

## **Issue # 2, July 2004**

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## **This Issue**

This issue of the LDC newsletter reports on the outcomes of the Leisure Link Up (Options Vic) project, current projects, and features a summary profile of the ageing Croatian-speaking community in Victoria.

In addition, there is an overview of a paper prepared by Liz Dimitriadis for the Scandinavian Academy of Management (SAM) International Federation of Scholarly Associations of Management (IFSAM) VII World Congress in Sweden in July this year.

## **Increasing Sport & Recreation for people with a disability - The Leisure Link Up (Options Vic) Project**

The Leisure Link Up (Options Vic) project was described in issue #1 of the LDC Quarterly. It involved developing a five-year strategic plan for Leisure Link Up (Options Vic) in conjunction with the Cities of Greater Dandenong, Kingston and Frankston, and the Mornington Peninsula Shire to increase participation in sport and recreation activities for people with a disability.

Over 100 people with a disability and carers provided information on their sport and recreation interests and access issues; and 1314 sport and recreation providers were included on a database with information about how they involve people with a disability in their activities. Data generated from the research and community consultations identified:

- ▶ Over 50 sport and recreation activities that people with a disability were interested in
- ▶ How sport and recreation is important to individuals' health and well being
- ▶ The sport and recreation experiences of people with a disability and specific access and participation issues that affect them
- ▶ The most important outcome of participating in sport and recreation was interacting with other people, socialising and developing friendships, and feeling a part of the community.
- ▶ Sport and recreation clubs and providers have different understandings and ideas about how their programs can be accessed by people with a disability.
- ▶ Recommendations for improving participation in sport and recreation by people with a disability including community education and promotional activities, information dissemination strategies, changes to activities, and consideration of financial, transport and carer support issues.

## The Croatian-speaking community in Victoria

LDC is currently completing a ten-year aged care plan for Australian Croatian Community Services. Research undertaken for this project has identified that the Croatian-speaking community is ageing with significantly high numbers of people potentially requiring support services now and in the near future. For example:

- ✿ By the year 2011, the Croatian-speaking 65+ population in Victoria is projected to increase by 234% and the 80+ population is estimated to increase by 285%. By the same year, the Croatian language is estimated to become the fifth most commonly used language amongst the over 65 year old age group.

However, Croatian-speaking older people and their carers are not accessing mainstream aged care services to the same extent as the general community.

A complex set of interrelated factors that impact service access have been recognised. These include language barriers, lack of information about services available, services that are not culturally appropriate, cultural, and personal and health issues that discourage people from accessing assistance; and an inability to seek assistance independently.

The difficulty of obtaining accurate data on the Croatian community has also been identified as has the importance of recognising the distinct ethno-cultural characteristics and languages of migrants from countries neighbouring Croatia.

The Western Region of Melbourne, and the City of Brimbank in particular, have the highest number of older people who speak Croatian at home, according to 2001 ABS data. Regional local government areas with Croatian-speaking residents also include Greater Geelong, Wodonga, Mildura and Ballarat.

Community consultations and anecdotal information identified that more culturally and linguistically appropriate aged care services are required which are well targeted and responsive to the specific needs of the Croatian, and Bosnian and Herzegovinian communities.

### The Scandinavian Academy of Management (SAM) International Federation of Scholarly Associations of Management (IFSAM) VII World Congress

The SAM/IFSAM World Congress held in July this year, focused on how managers cope with practices and policies in a diverse and changing world. Liz Dimitriadis prepared a paper for the Congress based on

research undertaken in Melbourne and presented in a major thesis for her Master of Business in Management by Research degree.

The paper is titled: *Cultural diversity in management. A study of Greek-Australian managers* and explores the experiences of bi-cultural managers in their work roles.

The paper summarises the findings of research undertaken and examines theorisation of bicultural managers' experiences within organisational management theory.

In conclusion, the paper proposes the Dual Citizen Manager Model as a framework for theorising the collective experiences of bi-cultural managers. The paper will soon be available on the LDC website.

### Current Projects

LDC is currently completing three projects for the Cardinia Shire Council:

- ▶ The Municipal Public Drug Strategy
- ▶ The Municipal Public Health Plan
- ▶ The Municipal Early Years Plan

The next issue of the LDC Quarterly will be distributed late September 2004. To unsubscribe to the newsletter please email us at: [admin ldc net au](mailto:admin ldc net au)