

# news

Spring  
Edition  
2011

**achieve**  
australia

Achieving  
Employment

Change is  
on its Way

Property  
Redevelopments



# Change is on its Way



The date 10 August 2011 will be forever etched into the Australian history books. It was the day the Federal Government announced that a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will soon become a reality.

This announcement reflects the Productivity Commission's final report on Disability Care and Support and is a tremendous victory for the tens of thousands of Every Australian Counts supporters who have worked hard to ensure the Federal Government paid attention and took rapid action for an NDIS. The Federal Coalition has also shown their support.

Building blocks are now being set in place so that the Scheme is rolled out Australia-wide by 2018-19.

While it may seem far away, the initiation of the process to establish an NDIS is highly significant to service providers such as Achieve Australia.

Achieve Australia Chief Executive Officer, Anne Bryce said: "This is very exciting news for everyone involved with our organisation, including staff, people we support and their families. People with disability will be empowered to have greater choice and flexibility when it comes to accessing support and services. Everything will be much more individualised and affordable."

In line with the 1,000 page report on Disability Care and Support, the Government, with the States and Territories, will:

- Deliver an immediate, additional \$10 million to support the technical policy work;
- Move to establish a COAG Select Council of Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories to lead reform in this area;
- Take steps to establish an Advisory Group to the Select Council, led by Dr Jeff Harmer, to provide expert advice on delivering the foundations for reform and preparation for launch.

The NDIS will be launched in stages and not fully implemented until 2018-19. However, regional launch sites will operate in 2014 to enable the new system to be tested and fine tuned. It is vital for the NDIS to be built on the security of a guaranteed and sustainable funding commitment.

Every Australian Counts Campaign Director, John Della Bosca, said "This is the biggest socio-economic reform Australia has seen since the introduction of Medicare. It will have a transformational impact on our community and our economy."

Achieve Australia would like to thank our staff and members of the community who have helped support the Every Australian Counts campaign.

We look forward to a very bright future for the provision of disability services in our country.

Stay tuned for further updates on our blog - [www.achieveaustralianews.org.au](http://www.achieveaustralianews.org.au)

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## Message from the CEO



# Creating more choice, security and economic benefits

We are currently taking significant steps towards the improvement of housing for many people.

Achieve Australia has proposed the redevelopment of Crowle Home at Belmore Street, Ryde to build a 470 residential dwelling development. The organisation will be retaining up to 10% of the apartments for people with disability.

If approved, the co-housing model will see the people we support living within the community, allowing us to move a step closer towards achieving social inclusion. The redevelopment will also ensure economic security for Achieve Australia for many years to come, potentially funding ongoing improvements across all of our services. You can read more information about the proposed development in our special centrefold lift-out on pages 8 and 9.

While change often brings uncertainty, processes have been developed to aid the transition process into community living for current residents. We have been hosting frequent transition meetings and are increasing overall communications via our website, Twitter, blog and new e-newsletter to keep everyone up to date. Our

managers are also readily available to answer any questions that you may have.

Thank you to the dedicated team working diligently behind the scenes to help make the redevelopment possible, including Meadowbank Public School for donating the use of their hall for our Community Information Session.

These exciting plans are well-aligned with the recent announcement that a National Disability Insurance Scheme is on the way. Just like the new development, an NDIS will ensure financial certainty for people with disability and their families by allowing more choice in accessing support and services. We will feature more information as it arises on our blog - [www.achieveaustralianews.org.au](http://www.achieveaustralianews.org.au)

In other news, we are currently working in collaboration with our Brain's Trust for the 10th Annual Fundraising Golf Day and Lunch. Our Ambassador, Duncan Armstrong and Member for Bennelong, John Alexander MP will be supporting us at the event in the Sporting Legends Challenge. I'd like to thank Mr Alexander for his continued support of

Achieve Australia, including his visit to one of our houses recently for a DisabiliTea and donating autographed Dunlop Volleys for auction at our Achieving with the Stars Gala Evening.

Speaking of the Gala Evening, thank you to those who supported us for the event. It was fantastic to see everyone dressed up in their formal wear and enjoying themselves - particularly on the dance floor!

Plans are underway for the Annual Crowle Fete in November. This year, we aim to have even more games and activities for the whole family. Fingers crossed for beautiful weather!

I look forward to providing you with more updates in the near future.

Anne Bryce

## Reports

# Achieving Employment – You’ve come to the right place

Our Disability Employment Services, known as Achieve Employment, have been assisting people with disability, injury or health condition to find and keep paid employment for nearly 25 years. We have also provided opportunities to expand educational experiences and qualifications and run a Transition to Work program for school leavers.

Funded by the Department of Education Employment & Workplace Relations (DEEWR), a combination of Achieve Employment’s modern facilities, technology and qualified staff ensure that both jobseekers and employers experience a smooth transition into open employment.

## The Jobseeker Process



### 1. Job Capacity Assessment or Direct Registration

The jobseeker is referred to Achieve Employment by Centrelink or will register directly with us.



### 2. Jobseeker Plan

An individualised plan is formed with the jobseeker to determine a pathway into employment that meets their goals.



### 3. Job Analysis

Achieve Employment visits a potential workplace and qualified trainers conduct a thorough analysis on the company and job role.



### 4. Job Match

The employer is presented with three of our most suitable candidates based on the Job Analysis; ultimately the employer chooses who to hire.



### 5. On The job Training

The worker is trained for the role for up to three months full time, which includes teaching them how to perform their duties.



### 6. Ongoing Support in the Workplace

Achieve Employment visits the worker once a week to ensure their success in their role.

## Benefits to the jobseeker

- Highly individualised service.
- Expert advice in becoming work ready and career progression.
- Access to FREE professional interview clothing.
- Assistance in job search.
- On the job training and support.
- We ensure you are employed under the right work conditions/wage.



## Getting more people into the workforce - Changes to the Disability Support Pension

Over the last three budgets, the Australian Government has initiated a series of reforms to fundamentally overhaul key aspects of the Disability Support Pension (DSP) to get more people into the workforce and eliminate a lifetime spent on income support.

The most recent changes announced in July 2011 involve the introduction of new Impairment Tables that reflect today's medical and rehabilitation practice, ensuring a person's ability is reviewed when assessing their eligibility for the Pension, not just their disability or mental health problem.

There will also be more support for employers to cover the costs of recruiting and training when hiring someone with disability.

Jenny Mackin MP, Community Services Manager, said "Many people with disability are great contributors, and many more want to do more. We want to ensure we get the system right so that it encourages and rewards effort, and doesn't penalise initiative."

At Achieve Employment, only 26% of people placed in work currently receive the Disability Support Pension. As a whole, 48% of workers don't receive any Government allowances at all.

Operations Manager, Achieve Employment, Martine Porret said "Our aim at Achieve Employment is to help reduce the dependency and need for a Disability Support Pension. We want the people placed in open employment to have as much independence as possible."

If you are a local employer looking for reliable staff or a jobseeker looking for work, please contact us on 02 9334 0900.

## Benefits to the employer

- Achieve social responsibility.
- Receive support from professional staff and qualified trainers.
- Individualised service - we meet your requirements.
- Save time and money when recruiting.
- Assistance in role creation, freeing up your current staff.
- Employ a staff member who is work ready and matched to your job.

# THE GOOD LIFE

## As I See It

## Great support from Gladesville Hornsby Football Association

Achieve Australia has been elected by Gladesville Hornsby Football Association to be their nominated charity for 2011.

Nominated by one of our long serving volunteers, George Mavros, this affiliation involves a \$13,000 donation towards our organisation's unfunded and underfunded services for people with disability.

Chief Executive Officer, Anne Bryce said "I'd like to thank the Gladesville Hornsby Football Association for this very generous donation."



UWS students and Day Program participants getting to know each other



Deep in conversation

Five students from the University of Western Sydney are volunteering with our Day Programs to assist with an exciting photography project.

Called 'The Good Life As I See It', the project involves Day Program participants buddying up with university students to take photographs of what they consider to be 'The Good Life'. They are working together to raise funds for digital cameras and visiting various locations to capture the perfect image. At the conclusion of the project, participants will collate a portfolio of their favourite photos for an exhibition at Araluen to celebrate the International Day of People with Disability.

The inspiration stemmed from Operations Manager, Day Programs, Nathalie Neveu, who had stumbled across a similar project conducted in Haiti, where children took photos

of things they liked and didn't like about living in their community.

Focusing on the notion of achieving 'The Good Life', Nathalie thought it would be a fantastic opportunity for Day Program participants to express themselves in a creative way.

"It's also a chance for people we support to meet new people and further develop their networks," said Nathalie. "They have all naturally paired up with a student buddy. It is amazing to see friendships being built."

This project is just one of the new enjoyable programs being established leading up to the opening of Araluen. For more information about Day Programs, contact us on 02 9034 1600.

Spring  
Focus

# Property Developments

Crowle Home Redevelopment  
Araluen Update





**Spring  
Focus**

## Proposed Redevelopments

- 470 dwellings.
- Six buildings – height will range from one to seven storeys.
- Maximum 584 car parking spaces (residential and visitor).
- Open space areas.
- Local transport plan.
- Retention and refurbishment of the heritage house ‘Tellaraga’ (Crowle Home) and memorial gardens.

The current Belmore Street site

# Exciting redevelopments at Crowle Home

Have you heard the news? Achieve Australia has taken the next step in our overall Housing Strategy – we have put forward a proposal for the redevelopment of Crowle Home.

If our Concept Plan is accepted, 76 Belmore Street, Ryde will soon become known as ‘Crowle Gardens’; a 470 dwelling residential development with Achieve Australia retaining up to 10% of the apartments for people with disability.

Similar co-housing developments have proved to be highly successful overseas and in other parts of Australia.

### **So what does this mean for Achieve Australia and the people we support?**

This ground breaking project will make a significant difference for people with disability by providing greater choice and creating a high level of excellence in ‘fit for purpose’ facilities. The security and economic self sufficiency created will also allow us to improve other services we provide, including community living, employment, day programs and respite.

In addition, Achieve Australia will become less dependent on rentals and increase the ownership of our properties.

Overall, by opening up the purchase of apartments to the broader community, we will be one step closer to our vision of achieving social inclusion.

Chief Executive Officer, Anne Bryce said, “Services for people with disability across Australia are in crisis. We are incredibly fortunate that we have the opportunity to develop and extend our facilities and programs for people with disability and their families in this area.”



The proposed plans for redevelopment

### Why redevelop Crowle Home?

Crowle Home was established on the Belmore Street site in 1952 and is no longer suitable for the needs or expectations of the ageing residents. Many of the buildings are now unusable and have already been closed.

We are confident that our proposed residential development will substantially improve the living conditions of people we support, while creating social integration with the surrounding community.

The long history of the property will be honoured with the restoration and retention of the heritage listed Tellaraga house (Crowle Home) and memorial gardens.

### What will happen to the current residents at Crowle Home?

While there is a possibility that some people can stay on the property during the redevelopment, residents may need or want to be relocated at some stage in the process.

However, with a timeline for the redevelopment not currently in

place, we will continue to move residents into alternative housing within our community living program.

### What about the Vintage and Value Enterprises?

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of volunteers, the Vintage and Value Enterprises have become part of the heart and soul of our organisation.

After running onsite for many years, it is our intention to work with the volunteers to discuss a new location for these important community activities.

### What happens next?

After our public exhibition period ends, the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) will assess our Environmental Assessment Report (EA) and submissions received to determine approval and conditions.

Following DoPI approval, a Development Application will be prepared and submitted to Ryde Council.

Achieve Australia will seek a joint venture partner for the next part of the planning process.

### How can I keep up to date with the progress?

You can interact with us in the following ways:

#### Achieve Blog

[www.achieveaustralianews.org.au](http://www.achieveaustralianews.org.au)

#### Twitter

[@AchieveAus](https://www.twitter.com/AchieveAus)

#### Email

[info@achieveaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@achieveaustralia.org.au)

#### Achieve Australia website

[www.achieveaustralia.org.au](http://www.achieveaustralia.org.au)

“One step closer to achieving social inclusion.”

# What's the update on Araluen?

Everything is progressing well at the new innovative hub for Day Programs and Respite. Renovations at Araluen should be completed over the next six weeks and our staff are currently finalising transition plans and exciting new educational and creative programs.



## Renovations are in the final weeks!

- Bathrooms have been completed.
- Outdoor areas now feature access ramps, pathways and recreational decking.
- Electrical installations are in process.
- Interior painting is nearly finished.
- The old kitchen has been stripped out and we have engaged contractors for the installation of a new accessible kitchen.
- The lift, manufactured in Italy, has now arrived in Australia and is in the process of being installed. It will be installed at the same time as the kitchen.
- Once everything is finalised, we will be bringing out the beautiful furniture and crockery from storage.

## Day Program activities – Watch this space!

Our staff has had several training days in preparation for the transition from Belmore Street, including visits to various locations across Sydney for inspiration for new activities. We have also received great ideas and feedback from Day Program participants and their families. After much collaboration, a shopping list of equipment required for future programs has now been devised.

A photography project has begun with students from University of Western Sydney, which will hopefully include our first photographic exhibition at Araluen in late 2011. We are also aiming to form an alliance with Northern Sydney TAFE to establish learning and training initiatives.

Stay tuned for more information in the next edition of Achieve News!



## COMPLETE PARTY YOUR PARTY PEOPLE

### One-stop shop for all your party needs!

Complete Party can help you cater for any sized event, from a small family birthday celebration to a large corporate function.

#### Purchase

- Fabulous balloons
- Party decorations

#### Hire

- Chairs and tables
- Glassware and plates
- Chafing dishes and Bain Marias
- Urns and percolators

#### Plus more!

As a social enterprise of Achieve Australia, proceeds from sales and hire are channelled back into the organisation to support various programs.

Please contact us on 02 9804 8533 or visit [www.completeparty.com.au](http://www.completeparty.com.au) for more information.

# Celebrity encounters – Home and Away

Alex Roustan had the “best day ever” when he recently met some of his favourite celebrities from Home and Away.

An avid viewer of the TV show, Alex has been keeping scrapbooks dating back to when Home and Away began and was thrilled to have some of his pictures autographed. He also got the opportunity to have photos taken with Steve Peacocke (who plays Darryl ‘Brax’ Braxton), Lincoln Younes (Casey Braxton) and Rebecca Breeds (Ruby Buckton).

But the most exciting part of the day was when Home and Away’s Director invited Alex to be an extra in one of the upcoming episodes!

“Everything was very cool,” said Alex. “I’ve always wanted to be an actor on the show.”

Alex was joined by other Day Program participants who also got the chance to interact with the cast and find out firsthand how a Home and Away episode is filmed.



Achieve Australia staff

# Achieve Australia Employee Conference

On 30 June 2011, we held our second annual Employee Conference at Waterview Conference facility in Homebush Bay.

As MC, Achieve Australia Ambassador, Duncan Armstrong ensured the smooth running of the event, including presentations by our CEO Anne Bryce, Executive Team and external guest speakers.

Hannen Abdallah and actor, Gerard O'Dwyer, spoke to us about overcoming barriers to achieve their dream careers, despite their disability. We also heard from Daniel Kyriacou on behalf of the Every Australian Counts campaign

and fitness coach Ariel Gonzalis who helps people with disability to improve their overall health and wellbeing. Another highlight from the day was the presentation by Professor Simon Darcy from University of Technology, Sydney who talked about tourism and the current lack of accessibility for people with disability who wish to travel.

Thank you to all of our external speakers as well as our suppliers HESTA, St George Eastwood, Access Pay, Bright Sky and OzMate Travel, who contributed towards an informative and insightful conference.

**Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the event:**

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- Manna From Heaven - Sydney Biscuit Company
- Ozmates Travel
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- Laugh Lines - Stanley Toohey
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- Medina Apartment Hotels
- Murray Harris Photography
- Navman
- Nespresso
- Next Generation Club Ryde
- Nutrimetics

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- Event Cinemas Macquarie Centre
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- Prolegis Lawyers
- Ryde Aquatic and Leisure Centre
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- Seven Network
- Stamford Grand North Ryde
- St George Eastwood
- State Member for Ryde, Victor Dominello MP
- Spoonful Design
- Taste Living
- Tenpin City
- The Art Scene
- Train Works
- Top Ryde City Shopping Centre
- Vodafone Hutchinson Australia
- Waterview in Bicentennial Park
- Wines By Design
- Yvonne Levenston



Duncan Armstrong with his caricature by Stanley Toohey

# Achieving with the Stars

Our Achieving with the Stars Gala Evening was a wonderful night of celebration and great entertainment held at the exquisite Curzon Hall on Friday 8 July.



Our fabulous auctioneer, Mr Sold



Russell Wilkinson and Leah Atkinson on the dance floor



Duncan and the face of Achieve Australia, Paul Perazza



Paul Lynch (ALLMARQUE), Anne Bryce, Duncan Armstrong, Vince Boulus (ALLMARQUE) and Ian Rutter (Chairman, Achieve Australia)

# DisabiliTea – Building support for an NDIS

At the beginning of August 2011, Achieve Australia hosted four DisabiliTeas to promote the need for a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) within our local community.

We were honoured by the guest appearance of John Alexander MP, Federal Member for Bennelong, at the DisabiliTea in Russell Wilkinson's home in Eastwood. Russell has volunteered on

numerous occasions for our organisation's community and PR events and we really appreciated him opening up his home for the DisabiliTea.

The other DisabiliTeas at Residential, Achieve Employment and the Eastwood head office all went well with many more people signing up to show their support for an NDIS.



John Alexander MP with Lionel Saxby and Leah Atkinson



Enjoying the DisabiliTea at the Eastwood office

## City2Surf – We survived!

Achieve Australia formed a team to participate in The Sun Herald 2011 City2Surf.

Everyone in the team succeeded in completing the famous 14km event, raising money for Achieve Australia in the process.



## Upcoming Events

### 10th Annual Fundraising Golf Day and Lunch

As one of our most well supported events of the year, the Achieve Australia annual golf days are always enjoyable for golfing enthusiasts and novices alike.

At the milestone event to be held at Killara Golf Club on Thursday 6 October, we will be joined by sporting legends Duncan Armstrong and John Alexander.

We will be having a nice early start with registration and breakfast at 7am and 8am shotgun. After completing the 18 holes, lunch will be provided. There will be novelty events, auctions, raffle prizes and the Sponsors' Cup up for grabs.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Hurry, places are filling up fast! Get a team of four together and download the registration form - [www.achieveaustralia.org.au/annual\\_golf\\_day](http://www.achieveaustralia.org.au/annual_golf_day)

### Annual Crowle Fete

The Annual Crowle Fete on Saturday 5 November 2011 is shaping up to be an exciting day filled with music, entertainment, a jumping castle, games and a wide range of stalls.

It's not too late to get involved! If you would like to volunteer or contribute to the event, please contact us at [events@achieveaustralia.org.au](mailto:events@achieveaustralia.org.au).

### Movie Fundraising Night at Event Cinemas

Fancy a night out at the movies?

Join Achieve Australia for a fundraising night at Event Cinemas, Macquarie Centre on Wednesday 14 December 2011. We will be watching a screening of the new release film 'New Year's Eve' with Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Biel and Ashton Kutcher.

Stay tuned for more information.

**Enquiries:**  
[events@achieveaustralia.org.au](mailto:events@achieveaustralia.org.au).

# It's a Date!

**6 October 2011** - 10th Annual Fundraising Golf Day and Lunch at Killara Golf Club.

**5 November 2011** - Annual Crowle Fete at 76 Belmore Street, Ryde.

**14 December 2011** - Movie Fundraising Night at Event Cinemas, Macquarie Centre - 'New Year's Eve'

View our website for full details about these events - [www.achieveaustralia.org.au](http://www.achieveaustralia.org.au).

## How you can help

### Want to make a donation?

To make a tax deductible donation to Achieve Australia, simply visit [www.achieveaustralia.org.au](http://www.achieveaustralia.org.au) and click on the 'Donate Now' button.

You can donate by credit card, or cheque as well as BPay. A tax deductible receipt will be issued within minutes and your donation will start making a difference to the lives of people we support.

### Become a volunteer

Achieve Australia has a variety of opportunities for volunteers to get involved throughout the year.

**Fundraising events** - Join a fundraising committee or help out on the day.

### Vintage and Value Enterprises -

Become part of the fabulous team at our Needlecraft Emporium, Fabric Cave, Laurel Grove, Folly Nursery, Pre-loved Clothing or Second-hand Bookshop.

**Corporate volunteers** - In the past, corporate volunteers have been involved in successful garden makeovers in the homes of people with disability. However, we are always open to new ideas!

### School or university students -

Spend time with our Day Program participants on a weekly basis or become involved with an exciting project.

**Be a buddy** - Form a close companionship with someone we support by taking them shopping or having a weekly casual chat over coffee.

If you would like to get involved, visit the 'Volunteering' section on our website and complete the interest form.

### Purchase our Goods or Services

All proceeds from sales are channelled back into Achieve Australia to help us continuously improve our provision of services for people with disability.

### Vintage and Value

**Enterprises** - Open Mondays, Fridays and 1st Sunday of the month. Entry via Porter Street, Ryde. Call 02 8878 3353 during opening hours.

**Complete Party** - Open 6 days. 1039 Victoria Road, West Ryde. Call 02 9804 8533.

**Merchandise** - Caps, t-shirts and copies of the book Paul: His Story by Wendy Cosier available for purchase. More coming soon. Call 02 9034 1600.

### Commercial Enterprises -

If your organisation requires high quality packaging and assembly solutions, contact us at [sales@achieveaustralia.org.au](mailto:sales@achieveaustralia.org.au) or 1800 106 661.

### In-Kind Donations

Donations of goods and services that can be auctioned or raffled at our fundraising events are most welcome. Donors will receive appropriate recognition and acknowledgement of their gift.

Please donate your unwanted cut fabrics, needlecraft supplies, clothes, books, plants and household items to the Achieve Australia Vintage and Value Enterprises.

### Visit our website

[www.achieveaustralia.org.au](http://www.achieveaustralia.org.au) and follow the 'How You Can Help' links for more information on all these activities.

Alternatively, you can call us on 02 9034 1600.

## Achieve Australia Social Media

### New-look Achieve Blog

[www.achieveaustralianews.org.au](http://www.achieveaustralianews.org.au)

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/AchieveAus](http://www.facebook.com/AchieveAus)

### Twitter

[www.twitter.com/AchieveAus](http://www.twitter.com/AchieveAus) (@AchieveAus)

### LinkedIn

[www.linkedin.com/company/achieve-australia](http://www.linkedin.com/company/achieve-australia)

### Website

[www.achieveaustralia.org.au](http://www.achieveaustralia.org.au)

### Subscribe to our e-Newsletter

[www.achieveaustralia.org.au/subscribe\\_newsletter](http://www.achieveaustralia.org.au/subscribe_newsletter)

# Register a team **NOW**

Download the  
registration form online  
[www.achieveaustralia.org.au](http://www.achieveaustralia.org.au)  
or call 02 9034 1600

# 10<sup>th</sup> annual fundraising golf day and lunch

with sporting legends

**Duncan Armstrong**  
and **John Alexander**

Killara Golf Club  
556 Pacific Highway, Killara NSW

**Thursday 6 October 2011**

Registration opens at 7.00am  
Shotgun at 8.00am

## highlights

- Sporting Legends' Challenge & Novelty Events
- Great prizes to be won all day
- Auctions and raffles
- Entertainment
- Perpetual Sponsors' Cup

Special thanks to our Major Sponsors:



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### Achieve Australia

PO Box 1029 Eastwood NSW 2122

T: 02 9034 1600

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[info@achieveaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@achieveaustralia.org.au)

[www.achieveaustralia.org.au](http://www.achieveaustralia.org.au)

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