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IN YOUR COMMUNITY

FSG Australia

The Great Australian Sunny Sizzle heats up!

Another fantastic "Great Australian Sunny Sizzle" went off without a hitch on Saturday 26 February 2011 at the beautiful Broadwater Parklands, Southport.

Working in partnership, FSG Australia and CASSI hosted the Interchange event; an awareness campaign aimed at promoting the need for greater discussion and increased understanding, acceptance and inclusiveness for people who experience disability.

Throughout the day visitors enjoyed the free sausage sizzle, jumping castle, animal petting zoo and magician. The promotional stalls were abuzz with interest where information about the FSGA Green Shop, Encompass Services, enVision Programs, My Home and CASSI was available.

The campaign commences with a nationwide event held in each state's capital city or in regional CBD's in late February, and continues during the month of March. During March, many smaller events are held around the country which gives the wider community the opportunity to participate by holding their own sunny sizzle.

Each Sunny Sizzle aims to bring people of all ages together to learn, share and have fun while spreading the word about Interchange and inspiring people to volunteer. It is also a valuable tool to educate and raise awareness in the wider community.

If you would like to hold a sunny sizzle in at your workplace, community or backyard, please let us know and we can send you some information about the campaign. You can also check out the Interchange website at www.interchange.org.au for more information. Remember, all you need is a group of hungry people, some great food and most importantly a conversation about disability to make a successful sunny sizzle!

THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN SUNNY SIZZLE IS AN
ANNUAL DISABILITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
TO GET PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT DISABILITY,
INTERCHANGE AND VOLUNTEERING.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN PRACTICE

FSG Australia works under the philosophy of 'Human Rights in Practice' (HRP) which teaches us about respect for others; understanding why people react as they do and recognising that people respond to the way they are treated.

HRP is implemented across all areas of FSG Australia ensuring:

1. least restrictive actions are maintained at all times;
2. people are protected from harm;
3. the advocacy of rights of all people with a disability;
4. the organisation observes the legislated quality standards and ensures that the Charter of Human Rights is observed across the organisation.



your donations: HOW ARE THEY USED?

Each year, FSG Australia is fortunate to receive donations from community partners, employee contributions and members of our community... but exactly how are your donations used?

In order to allocate funds to the unmet needs within the FSGA community, a Donations Response and Allocations Focus Group was formed. This group consists of FSGA employees and board members who are interested in and able to make decisions around the allocation of donations made to FSGA. The overall objective for the group is:

- to hear what the donation allocation for the year is;
- to assess all submissions for that allocation;
- to agree on an FSGA allocation of funds, if necessary;
- to allocate funds accordingly;
- to set a discretionary amount for

the year to be allocated for intervention and support submissions that would make a positive difference to peoples' lives.

The desired outcome of the group is to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of donations made to FSGA and to ensure that all donors are adequately thanked and given accurate information regarding the use of their donation.

Recent financial donations have been used to fund:

- Household goods for victims of Queensland floods
- Getaways for Encompass Children's Programs

- Resources for "The Deck" Community Cafe including TV and Wii console
- Wheel-barrow, basketball equipment, trampoline and art supplies for participants
- Flat screen TV for Older Parent Carer Program

Thank you, thank you! To all members of our community who donate financially or by 'donations in kind' - it really does make a positive difference!

Karen Andrews MP (left) and Lindy Kay, IFSP Coordinator at the Broadband Kiosk opening in late 2010.

computer kiosk at Robina a phone call away...

ARE YOU OVER 50 OR DO YOU HAVE A DISABILITY?

Lindy Kay, Coordinator of the Intensive Family Support Program (FSG Australia), Family Central South, reports that two super computers within a 'Computer Kiosk' managed by FSG Australia are available for the over-50s and people with disabilities, to learn or update internet skills; and it's not hard to organise!



Classes are limited to two students, or one-to-one (meaning instructor and student), between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Those who wish to attend just need to phone (07) 5559 0254 and book a time that suits. People who already have internet skills are welcome to go along and use the computers to keep in touch with family and friends. There is no time limit unless a lesson is in progress, or booked for a particular time. Cost is free but a \$2 donation is appreciated for tea or coffee.

Computer kiosks are an Australian Government initiative offering free computer access, free broadband internet access and free computer training to senior Australians over 50 years of age.

The Intensive Family Support Program Computer Kiosk, co-located with a number of Wesley Mission community services, can be found at 208 Highfield Drive, Robina, exit 79 off the motorway or via bus from Robina and Pacific Fair. Alternatively, transport can be arranged with Transcord on (07) 5539 3733, or Volunteering Gold Coast Transport on (07) 5521 0577.

For any further information, please phone Lindy on (07) 5559 0254 or mobile 0407 760 221, or email: lindyk@fsg.org.au.





Green and Proud:

THE FSGA GREEN SHOP CONTINUES TO GROW!

The FSG Australia Green Shop is moving ahead in leaps and bounds! Late last year, The Green Shop was relocated to a larger, purpose built premises and it has been non-stop ever since!

The Green Shop was developed as a main focal point of FSGA's environmental commitment. FSG Australia stocks and sells a full range of environmentally friendly household cleaning and personal care products.

The Green Shop is now undertaking an exciting new venture

by introducing a complete range of stationery supply items to its already extensive product list. FSGA would like to encourage local businesses (and individuals) to 'give us a go!' All profits made from our social enterprise initiatives go directly towards supporting FSG Australia's unfunded community projects and programs.

For further information about The Green Shop, products or services, please call (07) 5564 0655.

FACEBOOK:

Join us on Facebook and connect with the FSGA community!

IT IS VERY EXCITING TO ANNOUNCE THAT FSGA HAS RECENTLY LAUNCHED THEIR OWN FACEBOOK PAGE!

For those of you that don't know, Facebook is a social networking website - a gathering spot, to connect with your friends and with your friends' friends.

Facebook allows you to make new connections with those who share a common interest. You can share experiences, photos, music - in fact, just about anything!

Take a look at some of the advantages for you and FSGA:

- Find out what's happening within the FSGA community - connect with clients, employees, community partners, Councillors, friends, members and more!
- Maintain and increase your social circle.
- Upload and share just about



anything!

- It's interactive and fun!
- Find old friends and reconnect
- Join people and groups with similar likes and dislikes.
- Participate in discussions.
- Generating greater awareness of FSGA and our role in the community and promoting FSGA's programs and projects.

So come on everyone, let's strengthen the bond of our FSG community!

To connect with FSG Australia on Facebook, visit our website www.fsg.org.au and click on the Facebook icon (as pictured above).

Quote of the Month

“No longer forward nor behind
I look in hope and fear;
But grateful take the good I find,
The best of now and here.”
~ JOHN G. WHITTIER



HAPPY EASTER!

It's that time again and FSGA has organised an 'Eggnormous' Easter Raffle. Prizes will include three *eggtra eggciting* hampers; a must have for any chocoholic!

Raffle tickets are available for purchase from all FSGA offices.



Would you like to comment on a story? Do you have a story to tell? Please email alisonm@fsg.org.au

community literacy program:

SKILLING, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIPS (STEP)

Funded by DEIR, the community literacy program offers an accredited 47 week course in adult literacy and numeracy. This course offers participants a pathway to further education, employment and improved community participation for adults with a disability and learning barriers. The course is delivered in small classes at Robina and Labrador by a qualified tutor and aims to:

- provide work readiness skills;
- improve reading, writing, oral communication and social skills;
- build problem-solving and decision-making skills
- improve computer skills
- increase further training and employment options.

Matthew is a participant of the program and we recently asked him to write about his experiences:



"Hi, my name is Matthew and I do literacy and numeracy on a Thursday from 12:30pm-3:30pm. From coming to this class, I have learnt lots like reading, writing and computer work. The one thing I like the most is computer work. It is really good fun."

"By coming to this class on a Thursday it has helped me getting paid work on a Tuesday and Wednesday and with my work I have to count everything, adding up. The worker really helps us a lot. I have been coming to this class now for 3 years and I really hope to learn more in the coming years. Thank you, from Matthew"

To find out more about FSGA's Community Literacy Program, please call (07) 5537 3475.



FSG Australia Info Line

OFFERING ASSISTANCE WITH:

- general information about FSG Australia
- enquiries about FSG Australia programs, centres and services
- information about and supported referral to other available services in the region
- information about specific disabilities, access issues etc
- practical advice for carers
- complaints or grievances
- ideas and suggestions for changes or improvements
- passing on positive feedback

info@fsg.org.au
or visit our website www.fsg.org.au
(07) 5564 0655

We especially welcome people with a disability, carers and family members, to use helpline. It is also open to anyone in the community who would like to know more about disability, mental health and aged care, and people who may have an interest in employment or volunteering with FSG Australia.

If you need any information at all and you think FSG Australia might be able to help, call us or send us an email!

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