Submission made by Julia Farr Association

South Australia's Strategic Plan 2010 Community Consultation

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1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of our submission is to highlight ways in which South Australia's Strategic Plan can further promote the active citizenhood (a term coined by the Julia Farr Association to describe people's active participation in and contribution to community life) of South Australians living with disability.

2.0 SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Julia Farr Association submits the following recommendation for South Australia's Strategic Plan:

R1. *Use the 'Model of Citizenhood Support' as contextual framework for updating South Australia's Strategic Plan,*

The Julia Farr Association submits the following *target* recommendations for South Australia's Strategic Plan:

T1. *Reduce the gap between disabled and non-disabled people unemployment rates each year;*

T2. *Reduce the gap between disabled and non-disabled home ownership rates each year;*

T3. *Increase the number of people living with disability who have authentic control over their formal support arrangements each year;*

T4. *Increase the ease of access people living with disability have to primary and secondary healthcare support each year;*

T5. *Increase the ease of access people living with disability have to mainstream sport and recreation each year;*

T6. *Reduce 'vulnerability crime' rates each year;*

T7. *Increase access by people living with disability to water/energy usage and conservation initiatives to offset costs each year;*

T8. *Establish an entitlement-based model of Individualised (Self-Directed) Funding support as a standard option for all vulnerable people who need it by 2012;*

T9. *Increase the percentage of South Australians who are welcoming of people living with disability within the community;*

T10. *Increase the number of people living with disability participating in community leadership and in community leadership development programs each year;*

T11. *Increase the number of people living with disability who have natural supports and safeguards in their lives each year;*

T12. *Increase the successful access people living with disability have to mainstream pre-school, primary, secondary and post-secondary opportunities each year;*

T13. *(Revised) T6.10 - HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: Double the number of people with disabilities appropriately housed and supported in flexible and responsive community based accommodation by 2014;*

T14. *Increase the number of accessible existing and new public/commercial buildings compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 each year;*

T15. *Increase the number of accessible public passenger transport and insfrastructure compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 each year;*

T16. *Increase the number of people living with disability who successfully access individualised meaningful experiences within their community each year.*

3.0 INTRODUCTION

The Julia Farr Association makes this submission to the South Australian Government and the Community Engagement Board's review of South Australia's Strategic Plan.

The Julia Farr Association and its predecessor organisations have been involved with the disability community for over 130 years. The Julia Farr Association is an independent, non-government entity based in South Australia that fosters innovation, shares useful information, and promotes policy and practice that support people living with disability to access the good things in life. We are not a conventional service provider – we deliver research, evaluation and information services that are anchored upon the stories shared by people living with disability, family members and other supporters. As such, we feel we are in a good position to offer comment and analysis without vested interest.

The Julia Farr Association believes that the present review of South Australia's Strategic Plan, especially regarding its impact on South Australians living with disability, is timely in the current environment. There is national emphasis on responding to the social and economic barriers people living with disability and other vulnerable citizens experience with the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Disability Care and Support and the Australian Social Inclusion Board's research into breaking cycles of disadvantage. There is also commitment "to address the barriers that are faced by Australians with disability and promote social inclusion"[1] through the National Disability Strategy. Further, there is international acknowledgement of the social disadvantage that people living with disability experience, and emphasis through the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified by the Australian Government in July 2008, that measures are put in place to ensure that people living with disability can fully participate and be included within their society[2].

The present review of South Australia's Strategic Plan provides the opportunity to assess ways in which the services and experiences provided within our community can further

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[1] Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs 2009, 'National disability strategy', p. 1, <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/govtint/Pages/nds.aspx#3>.

[2] United Nations n.d., *Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and optional protocol*, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>.

reflect the rights and needs of people living with disability and explore ways to ensure people living with disability are actively engaged within their community[3].

4.0 CONTEXT FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S STRATEGIC PLAN

We support the vision of South Australia's Strategic Plan which highlights a commitment to achieve a better future for all South Australians by "offering its citizens every opportunity to live well and succeed"[4].

Although South Australia's Strategic Plan (herein after referred to as the 'SASP') states there is "an increased focus on disability in the plan"[5], the plan has limited focus on supporting people living with disability to live an ordinary, valued life. Out of the 98 targets set in the 2007 SASP, only three have a specific focus on people living with disability.

- T6.10 – *Housing for people with disabilities*: double the number of people with disabilities appropriately housed and supported in community based accommodation by 2014.
- T6.11 – *Participation by people with disabilities*: increase by 400 the number of people with disability in day options programs by 2014.
- T6.22 – *People with disabilities*: double the number of people with disabilities employed [in the public sector] by 2014.

Therefore, the SASP needs to be further strengthened through having proper regard for the inherent status of people living with disability, and promoting and upholding this citizenhood[6] in the design and commissioning of supports within the community.

We refer the Community Engagement Board to the Julia Farr Association 2010 publication '*Model of Citizenhood Support: Discussion Paper*'[7] which provides a good contextual framework for thinking about the type of supports South Australians who are vulnerable might need to move into an ordinary valued life. Note that the term 'vulnerable South Australians' includes not only people living with disability but also older South Australians, people living with ongoing mental health issues or other chronic health issues, people who are homeless, young people at risk, and other people whose circumstances result in their becoming marginalised and excluded from community life and contribution.

The framework includes:
1. Advancing and upholding of personhood;
2. Reframing of relationships between people and formal agencies;
3. Access to supported information;
4. Access to material resources;

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[3] *"All should be included in, and valued by, our community. The importance of this principle is underlined by focus on disability in the new plan"*, *South Australia's strategic plan 2007,* Government of South Australia, Adelaide, p. 36, <http://www.saplan.net.au/system/pdf/South_Australia_Strategic_Plan_2007.pdf>.

[4] Ibid, p. 6.

[5] Ibid, p.36.

[6] *"Citizenhood refers to an active lifestyle that has the prospect of fulfillment for the person concerned. Such a lifestyle is one where, as part of a personally defined set of lifestyle choices, the person is in and part of their local community, contributing and growing through involvement in meaningful valued activities, and participating in a network of relationships characterised by acceptance, belonging and love" (Williams 2010, Model of citizenhood support: Discussion paper, p. 3).*

[7] Williams, R 2010, *Model of citizenhood support: Discussion paper*, Julia Farr Association, Unley, South Australia.

5. Development of fellowship and connection.

RECOMMENDATION:
Use the 'Model of Citizenhood Support' as contextual framework for updating South Australia's Strategic Plan

The Julia Farr Association would be very happy to talk with you in more detail about the elements of the *Model of Citizenhood Support*, and how it can encourage the SASP to further establish "intentional set of arrangements that help ensure that people with greater degrees of vulnerability are supported to achieve the activities and status of citizenhood and in keeping with each person's lifestyle choices"[8].

5.0 INCREASING DEMAND FOR PROVISION OF SERVICES AND SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY

In 2003, over 3.9 million Australians were living with disability (20% of the population), of which around 1.2 million were living with a severe or profound limitation[9].

In 2003, over 362,000 people were living with disability in South Australia (nearly 24% of South Australia's population), of which over 105,000 people were living with a severe or profound limitation[10].

It is expected that (assuming normal patterns of longevity) the number of people living with severe or profound disability in Australia will increase significantly to over 2.29 million by 2030 (an increase of 85%)[11]. Although this is a projection for all Australia, is likely that such an increase will be mirrored in South Australia.

These statistics highlight the extent of the current and growing need for responsive and accessible services within the community that support South Australians living with disability to live an ordinary, valued life.

6.0 TARGETS FOR THE SASP

The Julia Farr Association believes that the SASP needs to be particularly strengthened to ensure the fundamental rights and needs of people living with disability are met and respond to the increasing demand for personalised supports and services within the community.

6.1 OBJECTIVE 1 - GROWING PROSPERITY

The Julia Farr Association would like to see well-crafted, measurable initiatives that:

- Increase participation in regular paid workforce by people living with disability;
- Increase home ownership by people living with disability on a lower income.

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[8] Williams, R 2010, *Model of citizenhood support: Discussion paper*, Julia Farr Association, Unley, South Australia, p. 3.

[9] AIHW 2009, *Australia's welfare 2009,* Cat. No. AUS 117, AIHW, Canberra.

[10] ABS 2004, 'ALL PERSONS, Disability and long-term health condition status by age – South Australia – 2003', in *Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings - State Tables for South Australia,* cat. No. 4430.0 Disability, Ageing and Carers, <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4430.02003?OpenDocument>.

[11] AIHW 2009, *Australia's welfare 2009,* Cat. No. AUS 117, AIHW, Canberra - *Table A4.2: Trends and projections in the number of people with disability, 1981–2030 ('000s)*

6.1.1 Increase participation in regular paid workforce by people living with disability

TARGET 1: Reduce the gap between disabled and non-disabled people unemployment rates each year

The current SASP highlights the importance of people having job opportunities and how such opportunities "are vital if people are to lead fulfilling, independent lives"[12]. Employment provides people with greater fiscal wealth and "can also help connect people with society by establishing friendships and support networks"[13].

The UNCRPD also reinforces the importance of people living with disability being employed, stating that people have a right "to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities"[14].

However, people living with disability are less likely than their non-disabled peers to be employed. In 2003, 53.2 percent of people living with disability aged between 15 and 64 years were working in comparison to 80.6 percent of people not living with disability[13]. Findings from the Julia Farr Association's 2010 **tell us** survey[15] also highlight the extent people living with disability are not in paid employment with over 76 percent of people stating they did not have a paid job.

The SASP target T1.26 – _Aboriginal unemployment_, specifically focuses on reducing "the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal unemployment rates each year"[16] in acknowledgement of the fact that the Aboriginal unemployment rate is "running at more than three times the rate of our non-Aboriginal population"[16]. People living with disability also experience such disparities in gaining employment. Therefore, the Julia Farr Association believes there also needs to be a specific target on reducing the unemployment rate of people living with disability to enable people to further contribute to the prosperity of this state. Disability need not be a barrier to people's active contribution to the South Australian economy, and 'supported employment' need not be seen as the main way that people living with disability are supported into paid work (especially given the flaws inherent in that model).

Reducing the unemployment rate of people living with disability would require the establishment of benchmarks and identification of opportunities to promote and

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[12] _South Australia's strategic plan 2007,_ Government of South Australia, Adelaide, viewed 18 June 2010, p. 14, <http://www.saplan.net.au/system/pdf/South_Australia_Strategic_Plan_2007.pdf>.

[13] Australian Government 2009, _National mental health and disability employment strategy_, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, p. 6.

[14] United Nations n.d., _Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and optional protocol_, p. 19, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>

[15] _Julia Farr Association's 2010_ **tellus** _survey (which is still open) has received feedback from over 530 participants within the disability community._

[16] _South Australia's strategic plan 2007,_ Government of South Australia, Adelaide, viewed 18 June 2010, p. 17, <http://www.saplan.net.au/system/pdf/South_Australia_Strategic_Plan_2007.pdf>.

increase employment opportunities for people living with disability within the public and private sector in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

6.1.1.1 Suggested approaches

Suggested approaches to achieving this target include:

- Implementation of the National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government;
- Applying the Individualised (Self-Directed) Funding methodology to support people to gain employment. This would provide people living with disability with greater choice, control, flexibility and opportunities to gain employment through keeping things simple and accessible for the person, and ensuring people have authentic control over how their personalised budget is directed.

6.1.2 Increase home ownership by people living with disability on a lower income
TARGET 2: Reduce the gap between disabled and non-disabled home ownership rates each year

According to Tually and Beer (2010, p. 42), "[h]ome purchase is seen to be too expensive and beyond the reach of many households affected by disability" due to people not having the financial capacity to service a mortgage or save up for a deposit[17]. Research by Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute in 2009 highlighted that people living with disability are less likely to be home owners with only 32 percent of people paying a mortgage in comparison to 45 percent of households where no one lives with disability[18].

The SASP target T6.7 – _Affordable housing_ has a general focus on increasing affordable home purchases. However, the Julia Farr Association believes there needs to be a specific focus on measurable initiatives that address the current disparity in home ownership people living with disability experience, including (as has happened in other jurisdictions) finding ways to achieve sustainable home ownership even when the person living with disability is on a low income.

6.1.2.1 Suggested approaches

Suggested approaches to achieving this target include:

- Shared Equity Models;
- Expansion of current affordable housing purchase initiatives, utilising known best practice in Australia and overseas.

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[17] Tually, S & Beer, A 2010, _Housing assistance, social inclusion and people with disabilities_, AHURI Position Paper No. 131, AHURI, Melbourne, Australia, <http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/40585_pp>, p. 42.

[18] AHURI 2009, _The housing careers of people with disabilities and their carers, Issue 107, May 2009, AHURI, Melbourne, <http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/rap_issue_107>._

6.2 OBJECTIVE 2 - IMPROVED WELLBEING

The Julia Farr Association would like to see well-crafted, measurable initiatives that:

- Increase satisfaction by people living with disability of their formal support arrangements;
- Achieve better access to primary and secondary healthcare support by people living with disability;
- Achieve better access to mainstream sport and recreation by people living with disability;
- Reduce 'vulnerability crime'.

6.2.1 *Increase satisfaction by people living with disability of their formal support arrangements*
TARGET 3: Increase the number of people living with disability who have authentic control over their formal support arrangements each year

The importance of people living with disability receiving supports that are responsive to their needs is reinforced in the UNCRPD[2].   However, it is the experience of many people living with disability that they do not receive the support they require due to factors such as not having genuine choice and control[19].

Findings from the Julia Farr Association's 2010 **tell us** survey highlight the extent that people living with disability do not have control over the supports they receive with 52 percent of people not choosing who provided them with support, and over 38 percent stating they did not have the opportunity before receiving assistance to say what they wanted.

6.2.1.1 Suggested approaches

People living with disability need to be provided with individualised, responsive and flexible options that ensure they play a central role in identifying and determining the supports they need. Suggested approaches include:

- Establishing 'front foot' person-centred planning arrangements which focus on supporting the strengths and capacities of the person, and place her/him at the centre of making decisions about the supports and services she/he needs.
- Introducing the 'Co-design' approach which helps ensure service systems are built in ways that are more meaningful and responsive to the needs of people living with disability.

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[19] Fidock, A & Williams, R 2009, *Tell us survey report 2: Having choice and control,* Julia Farr Association, Unley, South Australia.

6.2.2 *Achieve better access to primary and secondary healthcare support by people living with disability*

TARGET 4: Increase the ease of access people living with disability have to primary and secondary healthcare support each year

The UNCRPD states "that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability"[20]. However, people living with disability can experience a range of barriers accessing responsive healthcare support when required including:

- Not being able to physically access healthcare facilities and amenities;
- Lack of knowledge and awareness of health professionals about living with disability;
- Ineffective communication between health professionals and people living with disability[21];
- Difficulty accessing mental health services and other specialist health services because of the person's 'disability' label.

6.2.2.1 *Suggested approaches*

People living with disability need to be provided with community healthcare supports that are responsive to their needs. Suggested approaches include:

- Ensuring information about health services is readily available in a wide range of alternative formats to support people living with disability to understand the nature of health supports available;
- Ensuring all health services are authentically accessible to people living with disability, including the provision of additional supports when using inpatient and outpatient services;
- Introducing ongoing disability awareness training and education to people training to work in, or currently providing, healthcare services to increase knowledge and understanding about:
  - People's experiences living with disability
  - The rights of people living with disability and relevant legislative obligations
  - The importance of providing accessible services (physical and information).

People living with disability also need to be actively involved in the design and delivery of such training.

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[20] United Nations n.d., *Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and optional protocol*, p. 18, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>.

[21] Fidock, A & Williams, R 2010, *The experiences of people living with disability accessing primary healthcare – challenges and considerations,* Julia Farr Association, Unley, South Australia.

6.2.3 Achieve better access to mainstream sport and recreation by people living with disability

TARGET 5: Increase the ease of access people living with disability have to mainstream sport and recreation each year

Findings from the Julia Farr Association's 2010 **tell us** survey highlight that people are not currently having equal opportunity to participate in mainstream sport and recreation experiences within their community with 80 percent of survey respondents not being involved with a local recreation or sports club. When asked if respondents wanted to be involved with recreation and sport clubs within their community, 40 percent stated they did.

Barriers to participation in sport and recreation activities can result from people being physically unable to access the sporting or recreation facilities or a lack of awareness within the community about how people living with disability can be supported to actively participate.

The SASP target T2.3 – *Sport and recreation*, has a general focus on increasing the participation of South Australians in sport and physical activity. However, we believe that because of the current reduced opportunities people living with disability have to participate in mainstream sport and recreation experiences, more is required to enable "persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities"[22] as reinforced in the UNCRPD.

6.2.3.1 Suggested approaches

A suggested approach to achieving this target is:

- Introducing ongoing disability awareness training and education to people coordinating and involved in mainstream sport and recreation to increase knowledge and understanding about:
  - People's experiences living with disability
  - The benefits of diversity in club membership and facility use
  - The rights of people living with disability and relevant legislative obligations
  - The importance of providing accessible services (physical and information)
  - How to encourage the active involvement of people living with disability in sporting and recreation activities.

People living with disability also need to be actively involved in the design and delivery of such awareness training.

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[22] United Nations n.d., *Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and optional protocol*, p. 23, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>.

6.2.4 Reduce 'vulnerability crime'

TARGET 6: Reduce 'vulnerability crime' rates each year

The UNCRPD states that every person living with disability has a right to:

- To be safe from torture and inhuman, cruel and degrading treatment or punishment (Article 15);
- To be safe from exploitation, violence and abuse (Article 16);
- To have her/his physical and mental integrity protected and respected on an equal basis with others (Article 17)[2].

However, people living with disability are increasingly vulnerable to abuse or neglect when their personal authority has been compromised, when they are placed in passive recipient roles due to being dependent on others to provide the supports they need, and/or when they have a lifestyle that is characterised by separateness and exclusion from mainstream community life.

This vulnerability can be further heightened by the fact that people living with disability may not speak up about abusive situations due to the fear of being punished in some way[23].

People living with disability and other vulnerable members of our community need to be provided with supports that reduce their susceptibility to abuse and neglect.

6.2.4.1 Suggested approaches

Suggested approaches to achieving this target, include, but aren't necessarily limited to, the following:

- Establishing within government policy and purchasing of disability supports a strong intentional bias for support arrangements that ensure people are supported in highly personalised, highly visible ways within mainstream community settings;

- Introducing an independent Community Visitors Scheme which would provide an essential further avenue for people living with disability to raise their concerns and have these actioned through providing them with "access to an independent person to promote their well-being and circumstances"[24]. Community Visitors are considered objective because they are independent of government departments and service providers[24].

  The *Victorian Disability Act 2006* has established Community Visitors to "inquire into – ...
  (a) the adequacy of opportunities for inclusion and participation by residents in the community; ...
  (e) any case of suspected abuse or neglect of a resident;

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[23] Julia Farr Association 2008, *Why is it so hard to speak up and be heard? Views from the Loop Conference 2007*, Julia Farr Association, Unley, South Australia.
[24] Official Community Visitors 2004, *A voice for people in care. Answering your questions about the official community visitors scheme*, NSW Ombudsman, Sydney, p. 5.

(f)   the use of restrictive interventions and compulsory treatment; ...

(h)   any complaint made to a community visitor by a resident"[25].

6.3   OBJECTIVE 3 - ATTAINING SUSTAINABILITY

The Julia Farr Association would like to see well-crafted, measurable initiatives that:

- Increase access by people living with disability to water/energy usage and conservation initiatives, and associated cost savings.

6.3.1 Increase access by people living with disability to water/energy usage and conservation initiatives, and associated cost savings
TARGET 7: Increase access by people living with disability to water/energy usage and conservation initiatives to offset costs each year

Many people living with disability experience increased economic hardship due to reduced income[26] and having to respond to extra costs associated with living with disability[27].

Therefore, to ensure people have "an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families"[28] as highlighted in the UNCRPD, there needs to be an increased focus on supplementing the cost of people's usage and conservation of water and energy.

6.3.1.1 Suggested approaches

A suggested approach to achieving this target is:

- Increasing awareness and uptake of conservation and usage concessions to offset costs through ensuring information is readily available and accessible in alternative formats;

- Ensuring the availability of sufficient subsidy and rebate arrangements to maximise the possibility that people living with disability consume energy/water resources in ways that
    1)   support environmental sustainability, and
    2)   are affordable to people on lower incomes and whose necessary consumption may be higher than average.

6.4   OBJECTIVE 4 - FOSTERING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

The Julia Farr Association would like to see well-crafted, measurable initiatives that:

- Establish Individualised (Self-Directed) Funding support as a standard option for all vulnerable people who need it.

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[25] *Victorian Disability Act 2006, p. 43 & 44,*
http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/f932b66241ecf1b7ca256e92000e23be/0B82C05270E27961CA25717000216104/$FILE/06-023a.pdf
[26] Wilson, E, Oke, N & Vecellio, L 2005, *Economic hardship and social participation*, Issue Paper 1, Scope Victoria, Melbourne.
[27] Tibble, M 2005, *Review of existing research on the extra costs of disability,* Working paper no 21, Department for Work and Pensions, Norwich, UK.
[28] United Nations n.d., *Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and optional protocol*, p. 20, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>.

6.4.1 *Establish Individualised (Self-Directed) Funding support as a standard option for all vulnerable people who need it*

TARGET 8: Establish an entitlement-based model of Individualised (Self-Directed) Funding support as a standard option for all vulnerable people who need it by 2012

Individualised (Self-Directed) Funding gives vulnerable people control over the decisions about how best to use the public funds allocated to them. This control provides the opportunity for people living with disability "to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life"[29] as reinforced in the UNCRPD. It also can have "a positive impact on quality of life, as reflected in areas such as making choices, achieving goals, participating in the community, and growing relationships"[30].

An entitlement-based model of Individualised Funding would be based on the degree of someone's functional support needs rather than diagnostic category or age. This keeps things simple and accessible for the person, and ensures the person has authentic control over how their personalised budget is directed.

It is clear from the evaluation of Individualised Funding initiatives in various jurisdictions that when people begin to exercise control of resources within the context of an empowering personal vision, some remarkable positive changes can result[31].

6.4.1.1 *Suggested approaches*

A suggested approach to achieving this target is:

• Communicate strong support to the Productivity Commission that its current inquiry into disability care and support result in a recommendation that there be a national disability funding mechanism in place, and that such a mechanism in its design and implementation by evidently is an entitlement-based model of Individualised (Self-directed) Funding.

6.5 OBJECTIVE 5 - BUILDING COMMUNITIES

The Julia Farr Association would like to see well-crafted, measurable initiatives that:

• Increase habits of welcoming of people living with disability by communities;
• Increase opportunities for people living with disability to undertake formal leadership roles in community life and public life;
• Create natural supports and safeguards in the lives of people living with disability by investing in support arrangements that build ordinary valued relationships between people living with disability and non-disabled people.

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[29] United Nations n.d., *Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and optional protocol*, p. 22, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>.

[30] Williams, R 2007, *Individualised funding. A summary review of its nature and impact, and key elements for success,* Julia Farr Association, Unley, South Australia, p. 19.

[31] Leadbeater, C, Bartlett, J & Gallagher, N 2008, *Making it personal*, Demos, London, UK, <http://www.demos.co.uk/files/Demos_PPS_web_A.pdf?1240939425>.

6.5.1 Increase habits of welcoming of people living with disability by communities

<u>TARGET 9: Increase the percentage of South Australians who are welcoming of people living with disability within the community</u>

As we have stated elsewhere in our work, "Society is built on the ideas of interdependence and association. Through such association, rich and trusting relationships emerge that help sustain and grow us on life's journey"[32].

However, people living with disability can experience reduced opportunities to establish, and benefit from, such associations and relationships due to being denied fair opportunity to actively participate within their community.

Barriers within the physical environment, together with community attitudes viewing vulnerable people as pejoratively different or problematic[32], can directly impact on a person's capacity to form fellowships and connections. Such factors can result in people experiencing loneliness, isolation and a reduction in the richness of relationships that can result from active involvement within their community.

6.5.1.1 Suggested approaches

A suggested approach to achieving this target is:

- Introducing ongoing community disability awareness training and education, including within schools, to increase knowledge and understanding about:
  - People's experiences living with disability
  - The rights of people living with disability and relevant legislative obligations
  - The importance of providing accessible services (physical and information);
- Ensuring that a socio-political view of disability is included as a mandatory element in any profession requiring registration in South Australia, and including (but not limited to) professions within education, construction, and health.

  People living with disability also need to be actively involved in the design and delivery of such awareness training.

6.5.2 Increase opportunities for people living with disability to undertake formal leadership roles in community life and public life

<u>TARGET 10: Increase the number of people living with disability participating in community leadership and in community leadership development programs each year</u>

The SASP target 5.7 – *Aboriginal leadership*, specifically focuses on increasing the participation of Aboriginal people in community leadership based on acknowledgement that this "is a key element for addressing the social, economic,

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[32] Williams 2010, *Model of citizenhood support: Discussion paper*, Julia Farr Association, Unley, South Australia, p. 8.

health, housing and educational disadvantages, experienced by our Aboriginal population"[33].

People living with disability also experience such disadvantages and barriers to living an ordinary, valued life. Therefore, we believe there needs to be a specific target on increasing the community leadership of people living with disability to ensure the rights and needs of people living with disability are actively promoted and recognised within the community.

6.5.2.1 Suggested approaches

Suggested approaches to achieving this target include:

- Every leadership/governance body (where the South Australia government has formal influence) be required to include in its membership at least one person living with disability.

6.5.3 Create natural supports and safeguards in the lives of people living with disability

TARGET 11: Increase the number of people living with disability who have natural supports and safeguards in their lives each year

People living with disability are increasingly vulnerable in situations where they have limited choice and control in their lives, are reliant on others to provide the supports they need and are not able to actively participate within their community.

The establishment of intentional networks in the lives of people living with disability can assist in building trusting relationships which support people to live an ordinary valued life.

6.5.3.1 Suggested approaches

Suggested approaches to achieving this target include:

- Introducing *Circles of Support,* an initiative that encourages the establishment of intentional personal networks to maintain and develop natural and freely given relationships people living with disability have with their family, friends and others, especially non-disabled people.
- Introducing Asset-Based Community Development. This is a well-established movement that uses a community's existing assets (strengths) as the foundation for sustainable community development. For more information, we refer you to the Asset-Based Community Development Institute's publications at http://www.abcdinstitute.org/publications/.

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[33] *South Australia's strategic plan 2007,* Government of South Australia, Adelaide, p. 32, <http://www.saplan.net.au/system/pdf/South_Australia_Strategic_Plan_2007.pdf>.

6.6 OBJECTIVE 6 - EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Julia Farr Association would like to see well-crafted, measurable initiatives that:

- Ensure that people living with disability successfully access mainstream pre-school, primary, secondary and post-secondary opportunities;
- Ensure 'lifetime adaptability' of all community/state housing;
- Ensure full accessibility of all existing and new public/commercial buildings;
- Ensure that people living with disability successfully access individualised and meaningful opportunities that bring them into mainstream community life as active citizens.

6.6.1 Ensure that people living with disability successfully access mainstream pre-school, primary, secondary and post-secondary opportunities

TARGET 12: Increase the successful access people living with disability have to mainstream pre-school, primary, secondary and post-secondary opportunities each year

The importance of people living with disability having equal access to, and not being excluded from, the general education system is reinforced in the UNCRPD[2]. However, findings from the Julia Farr Association's 2010 **tell us** survey highlight that people experience barriers to fully exercising this right with only 30 percent of students living with disability currently attending a mainstream school.

6.6.1.1 Suggested approaches

Suggested approaches to achieving this target include:

- Introducing Circles of Support initiative within schools. For more information about its implementation elsewhere, go to - http://www.inclusive-solutions.com/circlesoffriends.asp;
- Introducing a Mentor Program within schools which matches mainstream school-aged students living with disability with young adults living with disability, in mentee-mentor relationships. The Julia Farr Association is currently piloting this approach and early signals are very encouraging;
- Introducing the Individualised (Self-Directed) Funding methodology to support people to access education. This would provide people living with disability with greater choice, control, flexibility and opportunities to experience innovative and accessible education;
- Introducing transition coordinators to assist students transitioning from pre-school / primary school / high school / further education / employment opportunities;
- Introducing a directory of community resources about living with disability for use by teachers, administrators, parents and others in every school.

6.6.2 Ensure 'lifetime adaptability' of all community/state housing

CURRENT TARGET: T6.10 - HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: Double the number of people with disabilities appropriately housed and supported in community based accommodation by 2014

TARGET 13: (Revised) T6.10 - HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: Double the number of people with disabilities appropriately housed and supported in flexible and responsive community based accommodation by 2014

The Julia Farr Association supports the SASP Target T6.10 emphasis on increasing the provision of community-based accommodation for people living with disability. However, we believe that its focus needs to be strengthened as currently the key measure used to identify whether this target is being met is the number of group home places in South Australia. This is not a coherent measure because the group home approach should not be seen as the default model through which people living with disability are housed.

Accommodation arrangements such as group homes, even though they are technically community-based, "do not offer sufficient choice and rely on paid care, without sufficiently incorporating family or community resources where these are available"[34]. Also, people living in group homes typically find themselves in shared living arrangements with people who they did not know prior to the arrangement and would not necessarily have chosen as their flat mates.

Therefore, there needs to be a focus on providing people with flexible and responsive common housing options as an alternative to group homes that ensure people "have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement"[35].

6.6.2.1 Suggested approaches

Suggested approaches to achieving this target include:

- Broadening the focus of the T6.10 target measures to reflect the introduction of progressive housing models as an alternative to group homes that provide flexibility, choice and connection with the community including:
  - Supported home-ownership
  - House-sharing
  - Circles of Support
  - Intentional mixed co-tenancy arrangements
  - Microboards;
- Ensuring all new social housing in South Australia, constructed with government funding, meets universal access design principles;

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[34] Supported Accommodation Task Group 2006, *Accommodation and personal support for people with disabilities in South Australia. Consultation Paper,* Department for Families and Communities, Government of Australia, Adelaide, p. 19.

[35] United Nations n.d., *Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and optional protocol*, p. 13, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>.

- Ensuring special purpose supported accommodation dwellings are constructed to
  - o Enable a reduction of the Disability SA Supported Accommodation waiting list,
  - o Avoid congregate settings, and
  - o Allow tenants to connect with their neighbours and community;
- Developing a 'supported accommodation needs plan and building program' matched to the supported accommodation waiting list which seeks to address supported housing stress before it becomes an emergency situation. This will allow people living with disability to plan and transition future arrangements without becoming reliant on institutional or medical facility solutions.

6.6.3 Ensure full accessibility of all existing and new public/commercial buildings

TARGET 14: In the context of an aggressive timeline for full compliance, increase the number each year of accessible existing and new public/commercial buildings compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Ensure full accessibility of all public passenger transport and infrastructure

TARGET 15: In the context of an aggressive timeline for full compliance, increase the number each year of accessible public passenger transport and infrastructure compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992

The UNCRPD states that people living with disability are entitled to have equal access to the physical environment and transport[2]. However, people living with disability experience a range of accessibility barriers including not having ready access to transport when required and not being able to physically access different facilities, amenities and modes of transport[36]. Other members of society, such as older, less agile South Australians, and South Australians with young families and seeking good access for strollers/pushchairs, also experience these types of barriers. With a projected rapid increase in our ageing population, demand for accessible premises and public transport is likely to intensify. Similarly, South Australia hopes to increase the SA population, and this presumably means an increase in young families demanding good access.

Therefore, we believe the SASP needs to have a specific focus on improving accessibility within our community.

6.6.3.1 Suggested approaches

Suggested approaches to achieving this target include:

- Introducing ongoing disability awareness training and education to increase knowledge and understanding about:

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[36] Fidock, A & Williams, R 2010, *Tell us survey report 3: Accessibility,* Julia Farr Association, Unley, South Australia.

- People's experiences living with disability
- The rights of people living with disability and relevant legislative obligations (Disability Discrimination Act 1992, Disability [Access to Premises-Buildings] Standards, Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002)
- The importance of providing accessible services (physical and information);

- Establishing legislation and regulations that address the accessibility of other areas not included in the Disability (Access to Premises-Buildings) Standards;
- Strengthening compliance to the Australian Standards for 'Design for access and mobility' to ensure that people living with disability can access community centres, venues, shops and services;
- Ensuring people living with disability have significant representation and voice in ensuring premises, transport and infrastructure are accessible;
- Establishing a 'Public Transport and Infrastructure Plan' which includes:
  o Investment in making buses as well as bus infrastructure accessible
  o Investment in improving signage to ensure sufficient space is available for people living with disability using public passenger transport
  o Investment in ensuring South Australia has a fully accessible 'multi-purpose' taxi fleet which would provide people with greater choice and opportunity to be included within their community
  o Investment in provision of automated or level access on and off trains.

6.6.4 Ensure that people living with disability successfully access individualised meaningful opportunities that bring them into mainstream community life as active citizens

TARGET: Increase the number of people living with disability who successfully access individualised meaningful experiences within their community each year

The SASP Target T6.11 focuses on increasing the participation of people living with disability by increasing the number of people in day options programs. However, because of the strong tendency for funded day options to "primarily occur within a group setting"[37], it is less likely that people have the opportunity to fully participate in individualised, meaningful experiences in socially valued roles within the wider community.

6.6.4.1 Suggested approaches

Suggested approaches to achieving this target include:

- Applying the Individualised (Self-Directed) Funding methodology. This would provide people living with disability with greater choice, control, flexibility and opportunities to participate within their community through keeping things

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[37] Social Inclusion Unit 2006, *Social Inclusion Initiatives - Better pathways consultation paper: Improving the pathways from school to further education, training, employment and day options for young people with a disability,* Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Adelaide, p. 19.

simple and accessible for the person, and ensuring people have authentic control over how their personalised budget is directed;

- Establishing 'front foot' person-centred planning arrangements that focus on supporting the strengths and capacities of the person, and place her/him at the centre of making decisions;

- Asserting that the principle of 'valued social roles' is applied to all disability support funding, and that the efforts of all support agencies are properly accountable to this principle.

7.0 MEASUREMENT OF THE PROPOSED KEY TARGET AREAS

The SASP household survey is currently used to measure some of the targets already established in the plan. This survey can be adapted to include questions about the experiences of people living with disability in the proposed target areas.

Also, the Q50™ framework is an example of survey tool that provides for the mapping, analysis and measuring of people's lifestyles. The Julia Farr Association is happy to provide more information about this survey tool, which was used as the basis for creating questions for the **tell us** survey.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Julia Farr Association asserts that attending to the issues highlighted in this submission, and the resulting target recommendations, will help ensure the updated South Australia's Strategic Plan promotes "the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability"[38].

We would be very happy to provide further assistance as required to the Community Engagement Board.

For further information about this submission, please contact:

Robbi Williams
Chief Executive Officer
Julia Farr Association
Ph: 08 8373 8333
Email: admin@juliafarr.org.au.

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[38] United Nations n.d., *Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and optional protocol*, p. 5, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>.