

Pave the Way Newsletter

JULY 2012

Changes for Pave the Way

A message from the Mamre Governance Board

Changes to the position of Pave the Way within Mamre Association were announced in a recent letter from Rod Vincent, the chair of the Mamre Governance Board.

"As you know, Pave the Way as a program of Mamre, delivers critical and unique supports and services to families throughout Queensland and is funded by Disability Services through succession planning. Pave the Way has had a substantial impact on the lives of people with disability and others, and is held in very high regard with families and other stakeholders.

Mamre Association plays a leadership role in effecting change in positive ways for families with a member with disability through various strategies and opportunities that arise within the disability sector.

A key strategic goal of Mamre is Effecting Change. Following a review instigated by the Mamre Governance Board in January 2012, it was identified and recommended that the work of Mamre within the context of Effecting Change could be supported to raise its profile and would benefit from the support of a more formal structure within the organisation".

The role of Manager Pave the Way has been made redundant and a new position, Manager Effecting Change, has been created. This role will now oversee Pave the Way and a number of other specific and vital aspects of Mamre's work of effecting positive change for families. Catherine Raju has chosen not to apply for this new management position, and finished in her role as Manager, Pave the Way in May.

The intention is that Pave the Way continues as usual. However, as many of you are aware, some work has had to be cancelled or postponed, at least during this time of transition. We are very sorry that this has happened. Rest assured that the current team will do all they can under the changed structure to maintain the work of Pave the Way so that it can continue to make a positive difference for families and their relatives with disability right throughout Queensland.

Inside this Issue

- 1 Changes for Pave the Way
- 2 A message from Catherine Raju
- 2 Workshops and Conversations
- 3 Facilitation: Ideas and strategies
- 4 Contact Us
- 4 Upcoming Events
- 4 Regional Visits

Pave the Way works with families of all ages. Planning for a positive life and secure future is not just for "ageing families" or for people in times of transition.

Contact Pave the Way for any further information on planning.
Phone 07 3291 5800 or free call 1300 554 402 or visit our website:
www.pavetheway.org.au

A message from Catherine Raju, and other news

A Message from Catherine Raju

As the Mamre Governance Board has announced, I have left my position of manager of Pave the Way following the restructure within Mamre Association, which made that position redundant. I was very sorry to have made that decision to leave. My six years with Pave the Way have been challenging, inspiring and highly rewarding. I wish to acknowledge the team members and consultants with whom I have worked and also the many dedicated people with whom I have been in contact in the larger disability field.

I would also like to acknowledge the many people from all over Queensland who have been part of the Pave the Way Reference Group, all of whom took seriously the role of both encouraging and challenging us in the development of our work.

My final acknowledgement and thanks are to the Queensland families with whom I have been in contact during my time with Pave the Way and who have inspired me with their determination to plan with hope and a clear vision for good lives for their family members. I wish you well for all that the future holds and hope that our paths may cross at some time in the future.

New Team Member for Pave the Way

Helen Baird joined the Pave the Way team in March as a Development Worker. Helen writes. . .

Hi everyone, I would like to introduce myself by giving you some background about myself. I have worked in the social justice field for about 16 years as a counsellor, community worker and executive officer, working with marginalised groups of people. For the past five years I worked with the Forde Foundation, facilitating opportunities for individuals through grants and advocating for better outcomes for them and their families. Prior to that I worked in a community mental health recovery programme, and then in a community centre as a counsellor, skills educator and advocate for individuals and families with disabilities, mental health issues, homelessness, family breakdowns, addictions and isolation in the community.

I have always been committed to my community at large and the people in it. I look forward to meeting you in the future and to share a part of your family's journey.

Workshops and Conversations

The Odyssey Conference – celebrating achievements, progress and change. 2-day conference hosted by Family Advocacy at the Park Royal, Parramatta in Sydney, **9 – 10 August 2012.**

Family Advocacy will once again bring together local, national and international speakers to share ideas and inspiration about what a good life can look like for people with disabilities and suggest ways to make it happen.

If you would like more details about this conference, contact Pave the Way and we can send you the flyer.

Check our online workshop calendar or contact the office for information on new workshops that will be planned.

<http://www.pavetheway.org.au/home/workshop-calendar.php>

Facilitation: ideas and strategies

As part of Pave the Way's ongoing work in the area of support circles we are pleased to announce the completion of our new written resource for facilitators: *Facilitation: Ideas and Strategies*.

One of the important things that emerges from many people's work in this area is that support circles function well when someone is responsible for facilitating the circle meetings. In the context of the work of Pave the Way, the facilitator role is typically unpaid and is carried out by either a circle member or by someone from the family's or circle members' networks. It is not a professionalised role but one that ordinary folk who have some skill and confidence to lead a group through a process, are encouraged to do. The idea is based partly on the belief that circle business is family business, usually involving a small group of trusted family members and friends who have 'informal' conversations about the family's vision and plans for their family member with disability, rather than business-like meetings where a professionalised role would be more appropriate.

This is not to say that the focus and the work of a circle are not important. Indeed, they are very important, as is having some skills in understanding group processes and the difference between direction and facilitation. These are some of the issues dealt with in our new document.

Pave the Way also recognises that facilitators benefit from having opportunities to talk about the ongoing requirements of the role and any of the issues that arise in the course of facilitating meetings through continued reflection and learning. To this end, Pave the Way offers facilitators individual support – in person, via email and on the phone when requested. We can also meet with the facilitator and family together to discuss any practical issues. Something that we are interested in exploring further is the development of support through peer meetings with other circle facilitators.

Supporting facilitators in regional areas is a challenge because of the logistics in doing so, but support in the past has occurred via Skype and often over the phone, as well as in conjunction with our regional visits.

For the document, *Facilitation: Ideas and Strategies*, or other information related to support circles please contact us on the numbers below or visit our website at www.pavetheway.org.au

“Support circles function well when someone is responsible for facilitating the circle meetings”

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

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

Ph: (07) 3291 5800 or 1300 554 402

www.pavetheway.org.au

General enquiries
Julie van Oosten
Elaine Henderson
Jeremy Ward
Helen Baird

pavetheway@pavetheway.org.au
julie.vanoosten@pavetheway.org.au
elaine.henderson@pavetheway.org.au
jeremy.ward@pavetheway.org.au
helen.baird@pavetheway.org.au

Upcoming Events

Pave the Way workshops happen throughout the year and further workshops are likely to be planned for this quarter. Details will be on the website and flyers posted when they are available.

Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future

Mackay 16 July (PTW)

Documenting Personal Information

Bokarina (Sunshine Coast) 31 July (PTW)

From Vision to Action through Planning – 6-day live-in workshop (Part 1)

Coolum 17 – 19 August (PTW)

Building Lifelong Supports and Safeguards

Cairns August/Sept tbc (PTW)

Maryborough Sept/Oct tbc (PTW)

Other workshops are currently on hold or have been cancelled due to the management restructure at Mamre. Please see our website for updated information

Regional Visits

Julie van Oosten –

Maryborough/Hervey Bay 10 – 12 August (PTW)

JULY 2012						
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To book into a workshop, please phone Pave the Way (PTW), phone (07) 3291 5800 or 1300 554 402. For regional visits please contact Julie van Oosten; for the Road Trip contact Jeremy Ward on (07) 3291 5800 or 1300 554 402. You can also view the workshop and events calendar online at www.pavetheway.org.au/home/workshop-calendar.php.