

## From the floor of St.Nicholas to Parliament House



Anne McDonald with Minister Macklin and Parliamentary Secretary Shorten

A highlight of the year was Anne McDonald winning the National Disability Award for Personal Achievement. In her speech at the awards dinner in the Great Hall of Parliament House (read by Chris Borthwick) Anne said *If you let other people without speech be helped as I was helped they will say more than I can say.*

*They will tell you that the humanity we share is not dependent on speech.*

*They will tell you that the power of literacy lies within us all.*

*They will tell you that I am not an exception, only a bad example.*

Born with cerebral palsy, Anne was admitted to St. Nicholas Hospital, a Victorian institution, at age 3. Unable to walk, talk or feed herself, she was believed to be profoundly intellectually impaired. When she went to the Supreme Court to win her release, 15 years later, only one thing had changed – she had learnt to spell.

After leaving, Anne co-authored a book *Annie's Coming Out*, later made into a movie, graduated university, and lobbied around the world for the right to communicate. As well as being a long-term Deal client, Anne has been a member of Deal's Management Committee since 1986.



Not such a bad example after all, Anne. Congratulations!