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Watch
me smile



THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!



The countdown is on to the launch of our state-of-the-art respite centre in Davoren Park and we couldn't be more excited to share it with you as it all comes to life.

Key features of the redevelopment include...

- More self-contained rooms and shared spaces than ever before
- Design features that support an inclusive and welcoming environment
- A fresh, airy, modern feel designed for fun
- Communal areas that open up for more interactive activities
- Lovely gardens to play and enjoy

We look forward to sharing more updates as the months unfold!



A Note from the Chair

Autumn is upon us, and as the days grow shorter and cooler, instead of racing around outside and being oriented on the outside world, I've been spending some time reflecting on the many and varied communities that support all of us. I know I don't acknowledge the benefit of communities supporting me nearly enough.

So, I wanted to express my thanks to all of my EllieB's communities – at the Board level, the behind the scenes staff, and the front-line workers who take care of our family members and also those who unfortunately don't have family involved in their lives. I am grateful to you all. Communities are so vital - my life would be very different without the support of EllieB's. It's the reason that I decided to join the Board, to give back in some small way. It's also the reason that I can bare the load of being responsible for the welfare of my family member with a disability as it

is now shared with EllieB's people that have proved their dedication and love over many years. These are people that I trust, and for whom I am very grateful.

The big project of redeveloping the Davoren Park respite centre is in full swing – everybody is very excited to see it finally coming to fruition. It will be so wonderful to see it in use in the not too distant future – benefiting so many of the EllieB's community. It's the culmination of a dream many of us have had for some years – to create something that will benefit our community for many years to come. There's that word again – 'community'.

Sue Chapman

Sue Chapman
Chairperson | EllieB's

A Word from Wendy

Without a doubt, the excitement is building around the redevelopment of our state-of-the-art respite facility in Davoren Park (DP). As Sue mentioned in her piece, this is the culmination of a dream many of us have had for some years and to see it come to life, and what it means now and for the future, really is something special.

Three of our existing Board members (Betsy, Dawn and Chris) and their children were among the early DP respite clients back in the 1990's. And here they are today almost 30 years later supporting us to ensure clients and families continue to be supported for decades to come. Special thanks also go to Peter Norton, our General Manager of Accommodation (the quiet achiever) who has attended site meetings and worked with the builder as the key representative for EllieB's! Peter we value your contribution immensely. Such an amazing legacy for all involved!

We look forward to sharing more with you as it all unfolds!

This edition of the newsletter boasts many amazing highlights from our wonderful community. From birthdays, to gardening, to putting complex puzzles together, there certainly have been many smiles shared these past few months.

Excitedly, we will be sharing even more smiles, celebrations and latest news on a wider scale as



EllieB's and Enable Plan Management officially step into the world of social media! As of May, you can find both EllieB's and Enable Plan Management on Instagram and Facebook. If you use any of those platforms, be sure to like and follow EllieB's Disability Services and Enable Plan Management to stay up to date with the latest!

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Rita to her new role of Executive Assistant supporting me, Peter and the Board. There is much to juggle and she is doing an incredible job. Thank you, Rita!

As the world reopens from the pandemic, this is a very busy time for all involved coming off the back of a couple of challenging years. So, a big thank you to everyone for your hard work in making this another successful year.

To echo the sentiments of our Chair, Sue, we certainly would not be the incredible organisation we are without the staff, carers and community.

I know I say it every time, but I truly do feel extremely blessed to be part of such a kind and supportive community. Thank you everyone for all that you do.

Wendy Warren

Wendy Warren
Chief Executive | EllieB's



“Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.”

Helen Keller



EllieB's Carer Advisory Group

We were lucky to have a reasonably mild summer and let's hope the weather will be kind to us for a little longer until Davoren Park respite centre is completed. Covid has certainly slowed the process down but we can all look forward to a grand opening later in the year.

I wish I could have something more positive to say about the NDIS but unfortunately not. I advised you in the last newsletter that my daughters plan was rolled over for a further 2 years (which I was OK with). However, the NDIS did not look at other funding than her Supported independent living (SIL). My Support Coordinator went back to inform them that they should refer to her Functional Capacity Report which they required when we went to tribunal. This report stated that more funding was required for therapies to assist in meeting her goals. When approving the extra therapy funding for therapies, I was also informed that we would have a new 1-year plan as NDIS clients living in (SDA) housing could not have a 2 year plan. You cannot help but wonder if they read all the information that they request before what should be a well-informed decision. It seems that not all NDIS workers

know the rules. Now, after 6 months we have another plan. Therefore, we will need to advise all the services she uses and new agreements will need to be signed. Thank goodness for Support Coordinators.

It has now been almost 2 years of having to deal with the NDIS and I really hope everything goes more smoothly from now on. I would like to hear from 2 clients that I spoke to at the Christmas luncheon to see how they are progressing with their NDIS review if you are willing to. My phone number is at the end of this article.

The Carers Advisory Group are working on a Carer Mystery Bus Tour and you will be advised when plans are completed. Hope you will be able to attend. We would love to see you there.

My phone number is: **0411 483 976**
Email: **7982726d@tpg.com.au**

Dawn Brodie

Dawn Brodie
Convenor | EllieB's Carer Advisory Group

Welcome Rita!

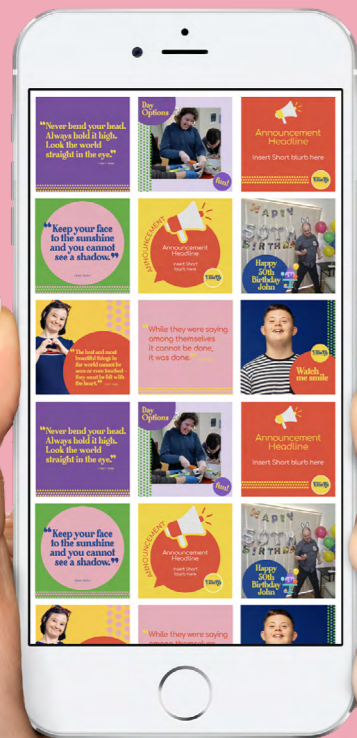


Rita is the new Executive Assistant. Working closely with the CEO and wearing many hats, Rita always does her best to listen and support everyone to the best of her ability and is a joy to work with!

When asked about her role, Rita shared this quote:

"Working hard for something we don't care about is called stress. Working hard for something we love is called passion. My passion is helping others"

Welcome Rita, we are so grateful for all that you do!



WE ARE ON THE SOCIALS!

We are excited to announce that we have officially launched Facebook and Instagram pages for both EllieB's and Enable Plan Management!

If you are on Facebook or Instagram, simply search EllieB's Disability Services and Enable Plan

Management to follow, share and keep up with the latest!

Alternatively, use the QR Codes below to be taken to our website where to can click through to each page!

EllieB's Disability Services

Scan the code to connect to our socials



Enable Plan Management

Scan the code to connect to our socials

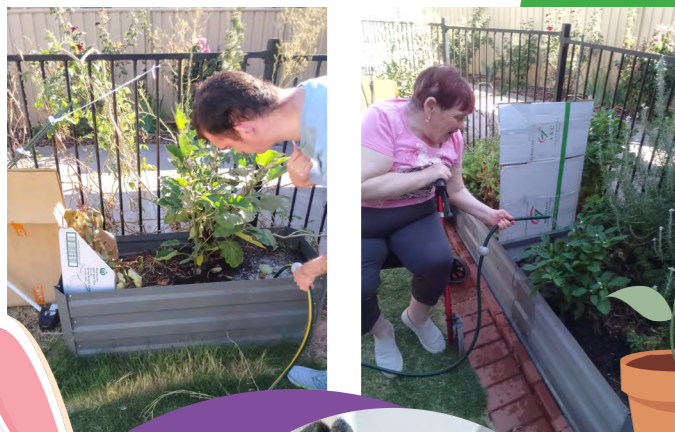


Around the Traps



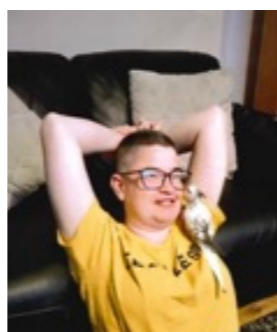
The beautiful weather in February helped our vegie and herb garden flourish at Scarlet.

Our Day Options clients supported by Support Worker, Lutfur, love to tend to the garden and water it daily.



Knowles Road's pet rabbit Coco guarding the chocolate eggs at Easter!

Snaps from Knowles Road



Behold the amazing Trevor

He finished the 100 pieces puzzle. It took him couple of days, but he nailed it. That's what we like about the day options. It's a place to empower, enhance and awaken the giants in our participants. It feels good says Trevor.



Travis cooking the weekly BBQ for the houses



Lucas at the Disability Expo in Adelaide



David and Travis at Mintaro Maze hoping not to get lost.



David at the library listening to his fav music



Nick practicing his fishing skills so when we go fishing for real he will be a pro



Nick being a master chef cooking up some yummy biscuits



Travis After a hard days filming (yes we have a tv star)



David taking a well earned rest after a walk to the park



David at the Moonta show and shine with one of his favourite cars



Lucas our security man, nothing gets past this man



Travis working on one of his paintings, I think there is just as much on his clothes

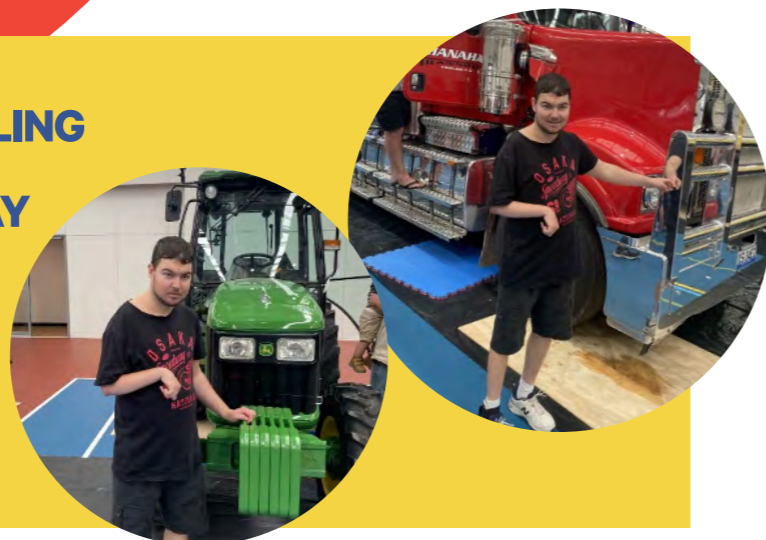


Lucas at the Disability Expo in Adelaide



Nicks birthday presents his pets some goldfish

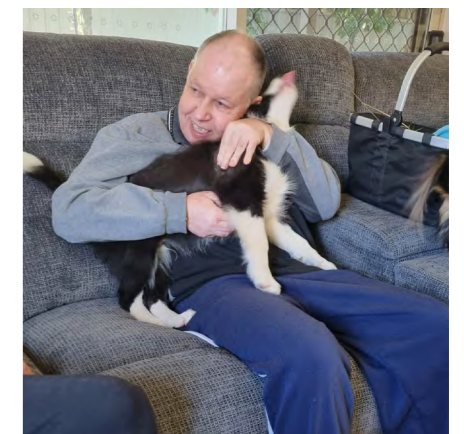
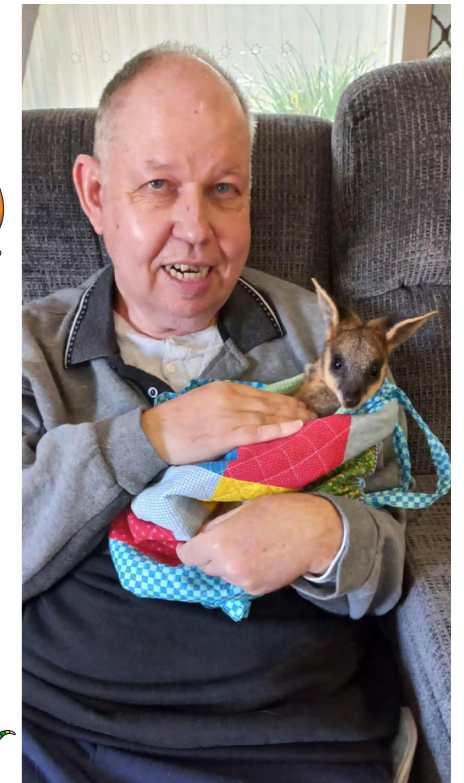
DAVID AT THE FREELING TOUCH A TRUCK DAY



“Over the school holidays, Steven was visited by two baby kangaroos, three dogs, a lizard, baby guinea pigs, two baby goats, and a pigeon as part of his animal therapy program!

He had an amazing time and hasn't stopped talking about all the animals since. It was such a great engagement activity for him, so much so, he has booked in again next school holidays!”

ZOO at home



NDIS UPDATES

NDIS 'reboot' will include more staff, cost crackdown, longer-term plans and shonky services purge, Shorten says.

By political reporter Jake Evans | Posted Tue 18 Apr 2023



Bill Shorten calls on disability movement to help reform NDIS

Disability Services Minister Bill Shorten says the government's central agency for supporting Australians with a disability has "lost its way" and needs significant work to ensure it can survive into the future.

Key points:

- The NDIS minister has promised a reboot of the government's key disability agency, which he says has gone off track
- Bill Shorten promised more staff, longer-term support packages, and a fraud crackdown among other reforms
- An independent panel will provide advice on the overhaul in October

Speaking at the National Press Club, Mr Shorten described what he deemed mismanagement of the scheme for almost the entirety of its existence, resulting in an agency rife with fraud, inefficiency and spiralling costs that would not help participants if left unaddressed.

Mr Shorten said there was still "more good than bad" in the scheme, but he outlined a six-pronged plan to overhaul the NDIA, including a lift in staffing, longer-term care plans, addressing fraud and rorting, supporting more people with disability to live at home, purging ineffective providers and linking other community services up to the NDIA better.

"The National Disability Insurance Scheme is here to stay. It is not going away. But, and this is important, we do need to get it back on track," Mr Shorten said.

The minister has commissioned an independent panel to make recommendations for how to "reboot" the agency, due by October.

Among the changes the panel has been tasked to examine are growing the NDIA workforce, returning some call centre functions to the agency and reducing workforce churn.

Mr Shorten said NDIS participants often had to repeatedly prove their disability to different agency workers, and that the agency should be able to offer multi-year plans that could be adapted over time, enabling better planning, support spending and the ability for participants to develop relationships with agency workers.

Shadow NDIS Minister Michael Sukkar said Mr Shorten's address had left participants "in the dark" about what the government was proposing to do.

"After nearly 12 months of kicking key decisions down the road, all Bill Shorten could provide was the usual prevaricating motherhood statements, identifying issues without providing detailed solution," Mr Sukkar said.

"Instead of focusing on workforce provider shortages, this minister was more fixated on the bureaucracy within the NDIA.

Elly Desmarchelier says she feels the government has made great efforts to demonstrate its support for the NDIS. (Supplied)



Shorten promises cost crackdown not a threat to participants

Mr Shorten said he also wanted to address the spiralling cost of the scheme, including confronting providers who overcharged for their services.

"[Just] because an NDIS package is taxpayer-funded, it is not fair game for the doubling and tripling of prices. It shouldn't be treated as some sort of wedding tax," Mr Shorten said.

"And, remember, if one provider is overcharging for their service it means the participant can't afford another service they might need."

Additionally, he warned those who were taking advantage of the scheme by offering services that gave little benefit to people with disability.

"If you have a business model where you are sort of mining someone's supported independent living package for your own interests ... sell your business now, because it's not going to be worth much by the time we're finished with you," he said.



The minister has previously told the ABC that some people had made themselves rich from rorting the NDIS, and Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission chief Michael Phelan last year estimated 15 to 20 per cent of all NDIS expenditure was rorted.

Treasury estimated last year the \$34 billion scheme would cost \$97 billion by 2032 unless brought under tighter control, and the NDIS has become second to debt interest payments as the federal government's fastest-growing payment.

Mr Shorten reassured participants that a crackdown on fraud would not threaten their support packages, and that it would be necessary for the NDIS to continue to grow in expense.

However, he said, those costs must translate into improved outcomes for participants.

"What makes the scheme sustainable is if public trust in the scheme is high," he said.

"The scheme will grow each year. That's inevitable and I say that again, clearly, for people beyond this room.

"I don't see the scheme as shrinking, and that's not what we're trying to do but, if we focus on the outcome for the participant and rebuilding of public trust, then I think you will end up seeing the right priorities being targeted."

Disability advocate Elly Desmarchelier said Mr Shorten had made a "huge effort" to make clear that the government was committed to the NDIS.

Ms Desmarchelier told ABC's The Drum she was one of many people who had to go back to the NDIA each year to prove she had cerebral palsy, which she has had since birth, and welcomed five-to-ten year plans that would "provide stability" for her and others.

She accepted the scheme was costly, but said that, on the other hand, there were "the huge outcomes it has delivered for the almost 600,000 people with disabilities, supporting them every day to live a life of their choosing".

"That is something we need to be proud of in this country."

Source: abc.net.au/news/shorten-outlines-ndis-reboot-fraud-crackdown/102236386

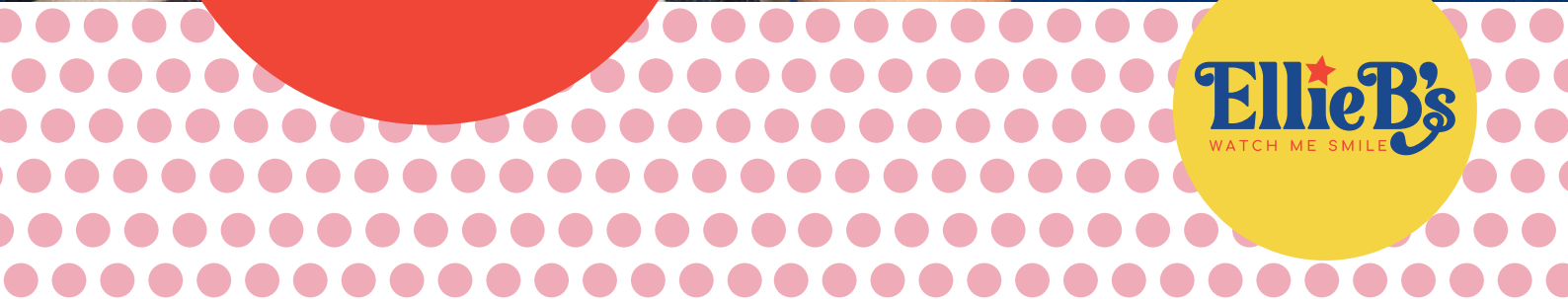


EllieB's Disability Services

Scan the code to
save all our contact details
and don't forget to follow
our social media pages!



**Watch
me smile**



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