

# AMIDA NEWS

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March, 2017



AMIDA (Action for More Independence & Dignity in Accommodation) is a disability advocacy group that works on housing issues. This means we speak up for people with a disability or help them to speak up for themselves about problems they have with their housing.

## Congratulations to Jane –

### Jane Rosengrave, recipient of the Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Award, at the Australian Human Rights Awards for 2016



The 'Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Community Award – Individual' is awarded to a person with a track record in promoting and advancing human rights in the Australian community on a not-for-profit basis. Jane is a proud Yorta Yorta woman with an intellectual disability. She is a passionate advocate for people with disability. Jane grew up in institutions and has experienced segregation as well as sexual and other violence, including domestic violence. She contributes to several organisations and shares her personal experiences publicly to raise awareness of the abuse and discrimination facing people with disability.

The link to the Human Rights Award page is:

<https://hrawards.humanrights.gov.au/winners>

To see Jane receive the award look at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwJ5Clk94LY&feature=youtu.be&t=7402>

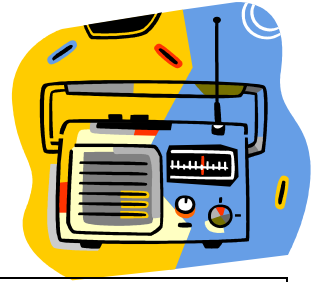
**If you still receive a paper copy, but would prefer to receive your AMIDA NEWS by email, please let us know - 9650 2722 or [amida@amida.org.au](mailto:amida@amida.org.au). Of course, we are very happy to continue to post you the AMIDA NEWS if that is your preference.**

**Raising Our Voices Radio show on 3CR**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6.00 – 6.30pm

**Raising Our Voices is now podcast - Go to:**

[www.3cr.org.au/raisingourvoices](http://www.3cr.org.au/raisingourvoices) and download Raising Our Voices to your computer. Copies of the radio shows are available from AMIDA on CD or audio tape, website [www.amida.org.au](http://www.amida.org.au)

**AMIDA Planning Day**

You are invited to the next AMIDA Planning Day which will be held:

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April

10.00 - 2.00

Hayden Raysmith Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Ross House

247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

Please let us know if you are coming - 9650 2722 or [amida@amida.org.au](mailto:amida@amida.org.au)

**AMIDA work:**

AMIDA has had a busy 3 months since the New Year. Some of the work we have been doing is:

Individual Advocacy - New and ongoing cases

Systemic Advocacy - Preparation for DARU conference on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 and Residential Tenancies Act Review submission

Family Advocacy - ongoing cases

Self Advocacy Support - ongoing cases and Raising Our Voices radio show

AMIDA Website updates

DARU Conversations on zero tolerance of abuse - attendance

SARU support

Employment contracts & job descriptions work

Phone information and support

Recruitment

Staff meetings

Melbourne Metro Rail Authority information session - effect on Ross House

Submission for funding from DHHS Innovation Fund

2 Committee Meetings and Election of office bearers

**State government announces new \$1bn social housing growth fund that will help homeless in Victoria - 23 February, 2017** The Victorian Government will invest \$1 billion in a fund to increase the state's social housing stock after the accommodation waiting list blew out to more than 33,000 people.

**Key points:**

- More than 33,000 people are on a public housing waiting list
- Fund will be similar to the Commonwealth's Future Fund
- Program will offer low interest loans and loan guarantees to community housing providers

Treasurer Tim Pallas said the social housing growth fund would be set up over the next four years and operate similarly to the Commonwealth's Future Fund. Any revenue earned would be used as a funding stream to encourage the private and philanthropic sector to build new social housing and offer subsidised rent to those in need.

"It may mean ... more concentrated housing in existing areas where development is occurring, with a bonus from the state for those developers who provide social housing as part of their overall housing option," Mr Pallas said.

Other measures include a separate fund offering low interest loans and loan guarantees to community housing providers, who sometimes struggle to secure finance from traditional lenders.

The management of 4,000 public housing properties will also be transferred to the community housing sector.

"This is the biggest single injection in social housing in the state's history. A level of effort unprecedented in this state," Mr Pallas said.

**Social housing fund 'will save lives'** The Victorian Council of Social Service's chief executive Emma King described the package as a "smart and significant investment".

"The fund will provide for a pipeline of new social housing long into the future, helping more people find secure, affordable and appropriate housing," she said.

"It is a game changer. It will change the lives of everyday Victorians and in some cases, let's be frank, it's going to save lives."

**AMIDA Comment:** Although the injection of funds is a good thing AMIDA's preference is for public housing which provides disability modifications, and also has lower rent than community housing. We also have concerns as the model used to fund community housing means that some of the housing that is paid for by the government, is rented to people who are not on low income. AMIDA will continue to monitor this situation.

March, 2017



The AMIDA office is usually open:

Monday 9.30 - 5.00  
 Tuesday 9.30 – 5.00  
 Wednesday 9.30 - 5.00  
 Thursday 9.30 - 5.00

Please phone AMIDA for an appointment: 9650 2722

Email: [amida@amida.org.au](mailto:amida@amida.org.au)

Web: [www.amida.org.au](http://www.amida.org.au)



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AMIDA receives funding from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, and the Victorian Department of Health & Human Services

You can offer any comments you have on AMIDA Policy or Newsletter by phone, email or writing:

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