

Family Support Program – St George Newsletter

Hi to every one.....it's that time of the year again.....Plan time!

I will shortly be in contact with you all to arrange a time and date to see you to go over the Plan for the next 6 months (July - December 2007).

The Plan is based around the needs of the child/ren with a disability and includes but is not limited to the medical, physical, social and educational needs of the child/ren. The Plan is able to purchase in aids and/or equipment that will enhance ability and wellbeing. For any aids or equipment a letter of support is needed from a suitably qualified person such as an O.T. or Physiotherapist. In my last Newsletter I sent out a list from the DSQ guidelines of the sorts of things that could be considered. For the siblings, inclusion in the Plan comes with access to social activities that include the child/ren with a disability.

Also, there are a number of families that I need to go over the DSQ Standards with and I hope to have copies of all the new Policy documents for you so the visit may take just a bit longer than usual.

The Plan brings me to the Information Forums presented by Annette Mayers from Parent to Parent. This Forum gives you the assistance to be able to think more creatively about future needs for your child/ren with a disability. I have given dates in previous Newsletters. A change to the Forum has been made and Annette has agreed to give a presentation in Goondiwindi so that those parents will not have to travel for 4 hours. Unfortunately, Annette is unable to go to Roma, but I will organise a presentation later in the year for the Roma people.

The dates for the Forum are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
31/07/07	Goondiwindi	11am-2.30pm	Venue to be advised
01/08/07	St George	11am-2.30pm	Lifeline House
02/08/07	Tara	11am-2.30pm	Tara Neighbourhood Centre

Lunch will be provided as well as coffee/tea on arrival. Pencil and paper will also be provided. Just bring yourself. Please let Mandy know if you have any specific dietary requirements.

Enclosed is information about the Parent to Parent Conference; Triple P Seminar to be held in St George; SiBs website and Share Your Story a Queensland community awareness initiative which you may be interested in.

I would like all of you to seriously consider if you can attend the Parent to Parent Conference. One of the areas of individual Plans is the support for families in gathering of information to assist you and your family with regards to accessing up to date information in the disability area. This is a very important area. Your Plan will pay for accommodation and travel. The Plan can also pay for assistance to help with looking after the children at home or whilst you are away in Toowoomba. I encourage you to think about the possibility of attendance at the Conference or at the attendance at any other courses on offer. I am sure that you are all on the mailing list of the Local Area Coordinators for Disability Services Queensland and they send out a lot of information on courses. Remember the Plan can assist with all or any of these courses.

If I have not already been in contact with you with regards to your Plan and the Information Forums to be held in Goondiwindi, St George and Tara, I will be shortly.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me on my mobile 0427 734 950.

Cheers**Pauline**