

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Applause for a dedicated advocate

I was buoyed last week to hear that the hard work and dedication of local disability services worker Jodie Coles was officially recognised through the 2009 WA Disability Support Worker Awards.

Jodie is part of the highly-committed team at Advocacy South West which provides invaluable support and assistance to people living in our community with disabilities.

I have been fortunate enough to witness the work of the Advocacy team over recent years and I am always left in awe of the way the Advocacy workers and volunteers persistently go above and beyond their call of duty.

Therefore it was great to see that Jodie was honoured with the prestigious 2009 Community Support Award at a ceremony in Perth organised by the National Disability Services (WA) in conjunction with the Disability Services Commission.

The audience heard that Jodie is well known for her commitment, attention to detail and dogged persistence to ensure the best possible outcomes for local people with disabilities and their families.

Speak out on disabilities issues

Members of the public with views on disabilities issues are encouraged to come along to a forum this Friday which has been organised by the Developmental Disability Council of WA.

I am pleased to be officially opening the important forum which has been designed to allow local people to speak out about their concerns or experiences.

Attendees will also be given advice from the Council about how to ensure their voice heard in hope of influencing change.

As many of you may know, advocating for more adequate disability services and support in the South West has long been a focus of mine.

There are too many cases where people with disabilities and their carers are falling through the gaps in services and, there is no doubt in my mind that we need to see more change and progress.

There are many bewildering issues surrounding disabilities that need addressing and it is crucial that those facing the daily struggle and hurdles take this opportunity to have their say.

Those interested in attending should RSVP to the Council's Family Network Officer Carol Franklin by phoning 9420 7203 or email carol.franklin@ddc.org.au.

The forum will be held between 10am and 12 noon at the Guide Hall on Mary Street, Bunbury.

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