

Disability Services News

Somerville Community Services

1 April 2017

Q2

Life Skills Development Program

Developing skills for independent living.

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and encourage community inclusion that meet the life goals of participants. The program is based on strong evidence based person centered practices.

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Louis Tam at work spreading mulch around the garden.



A New Home



Somerville is delighted that we have opened a new home in our Disability Services Program in the Palmerston area.

The home will enable people to undertake intensive training and skills development with the goal of ensuring greater independence and living with fewer supports into the future.

Somerville also has a number of vacancies for supported accommodation, in a number of different models. If you would like more information or details please contact Bonnie Solly or Deborah Bampton Disability Services Managers on 8920 4100.

Somerville has launched a new initiative which we are all very excited about, the “Life Skills Development Program”. This program is designed to help develop skills for independent living and encourage community inclusion that meet the life goals of participants. The program is based on strong evidence based person centered practices.

We have been utilising this concept within the organisation with great success and feel that the benefits to those participating in the programs have been invaluable to our service users in meeting and achieving their goals and becoming valued members of the wider community.

This opportunity has seen rapid development of personal and social skills in participants with those staff involved feeling privileged to witness the changes that have occurred. We have always promoted the independence and involvement in decision making and choice of our service users

Paddle Boating

An enjoyable day for all involved.

With the dry season fast approaching, we are all looking forward to getting the paddleboat out of dry dock and back into the water at Lake Alexander. “Paddle boating in the dry” has become a favourite activity with our service users and staff alike. The venue is wonderful and gives everyone the opportunity to participate at a level they are comfortable with. Whether it’s going for a swim, taking a leisurely paddle around the lake, helping with the bar-b-que or just sitting in the shade enjoying the view it is a great day out.

Being at Lake Alexander has the added bonus of social interaction with a range of different people, this has led to a broader understanding by the wider community of the abilities and strengths that our service users have while giving our service users the opportunity to form new and valued relationships.

through our daily support strategies. The introduction of this program has not only given participants improved skills in day to day living activities but also in their personal development. Some of skills, rights and attributes which we take for granted in our lives and which for others may appear to be out of reach are being achieved by the participants in these programs. Personal skills such as being part of a team, independently wanting to make choices, assertiveness, being respected, gaining equality, being valued and accepted as part of the wider community and a huge increase in self-esteem have been an unexpected bonus.

Somerville recognises the value of this program to our service users, confirming our belief that given the opportunity and sympathetic support the aspirations and goals of our service users and anyone else with a disability are achievable. We are very proud to be able to offer this service and all its advantages to the wider community.

We have also acquired a few outdoor games including a Cricket set and set of Boules there will be even more to do.

“Paddle boating in the dry” commences on the 25th May 2017 and will continue to be held on the fourth Thursday of the month with the final outing being in October.



What is the NDIS

The NDIS will provide support and services for people living with disability. People will be able to buy services with their individualised funding, to support them in achieving their goals.

The NDIS will:

- be a single national system
- integrate with other sectors such as health, aged care, education and housing
- be administered by the Commonwealth Government through the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)
- have no impact on the Disability Support Pension and is not means-tested
- double the financial resources committed to disability services across the country
- substantially increase the disability workforce
- meet many unmet needs, such as equipment, home modifications, coordination and respite
- provide the individual with purchasing power, choice and control

The NDIS is a major and highly complex reform to the way in which disability support is funded, accessed and provided. It is jointly governed and funded by the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments. The scheme replaces the old system of 'block' funds going to the organisations providing support. Instead, eligible people are assessed and allocated individualised funding. The idea is that everyone's support needs are different and that each person can exercise choice and control over what services and supports they receive.

What is the NDIA?

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is an independent statutory agency. Their role is to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Our service users, family and guardians and Somerville and are all working closely with the NDIA establishing personal plans and funding agreements.

National Quality and Safeguard Framework Assessment

State and Territory Governments have Quality and Safeguard Framework Guidelines in place to ensure that all people participating in the NDIS know the services they are accessing are able to access high-quality services that will enable them to achieve their goals.

Somerville is currently completing the assessment and accreditation process voluntarily to ensure the services we deliver remain at a high standard and meet the goals and aspirations of current and future service users.

NDIA and Somerville

January 1st 2017 saw the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) commence in Darwin for Supported Accommodation Services. As one of the larger Supported Accommodation Services in the NT we are one of the first to transition to the new model. This has led to it has being an exceedingly time for us all.

Planning is central to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). It assists people with disability, their families and support people to consider how they would like their life to be now and into the future and what strategies will enable them to work towards their goals. The plans are very in-depth covering all areas of the person's life to ensure they are given every opportunity to achieve their life goals.

Somerville Managers and key staff have been working closely with NDIA, Public Guardians and family community guardians to ensure the best possible plans for our service users which will enable them to live full, productive and valued lives over which they have choice and control. All service user's plans have now been completed and the developing of plans by the NDIs well underway.

Chris Markwell

Profile



Chris is Darwin born and bred, when Chris was 24 and with the full support of his parents, he moved out of the family home and into Somerville's supported accommodation program. This gave him opportunities to explore new horizons and gain skills in a multitude of different areas which ultimately lead to a fulfilling and independent lifestyle. Chris currently lives with three house mates, where he shares the chores around the house and take turns making dinner. Chris works three half days a week with Oz Designs in Palmerston where he has learned a range of different skills helping to prepare him for life in the wider community. He enjoys the responsibility of working and earning his own money, his favourite day is pay day. Chris also has been assisting at the Somerville administrative office for a half day once a week.

Chris loves life, the more that he experiences the more he wants,

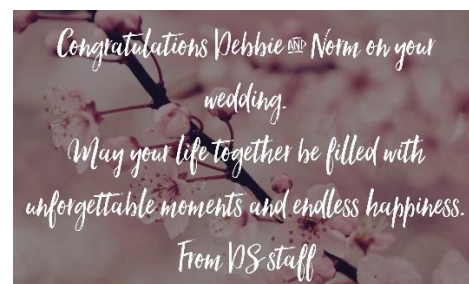
he is full of curiosity and his interests are wide and varied. Some of his most favourite things are drawing Trucks, Slim Dusty and 10 pin bowling.

Chris along with his family, Guardian, support staff and Somerville DS managers have been working closely with the NDIA to identify future goals for his individualised support plan him which will give him the opportunity to work towards a fulfilling lifestyle.

It is very exciting as this now gives him the opportunity to begin his new adventure. Chris will be moving out of his current shared accommodation into a house where he will be living semi independently with limited support. The skills that he has learned will be very useful as he will be doing his own cooking and cleaning, washing of clothes and making sure that he is up in time to go to work in the mornings. Chris will be looking after the garden and is very hopeful that he will be able to get his own pet.

Throughout his life Chris has always been encouraged to make his own choices in what he does but now will have a lot more opportunities to make life changing decisions, socialize and make new friends. Chris is very excited about what the future holds for him and grateful that under the NDIS

scheme he can continue to grow as a person, becoming more independent and more involved in the wider community.



MISSION STATEMENT

"To impact positively on the dignity and quality of life of people who are affected by social and economic disadvantage".

VISION STATEMENT

People are able to gain improvement in their quality of life by achieving the highest attainable standard of social and economic outcomes

VALUES

- Recognition of the intrinsic worth of every human being
- Generosity from the heart
- Service to the community
- Justice within our society