



MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY QUEENSLAND

CLIENT UPDATE • JANUARY 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A new year has arrived and all the staff at Muscular Dystrophy Qld would like to wish you all the very best for your journey through 2014.

Please remember that we are just a phone call away if you need our help during the coming year. Our friendly Case Workers are available to assist you with:

- Information
- Referral
- Advocacy
- Hi-lo bed loans and repairs
- Community Networks and Gatherings
- No Interest Loans
- YLYC Hosting

If you are in Brisbane, please feel free to drop in and see us anytime in our new office at 1149 Sandgate Rd, Nundah.



DISABILITY PARKING GUIDELINES



Did you know that if you have a Queensland Disability Parking Permit you are entitled to park for free at any on-street parking in local government metered and regulated parking areas:

- up to 30 minutes—when the time limit stated is less than this.
- for an unlimited time—when the time limit stated is 30 minutes or more.
- in parking bays displaying the international symbol of access for on and off-street parking bays.

Permits only need to be displayed when using a valid parking bay/space. Permits must be displayed in the lower left-hand corner of the windscreen with the permit number and expiry date clearly visible.

Check the local arrangements when using the permit outside Queensland, as they may vary. For any further information, check the Queensland Government website www.qld.gov.au



Our annual Red Bow Appeal will happen in March with Red Bow Day on Friday 7 March. Each year this campaign help us raise awareness and generate much needed funding so that we can continue to support people across Queensland with muscular dystrophy or other neuromuscular disorders.

Would you like to get involved?

- Collect spare change - we have disposable collection boxes available for you, your family members and friends to collect your spare change during the month of March.
- Volunteer your time - maybe you would like to collect donations and sell merchandise at your local shopping centre.

For more information please contact Samantha on 07 3243 9700 or email samanthab@mdqld.org.au

ENTER STAGE RIGHT!

Congratulations to Doug Robins who will be starring in a theatrical production based on his own experiences. We would encourage anyone in the Cairns region to check out his performance!



A funny, revelatory and inspiring play based on the experiences of, and starring, Doug Robins. Take a ride in someone else's wheels.



Coming of age is a tricky business, especially when you're on wheels and life keeps throwing roadblocks at you.

Doug is 25 years old. He likes football, partying with his mates, and girls. He's pretty much your average guy except for one big difference. Doug has Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and negotiates life's twists and turns in a wheelchair; not always an easy feat despite the help and support of friends, family and well-meaning strangers.

Life is no blithe spin in the park; stairs aren't built for wheels, and some doors are easier to get through than others.

Armed with a whole lot of smarts, an impressive capacity for patience and a keen awareness of life's absurdities, Doug takes a heroic journey into the liminal worlds between boy and man, man and machine, the real and the fantastical, to discover who he is, and in the process finds a path uniquely his own.

'Propelled' offers a rare insight into an inspiring life through the eyes of an extraordinary man on a remarkable journey. Take a ride and be transformed.

The differences may not be what they seem.

Please visit jute.com.au for dates, times or more information.

WHAT'S ON

31 Jan to 8 Feb 2014
Propelled

Jute Theatre Company
96 Abbot St, Cairns

7 March 2014
Red Bow Day

24-25 March 2014
Disability Conference

Brisbane Entertainment Centre

10 April 2014
YLYC Workshop
Venue TBC

18 May 2014
Hog Ride

Leaving from Morgan & Wacker,
Newstead

HOG CHARITY RIDE

This year will mark Muscular Dystrophy Queensland's 20th HOG charity ride! Every year, the guys from Brisbane's Harley Owners Group band together to support Muscular Dystrophy Queensland by taking pillions on a day long adventure on the back of a Harley Davidson.

This years ride will be on Sunday 18th May. The day starts at 8:00am with breakfast and registration at Morgan and Wacker in Newstead before leaving on a full day ride with morning tea and lunch provided.

Let your family and friends know about this great day out. Tickets are \$140.00 and are on sale until Friday 9th May unless sold out prior.

Contact Samantha for more information on 07 3243 9700 or email samanthab@mdqld.org.au



QUEENSLAND DISABILITY CONFERENCE 2014

The Queensland Disability Conference, being held on 24 and 25 March 2014, is a great opportunity to hear the latest on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and to learn about Queensland's plans for implementing the scheme from July 2016.

Master of ceremonies Kay McGrath will facilitate an informative and engaging two-day program featuring some of the leading voices from the disability sector and beyond. Through a range of keynote presentations, panel discussions and practical concurrent sessions, the conference will explore the significant changes, challenges and opportunities that the NDIS will bring.

Day 1: The big picture

- Queensland's path to the NDIS – The Honourable Tracy Davis MP, Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
- The national perspective – David Bowen, CEO, National Disability Insurance Agency
- Learnings from the launch sites – hear about the experiences of those who are already implementing the new scheme
- The self-directing experience – people with disability will share their perspectives on the opportunities and challenges of greater choice and control.

Day 2: Queensland's preparations and the Queensland Disability Awards

- Why it's important – positioning Queensland for an NDIS and the Queensland Government's priorities for the next five years
- Building community connections – Ric Thompson, Inclusion Works
- Choice in a rural and regional environment: local connections, local solutions – Jennifer Cullen, Synapse
- Queensland Disability Awards – be inspired by the people and projects who have won awards at this gala presentation ceremony and lunch.

The full conference program will be released early in 2014.

For updates, follow the conversation on Twitter @disabilityqld #disabilityqld or visit www.communities.qld.gov.au and click on the events tab to find the link for The Queensland Disability Conference.

Registration fees (GST inclusive)

Person with disability – \$50

Carer (as delegate) – \$50

Carer (accompanying person with disability) – Free

NDIS TELECONFERENCE AVAILABLE

Our teleconference update on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was held on December 4 with Fiona Anderson from the National Disability Scheme (NDS) and Mark Edmonds from the Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDS).

Although the NDIS is still a few years away in Queensland, Fiona and Mark both encourage every Queenslanders with a disability to start thinking about how the future could look for them if they had access to the required supports. There has been some encouraging feedback from launch sites around Australia even though the media seems to have focused on budget over-runs and delays without actually explaining the reasons behind this. We hope you will find this an informative view of what is happening so far with the NDIS and we will certainly keep you up to date with further developments in the future.

We would encourage everyone to listen to the recording of this teleconference (and any others that you may be interested in) on our website www.mdqld.org.au or you can ask for a CD to be mailed to you.

Join us for an update on these issues at our next teleconference on 2 April.

THANKS TO OUR FUNDRAISING TEAM!

At MDQ we are very fortunate to have our own fundraising team who bring in donations and sell art union tickets. With very limited government funding, our fundraisers are a very important part of our organisation.

A special thanks to Arthur (pictured centre) who retired at the end of 2013 after working for Muscular Dystrophy Qld for over 13 years! During this time Arthur has brought in donations totalling over 1 million dollars to support people living with muscular dystrophy.



YLYC WORKSHOP

Muscular Dystrophy Qld will be holding another "Your Life Your Choice" workshop on Thursday 10 April. If you have recurrent funding and are interested in Muscular Dystrophy Qld being your host provider for "Your Life Your Choice" starting in July 2014 please come along.

If you would like to come, or would like some further information, please contact Kim McNab on 07 3243 9700 or email kimm@mdqld.org.au

CHRISTMAS GATHERINGS

Thanks to everyone who came along to one of our Christmas Gatherings - we hope that you had a wonderful time. It was a good chance to catch up with some familiar faces as well as making some new connections.

MDQ will keep you informed of meetings in your area, for most areas this will probably be around mid-year and Christmas.



OUR NEW WHEELS

Muscular Dystrophy Qld has been very fortunate to take delivery of our modified Kia Carnival which has been specially adapted for Case Worker Jean-Paul by JobAccess. This vehicle will enable J-P to visit his clients in Moreton and the Sunshine Coast independently, no longer requiring the support of other resources to do his much needed work in these areas.

JobAccess is a free information and advice service regarding employment of people with disability. JobAccess helps people with disability, employers, service providers and the community to access information about services, financial assistance and workplace solutions. You can find useful information about reasonable adjustments, disclosure of disability, disability employment case studies, tools and checklists.

If you are currently working, or would like to find work, maybe JobAccess could help you too - check out their website www.jobaccess.gov.au



HAVE YOU TRIED BOCCIA YET?

Boccia is a game that requires accuracy, skill and concentration rather than strength. It can be played socially or competitively - right up to Paralympic level. A new season of boccia has just started. Players of all ages and abilities can join in at local programs in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville.

Contact Sporting Wheelies on 07 3253 3333 for information about a program in your area.

