



RIGHTS IN ACTION INC

Independent advocacy for people with disabilities

NEWSLETTER

STREET ADDRESS: Ground Floor, 88 Abbott St

PHONE: (07) 4031 7377

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 1041N, North Cairns QLD 4870

FACSIMILE: (07) 4031 7383

EMAIL: info@rightsinaction.org

December – Issue 55

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Advocate
Maggie Robinson

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**People living alone who
are Socially Isolated
Helplines**

Message from the Manager

Season's Greetings everyone,

It has been a long year for all, and RIA is looking forward to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. In the final quarter of 2020 RIA would like to congratulate Angelika Williams on her new appointment as the Assistant Manager. RIA is also delighted with employing Maggie Robison (Advocate) and electing Gwion Cain (Board Member).

Recently, RIA endured a great loss from the retirement of long-term serving staff member Bob Paten. Bob dedicated his service to FNQ community as a RIA Advocate for 15 years. Bob came to RIA with immense amount of experience in the Public and Disability Sector. As a longstanding Union Movement Board member, Bob was also a handy go to for Industrial relations advice. He has always believed in social justice and stood up for the vulnerable in community. In Bob's own words, "everyone deserves a fair go." A mentor to all staff, Bob always gave measured advice in the workplace for appropriate advocate response. Thank you so much Bob for being a critical part of RIA's evolution and all your help over the years.

In the month of November RIA gained a new car fleet with the purchase of two new vehicles, which will increase our mobility in the FNQ region. Furthermore, new laptops were procured to update our Information Communication Technology, which has improved our operational capability.

Going into the new year, RIA has gone through a significant staff restructure and will receive new advocacy training resources, all of which will further boost our advocacy capacity across FNQ. I would like to thank all RIA Staff and Board Members for working incredibly hard and supporting RIA through a challenging year, which has tested our fortitude.

RIA would like to wish all a safe break, Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Rights In Action Inc

Staff

MANAGER

Raoul Wilson

Assistant Manager

Angelika Williams

ADVOCATES

Marlene Levasseur

Dianne Wellington

Zoe Armstrong

Maggie Robinson

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Genevieve Cridge

VOLUNTEER

Ariel Pose

Thomas Carter

RIA Board of Management 2020/21

PRESIDENT

James Barnes

SECRETARY

Bernadette Dimla

TREASURER

Allan Wilson

GENERAL MEMBERS

Janet Corcoran

Yvonne Todd

Gwion Cain

RIA AGM

RIA was delighted with a record attendance at the AGM, which was held at the Pullman Cairns International. COVID-19 restrictions were not a barrier to our guests that enjoyed the celebration of RIA 2020 achievements. RIA above bar results were reported throughout the financial year 2020. This was due to a dedicated team, stellar representations, and effective stakeholder collaborations.

RIA President, James Barnes blessed and farewelled departing staff members, and Jane Simpson who retired from the RIA Board of Management. The Treasurer, Allan Wilson thanked the Department of Social Services, QLD Department of Communities and QLD Health for their continual funding and support. A big thank you and an acknowledgement of service award was given to Thomas Carter for his volunteering to RIA.





National Counselling and Referral Service (Disability)

Supporting:

- People affected by the Disability Royal Commission
- People who have experienced or witnessed violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation
- Carers, family members, advocated, support workers, disability providers, legal and financial services

You can call the National Counselling and Referral Services on

1800 421 468

To speak to a counsellor 02 6146 1468

This Service operates from

- 9am – 6pm AEST Monday to Friday
- 9am – 5pm AEST Saturday, Sunday

and public holidays

If in crisis, immediate support or concerned for your safety: Call Lifeline on 13 11 14

Call 000 if your life is in danger.



Christmas Recipe



Ingredients:

1 cup salted butter, cold and cut into pieces

½ cup granulated sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla extract or almond extract

2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour

Optional: red and green sprinkles

INSTRUCTIONS

In a medium bowl of an electric stand mixer cream together butter, granulated sugar and vanilla extract until well combined

Add all-purpose flour and mix until combined

Knead dough by hand for 5 minutes

The dough should end up soft and pliable, similar to play-dough, not sticky

Form a ball, wrap tightly, and chill for about 30 minutes

While the dough is resting, preheat oven to 350F. Line baking sheets with parchment paper and set aside

Roll dough out to about ½ inch thickness, use a cookie cutter for shapes

Place each cookie 2 inches apart on baking sheet, sprinkle sprinkles over the

Bob's Farewell Lunch

The staff held a farewell lunch in honor of Bob's long service with RIA.



Helplines over Christmas period



Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing emotional distress with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

Click on the link for more information

<https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

top if desired and gently press into dough

Bake 8-10 minutes, or until edges are golden brown

Immediately transfer to a wire rack to cool.

RIA Newsletter Articles

We encourage members, local services and the community to provide stories, interesting articles and advertisements for our quarterly [Newsletter](#).

Our Newsletter is distributed **free** of charge by emails, post or by accessing our website.

If you would like to contribute to our next Newsletter, please contact Genevieve at our office on 40317377 or email info@rightsinaction.org

NB: Sometimes space is limited, and we reserve the right to decide on the content of The RIA Newsletter



Donations help us promote the rights of people with disabilities by addressing systemic issues and campaigns, presentations and static displays, social events and activities.

<https://www.givenow.com>

the
power of
humanity



Telecross

Telecross is provided by Red Cross with a daily telephone call. A phone call each day to check you're OK. Peace of mind and independence. Telecross is a service for people who live alone and are at risk of an accident or illness.

In particular people who:

- are frail and aged
- have a disability
- are housebound
- are recovering from an illness or accident

Telecross is also available to the carers of people who are eligible for the service. When family and carers are away, or if someone has just returned home after a hospital stay, Telecross can also be used on a temporary basis.

About the service

For more information about accessing Telecross as a client, please call Red Cross on **1300 885 698** or **1800 733 276** for General Inquiries

RIA CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES

4:30PM Thursday 24th December 2020

RE-OPEN

9:00 AM Monday 4th January 2021

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas



Safe New Year

