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EllieB's Respite Centre at Daveron Park comes to life

We are so happy to share that the Daveron Park redevelopment will be finished in the coming months. Watching the new centre come to life has been incredibly exciting. The new build has more self-contained rooms and shared spaces than ever

before. The design features support an inclusive and welcoming environment. The building is fresh, airy, modern and designed for fun. Communal areas can open up for more fun activities than ever before.

BEFORE



NOW



SOON...



**Watch
me smile**

★
"Watching the new centre come to life has been incredibly exciting! We have a very rare opportunity to watch people blossom in these spaces and we can't wait to get started..."
Wendy Warren, CEO



A Note from the Chair

Here we are in 2023 – personally, I'm hoping for a calmer, more orderly year. In a wider sense, I hope that the health issues faced from Covid, and the stress on our health system, can be more safely and speedily managed, and that the financial pressures facing us due to inflation are able to be resolved successfully. So that's not a lot to ask, is it?

I think the bottom line is that it's going to be a pretty tough year for us all, perhaps in different ways than the last couple of years.

I can, however, reassure you all that EllieB's is in a very sound financial place, and that our staff continue to do amazing work. We would like to have some more on board, but staff shortages is not just an industry-wide challenge, it's now across pretty well every sector of the workplace space.

Our re-development of the Davoren Park facility is going along pretty smoothly – some delays have been unavoidable due to weather, delays in supplies and shortages of workforce personnel (bricklayers). I know we all can't wait to see the finished product later this year.

I would also like to remind everyone that the federal government's inquiry into the operation of the NDIS is taking submissions from anyone who is interested. Their website (www.ndiscommission.gov.au) gives more information about this. Please make your voice heard – if they don't get the right information, then the right changes won't be made. And that is also true of our organization. We are one of the few Boards in this state that has strong carer representation, and we would like to hear from family or close friends of the clients we support that feel they could make a contribution at the Board level. If you would like to chat to either myself or Wendy in this regard, or another carer on the Board, let us know.

Enjoy some walks in the sunshine while it lasts, maybe along the beach or by a river. I find being in nature is a wonderfully calming thing to do.

Sue Chapman

Sue Chapman

Chairperson | EllieB's

Inclusive Playgrounds in and around Adelaide

There are some awesome inclusive play spaces that are designed to ensure kids of all abilities can engage in play. With so many parks and playgrounds being redeveloped and becoming more inclusive we thought we might share a few of the hidden gems.



Quentin Kenihan/
Rymill Park Accessible Playground
(Park 14 East Park Lands, Adelaide)

BLAKES CROSSING ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND (MAIN TERRACE, BLAKEVIEW)

The adventure playground and oval spans over 14 hectares across both sides of the road. This amazing park has lots of inclusive play equipment including a Wheelspin, Tri-Pod Swing and sensory Orbs. Other equipment includes in ground trampolines, flying fox, a great embankment slide, swings including a

great big nest swing, climbing nets and frames and lots of things to climb and balance on. Visitors to the park need to keep in mind that it is a shared Blake's Crossing Christian College and they use it during school hours.

Credit: Information and Images from kidsinadelaid.com.au



THORNDON PARK PLAYGROUND (HAMILTON TERRACE, PARADISE)

This newly refurbished all-inclusive playground is just amazing with so many fun things to do for all ages and abilities. The new playground is designed the bird life that live in the park and historic reservoir. The equipment includes climbing sculptures, slides, swings, flying fox, nest cubby, trampolines, carousel, water play and more. Some of the playground's accessible features include a liberty (wheelchair) swing, vision impaired table tennis table, wheelchair accessible

trampolines, raised sand play area, raised water play area, an all-access carousel, Auslan signage, communication boards and accessible pathways.

Thorndon Park has an accessible toilet which has been fitted with an adult sized change table and hoist.

Credit: Information and Images from campbelltown.sa.gov.au.



QUENTIN KENIHAN/RYMILL PARK ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND (PARK 14 EAST PARK LANDS, ADELAIDE)

The Rymill/Murlawirrapurka Park accessible playground has been named after disability advocate, actor and writer Quentin Kenihan. The play space is fully fenced with wide paths and includes sensory elements, water play and features that encourage shared play.

The park has been designed with all abilities in mind including all equipment access for those in wheelchairs. The park's equipment includes mini in-ground trampolines, sound and sensory garden, water play, carousel, swings and more.

Credit: Information and Images from kidsinadelaid.com.au





A Word from Wendy

Despite the 2022 Covid chaos, we kicked off the new year laying down our plans for the future. We are so happy to share that the Daveron Park redevelopment will be finished in the coming months. Watching the new centre come to life has been incredibly exciting. The new build has more self-contained rooms and shared spaces than ever before. The design features support an inclusive and welcoming environment. The building is fresh, airy, modern and designed for fun. Communal areas can open up for more fun activities than ever before.

Back in 2016, we started the massive job of purchasing the Daveron Park property from Renewal SA. With grand plans to demolish the old properties and rebuild a new centre that is more inclusive and relaxed for all who stayed there. It has been challenging at times but here we are in 2023 and that dream is now becoming a reality. I am sure you can imagine our joy as we approach the finish line.

This centre will provide much needed respite and day options for many people living with a developmental disability across the Northern suburbs.

Thank you to our General Manager (Accommodation) Peter for attending the weekly meetings with the builders and helping me with the various tasks. Also,

to General Manager (Client Services) Emma, Service Coordinator (Respite) Lillian, House Manager (Respite) Christina and Rita (Personal Assistant/CEO) for their efforts in preparing the old site for demolition and working tirelessly to set up the new temporary respite service.

Most importantly, thank you to our support workers and house managers for everything. It is such a great privilege to come to work every day and be part of this amazing community which contributes to helping others live better.

In the words of Helen Keller (one of my favourite people)...“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.”

As EllieB's CEO, I feel extremely blessed to be part of such a kind and supportive community and looking forward to working alongside you in the year ahead.

Wendy Warren

Wendy Warren
Chief Executive | EllieB's

“In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity.”

Sun Tzu

Ellie B's Carer Advisory Group



In early December, a small group of EllieB's clients attended the Christmas "Jingle & Mingle" lunch at the Watershed Cafe in Mawson Lakes. It was only a small group consisting of some regular attendee's and new faces also. It was nice to be able to catch up with clients again and have Lilian and Christine (respite co-coordinators) join us. The Cafe was very busy and a little slow but in Lillian's words "all is forgiven with such delicious food." Clients went away with full tummys and some treats to share with their family. We hope to arrange some interesting outings and information sessions for you to attend this year and if you have any suggestions of what would interest you my details will be at the end of the article.

I was not able to inform you in the last newsletter about my daughter's NDIS outcome as I was still waiting on the decision. It was certainly not a process I would like to go through again and I was pleased to hear that the current government are no longer using the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. We started the process following her plan then dated, July 2021. A planned video link in March 2022 was cancelled on the day. We were scheduled again for July when her current plan was about to finish. This time it was a 4 way phone conversation with an AAT representative, NDIS lawyers, myself and my lawyer. Once again it appeared that they did not want to waiver from their

original decision or take into account information from the numerous reports we had forwarded to them.

They asked if I was likely to take it any further if the appeal was not successful. I was ready to go all the way at this point as I did not want to give in on what was in her original plan of active overnight which was required even more than in her previous plans (2 only). My lawyer spoke privately to the NDIS lawyer and it was then wait and see.

NDIS followed with an offer which I was reluctant to accept but it is a very tiring and drawn out process and the next step would be very expensive and still no guarantee. The plan was rolled over with additional funding in her SIL package but no extra in her therapy funding. Therefore my Support coordinator has requested a review of this funding. Now many months down the track we are still waiting.

I extend my wishes for two of EllieB's clients I met at the Christmas luncheon who are going through NDIS reviews also.

My phone number is 0411483976.

Email 7982726d@tpg.com.au.

Dawn Brodie

Dawn Brodie

Convenor | EllieB's Carer Advisory Group



"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."

Helen Keller



Amrita and Bimal's sons 18th birthday



Wendy, Peter and House Manager Michelle (in pink) were honoured to be invited to help celebrate Amrita and Bimal's son's 18th birthday. All were greeted at the door by Bimal, and shortly after, Amrita joined who quickly introduced them to the birthday boy, who is such a lovely young man. Amrita looked absolutely beautiful as the proud mother of her 18-year-old son. Bimal looked pretty dapper as well.

During the night, Wendy, Peter and Michelle were very well looked after and enjoyed many laughs and joyful moments. Witnessing and being a part of such a lovely cultural gathering was such a great honour. They enjoyed some extremely (and slightly hot) delicious food and soon after a gathering with music and dancing, which was amazing.

Later in the night, they were asked to join in with the mix and soon after Wendy, Peter and Michelle found themselves on the dance floor. Peter managed to retreat fairly quickly to witness (and record) Wendy dancing away with the family having a wonderful time. She was even able to teach some of the guests how to do the robot dance!

Amrita and Bimal were so welcoming and the trio were included in everything. Upon leaving, Wendy, Peter and Michelle thanked them for their warmth and for such an enjoyable and entertaining night. It was absolutely wonderful to hear Bimal's heartfelt feedback about his respect and gratitude for working with such a great management team and organisation. He hoped to work with them for many years to come. It was such a wonderful compliment and the joy they felt in the room left them feeling on cloud nine and still to this moment whenever they reflect on that lovely night.

Sam turns 21! ★

Sam spent the day with his mum and enjoyed a pizza party in the evening. There was lots of singing by his housemates and smiles all around. Sarah and Sam's housemate Steven custom-decorated his birthday cake with all his favourites including doughnuts, chocolate and lolly snakes.



Wallaroo Summer Fun

The crew at Wallaroo had so much fun over the Summer period. Whether it was working out at the gym, Christmas celebrations, fishing, visiting Lucky Bay by ferry or riding the Moonta mines historic train ride, there were smiles all round.



The boys on an outing in Adelaide



Nick at the gym doing some stretches



David on an exercise bike



Selfie for Lucas the Elfie



Lucas getting his arm painted



Nick with some fresh (ink) arm painting hoping it was going to be a real tattoo.



David getting his arm done



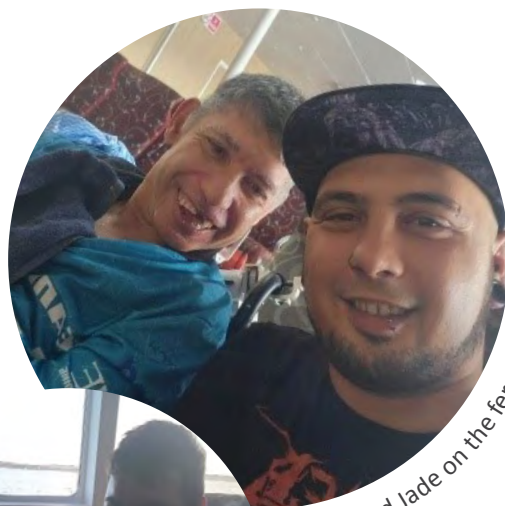
Nick trying to catch a squid no luck that day



Around the Traps



Lucas when they went on the ferry to Lucky Bay and return to wallaroo



Nick and Jade on the ferry to Lucky Bay



David on the ferry ride to Lucky Bay



Nick enjoying some fresh sea breeze on the ferry



Travis on the ferry ride looks like he could be on a cruise around the Pacific Islands



Lucas and Simon on the Moonta mines historic train ride



Nick before hopping onto the Train at the Moonta Mines



Robert's Birthday Party



Christmas Celebrations at EllieB's

Munno Para West

The participants and staff had a blast at Munno Para West celebrating Christmas. They enjoyed having their friend Steven come over from Paralowie for the Christmas party and taking fun photos in front of the Christmas tree.



EllieB's Jingle & Mingle Carer's Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday the 7th of December, EllieB's hosted a Jingle & Mingle Carer's Christmas Lunch at The Water Shed Café. This annual event is held to celebrate the carers of our participants and the year that was. Carer's have the opportunity to enjoy a fully catered lunch whilst getting the chance to meet other carers. This year our carers were joined by members of the board Betsy, Dawn and Christine who are also parents of EllieB's participants. Our Service Coordinator Lilian and Children's Services House Manager Christina also joined in on the fun. A wonderful day was had by all!



Celebrating Our Diverse Culture

EllieB's Adult Day Options staff got together to celebrate diversity and culture for their end of year celebration. Staff chose to dress in their cultural dress to celebrate the diversity in our workplace and the various cultures they are from.



Day Options Christmas Celebrations



Our Day Options Christmas celebration was held on Tuesday 20th of September. All of our Adult Day Options participants gathered at Scarlet for a fulfilling party. There were lots of laughs especially from the jokes in the Christmas Crackers. The variety of food was amazing with the prawns and Christmas ham proving very popular. We had a special visit from Miss Claus (our wonderful Elise) who gave out special gifts and posed for lots of photos.

Our EllieB's Day Options groups enjoy having so much fun whilst ensuring the participants' individual NDIS goals are being met. Some of the goals we support participants to achieve are community access and inclusion, social participation and skill development. It doesn't matter what our participants are engaged in, you can guarantee there are lots of smiles, laughing and having fun.

To register your interest or to learn more about our Day Options programs contact Lilian Odhigu on 0477 600 083.





NDIS UPDATES

The Participant Service Guarantee

In response to a key recommendation in the 2019 independent review of the NDIS Act (the Tune Review), the Commonwealth government made a commitment to put a Participant Service Guarantee in place.

The Participant Service Guarantee sets clear time-frames that the NDIA must keep to in relation to access decisions, plan approvals, plan reassessments and nominee changes. This ensures participants, families and carers will know how long processes will take.

The Participant Service Guarantee includes the five engagement principles in the Service Charter. These will be set into law when the Guarantee is formally legislated. However, the standards of the Guarantee apply now.

The NDIA now report on their performance against the Participant Service Guarantee's time-frames each quarter in their Quarterly Reports. The reports are available at <https://ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/quarterly-reports>. The Commonwealth Ombudsman will independently check our performance.

If you would like to read more about the Participant Service Guarantee in the Participant Service Charter at <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-programs-services-for-people-with-disability-national-disability-insurance-scheme/ndis-legislative-reforms>.

The Participant Service Charter

The Participant Service Charter guides how the NDIA will work with participants, their families and carers to deliver the NDIS. It is their public commitment to ensuring they put the participant at the centre of everything they do.

The Service Charter commits the NDIA to provide a service that is transparent, responsive, respectful, empowering and connected. It explains how participants can contact the NDIA, make a complaint or provide feedback and their rights if they do not agree with a decision the NDIA have made.

If you would like to read more about the Participant Service Guarantee and the Participant Service Charter head to <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-programs-services-for-people-with-disability-national-disability-insurance-scheme/ndis-legislative-reforms>.

The Participant Service Improvement Plan

The NDIA are committed to improving how they serve NDIS participants. To do this, they have created a Participant Service Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP is our blueprint for what they want to change over the next two years to improve the NDIS experience for participants. The SIP has many improvement activities intended to improve the experience and the outcomes of participants.

The SIP will increase participant confidence in the Scheme, with changes such as:

- A current contact in the NDIA, and the full name of a person on correspondence to participants including the reasons behind their decisions;
- Easy-to-use guidelines, and more plain English descriptions and examples;
- Plan summary statements and draft plans – before a participant's plan is approved;
- Longer duration plans which are reviewed at participants' or NDIA's request, rather than on a set annual basis;
- More responsive and flexible ICT systems, including a new digital platform to support work with participants, and an NDIS mobile app for real-time transactions.

Find more information about the Participant Service Improvement Plan please go to: <https://ndis.gov.au/about-us/policies/service-charter/participant-service-improvement-plan>.



EllieB's
WATCH ME SMILE

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