

# COMMUNITY VISION BUILDING

6th–8th AUGUST 2010

DARCY ELKS



Darcy Elks lives in Pennsylvania and is an educator, consultant, evaluator and advocate. The focus of her work is to encourage attitudes, structures and models which promote social value and inclusion of people with a disability and others who have been marginalised, devalued and excluded. Darcy's passion is the desire to help create inclusive communities where all people are welcome and where each person can use their gifts for the good of one another. Darcy is the mother of 3 children, one of which has a disability. Darcy will also be joined by other families who have made their vision a reality.

**COST: \$140.00  
(INCL GST)  
PER PERSON.**

To register please complete attached registration form  
**Registrations close  
22.07.2010**

**Further Information -  
Laura Sykes  
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## WEEKEND FAMILY RETREAT AT PHILLIP ISLAND

FOR FAMILIES WHO LIVE IN THE  
EASTERN SUBURBS OF MELBOURNE

This is a rare and exciting opportunity for families who are interested in assisting their family member with a disability to plan for and pursue unique lifestyle options that include natural pathways, valued roles and contribution to the community. This retreat will assist families to develop and hold onto a rich vision by:

- Understanding the importance and power of creating a vision for a full and meaningful life
- Exploring their son/daughter's true and unique identity including gifts, desires, passions and fundamental needs
- Calling forth and celebrating personhood
- Pursuing pathways that are "typically" available to other citizens e.g. through living in ones' own home, work, recreation, education and other options
- Building community relationships, friendships and valued roles
- Establishing natural authority thus enabling empowerment
- Building safeguards for the future

At this retreat you will meet and hear from other families about the practical ways they have created a vision for a meaningful life and how they made it a reality. You will also have the opportunity to create new friendships for mutual support. This weekend has been developed in response to families who have not found congregate, group, segregated or "specialised" services suitable to the needs and aspirations of their family member with a disability.



THIS EVENT IS PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU  
BY PLA AND FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
OF HUMAN SERVICES, EASTERN  
METROPOLITAN REGION



**Venue: Phillip Island Eco Resort 2128 Phillip Island Rd Cowes**



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## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

This weekend is limited to 20 participants who reside in the **Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne** thus **early registration is advisable.**

### The Program

Friday 6th August 5.30pm —7pm followed by dinner

Saturday 7th August 9.30am—5pm followed by dinner

Sunday 8th August 9.30am—4pm

This interactive retreat has been developed *specifically for families* to enable them to build a clear and coherent vision with their son or daughter with a disability for the future. The seminars will include discussion, real-life stories and time for reflections.

To be eligible to participate in the weekend you need to:

- Reside in the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne and have a son/daughter with a disability
- Have a keen interest in community inclusion and person-centredness
- Attend the entire weekend
- Have at least two members of each family attend (or significant partner or friend) for mutual understanding and support after the retreat

The registration cost includes two nights full accommodation in the lovely Phillip Island Eco Resort (see [www.theislandecoresort.com.au](http://www.theislandecoresort.com.au)) and Friday, Saturday night dinners, Saturday/Sunday breakfasts and lunches are also included.

The venue is fully accessible.

Note: Unfortunately we are unable to accept registrations from families who have previously attended PLA's Community Vision Building Series in 2008 or PLA's Family Retreat in 2009. If families are finding the cost prohibitive, please contact Laura Sykes for contact details of agencies that might be able to assist financially

### Feedback from previous retreats

*"Many thanks for a great weekend—very inspirational especially the realisation that even families who struggle with severe disability have achieved what seems to be impossible. Also the wealth of practical knowledge and the realistic, informative way it was delivered— a building of layer upon layer—which I felt catered for everyone's interests in the room" (S.E Parent)*

*"We really enjoyed it and it gave us the opportunity to speak with other families in similar situations and with similar ideals...it also gave us [my husband] and me a rare chance to talk together and mull things over in our minds...we got things started. The highlight was listening to the personal stories. (LC parent)*

**Further information Contact Laura Sykes**

**Phone: 03 9739 8333 or 0407514690 or E-mail: [laura.sykes@plavic.net.au](mailto:laura.sykes@plavic.net.au)**