

Friday, 30 July 2010

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION DISABILITY REFORM:** **ACTIVATING CITIZENSHIP**

The Social Inclusion Board is now seeking the views of all South Australians to inform the development of its Blueprint for disability reform.

The Commissioner for Social Inclusion, Monsignor David Cappelletti says that the views of all South Australians are important as our current approach is not sustainable.

“Many people are struggling to receive an appropriate service, leaving some families in desperate need. This is despite the best efforts of staff working within the system and recent increases in funding.”

“People with disability, families and carers have told me that things can’t go on as they currently are. We are now taking an important step towards long-term change.”

Monsignor Cappelletti said that the final blueprint for disability reform will have a big impact on the way the system responds to the needs of people with disability, their families and carers.

“These reforms will be promoting choice, inclusion, and participation and will seek to address a range of issues including the delivery of services, legislation, education, health, employment and accessibility.”

“We will be looking at the roles of government and the community sector in delivering services. We will explore further the question of individualised funding. We will seek joined-up approaches in the way systems respond.”

Monsignor Cappelletti said that the views of people with disability, families and carers are a critical part of developing a reform plan.

“It is very important that the Board hears the ideas, innovations and solutions from people with disability, families and carers, as well as people who work in the sector and other community members.”

Monsignor Cappo says that the reforms will look at more than just the need for additional resources.

“More money is important - there is no doubt about that. But more money will not change the way the system works and will not address the long-term challenges of an ageing population.”

The Social Inclusion Board has released a discussion paper, *Activating Citizenship: a Social Inclusion Approach for Disability in South Australia*, which outlines the scope of the reforms and asks a series of questions of the public.

Feedback can also be given to the Board via an online survey. Phone submissions are also being received via the Disability Information Resource Centre (1300 305 558).

To provide direct feedback to the Board members, the Social Inclusion Board will be conducting a series of community meetings across South Australia during August and September.

Monsignor Cappo acknowledged that other disability reforms are underway at state and Commonwealth levels.

“There are positive things happening at both national and state level around disability reform. We are not repeating the work of these other important reforms – we will be building on them.”

Submissions to the Board will close on Monday, 27 September 2010. The final Blueprint for reform will be released in mid-2011.

To access the discussion paper or online survey, visit the Social Inclusion website ([www.socialinclusion.sa.gov.au](http://www.socialinclusion.sa.gov.au)).

Location	Venue	Date	Time
<b>Elizabeth</b>	Playford Civic Centre	Tuesday 17 August	10:30am to 12:30pm
<b>Modbury</b>	Jubilee Community Centre	Thursday 19 August	2pm to 4pm
<b>Port Adelaide</b>	Mansfield Park Community Hall	Monday 23 August	10:30am to 12:30pm
<b>Victor Harbor</b>	Recreation Centre Hall	Wednesday 25 August	10:30am to 12:30pm
<b>Noarlunga</b>	Moana Surf Hall	Thursday 26 August	2.30pm to 4.30pm
<b>Mount Barker</b>	Mount Barker Town Hall	Monday 30 August	10:30am to 12:30pm
<b>Adelaide CBD</b>	Pilgrim Centre, Flinders Street	Monday 30 August	7pm to 9pm
<b>Ceduna</b>	Ceduna TAFE	Thursday 2 September	10:30am to 12:30pm
<b>Cooper Pedy</b>	Cooper Pedy Council Chambers	Monday 6 September	2.30pm to 4.30pm
<b>Mount Gambier</b>	Mount Gambier TAFE	Thursday 9 September	11:00am to 1pm
<b>Port Pirie</b>	Port Pirie TAFE	Monday 13 September	1pm to 3pm
<b>Port Augusta</b>	Port Augusta TAFE	Tuesday 14 September	10:30am to 12:30pm
<b>Port Lincoln</b>	Civic Centre	Thursday 16 September	10:30am to 12:30pm
<b>Berri</b>	Senior Citizens Hall	Monday 20 September	10:30am to 12:30pm
<b>Murray Bridge</b>	Murray Bridge TAFE	Wednesday 22 September	11am to 1pm
<b>Kangaroo Island</b>	Kingscote Hall	Thursday 23 September	11am to 1pm