

# Pave the Way Newsletter

December 2006

## Seasons Greetings

This is the first of Pave the Way's new quarterly newsletter. We take this opportunity to wish all of you a very peaceful time over Christmas and New Year. We hope this time allows you the space to relax and renew your energy for 2007. It has again been a privilege to work with you in Pave the Way, whether through your attending a seminar or workshop, talking on the phone or through more regular contact.

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## Information and Resources

An important part of the process of planning with our relatives who have a disability is access to relevant and accurate information at the time it is needed. Pave the Way aims to assist families in this way by providing information relevant to planning, including housing and funding options amongst others.

A range of information sheets is being designed to help people make sense of the often complex and changing information that is provided by government departments and agencies. This written information, along with phone, email and personal contact, aims to assist families as they explore the many overlapping issues that are part of planning for a good life now and in the future. The first area investigated looks at the range of housing options that may be available for people who wish to move out of home, or when it is no longer possible for them live with their family. This will be available from February next year.

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*From everyone at Pave the Way we wish you a safe and wonderful Christmas*

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

## Regional Responses by Pave the Way

Pave the Way has a commitment to support the efforts of families throughout Queensland to safeguard the future of their family member with a disability. Prior to our recent funding increase, our responses to requests by families and organisations representing families in the regions were supported and funded by local groups and regional coalitions supported mainly by the Disability Sector Training Fund.

Pave the Way's statewide support has largely been in the provision of workshops and small group meetings or one on one discussions with family members. Jeremy Ward and Sharon Bourke have presented workshops on Planning for Today, Tomorrow and The Future and Building Lifelong Support Strategies: Networks & Support Circles in most regions across Queensland.

With the receipt of funding earlier this year, Pave the Way now has more capacity to work developmentally in regions to assist families to strengthen their efforts and build on their capacity within local communities to safeguard the future of their family member with a disability. Currently, Cairns & Goondiwindi are two regions of focus for Pave the Way. These regions were chosen following interest expressed by families at workshops held in those areas and also in response to requests from individual families for assistance to begin or develop support circles.

Recruitment and support of local facilitators, to work with families in the ongoing development of support circles and networks, is now a priority in both regions.

Our work is based on strong beliefs, including:

- Work of families, and Pave the Way, must be driven by families at their pace;
- Families have capacity, energy, commitment and imagination;
- Families' efforts to secure a decent life and a great future for their family member are highly significant;
- Relationships are one of the important keys to safeguarding people and those relationships reside in families and in local communities;
- Families know their own communities best and are best placed to advise on what will assist them to build capacity and strengthen their efforts locally;
- Pave the Way aims to work with humility alongside families when invited.

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*Currently Cairns & Goondiwindi are two regions of focus for Pave the Way*

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For more information on this work, please contact Sharon Bourke on  
(07) 3291 5800

## Commonwealth Government Succession Planning Initiative

Pave the Way continues to monitor the development of the Commonwealth Government Succession Planning initiative, which includes Special Disability Trusts and a booklet on future planning.

### Special Disability Trusts

Special Disability Trusts (SDTs) took effect on 20 September 2006. Where the trust satisfies specific requirements Centrelink concessions apply. Trust funds up to \$500,000 will not be included when assessing eligibility for Centrelink pensions. If a trust does not comply, Centrelink asset and income tests apply. *This includes trusts under a will.* The current Centrelink asset test limit is \$278,000 for a single pensioner who doesn't own their home and \$161,000 (plus home) for a single homeowner. Trust funds can be used only for "care and accommodation" and cannot be used for other expenses, such as holidays or household items that are not disability related.

A booklet, "Special Disability Trusts - Getting things sorted", is available from the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) - [www.facs.gov.au](http://www.facs.gov.au) - or phone FaCSIA publications on **1800 050 009**. Solicitors on Pave the Way's Solicitors Panel are familiar with these changes.

### Future Planning Booklet

The Commonwealth Government has published another booklet - "Planning for the Future - People with disability". For a copy call **1800 050 009**.

### Discussion Paper on the Needs of Families Planning for the Future

The Commonwealth Government has also called for submissions on the needs of families when planning for the future. A very limited round of consultations is being carried out, with only one meeting in each State - Queensland's was in Brisbane in November. FaCSIA has issued a discussion paper "Succession Planning for Carers" and called for **submissions by 15 December 2006**. If you are interested in a copy of this discussion paper, visit the FaCSIA website or contact Pave the Way.



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*"Special Disability Trusts  
- Getting things sorted"*  
&  
*"Planning for the Future  
- People with disability"*

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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.

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## Upcoming Events

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

Brisbane: 24 February 2007 (PTW)  
Dalby: 5 March 2007 (DSTF)  
Miles: 6 March 2007 (DSTF)

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

Brisbane: 17 March 2007 (PTW)  
Dalby: 19 April 2007 (DSTF)  
Miles: 20 April 2007 (DSTF)

### "Visions to Action Through Planning" – 6 Day Workshop

South East Queensland: 23 – 25 March 2007 & 1 – 3 June 2007



### JANUARY 2007

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### APRIL 2007

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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 and Miles, please contact the Disability Sector Training Fund (DSTF) in Brisbane on 1800 851 848 or (07) 3234 0190.