

## NEWSLETTER June 2017

### CHAIRPERSON

Hello everyone



You may have noticed that Mrs Ana Maria de Vos Sanchez, JP, our former CA coordinator received a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for services to ethnic communities. This well-deserved award acknowledges the tremendous amount of community work Ana does and affirms her generosity. Congratulations Ana Maria.

Recently the Board met at Jules' home for a pot luck dinner and to view the documentary film "Valuing Lives: Wolf Wolfensberger and the Principle of Normalization". This was a wonderful informal opportunity to get together, view the film and discuss the principles on which Citizen Advocacy is founded.

It is with regret that we advise that David Ware, a long-standing member of CA passed away. A number of CA members attended David's service. Viola Luki, David's advocate, had provided outstanding advocacy and support to David right up till his passing. David was a greatly loved and valued friend of Viola's family.

Really looking forward to catching up with you at the Pot Luck Dinner, the Negotiation workshop and the Christmas Party. Read the details on the newsletter and please diary these.

Debbie Espiner

### ***Invitation - Citizen Advocacy Auckland Pot Luck dinner***



#### **Sunday 23 July 5pm**

Enjoy an evening of friendship and fun!

All Saints Church (hall), 284 Ponsonby Rd, corner of Cowan St, Three Lamps, Ponsonby.

Advocates please come with your protégé.

Friends of CA - please come along and bring a friend who might like to become involved in CA Auckland.

Please bring a plate of food to share.

RSVP: Jules. [ca.akld@ihug.co.nz](mailto:ca.akld@ihug.co.nz)

09 625 7994

027 625 7994

***SAVE THE DATE – Christmas Party – Sunday evening 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017***

[ca.akld@ihug.co.nz](mailto:ca.akld@ihug.co.nz)   [www.caauckland.org.nz](http://www.caauckland.org.nz)   FB Citizen Advocacy Auckland

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## COORDINATOR

Greetings to advocates!

It is great to be in contact with **all** advocates in the Citizen Advocacy programme. For those of you I have been unable to connect with, please know I will be trying to find you in July. Please read below the importance of follow along.

Condolences to Viola and her family for the loss of David. David had been ill in hospital for several weeks. Viola, his advocate of nine years was at his side for most of that time, including overnight, along with her family and friends. David's funeral was a moving farewell to a man who was evidently loved and highly valued. Viola and several generations of her family directed the service, sang, spoke and celebrated David's contribution to their lives.

Looking forward to seeing you and your protégés at the pot luck dinner in July!  
Many thanks to all members of the board for their support.  
Jules

## FOLLOW ALONG

I enjoy contact with advocates and hearing what is happening with their protégés. Follow along or 'keeping in touch' is an important part of the coordinator's role in Citizen Advocacy. When a match is made, we make a promise that there will be an ongoing relationship between the office and the advocate (not the office and the protégé). Follow along can help to preserve the relationship and sometimes advocates need some support and encouragement to remain in touch with their protégé. It can also identify support in the background that the office can do for the advocate, on behalf of the protégé. Advocates are encouraged to contact the office any time for information, advice or just to share your experiences. The office can assist you to understand the individual needs of your protégé and may at times make suggestions to help you. It is always useful to talk over issues and problems with other people and sometimes, with a sounding board it is easier to work out a resolution. I look forward to follow along with each of you soon.

## *Invitation -Training event for Citizen Advocates Saturday August 12th (Noon – 4pm)*

### **Building negotiation skills and confidence for people advocating on behalf of disabled persons.**

Anna Quinn - Lawyer, mediator, trainer  
Practical, interactive and skills based training specifically for Citizen Advocacy. All scenarios will come from the area of disability.

All Saints Church, Ponsonby Rd.

RSVP Jules by August 7th



### **Alison's donation to Sir George Grey Special Collections**

Alison's advocate Julie recently contacted the Sir George Grey Special Collections at Auckland Libraries regarding the 34 scrapbooks Alison compiled containing newspaper and magazine articles about disability and health. The Specialist Librarian, Manuscript Collections, immediately saw them as a valuable resource worth preserving for the benefit of the community and future generations. A wonderful contribution from Alison, initiated by Julie.



### **APPEARANCE**

At an SRV10 training with John Armstrong in May we discussed image at great length. Our appearance is the easiest part of our image that we can change. People in an instant make a judgement about us on the basis of our appearance. It is also important as other people's perception of our competence is partially made via our image and appearance. This may explain why a lawyer wears a smart dress or a suit etc. I regularly see a person with intellectual disability in a context where all other people are well-dressed. She wears a range of colourful fleecy tops and bottoms. Recently at an event she was wearing a fashionable dress and I was stuck by how this painless, straight-forward action enhanced her image and also made her appear more competent.

Comments such as "appearance does not matter" or "it is up to the person to choose what they want to wear" or "people should accept me as I am" are common. Or people might not think it is as important for someone with a disability although people think it is important for themselves. A number of protégés live in a service environment and support workers might be neglecting this issue and need a gentle reminder.

We do have expectations about appearance and when these expectations are violated we tend to see the violator as other and not like us. As this judgement happens unconsciously, reflection and the opportunity to change it are difficult.

Let's all dress up for our dinner on 23 July!

**Open invitation** to advocates to view this amazing one hour documentary about normalisation and SRV. Happy to get a few people together at your home or in the office. Contact me!

