

DAPA June 2019 Newsletter

NDIS–Disability and Inclusion

National Disability Services, or NDS, is an organisation for non-government disability services providers since 1945 and is accepted as being the National Peak voice of the industry. Differently Abled People Association joined as a member on its formation in 2013.

This year NDS announced **The Disability Employment Excellence Awards** with 2019 recipients as follows :

Open employment winner: STEPS Employment Solutions – Nambour

Supported employment winner: HELP Enterprises

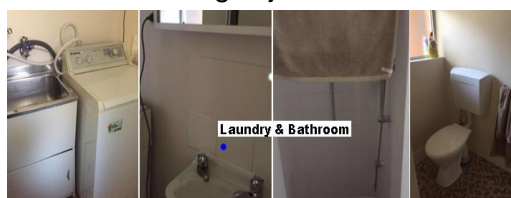
BuyAbility Above & Beyond Awards Grand Champion: Rhonda Morrow, Summerland House Farm

Please see the results and the winners work at <https://www.nds.org.au/news/excellence-in-employment-celebrated-at-disability-at-work-summit?cldee=CHJlc2lkZW50QGRhcC5hc24uYXU%3d&recipientid=contact-52d4a35d3b9ee511b5d10050568e218a-e014b8db62ff498c98b8f8476957d58a&esid=de3ac68c-c49b-e911-80de-005056ac7853>

NDIS–Where DAPA can help

DAPA, through our *Stronger Forever Program*, is a registered provider of NDIS funded supports. We provide day care and training in all aspects of independent living skills. We have stressed the importance of care workers having empathy to assist our members in enabling them to develop employment skills in IT areas as part of their involvement in our program as this will prepare them to get meaningful employment in the future.

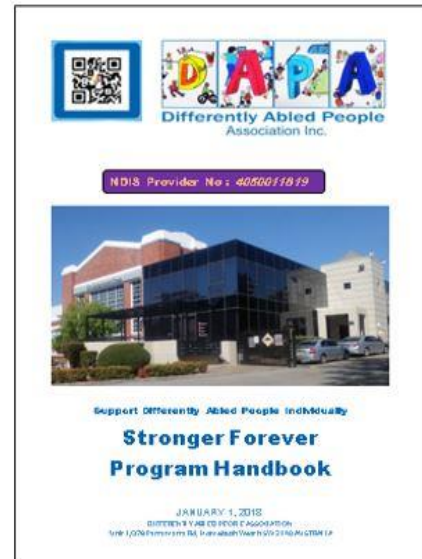
DAPA has also been helping homeless people with a disability to secure housing as the base for improvements to their independence. We have worked with participant DC with autism since November 2018 to secure stable housing. In supporting DC last year we have had a few false starts where service providers required that have accommodation funding in his NDIS plan before he could be considered for a housing place; even though he was already homeless. However, last month he finally was offered a studio through Link Housing, where he is now very happy as well as earning a wage from his meaningful job at DAPA to allow him enough money to live on.



Stronger Forever Program

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

Our participant DC started to understand how important our weekly wage was to his daily living. He started working hard to keep his job with DAPA. He also increased his attendance from four days a week to five days a week so that he could save enough money for extra things he would need in his new home.



New Office space in Chatswood

Starting in July, DAPA will have a new data Collection office in Chatswood within Sunnyfield Enterprise.

DAPA will collaborate with Sunnyfield to create an inclusive workplace to assist them to bring more people with a disability into the IT industry and thus more meaningful job opportunities.



Living Skills Training

Inclusive Workshop Environment

Our MMLink smart phone application development was started in 2012 to provide an inclusive office for people with disabilities to be trained in meaningful work in an cohesive group environment where people learn to be more tolerant of each other. Support staff provide assistance to participants to focus on develop work skills that enable them to perform consistently on skilled IT work. Repetitive work is limited to a certain time span.

All participants are encouraged to take part living skills activities which balance practical skill development with the focused IT work which is also part of their day. Obsessive habits are monitored with certain rules clearly shown on the wall and direct support provided in meeting their requirements. Every week participants are given a certain amount of work suited to their individual skills and production rate; and, direction to ensure that work places are kept clean to maximise the production processes, as it required of regular worksites.

Budgeting skill class

A new program in budgeting has begun and it is hoped that this skill can be easily adapted to a weekly grocery budget and extended to annual amount spent on groceries or other items as part of an annual personal budget. The same program can then be used if one wants to plan purchasing a new computer or a trip for a holiday.

DAPA Proposed Budget - 31.07.2016												
	July 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17	June 17
INCOME												
Initial Cost	30,000											
Dis Program Fee	5,710	5,710	5,710	5,710	5,710	5,710	5,710	5,710	5,710	5,710	5,710	5,710
Wkly Income	200	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	1,000
Donations	1,000	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	5,000
Grants	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	10,000
TOTAL INCOME	42,710	7,210	7,210	7,210	7,210	7,210	7,210	7,210	7,210	7,210	7,210	170,000
EXPENSES												
Wkly Production (Sum of up to 10 PMs)												
Employee/PC/Printer	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	12,000
Employee/PC/Printer	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	1,000
Wkly Assets (Production/Computer/Software)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	2,000
Wkly Living Skills (Production/Computer/Software)	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	2,000
Wkly Administration (Employee/Printer)	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	36,000
Support Staff (Printer)	-	-	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	2,000
Wkly Transport (Printer)	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	48,000
Wkly Transport (Printer)	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Wkly Transport (Printer)	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Wkly Transport (Printer)	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	6,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	11,200	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	107,000
NET INVESTMENT (GAE)	31,510	-6,790	-6,790	-6,790	-6,790	-6,790	-6,790	-6,790	-6,790	-6,790	-6,790	63,000
Opening Balance	30,000	24,000	17,000	10,000	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Closing Balance		24,000	17,000	10,000	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

We will run another class at our new Chatswood office.

Jennifer Trying Sri Lanka Dishes

Vincent & Jennifer invited our friend Parakrama for a Sri Lanka lunch at Homebush Blue Moon Restaurant.

Para had introduced many special dishes which were delicious and healthy. The price was very cheap that one can have a nice lunch for only \$10 with a choice for a meal with or without meat.



Our Participant's Joy

Our CC felt so happy with her lunch from the vegetarian meal with the fresh vegetables that Jennifer brought in. Our support worker was also enjoying the look on CC's face. Every participant had a good time helping the cooking session on that Wednesday.



Participation in the Community:

Meeting with Social Inclusion Advisory Committee

Following our attendance with Ryde Youth Council, we had an opportunity to present our application to Social Inclusion Advisory Committee and explain how DAPA would achieve social inclusion through our work.

DAPA has been actively involved with Social Inclusion by taking part in multicultural activities and groups as well as contributing to various council supported disability inclusion action work. Our application MMLink had taking a strategy by releasing a localized application *Our Ryde* application to include council's facilities such as easy to find garbage collection information and street view reporting. We are also making it easy for residents to have dialogue with their representatives in the Council and message relaying.



Working with People with Mental Issues



On 23rd June, Vincent visited Bupa's Mental Health seminar in Mandarin after he had obtained Mental Health First Aid certificate through Your Side program. DAPA has staff and participants suffering from various mental conditions. That is why our staff need to take serious caring procedures.

Taking Part in AbilityLink with Afghan Community

DAPA had a support worker who was a refugee. So, there would have some chance to accept people with intellectual disability from this community or other communities from a Middle Eastern background.

DAPA would give a helping hand for people with disability or people with language barrier and other minority including aborigine background in the future.



Birthday Party from Canberra

Our two past DAPA participants Gokul and Shiva congratulated another ex-DAPA participant Prashanth at his birthday party. All of them are now working full time in Canberra now.

The picture also shows happy Faces of Prashanth's father Rama and mother Uma as well as wife Nila.



DAPA had other participants who left us pursuing other opportunities and favourite carrier paths. We would wish everyone accomplishing their goals in life. Wherever they would be, we would wish that they would carry our products like MMLink application in their pockets.