

## BULLETIN BOARD

August 2022 - ANUHD

About 15 years ago, the ANUHD was set up by Margaret Ward and husband Jeremy, long term activists for equality for people with disability/disabilities. Convenor, Margaret was soon joined by David Brant. Thereafter, a small group of activists commenced working with the Convenors.

Some thought that incorporating high standards of accessibility within the build might initially add a small amount to the upfront costs to the purchaser. However, the benefits include extending the life of the residence, residents **not** living amongst dangerous chaos while costly upgrades are completed and investors in high quality residences would get achieve higher rentals. Moreover, more spaciousness means they would be safer for disability- support workers, patients could return home from hospital sooner, and there would be a reduced need for Special Accommodations.

**Most importantly, being easily able to enter and exit their homes, people with long term disabilities like polio, could fully participate in the life of their local community.**

Progress with ANUHD would be part of Australia's commitment to and reporting on progress towards implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which Australia is a signatory. To achieve this, interested organisations were invited to make a submission to an ANUHD consultation which was requested by State Building Ministers. From December 2018, PPV made 3 submissions. PPV's submissions were written by one of our members based on months of reading and research, promoting a socio-ecological housing model.

For our major submission, on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, PPV members and 2 Victorian Post-Polio Support Groups provided evidence of their experiences with housing accessibility. From these, Barbary concluded that gold level of Housing accessibility should be the acceptable minimum. Platinum was her preference. (- see submission on [postpolio victoria.org.au](http://postpolio victoria.org.au) i.e., Barbary Clarke's Advocacy Report for Post-Polio AGM, Oct 2021)

Following this submission, Barbary and Peter Freckleton talked about domestic remedies to the situation and legal implications of Australia not having met appropriate accessibility standards, as required by the UN. It was one of Australia's Discriminations against People with Disabilities that Peter and Shirley spoke about with the ABC and other media outlets.

On November the 5<sup>th</sup>, ANUHD released all the published submissions. It supported Option 2 "**Let's do it right first time,**" and a subsidy to encourage availability of accessible rental properties.

Based on independent studies, the Melbourne Disability Institute and Summer Foundation also supported these options.



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On the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2021, in a brief interlude between COVID-19 lockdowns, Melbourne managed to host a 2-day conference on universal design at the Victoria Pavilion.

Margaret Ward chaired one Housing session, providing an update on the latest developments in another. The conference theme was

**“Thriving With Universal Design: Everyone, Everywhere, Every day.”**

The Conference aimed to broaden delegates’ thinking about the way universal design could be utilised and applied, to benefit everyone, in daily living tasks. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2021, ANUHD released a draft response to the Draft National Construction Code document 2022 asking for feedback, from organisations and individuals. In June, the Melbourne Disability Institute at Melbourne University released a 30- page Position Statement on the Cost Benefit Analysis of the proposed Regulations for Accessible Housing.

In September, R&I Australia held a Forum on opportunities for Inclusive Housing Systems 22. Both concluded that it was more cost effective and better for Disabled Persons’ mental and physical health to “Do Things Right at the Beginning. One of the speakers at the Forum was Mt. Andrew Kerec, Director Renaissance Building and Design Proprietary Ltd in the ACT, which will build to gold standard. There are other companies in Queensland and NSW which are producing design models of how to do this at minimal cost.

The Master Builders’ Association has a vested interest in **not** building to Gold Standard at the beginning, because of the profits its’ members make doing housing refits. Also, even sympathetic State Governments are having to resist developers trying to push out the Standards Implementation time from 18 months to 3 years.

In relation to climate change, and the environmental and life-threatening disasters accompanying it, the greater presence of people with disability in their communities is a MUST. People with Disability must be an integral part of local action plans in natural disasters.

Our New Federal Government has announced that it will reform or abolish the National Construction Code and the Australian Building and Construction Commission. Hopefully, reforms will, in addition to improving the health and safety of building workers, also **contribute to the safety and security of residents who will occupy the buildings**. New buildings are already mandated to have climate safety and water saving features.

In our responses to ANUHD’s requests for submissions, PPV has taken the position that we want lasting improvements in equality for polio people. That enshrines our support for at least Gold Standard accessibility for new residences.

Thank you  
Susan Shaab  
PPV Committee Member

## Did you or someone you know have POLIO?

Polio Australia are holding information sessions in

- Melton, Victoria

Please find all the details to register >

- Melbourne, La Trobe University

Clinical Health Educator, Michael Jackson

Will speak to the orthotists 2<sup>nd</sup> year students  
about 'Post-Polio conditions

Wed the 10<sup>th</sup> of Aug 12:30-3pm

The orthotist organiser would like to invite polio survivors attend to hear their stories – If you are available and interested in attending (in-person) on the above date at Latrobe Uni, please register your interest.

Phone: 0466 719 013

Email: [michael@polioaustralia.org.au](mailto:michael@polioaustralia.org.au)



**Polio Australia**  
Representing polio survivors throughout Australia



**DID YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAVE POLIO?**

**MELTON**  
Burnside Children's and  
Community Centre  
Wednesday, 10th August 2022, 10:30AM till  
12 PM

**THE INFORMATION SESSION WILL COVER:**  
Current information about the Late Effects of Polio  
What to tell your health professional  
Self-management strategies  
Q&A  
Local connections

**RSVP ESSENTIAL - FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER:**  
ONLINE: [https://bit.ly/Melton\\_Session](https://bit.ly/Melton_Session)  
CONTACT Devalina: 0466 718 222 OR [devalina@polioaustralia.org.au](mailto:devalina@polioaustralia.org.au)

## International POLIO News Update:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-22/us-reports-first-polio-case-in-nearly-a-decade/101262580>

## Please Support PPV

Donation can be made via the PPV website or the My Cause website

Please help us continue our fight to ensure all 'Post-Polio survivors receive the best care and services available. Donate here to ensure we can continue to advocate for our community.

All Donations over \$2.00 are Tax Deductible

<https://www.postpoliovictoria.org.au/donate/>

