

Pave the Way Newsletter

March 2013

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"At Pave the Way we believe that the future starts today."

The importance of planning for the future

We would like to acknowledge those affected by the recent floods here in Queensland. We sincerely hope you are managing during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Currently, there is much discussion around Government schemes for people with disabilities, such as: the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), My Life My Choice and the Community Living Initiative. These funding schemes are primarily intended to return natural authority to people with a disability and their families.

If properly implemented, these initiatives should see a significant difference in people's lives. This is exciting progress, and without wanting to dampen the obvious advantages, there is a risk that some may consider these funding changes will ensure their family member's future is taken care of. However, planning for the future remains vital, especially for when the parents can no longer tend to the needs of their child. While adequate funding can play an integral part in a person's life, there is much more to consider in providing safeguards and quality of life for a family member with a disability.

At Pave the Way we believe that the future starts today. We assist families across Queensland to safeguard their family member with a disability by considering ordinary but essential elements in their life, such as:

- having people who love and care about them
- a place to live that is their home
- an opportunity to be known and valued in their community
- being financially, physically and emotionally secure.

All of these things are important, but often do not just happen on their own. Therefore, careful consideration and planning is required to ensure they are given every opportunity to prevail. Planning and assisting families to think through safeguarding options is what we do here at Pave the Way. If you would like some assistance in these areas please contact us.

For any further information about Pave the Way and the services we offer, phone (07) 3291 5800 or 1300 554 400.

Meet the Pave the Way regional team and other news

We thought it would be helpful to give you a brief introduction to those in the Pave the Way team who travel to regional areas in Queensland to meet with families and deliver our various workshops.

Julie van Oosten – Development Worker



Julie has many years' experience working with individuals with disability and their families, including a number of roles with Mamre Association. Julie enjoys working with individuals and their families in a developmental way, especially as it pertains to people developing network support and with planning for a good and secure future.

"Pave the Way works with families throughout Queensland to clarify their vision for their family member with a disability. . ."

Helen Baird – Development Worker



Helen has worked in the social justice field for 16 years, as a counsellor, community worker and executive officer, working with marginalised groups of people. Before joining Pave the Way in 2012, Helen was facilitating opportunities for individuals through grants and advocating for better outcomes for them and their families. She has worked in a community mental health recovery programme and as a skills educator and advocate for individuals and families with disabilities.

Peter Vacca – Development Worker



Before joining Pave the Way in 2012, Peter worked in the area of family support for over 12 years as a Coordinator, Keyworker and Team Leader. Peter is particularly interested in supporting families to clarify their vision for their sons and daughters with disability.

Upcoming Community Resource Unit (CRU) events:

A CRUCIAL CONVERSATION – Why is inclusion elusive? Dr Bob Jackson
12 March 2013 – **Brisbane**

Inclusive Education – An overview for parents of younger children, led by Bob Jackson
13 March 2013 – **Brisbane**

Dilemmas in Supporting "Choice" – Dr Michael Kendrick
19 March 2014 – **Toowoomba**

The Meaning of Advocacy for Families: An Introduction to Principles and Strategies of Advocacy – Jeremy Ward and Lisa Bridle
20 March 2013 - **Townsville**

Contact the **CRU office** on (07) 3844 2211 or email: cru@cru.org.au for further information or to book.
You can also visit their website: www.cru.org.au

For further information or advice please contact Pave the Way on (07) 3291 5800 or 1300 554 402 or by email to: pavetheway@pavetheway.org.au

An invitation for a conversation

With a new year ahead of us, it is timely to invite families to contact Pave the Way for a conversation about the ideas behind our work and what we can offer to assist you with your planning for a good and safe life for your family member with disability.

Over the past 10 years many families have been involved with Pave the Way through various means, but more typically through workshops, support circles or facilitated planning sessions. Some families may not realise that you are welcome to contact us for a conversation about planning generally.

A conversation is usually prompted by questions families have about the future of their family member, such as:

- Where will he live?
- Who will keep her safe?
- Who will love her?
- Who will be trustee of my will?
- How will she spend her days?
- Who will celebrate his birthdays with him?

These are all big questions and often difficult to face. While obviously we cannot provide the answers to such important questions, we can help you explore some strategies or resources as a starting point to set you on your way.

Some families call to talk about what they fear about the future, or not knowing how to begin with planning, or seeking suggestions about how to involve extended family in the life of their family member. These conversations are an opportunity for Pave the Way to share with families some of the strategies other families have used to successfully deal with similar fears and barriers.

A conversation with Pave the Way does not require you to commit to any of the ideas presented to you or to maintain contact with us. Planning for a good and safe life for your family member is your family's business and journey, and it needs to be directed by you and at your family's pace.

Although Pave the Way is based in Brisbane, distance need not come between us and a good conversation. Indeed, while a phone conversation or an email does not replace a conversation at your kitchen table, technology is making communication more accessible through other means such as Skype or Face Time. We also visit regions of Queensland throughout the year and welcome you to contact us to arrange a time for a conversation. Our free call number for families is 1300 554 402.

So if you are thinking that you need to begin or go further with your planning for the future of your family member, but are not sure where to start, let us encourage you to pick up the phone for a conversation to set you on your way.

"A conversation with Pave the Way does not require you to commit to any of the ideas presented to you or to maintain contact with us"

A list of Pave the Way's workshops appears on the back of this newsletter, or on our website

About 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

Caboolture	6 March
Gold Coast	13 March
Charters Towers	2 April
Townsville	3 April

Building Lifelong Supports & Safeguards

Nambour	23 March	
Goondiwindi	April (date to be advised)	
Stanthorpe	April (date to be advised)	
Mt Isa	May (date to be advised)	Watch for dates on
Gold Coast	June (date to be advised)	our website
Ipswich	June (date to be advised)	

Documenting Personal Information

Ipswich	12 March	
Toowoomba	17 April	
Mareeba/Atherton	April (date to be advised)	
Nambour	May (date to be advised)	Watch for dates on
Mackay	May (date to be advised)	our website
Gold Coast	June (date to be advised)	
Brisbane North	June (date to be advised)	



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Public Holiday

To book into a workshop, please phone Pave the Way on (07) 3291 5800 or 1300 554 402.

To view the workshop and events calendar online, visit

www.pavetheway.org.au/home/workshop-calendar.php