



Directions

Disability Support Services
— for individuals & families —

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016

As we send out invitations to our Annual General Meeting and Art Exhibition Opening Ceremony, we are including this Members' Newsletter to remind all Directions families of this last opportunity to apply for membership and nominate for the Board. Nominations for the Board must be in by 28 September! Please ring Elizabeth on 9262 4900 if you would like to know how to put in a nomination. The Board are the heart of Directions and the Board members have maintained our ethos of strong relationships and person-centred support since the beginning, over 20 years ago. Families that we support have always been part of Directions' Board.

DIRECTIONS VALUES ARE BEING RECOGNISED RIGHT ACROSS WA

Directions' Chair Jenny Wylie has been invited to sit on the Panel for the Disability Sector Board Forum alongside the Chairs from Activ, Perth Home Care, Nulsen, and Therapy Focus. At the forums the panel take questions on a wide range of topics effecting people with disability and service organisations. At the first forum there was a great deal of discussion on how the NDIS is going to impact us all, and Jenny spoke up for the importance of smaller relationship-based organisations like Directions who focus on knowing their families well enough to ensure truly person-centred individualised support. She was enthusiastically applauded, clearly demonstrating that our ethos is valued and recognised as important in the rapidly changing environment of disability services.

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)

As many of you will know, the NDIS is moving to Armadale, Murray and Serpentine-Jarrahdale from the beginning of October. This means that many of the people we support will have the opportunity to go through the new planning process with their Local Coordinator. It's a good time to think about your support, what works well and what you would really like to happen over the next year. It can also be a worrying time when you know things might change but you are not sure what or how. Please do not hesitate to ring or pop into Directions and have a chat and we will talk through what the new system will mean for you, and how you can ensure that you get the very best benefit from any changes.

The Disability Services Commission (DSC) is hosting a community event to celebrate the launch of the NDIS on 30 September 10.30am – 2.30pm at the Armadale District Hall. The DSC is also setting up information stalls at shopping centres in Armadale and Mandurah where you can meet DSC Local Coordinators and find out more.

Tuesday 27 September	9am – 5pm	Armadale Shopping City, 2016 Jull Street, Armadale
Tuesday 4 October	9am – 5pm	Mandurah Forum, 300 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra
Wednesday 5 October	9am – 5pm	Armadale Central Shopping Centre, 10 Orchard Avenue, Armadale
Tuesday 11 October	9am – 5pm	Mandurah Forum, 330 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra
Tuesday 18 October	9am – 5pm	Mandurah Forum, 330 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENTS

Directions is always working towards providing better services, finding new and innovative ways to improve the lives of people we support. As another step towards this goal, from January 2017 we will be collaborating with the School of Occupational Therapy from Curtin University and Edith Cowan University and working with their students as they put into practice what they have learned in theory.

In addition to developing better services for the people we support, this will be a great opportunity for the students to learn from the lived experience of people living with disability, as well as families and support workers. If you are interested in having students working with you or your family, please let your coordinator know or get in touch with our Occupational Therapist, EJ Leong at 9262 4900 or ej.leong@directions.asn.au

ART WORKSHOPS

Some fantastic works of art have been created at the Directions art workshops in preparation for our Exhibition at Genesis in October/November. There is still time to be part of our eclectic exhibition. If you or someone in your family has a piece of art they would like to contribute, please ring Stephanie on 9262 4900.

JOY MARTIN STORIES

Joy Martin was a long standing board member with Directions who was person-centred, creative, and always approached problems with a positive attitude and innovative ideas. Joy passed away in 2009 and we commemorate her connection with Directions by sharing stories about staff who demonstrate these qualities.

From Rae, Brodie's mum:

"I am so happy with Femi as Brodie's support worker. From the moment he walked into the house, Brodie was happy, and Femi's energy is brilliant. We thought it would take weeks to encourage Brodie to leave the house, but on Femi's second support, out they went! Brodie came back grinning ear to ear and singing and dancing around the house; he had had such a great time out and about with Femi!"



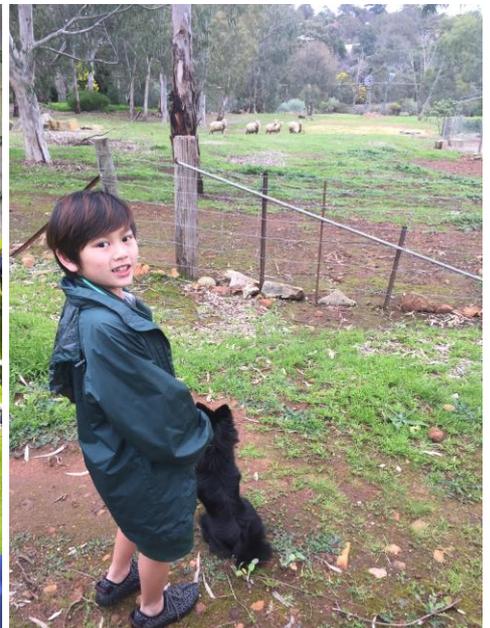
The adventures of Dyl Bill and Luke Duke by Silvia Nguyen, Dylan's sister

Going out without his siblings is a new experience for Dylan and he was a little anxious about taking on this challenge with his new support worker Luke.

Fortunately, with an excellent quirk of timing, Pokémon Go was released to the world just at the right time! Luke cleverly used this as a tool to enable Dylan to take that brave first step of venturing out independently. A lot can happen on a Pokémon hunt! Luke skillfully used their Pokémon adventures to start to learn and understand about Dylan's world, observing the topics that created the greatest excitement and helping Dylan identify potential passions. This was the beginning of everything.

Every week is now a new adventure for Dylan: one week, sourcing some of WA's most unique and magical shells on an exploratory escapade; the next, committing to some serious Everest training!

Dylan loves to come home and tell his brothers all about the adventures he has had with Luke! He has even changed his school pick up time to be absolutely 100% certain that he gets home in time to meet Luke.



If you would like to send in a story about your support worker or coordinator, we would love to hear from you.

SAVE THE DATE

This year the Directions Christmas party will be an evening event, a chance for us all to put on our smartest outfit and enjoy a meal together at Nicholson's in Canning Vale. For the budding performers among us there will also be an opportunity to shine at Karaoke. Mark the date in your diary, the evening of Friday 16 December. It will be a great opportunity for families and staff to get together and celebrate.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE