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DAPA Nov-December (COVID-19 Special) Newsletter

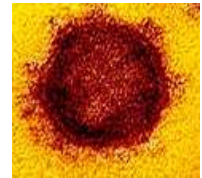
Coming Events:

Watching this space for the coming events:

This coming Chinese New Year will fall on 12th February and we will plan celebration about that day. Like past year everyone in DAPA will paint ox (the Chinese calendar sign for the year) in various form. So watch this page for the arts and our event date and we hope you will all enjoy our activity like past ones.

COVID-19 events:

COVID-19 Vigilance.



Just when all Australians are relaxed that our country has had zero local coronavirus transmission for nearly a month after the second wave killed 800 Victorians, one person travelled to South Australia was found contracted virus and spreaded to nearly twenty cases within two days. The immediate response from South Australian government to tighten its social restriction to the highest alert saved the territory from the epidemic within days. However on the 21st November the first case of virus detected at Avalon beach in Sydney travelled so fast that on the Christmas, the Sydney siders embraces 115 cases from Avalon cluster led NSW government to reintroduce travelling warnings and restrictions. We hope that the case number would decrease in the new year and we trust NSW government will do their best to achieve this.

DAPA Post COVID Hiring Plan

Hiring More Support Workers for Chatswood Office

Data Entry work and day services continues to help participants staying away from infections.

Since March 2020, we implemented the procedure here and followed strictly. Although restrictions may vary by the government from time to time, yet our rules may stay vigilant. At the same time we have already started a post COVID plan since last June following DAPA been awarded the Federal grant for Boasting Care Workers.

Up to date, DAPA has recruited 10 trainee support workers and more will be needed.

COVID-19 Procedures

DAPA has already started a lockdown environment since 24th March 2020 with three meetings at all levels of our staff, MC's and participants and notifications to their carers as follows:

1. Office disinfection procedures with hand wash
2. Keep a social distance with seating at 4m apart
3. Only pre-arranged visitors are allowed in the office
4. Participants should avoid public places and shopping centres
5. Extending office hours and preparation for supplying all meals to participants
6. Listing all necessary goods and food for group purchasing by our staff for all participants and staff
7. Some of our participants living in group accommodations will work remotely
8. Staff will be trained to work remotely through Microsoft Teams platform.
9. No more than 5 persons in a room

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 office but in an inclusive environment, participants are gradually grasping what work and productivity really mean and how to adapt to work in a regular real office 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 have contracted specialists to visit us as often as once a week to help our participants.

We are continuing to develop courses and utilities for support services. We found that learning is easier when the participants have been put in the real environment particularly in the area of 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 enterprise to begin working with **Sunnyfield Differently Abled Team** marketing to develop an open employment process for people with intellectual disability in the future. We are now getting Federal Government's Boosting Local Care Worker program funding to assist our strategy planning for that purpose.

MMLink App tracks Location + LogBook App

DAPA has developed an App so that entry to our doors can be logged by a single touch on an iPad at the door. Person can then be traced if he has left the premise without signing off when he also downloads our MMLink App. It can also be used to record a user the time taken and mileage travelled to transport someone to and from work.

Accessible Budgeting App

A new accessible budgeting program is being added to the MMLink App for people with intellectual disabilities. Through pictures, people with language problem can work out

yearly budget plan, printing out weekly shopping list and amount of money required, schedule when a wanted good can be purchased and when you will be short of cash.

Our programmers are working hard to get more accessible tools to help people.

DAPA Announcement:

Chatswood Office Formally Opened



On 25th November, when our Roger King formally accepted as Manager of Differently Abled Team, we had an Open Day when he announced his team members. The team will continue the data entry inclusive workplace and at the same time rolling out various courses including data entry, computer and mobile devices, digital imaging and camera course, Microsoft team, arts and most importantly use of smart phone apps. The other important task is for Roger to cooperate further with Sunnyfield to expand their disability job market in the future.

We thank Sunnyfield to provide their support and we also thank Ms. Cecilia Lau to show us cooking and to bring presents to everyone attended the day.

MMLink Program + new LogBook App

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A new accessible budgeting program is being added to the MMLink App for people with intellectual disabilities.

Living Skills Training continues with Social Distance

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	LUNCH TIME	LUNCH TIME	LUNCH TIME	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	Departure Preparation ' Cleaning Desk	Departure Preparation ' Cleaning Desk	Departure Preparation ' Cleaning Desk	Departure Preparation ' Cleaning Desk
2:30PM					
3:00PM	WORKSHOP CLOSED	WORKSHOP CLOSED	WORKSHOP CLOSED	WORKSHOP CLOSED	WORKSHOP CLOSED

Living Skills:

A Lesson on Making Sushi.

On 18th November, our new recruit Mico showed us how we would make sushi. She brought everything we needed



Mico showed Hong how to make teriyaki chicken
While Jennifer explained how to make pasta salad as side dish

Everyone was looking on EL while Jennifer was teaching Jyothi how to use chopsticks



Mico was patient to teach PL

Jennifer was helping JR



Bowman had a go too.

First Coffee Lesson by EL.

On 4th December EL, who has been awarded his Hospitality certificate, gave us a lecture on various type of coffee drinks.

JR loves coffee in the morning and he commented on how he would make one. Will DAPA starts a Café in the future?



First Cooking session in Chatswood.

On Wednesday 9th December, Jyothi and Mico cooked Sausages while JR and Kiren made the coleslaw. Everyone enjoyed.



Participation in the Community:

Disability Expo in Epping on 22nd November

Although we were a bit rushed for this event, yet our team was the only one performed some singing.

We had a good time to meet all the communities present in the hall. They were distributing all the old books that Jennifer picked a few good ones to teach our participants to read and to learn spelling.

We had also connected well with disability Employment Service providers. One of them was People Plus which we established to connect to their traineeship scheme.



Diwali Day on 25th November

On the Chatswood Open Day, we were also having our annual Diwali Day, an Indian national day for Festival of Light.

On that day, people in India wears colourful costumes and Decorate their houses and streets as bright as possible. We thank Ms. Cecilia Lau demonstrated some cooking and ABC sauce manufacturer to sponse so many bottles of sauce as present to everyone in this event. We also had Sunnyfield Blacktown to explain what they can help people with a disability in our Asian communities.

We also thank our staff Savitha prepared all the Indian food and did the decorations. Many of us put on Diwali dresses and had great fun.



Visit Mrs Chen Xiu Ying Art Exhibition



Mrs.Chen taught both Jennifer and Vincent in landscape Chinese brush painting in early years in the Chinese Painting College. In 2003 she won the the Archibald Wynne Prize. We visited the Chinese Cultural Centre on 9th December and met Mrs. Chen and

some of her current students showing their paintings on the wall. Here we took a photo with her in front of the St. Mary Cathedral painting.

Meeting Local Police Commander in Eastwood

On 16th December, Chinese community leaders visited Eastwood Police Station to meet the new commander.



DAPA Christmas Party

On 16th December we had our Christmas Party in our office. We had our last Christmas hamper given to JB.

Hong and Jennifer went to Cosco to buy pizza, orange juice and a huge cake for our lunch while Hong also cooked a duck and Shanghai vegetarine Chicken from home. Peter's mum also brought most welcome spring rolls for us. Yeoman bought some smoked turkey breast.

We also had some parents and visitors coming with a great atmosphere after a long spell of COVID-19 restrictions.

