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Embrace

Embrace will be held on
Friday, 23 November 2018
at the
County Court of Victoria,
250 William Street, Melbourne.

We look forward to hosting
another successful event.

Please see page 1 for further
details.



Embrace



At Funds in Court our mission is to act in the best interests of beneficiaries by providing excellent service at a lower cost and ensuring safe and effective investment of their funds.

Enhancing the lives of our beneficiaries isn't confined to managing day to day requests, it is also about celebrating the people, their capabilities and their accomplishments.

So every two years we take the opportunity to put the spotlight on our beneficiaries, to applaud and celebrate their talents and achievements, and give them a platform from which these triumphs can be showcased.

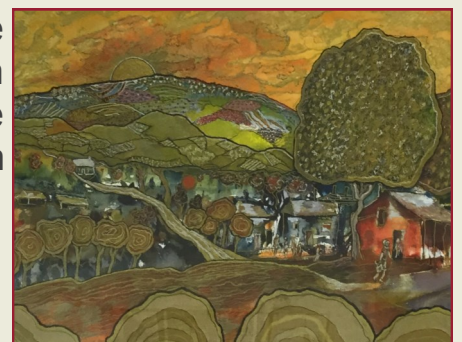
At Embrace numerous works of art are on display and beneficiaries perform in a concert, some of which are first time performers, others who are veterans.



The dedication and hard work of contributing beneficiaries and staff is what makes this evening a fun, inspiring and joyous occasion for all who attend.

It is because of this positive feedback and continuing interest that we are excited to announce that Embrace will again take place on Friday, 23 November 2018 at the County Court of Victoria — 250 William Street, Melbourne.

If you would like to participate or attend please complete the form included and post or email back to Funds in Court. Alternatively, if you require a Reply Paid envelope contact us at fic@supremecourt.vic.gov.au or on 1300 039 390.



Moving to an electronic FIC Newsletter

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The FIC Newsletter was first published in January 2008. At the time the then Senior Master, Kevin Mahony, stated that our intention was:

...that a Newsletter will be sent to you twice a year. Their purpose is to inform you about the Staff of the Funds in Court Office and other events or matters we consider will be of assistance or interesting.

Senior Master Mahony also asked that readers respond to our request to send in their questions and suggestions as:

The Funds in Court Newsletter will best serve its stated purpose if it reflects the issues which are of most concern to the beneficiaries, their families and carers.

Since then, FIC has published 20 editions of the Newsletter. It is fair to say that the Newsletter has been, along with the FIC Website, one of the main sources of information for and about FIC, the beneficiaries and their families.

However, changes in technology mean that what was once an effective way of communicating is now much less effective. FIC, therefore, is considering moving from a printed version of the Newsletter to an electronic version emailed directly to you or downloaded from our website.

Some of the main advantages of an electronic Newsletter are:

- Publishing costs will be slashed and lead times shortened. Long lead times, printing, and postal costs will all dwindle when we move to email. At present it costs some thousands of dollars to print and post the Newsletter. These costs will only increase in the future.
- We will be able to insert important news right up to the moment we send the Newsletter. At the moment, by the time the Newsletter is prepared, printed and posted some of the information may not be as up to date as we would like.
- Ease of access.
- Email newsletters are easy to pass along (or print off). You can easily forward a copy of the Newsletter – while retaining your own copy – that you think might be of interest to someone else. You can, of course, also choose to print a copy of the Newsletter.

If we do move to an electronic version, please provide your feedback on anything else you would like to receive electronically.

Please send your feedback to: fic@supremecourt.vic.gov.au with the subject 'Newsletter'.

NDIS Update

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The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has published new information about how they deal with compensation, which affects many beneficiaries who have funds in Court. The new information can be found here:

<https://ndis.gov.au/participants/startingmyplan/compensation.html>

It is important that you or a NDIS contact person notifies the NDIA that you have funds in Court. The NDIA will then contact you or your NDIS contact person and ask you to fill out a form that will permit the NDIA to request further information from Funds in Court (FIC).

Case Study: Alex's NDIS plan

Alex received his first NDIS plan in 2013, however his plan did not include any supports because of a misunderstanding concerning his funds in Court.

When Alex contacted FIC in 2017, we were able to assist him to have his plan reviewed. Alex was well supported in his plan review meeting, and with the assistance of his Occupational Therapist and case manager, Alex's circumstances were communicated effectively to the NDIA, and a new plan with appropriate supports were put in place.

FIC also wrote to the NDIA and explained the circumstances surrounding Alex's funds, and provided the NDIA with information that would help it make a decision about the effect of his funds on his NDIS entitlements.

Alex's new NDIS plan contains supports including assistive technology and funding for assessments, supports to assist Alex with his daily care, and supports to help Alex to manage his NDIS plan.

Alex is happy with his new NDIS plan and he feels well supported to continue to study, go to the gym and undertake a range of other daily activities.

Where can I get more information?

If you have funds in court and you are interested in how the NDIS might affect you, you should contact your Trust Officer. You can also contact the NDIA if you have any questions about the access process, and the types of supports available. The NDIA's phone number is 1800 800 110. Other ways to contact the NDIA include:

- If you require a free of charge translator, interpreter or other assistance, phone 1800 800 110.
- If you are a Text telephone (TTY) user, phone 1800 555 677 then ask for 1800 800 110.
- If you are a Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) user, phone 1800 555 727 then ask for 1800 800 110.
- If you are an internet relay user, visit the National Relay Service website and ask for 1800 800 110.

On 13 March 2018, Funds in Court Legal Policy Officer, Mohan Manickam, was admitted to practice as a lawyer within the Australian legal profession. Mohan however is no stranger to the law, having previously been admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor in Singapore some 28 years ago.

Mohan commenced his legal career in Singapore in 1990 where he practiced predominantly in the areas of general civil litigation. In 2008, Mohan and his family relocated to Australia. Shortly thereafter, he began a job at State Trustees Limited as a Senior Deceased Estate Representative. Funds in Court was fortunate enough to welcome Mohan to the team in 2013, initially as a Trust Officer, and subsequently as a Legal Policy Officer.

Mohan brings a wealth of experience to his position as a Legal Officer and enjoys overcoming the challenges of the law in order to achieve the very best outcome for the beneficiaries. Legal Team Manager, Tim Wilkinson, commends Mohan's terrific work ethic and excellent communication skills whilst noting that he has a "very good sense of humour... for a solicitor!"

The entire team at Funds in Court commends Mohan on his admission to practice as an Australian lawyer. Congratulations Mohan!



Silent AUCTION

Bid. Donate. Support.

Every year in September the Funds in Court office holds a Silent Auction to raise funds for charities nominated by our staff.

Participation is overwhelming for this event. All the items in the auction are donated by staff and, on the day of the event, staff bid generously for the items offered! All proceeds get divided between the chosen charities for that year.

While staff participation makes for a fun event, it is important to recognise the amount raised over the years and the organisations these donations have benefited.

Since 2011, Funds in Court staff have raised an incredible \$25,630!

This money has been distributed to the following charities and organisations:

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Father Bob McGuire Foundation, Peter Hughes Burns Foundation, TLC Distraction Box Program, Make A Wish Foundation, Rescued With Love Animal Shelter, Tree Project, Youth Projects, UNICEF Australia, Eyes For Africa, Servants Community Housing, Lort Smith Animal Hospital, The Orang-Utan Project, Njernda Aboriginal Corporation, Motor Neurone Disease Research Institute of Australia, Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria, Walking Wounded (Return Soldiers), Lifestart Foundation, James Macready-Bryan Foundation, Sacred Heart Mission, Doctors Without Borders, Moira Kelly's Children First Foundation, Save A Dog Scheme, Joseph's Corner (alcohol & drug addiction), Debra Foundation, Asylum Resource Centre, Wildlife Victoria, Bereavement Assistance Ltd and Young Diggers Dogs, Flying Fox, St. Kilda Mums, The Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability Inc. (VALiD) and The Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP).

We hope for another successful year in 2018.



Embrace Form — Friday, 23 November 2018**p.6**

If you and/or your family would like to attend or participate in this special event, please complete either Part 1, Part 2 or Part 3 of this form and return it to **Funds in Court** by **Friday, 7 September 2018**. If you have any questions in relation to the event, please contact us on **1300 039 390**.

PART 1 - PARTICIPATING AND ATTENDING THE EVENT

Participant's name: _____

Number of people attending the event: _____

Your contribution:

Painting Photograph Other: _____

Medium: _____ Size: _____

Medium: _____ Size: _____

Music Please specify: music/instrument requirements:

Singing Name of the song: _____
Requirements for your performance: _____

Do you have any dietary requirements? No Yes

Dietary requirements: _____

Other requirements: _____

PART 2 – ATTENDING ONLY

Beneficiary's name: _____

Number of people attending the event: _____

Do you have any dietary requirements? No Yes

Dietary requirements: _____

Other requirements: _____

PART 3 - PARTICIPATING ONLY

Beneficiary's name: _____

Beneficiary's contribution:

Painting Photograph Other: _____

Medium: _____ Size: _____

Medium: _____ Size: _____

☐ I authorise the Senior Master to use/display my contribution (e.g. painting) on the Funds in Court website or newsletter (Note: any use/display will be limited to promoting the event beforehand, or reporting on it afterwards).

Please forward the completed form via post or email it to
fic@supremecourt.vic.gov.au