



# ADDults with ADHD NSW Inc

*Supporting Adults and Families with ADHD*

Registered Charity

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## NEWSLETTER

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### A NEW TWIST ON “THE SAME OLD, SAME OLD.....!”

#### Misinformation abounds in the media once again!

The 'flat earthers' have had yet another 'anti ADHD medication' campaign in all states of Australia. You would have been aware of this from the usual sources – the 'dailies', the 'current affair' shows....none of the media seem to check their sources! *(See the response from ABC Radio p4.)*

And there seems to be a new front emerging in the ADHD disinformation campaign that argues that 'stimulants work for everyone, so everyone wants to have access to them'. It thereby diminishes the argument for those diagnosed, to have access to stimulants by virtue of their diagnosis. This is a roundabout **attack on the validity of the ADHD diagnosis for adults**, and is designed to re-cast the self-advocacy of adults with ADHD as merely 'a pretence motivated by a desire to get easy access to drugs that they have no special right to'. Obviously the voices of adults who have ADHD pose a significant problem for the credibility of the 'flat earthers', who have always argued that ADHD is really a label applied by inadequate parents and schools. ***With the growth of the adult ADHD movement, we can expect to hear more of this argument.***

**BUT, we have had a positive too.....**The Daily Telegraph contacted us, and ran a '*positive*' article on ADHD on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August in their new 'Health & Beauty' section, which also included a piece on Adult ADHD. ***Thank you to those who agreed to be interviewed.***

We have also had a reply to our letter to the NSW Dept of Education and Training re the .new government legislation, which raises the school leaving age from 15yrs to 17yrs *(see reply included)*. Ironically, the very resources they quoted us in July as being available within government schools for this age group, are now *under review* and are subject to legal action by the Teachers Federation, and to a challenge by the parent group movement. *(Results next newsletter.)*

Therefore the Director of Disability Programs in the Dept of Education and Training, was reminded of the recent amendment to NSW Education Act on students with 'significant learning difficulties'. He was asked if there would be new policies or actions as a result of the new legislation – his answer was a very brief “NO”. *(See article by Prof Max Colthart p4)*. If your child/adolescent is affected by the new leaving age and is not receiving sufficient support in the school/TAFE system, it is important to make an appointment with your *local state member*.

**It seems to be one thing for legislation to be passed in Parliament; but another for it to have a beneficial effect on the students at which is is directed. Very frustrating after such a long campaign by so many!**  
Joy Toll, Secretary/Editor

*Welcome to ADHD Week....13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> September 2009.*