

Our Vision

A strong and viable children's services sector that enhances the lives of children, families and communities

Our Mission

Our mission is to make a significant contribution to the well-being of children, families and communities through supporting excellence and equity in children's services.

We develop, interpret and disseminate information that strengthens the capacity of children's services to deliver quality programs.

We support the operators of children's services to make informed and sound decisions about the governance, management and administration of their organisations, with a focus on personal, social and fiscal responsibility.

We uphold the Indigenous cultures of Australia, seeking to support the inclusion of Aboriginal children in all children's services and to deepen community understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal family and community values.

We are committed to the provision of services that foster community spirit and help to create a humane and productive society.

Our Values

Accountability

We listen openly, respect confidentiality and work with integrity; conscious that today's decisions will shape the future.

Customer Service

We provide good customer service. We welcome and respond to feedback.

Diversity

We appreciate and respect cultural diversity in our workplace and communities.

Respect

We recognise the value of people's life experience, wisdom, knowledge and skills.

Trust

We welcome and support people who come into contact with us.

We aim to inspire trust by our actions.

Working Together

We value every staff member and work together as equals while recognising the diversity of jobs we do.

We encourage staff to show direction, lead graciously and develop their skills and knowledge.

The Networker

Volume 1 Number 1



May 2006

Welcome to Issue No. 1 of Network SA's new newsletter for the children's services sector, *The Networker*. Contributions welcome!

Services provided to the children's services sector by Network SA & ARMSU include:

- Advice, support and training for long day care, OSHC and Aboriginal services on financial management, staffing matters, policy development and management committee issues
- Advice, support, mentoring and training for OSHC services preparing for OSHCQA, and maintaining quality once accredited
- Aboriginal cultural awareness activities for children and training for staff teams
- Mentoring support for new Directors

Training

See page 2 for training funded through the SA Professional Support Coordinator. Call 1800 129 606 for further information.

See inserts for MBTI training provided by Network SA. Call 8445 8128 for further information.

Resources

See inserts for your free sample job description. More available by contacting 1800 129 606

Mentoring

For new Directors in Long Day Care and Out of School Hours Care - call Sarah (LDC) or Kay (OSHC) on 8445 8128 for details

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The material contained in this publication is of a general nature only and not intended to be advice on any particular matter.

Please share this newsletter with others in your service.

Network SA Training funded through the PSC *

PSC - Professional Support Coordinator, funded by the Australian Government.

All enquiries for advice, support and training funded through the PSC

call 1800 129 606

Budgets & Financial Management - for Directors, Assistant Directors, Management Committee members, employers in LDC & OSHC. (\$44 per person)

- **Adelaide:** Presenters Sarah Rischmueller & Jane Thompson. 6.30pm - 9.30pm Wednesday 10th May at Education Development Centre, Milner St, Hindmarsh.

- **Naracoorte:** Presenter Sarah Rischmueller 9.30am - 12.30pm Tuesday 6th June at DECS office in Naracoorte

- **Whyalla:** Presenter Bev Pope 9.30am - 12.30pm Tuesday 27th June at Whyalla Westlands.

Policy Writing - for Directors, Assistant Directors, Management Committee members, employers in LDC & OSHC. (\$44 per person)

- **Adelaide:** Presenters Sarah Rischmueller & Jamie Hutchison. 10am - 1pm Thursday 18th May at Gowrie Training Centre.

- **Naracoorte:** Presenter Sarah Rischmueller 1.30pm - 4.30pm Tuesday 6th June at DECS office in Naracoorte

Risk Management - for Directors, Assistant Directors, Management Committee members, employers in LDC. (\$44 per person) Presenter: Anne Gawen. 10am - 1pm Friday 19th May at Network SA.

Planning Processes - for Directors and Assistant Directors in LDC & OSHC. (\$99.00 per person). Presenter Lindsay Holmes. **Part 1** 9.30am - 4pm Friday 26th May; **Part 2** 9.30am - 4pm Friday 23rd June at Network SA .

Responsibilities of Management Committees - for Directors, Assistant Directors and Committee members in LDC. (\$44.00 per person) Presenter Maureen McGuire. 1.30pm - 4.30pm Thursday 1st June at Network SA.

Staffing Dilemmas - for Directors and Assistant Directors in LDC & OSHC. (\$44 per person)

- **Whyalla:** Presenter Bev Pope 1.30pm - 4.30pm Tuesday 27th June at Whyalla Westlands.

May 2006

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June 2006

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Use enclosed Training Registration Form to book

On-site training in your centre is also available. Topics include governance / management committees, policy and operational issues, staffing matters and financial management.

For enquiries or to register call 1800 129 606 or call us direct on 8445 8128 for more information.

Website: www.networksa.org.au

Our IT systems are about to be upgraded so that we can provide more services via our website - www.networksa.org.au.

If you have ever thought "I wish they'd put on their website" now is the time to tell us!

Call 8445 8128 and ask to speak to Braden or Maureen, or email us at contact@networksa.org.au



Know Before You Go Movie Review Service

The YMA Know Before You Go Movie Review Service provides independent and age based reviews of all G, PG, (and some M) movies. Each movie is reviewed from a child's point of view, with particular attention to violent material and material which young children may find scary. The Know Before You Go Movie Review Service was recently awarded a 2005 National Child Protection Award.

Parents and vacation care operators can access this free service (now with more than 220 reviews, and an indication of availability on video / DVD) via the Young Media Australia Helpline (freecall 1800 700 357) or YMA website (www.youngmedia.org.au). The Helpline includes access to a Telephone Interpreter Service.

Several movies showing these school holidays contain a theme of animals in danger. Children of any age who are sensitive to animal distress or animals in peril, will need parental guidance with *Lassie*, *March of the Penguins*, *Shaggy Dog* and *Dreamer*. Children's services staff and parents can read the full reviews of these movies on the YMA website (www.youngmedia.org.au) or call the YMA Helpline (1800 700 357) (national, freecall, 24/7).

What type are you?

Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) workshop for children's services will be held at Network SA 9.30 - 4.30 Monday 19th June. Strictly limited numbers, cost \$300 per person. Lunch and materials are included. Accredited MBTI trainer. See insert for details.

Super Choice

From 1 July 2006 employers in the children's services sector in SA who come under the WorkChoices system will have to offer choice of superannuation fund to **new** employees.

Employers will not have to give a standard choice form to existing staff unless the employee requests one, or if the employer changes, or can no longer contribute into, the current fund.

The ATO has announced it will send updated information to employers about the extension of choice of fund, closure of the Superannuation Holding Accounts Special Account (SHASA) and other superannuation guarantee amendments.

The mail-out will commence 28 April

NAIDOC

NAIDOC Week celebrations in 2006 are from 2nd - 9th July. The National Theme for 2006 is Respect the Past - Believe in the Future.

NAIDOC celebrates the survival of Indigenous culture and the Indigenous contribution to modern Australia.

All Australians are encouraged to participate in NAIDOC Week activities.

If you would like to receive further information on this year's NAIDOC activities or copies of this year's winning NAIDOC Poster, forward your details and the number of posters required to the following address or use the online request form below.

Posters will be distributed at the end of May.

National NAIDOC Committee

PO Box 17

Woden ACT 2606

or faxed on (02) 6264 5903

or e-mail: info@naidoc.org.au

Welcome to new Directors

Is this your first introduction to Network SA? We'd like to get to know you. If you would like us to visit you at your service, call Sue on 8445 8128. Totally free of charge, and no obligation of course.

Food For Thought

For the last 7 months my friend Barb has been battling a cancer in her throat and mouth. She has endured surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. Now on the road to recovery, Barb has been reflecting on some of life's lessons, and sharing her thoughts with her wide circle of friends. Recently, Barb recalled 3 'rules' she first heard from a speaker several years ago, and which have special meaning for her today.

Here at Network SA & ARMSU we've been discussing what Barb has had to say, and I thought I'd share some of her thoughts, and ours, with you.

Life is Not Fair

We all know this is true, yet still we are shocked, thinking 'it's not fair!' when things go wrong.

Whether it's an illness, a job loss, a competitor opening up down the road, too much work and too little time, a relationship breakdown - yes, it's not fair. When bad things happen, by all means take some time to come to terms with the unfairness. But it's a bit like getting your car stuck on a muddy track. If you want to make progress, you will have to take action. You could get the car out yourself, get someone else to work with you (teamwork!), or hand the job over to someone better equipped. Otherwise you might have to stay in the mud waiting for the sunshine, or just abandon the car.

Life isn't fair, but don't let that stop you. There's more to see and do.

Never Give Up

When the road seems too steep to travel, there are usually options. Maybe you need to find another route, accept a slower pace or get someone to tow you for a while. Accepting help is a smart strategy when the going gets tough!

Sometimes you do need to give up - an idea or a habit - in order to make way for something else.

'Never give up' is really about exploring, learning and growing, and not just sitting in that bogged car saying 'it's not fair'.

Play Your Strengths

None of us is without strengths and weaknesses. You may be a very good driver, but a hopeless mechanic and an even worse map reader.

Being honest (and forgiving) with yourself about your own strengths and weaknesses, and those of others, helps you to do a better job of setting goals. It can save you the heartache caused by unrealistic expectations, and enable you to use your strengths to best advantage.

Sometimes it's tricky to work out the most sensible and effective responses to weaknesses; using tools such as a risk assessment can help even when you are reviewing behaviours (we're running a training course on risk management on 19th May - see page 2).

Oh, and a note of caution - *over*playing your strengths reduces their effectiveness. Overplaying strengths happens when you rely on them alone and fail to act on the weaknesses. No point in driving beautifully all the way to Perth when you wanted to get to Alice Springs.



Cheers,

Maureen McGuire

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