

December 2020

Sunnyfield Matters

Above
Joel at the gardening
program at Maitland
Hub (October 2020).

For a brighter future

2020 has been a year like no other. While we all dealt with travel restrictions and social distancing measures, we're proud and thankful to clients, and staff on the ground, for adapting so quickly to the continually changing environment. This new normal challenged the way our services were delivered, leading us to think outside the box and create new ways to continue to support people with disability and their families.

Despite the social distancing requirements, clients and staff stayed well connected throughout the year via the new Care-at-Home service, virtual programs delivered through Zoom, creating new indoor activities within shared living homes, and forming new friendships utilising the old school method of pen pals.

Looking back, regardless of the lockdown, Sunnyfield accomplished many goals it set out to achieve. This year saw the opening of a new multicultural Community Services hub at Kemps Creek in Sydney's western suburbs, and a new short term accommodation service at Allambie Heights.

We improved the fixtures and furnishings in some Shared Living homes. We helped more clients and families with Support Coordination. And we never had to say 'no' to a person with disability that needed our support.

We also started a partnership with a property developer which will provide much needed Specialist Disability Accommodation over the next few years. The new Skills for Life program was launched and rolled out across all our Community Service hubs, utilising assistive technology resources to support clients on their path to independence.

With all this happening it certainly is looking like a brighter future for people with disability who choose Sunnyfield.



1

Peggy (Northern Beaches) reading a letter from Sue (Tweed Heads), both lovers of receiving mail, took pen to paper and formed a new pen pal friendship.

2

Basil at Dulwich Hill Hub attending the Skills for Life program that launched in November 2020.

Registered
NDIS
provider



Sunnyfield
disAbility Services

Message from the Chair and CEO

Dear clients, families, guardians, staff and friends of Sunnyfield,

Every day, Sunnyfield works towards enriching the lives of people with disability by creating choice, opportunities and skills for life, so they can live the life they choose. This is why Sunnyfield exists.

As 2020 draws to a close, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sunnyfield is proud to continue to support over 1900 people with disability across NSW and the ACT, to live the life they choose. We continue to support clients, families, guardians and carers as they navigate the changing and challenging environment of the NDIS. We have actively engaged with sector representatives to advocate for improved accommodation options for people with disability. We have contributed to the NDIA engagement process, as they seek to better understand the circumstances and issues facing both providers and participants. And we have always sought to continually improve the service and support we provide clients and their families.

Sunnyfield has only been able to achieve all of this because of the tireless effort of every person that works at Sunnyfield, together with the generous contribution of volunteers and the many community networks we partner with. The strength

of the Sunnyfield community has been tested this year, but together we have stood strong. Our staff have demonstrated their resilience and commitment, adopting all the safety and hygiene protocols implemented during the pandemic. They have adapted to new service delivery requirements. And they have always put the people with disability we support first and foremost.

As we look to the new year and hope for the COVID-19 pandemic to be over, Sunnyfield is reviewing our strategy and what we need to do so we remain relevant to the people with disability who choose to rely us. The disability sector today is very different to the one at the start of the NDIS just over four years ago, and will be very different again in four years' time. Sunnyfield understands that we too will need to change to ensure we can meet the needs of clients and their families.

So while we will improve the technology in our organisation and explore new ways to interact, service and communicate with clients and customers, we will never lose sight of our Mission – to enrich the lives of people with disability by creating choice, opportunities and skills for life. We are investing in training and developing our staff to make more services available for more clients, while ensuring we maintain

the consistency and quality of support services. We will increase employment opportunities for people with disability, through vocational training opportunities and creating new employment models. We will create and tailor services and programs to support clients to achieve their goals, embracing assistive technology and client led choice. And we will continue to advocate for better accommodation and living options for people with disability.

Thank you to the people with disability, and their families, guardians and carers, who choose Sunnyfield as their service provider and trusted partner.

We wish all clients, families, carers, staff and supporters a wonderful festive season. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable break, and look forward to working with you in 2021.

Best regards

Karen Ingram Sunnyfield Board Chair
Caroline Cuddihy Sunnyfield CEO



Above
Karen Ingram,
Sunnyfield Board Chair
(right) and Caroline
Cuddihy, Sunnyfield
CEO (left)



Above
Kaela from Kurri Kurri Hub, with the support of Sharyn completing her 2nd term of the Happy Paws Happy Hearts course run by the RSPCA.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

The Sunnyfield community



1

Tweed Heads Hub Bright Nights program at the 'Sip n Paint' night (September 2020).

2

All abilities aqua fitness swim program at Lake Macquarie Hub (September 2020).

3

Supported Employee Jessica at TAFE NSW participating in the Certificate I in Preparation for Work and Training program (October 2020).

4

Moses at Singleton Hub's Learning Tree program, the smile on his face says it all. (September 2020).

5

Allambie Heights Hub staff and clients enjoyed a spooktacular party to celebrate Halloween (October 2020).

6

Leanne cooking up a storm on the Skills for Life program at Kemps Creek Hub in Western Sydney (August 2020).

7

South Sydney Walker Talker group enjoying the fresh air and a walk along the Bi-Centennial Park in Homebush (September 2020).

8

Sunnyfield launched a series of virtual accommodation seminars for clients, customers and families during September to November 2020.





LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

After taking care of your loved ones, a gift in your Will to Sunnyfield can have a lasting impact for future generations. It is a practical way to support people with disability.

Sunnyfield uses gifts to enhance the quality of everyday life for people with disability and provide for items and resources not covered by government funding.

Every gift no matter the size, will make a difference.

For more information contact our Fundraising Team.

T 1300 588 688

E fundraising@sunnyfield.org.au

Contact us

Sunnyfield Support Office

185 Allambie Road Allambie Heights NSW 2100

PO Box 6432 Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

T 02 8977 8888

E fundraising@sunnyfield.org.au



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