

Pave the Way Newsletter

April 2007

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Sometimes we can spend a lot of time looking for answers that will simply not be there.



Information Sheets

This first newsletter for 2007 contains the first of a series of Information Sheets that will be produced as part of our commitment to assisting families with planning. The search for information can be frustrating and time consuming. Sometimes we can spend a lot of time looking for answers that will simply not be there. Sometimes we can become paralysed by the thought that everything would be all right if only the information were available. But information alone can never "make it all right". These Information Sheets are meant to be used as part of the process of planning, not as the first step.

The topic of this first Information Sheet is Housing. The information provided is a basic outline of a range of options that are possible for people with a disability who wish to live independently of their family. Not all options will appeal to people but they are offered as a means of opening up some possibilities for planning. Further information about each of the topics listed on the sheet is available from Pave the Way.

Providing information in a written form is difficult as facts soon become out of date, especially in the area of services and funding. We see these Information Sheets as starting points for further investigation and encourage families to contact us to talk further about how this information fits into the whole of their vision and planning.

We would appreciate any feedback you have to this first Information Sheet.

The answer to "Where can he live?" lies in what you know in your heart – that he needs to live in companionship, with people who are loving, creative, and connected. We can almost never 'find' that – but we can build it. 'Housing' is the last piece of the puzzle. © 2003 David and Faye Wetherow. CommunityWorks.

If you would like further information, please contact Catherine Raju on (07) 3291 5800

It takes a whole village to raise a child

An African Proverb

When families are asked to reflect on what makes a good life, loving relationships and committed people in our life are among the most common responses. Relationships are built around shared passions, interests and values. Our emotional and physical safety is more likely to be assured when we are surrounded by enduring and committed relationships. The richness or quality of our lives is often measured in terms of those with whom we share those lives. People keep people safe.

Many families who have a member with a disability are faced with isolation. Isolation can occur through the attitudes of others and/or through the sheer workload caused by the cumbersome systems on which families rely. Families want to provide the best life possible for their son or daughter. For some people, this requires extraordinary effort in order for the person to have access to ordinary opportunities. This level of effort can leave little or no energy for making and keeping relationships within the wider community. Some families experience a world where their son or daughter with a disability is not welcomed and therefore they feel that the sole responsibility for their future well-being rests with the family alone.

In a fair society, the reality is that raising a family is a responsibility which is shared by the community. "It takes a whole village to raise a child." Our children's well-being relies significantly on the support and care of people like the local soccer coach, the teacher, the next door neighbour, music teacher, kids at school, aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. Their lives are influenced and shaped by the community. It makes sense that families who have a member with a disability also need the support of others in order to build a good life for their son or daughter.

Pave the Way promotes, as one strategy, that families invite committed allies, family and friends to assist them to plan for the future. Inviting chosen others to support us in our decision making can be a powerful strategy to sustain our efforts and actions. Whilst it is seldom easy to invite others into places where we believe we have sole responsibility, it has been our experience that when asked, people are willing and keen. There is magic that evolves when people share their knowledge, energy and commitment. Openness, honesty, and clear communication are the foundations on which to build strong relationships which will enrich our lives and those of our family members.

*People keep people
safe.*



**For more information on support networks, please contact
Sharon Bourke on (07) 3291 5800**

New Project offering free legal assistance

A pilot project has been established in Brisbane which aims to assist certain families who have a family member with a disability with free legal advice and assistance associated with future planning. Through this project, called the "Queensland Impaired Competence Planning Pilot Project", national law firm *Blake Dawson Waldron* is training a number of lawyers in Brisbane to improve their understanding of the relevant law and types of issues relating to guardianship, financial administration, wills and trusts.

The project will focus on parents and carers of people with impaired competence and will commence offering free legal advice and assistance in the next few months.

The project has been initiated by Adjunct Professor Patrick Keyzer from Bond University and is based on a similar project operating through Blake Dawson Waldron's Sydney office for a number of years. It is only a pilot project at this stage. The project is in the process of establishing a 1300 telephone number through which families may make initial contact.

Until the 1300 number is available, Pave the Way has agreed to be a contact point for the project. To register an expression of interest in receiving assistance from the project, contact Jeremy Ward or Michelle Schneider at Pave the Way on (07) 3291 5800, or by email to pavetheway@mamre.org.au. We will then pass on your contact details and ask the project to contact you.

The Queensland Impaired Competence Planning Pilot Project is also developing a website of resources to assist lawyers and families with these issues - www.qicppp.org. However, this website is still under construction and will not be fully developed for some months.

Pave the Way professional panels

A priority for Pave the Way in 2007 will be to develop further panels of professionals so that we can refer families to solicitors, accountants and financial planners to assist with their planning. Pave the Way has had a panel of solicitors in Brisbane for over two years and is keen to develop additional panels throughout Queensland.

If you know a solicitor, accountant or financial planner you would be happy to recommend, Jeremy Ward would be keen to hear from you. If you would like a copy of our current Solicitors Panel, contact Michelle Schneider.

*The project will focus on
parents and carers of
people with impaired
competence....*

BLAKE DAWSON WALDRON
LAWYERS



**If you would like further information, please contact Jeremy Ward on
(07) 3291 5800**

Pave the Way

Pave the Way assists families throughout Queensland to clarify their vision for their family member with a disability and to plan to implement that vision. We encourage planning which is vision driven, 'whole of life', developmental, outside service planning and which safeguards family members in the long term. We believe it is other people who keep people safe and support the development of personal networks, including Support Circles.

Contact us

Please contact us if you would like to be on our mailing list, or would like information or assistance developing a vision and plan or developing a support circle or similar network. If you are part of a group of families and would like us to come and talk about these issues, let us know.

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Upcoming Events

"Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future" – Jeremy Ward

Gatton: 17 April 2007 (DSTF)
Brisbane: 9 June 2007 (PTW)

"Building Life Long Support Strategies: Support Circles & Networks" – Sharon Bourke

Dalby: 19 April 2007 (DSTF)
Miles: 20 April 2007 (DSTF)

"Visions to Action Through Planning" – 6 Day Workshop

South East Queensland: 3 - 5 August 07 & 2 - 4 November 07



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If you are interested in attending one of the Brisbane workshops or the six day workshop, please phone Pave the Way on (07) 3291 5800. For Dalby, Miles or Gatton please contact the Disability Sector Training Fund (DSTF) in Brisbane on 1800 851 848 or (07) 3234 0190.