

Disability Services News

Disability Services

1/10/2017

Q1

NDIS and Somerville

National Disability Insurance Scheme

January 1st saw the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) rolled out in Darwin for Supported

Accommodation Services.

Somerville being one of the

first in the NT to transition to the new model has led to it has being an exceedingly busy start to the year.

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Happy New Year



Somerville hopes that you have all had a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year's period and that 2017 is a great year for you all

For Somerville now that the lead up to Christmas and New Year's and the holiday period is done and dusted we are all back into full swing and looking forward to an exciting and productive year ahead.

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, become as independent as possible, develop skills for day-to-day living, participate in the community and work and earn money.



Louis Tam at work shredding documents.

Service Users, Managers, Families and Guardians have been working closely with NDIA planning staff to formulate all Service Users individualised plans. 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, become as independent as possible, develop skills for day-to-day living, participate in the community and work and earn money.

Somerville has been working towards transition from the previously nationally managed block funding model to the NDIS since 2013. Person Centered practices and planning have always been at the forefront of Somerville's service delivery, this is supported by Somerville's Vision and Mission statements which promote equality,

Brief Overview of the NDIS

Story Subtitle or summary

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (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 NDIS 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.

growth and acceptance of all people within the community.

Somerville staff are carefully selected with an emphasis on their values and their belief that by supporting our Service Users to learn new skills and reinforce their strengths while giving them the confidence to be the best they can be they will and are establish or in some cases re-establish themselves as valued, productive and respected members of the community.

Support staff have been given access to extensive training in the processes needed to enable our Service Users to be actively involved in making choices. These choices in their day to day living experiences lead to them identifying achievable and rewarding individualised life goals for themselves.

Somerville is committed to ensuring that our Service Users continue to have the highest level of support and this will not be compromised.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is an independent statutory agency. Their role is to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which will support a better life for hundreds of thousands of Australians with a significant and permanent disability and their families and carer's. Our service users, Somerville and Guardians are all working closely with the NDIA establishing personal plans and funding agreements.

The NDIS will mean peace of mind for every Australian - for anyone who has, or might acquire, a disability.

Somerville's Work Readiness Program

Story Subtitle or summary

Historically **disability work programs** were located within sheltered and segregated settings and the only opportunity for people with intellectual disabilities to enter the labor force. Today though, a disability work program is more likely to be integrated within the community. Competitive jobs, supported employment, and workplaces require their staff to master skills such as getting to work on time, getting along with others, WH&S procedures and being enthusiastic on the job in order to be successful in an open employment setting.

In late 2016 Somerville established a work readiness program for five Service Users, four of the participants have been involved in some informal/formal programs previously and indicated through these programs that they were ready to take the next step. The end goals each participant has chosen (in conjunction with staff) when entering the program vary, although these goals may change as the program progresses each participant is encouraged to become an independent thinker who is able to achieve a higher level of independence within the wider community.

The growth of the participants within a short period of time has been rewarding for all who have witnessed it. While they all complete the same tasks they are establishing different traits and individual preferences to completing these tasks.

As they become more confident of the tasks they are performing they are also developing valued

skills in working as part of a team, respect for other people and confidence in their own abilities. They have gained skills in communication, socialization and pride in the job they are completing. They are developing traits such as assertiveness and confidence and independent thinking which is leading them to push themselves to another level.

The fifth participant currently works part time in a supported work program 3 half days a week. He has indicated that he would like to work within the open employment sector where he feels he will be challenged more. His aim is to live as independently with minimal support, have a life which is more community and socially based and where he can lead a productive lifestyle experiencing all that the wider community has to offer.

Taking all this into consideration he has commenced a work readiness program at our main office, here his skills in team work, working with different staff and independently are being built on. He is responsible for initiating and completing the tasks given to him and is not supported by a support person reporting only to the Administration Coordinator. This has given him the skills to self-initiate tasks, problem solve, responsibility, independence and pride in a job completed to name a few.

This program has exceeded our expectations with substantial growth occurring with all participants.

Type information a summary of the information in this newsletter or provide more information about your company.

Somerville Community Services

Disability Services

PO Box 42644, Casuarina, 0811

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