

THE WORD ON THE STREET



NEW FUNDING Individual Disability Advocacy

Issue 11

Spring/Summer 2009

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Team Leader Rose Ngoga and Jason Watt discuss the new Individual Disability Advocacy Service IDAS to be provided in the north-western corridor of the Perth metropolitan area

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs announced the results of the new round of funding for additional Individual Advocacy services and Sussex Street along with Uniting Care West received funding. This is recurrent funding and will improve access for people with disabilities to individual advocacy support, assisting them to overcome barriers such as abuse, neglect and discrimination so that they can fully participate in the community.

The new service will cover the Cities of Wanneroo, Joondalup and Stirling and the Towns of Cambridge and Vincent. We are currently seeking suitable

venues in each council from which to deliver the service.

For Sussex Street the new funding expands into the metropolitan area the service already provided in the regions of the Lower Great Southern, the Mid-West and the Goldfields.

Uniting Care West and Sussex Street will both deliver services to the new metro area and are working together to ensure that the delivery of the service to clients is seamless. To this end we will have a central phone number for clients to call and they will be directed to either service.

Rose Ngoga has been appointed Team Leader of the advocates for both services including the regional areas. Rose has worked in IDAS for four years so brings a lot of experience to the service.

Sussex Street welcomes Jason Watt as a new advocate to the service. Jason has worked at both the Employment Law Centre and SCALES where his most recent experience has been as a tenant advocate. Jason is keen to bring his previous experiences to the program. Previously he worked to ensure students with a disability at Murdoch University were not disadvantaged and had equitable access to the universities programs and services.

Call 1300 648655 for further information and assistance.



FUNDING FOR 2009/2010

Other than the additional funding for the new North West Metro IDAS program the funding levels for this year are very similar. (see page 1)

We continue to have all the programs from last year which includes the **Community Legal Services Programs** of Generalist, Disability Discrimination and Welfare Rights. In addition we received one off funding to progress work in relation to reducing violence against women and children. In particular to enhance projects at raising awareness about domestic violence and its effects on the community. This is balanced against the one off funding received last year.

We are continued to be supported with funding from the **Public Purposes Trust** which supports the Generalist program including the Night Legal Service and a part-time outreach to Midland as well as through the **Legal Contributions Trust** fund which provides a full-time outreach program in Belmont.

The **Tenancy** program is funded as a full-time service from this year where in the two previous years it were funded at .8 FTE. Given the pressure on tenants because of the current financial crisis this is a welcome increase.

The **Financial Counselling** program is in its final year of the three year agreement that saw an increase in funding in the second year to a full-time service.

We continue to receive **Emergency Relief** funding for bill paying purposes. This funding was increased during the previous year to assist clients in financial hardship due to the Global Financial Crisis. This funding has been continued for the next two years.

The **Individual Disability Advocacy Service** in the regional areas of the Goldfields, Mid West and Lower Great Southern received additional funding midway through last year allowing us to increase the hours to provide much needed assistance to people with disabilities living in those regional areas. We are pleased that this funding has been maintained at that level thus ensuring the service can be maintained at the additional hours.

NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Sussex Street Community Law Service Inc. held its Annual General Meeting on the 26th October 2009.

Jane Timmermanis who has been the long standing Chairperson tendered her resignation.

The new Board of Management is

Chairperson - Tim Hammond

Vice Chair - GiGi Visscher

Secretary - Tim Hammond

Treasurer - John Lewis

Board members

Jane Timmermanis

Pam Kaye

Martin McGrath

Jason Berry

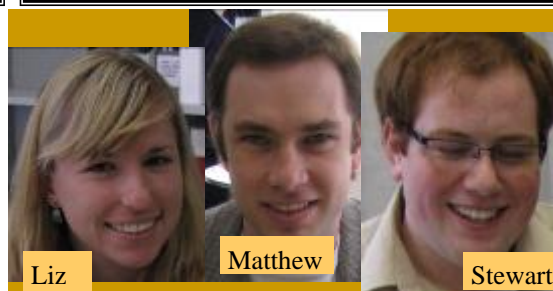
Andres Timmermanis

Esther Ortiz

Pip Elms



FREEHILLS SECONDEES

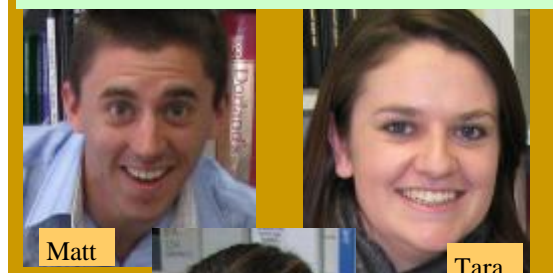


Liz

Matthew

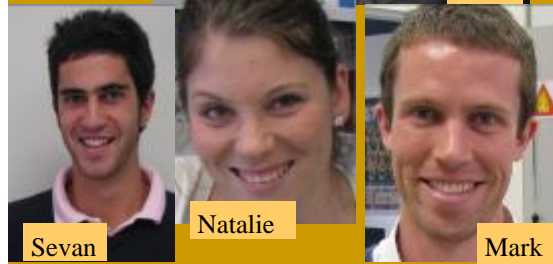
Stewart

Sussex Street is would like to thank all the secondees from Freehills during 2009 for the committed and professional assistance they have provided to staff and clients of the service. A snapshot of some of the secondees



Matt

Tara



Sevan

Natalie

Mark

NEW GENERAL MANAGER AND PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR



New General Manager and Principal Solicitor Nicole Joseph has not wasted any time in getting down to business.

Seen here busy at work Nicole has met with all staff to discuss their roles at Sussex Street so that she has a good under-

standing of each program at Sussex Street. Nicole, whose most recent position was at the Perth office of Corrs Chambers, has previously volunteered in a number of Community Legal Centres in Victoria and Western Australia.

Nicole has mainly worked in private practice since being admitted in 2003.



NEWS FROM THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION UNIT (DDU)

FAREWELL CHERYL

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Cheryl Collier. Staff joined Cheryl at a farewell lunch at Bella Vista on 19th November to remember all the laughs we had enjoyed during her time with us.

Cheryl commenced in March 2005 where she worked for a year as a family and civil law solicitor. Following a brief break she recommenced as the Disability Discrimination solicitor where she was still working until her departure. Albeit it having taken maternity leave to deliver her third child. Following that she returned to DDU in a part-time capacity

During her time at the service Cheryl achieved some excellent results for clients. She was involved in providing community legal education and forwarded many submissions on law reform to improve the plight of people with disabilities.

Cheryl is returning to the UK for personal reasons and we wish her every happiness and success in her future endeavours.

Keelyann Thomson filled the vacancy left by Rebecca Tedder who had been working in the Disability Discrimination Unit for just on 12 months. Keelyann had previous experience in New South Wales in both disability discrimination and community legal centres prior to commencing at Sussex Street in July.

The DDU assists clients across a range of disability discrimination matters including education, employment, goods and services, and recreation. The DDU provides



WELCOME TO KEELYANN AND PRUE

information and advice to people who feel they have been discriminated against due to their disability. Under the legislation it is unlawful to discriminate against someone due to a disability of any type including physical, intellectual or psychological and covers disabilities in the past, present or that may exist in the future.

For further information and assistance from the DDU contact the service on 6253 9500 or 1300 648655.

The DDU is a free service.

Following the departure of Cheryl Collier we welcomed Prue Hawkins to the unit. Prue has had experience in assisting councils with access issues and in particular to work on their Disability Access Inclusion Plans. Because of her own disability Prue brings a personal perspective to the unit.



Cheryl Collier





Editors Bits

Since the last issue the service has seen many new faces arrive and a couple leave.

We would like to say a big

Hello to

Keelyann Thompson—DDU

Prue Hawkins—DDU

Jason Watt—IDAS

Nicole Joseph—New General Manager and Principal Solicitor

And Goodbye

Helen Turner—General Manager and Principal Solicitor

Cheryl Collier—DDU

See inside for the story on the comings and goings of the staff.

Christmas Party

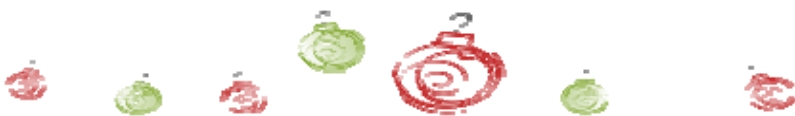
Staff enjoyed a lovely evening on Friday 4 December to celebrate the achievements of 2009 and look forward to 2010.

Volunteer thank you evening

Sussex Street took the opportunity to thank all the volunteer Night Legal Service solicitors, law students, Board members and Freehills secondees for all the assistance they had provided to the service during 2009

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all supporters of the service and wish you

*A very happy
Christmas and a
wonderful New Year*



Family Law Information Sessions

Sussex Street commenced Family Law Information Sessions in March. These sessions are approved and accredited by the Family Court. The attendees will receive a certificate approved by the Family Court for attending the session.

Sessions are held in the mornings and evening, upcoming dates in 2010 are

13 January	Children	10.00 - 11.00 am
27 January	Children	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Property	7.00 - 8.00 pm
10 February	Children	10.00 - 11.00 am
24 February	Children	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Property	7.00 - 8.00 pm
10 March	Children	10.00 - 11.00 am
24 March	Children	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Property	7.00 - 8.00 am
14 April	Children	10.00-11.00 am
28 April	Children	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Property	7.00 - 8.00 pm
12 May	Children	10.00 - 11.00 am
26 May	Children	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Property	7.00 - 8.00 pm
16 June	Children	10.00 - 11.00 am
30 June	Children	6.00 - 7.00 pm
	Property	7.00 - 8.00 pm

Interested people can contact the office on 6253 9500 to make a booking.

Contact Details

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