

Farewell DAN

It is with a heavy heart that I say my farewell to DAN and our Services Users as I will be leaving the role of Wagga Disability Advocate at the end of this year. This has been such a rewarding job, I have loved being able to help our Service Users and it has given me so much delight to see them succeed.

Some of my fondest memories will be dancing the night away with you all at the Dance Parties, having a quiet cuppa and a chat with each individual and getting out and about in the Wagga community. There is something so

special about working in an environment such as this, with only a handful of people who become like family to you, a small organisation with a huge heart.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Swie, Joan and DAN's board for the wonderful experiences and opportunities I have had working at DAN for the past few years, and a big thanks to my fellow advocates past and present for their support and friendship. I will miss you all terribly.


Kate.



Disability Advocacy Network Inc
P O Box 912, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

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AUSTRALIA





DAN's Office Closure:

As usual, DAN will be closed for the Christmas - New Year break.

DAN's office will close at 3pm on Friday the 23rd of December 2016 and reopen on Thursday the 12th of January 2017.

All of the Advocates will be ensuring that they put in place the necessary arrangements for their respective service users who have unresolved issues.

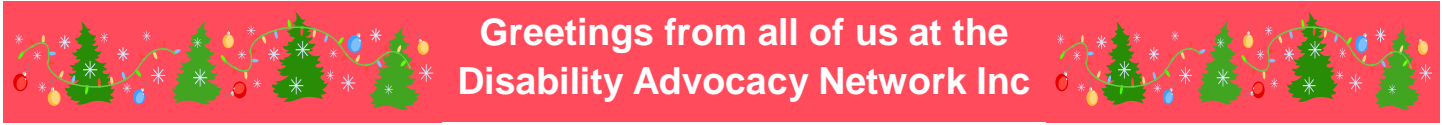
In case of emergency, please ring **Lifeline on 13 11 14.**



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

For Equality, Independence & Integration

Oct/Nov/Dec 2016



Greetings from all of us at the Disability Advocacy Network Inc

To our Loyal DAN Members,
Again thank you for your support this year and your agreeance for DAN to merge with DAIS in 2017 to become the **Regional Disability Advocacy Service**. Next year will bring a number of changes, NDIS in July, and our merger, to name a few. We will continue to keep you informed through our newsletter of what is happening within DAN. The Dance Party was a great way to celebrate another year and a good time was had by all. Best wishes to you all this Christmas and I look forward to working with you again in 2017. Joan



Just hard to believe 2016 is nearly gone. A man in a big red suit is out and about..... watch out! It has been a busy year at DAN and I look forward to 2017 with hope that the NDIS and the merger go well, and more importantly that everyone has a Happy Christmas and good 2017. Stan.



2016 seems to have gone by quickly and I hope that it has been a good year for you all. We are excited about the planned merger with DAIS and the extra opportunities this will give for DAN and our valued consumers. Thank you for your support especially at the Dance Party which I thought was great fun. We were lucky to have such a great DJ. Thank you also to Swie and the staff at DAN for all your hard work. Have a wonderful Christmas and very best wishes for 2017, Sue.



This year has been a challenging year where DAN and DIAS began on the merger exercise. Board members have been working hard to ensure that consumers would continue to get quality service, We hope that you all are looking forward to the merger. As this year is coming to an end and I am sure most of you are looking for the Christmas holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you are heading out of Wagga Wagga, please drive carefully. Chiu.





Wow! 2016 has almost come to an end and Christmas is just around the corner. Soon we will be ushering in a brand New Year. It has been an extremely busy year for all the staff and Board members of DAN as we continue to work together to provide an excellent service to clients. I wish you a glorious Christmas and a blessed New Year filled with peace, love, joy, hope and good health. May all your dreams come true in 2017! Thara.



Christmas greetings to everyone. I hope that you enjoy time with your family and friends and the celebrations that make Christmas special. With the recent death of my mum I am also conscious that Christmas can be a sad time when we remember people who are no longer here to share it with us. May you find peace and happiness with happy memories and joy in new experiences and unexpected surprises. Lyn.



Hasn't the year gone quickly. Christmas is almost here. After all the crazy shopping we put ourselves through, it is then a special time when families and friends come together. I am excited about seeing all my family in Wagga for the first time in several years. I hope for you too it is a happy time, whether you stay in Wagga or are somewhere else on holidays. Ros.



For the last twenty four years it's been exciting, challenging and rewarding to work at DAN. I am looking forward to another even more exciting, challenging and rewarding year ahead. After all the hard work by so many it was rewarding to again have such a successful Dance Party. I do hope that you will continue to support the new DAN just as you have been all these years. Wishing you a safe and joyful festive seasons. Swie.



2016 has been a busy year; I've loved getting out and about meeting new people and having new experiences. Once again the highlight of my year was being involved in the Dance Party, it was such a great night. My wish for you in 2017 is good health, good friends and good times. Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday break! Kate.



Recipes Corner

American Crunch Slice



Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1/4 cup cocoa
- 1 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- 6 Weet-Bix crushed
- 250 g butter
- 1 tsp vanilla essence

Chocolate Icing

- 1 1/2 cup icing sugar
- 2 tbs cocoa
- 50 g dark chocolate
- 1 tbs butter
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 2 tbs milk

Method

- **STEP 1** - Sift flour and cocoa into bowl. Stir in brown sugar and Weet-Bix.
- **STEP 2** - Melt the butter and add to dry ingredients with vanilla essence.
- **STEP 3** - Press into a 18 cm x 28 cm slice tin and bake at 180C for 25 minutes. Cool before icing.
- **STEP 4** - Icing: Melt together butter, chocolate and milk in microwave.
- **STEP 5** - Add vanilla and sift in icing sugar and cocoa. If too thin, add more icing sugar. If too thick, add more milk.

<http://www.bestrecipes.com.au/>



Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Snowflakes.

Q: What do you get if you cross mistletoe and a duck?

A: A Christmas Quacker.

Q: What do you call Santa when he stops moving?

A: Santa Pause!

Q: Where does a snowman keep his money?

A: In a snow bank.

Q: How do you scare a snowman?

A: You get a hairdryer!

Q: How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

A: Nothing, it was on the house!

Q: Why does Santa have three gardens?

A: So he can go HOE HOE HOE.

Q: Why is Santa so good at karate?

A: Because he has a black belt!

Q: What do you get when you eat Christmas decorations?

A: Tinsilitis!

Q: What do you get if you cross an apple and a Christmas tree?

A: A pine-apple.

Q: Which elf was the best singer?

A: ELFi's Presley.

Q: How do you know when Santa's in the room?

A: You can sense his presents.

Q: What did Mrs. Claus say to Santa when she looked in the sky?

A: "Looks like rain, dear."

Q: What do elves learn in school?

A: The elf-abet.

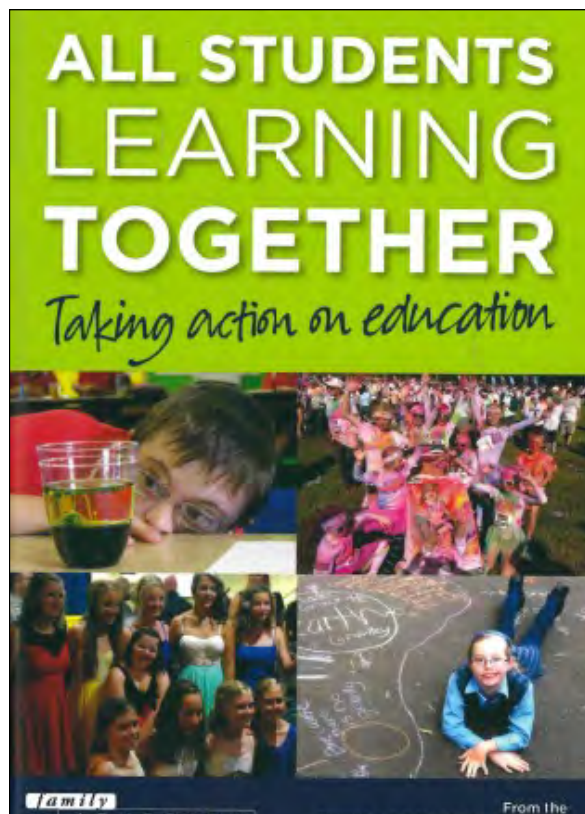
Q: Where do mistletoe go to become famous?

A: "Holly" wood!

Q: Why do Mummies like Christmas so much?

A: Because of all the wrapping!

<http://www.primarygames.com/holidays/christmas/jokes.php>



All Students Learning Together - Taking action on education.

This booklet (50 pages) shares the schooling experiences of students with disability and their families across NSW. Experiences in regular and mainstream classes.

This booklet gives some ideas about what an inclusive school should be like as well as how to include all students.

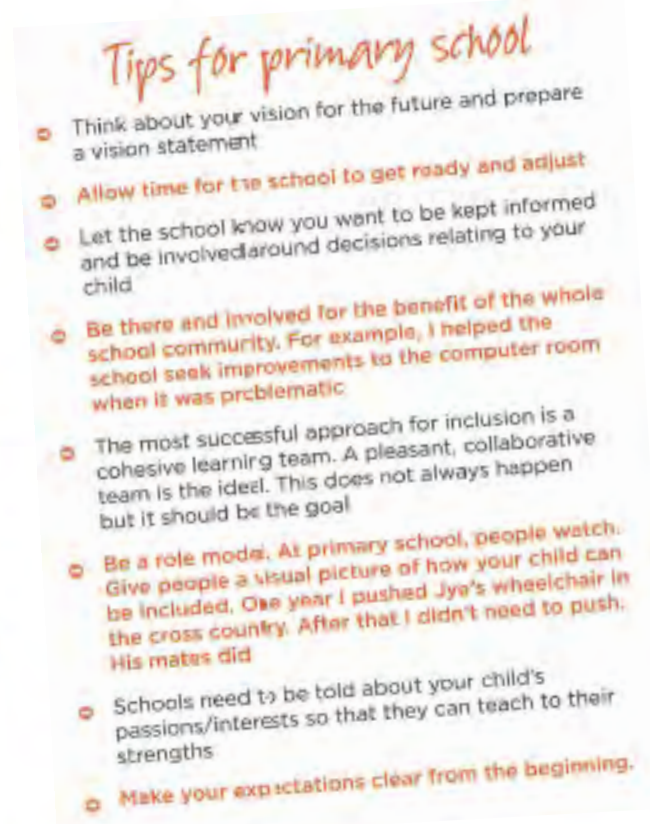
To obtain a copy of this booklet or for more information about any of the ideas expressed in this booklet, please contact **Family Advocacy**:

Phone: 1800 620 588

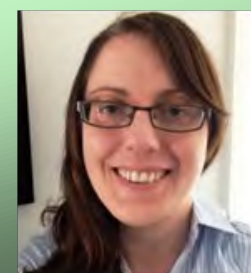
Email: communication@family-advocacy.com

Website: www.family-advocacy.com

Page 24 & 25



What a year it has been for me personally. I have learnt a lot from my fellow work colleagues and my consumers this year. I have met a lot of new people and organisations when I have done DAN presentations, which has been great. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and exciting New Year. Please remember to be kind to one another and to yourself. Looking forward to another year at DAN in 2017. Rachel.



It's been a great year for me starting with D.A.N as the Outreach Advocate. I have enjoyed meeting clients from all over the region, and the hardworking staff in our regional community centres. I experienced my first D.A.N Dance Party which was an amazing event and it was good to see so many organisations working together for the community. I would like to wish you all safe travelling over the holidays. Amie.



Adam, Alison, Amber, Amie, Anne-Marie, Barbara, Ben, Beth, Brian, Carmel, Caroline, Carolyn, Cass, Catherine, Cathy, Chiu, Corey, Daniel, David, Dennis, Diane, Dr. Douglas, Elizabeth, Florence, Fran, Geoffrey, Grant, Jacqui, James, Jared, Jason, Jayde, Jean, Jeff, Jenny, Jessica, Joan, Joe, John, Judy, Justin, Kane, Kate, Kathy, Kay, Kelly, Kerry, Kristen, Leila, Leonard, Leonie, Les, Libby, Lisa, Lorraine, Lyn, Malcolm, Martin, Matt, Megan, Melanie, Michael, Miriam, Nathan, Neil, Nicole, Noelene, Paige, Paul, Paula, Peter, Rachel, Robert, Robin, Rochelle, Ronald, Ros, Ruth, Scott, Skye, Stan, Stephanie, Stephen, Steve, Stuart, Sue, Susan, Swie, Thara, Wendy, Yvonne.

Editorial



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All contributions and enquiries are welcome and should be addressed to the Editors at the above address.

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Chiu Phua - Treasurer
Thara Pech - Publicity Officer
Lyn Butler
Ros Griffin

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Kate Russell - Advocate
Amie Favier - Advocate
Rachel Cody - Advocate

Disability Advocacy Network Inc's
A B N is 21 281 328 946

Dear members,

Welcome to this last edition of DAN's newsletter for 2016. It has been a year of many activities. The highlights in this newsletter are the photos of people associated with DAN celebrating their abilities and achievements at the Dance Party, as well as pleased members at our recent AGM. The photos speak a thousand words.

Thank you to everyone who participated in DAN's Dance Party to celebrate the International Day of People with a Disability. Thank you also to all those who put in an enormous amount of time and energy into the preparations for the event. It was a brilliant evening that was enjoyed by all.

We hope that you have a happy and safe festive season and look forward to working with you in 2017.

Ros & Swie



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The Disability Advocacy Network Inc is funded by the Australian Government
Department of Social Services (DSS)

Free Legal Advice for Parents with Intellectual Disability.

Are you a parent living with intellectual disability or do you work with or support parents who have intellectual disability? Is FACS Community Services involved or potentially involved?

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service is a NSW community legal centre and disability advocacy service working with and for people with intellectual disability in NSW.

IDRS runs the Parents Project to give timely legal free advice information and education in plain language to parents with intellectual disability who are in contact with the child welfare system. IDRS can advise parents on all aspects of the Care and Protection legal system, including:

- Early intervention services for children al-

leged to be at risk of serious harm

- Parental Responsibility Contracts
- Parenting Capacity Orders
- Care court processes
- S90 applications
- Contact disputes
- Guardianship
- Adoption



For workers who want to know more about how to support their clients who are involved in the care system IDRS also runs a one day training workshop called "When DOCS Knocks". IDRS can run this workshop in regional areas for groups of at least 6 workers. To make an appointment for over the phone legal advice, or to enquire about "When DOCS Knocks" call Kenn Cliff on 1300 665 908.

Courtesy: IDRS

Leaving Home for the Holidays

- Ensure the house is securely locked, including windows usually left open
- Cancel newspapers and redirect your mail or have it collected by a friend
- Put pets into a boarding kennel or have friends visit them often
- Tell neighbours or friends who can check on the house, you are away and whom will be at the house legitimately - e.g. gardeners, pet minders
- Secure your garage or, if unable - move items such as bikes inside the house
- Consider security devices, including light timers etc.
- Do not leave cash in the house and locate jewellery in a safe place
- Ensure that your lawn is cut, the property tidy and stop all deliveries
- Avoid leaving the answering machine on and turn the phone volume down

http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues/crime_prevention

Tips to Avoid Road Traffic Injuries:

- Ensure you are well-rested before undertaking a long trip;
- Take frequent breaks when driving long distances. It is recommended that you spend at least 15 minutes away from the wheel for every 2 hours of driving. Planning rest stops before you set out can help ensure you take frequent breaks;
- Be flexible with your travel plans so that you can stop driving if you get too tired;
- Stick to the speed limit. Driving above the speed limit is a contributing factor in 40% of road traffic accidents;
- Drink alcohol in moderation. The risk of short term injuries such as falls or assault-related injury increases with increasing alcohol intoxication. Moderating alcohol consumption is particularly important for individuals who will be driving. They should ensure they consume no more than one standard drink per hour.

<http://www.myvmc.com/lifestyles/safety-in-the-festive-season/>

NEWS FROM DANA:

Win in the Federal Court re BSWAT class action

Some great news about a significant advocacy "Win" - Excellent news today as Justice North of the federal Court handed down his decision in Duval-Comrie v Commonwealth of Australia.

<https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/cdn.workplaceexpress.com.au/files/2016/16Duval.pdf>

Tyson Duval-Comrie is a young man who works in an ADE (Australian Disability Enterprise- previously known as Business Services, and before that as sheltered workshops). Tyson was earning \$1.79 an hour and felt his wage was unfair. He became the lead applicant in a class action on behalf of all of the more than 10,000 workers with intellectual disability whose wages had been assessed using the BSWAT (Business Services Wage Assessment Tool).

This is the media release from Maurice Blackburn Lawyers who have provided the pro bono legal work on this case for the past few years

<https://www.mauriceblackburn.com.au/about/media-centre/media-statements/2016/court-approves-historic-class-action-settlement-for-workers-with-intellectual-disabilities/> Josh

Bornstein from MB said that this is the biggest ever win in any class action he has ever been involved in.

Huge thanks are due to Kairsty Wilson from AED Legal Centre in Melbourne who has been fighting on this advocacy issue for 12 years. Kairsty was recently joint winner of the Justice and Rights Award at the National Disability Awards. Here is AED's Facebook post today, including information about how workers can

register for the payment scheme

<https://www.facebook.com/aedlegalcentre/photos/a.420313501343630.94021.340132946028353/1287344341307204/?type=3&theater>

This story is in the news today:

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/workplace-relations/100-million-payday-for-1anhour-staff-with-disabilities-20161216-gtcus.html>, and

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-16/class-action-settlement-intellectual-disability-workers-approved/8126860>

Here is the information on DSS's website about what eligible workers need to do to claim their underpaid wages

<https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/programmes-services-for-people-with-disability/bswat-payment-scheme/bswat-payment-scheme-process#register>

We will be liaising with the relevant people in DSS about which ADEs used the BSWAT. Once the information is available we will be talking to advocacy organisations to try to get an advocate into each of those ADEs to speak to the workers concerned.

There is a deadline of 30 April 2017 for people to register to be part of the scheme, so this work will need to be done mainly in February & March.

We will be back to you with more information early next week and then again in January but wanted to flag this now so you are aware that there will be a need for you all to play your part in this important, historic win for workers with intellectual disability.

Courtesy: Mary Mallet of DANA
(Disability Advocacy Network Australia Ltd)
12 December 2016

DAN's Annual General Meeting (AGM)

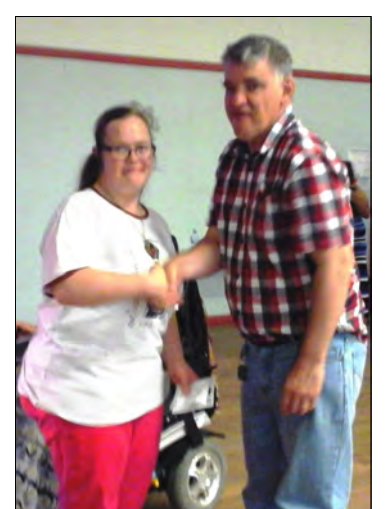
DAN's AGM was held on the 25th of October 2016. It was great to look back on the achievements and the hard work over 2015/2016. It was also great to see so many people present and DAN would like to thank everyone who attended, especially long time supporter, Sue Honey who was acting as the Returning Officer on the day.

The highlight of the AGM was that the proposal to merge with the Disability Advocacy & Information Service (DAIS) based in Wodonga was presented officially to the members. Special thanks must go to Jessica Mawson, of Northcott who shared her experience regarding her previous company's amalgamation with Northcott.

Thanks also must go to Martin Butcher, the Executive Officer of DAIS who attended the meeting especially to help explain the intention of DAIS to merge with DAN.

A Power Point display prepared by an independent consultant, Miriam O'Brien, was presented to the meeting followed by an opportunity for the floor to ask questions about the proposed merger with the responses lead by Joan Page and Martin Butcher who both are on the Merger Steering Committee. The resolution to give DAN's Board the go-ahead to move forward with the merger process was supported by members unanimously.

At the AGM, Martin organised a name competition for the new entity, if we successfully merge. Regional Disability Advocacy Service (RDAS) was the name chosen and the competition was won by Jacqui Myers who chose the closest name to RDAS. The winning prize of \$50 was personally presented to Jacqui at the Dance Party by Martin, witnessed by Joan Page and the rest of the Dance Party attendees. Well done, Jacque!





The Dance Party

D.A.N's annual Dance Party celebrating the International Day of People with a Disability (IDPWD) was a success again this year with around 300 party-goers attending.

Cowboys and Cowgirls rode their horses from all over – including Tumut, Leeton, Temora, Griffith and Narrandera. A few Indians even snuck through the doors, good thing all the local Sheriffs and their Deputies kept everyone in line. Everyone kicked up their heels and enjoyed some serious boot scooting, soft drink and grub.

Big thank you to the Wagga Wagga City Council for again sponsoring the event.

Despite of their busy schedules, the Mayor of Wagga Wagga, Councillor Greg Conkey, the Hon. Mr Michael McCormack MP and Mr Daryl Magurie MP managed to spare their time to again join the celebration, which was much appreciated by all, especially their loyal supporters and fans.

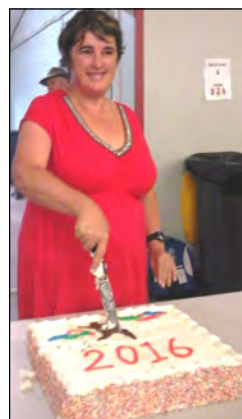
Three best dressed winners and five lucky door prize winners were selected fair and square.

Kelly Hibbins from Tumut, proudly did the honour of cutting the IDPWD cake. Thank you Kelly!

Oscar and his assistant Dylan did not stop taking photos of attendees, including the outlaws. (Photos on page 8 - 9).

A mighty pat on the back to all the party **organisers** and **volunteers** on the night, you all did a great job throwing this hoedown together and keeping it on the rails. (photos on page 7). Without your help the night would not have been such a success. **THANK YOU.**

To all the Dames and Fellas who made it along to the shindig – we hope to see you all again next year. Yee-haw!



DAN's Self Advocacy Support Group



Hi, We are DAN's Self Advocacy Support (SAS) Group members. 2017 Chairperson is Michael Ingold and the Secretary is Jacqui2e Myers.

Our group is happy to have more members - the more the merrier and the more that we can learn from each other. Come and join us. We are a bunch of friendly people.

Disability Advocacy Network Inc (DAN)

Self Advocacy Support Group

(For people with an intellectual disability)

The group meets once a month.

WHEN: 2nd Monday every month
(except in June) - 19th June

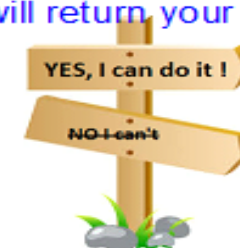
WHERE: DAN's office, 31 Fitzmaurice Street, Wagga.

TIME: 4:30PM – 6:30PM

Refreshments will be provided.

The group also organises social activities - If you are interested in joining the group, why not give it a go. It is free to join.

For more information, please ring DAN's office on 69 219 225 - The Chairperson or Secretary of the group will return your call.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to SAS members, past and present.

We love to see you again next year.

We have many plans for next year.

Be safe during the holiday season.

See you later, alligators.

From
Michael Ingold
Chairperson.

Snapshots from the Dance Party Folks from out of town



Are You Dealing with a Dispute?

Dispute can arise in many areas of life - whether it's a misunderstanding with a neighbour over a fence, a disagreement between you and a family member, conflict in your workplace, or a dispute over a debt. Dealing with a dispute can be stressful and costly. Community Justice Centre (CJC) can help you resolve your dispute quickly and for **free** using mediation. For more information, ring CJC on 1800 990 777.

Dealing with a dispute?
CJC mediation is simple to arrange.
Here is how it works:

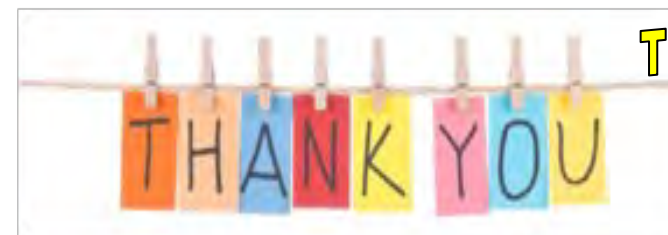
Call Community Justice Centres on 1800 990 777

Around 80% of mediations end in agreement - you've got nothing to lose!

The mediators will help you discuss the dispute

If the others in the dispute agree, we will organise a mediation

If you have a dispute - Call us on 1800 990 777 to discuss our free mediation service



All attendees/visitors
All carers
All volunteers



Commonwealth Department of Social Services
Intereach

Job Centre Australia

Kildare Catholic College

Kurrajong Waratah

Mash Music

Northcott

Regional Gas

Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga

(DAN's) Self Advocacy Support Group

The Leisure Company

Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga Show Society Inc

Woolworths Supermarkets

The Photographers



The Catering Volunteers



The committee and Volunteers



The MCs



The Costume Judges



The Drink Attendants



The DJ



Snapshots from the Dance Party



Snapshots from the Dance Party

