

Knoxbrooke Talk

From the CEO

Rad Kilian
Chief Executive
Officer



Since the last newsletter both the State Government and the Federal Government have brought down their budgets for the 2005/2006 financial year. It appears to be more of the same from both Governments with funding increases not meeting the anticipated increased costs.

Firstly the State budget: The State Government supply funds for the ATSS and our supported accommodation services.

The budget papers show an increase in funding to the various State Government departments of 2.5%. This should be indicative of the increase that DHS pass onto us.

This probable increase has to be weighed against other information included in the budget papers that indicate a CPI increase over the same period of 2.75% and an average increase in wage costs of 3.75%.

Our professional associations estimate that increased funding of between 2.9% and 3.2% is required by agencies like ours to cover the inflation and wage estimated increases.

The above obvious shortfall factors in an "efficiency improvement" for our operations. This supposedly justifies the State Government for not passing on the full effect of cost increases. It is up to us to reduce costs by operating more efficiently. This is expected at a time when DHS are requiring more and more paper work and increased monitoring of services.

To add to the dilemma the union movement has lodged wage increase claims well in excess of the estimated 3.75% included in the budget. They want the first instalment of the increase to be paid in July, to be followed up with a second increase before Christmas.

The State Government do have discretionary power to increase our funding to pay for agreed wage increases but they are not under any contractual obligation to fully fund any increase above the 2.5%.

The Federal budget: The Federal Government fund our supported employment services.

They have increased block-funding grants by 2.1%. This same indexation has been applied to non-employment programs including Advocacy and Targeted Support.

Our block funding is being phased out over the period to 30th June 2007; this is being replaced by Case Based Funding.

There is no increase in the levels of case based funding this year or over the period to June 2007. The funding amounts established by the Government in 2005 were set to account for the expected inflation over this time.

As can be seen by the above forecasts for CPI and for wage cost increases our continued cost management is essential.

The Federal Government will continue to support us with required professional help to make our supported employment services more self-sufficient.

Both budgets present a significant challenge to us in preserving and improving the services that we provide.

May 2005

Inside this Issue

- 1** From the CEO
- 2** ATSS
- 3** ATSS cont'd
Knoxbrooke Industries
Residentials
Special Achievements
Horticulture Group
- 4** Horticulture Group cont'd
Thought for the Month
Time Out

Knoxbrooke Incorporated
977 Burwood Hwy
Ferntree Gully 3156

ATSS

*Belinda King
Manager*

Jenny Quelch



Car Boot Sale

The weather was not too kind on the morning of our Car Boot Sale, cold, windy and we experienced a few minutes of drizzle. However the stallholders did turn up and most were rewarded for their efforts.

Knoxbrooke was able to raise funds from the car site bookings, the sausage sizzle (thanks to Rob for playing chef), tea and coffee as well as soft drinks. A portion of the funds will be used to purchase swimming equipment and the remainder will be put towards purchasing a cover for the trampoline in an effort to prevent it being attacked by vandals.

A special thanks to the parents that helped with this effort and to those of our community that supported the day by just having a look around and making a purchase or two.

Thanks to Jan C for organising a nickelodeon that provided a musical backdrop and lots of atmosphere. The nickelodeon was 7 metres long and 5 meters high and produced the music in a similar way to a pianola. The owner provided this service free of charge and gave the donations he raised back to Knoxbrooke.

Also a special thank you to David and Dianne who both volunteered their services to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

Autumn Review

Our client's music and drama presentation was very well received by parents/carers and friends who attended on Thursday May 26th.

We are very proud of the effort and the obvious talent that our clients displayed through their items and also of our staff who volunteer outside their normal work hours to help with supplying tea for everyone and producing the performance. Special recognition should also go to Barry as drama and music co-ordinator for a wonderful production.



*Meg, Adam J, Andrea, Kelley & Claire
'making the moves'*



*Jason T, Pam, Meg, Jodie, Melissa
& Adam J in full swing*



Seasoned performers! Jodie & Amy

It also happened to be the final time that Amy will probably perform with her friends, as Amy and her family have moved to live near Nhill in North Western Victoria. We want to wish her all the best and thank her for her wonderful contribution to the drama group during the short time that Amy has been a client at Knoxbrooke. You're a star!

Camps

Camps are currently being organised for Echuca in July and Horsham (The Awakening Festival) in October.

This year The Awakening Festival will also include a Presentation Ball, which we hope our clients will be able to attend and perhaps even take part.

Congratulations

Peter (instructor extraordinaire) is to be congratulated on having obtained an 'Endorsed Drivers Licence' that will enable him to drive our larger buses.

Persistence being the name of the game as it only took him 12 months! You can't rush these things!

End of Term Activities Week

End of term is fast approaching (Friday June 24th is our last day) and the 'End Of Term Activities Week' will be organised.

All clients are being asked at the moment what activities they would like to do for end of term.

Antigone will be formulating and overseeing the programs to be held during this special week. We anticipate that parents and clients will have two weeks notice to indicate what will be happening.

Making life easier!

Room 6 has had a ceiling hoist installed and we also now have a hoist in the pool area.

This will enable clients that are in wheel chairs to have easier access to the pool and encourage them to use this facility more often.

Thank you to Dianne for overseeing the installation of both of these hoists.

Futures For Young Adults Implementation Group Meeting

This meeting was held on Friday May 20th and our very own Jason T had been asked to speak together with a young lady on

behalf of all young people with a disability.

People who attended the meeting with Jason and Fiona from Knoxbrooke included, Kevin and Leah from VALID, and Talmo Languiller Labor Member for Derrimot and Member of the Victorian Right of the ALP.

The meeting discussed many of the options available to young adults with a disability i.e. TAFE, open employment and supported employment.

The meeting was successful and the next FFYA Implementation meeting will be in July.

Client Free Day

We are planning our final 'Client Free Day' for 2005 for Wednesday August 10th.

On this day staff we attend various training sessions in IPP development, Person Centred Planning, tube feeding and advanced computer skills.

Knoxbrooke Industries



*Lynda Hopkinson
Manager*

I have pleasure in introducing to you this month another of our wonderful workers.

Hello, my name is Kristy Elaine and I live in North Ringwood.

I am 26 years old and looking forward to being an Aunty.

I have two sisters and two brothers. The girl's names are Amanda (she is 22 with a baby on the way) and Brooke who is 17 years old and living in Dandenong with her cousin. The boy's names are Glenn and Kyle. Glenn just turned 16 and Kyle is only 4 years old.

Residentials

*Irene Peach
Co-ordinator*



Hello again. My holiday in China for 2 weeks was an awesome experience. The Great Wall proved a strenuous hike though!

Grateful thanks to all residential staff, who willingly extended themselves to cover extra shifts. It's Kerry's turn – two weeks in far North Queensland at this time of year sounds good too.

We endeavour to organize holidays for all of our clients throughout the year by way of a break from their daily routine and secondly to enable them to spend time with people outside our organisation. New friendships develop and shared experiences are a great source of conversation for weeks following. It's the same for residential staff – whereby when we return, usually refreshed, but ready to continue in our support role with renewed enthusiasm.

Most of our clients have been living within our residential houses for some 10 to 20 years and all appear very secure and comfortable within themselves in their 'home' environment. We are fortunate indeed to have retained residential staff who are in for 'the long term' with little staff turnover in this area. I'm sure our residents benefit here – stability for them within their home with familiar support staff has rewards for all.

Through this newsletter item I again wish to thank a great team of residential staff for their commitment and team spirit. Without their support the role of organising rosters, diffusing difficult issues etc. would be an impossible one.

Our residents' holiday plans were discussed in our last newsletter.

James L's health continues to improve, however he remains 'home' each day – honing in on his cake making skills.

So till next month – make every day count.

Special Achievements

Congratulations to Pam, one of our residential and ATSS clients, who won a 'Special Olympics' first place in swimming as well as two competitors ribbons in recent competitions. Pam trains each weekend and we are very proud of her achievements.



Pam with her ribbons in hand

Horticulture Group

*Peter Berthelsen
Manager*



*Karen Dettmann
Client Services Manager*

Over the last few weeks Yarra View Nursery has gone through a major transformation, on top of the usual potting, growing, pruning and selling of plants, we have graded, leveled and graveled most of the outdoor growing area.

The transformation has been huge and the area looks sensational.

Our outdoor stock is the best quality it has ever been and the feedback we are getting from customers is very positive.

We welcome Trevor to the dispatch area and say goodbye and good luck to Sal.

We achieved a large order to Magnet Mart without too many hic-ups.

There are approximately thirty people enrolled in Certificate 2 Horticulture and approximately ten are participating in Certificate 1 at Yarra View RTO.

‘Thought for the Month’

Wondrous is the strength of cheerfulness, and its power of endurance - the cheerful man will do more in the same time, will do it; better, will preserve it longer, than the sad or sullen.

*Thomas Carlyle
Scottish Philosopher 1795 –1881*

Time Out

A little boy opened the big old family Bible with fascination and looked at the old pages as he turned them.



Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mum, look what I found," the boy called out.
"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: "I think it's Adam's suit!"

The Home of Garden Lovers

136 York Road
Mt. Evelyn
Ph. 9737 0851

Specials

Sedums (succulents)

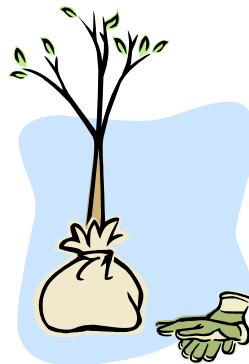
125ml pots

\$3.00

Impatiens

140ml pots

\$4.50



*Don't forget to use the discount voucher
(attached to last month's newsletter) and
receive 25% off when you purchase
a bare rooted tree
or rose*

