

# Knoxbrooke Talk

February 2007

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Knoxbrooke Incorporated  
977 Burwood Hwy  
Ferntree Gully 3156

## Day Program Services (ATSS)

*Glen Bowen*  
Manager Disability Support Services

### Day Program Service closed on the following days

- 12 March 2007 Labour Day Public Holiday
- 6 to 10 April 2007 inclusive for Easter period
- 8 August 2007 Staff attending a professionals conference

### Arrivals and Departures

Amy, Emma, Brooke, Brendan, Roxanne, Damien, David all commenced 23 January 2007 and we extend a warm welcome.

### New Program Coordinator position

Knoxbrooke is still recruiting to this part time, 3 days per week position. We are seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person to:

- Communicate with clients, carers and staff to plan, develop and research programs and activities for clients that are based on their choices and interests.
- Construct a timetable of programs and activities which is client choice oriented and innovative for over 100 of Knoxbrooke clients

Further update on this position will be broadcast when more information is available.

## Accommodation Services

*Glen Bowen*  
Manager Disability Support Services

The review of Knoxbrooke's Supported Accommodation Services is coming to a close. Rad Kilian and I will provide you with further updates in upcoming editions of Knoxbrooke Talk

### Disability Act 2006

I reported in a previous edition of Knoxbrooke Talk that this legislation comes into operation on 1 July 2007.

One of the many areas covered in this new legislation is the area of planning for clients with disabilities. The following text is extracted from the new act which outlines the changes to planning for clients.

### Division 3—Planning

#### 52. Guiding principles for planning

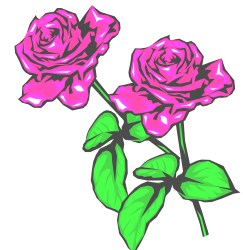
(1) Planning for the purposes of this Division should be undertaken to the extent to which it is reasonably practicable in accordance with the principles specified in sub-section (2).

(2) Planning should:

## Condolences

To Karen Dettmann (Yarra View Nursery) and family, Please accept our sincere condolences for the loss of your beloved brother, our thoughts are with you.

To Jan Dryden (ATSS) and family, We extend our deepest sympathy at the passing of your beloved father.



- (a) be individualised;
- (b) be directed by the person with a disability;
- (c) where relevant, consider and respect the role of family and other persons who are significant in the life of the person with a disability;
- (d) where possible, strengthen and build capacity within families to support children with a disability;
- (e) consider the availability to the person with a disability of informal support and other support services generally available to any person in the community;
- (f) support communities to respond to the individual goals and needs of persons with a disability;
- (g) be underpinned by the right of the person with a disability to exercise control over their own life;
- (h) advance the inclusion and participation in the community of the person with a disability with the aim of achieving their individual aspirations;
- (i) maximise the choice and independence of the person with a disability;
- (j) facilitate tailored and flexible responses to the individual goals and needs of the person with a disability;
- (k) provide the context for the provision of disability services to the person with a disability and where appropriate coordinate the delivery of disability services where there are more than one disability service provider.

Note: Planning encompasses a range of responses from a brief discussion and agreement about actions required through to an

extensive process and the development of a plan across a whole range of life areas documented in a format that is meaningful to the person and their network.

**53. Planning**

- (1) A person with a disability or a person on their behalf may request the disability service provider to provide assistance with planning.
- (2) The disability service provider must within a reasonable period of receiving the request for assistance arrange for the assistance to be provided.

**54. Support plan**

- (1) This section applies if a person is receiving ongoing disability services.
- (2) If this section applies, the disability service provider must, in consultation with the person with a disability, ensure that a support plan identifying the disability services being provided to that person is prepared within 60 days of the person commencing to regularly access the disability services.
- (3) While a person is receiving on-going disability services, a support plan—
  - (a) may be reviewed at any time by the disability service provider or at the request of the person with a disability or a person on their behalf;
  - (b) must be reviewed at least once during each period of 3 years commencing from when the support plan is first prepared.
- (4) If a person ceases to receive on-going disability services, the support plan is terminated.

**55. Planning for persons with an intellectual disability**

- (1) Without derogating from the general application of section 53, if a person with an intellectual disability or a person on their behalf has requested disability services from a disability service provider, the disability service provider must offer assistance

with planning in accordance with the principles specified in section 52.

- (2) If an offer of assistance under sub-section (1) is accepted, the disability service provider must arrange for the assistance to be provided within a reasonable period after the offer is accepted.
- (3) A person with an intellectual disability residing in a residential institution must have their support plan reviewed at intervals not exceeding 12 months.

In summary what this means is that Non-Government Organisations such as Knoxbrooke could be asked by a client or their advocate to develop up an individual plan. This would be achievable if it were limited to what we currently document in an Individual Program Plan, but our concern is that if a client requires a detailed plan:

- (a) Are we able to resource this,
- (b) Staff need to be trained appropriately,
- (c) If we were to develop detailed plans where would they sit to be effective for the person,
- (d) Day Services are probably not the best service type to be doing this level of detailed planning,
- (e) Accommodation Services would be better positioned, but again allocation of resources would need to be seriously considered,
- (f) Does this further lead to one person and lots of plans developed by different agencies.

I believe that although sometimes bureaucratic, the General Service Planning process coordinated by the Department of Human Services at least provides a centralised

system of people's plans; that in the past has led to a more coordinated approach to service planning for people with disabilities.

I suggest to "not throw the baby out with the bath water" type of approach is a good way to go with this new area in the legislation, use the good bits of the previous system and build in new bits that make planning for people with disabilities, meaningful, coordinated and outcome driven.

I have had the opportunity along with other agencies to express these views through a consultation forum with the Department of Human Services. Let's hope that they take on board what we had to say and assist us in resolving these issues in an appropriate way.

## The 'Having a Say' Conference 2007.

*Adam Spencer  
ATSS Instructor*

The annual 'Having a Say' conference was held in Geelong this year. It aims to give people with disabilities the opportunity to not only attend a conference but to be involved in the planning and running of the conference.

There were ten people from Knoxbrooke who attended this year, Tim, Jason T, Jeremy, Amber, Alexandrine, David C, Meg, Russell, Adam and Dianne. We left on the Tuesday morning with Dianne driving the bus. We checked into our cabins, located a stone's throw from the river.

The first day was spent relaxing and taking a look around. The day was topped off with a nice meal at the local RSL and a couple of drinks (just ask Russell). The conference began on the Wednesday. It was held

in the Deakin University and was opened by the mayor of Geelong. Over the next few days the Knoxbrooke crew attended several seminars, activities and performances. Latin dancing, cricket, singing and sailing .... just to name a few.

Jason spoke at two different seminars. He spoke about personal achievements and also about client networking. He spoke extremely well and was well received by all.

The highlight for most seemed to be the dinner/dance held on the Thursday evening. Everyone put on their glad rags and dancing shoes and let their hair down. The trip home was via the ferry ride from Queenscliff to Sorrento. A tired bunch arrived back at Knoxbrooke on the Friday afternoon. A great time had by all, it was a very worthwhile experience. If anyone ever gets the chance to go to a 'Having a Say' conference it is well worth the time and effort.



*Adam, David, Jason, Russell, Alexandrine, Amber, Timothy, Jeremy & Meg*



*Alexandrine at dance workshop*

### First Hand Report

*Last Tuesday Meg, Amber, David, Russell, Alexandrine, Tim, Jeremy, Adam, Dianne and*

*I went to the 'Having a Say' Conference at Geelong.*

*I left Knoxbrooke at 9.30AM it took is 2 hours to get to Geelong.*

*On Wednesday afternoon I had Latin dancing and I enjoyed it.*

*On Thursday morning I went to a seminar. It was about a Western Australian Scheme called The Politician Adoption Scheme. Adam said "Jason, this is right up your alley".*

*On Thursday afternoon I made two speeches and they were very enthusiastically received by those that listened to them.*

*On Thursday night at the dinner dance I danced with an attractive woman. Her name is Sally.*

*I asked Sally what her favourite Radio Station is. Sally said that she listens to Fox FM. I told her I'm on radio myself and to tune into 1116 SEN.*

*A great time was had by all.*

*By Jason from Boronia*



*Jason and Sally enjoying a dance*

# Horticulture Group

*Peter Berthelsen  
General Manager*

*Karen Dettmann  
Disability Manager Supported  
Employment Services*

The Knoxbrooke RTO has started a busy year in partnership with DEAC . The Green Thumbs program allows trainees to develop individual training programs to suit their needs to prepare them for a career in horticulture.

The partnership has allowed us to offer a greater number of training options for those at Yarra View Nursery and other trainees interested in horticulture. Training options include: Certificate 1 in Horticulture, Certificate 1 in Vocational Preparation, Numeracy and Literacy and selected units from Certificate 2 in Horticulture.

Feedback from other disability services has implied that, this is a unique program meeting the needs of many.

Thank you to Jay and DEAC staff for the work they have done in setting this program up and to all the supervisors at Yarra View Nursery who have embraced the trainees in the day to day work teams. Without their participation it would be hard to deliver such a quality program .

Although the drought has not been good for nurseries we at Yarra View are still very busy. The development of the nursery goes along in leaps and bounds, the dam is slowly filling with water and the reed beds are almost ready to be planted.

# Wise Words

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

*- Sir Winston Churchill*

# Time Out

An inexperienced real estate salesman asked his boss if he could refund the deposit to an angry customer who had discovered that the land he had bought was under water. "What kind of salesman are you?" the boss scolded. "Get out there and sell him a boat."



# WANTED

**Corner unit cabinet**  
to house a television in  
Room 7 at the ATSS

Must be sturdy as this room  
is men's domain

Please contact Paul Ravenarki  
(Room 7 Coordinator)  
9758 3666

# 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball



August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007,  
Karralyka Function Centre,  
Ringwood East.

Please find attached our  
formal invitation and  
remittance form.

Everyone from the  
Knoxbrooke Community is  
considered family including  
staff from Community  
Residential Homes where our  
clients live to those that have  
an interest in supporting  
Knoxbrooke in many various  
ways or who have a past  
connection with our  
organisation.

We look forward to sharing  
this anniversary with you all.

# The Home of Garden Lovers



136 York Road  
Mt Evelyn

