



Directions

Disability Support Services

— for individuals & families —

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017

Thank you to everyone who helped out at our Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, or came along to buy a sausage! We managed to raise \$1,711.80!!! All money raised will go towards publishing the book "A Friend Like Mine" written by one of our support workers, Samantha Warne. It's a story about making friends and why disability shouldn't get in the way. Directions will run a project around the book which will include teaching inclusivity and friendship across a wide array of WA primary schools. Like us on Facebook to find out more about this and so much more!

DIRECTIONS THERAPY

Directions is now a registered provider of therapy! We are expanding our existing Occupational Therapy services to include other allied health, running a therapy model that aligns with all of our existing relationship-based services. Our family centred therapy is a wrap-around service with our team working collaboratively with and building capacity in everyone around the person having therapy, effectively creating a team of therapy assistants to ensure continuity and ongoing progress. This may include their support workers, accommodation providers, teachers/teaching assistants, and family members. While the therapist themselves may not have funding to provide ongoing intervention, the therapy continues through the support workers and other assistive roles which we create, and the therapist monitors and evaluates regularly.

Directions runs both individualised therapy services and group therapy programmes according to what suits each person best. We are working in partnership with Curtin, UWA and ECU to include students in our team. Our Occupational Therapist will shortly be joined by a Speech Therapist and our interdisciplinary services will include:

Occupational Therapy positive behaviour support, organisational and independence skills, planning, budgeting, cooking, specialised equipment consultancy, inclusive employment opportunity

Social Work mapping formal/informal supports, organising and connecting other therapies/services, counselling, carer support

Speech Therapy communication, social skills, positive behaviour support, swallowing issues, dysphagia

Physiotherapy specific functional issues, specialised equipment consultancy, exercise and fitness, hydrotherapy, postural control

Directions will provide therapy services to both children and adults but will specialise in providing therapy for older children and adults, with a particular focus on the final years of high school and school leavers, building independence and ensuring the very best preparation for adulthood, and enhancement of adult life.



TEENSPIRIT IS GROWING



Teenspirit in Maddington is up and running with Friday night and Saturday adventures and full time school holiday activities for teenagers and young adults.

Teenspirit North is progressing rapidly with a new partnership established at the Dianella Secondary College Education Support Centre. Through our Brilliant Break funding we are sending 8 of their students with 4 of our support staff to a Leadership Camp in Mandurah this month. The school are thrilled with this opportunity for students and Directions has been invited back to talk to interested parents who would like to join us for the roll out of the first Teenspirit North program in Term 4.

We are also in discussion with the City of Stirling to help us with providing a drop in centre to run the program.

DISABILITY SUPPORT AWARDS



Finalists Leah, Sam and Steve with Bekki and Phil

Congratulations to Anthony, Tash, Colin, Heath, Steph, Leah, Sam and Steve who were all recognised for their brilliance at the Disability Support Awards! Thank you to the many families and people we support who nominated their support workers. The awards night was a fantastic way to acknowledge the wonderful work that they do. It was so good to have so many staff, families and people we support having the opportunity to go out and celebrate together, and we are very grateful for Lotterywest for providing 15 free tickets. Directions was one of only two organisations to have finalists in more than one category, a great accolade for all our staff!

JOY MARTIN STORIES

Joy Martin was a long standing Directions board member who had endless enthusiasm and creative ideas. Joy passed away in 2009 and we commemorate her by sharing stories about staff who demonstrate these qualities.



It was fantastic that so many of our wonderful support workers came along to support our Bunnings sausage sizzle. Some brought along the person they support, enabling them to join the team and participate in the great day. Others just came along and donated their time, barbecuing skills and enthusiasm. A really great thing about this was that Stuart and Phil (pictured with Paul Wilson, centre) were able to come along, unsupported, and volunteer all day. As you can see they had a brilliant time, and the boost to their confidence is invaluable! A huge thank you to Paul, Anthony, David and his daughter, Sharryn, Leah, Joel, Naomi, Sandy and Sam!

We had a brilliant Directions turnout for this year's Run for a Reason! Yet again, we had lots of staff joining in so they could support someone to participate, promoting a great health and fitness message. Thank you to Yvonne, Eva, Jordan, Holly, Kiah, Mike, Alexandra, Ryan, Andrew, Grace, Carol, Anthony, Janice, Sue, Ashlea, Georgie, Kristy, Elizabeth, Niru, Tania, Bridget, Matthew, Daisy, Holly, Harry, Mark and Kirk. Such a fantastic team!



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE