



Can We Help You

Can the Client Services team help you? Then give us a call! Client Services works hard to ensure that we meet the needs of clients, their families and carers. This can mean that the team may not be able to personally contact each client or family to see if they require some support from MDSA. However, the Client Services team strongly welcomes contact from clients and/or their families with requests for services and support. Unsure how we might be able to help you? You can phone, email or contact us through our website to speak to one of our friendly team members. Phone: **8234 5266**, email apyle@mdasa.org.au or visit www.mdasa.org.au.



Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a genetic condition that affects the nerves which control muscle movement – the motor neurons. SMA is classified into types 1 to 4 depending on the severity. Muscular Dystrophy SA supports individuals living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy and their families in leading the best possible quality of life. The Client Services team can provide clients diagnosed with SMA with information and support about the condition. Client Services can also source SMA-related research and findings. **If you would like information regarding SMA contact Client Services on 8234 5266 or email aotoole@mdasa.org.au**



A new app for the iPad called the CMT Gene Explorer has been developed by the Centre of Research Excellence in Neuromuscular Disorders, professor Joshua Burns and Dr Manoj Menezes. The app has been established for neurologists, medical trainees and clinicians looking to further understand the genetic basis of CMT. The CMT Gene Explorer is an educational tool that guides the decision making process for identifying genes to test for Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT). To have a look at the iPad only app, search 'CMT GE' in the app store and download it for free.

Get NDIS Ready

The NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency) has developed a webpage dedicated to preparing people for entering into the NDIS. The NDIS is the new funding scheme for people living with disability. In the past, disability-related

organisations have received Government funding to provide services and supports to their clients. Now this is changing. The NDIS gives money directly to the person living with disability so they can choose the services they would like to access. Services such as care and support, access to community activities (i.e. the MDSA Grown Up's Getaway or one of our Support Groups). Therapies needed to improve a person's quality of life and other health-related services will also be covered by NDIS funding. South Australia's full roll out of the NDIS, commencing in July 2017, will be based on where people live. Through the NDIS Ready webpage, you can find out when the NDIS will be coming to your area. The page advises you to think about what services you are currently accessing, what is working for you and what might need to change. **To find out more information visit www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-ready or alternatively, contact Client Services on 8234 5266 if you would like assistance.**

Building for the Future Neuromuscular Conference

The International Neuromuscular Conference brought together world leading researchers and clinicians, allied health professionals, service providers, representatives of the NDIS, and individuals living with a neuromuscular condition and their families. The conference was extremely informative, covering a range of topics such as current neuromuscular clinical trials, planning for the NDIS, transforming disability into opportunity, and respiratory treatment for people living with a neuromuscular condition. Overall, the conference was very well organised, with attendants walking away having gained an immense amount of knowledge and understanding. **If you would like to view the Live Stream of the conference go to <http://nmconference.org.au/>**



JFA Noske Christmas Fund

The JFA Noske Christmas Fund distributes grants of up to \$200 to assist eligible adults living with physical disability, acquired brain injury or a degenerative neurological disorder to celebrate Christmas. The fund was established in honour of the late Mr Noske who generously set aside funds to spread the joy of Christmas. Eligible people have received grant assistance for various personal items including short holidays, electrical goods, presents for loved ones, personal gifts, clothing, food for Christmas day and more. **Applications close at 5:00pm Thursday 25th August 2016 so get your application in quick via www.purpleorange.org.au/news-links/purple-orange-news/noske-christmas-fund1/ or phone Georgina Edwards at 8373 8333.**





E3 Gaming Conference Accessibility Announcements



This year at the E3 Gaming Conference, a number of gaming companies and console producers announced their commitment to accessibility. As games are becoming increasingly complex and realistic, it is more important than ever for game developers to create accessibility features in order to become more inclusive for people living with a disability. Developers need to ensure that games provide customisable controls which allow inclusion for a variety of disabilities or different versions of the game. Gaming provides an escape from a person's everyday world and creates a place where players are judged only by their actions in the game so it is important that all people have equal access to the gaming world.

Carers SA



Carers SA provide care and ongoing support to family members and friends who have a disability, mental illness, chronic condition or who are frail aged. Carers SA is the statewide 'voice of family carers' representing and providing valued support to family carers across the state. Carers SA offers a range of services to family members and loved ones who are in a caring role including; counselling, respite, information and advice, assistance with financial management and more. **If you would like some more information about Carers SA, please phone 1800 242 636 or email info@carers-sa.asn.au. Alternatively, please contact Client Services and we can refer you to the organisation.**



R U OK

R U OK is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to inspire Australians to have regular, meaningful conversations every day of the year to help anyone who is experiencing difficulty. At Muscular Dystrophy SA we believe it is imperative to check in on one another daily to ensure that we are all ok. We must remember that a conversation can change a life. **Go to www.ruok.org.au to find out how beneficial a conversation really can be. If you or someone you know is experiencing significant difficulties and require support, please contact Lifeline on 131 114.**

Rare Voices Australia (RVA)

RVA is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to be the unified voice of all Australians living with a rare disease. RVA advocates for Australians impacted by a rare disease by promoting health policy and a healthcare system that works for those with rare diseases. RVA aims to advocate for equity within the health care system on areas of need such as research, diagnosis, and treatment for all rare diseases in Australia. Rare Voices Australia has recently undergone some staffing changes. RVA now has staff based in both Sydney and

Melbourne. RVA's new phone number is now 0497 003 104. Go to www.rarevoices.org.au for more information.

Seniors information Service renamed the Catalyst Foundation

The Seniors Information Service has now been renamed the Catalyst Foundation. This change reflects evolving work that has been undertaken by the Seniors Information Service in the areas of ageing, disability, lifestyle, business and employment, and learning that is offered to the community of SA. The new name helps the Catalyst Foundation to achieve its value of making a difference to both existing and new clients in the area of ageing, disability, learning etc. The Catalyst Foundation will continue to work closely with communities to link and coordinate people with services and supports to improve the wellbeing of its clients. **Go www.catalystfoundation.com.au for more information.**

Delivering Care Using a Person-Centred Approach

Three short films on dignity and personal care have been released focusing on personal hygiene, practical assistance and pain management. The films were designed to show carers, GPs, nurses, support workers, family and friends how to deliver person-centred care with dignity. The films reinforce the importance of ensuring that personal care routines are carried out in the way that the individual prefers, which we all know is very important. **To check out the films visit www.scie.org.uk/socialcaretv/topic.asp?t=dignityincare**

Achieving Successful Transitions

"Achieving Successful Transitions for Young People with Disabilities: A Practical Guide" has been written to assist young people aged 16-25 to make the transition from children's to adult services, from school to college, from the education system to employment, and from living with family to living independently. The book contains advice on navigating the complexities that are involved with making life changes. It will guide practitioners and students through the process of managing transitions, highlighting best practice and providing evidence-based models to ensure the best possible outcomes for service users and their families. **To find out more about the book, go to www.footprint.com.au**



Four Wheel Scooter for Sale

Muscular Dystrophy SA has been contacted by a client of ours looking to sell their four wheel Meritz scooter. The scooter has just been fully serviced and is in great condition. It also features brand new batteries. **If you are interested in purchasing this scooter, please contact Client Services on 8234 5266 or email aotoole@mdasa.org.au and we will pass on your details.**

CONNECT WITH US www.mdasa.org.au | info@mdasa.org.au Ph: (08) 8234 5266 | Fax: (08) 8234 5866



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