



National E-Newsletter July 2013

The Defence Special Needs Support Group Inc. National Committee are sad to announce the resignation of Tracy Attewell from the National Coordinator position. We would like to thank Tracy for fulfilling this role over the past 5 months and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

We would like to introduce the new DSNSG National Committee:

National Coordinator - Tammy Bignell Ph 07 4036 3737 national.coordinator@dsnsg.org.au ,
tammy.bignell@dsnsg.org.au

National Assistant Coordinator - Marilyn Kench Ph 1800 037 674, 0429 928 545
marilyn.kench@dsnsg.org.au

National Assistant Coordinator - Jan De Witte Ph 0419 881 943 jan.dewitte@dsnsg.org.au

National Treasurer - Karen Dobbin Ph 03 9734 1035 kd_dsnsg@tpg.com.au

Membership and Communications Officer - TBA

Tammy Bignell has been appointed as the new National Coordinator. Tammy has been a member of DSNSG since 2000 and a member of the Coordinator team since 2009. Tammy joined the National Committee in November with her appointment as Membership and Communication Officer. Tammy has also been involved with local community groups for special needs as well as school committees and Defence Community Houses. Tammy is currently the local Coordinator for the Cairns area and prior to that, she was the Coordinator for Sydney North and Richmond areas.

We welcome the following new coordinators to the Defence Special Needs Support Group Team

Sale DSNSG Coordinator - Danielle Thompson Ph 0431 837 544 danielle.thompson@dsnsg.org.au

Liverpool DSNSG Coordinator - Tracy White Ph 02 9731 0506 tracy.white@dsnsg.org.au

Sydney South DSNSG Coordinator - Jan Runnalls Ph 0412 783 093 jan.runnalls@dsnsg.org.au

Macarthur DSNSG Coordinator - Alicia Attewell Ph 0432 425 230 alicia.attewell@dsnsg.org.au

Tasmania DSNSG Tasmania - John Mutimer Ph 0437 363 217 john.mutimer@dsnsg.org.au

Townsville DSNSG Coordinator - Kelly Buttigieg Ph 0414 383 796 kelly.buttigieg@dsnsg.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.



The new coordinators join our current coordinator team

Adelaide - Helen Taylor Ph 0404 066 384 helen.taylor@dsnsg.org.au

Amberley - Amanda Donald Ph 0412 732 746 amanda.donald@dsnsg.org.au

Albury / Wodonga - Karen Ramsey Ph 0408 245 683 karen.ramsey@dsnsg.org.au

Brisbane - Liz Jackman Ph 0429 800 868 liz.jackman@dsnsg.org.au

Cairns - Tammy Bignell Ph 07 4036 3737 tammy.bignell@dsnsg.org.au

Canberra North / South - Margaret Maher Ph 02 6255 8576 margaret.maher@dsnsg.org.au

Darling Downs - Sandra Soulsby Ph 0412 012 583 sandy.soulsby@dsnsg.org.au

Darwin / Tindal - Shannon Winkler Ph 0428 411 006 shannon.winkler@dsnsg.org.au

Melbourne West - Jan De Witte Ph 0419 881 943 jan.dewitte@dsnsg.org.au

Perth - Marilyn Kench Ph 0429 928 545 marilyn.kench@dsnsg.org.au

Wagga Wagga - Kim Collins Ph 0435 933 289 kim.collins@dsnsg.org.au

Williamstown - Carolyn Watson 0427 008 084 carolyn.watson@dsnsg.org.au

Remember if there is anything that we can help you with please contact your local Coordinator listed above or just ring the National Office on 1800 037 674.

National Coordinator Annual Conference

In May 2013 the Coordinators attended the National Conference in Canberra. The main focus for the conference was family support services. This included guest speakers from VVCS, Padre Department, DFA, DCO, Help a digger make the call and Wounded Soldiers.

Conference Dinner & Defence Bank Donation

Our conference dinner was attended by representatives from Tri Services and our Supporting Partners.

Congratulations to the following Award Recipients

Achievement Awards

Margaret Fisk

Melanie Graham

Cheryl Jones

Jo Weal

Life Membership

Karen Dobbin

Andrew Searle from Defence Bank presented Tracy Attewell a donation of \$10,000 for DSNSG.



Thank you Defence Bank.

Connecting Families and FYI

Over the past 6 months families around Australia have attended a variety of events including Cirque De Solei, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Flower Children, Addams Family, Disney on Ice and War Horse. Keep an eye out for new events coming to your area.

Families have also attended workshops by International and local presenters including Gen Jereb, Tony Attwood and Sue Larkey. New dates will be sent out soon.

Circle of Friends Respite Program

DSNSG wishes to advise that the Circle of Friends Respite Program will cease to provide Respite for Families after 31st July, 2013. This wonderful program has been running for the past 12 years due to the initiative of Margaret Fisk & Lorraine Rowe. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them and Karen Dobbins for all the dedication and support they have given over the past 12 years.

The cessation of the program was an independent decision that DSNSG National Executive Committee made in regards to the Circle of Friends program until contract obligations with Defence are finalised. For future information regarding this program please call 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@dsnsg.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@dsnsg.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.

Thank You

Defence Special Needs Support Group National Committee and Coordinators would like to Thank you for your patience and ongoing support of your group as we transition into this new phase.

We are looking forward to celebrating our 20 year anniversary in 2014.

Changes to ADF Housing policy to Allow for in-home child care

“COMMENCING 1 JULY 2013 A NON-DEPENDANT PERSON WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE IN DEFENCE SUBSIDISED HOUSING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CHILD CARE. THESE CHANGES ARE PART OF DEFENCE'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO BALANCE WORK AND PERSONAL NEEDS.

CURRENT DEFENCE POLICY PROVIDES HOUSING ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE ADF MEMBERS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS ONLY. THE CHANGES WILL ALLOW FOR A NON-DEPENDANT PERSON, SUCH AS A FAMILY MEMBER OR AU PAIR, TO RESIDE IN DEFENCE SUBSIDISED HOUSING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE WITH CHILD CARE. IN-HOME CHILD CARERS WILL NOT BE RECOGNISED AS DEPENDANTS BY DEFENCE. MEMBERS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADDITIONAL HOUSING AND REMOVALS BENEFITS SUCH AS AN EXTRA BEDROOM TO ACCOMMODATE THE CHILD CARER, OR REMOVAL OF THE IN-HOME CHILD CARER'S EFFECTS.

DEFENCE WILL NOT BE A PARTY TO ANY CONTRACT OR ARRANGEMENT THAT EXISTS BETWEEN A MEMBER AND A CHILD CARER, OR COMPANY THAT ARRANGES FOR SUCH A CARER. MEMBERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING ANY REMUNERATION TO THE CARER, COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE LABOUR LAWS AND PROVIDING ANY NECESSARY HOUSEHOLD, LIABILITY OR WORKER'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE. THE DATE OF EFFECT FOR THE CHANGE IS 1 JULY 2013.

WWW.DEFENCE.GOV.AU/DPE/PAC/ ENQUIRIES ON DEFENCE HOUSING POLICY MAY BE
DIRECTED TO HOUSING. POLICYINQUIRY@DEFENCE.GOV.AU“