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Welcome to the 13th edition of the Sector Connector, brought to you by Inclusive Leisure Victoria. This is the second installment focusing leisure centres. If you wish to contribute an article to this newsletter, please send to marc.mazzeo@afcl.org.au



The Inclusive Leisure Initiative wins top prize for Inclusion.

On December 3rd 2010, Inclusive Leisure Victoria and Aquatics & Recreation Victoria were acknowledged with an award for the 'Best Disability Sport and Recreation Initiative in Victoria' for the Inclusive Leisure Initiative. This was awarded as part of Disability Sport and Recreation's International Day Of People with a Disability sports awards breakfast at Federation Square. Congratulations to all of our pilot sites, project partners and people with disabilities who made this award possible.

Inclusive Leisure Initiative Update

The last 6 months has been a time of transition and achievements for the Inclusive Leisure Initiative.

The structures which have been put in place to support the pilot sites have been successful. The local reference groups have proven valuable in terms of not only supporting local pilot sites, in fostering local ownership of the project but also in gathering feedback and advice about the types of support/resources needed from ILV and ARV. ILV invited VicHealth, project funder, to attend the 'pilot site information sharing forum' held by the ILI project late last year. This forum highlighted the fantastic outcomes of the project to date at each of the leisure centres, and the flexible approaches undertaken by each site piloting the ILI model. The shared learning's from the 13 sites have contributed to the development of what will be a future 'best practice' model of inclusive leisure centre standards.

The roll out of the communication resources has been well received and well utilised in pilot sites. This highlights the strength and value of the partnerships in this project to support the production of evidence based resources developed and implemented by experts such as Scope CRC and the Communication Access Network and trialled extensively by user groups (people with disabilities and leisure industry staff). This has ensured the resources meet the needs of all involved.

ILV has engaged Monash University to undertake the project evaluation over the final 18mths of the project. This is essential to enable ILV/ARV to gather critical evidence on 'best practice' and sustainable Inclusive leisure standards, and any refinements that need to be made prior to a broader roll out of the program.

Throughout February, all pilot sites will undertake their second assessments with SportEd, which will assist in the review and updating of their disability action plans, giving pilot sites and their reference groups a clear direction for the year. Throughout March and April, pilot site reference groups and staff will play a significant role in the projects evaluation, which will conclude with a second ILI information sharing session for all of the pilot sites.



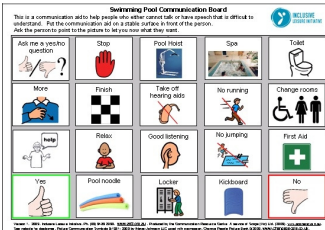
PICSAR: Sharing the stories

Since 2007, VicHealth's PICSAR funded organisations, including Inclusive Leisure Victoria, have been creating a diverse range of opportunities for physical activity participation. This has had a very positive impact on promoting and supporting inclusion in the sport and active recreation sector.

VicHealth has recently released a series of stories that showcase how PICSAR has been making a real difference for VicHealth priority population groups.

To read the Inclusive Leisure Victoria story, highlighting the very positive and innovative partnership between Inclusive Leisure Victoria and Scopes Communication Resource Centre, please go to: <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/~media/ResourceCentre/PublicationsandResources/Physical%20activity/PICSAR%202010/ILV2010.ashx>

To read about other PICSAR success stories go to: <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/en/Publications/Physical-Activity/Sport-and-recreation/PICSAR-Success-Stories-2010.aspx>



Inclusive Leisure Initiative Pilot Site Updates

In late 2010, the 13 Inclusive Leisure Initiative (ILI) pilot sites were invited to Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC) for an information sharing session and to witness the improvements MARC has achieved in making their centre more inclusive of people with a disability through the initiative. This included a tour of the facility followed by short presentations by staff at each of the pilot sites.

In this session, 6 key areas were discussed. These included accessible equipment, policies and procedures, training and education, disability programming, physical access, communication and marketing

Key Learnings for Leisure Centres:

- It is important to know what training is available and promote it to your staff
- It is important to ensure you are delivering what is needed in the community.
- It is great when programs break-even, as it ensures sustainability and builds confidence that the program will be ongoing within the community.
- People find it useful when there is a staff member allocated responsible (incorporated into their position description) for ILI coordination at centre (minimum 3 hours per week)
- Splashdown Geelong, offered people with disabilities a low-cost option through Champion cards
- Market inclusiveness of centre to the community, this gets to the target population (e.g. PWD, carers, and disability services). Promote new programs, equipment, training, communication aids etc. through pamphlets, websites and media releases.
- Open days and come and try days may be helpful in promoting new programs or accessibility features of your facility.
- Disability specific programs are great but, there is a need to have a pathway toward integration into mainstream programs (if desired). In this way, disability specific programs could be seen as introductory programs preparing and familiarising clients in preparation for integration into mainstream.
- It is important that staff understand inclusiveness at all levels, e.g. casual staff, management, council etc.
- It is important to ensure all aspects of inclusion are considered, not just physical access.
- Leisure centres need to move/think outside of the box e.g. this may include; fitness instructors going out to neighbourhoods to deliver sessions from time to time (eg: the local disability day service).





Hamilton Indoor Leisure and Aquatic Centre (HILAC) – Their ILI journey so far...

Hamilton Indoor Leisure and Aquatic Centre is a Council run facility. It is connected with many local partners and service organisations. The Centre uses these partnerships with disability organisations to promote its services. It works in association with “support services” in the region such as Access for All Abilities, Rural Access, Hamilton Special Development School and disability agencies who all have regular input. User groups are accommodated through a quarterly meeting.



The Centre has over 200,000 patrons per year and runs both segregated classes for special population groups as well as mainstream classes that people with disabilities are welcome to attend. The centre has a ramp into the pool, a pool wheelchair and railings in the gym area. Staff members have had disability education and awareness training.

ILI Reference Group:

An ILI reference group was established in 2008 to oversee the project and assist with the implementation of actions identified. Access for All Abilities has representation on the reference group along with Rural Access, Southern Grampians Shire Council Leisure Services, HILAC management and staff, Hamilton Special School, Western District Health Service, Vitality Gym and Southern Grampians Disability Support Group.



Disability Action Plan:

The Disability Action Plan is an agreed set of actions identified to improve inclusion and accessibility at the Centre. The plan covers physical access issues, equipment, policies and procedures, training, marketing, communication and programming.



Future Direction:

The ILI project is currently in its third year of a four year pilot period, the project has seen significant growth in terms of improving physical access and accessible equipment acquisition. Assisting HILAC to build capacity and to meet the DAP goals, an Access and Inclusion Officer will be employed at the Centre. The officer will provide a point of contact/facilitation for people with a disability attending the Centre for the first time, develop inclusive sport and recreation opportunity with Centre user groups, co-ordinate disability education and awareness training for new and existing staff, act as a resource/support person for people with a disability, their parents, carers or significant others and disability agencies. The officer will also work closely with the reference group, Access for All Abilities and Rural Access.

The employment of an Access and Inclusion Officer will add value to a number of ILI initiatives implemented at the Centre over the past two years.

Initiatives include:

- 22 Life Guards & Outdoor Swimming Pool Staff participated in Disability Awareness training
- People with a disability supported to deliver Disability Awareness training
- Scope Regional Communication Service engaged to provide advice on communication strategies and the formatting of HILAC signage
- HILAC user/non user survey developed in easy English and pictorial format with survey
- Drop down grab rails installed in the accessible toilet
- Access and risk management audit for the HILAC car park identified the need for a new access path from car park to Centre entrance.
- Emergency exit signage upgraded to meet access standards and to include new directional signage
- Sports Wheelchair purchased to improve access into HILAC, HILAC user group and Vitality Gym program activities for people with a disability
- After School community based respite program operating from the centre encouraged to utilize the sports wheelchair
- Accessible gym equipment purchased for people with disabilities



Accessible gym equipment aimed at improving upper or lower body mobility for people with a disability is available at Vitality Gym, HILAC. .



Accessible Communication Kits at ILI pilot site Aqua Energy, Sale.



Scope Speech Pathologist Christine Richards along with ambassador and regular gym users Mark Thorpe, Raeleen Berry joined Wellington Shire Councillor Beth Ripper at the launch.

On December 3rd 2010, the Wellington Shire Council together with the Wellington Inclusive Leisure Initiative held a light lunch and ceremony to launch the centres Communication Kits. The Communication Kits were developed to increase opportunities for members of the community that may have little or no speech, or speech difficulties to utilise Aqua Energy, which is located in Sale, Victoria.

The communication kits developed for the Inclusive Leisure Initiative in partnership with Scopes Communication Resource Centre, were modified to be more specific to Aqua Energy and the services it offers. The kits contain seven communication boards, where images or words are able to be pointed to, to show the staff or customer what is wanted, 'flip cards' which use images to show what is wanted or required, information about the Inclusive Leisure Initiative, easy read Aqua Energy brochure and a key word sign poster.

Councillor Beth Ripper spoke at the launch. Tours were given of the centre so that it's accessibility for people with a disability could be highlighted. An important part of the launch was the involvement of ambassadors, who shared their own personal experiences of physical activity and disability at Aqua Energy and the services they use. The ambassadors were individuals with a range of disabilities, who participate in all areas of the centre including the pools, cafe, gym or fitness classes. The Wellington Shire Council and the staff at Aqua Energy were very appreciative of the ambassador's attendance and participation in the launch.

The communication boards include large images that are easy to see, and instruction for the user, so that everyone can use them with ease and is comfortable in using them to communicate. The communication boards were tailored for each area of the facility.

Aqua Energy and the Wellington Inclusive Leisure Initiative hope that the Communication Kits will develop confidence in the centre to communicate effectively with customers with a disability, and make the centre more inclusive and accessible for all.

For more information on the communication kits at Aqua Energy, please contact Mark Benfield or Dan Macey on (03) 5142 3700.

Redevelopment for ILI pilot site Ballarat Aquatic Centre

THE \$4.9 million redeveloped Ballarat Aquatic Centre has opened.

Two new programmable warm-water pools, change rooms, spa, steam room, refurbished cafe and kitchen, and entry area are open to the public. The unique design includes wheelchair access in the warm-water pools and an area for rehabilitation.

BAC advisory committee member councillor Des Hudson said the centre was almost at full capacity with more than 500,000 people using its facilities each year. He said the extra pools would cater for an influx of people expected to use the centre over the coming years. "The potential is to top 600,000 visitors a year," Cr Hudson said. "I encourage those community members who have not been here for some time to come and experience the facilities."

Ballarat YMCA chief executive officer Ed Ferguson said the redevelopment, which took seven years to complete, meant the centre could expand its programs. "We have 11,000 children a week in our learn-to-swim programs. We can expand that program," Mr Ferguson said.

Ballarat MP Catherine King said the new facilities were a great investment for the city. "The facility is a constant hive of activity with everybody from the young to the old coming in during all hours of the day to get fit and have fun," Ms King said.

Swimmers welcomed the new pools, change rooms and disability access. "I think it's a great opportunity for people, especially when the main pool does not have wheelchair access," swimmer Ashleigh Norman, 14, said.

The redevelopment was jointly funded by the City of Ballarat and the state and federal governments.





Sunshine Leisure Centre celebrates International Day of People with Disability

International Day of People with Disability was celebrated on 3 December 2010 at the Sunshine Leisure Centre and recognised the achievements and contributions of people with a disability. The celebration included: Entertainment acts, Swimming programs, Dancing , Zumba and a DJ.

There was a complementary lunch for all participants. All 41 participants received various giveaways and show bags throughout the day.

Overall the event was a great success and Sunshine Leisure Centre looks forward to 2011 International Day of People with a Disability.

Hume City Council Presents 'Open to all - Welcome to Everyone' at Broadmeadows Leisure Centre

On Wednesday 20th October 2010, People with a disability and their family, friends and carers were invited to come along to the Broadmeadows Leisure Centre and try some of the new programs and activities. Guided tours of the centre with a focus on the improved accessibility features were also conducted.

To hear more about the Broadmeadows leisure centre, please call 9309 8500

City of Monash Disability Award

Congratulations to Brenda Gabe, Attendant Support Initiative founder , who won the Monash Disability Award. The award recognises achievements of organisations, groups, businesses and individuals who have contributed to improving the life of people with a disability.

Brenda Gabe: My Story

Sport has always played an important part in Brenda Gabe's life.

Having been born into a very sports oriented family – Brenda Gabe's father played for St Kilda and was a State tennis player - Brenda was destined to be involved in sport.

Brenda first went to swimming lessons when she was 12 months old and didn't stop. She experienced some successes and even became a valuable member in the Australian Olympic Squad! Brenda also played Pennant tennis and was a competitive Ballroom Dancer at State Level.

Brenda loves the water and swum every day up until the last few years. She still goes at least once a week and even though Brenda can no longer swim due to her MS, she still does water exercises.

In 2007, Brenda secured funding and with the staff at Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre (MARC) to set up the Attendant Support Initiative (ASI). This is where a support worker is available at the pool to assist swimmers getting in and out of the pool and with dressing and undressing. This Program has now been incorporated into Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centres MARCabilities Program. The initiative won the 2009 State Aquatic Award. Brenda believes everyone had a right to participate in leisure activities regardless of their ability.

Brenda is as busy as ever. A Board Member of both, Action for Community Living and Victorian Women With Disabilities Network, Director of MonashLink Community Health Service, LeadershipPlus Leaders Network, Aids and Equipment Action Alliance and several other groups but she always make sure to get to the pool at least once a week!

Note: *Brenda is an exceptional example of what is possible to achieve with a collaborative approach from leisure centre users with a disability and leisure centre staff. Well done to Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre for their continued delivery of such as exceptional program.*



Brenda Gabe receiving the Monash Disability Award.



Inclusive Practice in the Victorian Leisure Industry



Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre Leading Accessibility

When the \$29.2 million redeveloped Thomastown Recreation and Aquatic Centre (TRAC) opened its doors, it became one of the most physically accessible facilities of its kind in Australia. This has been achieved by working in direct partnership with the 100-member Whittlesea Disability Network, including local people with disabilities, carers and organisations that provide disability services.

The input of the Disability Networks throughout the redevelopment was vital. It gave Council staff a practical insight into the needs of local people of all abilities and best to meet those needs. This kind of partnership, feedback and guidance has helped give the whole community a sense of ownership.

The facility offers accessibility features rarely seen in Australia, including change rooms for people with disabilities that have overhead hoists and automatic beds that can move up and down. It has a hoist that moves directly from the change room into the hydrotherapy pool.

The health club will have fitness equipment for people of all abilities. The main gym feature state of the art equipment for teens through to seniors, including sport specific and rehabilitation apparatus. A second, smaller gymnasium will cater for specialist gym programs.

One of the pools has automatic shutters and can be separated from the rest of the centre at the press of a button. TRAC expect this to be popular with a range of users, including people of all abilities.

For more information on TRAC, go to www.ilovetrac.com.au or phone 9463 0700.

Harold Holt Open Day

The City of Stonnington extended an invitation to attend a free Open Day at Harold Holt Swim Centre in December. The day was for disability services, individuals and family members to experience the new and accessible facility.

The Harold Holt Swim Centre now features:

- New hydrotherapy pool with in-water ramp
- New fully accessible change room with electric hoist
- New indoor leisure pool incorporating fun aquatic play and water features, linked to indoor and outdoor toddler pools
- New learners' swim pool
- New and improved program facilities and services, including a new gymnasium
- Improved accessible entry and reception area incorporating ground floor access, and more

On the day Olivia Sayers, a guest speaker, presented. Olivia is a Stonnington resident and three time gold medallist at the 2010 World Down Syndrome Swimming Championships.

The Mecwacare Disability Services Art Exhibition was on display throughout the day to celebrate International Day of People with a Disability.

For more information on Harold Holt or the open day contact Access Unlimited on 8290 1185 or email pholtsch@stonnington.vic.gov.au





Program Ideas for Leisure Centres



WRAP AEROBIC CLASS

WRAP hosts an aerobics class for people of all abilities (including disabilities) each week at the Mill Park Leisure. Joyce Stivala our Instructor combines martial arts, weight training and step aerobics for an ideal work out session. A volunteer is on hand to offer support and encouragement. Those with high support needs will require a carer.

Cost: \$6.00 per person Time: Wednesdays 5:15-6:00pm (during school terms)

Please contact Mill Park Leisure Centre for more information Ph: 9404 4811

Volunteer Incentive Program for Knox

The Knox Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) in collaboration with Access for All Abilities aims to;

- Support the participation of people with a disability in local sport and recreation,
- Provide volunteer opportunities within local sport and recreation for people with a disability
- Strengthen local sport clubs to be in a better position to welcome all community members to their club.
- VIP is an Eastern Recreation and Leisure Services Inc. (ERLS) initiative funded by Knox City Council.

They are currently seeking;

- Volunteers with skills sets that could be of benefit to local clubs e.g. governance, marketing and administration.
- Volunteers to support the participation of people with a disability in sport and active recreation.
- People of all abilities looking for support to participate in sport and recreation within Knox City Council.

For more information call ERLS Volunteer Coordinator 9720 5944 or email vip@erls.net.

Research



Barriers to physical activity for children with disabilities

Over the last 18 months, Dr Nora Shields and Research Officer, Annie Synnot have been conducting research in the area of physical activity for children with disabilities. They conducted two projects investigating (1) the activities that children with a disability living in Victoria take part in and (2) the barriers and facilitators to physical activity for children with disability.

Some of the barriers they have identified include the following;

1. People Make the Difference

Access barriers can be overcome; it's attitudes and support of others that counts. Societal attitudes towards disability are often negative. Parental support is vital. Parents provide encouragement, transport, and money. Parents need to be proactive to get their child involved in activity. Instructors, coaches and PE teachers need to be understanding and skilled in teaching children with disability.



2. One size doesn't fit all...it's about choice

What is a meaningful and appropriate physical activity is different for each child. Local activities make it easier: transport can be a barrier. There are a limited number of activities for children with disability. Sometimes available activities run at inconvenient times, or have long waiting lists. 'Come and Try' days don't work but inclusive pathways that allow a progression through a sport do. Asking children with disability and their parents about what, how and when they would like to participate is important.

3. Sport can be expensive but flexible pay options help

Cost is a barrier for many families of children with disability. Extra costs make it hard for organisations too. Offering flexible payment schemes (like pay as you play) or subsidised programs can help.

4. There are similarities and differences between children with disability & children with typical development

Children with and without disability face many of the same barriers and facilitators to physical activity, but, it's harder for children with disability: there are extra costs, medical appointments, and sometimes poor motivation & behavioural issues. It's harder for children with disability as they get older; other children tease, the physical gap widens and sports are more competitive.

5. Communication & connections between parents & organisations

Parents often don't know about local physical activity opportunities. Word of mouth and special schools often provide the best sources of information. Some physical activity providers have trouble finding enough children with disability for their programs. Partnerships between the sport and recreation sector, disability groups, local Councils and local schools are important to help promote programs and to share expertise and resources.

For further information, please contact Dr Nora Shields on 9479 5852 or n.shields@latrobe.edu.au

Professional Development / Conferences

Having a Say Conference 2011 You are the Voice!

When: Wednesday 9th to Friday 11th February 2011

Where: Deakin University, Waterfront Campus, Geelong, Victoria

Inclusive Leisure Victoria will be presenting a workshop called 'you and your leisure centre' on Friday 11th February at 10am.

More information about the Having a Say Conference, please go to: www.valid.org.au or call 03 9416 4003





Communicate, Participate, Enjoy! - Solutions to Inclusion Conference – 2011

21-22 March 2011

Darebin Arts Centre

Preston, Victoria

The Conference

The program will include keynote addresses, workshops and presentations. It offers a stimulating program and a choice of concurrent sessions.

**Communicate, Participate, Enjoy!
Solutions to Inclusion**

The conference will provide participants with practical strategies to facilitate the active inclusion and participation of people with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities in every day activities and life choices.

There will be two concurrent streams of papers/workshops which have a focus on communication, behaviours of concern, sensory focused practice and active participation.

The conference will be of interest to support workers, health professionals, educators, disability service providers and families.

Presenters will include Dr Jeffrey Chan, Associate Professor Keith McVilly, Teena Caithness, Mark Barber, Sheridan Forster, Susan Fowler, Nick Hagiliassis, Hilary Johnson, Erinn Miller, Louise Phillips, Mary Rainey Perry, Meredith Prain, Dr Jane Tracy, Mandy Williams, Jo Watson and Sarina Bunnett.

Registration for one day cost \$198.00 and for two days cost \$363.00

To register visit: www.scopevic.org.au/communication

For further information please contact Scope - Communication Resource Centre on 9843 2000 or email crc@scopevic.org.au

Strength to Strength 2011 Conference

When: Tuesday 22 — Wed 23 March 2011

Where: The Sebel, Albert Park, Victoria

To Register:

Visit <http://www.strengthtostrengthconference.com/index.php/registrations> for online registrations.

After rave reviews for the inaugural joint conference last year, National Disability Services Victoria (NDSV) and Disability Professionals Victoria (DPV) are partnering to hold the largest annual Victorian conference for disability organisations and professionals for the second time.

The two-day conference From Strength to Strength will showcase how future-focussed organisations and leaders are adapting to the constantly changing environment. The conference theme for 2011 is Human Rights. The disability service sector operates in an environment where persons with a disability expect to have their human rights respected, protected and fulfilled. In 2008 Australia became a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This conference will explore what this means for Australians with a disability, for the organisations and disability professionals that support them, for governments and for the broader community.

The call for papers, early bird registration, and regular updates can be accessed on the conference website at <http://www.strengthtostrengthconference.com>





Let's Get Moving 2: Inspiring Better Practice

Addressing the social and economic determinants of mental and physical health

When: Thursday 10 February 2011

Where: Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre, St Georges Rd, Preston

The Let's Get Moving 2 conference aims to profile action by VicHealth funded organisations that enables participation in sport and physical activity and can inspire better practice.

This free event will draw a multidisciplinary audience of practitioners, including representatives from the sport and active recreation sector, local government and health and community agencies.

The day will feature:

- Melanie Jones as MC.
- Lindy Burns
- Professor Russell Hoye
- Entertainment from Skate Dandenong and Talking Point posters and digital displays by VicHealth-funded organisations.
- An Organisational Change Symposium looking at structures of sport that can influence inclusion from the grassroots through to Board level.
- An afternoon of concurrent workshops presenting the work of VicHealth funded projects

Note: Inclusive Leisure Victoria and Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre will be co presenting on the Inclusive Leisure Initiative, as well as showcasing the communication resources during the talking point discussions.

Registration

Registration is FREE and must be completed online by 1 February 2011 at www.trybooking.com/6371.



Funding Opportunities

VicHealth's Active Club

Grants of up to \$2500 are available to eligible sporting or active recreation organisations to purchase:

- sports injury prevention equipment
- essential sporting equipment/items
- volunteer and club training
- portable sun shade

Closing date: 9 February 2011 (4:00pm)

For more information and to apply, go to: www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/activeclub



Accessible Communities Grant

Infrastructure grants of up to \$100,000 are available to local councils to make buildings and public spaces, such as playgrounds, swimming pools, public toilets and town halls, more accessible for people with disability. These grants will be offered competitively and will be based on a matched contribution from local governments, with the Labor Government providing total funding of \$5 million.

For more, go to:

<http://www.alp.org.au/federal-government/news/including-people-with-disability-in-community-life/>



General Information

100 Sports Clubs Chosen to Be Australia's Healthiest – VicHealth

One hundred sporting clubs from the Geelong region have begun the process to becoming the healthiest in Australia, after being selected to take part in an Australia-first VicHealth initiative to create healthier and more inclusive sports.

The 100 clubs, chosen from more than 1000, came together in the Captains' room at Kardinia Park on Thursday 18th November, 2010, to celebrate and attend a briefing about the project.

With \$2 million funding from VicHealth, Leisure Networks Association Inc. will implement the two-and-a-half year project by working with the clubs to reach healthy standards in the areas of:

- healthy eating
- responsible use of alcohol
- protection from harmful effects of UV
- injury prevention and management
- reduced tobacco use; and
- creating of safe and respectful environments for women and people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

The selected clubs will be supported by Leisure Networks to achieve the six healthy standards through support, resources and training.

Healthy Sporting Environments Demonstration Project Manager, Linda Connor, said: —the commitment from these 100 clubs to make them healthy and respectful places for all members of the community has been inspiring and we are delighted to work with them. Community sporting clubs are in an ideal position to implement standards that create safe, inclusive and healthy environments for their members and the broader community.

To read the rest of the article and for more information visit the VicHealth website.

Useful websites

Sports Navigator Service Starts in March

A team of Sports Navigators, who will provide vital information to people with disability on how to engage in an activity of their choice, will commence in March, as will a web-based search function. To coincide with the launch a freecall number 1800 BE IN IT (1800 23 46 48) will go live, with the service fully-functional in March.

Rob Anderson said "There are two main barriers to getting more people with disability involved in sport and recreation. The first one is practical – how to access services. The second is philosophical – program providers need to adopt a person-centred approach to service delivery. That is why Disability Sport and Recreation have created a hub where each person is taken through a range of options to come up with programs that will best suit their needs, interests and capabilities."

To contact Disability Sport and Recreation;
phone: 1800 BE IN IT (1800 23 46 48)
or visit web: www.dsr.org.au





Disability, discussion, debate: New disability website unveiled

A message released by SENATOR STEPHEN CONROY - Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and SENATOR JAN MCLUCAS - Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers

A lively new website will provide a space for discussion, news, debate, humour and general information for people with disability, their families and people working in the sector.

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas, has launched the new **Ramp Up** website, an initiative by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, funded by the Australian Government. The website was launched as part of celebrations for the United Nations' International Day of People with Disability 2010. **Ramp Up** will be a lively community space in which to learn more and have a say.

The Australian Government is investing \$557,500 over three years to support the website. The funding is part of the **Including People with Disability in Community Life** initiative.

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, said **Ramp Up** would add another interesting and relevant element to the ABC's range of products and programs.

Ramp Up will include material developed for the website by the ABC, as well as blogs, opinion articles and features that explore issues that affect people living with a disability. It will also provide an important space for community discussion.

The ABC has appointed passionate disability advocate Stella Young to be editor of **Ramp Up**. Stella Young worked for Arts Access as a Communications Coordinator, and appeared in Australia's first disability issues show 'No Limits'. She has been a member of the Victorian Disability Advisory Council and a spokesperson for the Youth Disability Advocacy Service.

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that people with disability are able to fulfil their potential.

Ramp Up can be viewed at <http://abc.net.au/rampup>

For more information, contact Belinda Featherstone (McLucas) on 0408 743 457



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