

Family Support Program – St George Newsletter

Here in St George we have experienced some welcome rain. I hope the same is happening out your way.

Two weeks ago I attend a conference in Brisbane for all the Non Government Agency's (NGO's) who manage the Family Support Program as well as Disability Services Queensland people in the same positions. I found that I got a lot out of the two days as well as forming contacts for future networking. One of the angst that every one seemed to be feeling was the constancy of ongoing changes.

As the new half year Plans are almost upon us I have taken the NGO Guidelines for the use of Discretionary Funds and included it with this newsletter. Another initiative is that I have asked the Family Worker to visit every family currently in the Program during the month of June, to look at reviewing the Jan – June 07 Plan and getting feedback on ideas for us to begin work on the July – December 07 Plan. I will get Jean to call each family to organise a time for her to come to you to discuss the above. For cost effectiveness of fuel and accommodation expenses, Jean will need to see every family in a location at a similar time (where possible). The areas will be divided into Roma, Tara, St George and Goondiwindi. People living in surrounding areas will be seen (where possible) while Jean is driving from one town to the next.

The week of the 11th June I will be going to Sydney for a Conference and will be back on deck the following week. I am looking forward to this.

Just to recap on some up coming events. On the 1st August, families in Goondiwindi and St George are invited to a presentation by Annette Mayers from Parent 2 Parent. This will be the continuation of "Forward Planning" for your child/ren. Again this will be held in St George. Next year hopefully an Information Forum will be held at Goondiwindi. On the 2nd August the same Forum will be held at Tara for people living there and the surrounding areas.

On the 24th & 25th of October the 2007 Parent 2 Parent Conference will be held in Toowoomba. From what I have heard from Annette, this will be of major interest to parents. Stay Tuned.....I will send information out just as soon as I have it.

Audit time is drawing close. The Family Support Program is to be audited against each of the Standards. The Auditors will pick families (with their permission to be contacted) at random to check back to see if there is a paper trail dealing with every contact and transaction by myself and you in relation to the Program. This is a very intensive time for us here at the St George Office. All of Lifeline Policies have had to be re written to be in line with specific DSQ requirements. All the Policies are completed and in Draft form. These policy documents will be going before the Board in July/August to be ratified then copies will be posted out to you. There should be room in your folders to keep them in.

Does any one have any time to help out in looking at web sites of similar organisations to Lifeline & the area of disability? I am really keen to get a web site up and running and need some assistance. Any ideas are welcome.

Cheers till next time.....

Pauline