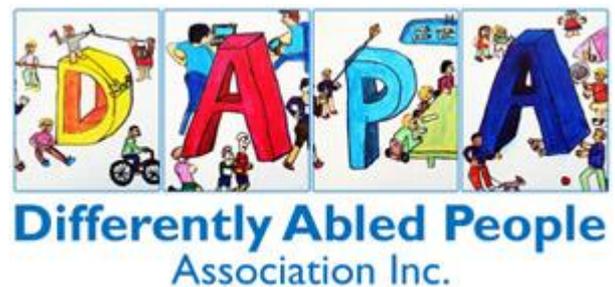


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DAPA January 2019 Newsletter

NDIS–Disability and Employment

We mentioned in our November 2018 Newsletter that studies for service providers, carers, participants and support workers need to be analysed. From 626 service providers surveyed, over 50% of them reporting worse operating environment, and 80% showed sign of uncertainty (<https://www.nds.org.au/news/state-of-the-disability-sector-report-2018>).

The federal government announced a \$33m Boosting the Local Care Workforce (BLWC) program in December last year. It is intended to build disability sector capacity and service provider readiness in the lead up to full National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) implementation, and for aged care employers and workers. The Department of Health estimated that there would be a shortage of care workforce by 2020 and this program would add 60,000 new jobs for the disability and aging services.

In our Lunar New Year Dinner event held on 4 February, we were lucky to have Ms. Christine Macqueen, the lead coordinator of the BLCW program for NSW and ACT to explain about the program and its objectives. During the speech she mentioned this message below:

“For participants and families in multi-cultural communities their experiences can also be different to others and it is important that Government gets to understand what those issues are. So, for 2019 I will be working closely with Vincent Yu and the families of DAPA to gather information on what your experiences with the NDIS have been and also to help to put together some examples of ways in which the NDIS can be improved for participants with multiple needs in being active consumers in this new way of providing services.”

NDIS–Where DAPA can help

DAPA, through our Stronger Forever Program, is a registered provider of NDIS funded support. We provide day care and training in all aspects of independent living skills. We have stressed the importance of care workers with empathy to assist our members to enabling them to have employment skills in IT areas as part of requirement in our program. This will double the employment force in the future. Already we have had success in two of our members being employed full time in Canberra now. Last week we had our member Gokul Shanker coming all the way from Canberra to visit us and telling our members in our office proudly about his experiences.

Do you have spare time to share and you want to contribute back to the community? Come to share our experience by volunteering. The experience is fulfilling and rewarding.

If you want to find out any service providers near your residence especially people with language problems, you can also download our MMLink smart phone application which contains all the carer groups from different cultural background.

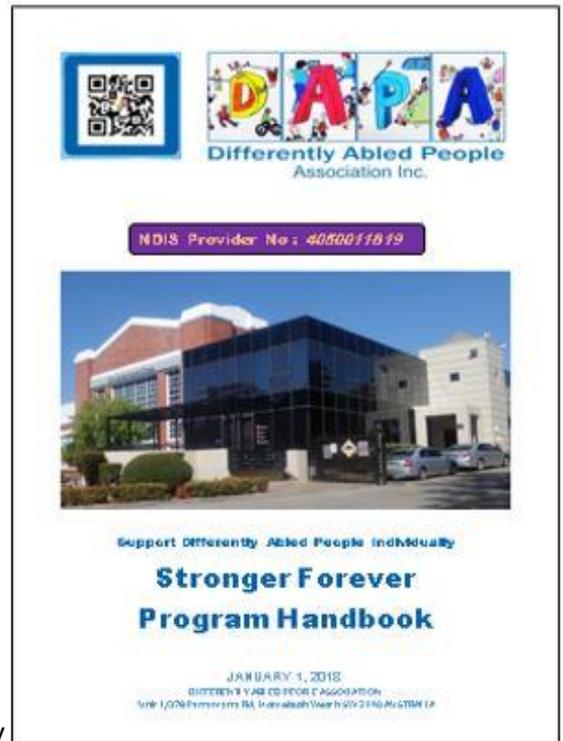
If you want to find out more about NDIS and how to access the scheme, please look at our website www.dap.asn.au or directly talk to us on 02-97635702. We are happy to help.

Stronger Forever Program

DAPA has upgraded the Stronger Forever Program Handbook in line with NDIS services. It now shows all the services we can provide under different categories such as Core Support, Capacity Building Support and Transportation.

We often have participants who need more suitable Accommodations for various reasons. Just recently, we had one participant who has been evicted from his temporary home and required emergency place to stay. We managed to apply for a place in a community housing provider. We also have other participants looking to improve their current accommodation arrangements.

Currently we are assisting one member with emergency housing requirement.



Living Skills Training

Year of Pig Painting

As the Year of Pig approaches, our Arts Director Jennifer Yu was busy to get all our participants to paint pig. The following pig paintings was displayed on the wall for our guests to appreciate at our Lunar New Year Eve Dinner party (see below):





10-year old Fiona painted a pig too



Bowman's pigs painted at weekend

Participation in the Community:

Celebrate Lunar New Year's Eve





On 4th February, we held the Lunar New Year's Eve Dinner sponsored by **Ryde Council** and **Optus**. Vincent Yu, President of DAPA delivered a speech containing the following text :

“DAPA is trying to create a future environment by mixing people with various ability that we can support each other to live independently. We believe that the most important thing is to enable everyone to do some work to make some financial gains to pay for something each one would like to have, or cost of learning some skills and hobbies. Firstly, we have volunteers sharing their time to assist us in daily operation. Secondly, we train workers to have qualifications, e.g. Certificate in Individual Support. Thirdly, we train all participants to work for our Many Minds Link Application that is the first and only accessible smart phone search engine where everyone can use.

These allow us to create an inclusive workplace where everyone can work at their own pace without time limit. Each one gets paid where appropriate in accordance to productivity based Supported Wage System (SWS). We work two to three hours a day and we dedicate the rest of day for living skills and hobbies.”

I thanked Optus for their generosity, then I introduced Ms. Christine Macqueen, the lead coordinator of the BLCW program, to talk about increasing the care workforce appropriately.

Fund Raising for Special Olympics – Fun Run

DAPA always plays an active role in fund raising events for Special Olympics especially that our President, Vincent Yu, is in the committee of the major Fun Run event in the middle of March every year (Over 500 people join the Fun Run thru link: www.kuringgaichase.com.au –see below).

Please Register to support Special Olympics

