



# John Ryan MLC

Shadow Minister for Community Services  
Shadow Minister for Disability Services

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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6<sup>th</sup> August 2004

### **CARR GOVT SCUTTLES DISABILITY CONFERENCE**

An Government sponsored training conference for disability service providers has become the first casualty of the Carr Government's massive cuts to post school training and activity programs, said John Ryan Shadow Minister for Community Services.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ATLAS Conference set down for 1 September 2004 in Coffs Harbour, would normally have attracted about 250 people.

"The Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care has recently announced on their website that the conference is to be scrapped. (Copy of the notice is attached)

Many prospective participants had cancelled because they feared that they would not be able to afford the fees for attending the conference after the Carr Government's cuts are introduced," Mr Ryan said.

"Some organisations were also reluctant to incur costs for attending the conference when they expect that they will be sacking staff who are employed in ATLAS and PSO programs next year when the cuts are implemented."

"The Conference was an important training and networking opportunity for the non profit service providers who provide training programs to young people who receive services under State Government Post School Options (PSO) and the Adult Training, Learning and Support (ATLAS) programs."

"Organisers have already incurred significant costs which they are calling on the Carr Government to pick up as a result of the conference being scrapped."

Earlier this month, the Minister for Disability Services Carmel Tebbutt announced that next year the Carr Government was set to slash funding for two programs that provide training and activities for young people with disabilities after they leave school

The average grant of \$21,000 given to individual participants in PSO and ATLAS will be reduced to \$9,000 as a result of State Government cuts.

"These savage cuts will be resisted strongly by families and disability services workers with large public protest meetings being planned for the future."

For Further comment contact John Ryan 0418 203 729

<http://www.dadhc.nsw.gov.au/dadhc/Events/Event0185.htm>

## **ATLAS State Conference 2004**

**Date:**

**Contact:**

**Notice re: Cancellation of 2004 NSW State ATLAS Conference**

The Organising Committee regret to inform all delegates, sponsors, presenters and participants that the 2004 ATLAS State Conference scheduled for September 1st – 3rd in Coffs Harbour has been cancelled.

Over recent weeks it has become evident that the majority of organisations and stakeholders have experienced difficulty supporting the attendance and participation of staff and stakeholders. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the anticipated number of delegates to a point where it is not viable or appropriate to proceed with the conference at this time.

Delegates who have registered will be contacted by Wednesday 11th August 2004 and arrangements made for the reimbursement of registration fees.

Further enquiries can be made by contacting Coffs Harbour Support Services by telephone on 02 66 511 526 or by email on [admin@coffssupport.com](mailto:admin@coffssupport.com)