



DSNSG
DEFENCE SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP

National E-Newsletter October 2013

The silly season is well and truly creeping up on us all. I have already started to see Christmas decorations in the stores and local Coordinators have some great Christmas Parties planned over the next few months.

This time of year also highlights the stress of Defence life with many families preparing to post out soon. Hopefully by now most of you have been successful in locking down a house and have started the process for school enrolment and linking into services. Don't forget that we can also assist you with this – either by contacting the National Office on 1800 037 674 or the DSNSG Coordinator in your new area – www.dsnsq.org.au

Currently we have Coordinator positions available for the following location Melbourne North, Puckapunyal, Mornington, Sydney North, Richmond, Gold Coast, Nowra, Singleton and Tamworth. If you would like more information about these positions please contact 1800 037 674.

Don't forget if you have moved house recently, then please email national.coordinator@dsnsq.org.au so we can update your details or alternatively you can go to our website and contact your new local DSNSG Coordinator. Please be aware that we rely on you to notify us of any changes to your contact details. We wouldn't want you to miss out on some of the fabulous events that are being planned across Australia because we don't have your new details.

On behalf of DSNSG National Committee and local Coordinators I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and safe travels on your holidays and removals. Please remember to take regular breaks and drive safe.

Tammy Bignell

National Coordinator



ABN: 68 090 485 608

Family and Emergency Care Plan Launch

DSNSG National Committee would like to invite all Perth families to join them for the launch of our

Family Emergency Care Plan

on 13th October 2013

at Karrakatta Community House, Irwin Barracks, Stubbs Terrace Karrakatta,

from 11am to 1pm.

Please RSVP by 9th October 2013 to national.coordinator@dsnsq.org.au or 1800 037 674

The DSNSG Family and Emergency Care Plan is a tool that can be used by Defence Families with special needs to help assist with the care of their loved one. It is based on existing type Care Plans and Health Care Records but differs in that the Family and Emergency Care Plan will be tailored to meet the specific requirements of Defence families, ie mobility and deployment.

The Family and Emergency Care Plan will primarily be used for families who have the serving member deployed but will be available to all our SN families free of charge.

For families where the member is deployed, this means that the primary carer is left alone to care for the person with special needs. We have found via past experience, that if that primary carer is hurt or suddenly taken ill then there is no readily available information in place to assist for when another person has to come in and provide immediate care to that special needs person ie what the normal daily routine is, what medication should be given and when and much more.

For families who use our Circle of Friends Program, a Family and Emergency Care Plan would solve the problem of constant repeating of information when a new support worker is put into the home or for emergency care. The information would then be readily available for the new support worker to read.

The DSNSG Family and Emergency Care Plan will be in a folder format with downloaded forms from our website. These forms would be specifically tailored to meet the requirements of our Defence Force families. In addition, the following emergency items will also be included:

- Carer ID wallet card (identifying that the person is a carer)
- Sticker strip to go on driver's licence (identifying that the person is a carer)
- Sticker to go on window of car to identify that someone in the car has special needs and may need additional assistance/support in the event of an accident

The project will trial with DSNSG families in the Perth area. After this, we will then start to roll it out across Australia.

DSNSG AGM Notice

The Defence Special Needs Support Group Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 17th November via teleconference, commencing at 9.00pm EDST. Your group will be represented by your local DSNSG Coordinator. Please find attached the AGM notice and nomination form.

Please return nomination forms by the Friday 25th October 2013.

Cheryl Jones
Returning Officer
Defence Special Needs Support Group
11 Hudson Close
Medowie NSW, 2318
returningofficer@dsnsq.org.au

Do you need equipment or other items for the person with special needs?

APS Benefits, one of our Supporting Partners has grants on offer to DSNSG families. If you are needing equipment for the person with special needs and are not in a position to fund this yourself, then why not consider applying for a grant. You must be a member of APS Benefits and of course be part of the Defence Special Needs Support Group. Grants are up to \$5000 but usually are approved for around the \$2000 - \$3000 mark. For more information contact the National Office on 1800 037 674.

Facebook

DSNSG Facebook page is proving to be a great source of information for families with members being able to gain advice and share knowledge on a range of topics. Recently DSNSG changed the setting of our Facebook page to secret. This means that the DSNSG Facebook page is no longer able to be searched for on Facebook. If you would like to join the Facebook page please email national.coordinator@dsnsq.org.au with your email details you use for Facebook and you can be added.

Contact details

Don't forget if you have moved house recently, then please email national.coordinator@dsnsq.org.au so we can update your details or you can go to our website and contact your new local DSNSG Coordinator. Please be aware that we rely on you to notify us of any changes to your contact details. We wouldn't want you to miss out on some of the fabulous events that are being planned across Australia during 2013 because we don't have your new details.