SUSTAINING THE FUTURE
CREATING CIRCLES OF SUPPORT & MICROBOARDS
Preston, 22nd March, 2016

When: Tuesday 22nd March, 2016  9.30 am to 3.30 pm
Where: Preston City Hall, 284 Gower St Preston, VIC
Why: The idea of an active support network is quite common in our society. Over 25 years ago the idea of Circles of Support originated in Canada and since then have been used widely in many countries as an idea and practice to intentionally invite people to come together in friendship and support of a person with disability for the purpose of safeguarding their interests into the future. A Microboard is like an extension of a Circle of Support in which an incorporated association is created. Such networks can enable more people in the life of each individual who are not paid to be there, an increase in the number of new positive roles that people hold, reconnection with family members, expanded social opportunities and a create a better life.

What: This workshop will aim to cover the following topics relating to Circles of Support and Microboards:

- What are they and why have one?
- The driving values and principles.
- The role of a Circle of Support or Microboard?
- How to invite and ask people to join?
- What happens at a Circle of Support or Microboard meeting and the various roles?
- Examples of what can be achieved.
- Managing the work, problem solving and addressing things that can go wrong.
- Why people like to be part of a Circle of Support or Microboard.

Who for: This seminar is best suited to people with a disability, their families, circle members, friends/allies, support workers and others interested in developing Circles of Support or Microboards with people who have a disability and others at risk of marginalisation.

Presenters:

Sheree Henley’s youngest son, Isaac, has a complex disability. Like many families, they took the advice of the “experts” and followed the usual, expected segregated and separate pathways often offered to children with a disability. Sheree didn’t know there were alternatives to special schools, group homes and sheltered workshops until she met Sally Richards, another parent, who encouraged Sheree to immerse herself in the world of hope, love, possibilities and inclusion. She is now one of the founders of Microboards Canberra, which was established in 2013 to help families set up and continue to work with circles of support and Microboards to build better lives for family members with a disability.

Rosie Read’s son Mike calls his own meetings together these days through gesturing his unique sign for “Team Mike”. It was not always like this. Rosie will share the journey highlighting the progression from the beginnings of Mike’s Circle of Support through to the development of “Team Mike” who have assisted him to actualise his dream of living in his own home which he now shares with several housemates. Rosie will be joined by Teresa Micallef from Living Distinctive Lives.

Cost : Concession $60.00   Standard $170.00   Bursaries available on application. Other rates may apply
Registration: Closes 16th March, 2016. Registration is on-line and will not be accepted without payment
To book and pay please visit: www.belongingmatters.org or CLICK HERE
Further info: info@belongingmatters.org or phone 03 9739.8333 or www.belongingmatters.org
Please note that Belonging Matters is a not-for-profit organisation and this seminar is not funded through the NDIS. The ticket price contributes to speaker airfares, accommodation, venue, catering and other event costs.