



SHARING NEWS

Volume 33

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March 2023

From the Chair

Happy New Year to everyone!

We said farewell to Board Member Fred Pilcher in January and wished him well for the future. The Board welcomes three new Board Members, Bill Brummitt, Brenda Parkes and Alice Cawte, all of whom have extensive experience in policy development, governance, strategic development and finance.

The Board has four Sub Committees, Finance, Audit and Risk (Sue Healy, Kylie Stokes, Billy Kang, Simon Hermes, Alicia Gaudie and Bill Brummitt), Policy and Governance (Sue Healy, Kylie Stokes, Mara Eversons, Alice Cawte and Brenda Parkes), Marketing and Ambassadors (Julia Marais van-Vuuren, Peta Milne, Kylie Stokes and Alicia Gaudie) and Quality and Safeguarding (Wayne Herbert, Simon Hermes, Peta Milne, Kylie Stokes and Mary-Ann Kal).

The 2022-23 Budget and the Business Plan were reviewed and endorsed by the Board at our January Board Meeting – all on track!

The Board has approved expenditure within the Budget to begin on room upgrades, the replacement of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy equipment and vehicle updates, all of which were put on hold over the last three years. It is with a sense of relief that we can now see our way through to update our resources for participants and programs.

The Board continues to work in close collaboration with the CEO and Senior Executive who hold responsibility for the whole operational side of Sharing Places to ensure best practice, high quality of service provision for participants and the quality and safeguarding of organizational practices.

Best wishes to everyone - stay safe.

Cheers

Sue Healy OAM | Board Chair

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From the CEO

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well and enjoying some warmer weather.

The ACT Government's COVID-19 Management Directive was lifted on 28 February 2023 and the ACT no longer has any public health restrictions in place. As a result, the ACT Government has encouraged service providers to implement their own work health and safety arrangements based on risk assessments. Sharing Places undertook thorough risk assessments around the continuing risk of infection including all acute respiratory illnesses and the Communicable Infectious Diseases policy has now been reviewed and endorsed by the Board. The policy includes a clause on acute respiratory illnesses and has attachments on the appropriate use of face masks, and detailed hand hygiene. The new policy is on our website, or you can request a copy from Rachel at rachel@sharingplaces.com.au. Sharing Places will also continue to follow its COVID-19 Response Plan which includes a screening questionnaire for visitors, and contact tracing following positive cases.

There have been some movements within the finance team. Kasia, who many of you know from talking to her with your finance enquiries, will be moving to our payroll team. Kasia's replacement is our very own Inne from the Waratah team who will be moving to finance. Although the Waratah team will miss Inne very much, the finance team are very pleased to welcome her.

Sharing Places is looking to move to an electronic human resource system which will assist to streamline many of our procedures and significantly cut down processing times for many tasks. The system will also need to provide us with a solution for staff training and training records management. This will also assist with the complex compliance requirements for the NDIS Commission. We are currently investigating systems and aim to implement the system slowly, one module at a time, over the next 6-12 months.

The teams at Holt, who have been participating in volunteering with Roundabout for some time, have now extended their volunteering program to include deliveries of any excess items to charity stores around Canberra. The teams at Holt have also been enjoying Rhythm Drumming over the past couple of weeks while participants decide whether they wish to continue to purchase ongoing sessions. The sessions were very well received and this will now become an ongoing program. The teams on the south side of town have also been actively participating in programs including a cooking skills program that has been developed by a dietician. More information about these programs is included elsewhere in the newsletter.

There has been some attention recently around workforce issues within the disability sector. Sharing Places continues to be very fortunate in attracting new staff members, and we don't expect that to change in the near future. However, we understand there is a growing demand within the care workforce and we are adopting a proactive approach including the implementation of the HR system, as described above; adopting the principles of the NDIS Commission's workforce capability framework; maintaining our roles of the HR Manager and the Program Coordinator (Training and Compliance); participating in sector workforce events and networking opportunities; and collaborating with CIT for professional development opportunities, including supporting student placements for practical experience. We believe this work will prepare us for the ongoing challenges in the future.

Our staff training day is coming up on 20 March 2023. Items to be covered include emergency management and epilepsy. Sharing Places will be closed to participants for that day and will resume usual services on Tuesday 21 March.

As we move into a beautiful Canberra Autumn, I wish you good health and harmony.

Kylie Stokes | CEO

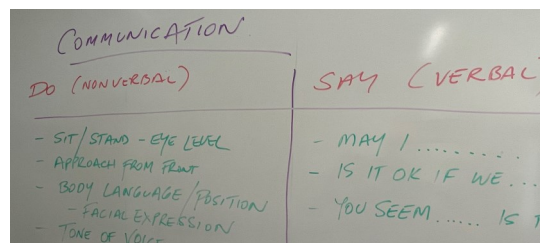
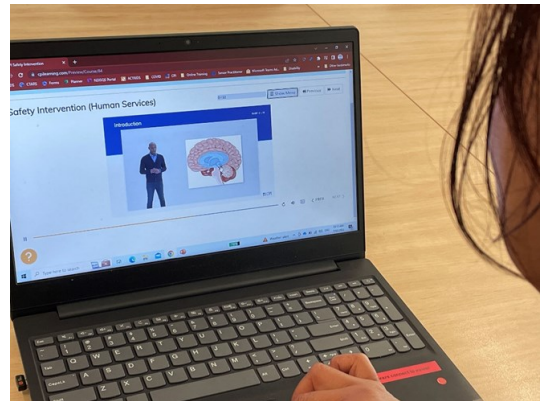
Crisis Prevention Training

Sharing Places has commenced training all our staff in Safety Intervention, a program developed by the Crisis Prevention Institute and delivered across disability, aged, health and education providers around the world. The program is based on the CPI Guiding Philosophy of:

- Care - Respect, dignity, empathy, person-centred, Welfare -Maintaining Independence, choice and well-being,*
- Safety – Protecting rights and minimising harm, and*
- Security – Safe, effective, harmonious and collaborative relationships.*

The aim is to give staff the tools to identify possible underlying causes of behaviour and support the person with behaviours of concern. The program has a strong focus on how a support worker’s reactions and behaviour could influence the outcome of a crisis situation, including their verbal and non-verbal communication styles, and their ability to maintain a positive relationship with the participant during and after the situation. A number of non-restrictive physical disengagement skills are taught, along with some restrictive techniques that are designed not to injure the participant and are only to be used in critical situations. These physical interventions are for use as a last resort in keeping participants and staff safe.

The program is a combination of a half day online training course followed by a full day face to face session delivered by our in-house trainer who has been accredited by CPI. The benefit of in-house training is that we are able to adjust the program to allow for the specific needs and circumstances of our participants and staff. Feedback from staff who have participated in the program has been overwhelmingly positive, they appreciate the opportunity to develop as support workers and improve their skills in developing and maintaining safe working relationships with our participants.



Drumming at Holt

Sharing Places and Cherie Kotek have been collaborating to provide participants with opportunities to participate in unique drumming and music workshops at Holt on Friday afternoons. Cherie is an accomplished musician and has been conducting workshops at Pearce for several years and we now have the opportunity to facilitate these workshops at Holt. This is a wonderful opportunity as the program has been extremely successful in the past, with it only growing in popularity. If you would like to know more or wish to organise for your family member to get involved, please speak to your team leader.



Roundabout Canberra Deliveries

Roundabout Canberra provides safe, high quality essential baby and children's items to families in need, as well as service providers, through their network of community and not-for-profit organisations. Roundabout allows these service providers to focus on core business while ensuring essential items are available in great condition. Roundabout's vision is that every child deserves a safe start and every family deserves dignity.

Sharing Places Jasper team is proud to support and volunteer with Roundabout Canberra for their deliveries. On Tuesday afternoons the team collect the items from Roundabout and delivers them to different charity organisations and shops in North Canberra. Participants are utilising this opportunity to improve and maintain their communication and social skills, develop community network connections, and participate in meaningful activities.





General Meeting

Sharing Places would normally have a General Meeting in May however, as attendance has been decreasing, we wish to put a call out to Association Members (and other stakeholders) for expressions of interest in favour of a General Meeting to be held on Monday 22 May 2023, at 7.00pm, to be held in the Large Meeting Room, Building 1, Pearce Community Centre.

An option to join the meeting via Zoom will also be available.

General Meetings are a great way to keep in touch with how the organisation is performing.

Please let us know if you would like to attend the General Meeting by calling Rachel on 6290 1964 or email her at rachel@sharingplaces.com.au.

All are welcome.

Cooking with the Dietitian

In the past year, Sharing Places trialled an eight week program with Dietitian, Taylor Aldridge from Focus, who ran cooking classes with our Corin and Tennent teams.

These sessions were focused on easy recipes and healthy eating. All participants who were involved in the program were very enthusiastic and showed great interest.

At the end of every class, Taylor handed over some simple recipes to the participants to keep practising their new skills at home.

Sharing Places staff have been following the same program to continue building skills and reinforcing healthy eating, and we are investigating further opportunities to work with the dietitian to hold more cooking classes in the future.



Client Profile - Tony

Tony is an active young man with many skills, who graduated from school a year ago and transitioned into post school activities at Sharing Places. Tony has a unique interest and impressive skills in completing a number of puzzles at the same time. Tony loves music and DVDs, watching YouTube, singing songs, helping with tasks of packing unpacking and sorting, office duties, and visiting parks for leisurely walks. Tony also likes to ride his bicycle to Sharing Places with his father.

Tony has made many friends at Sharing Places and has very much connected with his support workers. Sharing Places is working towards finding employment opportunities for Tony to achieve his goals.



NDIS Unsure who to complain to?

there is no wrong door

If you call any of our offices we will help you get to the right place

I'm not happy with the provider of my disability supports

ACT Human Rights Commission

02 6205 2222
hrc.act.gov.au
human.rights@act.gov.au

I'm not happy with the NDIA's actions

Commonwealth Ombudsman

1300 362 072
ombudsman.gov.au
ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

I'm not happy with a product or service I bought

Access Canberra

13 22 81
accesscanberra.act.gov.au



Important Dates

March	13	Canberra Day Holiday
	20	SPI Training Day
April	7	Good Friday
	10	Easter Monday
	25	ANZAC Day Holiday
May	22	General Meeting
	29	Reconciliation Day
June	12	Monarch's Official Birthday Holiday
September	11	SPI Training Day
October	2	Labour Day Holiday
	30	Annual General Meeting
December	22	Last Day for clients – SPI Closure
January 2024	8	SPI Reopens

Please be aware of the days marked in purple as on these days Sharing Places will be closed and will not be open to clients.



PLEASE NOTE

Sharing Places will be **closed** on **Monday 20 March** for staff training.

Sharing Places will resume programs as normal on Tuesday 21 March.

For any further enquires please call the office on 6290 1964

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Sharing Places Inc
Membership 2022/2023

First Name Family Name*or*

Business Name

Address

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Individual Membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$11 (incl GST)	Association Membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$22 (incl GST)
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