

STAR NEWSLETTER

Victorian State Election

With the state election less than 10 days away we are providing the following information that may assist you in casting your vote and making it count with people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

For information about party platforms and election commitments go to -

ALP policy at

[http://www.vic.alp.org.au/news-events-media/news/\\$493-5-million-to-make-victoria-and-even-fairer-st/](http://www.vic.alp.org.au/news-events-media/news/$493-5-million-to-make-victoria-and-even-fairer-st/)

Greens Policy at

<http://vic.greens.org.au/policies>

Liberal policy at

<http://www.vic.liberal.org.au/News/Policies/tabid/189/Default.aspx>

If you don't have access to the internet STAR can provide you with what is currently available in print form.

VCOSS paper Victorian Election Platform – “Cause not consequence” can be read at

http://www.vic.vic.gov.au/documents/VCOSS%20docs/Election/VCOSS_State_Election_Platform_Basics.pdf

Coalition of Disability Rights 2010 State Election - Call to Parties

The Coalition for Disability Rights brings together people with a disability, families, carers, advocacy bodies and disability support provider organisations to work together to ensure that people with a disability and their families have the right to be fully participating citizens of Australia. The Coalition for Disability Rights covers the whole of the disability sector in Victoria with partners including:

- National Disability Services (NDS)
- The Association for Children with a disability (ACD)
- Carers Victoria

• Victorian Disability Advocacy Network (VDAN) of which STAR is a member
There are many thousands of members that comprise these peak bodies, advocacy groups and associations and indirectly, the people with disability they represent, their families and supporters.

There is still time to contact your local MP to talk about the issues that are important to you and your family. In the next week there will be opportunities via Talk back radio and public forums and meetings to air your views and expectations of whichever party is elected to govern Victoria for the next 4 years.

The Call to the Parties 2010 STATE Election document can be downloaded on www.starvictoria.org.au on the What's new page or contact the STAR office if you wish for a copy to be mailed to you.

Aids and Assistance for Voters

The Victorian Electoral Commission provides a range of services and resources to ensure that people's right to vote is not limited by language, disability or circumstance.

For more information, contact VEC on phone 131 832 (free call within Victoria) or email info@vec.vic.gov.au.
www.vec.vic.gov.au

Do you have a purple spot on your Newsletter?

If so, then you belong to a small group of individuals or organisations who have not yet renewed either their membership or newsletter subscription to STAR for 2009-10



Advocating for people with intellectual
Disability and their families
2nd Floor, Ross House,
247-251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne Vic 3000
Ph: 9650 2730 Fax: 9650 6972
Email: info@starvictoria.org.au
Website: www.starvictoria.org.au

For Your Information

National Carer Strategy

The closing date for submissions is 5th December 2010, 5pm EDST. A submission form has been included in this discussion paper as a method for providing feedback. If you are providing feedback, not all questions on the submission form have to be completed. You may answer all or any of the questions.

Please read the discussion paper which can be downloaded at <http://ecm74.com/rp/10008/process.clsp?t=284A2E155F2092FA4909CD040E50E4D42E3EE392A943E3419BC7A51B20F3B1525>

Post: National Carer Strategy

Mail drop point 600

GPO Box 9848

Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

If you would like more information please contact the STAR office.

Carers back to work grants

These Grants are available to Carers to assist with costs associated with returning to study or work after a 2 year gap, and up to \$1,000 can be provided. The funds can be used to cover respite care costs, transport, broadband access, course fees etc. The purposes for which the funds can be made available are really quite broad.

The takeup of these Grants has so far been quite low so it is important that the information gets out to carers and family members.

To find out more contact Edwina Mason
A/g Manager Funding Innovation|Project
Manager Respite and Carer Support
Disability Services Division|Department
of Human Services

Level 7 50 Lonsdale St Melbourne

p. 9096 7576| m. 0412 234 843|

edwina.mason@dhs.vic.gov.au

Planning for Action on Accessible Public Transport in Victoria

Keynote speaker: Jim Betts, Secretary of
the Department of Transport

Date: Thursday, 9th December, 2010

Time: 10am - 1pm

Venue: Jasper Hotel, 489 Elizabeth Street,
Melbourne

Cost: Free, please register

Do you want better access to public
transport for yourself or your community?

VCOSS is building on its previous
Accessible Public Transport Watch
Project to campaign for accessible
transport. This forum will discuss recent
changes and the future improvements
needed to provide greater access to public
transport for people with disabilities and
other groups experiencing difficulties in
using public transport.

Attendees will be able to ask questions
about future plans for accessibility
improvements, and discuss their priorities
and strategies for achieving better access to
transport in the future. VCOSS hopes to
build on the forum in future by facilitating
an accessible transport working group to co-
ordinate advocacy on this issue.

This is an accessible event. If you require
additional assistance, please indicate when
completing the attached registration form.

Disclaimer

*All information contained within the STAR
newsletter is as accurate as possible and is
provided in good faith, however it is not
guaranteed. STAR does not recommend any
product, activity, organisation, service or item –
such details are provided with the STAR news for
general information and interest only.*

STAR Victoria Inc.
39th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 15th December 2010

**Hayden Raysmith Room
4th Floor
Ross House
247 Flinders Lane
Melbourne**

**12.30 - 2.00pm
Meeting commences at 1-45pm**

**Presentation of Annual Report
Election of Board Members
(5 Vacancies)**

Light Refreshments will be served at the meeting
Further information about nominating for the Board or appointing a proxy if you are unable to attend is contained elsewhere in this newsletter. Only financial members can vote or stand for office.

RSVP- by Friday 27th November would be appreciated for catering purposes



STAR VICTORIA INC.
Advocating for people with intellectual
Disability and their families
2nd Floor, Ross House,
247-251 Flinders Lane
Melbourne Vic 3000
Ph: 9650 2730 Fax: 9650 6972
Email: info@starvictoria.org.au
Website: www.starvictoria.org.au

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

There are five (5) vacancies on STAR's Board of Management for election at this year's Annual General Meeting. Under the Constitution, Board Members are each elected for a 3 year term and may only serve for two consecutive terms of 3 years - Nominations to fill these vacancies should be made on the enclosed nomination form which must be returned to the STAR office by Wednesday 8th December 2010.

NB: *Both those nominating and those seeking election must be financial members of STAR. In accordance with the constitution, "if insufficient nominations are received to fill these vacancies, further nominations will be called from the floor at the Annual General Meeting. The Board is also able to co-opt persons for 1 year to fill any vacancies remaining after the Annual General Meeting. Office Bearers are elected the first Board meeting after the AGM."* If you would like to know more about the Board, please ring the office and speak to Esther or Pam on 9650 2730. STAR needs a strong and active Board so that we can continue to be effective in advocating the lobbying for a better deal for people with an intellectual disability and their families.

If undeliverable return to
STAR Victoria Inc.
2nd floor, Ross House
247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000
Print Post Approved
PP331088/00015

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE PAID
AUSTRALIA**

VOTING BY PROXY

It is possible to vote by proxy for Board Members and for or against any motions by proxy. This means that if you are unable to attend the AGM yourself, you can nominate someone else who is a financial member of STAR to vote on your behalf and according to your wishes. The forms for doing this are enclosed and need to be returned by Tuesday 14th December 2010. You can contact the STAR office on 9650 27230 after 8th December to find out the nominations to the Board to assist you in casting your vote.

Proxy and Nomination forms are enclosed with this newsletter and will also be available to be downloaded at the STAR website early next week www.starvictoria.org.au on the What's New page.

If you are uncertain about whether your membership has been paid please contact the STAR office on 9650 2730.