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# Income Support/Financial Assistance

What is available?  
How can we access it?

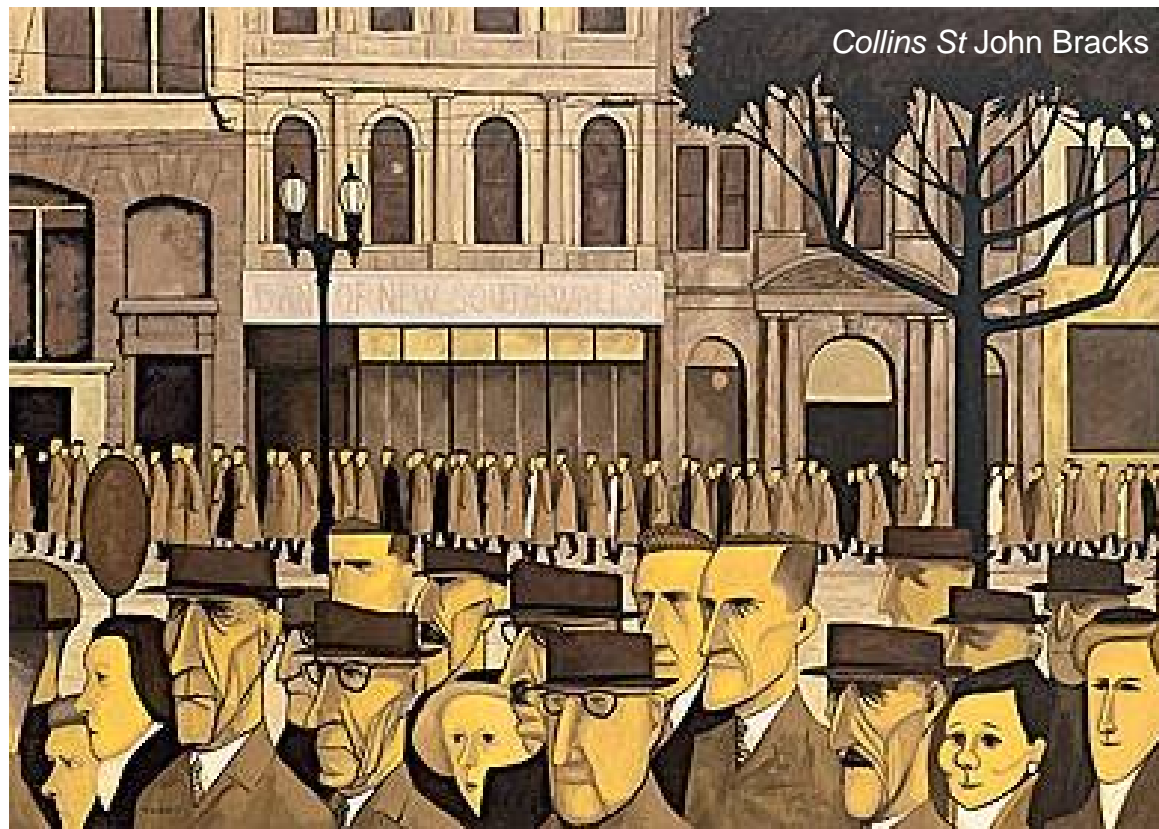
Leonie Mudge, Haemophilia Social Worker, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney



# The Tension

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Success in the community – how visible do we want to be?



# National Disability Strategy: 'Shut Out' Report



- Report to inform the National Disability Strategy – launched Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 2009
- 750 submissions
- 2,500 attended consultations in all states
- Seeking co-ordinated planning across all portfolios & all levels of government



# A Range of Government Initiatives

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- National Disability Agreement
- Disability Investment Group Report
- Harmer Pension Review
- Inquiry into Australia's future tax System
- Disability standards for accessible Public transport (2002)
- House of Representatives draft Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards
- Harmonisation of Disabled Persons parking Scheme & Companion Card Scheme



# Government Adjusts Tax & Income Incentives



Cartoonist Eric Lobbecke Source: NEWS.com.au



# Budget Initiatives & Harmer Pension Review



- Range of payments for incapacitated, subject to eligibility criteria:
  - Disability Support Pension
  - Carer Payment & Carer Allowance
  - Sickness Allowance
  - Mobility Allowance
- Increase in single rate of Age and Disability Pension - \$65 per fortnight from Sept 20<sup>th</sup>



# Carers Payment & Carers Allowance



- The Carers Allowance has been increased- \$105.10/fortnight
- The Carers Bonus or supplement introduced June 2009 (\$1,000 annually)
- Change in assessment tool for Carers payment – looking at Carers total care load.



# Mobility Allowance

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- Non means tested
- 16+ years & who can't use public transport
- Required to travel to work, including volunteer work, training or job seeking
- 2 levels:
  - 8 hrs/week - \$79:30/frtnight
  - 15 hrs/week - \$111.00/fortnight





# Pensioner Education Supplement

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- Available to pensioners studying:
  - 50% study load or more - \$62.40/fortnight
  - 25% study load - \$31.20/fortnight



# Isolated Patient Travel Scheme

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- Assistance with fares reimbursement and accommodation costs for specialist health appointments
- Complete forms & keep receipts
- Pensioner & HCC holders \$20 co-contribution towards trips has recently been removed





# Aids & Equipment



- Program of Appliances for Disabled people (PADP) - varies state by state
- Usually administered through occupational therapists, waiting lists are involved, which causes hardship
- Smaller items may not be included
- Pressure on applicants to self-fund



# Disabled Parking/Taxi Assistance

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- Vary from state to state
- Currently being reviewed to encourage standardisation



# Casestudy: Poster 8

- Disability Support Pension
- Mobility Allowance
- PES
- Home modifications
- Aids & Equipment
- IPTAS
- Disability Parking/Taxi vouchers



# Need more information?

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- Complex systems – eligibility criteria, local variations, application forms
- Haemophilia Social Workers/Counsellors and NZ Outreach Workers
- Financial Counsellors/Centrelink Financial Information Service (FIS)



# Useful Websites

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- [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au)
- [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)
- [www.chronicillness.org.au](http://www.chronicillness.org.au)
- [www.workwelfarewills.com](http://www.workwelfarewills.com)
- [www.carersaustralia.com](http://www.carersaustralia.com)
- [www.commonwealthcarelink.health.gov.au](http://www.commonwealthcarelink.health.gov.au)



# Now, your questions?

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# Career Panel: Challenges & Choices

- Mike Holloway, Brisbane
- Luke Chipperfield, Sydney/Wollongong
- Robert McCabe, Perth

