adjustment and unjustifiable hardship
- Provide training to students living with disability, families, education providers and other key stakeholders to raise awareness about the Disability Standards for Education.
- Convert current suggested measures of compliance to more definitive and accountable key performance indicators to ensure compliance of education providers.

Review of Higher Education Base Funding

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Inquiry

Purple Orange recommends that the Department:

- Increase the overall level of higher education funding available for students living with disability.
- Implement an Individualised (Self-directed) Funding methodology to assist students living with disability to access the highly personalised supports that might prove critical to a successful higher education.
- Ensure that students living with disability are centrally and actively involved in their transition planning, and in the context of ordinary valued life goals.
- Take measures to ensure that the transition planning process for students living with disability reflects best practice and is sufficiently resourced to give the student a good introduction into higher education.

Review of School Funding

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Inquiry

Purple Orange recommends:

- Increasing the overall level of funding available for students living with disability.
- Implementation of Individualised (Self-directed) Funding.
- That funding arrangements be adjusted to ensure the removal of system disincentives so that students living with disability have an authentic choice of schools.
- That there be regular reviews of funding for schools (every 2 to 3 years), especially in relation to the application and impact of monies intended to assist specific students living with disability to access a successful education.
- That parents and recipient students are properly included as collaborators in the decisions that school makes about how best to spend those monies allocated to assist specific students living with disability to access a successful education.
- That increased funding be allocated to individual students living with disability for particular learning supports, so that they can access a successful education in their local mainstream classroom/school.
- That additional funding for students living with disability should be equitable irrespective of the sector in which they are enrolled.
- That funding is increased for students living with disability to enable them to access necessary supports to achieve equitable education outcomes.
- That specific measures be taken to heighten the accountability of schools and teachers for the educational outcomes of students living with disability.
- That effective measures be developed for regularly assessing school performance in the educational progress of students living with disability.
- That specific measures be taken to enhance collaboration between teachers, families and the wider community, in support of a successful mainstream education for students living with disability.
- That specific measures be taken to ensure that teachers have reasonable time to work collaboratively with other parties in support of a successful mainstream education for students living with disability.

If you would like more information about our recommendations or would like to tell us about your experiences please contact Alicia Fidock via aliciaf@juliafarr.org.au or phone (08) 8373 8333 or freecall 1300 857 327.

[Go to top](#)

Deep Quality Event a Huge Success

Purple Orange was proud to recently host *Deep Quality: An in-depth leadership course in Optimal Individualised Service Design* by Dr Michael Kendrick, a well-respected voice in the international disability community.

Over two weeks, the course provided participants from all parts of Australia with the opportunity to go through the actual stages of thinking, judgement and decision-making involved in creating genuine and meaningful person-centred results. This involved working directly with individuals living with disability.



Purple Orange asked participants to share their views on the aspects of Deep Quality they considered most valuable, and their responses included:

- I feel confident to take on board the content and include into my work practices and my life.
- Being able to actively work with an individual, find information about various aspects of life and develop recommendations service providers can utilise to enhance the quality of life for the individual.
- The pre-course readings were very valuable and I'll be sharing them with my staff.
- The opportunity to "be real" about designing an optimal vision and design, and the feedback was sharp and rich.
- A wealth of information was shared and I really valued the sharing of real examples. This is a great approach to thinking of optimal vision – very person-led and focussed.
- Spending time with the focus individual and their family and getting to know the needs in their life.
- This is a great way to look at a person holistically. I valued working together in a team and working with families, and hearing theory that supports the practice. I am now able to take this back to my workplace and implement immediately.
- Notions of quality (people) as the agent for change, the emphasis on natural supports and building around the person from scratch.
- Getting to know the focus individuals and experiencing the theory in a practical way - it has been just like peeling the layers off.
- The concept of the emerging person – anything is possible for the next chapter of each individual's life!
- The ideas that I can take away from this course to implement positive change in the way we support people - there are so many I can't wait to get to work to begin this process!

Purple Orange Research Officer Alicia Fidock attended the course and said: "I personally found the course to be very rewarding, albeit exhausting. Spending time getting to know the focus person was invaluable. Learning about her interests, passions and the people in her life helped to reinforce the value and importance of focusing on each person's unique strengths and qualities when supporting individuals to think about what their optimal vision for 'a good life' might be. Highly recommended!"

Based on the success and demand for the Deep Quality event, Purple Orange is considering hosting it again in 2012. If you would like to register your interest in future workshops or training hosted by Purple Orange please contact us at admin@juliafarr.org.au or phone (08) 8373 8333 or freecall 1300 857 327.

[Go to top](#)

Art Exhibition Closing Date for Submissions Extended to 30 June

Due to requests from artists we have extended the closing date for art work to be received until 30 June 2011. The launch of the exhibition will now be on Monday 25 July 2011.

Each year we hold an art exhibition showcasing the works of artists living with disability and artists whose submitted work explores themes relevant to the disability community – the theme of this year's exhibition is *Personal Leadership*.

If you would like to be involved in the exhibition or support the launch in some way, please contact Brigitte Elliott at Purple Orange brigittee@juliafarr.org.au or phone (08) 8373 8333 or freecall 1300 857 327. More information and submission forms can be found on our website at www.juliafarr.org.au.

Artists Identifying with Disability Invited to Participate in Research

Dr Caroline Ellison is a senior lecturer in the Disability and Community Inclusion Unit at Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia.

Caroline is conducting research into the processes and opportunities that support people living with disability to participate in the arts as a professional career, serious leisure pursuit, or as an alternative to traditionally available supported employment or day options.

The research aims to gain a perspective directly from artists living with disability or those who provide supports so as to increase our understanding about how to assist people to choose the arts as a career, serious leisure pursuit or day option and to provide evidence of the benefits and outcomes of such a choice.

Any artist or support person who identifies with living with disability, of any age, and working with any arts medium (both visual and performance) are invited to participate by contacting Caroline at caroline.ellison@flinders.edu.au.

Email Alerts Revisited

Information was sent this month on the following topics;

- What the Strathmont Evaluation report could mean for disability policy
- Julia Farr Association welcomes expansion of self-managed funding pilot
- Summary analysis of State Budget 2011
- Disability court case: Harming a loved one is never the answer

If you would like another copy of these alerts, please contact admin@juliafarr.org.au or call (08) 8373 8333 or freecall 1300 857 327.

We Value Your Feedback!

At 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 bridgettee@juliafarr.org.au or phone (08) 8373 8333 or freecall 1300 857 327.

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

Unsubscribe: You are receiving this e-newsletter as a member of the [Julia Farr Group website](#). If you would prefer not to receive this publication please email admin@juliafarr.org.au.

[Go to top](#)