

# Pave the Way Newsletter

December 2008

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## Evaluation Feedback

As many of you will know, Pave the Way has just completed an extensive external evaluation. In October, a team of six, led by international consultant Michael Kendrick, spent a week interviewing families and others involved in our work, analysing written material and responding to Terms of Reference provided by us. The evaluation team also had the benefit of a report that was compiled from responses to the survey we sent to all families on our mailing list. From 940 surveys sent out, we received over 200 replies.

Pave the Way would like to thank all of you who assisted with this evaluation, whether through completing a survey, or through agreeing to be interviewed, or both. We know that this took considerable time from your busy lives and we appreciate your help in ensuring that the evaluation team had a wide range of responses.

The evaluation team interviewed approximately 50 families, 12 other "stakeholders", and spoke to 5 focus groups of people with a common interest, such as the Pave the Way Reference Group. While Michael Kendrick will provide a written report by Christmas, he gave verbal feedback to the Pave the Way team and Mamre leadership and we had the opportunity to discuss many issues raised.

Without pre-empting the written report, the verbal feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The evaluation team said that Pave the Way is following its stated principles and values; is seen as competent and professional in its work; has provided a sense of hope to many families; uses strategies that are all useful to families; and that Pave the Way is taking leadership in this area, being the only body across Queensland that focuses on long term, family based planning.

The evaluation team posed some interesting challenges to Pave the Way. These included developing clarity around the focus of our work, which they saw clearly to be in the realm of life long planning, not only "end-of-life" planning, and developing the strong constituency which we now have with over 1000 families on our mailing list throughout Queensland. They also saw benefit in Pave the Way developing and supporting a network of local families in all regions throughout the State, to whom other local families could go for information and assistance.

2009 will be a period of exciting development for Pave the Way and we hope you can join with us in that journey.



*Season's  
Greetings  
from  
Pave the Way*

**If you would like to discuss the evaluation feedback further please contact Jeremy Ward on (07) 3291 5800**

## Department of Housing Policy Changes

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Contact us if you would like a copy of Pave the Way's full Housing Policy Update.

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Don't take "no" for an answer. Request an exemption or make a more formal appeal if eligibility is denied.

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You can plan with your son or daughter to have someone share their home without being part of the Government's HwSS program.

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Many families are aware of the policy changes that are occurring in the Department of Housing. We have published a short update to our original Housing Information Sheet which deals with the impact of some of these policy changes on the plans some families have for the future - [www.pavetheway.org.au/Resources](http://www.pavetheway.org.au/Resources). The changes are under review or, at least, are still being developed, so it is important to keep up to date with what is happening. The information on the website will be updated as we become aware of any further developments or you can contact us for further information. The following points highlight the major issues as we see them so far:

### Application forms

- The new forms are quite complex. It may be difficult for people who are living at home with ageing parents or who have no funding from Disability Services Queensland to fully explain their housing needs on the form.
- It is advisable to go to the local area office and complete the application forms with a Housing Officer. If you are not happy, ask to speak to a Client Services Manager.

### Eligibility

- Housing is granted according to need so applicants are no longer placed on a waiting list. There are some advantages to this process but the criteria for assessing need does not take into account people who are trying to plan ahead.
- Liquid assets are now part of the eligibility criteria (the current maximum allowed is \$74,062.50 for a single person) and the Department of Housing treats assets held in trust for the applicant as their assets. This means that families should think carefully before establishing a trust for their family member. Mamre and Pave the Way have made representations to the Dept of Housing about this issue.

### Housing with Shared Support (HwSS)

HwSS is a program developed by the Department of Housing and Disability Services Queensland. People on this program must be receiving funding from Disability Services Queensland (DSQ) and must agree to be linked with other people to share their support funding either by living together in the same property or close by to each other. You do not have to agree to be part of the HwSS program. If you are offered Housing with Shared Support it is important to be clear about what is involved in this program. It is also important to be clear about how you will monitor what is happening for your family member in this situation. Having other committed people involved in their life remains very important. The Housing Update on the website offers some questions to ask when you are assessing whether HwSS will meet the needs of your family member.

**Special Disability Trusts – see insert in this newsletter for an update.**

### Centrelink – an update

The Centrelink Information Sheet is finally on the website in final draft form. We apologise for the extended delay in making this available.

**For further information on Department of Housing Policy changes, please contact Catherine Raju on (07) 3291 5800**

## Jeremy Ward Leaving Pave the Way Leadership Role

After over six years with Pave the Way, Jeremy Ward will be leaving his role as team leader of Pave the Way at the end of January 2009.

Jeremy began working 3 days a fortnight with Mamre in September 2002 and has seen that small Mamre-funded project develop into a team of five full-time staff. In that time the project grew with the assistance of an Innovative Funding Grant from Disability Services Queensland (DSQ) in December 2003, and then Succession Planning Funding, also from DSQ, in April 2006. Throughout this period, the Disability Sector Training Fund, through its local regional coalitions across the State, has also been most supportive.

The selection process to find a replacement for Jeremy began in September when the Pave the Way team met with the Leadership Team at Mamre to discern the qualities and criteria needed in this role. An advertisement was placed in *The Australian* newspaper and on SEEK on 1<sup>st</sup> November, with interviews scheduled for early December. It is hoped that a successful applicant will be chosen by mid December, so that they can begin in the role on 19<sup>th</sup> January, to allow an overlap of two weeks before Jeremy leaves.

Pave the Way will make an announcement on Jeremy's replacement as soon as we can, both through our email list and on our website. If you don't have access to either of these, and would like to know who the successful candidate is, please call us in the third week of December when we hope to have that news!

Jeremy has offered to continue with some part-time consultancy work with Pave the Way, after a break of 2 – 3 months. While the nature of his involvement will depend on future discussions within the Pave the Way team, his involvement could include presentations and workshops, the provision of legal information and the further development of the Pave the Way professional panels.

We take this opportunity to wish Jeremy all the best for his plans for the future and thank him for all he has given both to the project and to the Pave the Way team. His strong vision for our work with families and his inspiring leadership have made these past six years an exciting time to be working at Pave the Way. He leaves the team confident to welcome someone new to the leadership role.

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## 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.

Pave the Way  
Level 1  
1428 Logan Road  
MT GRAVATT QLD 4122

Ph: (07) 3291 5800 or 1300 554 402

Postal Address:  
Pave the Way  
PO Box 949  
MT GRAVATT QLD 4122

[www.pavetheway.org.au](http://www.pavetheway.org.au)  
[pavetheway@mamre.org.au](mailto:pavetheway@mamre.org.au)

Jeremy Ward  
Sharon Bourke  
Catherine Raju  
Julie van Oosten  
Michelle Schneider

[jeremy.ward@mamre.org.au](mailto:jeremy.ward@mamre.org.au)  
[sharon.bourke@mamre.org.au](mailto:sharon.bourke@mamre.org.au)  
[catherine.raju@mamre.org.au](mailto:catherine.raju@mamre.org.au)  
[julie.vanoosten@mamre.org.au](mailto:julie.vanoosten@mamre.org.au)  
[michelle.schneider@mamre.org.au](mailto:michelle.schneider@mamre.org.au)

## Season's greetings

From all of us at Pave the Way, we wish you a very peaceful and joyful time during the Christmas period and New Year. It has again been a joy and a privilege to work with you in 2008. We hope that 2009 brings many opportunities for you to realise your dreams of a good and meaningful life for all members of your family.

## Upcoming events

**Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future – Jeremy Ward**  
Mt Gravatt 16 January 2009 (PTW)

**Developing a Vision and a Plan – Two day live-in workshops**  
Monto March 2009 (PTW)  
Sth East QLD June 2009 (PTW)

## Regional visits

**Rockhampton**  
Julie van Oosten 11 - 12 December 2008

**Mackay**  
Julie van Oosten 12 - 14 January 2009



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To book into a workshop, please phone Pave the Way (PTW) on (07) 3291 5800 or 1300 554 402 or send an email to [pavetheway@mamre.org.au](mailto:pavetheway@mamre.org.au). You can also view the workshop calendar on our website [www.pavetheway.org.au](http://www.pavetheway.org.au). For all regional visits please contact Julie van Oosten on (07) 3291 5800.