

VOL. 29 | APRIL 2024

# INDEPENDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

## CELEBRATIONS, ACCESSIBILITY AND EXCITING ADVENTURES!

Welcome to the April edition of the IDS Newsletter, an edition filled with accolades, exciting updates, and joyful celebrations.

We begin with appreciation for the fantastic response to the IDS Excellence Awards nominations, highlighting our team's unparalleled dedication. You're cordially invited to join the awards ceremony for a memorable evening. We're also thrilled to announce the upcoming Bi-Annual DSW Forums, emphasising our ongoing commitment to our client-centred approach and stringent compliance.

Ending on a high note, join us in applauding our Hero of the Month, Adriana, and our exceptional Hero Team, epitomising outstanding commitment and dedication. Dive in to discover all this and much more in our April Newsletter!

## JOIN US FOR THE IDS EXCELLENCE AWARDS CELEBRATION

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the nomination process for the IDS Excellence Awards 2024. We're thrilled with the record-breaking response, showcasing our team's remarkable dedication.

The awards hold a special place at IDS, signifying our team's commitment to our values and their exceptional support for our clients.

We invite you to join us for the celebration on Wednesday, April 24th, at the Ground Level Conference Room. An open board meeting starts at 5:00 pm, followed by the awards at 5:30 pm. We're excited to share this special occasion with you, accompanied by light refreshments.

# IDS BI-ANNUAL DSW FORUMS

We're excited to announce the Bi-Annual Disability Support Worker (DSW) forums, scheduled for April 16th, 9:30 am-12:30 pm at the Ringwood Community Center, and April 17th, 9:30 am-12:30 pm at East Keilor RSL. Details of a virtual event will be announced shortly.

These forums are essential gatherings for IDS DSWs and clients, ensuring we continue to meet the diverse needs of our clients and comply with NDIS, TAC, and Worksafe registration requirements.

Attendance is mandatory, reaffirming our commitment to a client-centred approach in line with best practice and training expectations. These forums are valuable opportunities to stay updated and receive essential information within the disability sector and IDS. We look forward to seeing you there!

## IDS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT RECAP

Our International Women's Day (IWD) event at the Raddison was a resounding success! The occasion brought together an inspiring mix of individuals to commemorate the accomplishments and contributions of women. With speeches from Leanne Hardy and Mak Appleby delving into their experiences with gender equality and empowerment, the event was an enlightening experience.

The event also offered networking and engaging discussions, emphasizing the importance of gender diversity and inclusion at the workplace. The sense of unity and shared purpose amongst the attendees was truly energising.

A highlight of the gathering was our first-ever Art Auction, where Leanne sold her beautiful artwork to an IDS supporter - a moment of joy and accomplishment!

A heartfelt thank you to all the incredible women who attended and supported the event. Your presence contributed to a powerful and memorable celebration!



# MOVING TOWARDS SIMPLICITY - IDS CLIENT DESKTOP PORTAL TRANSITIONS TO VABOUTME APP

Exciting changes are underway at IDS! Our client desktop portal is transitioning to the accessible and user-friendly vAboutMe app, right at your fingertips on your mobile phone!

The vAboutMe app offers clients and carers a simplified way to view scheduled support, request changes, view DSW profiles, send messages to the client services team, and share essential information.

To learn more about downloading and using the app, please don't hesitate to reach out to our client services. We're here to guide you through this seamless transition to an easier, improved experience.

## ANTICIPATED GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO NDIS REVIEW AND DRC RECOMMENDATIONS

The disability sector eagerly awaited the government's response to the NDIS review and Disability Royal Commission (DRC) recommendations released last year. However, the full government response, initially expected in March 2024, has been delayed and is now anticipated later in the year when the Federal parliament reconvenes in June.

Interestingly, just before the Easter break, Hon Minister Bill Shorten tabled a new bill, the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill 2024. For a summary, you can visit the following link:

<https://teamdsc.com.au/resources/new-ndis-legislation>

Additionally, People with Disability Australia (PWDA) has released their response to the Disability Royal Commission Report and the government's response delay. You can find their perspectives here: <https://pwd.org.au/disability-rights/disability-royal-commission/> and an accompanying media release: <https://pwd.org.au/media-release-pwda-calls-governments-delayed-disability-royal-commission-response-an-opportunity-for-deeper-consultation-with-people-with-disability/>

# MEDICARE URGENT CARE CLINICS NOW OPEN ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Exciting news for all Australians! Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) are now open in every state and territory, providing more options for individuals to seek professional help for urgent, yet not life-threatening, health concerns.

The following link: <https://www.health.gov.au/find-a-medicare-ucc/resources> will guide you to a map showcasing the nearest Urgent Care Clinic. You'll also find information explaining what conditions qualify as 'urgent but not life-threatening', along with factsheets, wall posters, and a variety of short explanatory videos—available in multiple languages, including Auslan.

This is a positive step towards easier accessibility to crucial healthcare services, ensuring everyone, including our IDS clients, can get necessary care promptly.

## MARCH ADVENTURES AT IDS

March has been an exciting month at IDS with an array of engaging activities. We marvelled at the 'Rain Room', explored the NVG, enjoyed the timeless 'Grease', and discovered nature with the BBC Earth Experience. Together, these experiences fostered camaraderie, happiness, and a sense of adventure among us. Here's to creating many more unforgettable moments in the months to come!



# IDS HERO OF THE MONTH.

## CELEBRATING ADRIANA

This month, we're delighted to feature Adriana, our Disability Support Worker, as the IDS Hero of the Month. With her unwavering commitment and lively spirit, Adriana brings immense value to our community.

For Adriana, becoming a Disability Support Worker has been a rewarding journey. The role's diverse nature offers constant opportunities to learn, meet people from different backgrounds, and contribute significantly to the community. Every day brings new experiences, from assisting clients with daily tasks to facilitating their involvement in community outings.

What sets Adriana apart is her radiant positivity. Every day at IDS is her best day, filled with joy as she supports clients to reach their goals and chase their dreams. She embodies the IDS value of enthusiasm, always keen to grow professionally and acquire new skills.

Adriana's advice to those starting a new career is to embrace challenges and experiences with an open heart and mind. She prioritises effectively communicating with clients, ensuring she understands their daily needs.

Having been a part of the IDS family for over four years, Adriana admires how IDS values and respects the voices of clients and staff, fostering an environment where everyone feels understood and heard.

Let's applaud Adriana - our Hero of the Month - for her exceptional dedication and impact within our community!

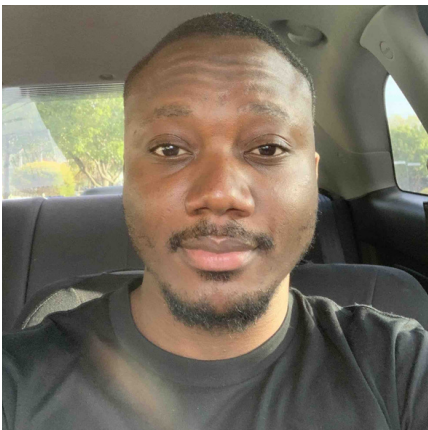


## IDS HERO TEAM

We're thrilled to spotlight our Hero Team this month at IDS. A hearty congratulations to Yah, Navjot, Bivek, Bikrimjit, Mark, and Jules for their remarkable work!

This exceptional team garnered superb feedback from an external allied health specialist. The specialist lauded their deep understanding of the client's needs, their collaborative efforts, and their care and commitment.

Representing the IDS values perfectly, this team's dedication to delivering excellent support is truly commendable. A big WELL DONE to them all for their extraordinary service!



## CELEBRATING MARCH BIRTHDAYS AT IDS & SENDING WARM WISHES

This month, we're delighted to send our heartfelt birthday wishes to our cherished clients. Happy Birthday, Kristy, Jim, David, Angelo, Nisalee, and Jennifer! We hope your special days are filled with joy, laughter, and beautiful memories.

Your journey inspires us all at IDS, and we eagerly look forward to supporting you in the year ahead.



# Independent Disability Services

Changing lives, empowering people



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Search for Independent Disability Services (IDS) on Google or [click here](#). For any additional comments and feedback, call us at (03) 9340 5100.



**Rebecca**  
3 reviews

★★★★★ 4 months ago

Hello I'm one of IDS clients who continue to receive through their valued respected client centred supportive support from the amazing office staff who always are dedicated answering the telephones with cheerfulness and understanding with ... [More](#)



**John Lee**  
1 review

★★★★★ 10 months ago

it not aother services ... but wonderful life i acheived from there support .... thanks heaps idsa



**Zeba Hekmat**  
10 reviews · 1 photo

★★★★★ 2 years ago

My sister uses IDS for home supports and she could not be happier. They are thoughtful, responsive and always put her needs first. Lovely to deal with too. Five stars!!!

