

Pave the Way Newsletter

March 2009

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Pave the Way 2009

As you will be aware from our December newsletter, there are some changes to the Pave the Way team for 2009. Jeremy Ward has stepped down from the position of team leader and we are now pleased to announce that, after a process of advertising and interviewing in late 2008, Catherine Raju has been appointed to the position.

Catherine joined the Pave the Way team in 2006 after working for many years as a teacher librarian. She is the parent of two daughters, the youngest of whom lived with significant disabilities. Many of you will have met Catherine at our live-in workshops or will have had contact with her by phone or email in her position as information resource person with Pave the Way. As well as managing the project, Catherine will continue to participate in the workshop program and to be involved in the information strategy. Jeremy will return to Pave the Way in a consultancy role after Easter. He will continue to offer legal information and will also be involved in other work, including the workshop program.

We welcome Dianne Mandeville to Pave the Way. Dianne brings to the team her professional skills as a teacher and also her experience as a parent of a son with a disability. Dianne's role will incorporate a wide range of Pave the Way's work.

The rest of the team, Sharon Bourke, Julie van Oosten and Michelle Schneider, will continue in their same roles. We are all looking forward to this next phase of development of Pave the Way and to our continued work with families, especially in the light of the Evaluation conducted in 2008. We have not yet received the final, written report from the Evaluation but you can read a summary of the verbal feedback in our December 2008 newsletter. We are looking forward to using both the feedback and the interesting challenges posed by the review team in our planning for this year and into the future.

To help with planning the location of our next six day live-in workshop in August and November 2009, we would like to hear from families throughout Queensland who may be interested in attending. You can find information about this workshop on our website www.pavetheway.org.au or you can ring and talk to us if you do not have access to the internet. For those who are interested, please contact us by phone or email with your name and the area in which you live.

New Team Member

My name is Dianne Mandeville and I have just started working for Pave the Way as a development worker.

I have been a secondary school teacher for many years, teaching English, Drama and Music. Although I will miss the interaction with my students, I am very excited by the prospect of working with families in the area of lifelong planning.

My other predominant role has been as a mother to two children, Robbie and Laura. My son, who is now 22 years old, was born 9 weeks premature with a rare syndrome called CHARGE. Over the years our family has faced many challenges with our son who has a wide range of disabilities.

In 2006 my husband, Peter and I were very fortunate to be able to attend Pave the Way's six day workshop - *Visions to Actions through Planning*. This workshop gave our family the impetus and the resources to make significant positive changes in our lives and especially in the life of our son. With the assistance of Pave the Way, we subsequently set up a support circle which has now been successfully running for nearly three years.

I am very much looking forward to being a member of the Pave the Way team which will give me the opportunity to support and strengthen other families in their journey towards making positive life choices for their family member with a disability.

Information Update

Pave the Way was successful in receiving a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to translate some of our written material into a range of other languages. Our aim was to offer families from culturally and linguistically diverse communities an opportunity to engage with the work of Pave the Way. The introduction on the website home page has been translated into nine languages and the booklet, "Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future", has been translated into six languages. We hope that, from these starting points, families will contact us if they wish to know more about Pave the Way and how we can work with them. If a family needs an interpreter to talk with us, we will consult with them to make the appropriate arrangements.

Department of Housing Policy Update

We had hoped to inform you through this newsletter of the result of the Department of Housing's review of their recent policy changes. There has been no decision from the Department at this stage but Pave the Way is continuing to work with Department staff to review the changes in policy that were outlined in our December 2008 newsletter.

"The introduction on the website home page has been translated into nine languages, and the booklet, "Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future", has been translated into six languages."

For further advice on information that is available in other languages or Department of Housing Policy changes, please contact Catherine Raju on (07) 3291 5800

Working with Families

The first Pave the Way newsletter for 2009 is a good opportunity for us to outline the various ways in which we can work with families as they search for a better life and a secure future for their relatives with a disability. We are happy to have a conversation with you at any time, either in person or by phone. We can also work with families more formally in the following ways:

Information sessions and workshops - Pave the Way workshops and information sessions focus on the importance of vision building and planning and on the importance of inviting others to share in that process. They include one day workshops, two day and six day live-in workshops and 6 x 3 hour weekly workshops. These are held in various regions and at different times throughout the year.

Support for planning - Pave the Way can also work with families on an individual level to assist with planning, either informally or through a structured planning process which can be facilitated by a Pave the Way staff member. Planning can take place at a time and place that is convenient for families.

Assistance to develop networks and circles of support - Assistance can be offered in the initial stages of setting up a support circle and also when it is time to review the progress of established circles.

Information needed for planning - Pave the Way has produced a number of information sheets to help families with future planning which cover topics including Housing, Centrelink and Preparing a Will. Further topics covering issues such as funding and employment will be available during the year. These information sheets can be found on our website or alternatively, families can request that copies be sent to them.

Clarifying legal issues - Pave the Way does not provide individual legal advice but can provide information for families to help clarify some of the legal issues and questions involved in future planning for their relatives with a disability. Pave the Way has also compiled a recommended list of Solicitors, Accountants and Financial Planners for families who are seeking advice and assistance in relation to wills and trusts, estate planning and financial planning. Please contact Pave the Way for a copy of the Professional Panel.

Website - The Pave the Way website www.pavetheway.org.au is regularly updated with information, news of workshops, stories and articles.

If families would like to talk with us about any of this information we welcome them to contact us through the website, by email or phone.

"We are happy to have a conversation with you at any time, either in person or by phone."

"Planning can take place at a time and place that is convenient for families."

Families outside Brisbane can phone Pave the Way on 1300 554 402 for the cost of a local call

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

Building Lifelong Safeguards

Noosa 19 March 2009 (Gympie/Pamona LAC)
Gympie 9 April 2009 (Gympie/Pamona LAC)

Rolling Conversations – 6 x 3 hour morning sessions

Mt Gravatt 31 March – 5 May (PTW)

Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future

Mackay 21 April 2009 (DSTF)
Dysart 22 April 2009 (DSTF)
Gladstone 24 April 2009 (DSTF)

Developing a Vision and a Plan – Two day live-in workshop

Sth East QLD June 2009 (PTW)

Regional Visits

Cairns

Sharon Bourke April & June 2009



MARCH 2009

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To book into a workshop, please phone the relevant contact. For Pave the Way (PTW) phone (07) 3291 5800, for (DSTF) phone 1800 851 848 and for (Gympie/Pamona LAC) phone 5485 2057. We will also be speaking at an information day for older parents in Ipswich in March/April, for further information contact Catherine Raju on (07) 3291 5800. The workshop calendar can also be viewed on our website www.pavetheway.org.au.