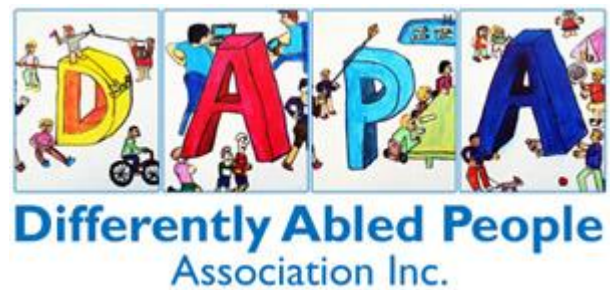


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DAPA November 2016 Activity Report

NDIS in Action

We achieved a lot in November! Many of our participants received satisfactory funds from NDIS. However the implementation is proving much harder than first thought. The NDIA are minimising abuse of funds, for example :parents and relatives of a client cannot issue invoices except for the ones registered with an ABN and with NDIA. Expenses had to be relevant to a cost item within NDIS cost structure and could not exceed its listed price. It is difficult to identify the item number for a service that is desired. Note: A carer must first sign an agreement with a service provider for any item to be purchased for a client. Then, the service must be booked through the Participant Portal in NDIS website before a Participant can receive the service.

We strongly advise our Carers to go through a preferred service provider, instead of trying to engage without discussing with a provider or the Local Area Coordinator (LAC) or a Support Coordinator.

As one of DAPA's objectives is for our members to live independently, we will continue to explore how NDIS can support us in Special Disability Accommodation. Therefore, we will hold further information sessions in the coming years to enable carers to incorporate this in their Participants' NDIS plans. We held our first session:



Jo-Anne introduced Adam Savage (an architect/building consultant) to explain how such special accommodation could be designed and she also explained three options for resident arrangements and who could apply and how. At the close of talk, Ms. Unis Goh from NSW Disability Council described government policies that we should work together with the government to provide the best living conditions for people with disability. She encouraged us to understand the Disability Inclusion Act.

She took time from her busy schedule to learn together about NDIS SDA procedures. After the talk, we all went to see the RASAIID Homes in Ryde. Everyone was so impressed with the layout of each self-contained unit and shared accommodation. We thanked the committee of RASAIID, for this opportunity.

Stronger Forever Program

DAPA has finally finished our program handbook which introduces our clients and their carers what our activities are involved and the cost structure as well as how our participants can contribute to improve our work.

The handbook lays out our rules, our activities and procedures with which we will operate.

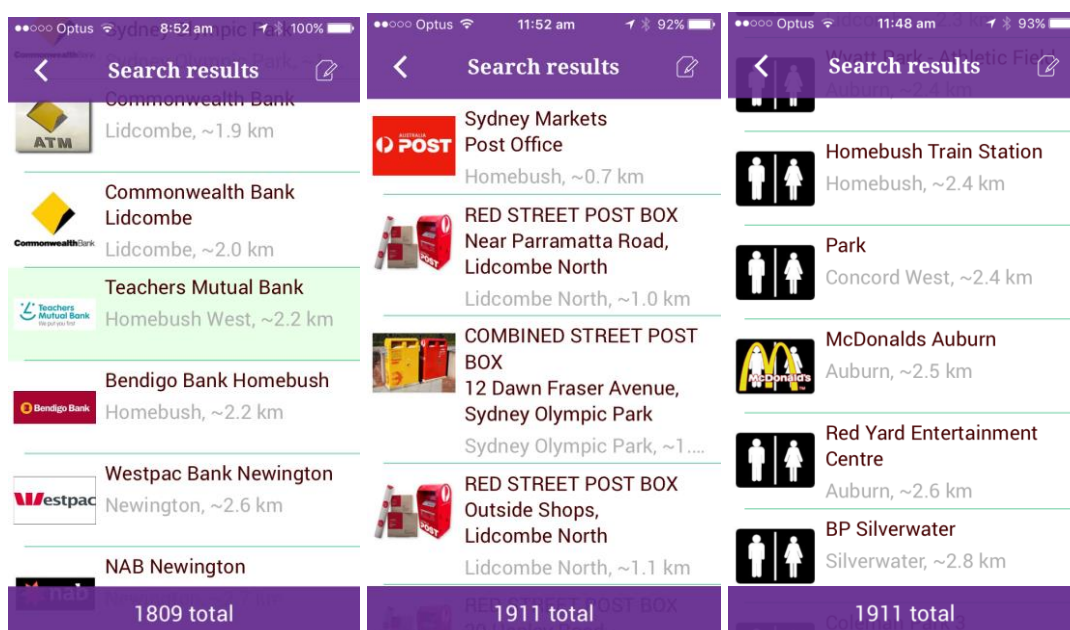
It also introduces some of our staff and our programs. With it, our mission, objectives and vision are clearly stated. It also includes how your Rights, comments and complaints can be lodged and actioned.



Data Entry Skill Programs:

Keyboard Skill

As a daily routine, our participants will start our daily program in the morning with keyboard work to assess if they can concentrate on a computer and use their thoughts to enter the information into the desirable form. These forms will then be entered into a database(see below) for our smart phone application.



In fact there are 19883 post boxes and offices plus 16652 public accessible toilets all over Australia in our database. Our participants are also taught to identify duplicates or mistakes in all those entries to ensure the accuracy of the 91000 entries in our database.

Our application is also undergoing a facelift by having a video streamed like the current video about how to use our application (see below):

Anyone can press NEARME button to show our original screen layout.



Life Skills:

Newspaper Reading

To improve English for our participants, we started a reading program every Monday afternoon. Everyone has to read some items. For people who cannot read words, they can describe pictures from cartoons. Mentors offer help when Participants struggle to read.



Manual dexterity

Following an activity in the last month at Eastwood Library where participants learned how to fold paper **origami** horses, we continued the exercise back at our office, and made a further 100 of them! The display of over 1000 of them was impressive!

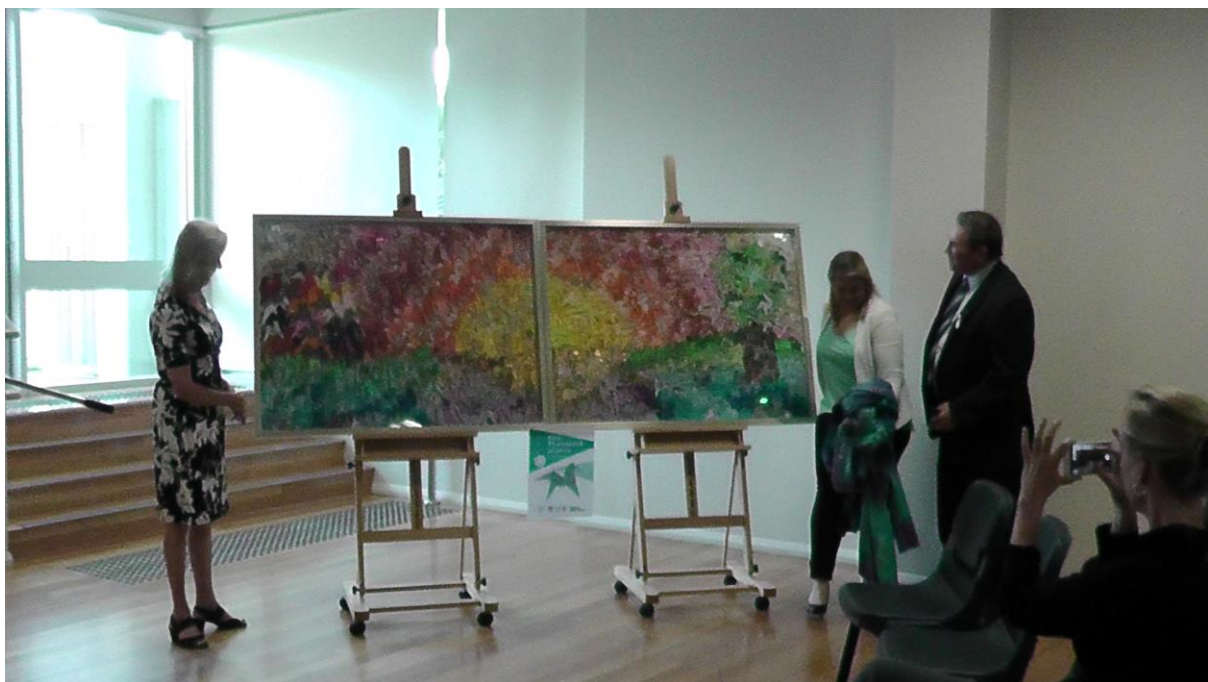


Community Work :

Social Inclusion Week 2016

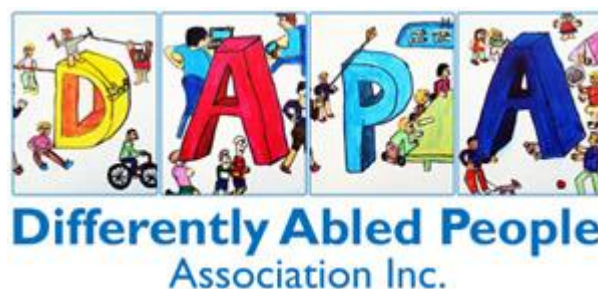
Our Differently Talented Musical Ensemble was the only group invited to perform for SSI at West Ryde Social Inclusion Week event. The theme was called One Thousand Wishes and hence we saw the display of paper origami horses (see last article).

The performance was very well received as we sang a Korean song plus *Working Class Man*. Coincidentally, that the day was Bowman's birthday. Everyone at the event wished him Happy Birthday! He was so happy that he also chanted a verse of well wishes in Sanscript. The mayor of Ryde was so impressed.



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Differently Abled People Association (DAPA) is a not for profit charity organisation founded in Sydney in early 2013. It encourages and supports people with any disadvantage, with **special emphasis** on autism & intellectual disability, to follow their dreams and to live independently.

Stronger Forever Program

We **employ known psychological techniques** in a **normal** living environment for people with a disability to adapt and to enrich their lives in creating social and multicultural inclusion:

Employment : We **start** the morning **to train** their **fresh mind** to learn typing and to work as computer data entry tasks for **ManyMindsLink (Mobile App)**. We **will pay** them according to Supported Wage System when their productivity rate can be measured. Their work rate will be **revealed** at Monday progress meetings chaired by participants. **Positive Reinforcement technique** is frequently used to encourage participants to reach their weekly targets.

Recreational Programs - Having fun and socializing with friends is a major part of DAPA. We try to **embed the element** of recreation across all our programs in between working hours. In this way, we avoid Repetitive Strain effect and open up new interests. We encourage arts, music, dance, drama, internet research, sports and we support Special Olympics.

Life skills - We provide support and training to enable people with a disability to develop skills required to assist in living as independently as possible in a home of their choice:

- cooking and nutrition
- home maintenance and hygiene
- healthy lifestyles (swimming, gym **etc**)
- communication and social skills & development of social networks
- confidence building

Your Support : Please support our cause and vision with action to:

- Be a **Friend of DAPA**.
- Tell other people about this venture
- Download our MMLink App to get familiar which can help people cared by **DAPA**
- Be a **volunteer of DAPA**

Go to our website www.dap.asn.au or Scan our QR Code

