

SCIP MEETING NOTES

DATE: THURSDAY 02ND MARCH, 4.00 – 6.00PM

Attendees: John Koumourou, Martin Heng, Raelene West, Alex Coombs, Harin Corea (Development Coordinator, Spire), Reeya Paul (Intern – Spire)

Apologies: Emma Bloom (Project Officer, Spire), Nazim Erdem (Team Leader, Spire)

AGENDA ITEMS:

First Steering Group Outcomes

Website

John gave an overview of the SCIP website (www.scip.net.au). Everyone agreed that site looked good and clean and was a good representation of the network. It was decided to add Emma and Harin as committee members on the website and to email all network members to ask them for a profile blurb and photo to include in the website. It was suggested to use people's professional prefixes (e.g. Dr./Prof.) and post-nominals (e.g. MA/MBA/PhD) on the website as this is a network of professionals. Martin offered to send photographs that Deakin University had taken of him at work for the website. It was also agreed that once John has finished making edits to the website, he would set up Spire to manage it, ongoing.

Network Name

Network name is now Spinal Cord injury Network of Professionals (SCIP).

LinkedIn group

Linked in group for the network is to be established. Shane has offered to set this up.

Information pamphlet:

The information pamphlet content has been drafted and it was agreed to keep it consistent with the website content. Lonely Planet will provide in-kind hours for the pamphlet design and logo (the logo currently on the website is a generic one).

Capacity building with peer mentors:

Harin briefed the group on the progress of Spire's Pathways to Employment post SCI Project and its intent to develop specialist peer mentoring/coaching in this domain as well as build capacity of the general peer support volunteer group specifically around this domain. He introduced Reeya Paul a Master's student from Melbourne University who is interning with Spire to build online/ video based resources for this.

The group decided that possibly the best way the group could assist with this would be to invite people interested in employment to join the group. It was also suggested that if the mentor/coach role needs to be more clearly defined. Raelene said that RMIT had done a video on barriers to employment, which she could share with Reeya.

Legal Education Sessions – Maurice Blackburn

Harin briefed the group that Maurice Blackburn has offered to provide legal education sessions for the Spire community and this might be of value/interest to the SCIP group. Everyone agreed that this would be a good start to begin inviting guest speakers to network meetings and attract more members to attend and join the network. The group had a brief brainstorm as to what topics would be of interest. The topics that were suggested were

- Superannuation
- Employment related disability rights
- Pre-compensation employment issues (early barriers to employment thrown up by the compensation determination process)
- Disability support pension and employment
- Redundancy
- NDIS

It was decided that Harin & Emma talk to Maurice Blackburn about possible topics and dates. The option of having a series of presentations on different topics was also flagged.

The following other potential presenters were also suggested

- Specialist disability employment services such as WISE employment (<http://www.wiseemployment.com.au/en/home>) - Alex
- Health & Finance Integrated (<http://healthfinance.com.au/>) - Harin

Other Business:

Harin spoke about Blue Badge Insurance (<http://www.bluebadgeinsurance.com.au/>) - a specialist mobility insurance company that offers insurance products for cars, wheelchairs/scooters and mobility equipment. They provide up to 25% off car insurance premiums for people who use a disability parking permit. They are currently running a promo for Spire where, until the end of April they will donate \$10 to Spire for each quote they provide to people who mention the promo code AQAS001.