



LIVE OPTIONS!

The Quarterly Newsletter of Quality Living Options Inc.

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Coming Events:

The QLO Short Story Prize entries are due to close on the 20th October and the stories passed on to our readers for short listing - then on to the Judges for the final decision.

The announcement of the winner will be made on the 3rd December, the International Day of People with a Disability at the Bendigo Goldfields Library at 4.15pm by Cr Rod Campbell followed by a short discussion of the process by writer and QLO Short Story Prize judge Dianne Dempsey followed by a celebration of the winning story and the completion of the program.

Draftsman and member Brian Stratford – in consultation with the committee of QLOB, has produced a draft plan of the building complex we hope to create. This is a draft only and will be used to demonstrate our aims.

During November we will be advised as to the success of our application to the City of Greater Bendigo for a grant to produce a video of our people, our parents, their situation and our goal of creating a **Safe Secure and Appropriate Place to Call Home**. The project will begin seriously on the 1st December, with a series of interviews, discussions filming and editing to follow.



President's Report – September 2014

Over the last 8 months it has been good to see the steady growth in our membership base which has now grown to over 45 members. That growth is reflected in an increase in confidence and purpose for the committee of QLO. The core philosophy of respect, recognition and support for all those involved remains critical for successful outcomes in the future and I believe it to be one of the greatest strengths of our group. We are united in a common goal – that of finding **safe secure and appropriate homes for our family members**, a goal that must continue to be nurtured into the future. Early this year we worked on compiling a business plan for the 2014-2015 period. This was completed by the end of May and has allowed the committee to move toward achieving the goals we set out in the plan: A high priority is the promotion of the need for appropriate accommodation to the Bendigo community. This is a necessary function of our role. We need to lift the profile of QLOB, to inform the wider community about our situation and our plans for finding solutions. We aim to expand our membership to include people other than parents - people with the time and expertise to make a significant contribution to our cause will be much valued. We will continue to expand our fundraising campaign. We held our first Garage Sale in May and the QLO Short Story Prize was launched in July. A rush of entries is anticipated. **Cr Rod Campbell** has agreed to announce the winner of the \$1000 on the

International Day of Disability on the 3rd December and **Di Dempsey** will represent the Judges. We plan to develop a video depicting parents and family members speaking of their hopes and plans for the future. This will be a very useful tool and will add strength to our promotional campaign. We have applied to the **COGB for a grant** to assist with this. **QLOB is now a registered charity**, has achieved the desired DGR status and donations are now tax deductible. This will mean a reprint of our brochures and other moves to facilitate donations. To compliment the development of our website we now have an open Facebook page for **Quality Living Options Bendigo Inc.** and the page is increasing in its reach each day. We have been visiting the local State and Federal MPs and they have all been helpful within the limits of their situation. We will continue to supply them with information about our activities. **Brian Stratford**, lecturer/draftsman at Bendigo TAFE is drawing up a draft plan to illustrate the type of building we are aiming for. This has been an inspiring move. To launch the new **Building Fund Account** we held our first **fundraising dinner at the Bendigo Stadium** on the 26th September and it was a great success – attended by over 65 people and making a significant contribution to building the fund.