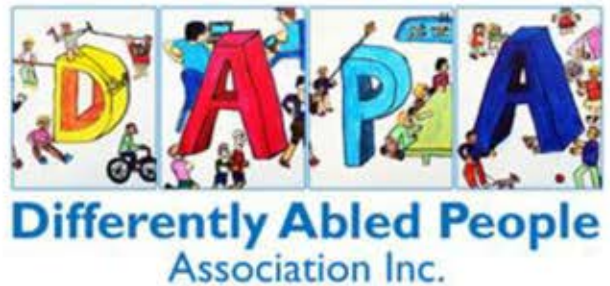


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DAPA Sept-October 2019 Newsletter

Due to NDIS audit and many performances and programs, we have to combine our monthly newsletters for the months of September and October.

NDIS - Sunnyfield Differently Abled Team Job

DAPA is in the middle of NDIS audit as our last audit has been passed three years ago. We have neglected in updating our policy and procedures during that period while trying to cope with knowing how to deal with NDIS processes along. Now after one month into examining NDIS Commission website, we have realised that our existing NSW standards and procedures needs a total re-write to satisfy NDIS auditor. That is why we have spent more resources into our stage 1 phase of the audit and it is necessary to pass the complete audit before the end of year.

SBS project is well into action now. It will be concluded at the end of October. DAPA put emphasis on this first project to lead to more permanent long-term work for people with disabilities. The nature of the project is changed from data entry into developing an online processing. It has been a challenging time for our computer programming team members' hard work that we are on-track to finish the project in time.

The new office would gradually become more like our Homebush inclusive office model. It would be attempting to connect with local carer groups and service providers for more resources and activities for the participants in the team. Differently Abled Team is a workplace mixing people from mainstream workers and volunteers and people with disabilities employed by us under supported wage system in an open employment environment. We also have therapists coming to observe and to devise responsive treatments to assist our participants.

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.

By practically working in a professional product but in an inclusion environment, participants are gradually grasping what work and productivity really mean and how to adapt to a real office work slowly. For example one participant may find others are a bit too noisy for him without being told that his own loud music in his ear phone being too noisy as well. He has gradually learned to work quietly and has got used to the noise around him too. This will prepare them to get meaningful employment in the future like

some of our ex-participants. There are a lot of behaviour problems that we will have specialist visiting us as often as weekly.

We are continuing developing courses and utilities for support services. We found that learning is easier when the participants have been put in the real environment such as speech and relationship improvement.

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.

DAPA has now restructured to provide a special Inclusive workplace MMLink company to start marketing process for the future of our participants to work and to play as long as they would like.



Living Skills Training

Developing Inclusive Workshop & Its First Project



On the final day of SBS project



Followed by celebration lunch

We have been treating IT work as part of living skill training for our participants. It is built into our daily duty that participants can learn to express questions and sharing problem solving in the first two hours every day in our office. At times they may be so quiet like ordinary office and yet sometimes people can be noisy and running. Sometimes we do enjoying our lunch together.

Qi Class Between Work

Qi is the energy source enabling free flow Of blood delivering feed of oxygen and food To every part of our body including our brain. It is important to relax between our work so that our mind is refreshed and body is repaired. While we are doing Qi exercise, our teacher Elena is asking our mind to follow Qi as well and sometimes we will yell and laugh as loud as possible.



Personal Training Session



We have joined with The Fitness Edge gym in Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club so that our participants can have personal trainee for the benefit of their physical fitness and wellbeing.

Group Therapy Session

From now and in the future, we may have our therapists attending our work sessions, activities and weekly meetings observing how to enable our participants to improve their behaviour and speech.

In the photo on the left, we had our psychologist and speech therapist attending our weekly Monday meeting. We hope that group sessions would let our specialist to have more exposure how our participants behaving in the live environment. We have noticed improvement with some of our participant being able to talk in our meetings now.



Participation in the Community:

Social Inclusion Project.

This year DAPA started our Social Inclusion Project targeting residents and services to come to our stall 156 at Granny Smith Festival on 19th October. The second part will take people with disabilities to join in the Special Olympics Fun Run next March.

Lunch with Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens

On 2nd October we would sponsor to help Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens Club to celebrate their 28th Anniversary.

We had 20 of us joining 100 guests for a lunch as part of our social inclusion spirit. We asked them to download our free socially accessible smart phone app "Our Ryde" to collect a \$30 voucher from our Granny Smith Festival stall.



Carers Week on 16th October.

This year DAPA had Henna Day to celebrate our International Day for People with Disability in our office. Everyone had a great time when Savitha painted henna on their hand with a pattern they chose.



Henna is a dye prepared from plants. Traditionally in India, henna is painted on girls during weddings, pregnancies and other celebrations.

Granny Smith Festival on 19th October.



There were 100,000 people who had passed Rowe Street on that day. We had nearly 50 people who had downloaded "Our Ryde" app as show on the page in the photo at the right hand side. On the above photos showing our stall and our people performing on stage winning a lot of applause. In one of the photo, it showed one member from Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens coming to claim \$30 voucher for downloading our app.

Special Olympics Golf Tournament on 29th October.



There were many hole sponsors for this tournament to raise fund for Special Olympics Sydney Upper North Shore Club which many athletes from Ryde enjoying sports. Our participant Bowman Yu plays tennis at Tennis World and also basketball.

The tournament went well and raised over \$12,000 for the day. DAPA sponsored drinks for the day as part of Social Inclusion where a few people with intellectual disability enjoyed the game. In the photo above our treasurer Yeoman presented a cheque of \$1000.

Special Olympics Fun Run on Sunday 15th March 2020.

For the last five years, the event had drawn more athletes and also supporters that over 500 people took part in the last two years. As part of DAPA's Social Inclusion project, we want more people from Ryde area to be involved in this worthy event.

So DAPA is changing our Apps : MMLink & Our Ryde as in the mobile screen shown on the left. We could change the screen incentive to encourage people to register. Registration in the app enables people ease of access and to show the roadmap on the phone with instructions. We will also engage people via social media. We hope to have the number of participants doubled in the coming event.

