

BRAND NEW DAY

Ambassador Duncan Armstrong OAM was in Sydney to MC and launch Achieve Australia Ltd in February.

Over 250 guests attended the function held at Curzon Hall, Marsfield. Then, NSW Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Paul Lynch MP launched the newly merged Achieve Australia.

In doing so the Minister said: "Achieve Australia reflects the NSW Government's objectives of community inclusion, service system sustainability, enhancing independence and linking services to the needs of people with disability."

"This is achieved through the provision of high level services such as supported accommodation, transition to work, day programs and drop in support."

He continued, "Creating opportunities for people with a disability is a shared responsibility and the community and private sectors must continue to play a crucial role in the delivery of our services".

Jill Macnaught, Chairperson of the Board of Achieve Australia said, "As a result of the merger, Achieve Australia is a more viable organisation committed to grow and develop for the greater good of all the people we serve. Today, Achieve Australia is moving forward as one strong organisation, harnessing our collective strengths, with its own single identity and a very clear strategic plan."



Achieve Australia Launch *Left-right*: Mr Victor Dominello MP (Member for Ryde), Jill Macnaught (Chairperson, Achieve Australia), Wendy Cosier (Author, Paul: His Story); The Honorable Mr Paul Lynch MP, (formerly Minister for Ageing, Disability Services & Aboriginal Affairs), Paul Perazza, Duncan Armstrong OAM (Ambassador, Achieve Australia) and Anne Bryce (CEO, Achieve Australia)

The aspirational name change to Achieve Australia gives the organisation an ongoing and forward thinking vision for the future. Achieve Australia will continue to further its mission to deliver on the right of people with disability to achieve a meaningful and valued life.



Achieve employees received their Certificate IV Community Services - Disability Work at the Launch.



John Howe, Pablo Ramos and Michelle Kearnes



Meriel Barnetson, Ross and Anne Barnetson, Dr Cecile Ferguson & Rob Ferguson

LIVING ACHIEVEMENTS



Anne Bryce,
Chief Executive
Officer

"While our programs and services have continued to operate and deliver on our mission and vision under the leadership of the service and program Managers, our organisation has received significant external exposure as well. A number of opportunities have enabled us to profile Achieve Australia, our vision and share our experiences within the disability sector at forums in NSW and interstate.

In February, I delivered a paper at the National Disability Service (NDS) NSW Conference. Then, in May, Brett Edwards (Operations Manager, Community Living Service), Jenny Horsfield (Acting Operations Manager, Residential) and I attended the National Disability Service Accommodation & Social Participation Conference on the Gold Coast where I was invited to participate on and contribute to a panel discussion on disability accommodation services.

The panel included Patricia O'Brien PhD, Director and Professor of Disability Studies at the Centre for Developmental Disability Studies who delivered an inspiring paper on models of accommodation available to people with disability. Participating in such forums exposes our organisation and employees to a broad range of experts and professionals in the field of disability services and enables us to contribute to discussion and to provide informed commentary which may help to shape policy decisions on the delivery of disability services in Australia.

At a time when funding of disability services is high on the political agendas it is important for our organisation to steward some of the discussion, to engage in conversation and to act on the needs of the people with disability. At a recent meeting, the Board of Directors agreed that Achieve Australia would support plans to introduce a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Australia. The Scheme would deliver significant social and economic reforms and is a positive initiative and move towards providing equitable support and funding for people with disability in the future. Over the coming months, I will continue to update you on the progress of this Scheme and in the meantime, encourage you to visit the NDIS website www.ndis.org.au and to subscribe to their updates and newsletters. Whether or not you have a disability or support someone with a disability, this Scheme is important and may at some time impact on the lives of a large number of Australians.



L-R: The Hon. Mr Paul Lynch MP, Angela Perazza (Paul's mother), Paul Perazza and brothers Peter, Uch & Victor.

PAUL'S PRICELESS STORY

Paul: His Story is a story of love and determination – from Paul Perazza's early years in the family home, through decades of institutionalisation, to a triumphant transition into an ordinary life and a valued member of the community. Written by Wendy Cosier, the book was launched by the Honourable Paul Lynch MP in February 2010.

Cosier chronicles the experiences of Paul's parents' Pepe and Angela, their courtship, their move to Australia and their raising of a family as immigrants in 'a new land'. Paul is their fourth son. At birth, doctors diagnosed that he had Down Syndrome. His parents were told that 'he might live for one or two months'. The story highlights the difficult decisions Paul's family had to make about his life. It demonstrates Paul's emotional journey and strength of character



Paul Perazza arriving at the launch on a Trike, courtesy Troll Tours-Trike Rides & Harley Davidson Motorbike Tours Sydney.

and his determination to make a life of his own. Paul is now 46 and lives in the community with his two friends, Billy and Andy in Newington. He has a job, spends time with his family and pursues his passions – the arts and soccer.

Paul's mother Angela and siblings Peter, Victor and Uch attended the book launch.

"We are so proud of Paul's achievements and having our family here for the Launch of his book is something special. We thought it [the Launch] was just going to be low-key, but being here with so many friends of Achieve Australia is amazing," said Paul's brother Uch Perazza.

Paul: His Story is on sale and costs \$25. It is available in print and audio. To purchase a copy download an order form www.achieveaustralia.org.au or call 02 9034 1600 or email info@achieveaustralia.org.au

There is a short film about Paul's community living experience on our website or www.youtube.com.au

HELP US ACHIEVE

GIVE US A BREAK

The Achieve Australia Respite Fundraising Appeal was launched by Ambassador Duncan Armstrong OAM in February and aims to raise



Rotary Clubs cheque presentation.

\$300,000 over the next 12 months. The Rotary Club of Epping and the Rotary Club of Macquarie Park led the way in supporting the appeal and their respective Presidents Graham Stevens and Rosanna Gallo presented cheques to Anne Bryce, Chief Executive Officer at the recent Launch.

There is a growing need for respite services in our community. People with disability and their families need a service which will give each of them a break. Looking to the future we know the need is only going to increase due to many influencing factors including ageing carers, increasing participation of carers in the workforce, longer average age expectancies of people with disability and an increasing number of young carers.

GIVE NOW TO THIS APPEAL!

Just fill in the donation form

\$300,000 would give us sufficient funding to commence a flexible Respite Service.

The proposed new Respite Service will give preference to adults who

predominately have an intellectual disability, are living at home with a family member or guardian/carer and who are living within a defined area of Sydney.

Donations to the Achieve Australia Respite Program Fundraising Appeal are tax deductible within Australia. Please send your donation made payable to "Achieve Australia" to the Fundraising and Marketing Manager.

Complete and return donation form to Catherine Spencer, Fundraising & Marketing Manager, Achieve Australia PO Box 1029 Eastwood NSW 2122 T 02 9034 1622 F 02 9874 8870 E cspencer@achieveaustralia.org.au

HOW TO HELP

Donations may be directed towards the Respite Program Fundraising Appeal or for general purposes to support our services at any time. Donation forms are available online www.achieveaustralia.org.au

Of course, there are many ways you can help Achieve other than through a financial donation.

- In-kind donations and goods and services are encouraged and welcomed
- Become a corporate partner or include us in your workplace giving program
- Volunteer your time and expertise
- Make a bequest

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Donor information

Full name/s _____ Address _____
 _____ State _____ Postcode _____
 T: (H) _____ (B) _____ M: _____
 E: (H) _____ (B) _____

Donor acknowledgement

Donors will be acknowledged in Achieve Australia publications (Name not gift amount)

I wish for my/our donation to remain anonymous.

Donation details

Please accept my/our tax deductible donation towards the

Respite Program Fundraising Appeal

\$100 \$250 \$500
 \$1,000 \$2,500 Other \$ _____

Method of payment

Cheque enclosed (Payable to Achieve Australia Ltd) OR Credit Card

Visa Mastercard

Name on card _____
 Card number _____ / _____ / _____
 Expire ____ / ____
 Authorised payment amount \$ _____

Cardholder's signature _____

Additional information

Please send me information about including Achieve Australia in my will.
 I have already made arrangements to include Achieve Australia in my will.
 I would like to have a confidential discussion about making a donation or becoming a sponsor.
 I am interested in making a general donation to Achieve Australia.

Gifts to Achieve Australia Ltd are tax deductible. Achieve Australia is an endorsed income tax exempt charity. Privacy: This information is collected and used within the guidelines of the National Privacy Principles under the relevant Australian privacy legislation. ABN 49 133 306 902

ACHIEVE NEEDS YOU

Anne Bryce, Chief Executive Officer, thanked volunteers for their tremendous organisation of and fundraising effort towards the 2010 Grand Bazaar Sale at



Taken at morning tea

a morning tea held in the Dulcie Johnston Hall at Belmore Street Ryde during National Volunteers' Week on Friday 14 May. She acknowledged the volunteers' many years of service, ongoing support and hard work. Also attending the morning tea were some of the Day Services participants. We welcomed Julia Bull, Volunteers' Coordinator to Achieve Australia in April. Julia will work with volunteers to coordinate a range of activities, partnerships and engagement. She will develop a Volunteer Management Framework in line with the National Volunteers' Standards.

OUTSOURCED TO ACHIEVE

Corporate volunteers are making a great contribution to Achieve Australia. A team of Patron Financial Advice employees spent a day volunteering their time at Crowle Home in Ryde in March. They took time out of their regular work day at the Office to spend

time experiencing a day in the life of our clients in the Day Service program as well as helping to erect an outdoor shade canopy on the grounds.

We were delighted to also receive a donation from Patron Financial Advice after their visit.



Patron Financial Advice volunteers and residents taken at Crowle Home in Ryde in March.

ACHIEVE'S GOT TALENT!

Disability Employment Services at Achieve Australia is growing rapidly since the Federal Govt. lifted the cap on job seeker numbers accessing the program. Achieve Australia's Operations Manager (DES & Transition to Work) Martine Porret said, "Our Disability Employment Service has seen a 20% increase in new clients since the Federal Government introduced changes on 1 March 2010. We have been inundated with new job seekers, who we welcome and look forward to working with

to find suitable employment." In a Federal Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations media release on 1 March, Senator Arbib, who launched the service at Break Thru Employment at Maroubra, said "the new arrangements meant more jobs for people with disability, improved choice for job seekers and employers and more innovative service delivery". "For the first time, people with disability will have direct access to the help they need to find and keep a job. There will be no waiting lists because the Government has uncapped services," Senator Arbib said. The Media Release stated: "The new Disability Employment Services will operate under two new programs:

- Disability Management Service – assistance for those job seekers who are not expected to need

regular, long-term support to maintain their job; and

- Employment Support Service – assistance for job seekers who will need regular long-term support to maintain their job."

Ms Porret believes the growth will only continue and the search for new employers will be a key to the success of the service and job placement. She said, "Achieve Australia has a great reputation among job seekers. We have many success stories where people with disability are making a valued contribution in the workplace. As demand increases, I hope to hear from more organisations looking to fill job vacancies." For further information call 02 8878 3444

LEADING THE WAY

The Kent Eastview Team from the Community Living Service were nominated in the Australasian Housing Institute 2010 Professional Excellence in Housing Awards in NSW in the category of 'Leading Practice'.

Brett Edwards, Operations Manager (Community Living Service) said:

"The Kent Eastview Team represents Achieve Australia admirably in the field of social housing by being leaders in innovation, collaboration and working with the broader community to bring about social change.

Ultimately, what has been achieved by this Team is a support model that is effective in enhancing health outcomes, sustaining relationships with family and friends and connection with experts in the field of social housing and social inclusion."

He added:

"The Team of Social Educators has provided assistance to eight residents



Team at Awards Dinner

who live in two co-located homes, that are purpose built to accommodate their individual needs, with each bedroom having a wheelchair accessible ensuite, all pathways accessible and the home has an attached self contained flat to enable one resident to live more independently, but in close proximity to the other residents.

The home is also a head lease property with Housing NSW ensuring tenancy is affordable for a person with a disability on limited income."

The Team in the community home provide seamless 24 hour support for people with intellectual disability.

In May this year, Achieve Australia became a registered Housing Provider.



Achieve Australia Group Employee photo taken at the 2010 Employee Conference

SHARING THE VISION

Over 160 Achieve Australia employees attended the inaugural Employee Conference on Tuesday 25 May held at the Southee Complex Sydney Showgrounds Olympic Park.

Our Ambassador Duncan Armstrong OAM set the scene for the day in his inspirational Keynote address.

His wonderful humour, passion and support for the work of Achieve Australia kept the spirit of achievement alive throughout the day. Feedback from attendees indicated that each of the Conference objectives had been met and that the Conference exceeded expectations in terms of professional development, learning development, cross-service integration and overall outcomes.

The aims of the Conference were to give employees

- a sense of belonging to one organisation with one clear vision for our future – achieving social inclusion
- affirmation about their contribution to Achieve Australia's strategic vision
- opportunities to interact with colleagues across the organisation
- a deeper understanding of each of the organisation's service areas

Each of the Service areas delivered a presentation about the work they do in supporting people with disability as well as their achievements.

Guest presentations included John Armstrong on "Achieving the Good Life" and Professor Patricia O'Brien on "Accommodation Support where are we heading?"



Duncan Armstrong with Employees at the Conference in May



Disability Employment Services employees Kate Lombardo, Martine Porret, Monika Czaplarska & Lyndall Cunyngame

GRAND SALE GRAND EFFORT

The 2010 Grand Bazaar Sale was held at Crowle Home in Ryde on Saturday 1 May and raised in excess of \$13,000.

Over 50 volunteers contributed approximately 250 hours of service on the day, not to mention the work completed in the lead up to the Grand Bazaar Sale.

Without the support of volunteers, Achieve Australia would not be able to run some of its important social networking and fundraising activities.

Funds raised from activities such as the Grand Bazaar and the Vintage & Value Enterprises assist us to provide some of our programs. With a number of unfunded programs we do need to continue to raise funds through community events and other fundraising activities.

“ACHIEVE CALLING”

In the Summer Edition of Achieve Australia News we indicated future editions would be available online and via email.

Based on feedback and a review of our database, we have decided to continue with the hardcopy mailing until we are confident that your details are accurate and up to date in our database.

Over the next couple of months, everyone in our database can expect to receive a call from a representative from Head Office. For security purposes, the caller will identify herself so that you can verify the caller and feel confident that your information is collected in accordance with our Privacy Policy. In the longterm, it is our aim to reduce the production of hardcopy communications while using



Volunteer Pam Stone working in the Fabric Cave.

a range of print, electronic, face to face and other communication tools.

VISIT VINTAGE & VALUE

The profits from the sale of items sold at The Fabric Cave, Needlecraft Emporium, Pre-loved Clothing, The Book Shop, The Folly and Laurel Grove (Plant Nurseries) are directed towards a number of our unfunded programs.

Visit the Vintage and Value Enterprises

Open: 9am-2pm Friday and 9am-Noon the 1st Sunday each month. The Fabric Cave and Needlecraft Emporium also opens 9am-2pm Monday. Except public holidays.

AGM

Achieve Australia Ltd held its inaugural Annual General Meeting at the West Ryde Leagues' Club on 3 March 2010.

The Annual Report can be read online at www.achieveaustralia.org.au/publications.php

IT'S A DATE

23 June - Disability Employment Services & Transition to Work Services at Meadowbank Office (12.30pm - 2.30pm & 4.00pm-6.00pm)

20 October - Annual Fundraising Golf Day

6 November - Annual Fete at Crowle Home

Contact us

achieve
australia

Level 4
2 Rowe Street
Eastwood NSW 2122

P 02 9034 1600

F 02 9874 8870

E info@achieveaustralia.org.au

W www.achieveaustralia.org.au