

DAPA Nov/19 – Feb/20 Newsletter

Changes in DAPA's Monthly Newsletter

Due to NDIS audit and many performances and programs, we have to combine our monthly newsletters for the last four months.

For every month since January 2016, we have reporting what DAPA has described its experiences with NDIS affecting us as a young small disability service provider. Now we are completing the series as one of the early formal NDIS audit process. Our newsletter will now change its format since this issue.

Coming event:

Technology Inclusion Project Launching on 4th March.

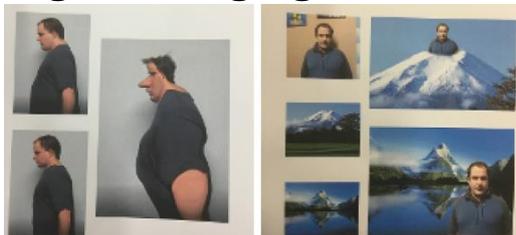
We are starting to show our technology involvement for our members. Each technical activity will add skills which add ability to our member in their lives.

Flying Drones.

It increases fine motor movement of body and reflex from the mind.



Digital Imaging.



Through computer software products, one can alter photos to design banners, displays, websites, Facebook pages and event flyers.

It increases a person's creative thinking in one's mind.

3-D Printing.

3-D printing is a new technology where plastic, resins, polyamide and metals are used as ink to make solid products.



Plastic Batches printed

Designers must consider digital images in 3-D concept, connectivity and support needs.

Download our MMLink App, DAPA donates \$20 to Special Olympics through Kuringgai Chase Fun Run event on 15th March.

Technology Inclusion Project Launch



Date : 4th March 2020

Place : Sunnyfield Chatswood,
1 O'Brien Street,
Chatswood.

Time : 4pm – 7pm

Cost : \$10 pp

RSVP By 28th February

Program

1. **Technology Demonstration** from 4pm – 5pm
 - (i) Fly **Drones**
 - (ii) Print your own **3-D name tag**
 - (iii) Build your own **STEM Model**
 - (iv) Modify your own photo through **Digital Imaging**
2. Radio Chef **Cecilia Lau** demonstrates **cooking** at 5pm
She cooks **Teriyaki chicken** and **Beef Steak in Peking Sauce**
3. **Buffet** follows cooking with Chinese mixed roasts, ribs, vegetarian noodle, fried rice and etc

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Up to 28th February, we have over 60 registrations to this event. However you can still register prior to 3rd March till 100 people.

NDIS - Auditing

NDIS auditing is asking for any service providers to have a good governance, a best service management and the best service practices.

It is asking DAPA to have a good governance which requires a solid management body and structure. It does ask a reasonable financial resource which implies that DAPA must be sustainable financially in the future. We are fortunate that the Federal Government's Boosting Local Care Workforce (BLCW) program will provide us with some fund from this month to path our management structure towards DAPA becoming a good NDIS service provider and a working platform for other service providers to increase work participation for people with disabilities.

A good governance will ensure that the organization has a sound management structure with a good knowledge base and skill to handle all aspects of NDIS services. This requirement causes big problems for small organization like ours. First, we find difficulty to fill qualified volunteers to have a good management committee. That means some of us would have to do multiple roles. Second, we cannot afford to employ good staff to manage our day to day operations until we have sufficient income. Our solution is to do our best to cover all areas of management with volunteers and casual workers.

The most labour-intensive part of auditing caught us unprepared is to make our current

Disability Services Standards and Procedure manual according to NDIS Commission's Practice Standards 2019. This has warranted us to almost a total rewrite. Three months of effort only scored us a mere pass in the eyes of our auditor. Our weakest area is still in the management of our Human Resources which we will still need volunteer to fill in our vacancy or to train someone.

Our human resources practice is to fulfil the requirements of staff according to the necessity of services. It should also provide a good selection panel in accepting our participants to our Stronger Forever Program to suit our small inclusive office space. Also, our staff must have necessary certificates including the NDIS Commissioner's Induction Certification to prove their knowledge of NDIS concepts.

Our problem in Human Resources is now concentrating on how we pay our participants to reward their effort to produce work which has a commercial value. All our participants have been paid under Supported Wage System (SWS) which provides a framework to pay fairly for people working in any employment opportunity. Currently SWS is within the scope of Fair Work Ombudsman. New resolutions are still being revealed later to include Australian Disability Employment. DAPA will need restructuring to work with the further announcements in regarding to SWS.

NDIS–Where DAPA can help

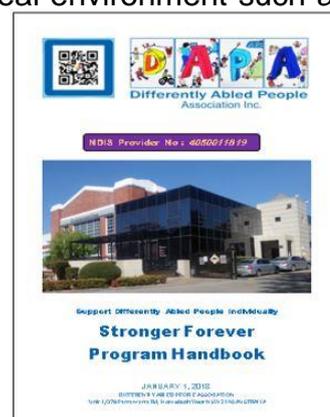
DAPA, through our *Stronger Forever Program*, is a registered provider of NDIS funded supports. We provide day care and training in all aspects of independent living skills. We have stressed the importance of care workers having empathy to assist our members in enabling them to develop employment skills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

By working in a commercial 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 to help our participants.

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 will now restructure to provide a special Inclusive workplace MMLink company to start working with **Sunnyfield Differently Abled Team** marketing to develop open employment process for people with intellectual disability population in the future. We are now getting Federal Government's BLCW funding to assist our strategy planning for that purpose.

MMLink Program

DAPA has started to add more features into MMLink applications:

1. Developed a camera snapshot facility to assist data entry simply capture data using mobile phone camera live on the street
2. Split Service Provider category into Disability, Ageing and Government providers
3. Implement live remote teaching facility from carer to member being cared for
4. Following our localised application "Our Ryde", intend to extend to other suburbs.
5. More daily living tools for member such as capturing things in places you need to remember in a later stage
6. Adding to item 5 above a new category of repair man and petrol stations with ratings of value for money.
7. Add an alarm clock feature with carer monitoring functions.

More to come

Living Skills Training

Our Inclusive Workshop & Day Service Timetable

Differently Abled People Association / Many Minds Link Weekly Timetable					
WEEK PERIOD:	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00AM	WORKSHOP OPEN Sign In Rowbook and Check necessary person care tasks (hygiene etc) tidy desk and start computer and data entry skills	WORKSHOP OPEN Sign In Rowbook and Check necessary person care tasks (hygiene etc) tidy desk and start computer and data entry skills	WORKSHOP OPEN Sign In Rowbook and Check necessary person care tasks (hygiene etc) tidy desk and start computer and data entry skills	WORKSHOP OPEN Sign In Rowbook and Check necessary person care tasks (hygiene etc) tidy desk and start computer and data entry skills	WORKSHOP OPEN Sign In Rowbook and Check necessary person care tasks (hygiene etc) tidy desk and start computer and data entry skills
9:30AM					
11:00AM	Weekly Meeting Everyone	Living Skill Start Music session	Living Skill Start	Living Skill Start Arts or sometimes require full day arts	Living Skill Start
11:30AM	Discussion/Meeting Cont'd		Cooking		Painting
12:00PM	LUNCH TIME				
12:30PM	Newspaper Reading	Music session	WORK FOR LIFE Cleaning Kitchen	WORK FOR LIFE Arts	Free Activity, movies, maths & English work
1:00PM					
1:30PM	Cleaning	Work Cont'd	Work Cont'd	Work Cont'd	
2:00PM	Departure Preparation ' Cleaning Desk				
2:30PM					
3:00PM	WORKSHOP CLOSED				

We are now adding more daily living skill sessions after the day service timetable above. Some session may occur in our participant's residence.

Participation in the Community:

Social Inclusion Project.

Since last year DAPA started our Social Inclusion Project targeting residents in Ryde areas by helping in the following community events:

- 1. Spent \$ 3,000 with Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens**
- 2. Spent \$ 1,000 with Special Olympics Golf Tournament**
- 3. Another \$ 5,000 to encourage people to support Kuringgai Chase Fun Run to raise fund for Special Olympics Upper North Shore Club through social media**

We will continue this in the coming years as we can afford through future grants. Those government grants are not for the purpose of paying wages or personal gains.

Henna Day and Dewali at DAPA office



DAPA had Henna Day to celebrate our International Day for People with Disability in our office on the 6th November. Everyone had a great time when Savitha painted henna on their hand with a pattern they chose.

SBS Presentation.

On 8th November, our Sunnyfield Differently Abled Team was received a good presentation at SBS office for finishing our data entry work with excellence.



DAPA Christmas Party on 11th December.

We had a simple Christmas Party at our office With our staff and participants just happened to be present on that day.

Everyone sang and be happy including our past participant Willis visiting us on that day.



Christmas Hamper.

On 24th December, we worked hard to deliver joy with over a dozen of hampers to our participants' families.

These hampers were donated by Life Source Community Care team. Everyone received with thanks



Special Olympics Fun Run Launch on 13th February.

Vincent Yu presented DAPA's cheque to the event organizer



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.

