

Pave the Way Newsletter

MARCH 2012

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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.

When is the right time?

Families often contact Pave the Way at times of transition in their family member's life – leaving school, moving out of home, or when parents are ill or have suddenly realised that they are growing older. Times like this are often challenging and quite rightly prompt people to think about planning for what happens next. At Pave the Way we encourage families to think about planning as an ongoing way of thinking that happens at all stages of life, not just at times of change. This approach to planning directs our work with families of all ages and is outlined particularly in Pave the Way's document and workshop called, *Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future*. The main ideas behind this approach are:

The future starts now: what we put in place in the present is more likely to continue in the future; none of us really know when we might be unable to continue to offer the support we do now for our family member.

The importance of having a clear vision: imagining the best possible life for our family member; a vision is the basis of good planning.

Planning: family directed planning that explores all aspects of a person's life, not planning to solve a particular problem or just to attract funding; planning that is not directed by a service.

Involving Others: "people keep people safe"; the importance of having people aware of, and involved with, our family member; relationships develop best over time.

This approach to planning applies whatever is happening in a person's life. The timeline for the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme remains uncertain, however many families are currently exploring the possibility of self-directing the funds they have now. It is important to have a clear vision and to plan for how these funds can be directed to help create a fulfilling and secure life. Planning that is not tied to managing service supports can also help to identify the limits of funding. Adequate funding is a great asset but money on its own does not create relationships and cannot guarantee a good life.

If you would like to explore these ideas further, contact us for a conversation, have a look at our website, or come along to one of our workshops.

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

Workshops and other events

Pave the Way

Pave the Way's workshops planned so far for the first quarter of 2012 are listed on the back of the newsletter and are also on our website. Others will be planned during this time, especially in regional Queensland, and will be emailed to those on our mailing list and added to the online workshop calendar.

All our one day workshops are free for families but we do ask that you RSVP so that we can plan resources and catering for the day. To plan for travel, accommodation and resources we normally require a minimum of five people at a one day workshop and five couples at a live-in weekend for the workshop to proceed.

Live-in Workshops

- 6 day From Vision to Action through Planning. June 15-17 and August 24-26
- 2 day Developing a Vision and a Plan. October. Date and location to be advised

North-west Road Trip 21-30 May

As detailed in our December 2011 newsletter, Jeremy Ward will be travelling to meet families in their homes, offering one-on-one consultations about planning, safeguarding the future, building networks of support and relevant legal issues. If you are in the regions of Atherton Tableland, Georgetown, Normanton, Mt Isa, Cloncurry, Richmond, Charters Towers or Ingham and would like to meet with Jeremy you can contact him at the office on 1300 554402; 07 3291 5800 or via email on jeremy.ward@pavetheway.org.au

Community Resource Unit (CRU) For flyers and more information contact cru@cru.org.au Ph. 07 3844 2211 www.cru.org.au

- Advocacy. March 12 - Indooroopilly. Michael Kendrick and Jan Dyke.
- Dilemmas in Supporting Choice. March 13 - Sunshine Coast. April 27 - Ipswich. Michael Kendrick explores the dilemmas and ethical issues involved in supporting choice for people with disability.
- Leadership Models and Styles. May 15 - Townsville. Margaret Endicott.

Alliance for Self Direction. For more information contact deirdre.phillips@bespokelifestyles.org.au Ph. 3622 1206.

- Self-Direction. March 22 - Mackay. Windmill Conference Centre (9am -4pm).

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>

Advocacy and planning for the future

The key to planning for the future is working out what sort of future you want for your family member with a disability. What is your vision? What is their vision?

If your plans for the future are based on what you and your family member want, rather than what others say are the limits of what is possible, there will be times when you will be aiming for things not necessarily easy to obtain. You might find that some of your goals can only be met by your taking action that requires advocacy.

The following are some suggested tips to help you incorporate advocacy into your planning.

1. Remain clear about your vision – be able to explain it to others
2. Don't let the need to advocate to achieve a goal put you off
3. Learn how to do advocacy
4. Planning is best when you invite others to share the journey with you - involve people who are not put off by advocacy
5. Incorporate advocacy principles in your planning:
 - Is your planning focused on meeting your family member's major needs or are you only skirting around the edges of their life?
 - Is your planning clearly focused on them – are you on their side and no-one else's?
 - Are you active and vigorous in your efforts?
 - Are you being faithful to them - not giving up?
 - Are you mindful of conflicts of interest and trying to minimise them as much as possible?
 - Are you taking into account the cost of doing advocacy? Are you looking after yourself? Showing vigor and loyalty and tenacity does not mean you need to burn out.

As with much of planning, time and energy and courage are needed to embark on advocacy to achieve what you want. By understanding why advocacy is needed, by informing yourselves and those around you, by preparing your advocacy strategies, and by developing your advocacy skills with practice, undertaking advocacy to achieve your goals will become easier.

Pave the Way has produced a new information sheet: **Advocacy and Future Planning**. For a copy of this information sheet, contact the Pave the Way office or visit our website.

"If your plans for the future are based on what you and your family member want, rather than what others say are the limits of what is possible, there will be times when you will be aiming for things not necessarily easy to obtain".

[Advocacy and Future Planning](http://www.pavetheway.org.au) is available on the website www.pavetheway.org.au or by contacting the office.

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

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.

Developing a Vision and a Plan – 2-day live-in workshop

Toowoomba 16 - 18 March (PTW)

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

Coolum 15 – 17 June (PTW)

Planning for Now, Tomorrow and the Future

McDowall (north Brisbane) 7 March (PTW)

Maryborough 12 March (PTW)

Kawana (Sunshine Coast) 21 April (PTW)

Mt Gravatt 5 May (PTW)

Mackay July (date tbc)

Building Lifelong Supports and Safeguards

Brisbane April (date to be confirmed) (PTW)

Regional Visits

Julie van Oosten

Bundaberg Region May (dates to be confirmed)

Jeremy Ward Road Trip

North West Queensland 21 – 30 May



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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.