



PECKYS NEWS – December 2015



Chief Executive Officer Update

Hello everyone,

The end of the year is fast approaching and as I reflect over the previous twelve months, I realise just how much has been achieved across the organisation. Below, I have outlined some key accomplishments for 2015:

- Opening of a new site in Seven Hills;
- Providing services to over 120 people with disabilities;
- Passing of all organisations external accreditations;
- Increase in organisational revenue last financial year of nearly \$1,000,000
- Development of new service models to meet people's individual needs;
- Employment of an additional 16 staff members;
- Working in partnership with the local community to provide a vast range of activities and programs that stimulate and interest the people we support.

The NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) is fast approaching the Blacktown region and we are busy planning and preparing for the industry changes.

Next year, the organisation will be hosting forums and meeting individually with families to discuss the supports available to you under the NDIS. We will also provide information on what you should do to prepare for your planning meeting with the NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency). In that meeting, you will agree on what support and funding will be allocated to your family member and being prepared and understanding what you can ask for, will assist in ensuring you receive the most supports available to you.

NDIS will revolutionise disability services and the support you receive will be based around what you and your family need. All the information from the trial sites show that families and people with disabilities are really benefiting from the industry changes and have more control over the supports and services they receive.

Attached to the newsletter is a fact sheet that broadly outlines the process for accessing the NDIS for the people who already access Peckys programs. It should be a simple process for you to change over to the NDIS because you already receive support and funding.

It is time again for the annual survey and instead of the mail survey, we would love to meet and talk to you about any feedback you have on Peckys. Please let us know if you are available to talk with us over a coffee or the phone so we can arrange a time that is suitable for you.

I hope to see and talk to you all at Peckys Christmas parties. Have a great Christmas with your families and try and keep cool in this hot weather.

Heidi



Day Services

I can't believe that this year has gone so fast. With the growth of the organisation it has been great to see the change and the development of all programs.

The Day program sites have gained a number of new clients over the past six months and the teams of staff across all sites, strive to support them all in their unique ways. I take this opportunity to thank each and every staff member for their support, time and effort to develop and enhance the lives of the clients we support.

Team leaders work tirelessly in developing programs for the clients to enjoy and achieve their set objectives. It is great to see the clients enjoying their activities. Thank you to the team leaders in developing the programs to support the staff and clients.

To the Coordinators – Thank you for your continuous support, you all have amazing teams and this is shown through the staff's enthusiasm and client enjoyment in their programs.

Christmas is just around the corner, Peckys Day program are holding a family Christmas party at Quakers Hill Community Hall on the 17th December 2015. We hope you can join us to celebrate.

With the NDIS approaching us in the next 6 months, we look forward to working with all Peckys clients, families and carers to support your needs with the new system.

I would like to wish you all a very safe Christmas and happy new year.

Melissa Terheegde

General Manager Community Access



Day Service Prospect

The past three months have flown and Christmas is rapidly approaching. We have celebrated a number of special events over this time. Lunches, craft and sweeps were run for Melbourne Cup; congratulations to those that won!! Halloween events included dress-ups, great craft and scary movies. The Wheelie Warriors visited in September, and bike rides and BBQs proved a hit. Our Beauty Workshop was a great success. In the near future, International Day of People with Disabilities will see our groups participating in special events in the local community including discos, art shows, lunches and BBQs. Our in-house groups have also been working hard on decorations for our end-of-the-year functions.

To meet the needs of our clients, there has been some changes to our program. Our new massage therapist, Sandra, is providing an excellent service, with clients relaxed and happy after the sessions. Music therapy arrangements have been changed, with our community music group now being conducted from our Third Avenue site. A new music therapist, Beth, runs a group for our in-house clients on Fridays. Additions to the program have included a Camping and BBQ program which runs on Tuesdays and a computer session which runs on most Thursday afternoons. With the warm weather returning, swimming is now regularly on the program. Thanks to the staff for their assistance in running these programs.

With the year at an end, many thanks to the parents and carers for their support over the past 12 months. Have a great festive season and we look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Lisa Oxman

Prospect Day Service Coordinator



Day Service Blacktown

Peckys Blacktown is growing into a more mature site every day. As we arrive at Christmas time, we are reflecting back on an incredibly positive year, filled with people achieving enjoyment and happiness as a priority. We include, engage and encourage the people we support to be individuals in our community and to foster their individual personalities.

We have welcomed 5 new participants in November this year. Barbara, Michelle, Christine, Kevin and Marea have brought 5 new smiles to our site. We have also welcomed Rebecca and Kirsty as new carers to our team. They join and add to the hardworking team at Blacktown.

Apart from me (Coordinator) and Kerrie (Team Leader), we now have 8 staff at Blacktown. Kirsty and Rebecca join Natalie, David, Melissa, Emma, Anna and Victor. We have a position available for next year also as we welcome 3 new participants to our service who have finished at school and are seeking enjoyable activities.

Activities at the site continue to be great. Kerrie programs activities based on each person's goals, passions and interests. As such, engagement in activities is at an all time high.

These activities have included one-off events such as "Elvis Day" from which an Elvis impersonator put a performance on for all our participants (including those from our services). We have also had a disco from which the latest hits were played in a fun and enjoyable setting for all to be comfortable expressing themselves through dance with their friends. Other one-off events included "Wheelies Warriors," "Farm Day" and "World Food Day."

Along with these events, participants have been involved in activities such as movies, bowling, beach, card making, art, cooking, desert making, sensory room, train travel, drama, Disco Dave,

musical mysteries, music therapy, massage therapy, Vegas Day, Champaign Wednesday, BBQ, golf and folk dancing along with many more. Our main focus as a team is to provide all the people we support the tools and supports needed to be happy, to be healthy and to succeed in achieving their life goals. All my gratitude goes to the team of support staff who work tirelessly to achieve this. The relationships between clients and staff is stronger than ever, and we will continue to foster these relationships into the future.

A message to everyone to stay safe and happy over the holidays. We cannot wait to see all your smiling faces to return for another exciting year. It is positivity, passion and hard work that keeps dreams alive.

Simon McSweyn

Blacktown Day Servicer Coordinator



New Wheel chair converted Vehicle



Day Service Melrose

I can't believe we have once again come to the end of the year and Christmas is around the corner. So much seems to have happened this year, due mainly to our move to Melrose. Clients and staff have continued to settle in and enjoy our new premises. We feel so lucky to come to such a great environment each day.

Our program of daily activities for our clients continue to vary and change, with the latest activity being the Sailability Program at Penrith. Here clients enjoy the opportunity to experience sailing and are supported by our staff plus great volunteers. We now host other sites and organisations at Melrose, who join us for dance and music groups.

We have recently accepted two new clients and expect there may be some recent school leavers joining us early next year.

I would like to thank staff at Melrose for their continued support and commitment through the year. Our dedicated staff know their main focus is our clients welfare and best outcomes for all the clients. We have a great group of clients attending each day and it is a joy to see their growth and enjoyment they gain from attending the Program.

Unfortunately we are losing one of our staff members, Rebecca at the end of this year. We wish her well in her new venture and move to the Central Coast. Thanks Bec for all you have done, clients and staff at Melrose will miss you.

I would like to wish all our clients, family and staff a very Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and happiness.

Looking forward to 2016.

Ros Gleeson

Melrose Day Service Coordinator



New Vehicle at Melrose



Living Skills

We have been busy in the last few months continuing with our craft classes. Clients have enjoyed making tissue boxes, a bird bath and they are now working on a light house for the garden. Elaine is very good in finding projects that suit all levels and abilities. George has entered his bird bath in an art show run by Holroyd council. We are hoping to visit the art show in December.



Eric, Sandra and Amy had the opportunity to go to the Opera House to see "Anything Goes", everyone enjoyed the experience.

This month a small group of clients got to try out a new program called "Sense and Fun". This is run by Riding for the Disabled Association. Clients have the opportunity to meet and greet horses, participate in gardening, photography and many more activities. On the "come and try day" everyone enjoyed themselves. Clients decided they wanted to come back and do an 8 week program next year. In the program they will learn how to brush, feed and take care of the horses. They will also participate in photography, gardening, cooking, games and Bingo. This Program will start in February.



As the year comes to a close we are finishing up our photo books. Everyone has enjoyed sharing their old photos. We are hoping to finish these by the end of the year so everyone can bring them home.

To celebrate Christmas this year we will be joining with Peckys Day Services, on Thursday the 17th December. There will be an Elvis show and lunch, at Quakers Hill Community Centre. Other Christmas activities include a Christmas show, Circus, Christmas craft and cooking.

I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year.

Fiona Burrows – Team Leader



Teen Zone & Viva Vibes

Let the festivities begin with Christmas just around the corner. Teen Zone and Viva Vibes has had a fabulous year filled with fun activities such as bike riding, roller skating, fishing, swimming at beaches & pools, movies, restaurants, Luna Park, Hatha yoga, cooking classes, Festivals, Justice & Police Museum & so much more....

Also Teen Zone members enjoyed a successful Sleep Over with a weekend of activities including a Double Decker Bus touring the sights of Sydney stopping off at Bondi for lunch, Drive in movie & dinner out.

When this newsletter goes to print the Viva members would have returned from a 6 days & 5 nights trip to New Zealand and again in true Peckys fashion nonstop fun experienced by all.

With Christmas cheer in the air on Saturday the 19th of December Teen Zones' celebration includes the "Bean Bag" cinema & later with lunch at Rasheys .

On the 20th of December 18 Viva members who have become great mates will celebrate together at Blacktown Sports Club.

Wishing families, members & staff a lovely Christmas & an inspiring New Year complete with growth, success & perfect health.

For more information please contact Andreana Young on 0437 007 390 or email ayoung@peckys.org.au.

Andreana Young

Recreational Program Coordinator



Community Housing

Ho Ho Ho- it's not long to go, and Christmas will be here.

The Community Housing end of year celebration is fast approaching- Monday 7th December 2015 we will be dining in style and entertainment at Okori Teppanyaki Japanese Restaurant.

A Friendly Reminder: The cooking program has only a few weeks left to go for 2015 and then the kitchen will be closed. To commemorate our last cook on Thursday 17th December, the plans are to go all out with a traditional Christmas feast with all the trims.

From the staff of Community Housing:

We wish you the Warmest of Greetings and the Best of Wishes for the New Year.

Jodie Caruana

General Manager Community Housing
& Continuous Improvement



Staff Profile – Alison Ayre

I have been working at Peckys for five months now as the Office Assistant. It would usually be me that answers the phone when you call or greets you, if you visit the office. I also try to make life a little easier for Heidi and Lynelle helping with some of the administration tasks.

Previously I was working part time as an Administration Assistant within the childcare industry but needed to return to work full time. I was lucky enough to get the position with Peckys, which is close to home & allows me to still be there to run after my family.

When I am not at work, I am spending time with my two beautiful daughters, who are 14 and 8 and our Border Collie, Abby. They all keep me very busy.

I am really looking forward to working in a different field, expanding my knowledge & learning all that I can about Peckys and the great work that everyone does here.



**Our last day for clients is
Tuesday 22nd December, 2015 and
Clients return Wednesday
13th January, 2016**

Accessing the NDIS for people with disability receiving Community Access or Community Support

Fact sheet

September 2015

Key points:

- You will be able to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2018 depending on the area where you live.
- From 1 July 2018, all eligible people with disability living in NSW will be able to access the NDIS.

This fact sheet is intended for people with disability who currently receive support defined as Community Access and Community Support, and provides information on how and when they can access the NDIS.

What are Community Access and Community Support?

Community Access and Community Support covers a large range of supports that people might access, including:

- Therapy supports, including occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech therapy
- Intervention services, including early childhood intervention and behaviour intervention
- Day programs may support learning and life skills, education, employment leisure or social interaction.

When will I be able to access the NDIS?

When you are able to access the NDIS depends on where you live. The map below shows when the NDIS will roll out in your area.



From 1 July 2016

You will be able to access the NDIS from 1 July 2016, if you live in the following districts:

- ✓ Central Coast
- ✓ Hunter New England
- ✓ Nepean Blue Mountains
- ✓ Northern Sydney
- ✓ South Western Sydney
- ✓ Southern NSW
- ✓ Western Sydney

From 1 July 2017

You will be able to access the NDIS from 1 July 2017, if you live in the following districts:

- ✓ Illawarra Shoalhaven
- ✓ Mid North Coast
- ✓ Murrumbidgee
- ✓ Northern NSW
- ✓ South Eastern Sydney
- ✓ Sydney
- ✓ Western NSW
- ✓ Far West

Visit www.ndis.nsw.gov.au for more information about the rollout of the NDIS in NSW

Accessing the NDIS for people with disability receiving Community Access or Community Support

Fact sheet

I currently receive Community Access or Community Support only. When will I access the NDIS?

If you receive Community Access or Community Support, you are likely to access the NDIS from July to December in your area.

For example, if you live in the Central Coast area, you will most likely access the NDIS between 1 July 2016 and December 2016.

If you live in the Illawarra Shoalhaven area, you will most likely access the NDIS between 1 July 2017 and December 2017.

I currently receive other supports, including Community Access or Community Support. When will I access the NDIS?

If you receive Accommodation support, you will access the NDIS from July in your area.

From 1 July 2018, all eligible people with disability living in NSW will be able to access the NDIS.

What is the eligibility and planning process like for me?

In most cases, if you currently receive community access or community support, are an Australian citizen or resident or permanent visa holder and under 65 years of age, it is likely that you will be eligible for funding and supports under the NDIS.

Closer to the NDIS rollout date in your area, you will be contacted about your eligibility and the next steps for accessing the NDIS.

Your support planning process will also be simplified. This means that the process for you accessing the NDIS will be easier and faster for you.

How can I find out more about Community Access or Community Support options under the NDIS?

A guide to access requirements for receiving an individual support package under the NDIS can be found at www.ndis.gov.au or by phoning the NDIA on 1800 800 110.