



SHARING NEWS

Volume 33

Issue 2

June 2023

From the Chair

Greetings from Members of Sharing Places' Board. I am pleased to be able to provide you with information on the Board's activities over the last 3 months.

As you are aware Sharing Places has achieved a surplus which has accumulated over the last few years. Initially in 2018-2019 the Board had a goal to put aside cash reserves as a safety net to the Organisation. This was an important part of managing the business in the event of unplanned events which could eventuate in Sharing Places staying operational in an unexpected event or closing. The Board set a target of reaching a 5% surplus to fulfill this goal.

Board members and management worked closely together during the Pandemic to protect the future of the Organisation by reducing all spending and sourcing all available Government assistance. Sharing Places is now in the position to be able to invest back into resources and replacement of equipment. Work has already started on upgrades to team rooms, purchased a new change table, new hoist and a pressure care chair.

Recently, following on from the Sharing Places Annual General Meeting in 2022, the Board extended an invitation to all participants, their families and guardians seeking input into which areas were considered the most important to reinvest some of our reserves for the maximum benefit of participants. An invitation was also extended to all to attend a General Meeting held on 22 May.

Responses were all very similar, with agreement that the Board establish a sustainable financial investment framework with an emphasis on Sharing Places providing allied health services and a range of new activities at no cost to participants.

So, the Board will be collaborating closely with the CEO and her senior management team on ensuring that the above outcomes are achieved. We will keep you informed!!

Best wishes to everyone - stay safe.

Sue Healy OAM | Board Chair

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From the CEO

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well.

It's hard to believe we're already almost half way through the year. So far in 2023, we have welcomed 8 new participants, including 6 school graduates, to Sharing Places' support teams around Canberra. We have been so impressed with our new starters and their positive transition into post school life. We also continue to welcome participants who are not school graduates but rather people who have either been at home with little to no services or people who's circumstances have changed and who are looking for some alternative day options. This is another reminder of the positive impact that the NDIS is having on our community.

We continue to navigate through the NDIS system and all of its successes and challenges. There have recently been some amendments to the pricing guidelines that will have a very small impact on our administrative processes. We are also awaiting the new pricing that is due to commence from 1 July and this new pricing guide may also bring about more changes, but we will communicate these with families over the next couple of months once we know all of the changes.

The NDIS Review is underway, with co-chairs Bruce Bonyhady and Lisa Paul, being very active in their community engagement and information gathering. Although the NDIS Review will be considering all of the findings of past reviews, if you would like to have your say for this review, you can do so through a number of different ways. More information is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

Although we are over the worst of the pandemic, it remains in our community and it seems to have become something we are learning to live with. Sharing Places adapted its policies and procedures to adopt our new 'normal' including the continuation of staff wearing face masks during higher risk activities; and asking positive cases to stay away from the service for 7 days. These in particular are some of the measures that have been proven to be effective in keeping transmission low. These measures will remain in place until we are advised otherwise by ACT Health.

As we come out of the worst of the pandemic, we are now once again able to focus on moving forward with our maintenance and replacement schedules, which have somewhat been on hold. We are also looking moving forward with projects, in line with our strategic plan, to enhance our quality of service.

Warm Regards

Kylie Stokes | CEO.



For more information on these photos and for other stories, please head to our Facebook page.

Celebrating 30 years at Sharing Places

Helen started attending Sharing Places day program when she was just 20 years old. She's a pioneer in the Brindabella support team in Wanniasa which Helen became a part of once it was opened. Over the years at Sharing Places, Helen has volunteered in a variety of positions including at the Yarralumla Nursery where she assisted with processing the potted plants; Red Cross Meals on Wheels when she packed meals ready for delivery; participated in hospitality program at a motel in Queanbeyan, restocking the rooms and assisting in the laundry; and shopping for the elderly residents of a retirement village. Helen continues to do the weekly consumable shopping for Sharing Places. Helen is a keen swimmer who also joined aqua aerobics classes; she is a competitive bowler; and enjoys joining her peers for picnics or BBQ's, musical and dance programs and any special events. She is well known in the Wanniasa community, often stopping to chat to friends when out and about or catching the bus to the library and shops. Happy 30 years, Helen! May you continue to shine and enjoy your programs.



Harmony Week

We held our biannual training day on Monday, March 20. That day was also the beginning of Harmony Week so we took the opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our staff team by asking them to come in traditional dress.

This brought extra levels of energy and colour to the day, which is already a great opportunity for the support teams to get together while enhancing their knowledge and skills.





Sharing Places Statistics Infograph



People we currently support

173



We currently employ

105

people

55%

of our workforce are women

45%

of our workforce are men

Currently we don't have any employees identifying as other genders



15

Support Teams in the ACT

Wanniassa, Holt and two sites in Pearce



Just under

1/3

of our participants use wheelchairs

68%

of our workforce are aged between 25 and 44 years old, 6% are under 25, 15% are 45-54 and 11% are over 55 years old.



50%

of participants have been receiving services for over 10 years

7%

of participants have been receiving services for 30 years or more



25 Vehicles

14 of which are modified for wheelchairs



SHARING PLACES

ORDINARY PEOPLE
GROWING TOGETHER
ACHIEVING
EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS

ACT Disability Strategy

The ACT Government is currently developing a disability strategy. An open consultation on the ACT Disability Strategy took place from March to July 2022. This consultation was co-designed and led by the ACT Disability Reference Group. The consultation sought community views to shape several key priorities of the new ACT Disability Strategy including:

- creating a blueprint as to how the ACT creates an inclusive future
- strengthening and consolidating the ACT's commitment to *Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-31*
- supporting the priorities of the national strategy whilst incorporating a local viewpoint which supports Canberra's with disability plus the broader community
- building on the achievements of previous ACT disability commitments

In 2022 the community was consulted to ask 'what is a good life' for people with disability. What was heard has now been captured in a listening report and you can access it on the following website <https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/act-disability-strategy>. You can also obtain a copy by contacting Rachel at SPI.

The ACT Government is working closely with the ACT Disability Reference Group to guide the creation of the 10-year ACT Disability Strategy and first 4-year Action Plan which will launch late in 2023.

NDIS Review

The NDIS Review is currently underway and will look at the design, operations and sustainability of the NDIS. It will also look at ways to make the market and workforce more responsive, supportive and sustainable.

Professor Bruce Bonyhady AM and Ms Lisa Paul AO PSM are co-chairs of the Independent Review Panel. The Review involves two parts:

- Part 1 examines the design, operations and sustainability of the NDIS.
- Part 2 examines ways to build a more responsive, supportive and sustainable market and workforce.

Many of you have already shared your experiences and ideas with other reviews and these will be considered. If you would like to contribute to this review, you can include as little or as much as you like and you can do this in a way that best suits you.

Some of the ways are:

- write a note
- make a video
- provide a recording
- answer some questions.

If you would like to have your say online, you can visit the website

<https://www.ndisreview.gov.au/have-your-say/have-your-say-online>

You can write to the review at: NDIS Review, PO Box 6500 , Canberra ACT 2600. Or phone 02 6271 5318.

Sensory Stories & Activities

As Book Week approaches, Sharing Places is building up the sensory story library and sensory boxes.


Sensory stories are an interactive approach to reading books and telling stories, engaging all the senses by introducing the characters, visuals, movements, sound, tangibles, and smells. Using various props to activate, see, touch, taste, feel and hear as the story unfolds, the participants can experience, explore and engage in the story.

Here Jaimie and Lisa are enjoying the tale of a Knight and a Dragon. As they make their way through the story, a hair dryer simulates the dragons fiery breath (self controlled by a big red button), a fan mimics the sound and effects of the dragons wings and a back scratcher imitates the dragons sharp claws. Like any good story, the twist in the end sees the knight wooing the lady dragon, and it ending happily every after!



Important Dates

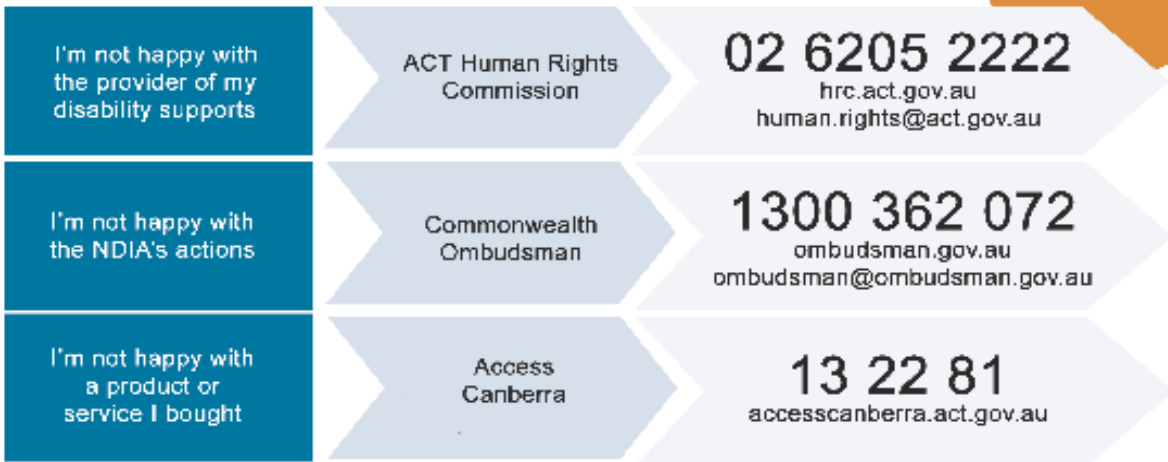
June	12	Monarch's Official Birthday Holiday
September	11	SPI Training Day
October	2	Labour Day Holiday
	30	Annual General Meeting
December	22	Last Day for clients – SPI Closure
January 2024	8	SPI Reopens

 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.

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



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Sharing Places Inc
Membership 2023-2024

First Name Family Name*or*

Business Name

Address

.....

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