



Directions

Disability Support Services

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

Directions now has 252 members!!

CEO UPDATE

Welcome to the first quarter Members Newsletter for 2019! As the year progresses, many of the people we support are transitioning from WANDIS to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). This is an important time and here at Directions we understand that navigating this ever-changing landscape can be challenging - and exciting too! Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you require support during this time. We are more than happy to help and our team has assisted many people to make the move between state and federally funded schemes.

State Disability Plan

The WA Government is in the process of developing a 10 year State Disability Plan to build an inclusive community that supports and empowers people with a disability. This process is currently at the 'Exploring our community' stage and the Department of Communities is undertaking statewide engagement to define what values, attitudes and behaviours we would like to expect and see in our community for people with a disability. There are three remaining workshops being held in April 2019, so please click on the link if you would like further details: <https://tinyurl.com/y5hf3225>

For more information on the State Disability Plan, please visit:

<https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/wa-have-your-say/state-disability-plan/>

On-Call Phones

A friendly reminder that the Directions on-call phone is covered by one staff member who may have multiple calls or queries to deal with at any one time. Sometimes the calls to this service do not require urgent out of hours assistance. In order to assist us to deliver the highest standard of care, Directions kindly request that any issues that can be attended to during core business hours of Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm are conveyed to our team during that time. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Board Member Update

Directions extends our deep gratitude to **Mark Pescud** who served 7 years on the Board, as he resigned in February, and we welcome **Liam O'Connor** who has joined the Board in a temporary position.



Therapy Social Skills Holiday Group

In the January School Holidays, a group of teenage boys aged 14-17, attended three sessions with the therapy team, to build social skills in a fun and encouraging way.

The first session was to an escape room in Fremantle where the 4 boys had to work together to solve a series of "fiendishly clever" clues to escape and bring magic back to the Trodorth School of Wizardry. The boys were brilliant and managed to solve clues through three different rooms to get out with 6 minutes to spare.

Our second session was a 'Directions Hunt' along the Mandurah foreshore, the boys did amazing, some showing that they are natural leaders, some were great at looking for clues in the environment and others were good at listening for clues and understanding different tones of voice. We ended the day with a charcoal BBQ on a donut boat through the canals of Mandurah, it was a lovely day out.

We ended the sessions with the third session being a fun games day in the Directions Therapy centre where the boys had a blast playing reverse charades and some other board games before heading out to lunch.

The holiday activities were a success, the boys have formed friendships with each other and have said they will stay in touch. Over the course of the sessions we saw the boys come out of their shells, telling jokes and starting conversations with each other.



Worlds Greatest Shave

The World's Greatest Shave began way back in 1998 and is now one of the biggest fundraising events with participants opting to colour their hair or to bravely shave their hair off to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. On Friday the 15th of March, some of the members of Directions coloured their hair, while some members shaved their hair off!! The wonderful Leah was the host of the event and was extremely brave and shaved! Leah, Courtney, Amy and Jake organised a wonderful event, Directions, in total, raised \$3,700 for the cause, smashing their original goal which was \$1,500.



WHAT'S COMING UP

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser – Sunday 7 April 19

On **Sunday 7 April 19** Directions are hosting a Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser at Bunnings Maddington. It will run from **7am-4pm** and we would love to see some of the people we support and families come down to visit and say hi!

HBF Run for a Reason - Sunday 19 May 2019

Directions is setting up a team! You can do a 12km run or walk, or 4km run or walk. If anyone is interested, please contact Tania or Bec in the office to express your interest.



Entertainment Books



Pre-order the NEW 2019 | 2020 Entertainment Membership and receive bonus offers you can use right away!

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/94c1714>

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.

Kendall King, who recently joined Directions, supports one of our individuals who was very reluctant to participate in anything and didn't look forward to much at all. After a short amount of time with Kendall, our individual is now waiting for her to arrive, her family have informed us that her things have improved greatly at home and she looks forward to her shifts with Kendall and planning what will happen on her next support.

Femi Ajay and **John Richardson**, who both work with Noah Ryan to assist with Noah accessing the community. Recently Noah expressed interest in creating projects through the Men's Shed in Cockburn. Noahs' condition however prevents him from being able to use his hands but with the support from his support workers, Noah is able to verbally guide Support Workers to create his projects. All of Noahs' Support Workers are very loyal and are willing to go above and beyond to assist Noah with his creative visions which also include photography. Noah certainly has a great eye and we can't wait to see what he comes up with next!

Stuart Spence has been working with an individual and their family for some time. He went above beyond when asked to help out in a time of need. Stuart didn't hesitate to start his shift early to help out and was able to make a big difference. Everything got sorted out and the family were really happy with the outcome.

