

Pave the Way Newsletter

June 2014

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Pave the Way's current situation shows that changes to our status quo are inevitable. For this reason we trust in your resolve to keep a strong vision and continue planning towards the future.

The future of Pave the Way

In March we wrote a letter to inform you that the Government funding to provide "succession planning" to families throughout Queensland will cease on 30 June this year. As we indicated in the letter, Pave the Way has applied for new funding to continue our work across the state. However, at the time of writing this newsletter we have not heard whether or not we have been successful in our application. It is expected that we should hear the outcome of the Department of Communities, Disability Services decision in early June, although delays in funding decisions can be quite common as we all know. It is our intention to keep offering assistance to families for as long as we are able. We will keep you informed as details come to hand.

It might seem ironic that Pave the Way finds itself uncertain of our own future, having spent many years encouraging families to plan for and safeguard their family member's future. However, our philosophy in working has always been to share ideas with and encourage families to build their own natural authority and vision, rather than relying on services such as Pave the Way to provide this. It is because of the vagaries in funding, the changes in Governments, the revolving door of service providers that we know that families, their networks and their communities provide the best opportunities and safety for their family member with disability. The article on page three of this newsletter explores this a bit further.

Pave the Way's current situation shows that changes to our status quo are inevitable. For this reason we trust in your resolve to keep a strong vision and continue planning towards the future, regardless of the outcomes of the National Disability Insurance Scheme or any other Government initiative.

At this time, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge those before me who had a vision for a "good life" for their family member and a desire to share this thinking with others. I would also like to acknowledge the many families, allies and staff, past and present, for their devotion to wanting a better life for those we serve and love.

With best wishes

David Isitt, Manager

Legal Information

Many people who have a family member with disability are confronted by the question “*what will happen to my loved one when I am no longer able to care for them?*” Pave the Way was developed in response to this question – to help families to plan for the future.

Legal tools can be used to augment families' own efforts to safeguard their plans. For this reason, Pave the Way provides families with a range of resources that contain legal information relevant to planning for the future.

The Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future workshop explores decision making, including providing information about guardianship, administration and powers of attorney. The workshop also contains information about wills and trusts. We also have a companion booklet of the same name, which is available to download at no cost on our website.

We have developed an information sheet: Preparing to make a will: what to do before visiting your solicitor to assist families to clarify their estate planning goals before seeing a lawyer. This resource is also available on our website.

Pave the Way also offers families individual conversations with Aimee McVeigh, our legal consultant. These conversations are often conducted over the telephone with the purpose of assisting people to understand the legal concepts that are discussed in our resources.

Aimee has knowledge of the law and is able to provide legal information but is not able to provide legal advice. Legal information is a discussion of what the law is, without any application to specific circumstances. Legal advice, as opposed to information, applies the law to a person's specific circumstances and includes recommendations about how to proceed.

To help families to access legal advice we maintain a list of lawyers from throughout Queensland who have expertise in estate planning that involves people with disability. You can phone our office to request a copy of the Professional Panel list.

Our hope is that the legal information that we provide will help families to clarify how the law can be used to safeguard their vision for their family member and their plans for the future so that when they engage in estate planning with a lawyer they are able to do so confidently.

Aimee McVeigh can be contacted at aimee.mcveigh@pavetheway.org.au

Our hope is that the legal information we provide will help families to clarify how the law can be used to safeguard their vision

Safeguarding strategies – what some families have found helpful

As Pave the Way approaches an unknown future it seems now is an opportunity for us to highlight the key strategies to assist families to safeguard their family member with disability both now and into the future.

Of the many strategies, one of the most important is the power of **a vision**. When there is clarity about what a good life would look like, then planning can be focused. A good life often begins with being able to imagine better and then translating that dream into a form that can guide and motivate yourself and others. Pave the Way believes that a clear vision is the basis of good planning.

As mentioned, to translate that vision into reality, good **planning** is required. There is a saying that is found on some of Pave the Way's stationery - "*from vision to action through planning*". This planning is both a way of thinking and a formal process. Adopting a way of thinking that connects opportunities and mobilises people and resources, coupled with the space and time to draw up goals and actions, is a powerful combination. Imagining better linked with goals and actions will assist you to make your vision a reality.

Another powerful strategy that stands alongside the first two is the importance of **inviting others in** to share the journey you are on. Positive relationships are one of the great joys of life, providing benefits on so many levels. It's through relationships that many of us share the pleasures of life, celebrate the milestones and find the support to achieve what we do. But above all this, relationships are a key to keeping each other safe. Someone who is in regular contact and knows me reasonably well is more likely to say, "Is everything OK"? It's people who are in regular contact who will notice changes in us and hopefully speak up or ask questions. Moreover, if the vision veers off course, it is people who know and love you who are more likely to speak up and question when something doesn't seem right. This is particularly important when verbal communication is difficult.

The final strategy is **documenting personal information**. If you're able to record important information that you have gathered over many years, and include material that can deepen the understanding of others in regards to your family member with a disability (hopes, dreams, gifts and interest etc.), then this can provide a further layer of safeguarding. It's people who keep people safe! Therefore, if one is known by others through the sharing of relevant information, vulnerability can be reduced.

There are many strategies that families have found helpful and these are just a few. It is our hope here at Pave the Way that the strategies you need to help make your dreams for the future a reality will become clear as you continue your journey.

From the many ideas and strategies that have been identified over the years, one of the most important is the power of **a vision**

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.

Street address:

Level 1

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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

Upcoming Events

Attendance at Pave the Way's workshops is free for families, but bookings are essential

Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future

Locations and dates for this workshop will be announced by mail, email and on our website

Documenting Personal Information

Chermside

Date to be confirmed

Innisfail

Wed 25 June

Regional Visits

Julie van Oosten will be visiting **Bundaberg** from **23 – 25 June**. If you would like to meet with Julie, she will be available for evening visits on 23rd and all day on 24th. She will be leaving Bundaberg on the morning of 25th. Please telephone the Brisbane office on (07) 3291 5800 or free call 1300 554 402 to make an appointment with Julie.

JUNE 2014

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Public Holiday