



Directions

Disability Support Services
— for individuals & families —

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2017! It's been a great year for Directions with the wonderful Teenspirit and other groups taking off in new suburbs, and all our new therapy services blossoming. Next year will no doubt bring some challenges as we move to the national NDIS. Don't hesitate to talk to us if you would like to know more about this new way of funding support. We will be sending out information regularly to families as the new system unfolds. Thank you for all your support throughout the year, it has been a privilege to walk alongside you.

Merry Christmas and a peaceful new year to everyone!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BUNNINGS PARTNERSHIP DIY CELEBRATION

Our very novel AGM celebration, where the relationships we have with the people we support were the focus of the evening, left everyone with a warm glow! Instead of the more traditional and often boring AGM, we don't tend to have speeches all about how the year has gone, but rather we demonstrate what a vibrant organisation we are, having fun along the way. Bunnings was a bit of a bizarre venue, but it was all part of bringing them along the journey of seeing past the disability and realise the wealth of prospective employees out there.

Having our celebration in Bunnings warehouse, when it was still open for shoppers presented some definite challenges as a venue, with piped tinny background music clashing with our fab musicians' exuberant performances, and the tannoy booming staff messages throughout the Minister's speech... but it certainly made it a memorable evening!



Bunnings also cooked huge amounts of delicious pizzas in their pizza ovens! We had some fantastic musical performances and even managed to get Minister Dawson on stage signing and singing the Auslan for "I can sing a rainbow"! Thank you to all of you who helped people rehearse, encouraged and enthused on the night, and especially those who even braved the stage to join in!

THERAPY BY DIRECTIONS

Directions has now leased a Therapy Centre, across the road from our offices in Blackburn Street! It's still a shell at the moment, but we are applying for a Lotterywest grant to get it fitted out. The new centre has a big space for a myriad of different therapy activities, a smaller room for private therapy and counselling, a kitchen for cooking classes, and office space for all our allied health students.



From here we can provide Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Speech Pathology, Physiotherapy, Dietetics and Counselling.

We are particularly excited that it has a huge bathroom with a full size shower bed. As part of the fit out we will get a ceiling hoist installed. Finally a proper changing place for all those people confined to a wheelchair out and about in the Maddington area!

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND TALENT SHOW



The Christmas party and talent show was another brilliant success! We had nearly 200 people come along this year! A team of 12 volunteers from Synergy prepared the enormous amount of food and helped with decorating the hall.

The stage looked so professional, such a great place for our performers to showcase their dazzling talents. We had singing, Irish dancing, break dancing, acting, Auslan signing a song, and a display of soccer ball skills. One of our fantastic support workers, Ashleigh Civiello, even played the bagpipes!

There were outdoor games, and we created an enormous artwork of handprints to adorn our new therapy centre. It really was a fabulous end to the year!

JOY MARTIN STORIES

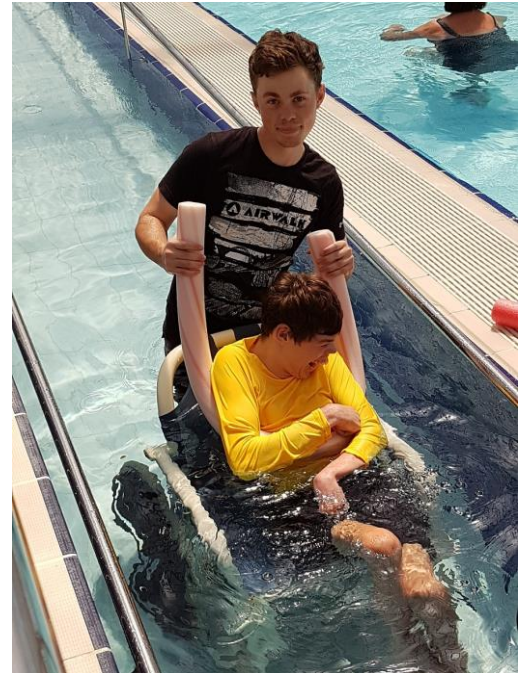
Joy Martin was a long standing board member with Directions who was person-centred, creative, and always approached problems with a positive attitude and innovative ideas. Joy passed away in 2009 and we commemorate her connection with Directions by sharing stories about staff who demonstrate these qualities.

Ewen Robinson's mother Ellen has sent us some lovely feedback about the new Claremont Tigers group for young adults.

Ewen can't use the pool at Claremont which is just over the road because they don't have the right equipment to help him into the water. Ewen absolutely adores being in the water and would be really upset to miss out if the rest of the group went. The Fremantle pools have excellent facilities for people with disability so we decided to take a trip there to enable Ewen to join in.

Ellen said: "Thanks so much Carly (team leader) I have been overwhelmed by the dedication and enthusiasm of you and your team. I love the variety and activities you do. Ewen is so happy there." She also said "Thank you so much for taking Ewen swimming today. I know it is extra work for you. He loves it and the exercise is fantastic for him. It makes such a huge difference to us."

Jake and a very happy Ewen getting into the water



Josh has been practicing driving with his support worker Jordan and a couple of weeks ago Josh passed his driving test!

Josh's mum told us: "It was a big thing for you to let Josh practice his driving. Jordan's a wonderful guy. It's not easy to help a person with disability get their driving licence. Now he's passed his test Josh can help his Dad get to his health appointments."

Josh said "Jordan was a really good instructor. He helped me with parking, and we did lots of driving around, following all the signs and rules of the road. Driving on the Kwinana Freeway when it was busy was scary, but Jordan helped me. I loved driving Jordan's automatic Nissan!