

JULY 2022 - ISSUE: 1



DIVERSITY SOUTH NEWS

The Official Quarterly Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO, JULIE WAYLEN

Diversity South continues to make exciting changes to ensure we support fulfilling lives for people with disability we support.

Since October 2021 we have implemented a raft of changes and introduced some new IT systems including new on-line policies and procedures, induction and training for all staff. Building a highly skilled workforce with the right values is fundamental to how we continuously improve our work in providing high quality supports and services. From 1 July 2022 we will also begin to rollout a new Customer Record Management (CRM) system which will improve rostering, shift reports, incident reports and many other things that will lessen the administrative burden for support staff.

An exciting development is we are now officially offering Community Access and Support Coordination services. Tarsha Fletcher commenced with us earlier this month as the Team Leader for Community Access, building a meaningful and engaging community access program for the people we support, but also for people with disability not living at a Diversity South home. Tarsha has substantial experience in the disability sector, and we are thrilled to have her be a part of the team. Anyone who is interested in community access shifts is encouraged to send her an email on tarsha.fletcher@diversitysouth.org.au.

Jackie Breasley has also commenced providing support coordination services. We are already providing support to 19 people with disability and their families, before we've even advertised! We're proud to be offering this new service, and looking forward to supporting more people with disability to meet their goals and live meaningful lives.

There have been some changes to the Administration team and we recently said farewell to Rachel Gleeson and Rebecca Sharp. Both Rachel and Rebecca have been much admired and valued staff with Diversity South and we wish them well in their new ventures.





DIVERSITY SOUTH NEWS

COVID management continues to be a high priority for Diversity South. All staff have been working very hard to make sure we are COVID safe and ensure we manage any break outs and lockdowns where necessary. I would like to let everyone know that Diversity South comply with the State Government mandatory vaccines and practices for disability service and I would like to thank them all for their co-operation and practice with good infection control to minimise any COVID impacts.

In line with our commitment to improving the home environments of the people with disability we support, the property at Hougham Road has been sold. Some of the proceeds from the sale will be used for renovations to the properties at Arabian Drive and Jubata Gardens which will make both properties more accessible, including the creation of fully accessible bathrooms at both locations. The remainder of any funds from the sale will be kept in reserve for now. We are working closely with our Community Housing provider to update the properties and look forward to having a fresh coat of paint and some other maintenance works across four of the properties.

We have been successful for a Lotterywest grant and will be developing a new Strategic Plan and updating our website and integrate all our information technology systems. This is a fantastic initiative and people with disability and families through our newly created Advisory Group will have an opportunity to have some input and staff will also be asked to contribute their ideas to a new website.

We are pleased to advise we have recently received the report from the Quality Auditor and have been recommended for certification. The NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission will now review the audit report and make a determination. This is a brilliant achievement and demonstrates the hard work everyone has done to ensure we adhere to the NDIS practice standards and comply with the requirements.

As always, we're grateful for the support of everyone involved with Diversity South – together we continue to build on our strong legacy and thank you for being with us on this exciting new chapter.

Julie Waylen, CEO Diversity South





DIVERSITY SOUTH NEWS

WELCOME

Diversity South Digest is the latest version produced to share information with people with disability and their families about what's happening around the Diversity South houses and the office, on a monthly basis.

It will be used as a way to:

- stay connected
- to communicate any major changes
- promote exciting events and activities we have planned
- provide important information about services we deliver
- promote clear channels for communication to Diversity South staff

Diversity South would like to acknowledge the Binjareb Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the Mandurah region.

Their continuing connection to land, waters, and community is recognised with respect to them, their culture, and Elders both past and present.

BIRTHDAYS

Lynda and Sue celebrated their birthdays in May. Both ladies had cake with their housemates and support workers at Linley 1 and Wardell Loop.

Garrick and Troy also had birthdays in June. Troy recently turned 50 and spent the day at the Motorplex in Bunbury watching the races and checking out the cars.

Happy Birthday to you all!!



DIVERSITY SOUTH NEWS

FRIDAY NIGHT KARAOKE

Peta recently sang the night away with her support workers, Mitra and Tanya. They had a ball with some karaoke fun at Linley 1.

Rock on, Peta!!



BASKETBALL SHOWDOWN!!

The lads at Arabian Drive received a mini basketball hoop kindly donated by our Property Coordinator, Hanna. It was an instant hit with Phillip and Troy and kept them entertained for hours!!

Anybody up for the challenge??

DAY OUT

In early April, Anstruther Road received a much needed spruce up. All of the housemates went out for the day and had a nice lunch of fish and chips.

It was a lovely day out and everyone enjoy themselves!



DIVERSITY SOUTH NEWS

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AND FAMILY ADVISORY GROUP

Diversity South is pleased to announce we have created the People with Disability and Family Advisory Group. It consists of three people with disability, two parents to represent families, and three Diversity South staff members.

The Advisory Group met on Wednesday 20 April 2022. Diversity South received input from people with disability and family representatives on how Diversity South can improve its services, what activities they would like to see happen, and how we can continue to communicate important information to families.

Thank you to Anne-Maree, Garrick, Peta, Keith and Lyndell for joining the Advisory Group and providing great suggestions and feedback. We're looking forward to continued collaboration with you all.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 18 July 2022 at 3:30pm.

FEEDBACK AND COMPLAINTS

At Diversity South, we welcome feedback and suggestions about the services we deliver as part of our continuous improvement strategy.

Feedback and complaints can be made by:

- writing to us
- sending an email
- speaking to someone (in person or by phone)

Feedback and complaints can be made anonymously.

Below are the contact details to submit feedback or complaints:

Postal address: 90 Anstruther Road, Mandurah.

Email: tracy.foulds@diversitysouth.org.au
General Manager - Quality & Safeguards.

Phone: 9582 6105.

A copy of the Feedback and Complaints Policy is available upon request.



DIVERSITY SOUTH NEWS

WORK, HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

We are committed to Work, Health and Safety by:

- creating and maintaining a safe work place
- complying with relevant commonwealth and state legislation work, health and safety acts and legislation
- proactively managing risks in the workplace
- not compromising the health or safety of anyone in the workplace
- providing workers with the information, equipment, PPE, training and supervision they need to work safely
- consulting and engaging with workers on work, health and safety issues.

Diversity South has a WHS Committee that meets regularly.

The Work, Health & Safety Policy is available upon request.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROJECT

Diversity South has engaged artist, Tilly Jowle-Gill to facilitate two weeks of art classes for up to 20 people with disability. The Artist in Residence project will commence in July to create artwork such as sketching, painting or mini sculptures to the theme of 'Water'.

At the end of the project, artwork will be entered into the 9x5 Art Exhibition at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre (ManPAC) which will be open to the public for eight weeks.

The opening night of the exhibition will be held on 5 August 2022.

There are limited places left. If we have any more people interested, please get in touch with Emma Riley by emailing emma.riley@diversitysouth.org.au.



DIVERSITY SOUTH NEWS

Contact Details

Diversity South Inc.

Phone: (08) 9582 6105

Email: admin@diversitysouth.org.au

Address: 90 Anstruther Road, Mandurah, WA, 6210

