

SiP PORT REPORT MARCH 2017

MARCH 27 2PM – PUBLIC MEETING: CONSUMER DIRECTED CARE

The idea that consumers should be in control is very much the theme in recent developments in aged care. This is the subject of our first 2017 public forum in the Bayview Room (rear of Parks Hall).

It's open to all - Please come along and hear from local residents currently using the community aged care system. Share your experiences and ideas on how consumers and potential users can become knowledgeable about what services are provided, by whom, how to access them, and the costs involved.

If consumer empowerment is to become a reality, the various agencies will need to be more flexible and responsive in supporting our diverse and changing needs, so that we can continue living independently in our communities.

SiP is proposing a special project here in Portarlington to ensure better coordination of services. We would love to hear your ideas on this proposal - please help SiP advocate on these important issues for the future of aged care in our community.

We will have some guest speakers, and of course afternoon tea!

CONSUMER CONTROL is also enhanced with a new avenue for complaints via Victoria's first Health Complaints Commissioner, Ms Karen Cusack. Report a concern over a health provider: 1300 583 113 or on-line www.hcc.vic.gov.au/make-complaint

NORTHERN BELLARINE TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP – Congratulations to NBTAG on their short video "Celebrating Route 60" promoting bus usage in our community. Locals Anne Prendergast, Harold Waldron and Junie Pilkington feature – all are graduates of Bellarine Health's highly successful "No Fuss Bus" program. The video was launched at the well-attended March 10 Portarlington meeting on public transport where the Member for Bellarine, the Hon. Lisa Neville was guest speaker.

SiP and other local organisations are supporting NBTAG's public transport campaign. We see accessible public transport as essential to age friendly communities so SiP will continue to promote improvements to bus and train services for all.

DRIVING FOR OLDER PEOPLE - the focus of our June 22 public meeting, so put it in your diary. Meanwhile, check SiP's website: www.stayinginportarlington.com for an article on one specific aspect - drivers who are affected by dementia.

ELDER ABUSE

State Trustees recently reported that almost a quarter of Victorians have experienced someone trying to take advantage of a vulnerable friend or family member. Financial abuse of the elderly is the most common. Our recent articles gave information about the various forms that elder abuse might take, especially financial and psychological. See our website for more information.

Contact SiP: www.stayinginportarlington.com , email stayinginportarlington@gmail.com or write to Post Office Box 394, Portarlington 3223