



# Independent Disability Services

*Changing lives, empowering people*

## FROM THE OFFICE:

Here's to new beginnings!

Including a fresh new look in our newsletter! We're here and we're ready to start 2023 with some pep in our step. Take a look at page 2 to read more about what's upcoming for IDS in the new year.

In our endeavour to implement a more client-focused approach, we will be organising a Client and Carer Engagement Group (C&CEG). In other exciting news, the nominations for the Service Excellence Awards 2023 are now open. Read more about C&CEG, and find out how can nominate your favourite DSW or staff through the steps provided on page 6.

We would also like to remind you about the exciting launch of our client portal coming in February. This will be a very valuable platform for our clients and carers to use as a resource and an additional avenue for communication.

Hope you have a wonderful rest of the year!

## WHO ARE WE

Let us reintroduce ourselves!



IDS was established in 1986 to assist people with a disability and to provide them with the support they require to live the life they want.

- Incorporated not-for-profit registered charity.
- Registered provider with NDIS, TAC and WorkSafe.
- Trusted and close-knit team

The IDS tribe prides itself on its sense of community. We work hard to make sure each client, DSW and family or friend carer feels cared for, heard from and understood.

# RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Let's have some fun!



Friday 3rd FEB:  
Day at the Zoo (day tour)



Wednesday 8th FEB:  
MCG Tour (day tour)



Tuesday 14th FEB:  
For the LOVE of  
Friendships  
(Valentine's Day)  
- Lunch and Movies  
(day tour)



Thursday 23rd-  
Friday 24th FEB:  
Overnight tour away  
in Country Victoria.

# IDS IN 2023

## What's coming



The IDS strategy day meeting involved some lively discussions, yummy food and great company! Thank you to all the board members for attending.

These strategy meetings ensure that we are able to provide high-level, up-to-date and inclusive service to all.

On the strategy day meeting conducted on 16th December 2022, we discussed plans and ideas that would assist in exemplifying the client-focused approach that IDS hopes to employ. Another focus for us this year would involve keeping open and honest communication between the teams and the clients. By doing this we hope to strengthen the trust between all the stakeholders.

Lastly, we will be prioritising our presence on social media and conducting community engagement through these channels.

## APPLAUDING OUR SUPPORT WORKERS

### Korlu is our Hero of The Month

Korlu has been with IDS since September 2022, she has an amazing work ethic and showcases exceptional dedication to the clients she works with. She's a real lifesaver when it comes to short-notice shifts. She's very flexible and is always happy to take care of her clients, no matter how short or late the notice period is.

Korlu has worked with some of our most complex clients and we have received great feedback about her work. She is an excellent support worker and is dedicated to her work.

Thank you Korlu for living and practising the IDS Values so brilliantly!

## Key Worker of the Month



We would like to give our fabulous services coordinator Karen a big pat on the back and thank you for picking up the pieces of our afterhours team over the xmas period! Karen is not only one of our service coordinators but is also the key worker for our afterhours team.

Due to unforeseen events our other two afterhours coordinator were not able to work their shifts over the xmas period. And this is where Karen stepped up (being the multi-tasking guru she is), Karen managed to have Christmas with her family and field urgent calls from both clients and staff alike. Karen you are one in a million and we would like to say a huge thank you not just from those of us that work with you every day in the office and remotely, but from all our clients as well.

# BIG THANK YOU

To the early risers and the stars that come out at night!

Thank you for the incredible work done by the extremely dedicated after-hours team.

We want to salute the night owls at IDS – those who provide superior support and superior services to our clients during the after hours.

We commend everything you do for the IDS clients and staff. Your dedication to your tasks and commitment towards a client's well-being is deeply appreciated. We recognise your valuable contributions that help us maintain the standard of high-level support provided by IDS.



## FUN FACT FROM FINANCE

The world's first animated feature film was made in Argentina. It was a political satire called El Apóstol made up of 58,000 drawings and had a running time of 70 minutes, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.



## NEW DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT

### Pilot Program Announced

A new disability employment program is set to be co-designed and implemented by the Federal Government and the BCA.

The Government will invest \$3.3 million in the pilot program, providing people with disability with more employment outcomes and development and advancement opportunities once hired.

Minister for Social Services, Amanda Rishworth, says the Government also wants to test out new ways to create cultural change within businesses to better support people with disability. Both the Government and BCA have already held a workshop with major employer groups and disability employment experts to identify any challenges and begin planning the employment pilot program.



## CRACKING THE CODE

Innovation for a gender neutral future

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - #EMBRACE EQUITY

We will be celebrating this wonderful day with a glam event and you are all invited! The event will be held on the 8th of March 2023 and we will advise the event location in the near future.

We sincerely hope that all of the beautiful women that we work with, live with and are friends with are able to join us for this extravagant celebration!  
Can't wait to see you all.

NOTE: We will advise of the costs for those not on the NDIS Scheme.



## BE SUNSMART ON THE GO

This UV, not heat.



Summer is here and we couldn't be more excited to hit the beach and enjoy the summer sun. But before you step outside, remember to be SunSmart!

We are employing the SunSmart app for the safety of our DSWs, clients and carers. This app helps by taking away the guesswork by telling you when the UV is 3 and above with sun protection recommended for your location.

Here are some features that the app possesses:

- UV and sun protection alerts each day.
- A sunscreen calculator, providing you with the minimum recommended sunscreen application, based on your choice of outfit. Plus, a two-hour reminder so you don't forget to top up.
- Four-day forecast of sun protection times and weather information.
- Live UV levels for major cities, and forecast UV for all other locations.



## FREE PROGRAM FOR DISABILITY-LED START UPS BY NDIS

Do you know a person with a disability with a business idea that you would like to take further?

The Victorian government has partnered with NDIS to assist Victorians with the inclusive microenterprise project (TIMP) which was designed by people with disabilities and is for people who are already micro-business owners or have a business idea they'd like to develop.

For more info, visit [www.nds.org.au/news/free-program-for-disability-lead-start-ups](http://www.nds.org.au/news/free-program-for-disability-lead-start-ups)



## SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAN IN VICTORIA

### What you need to know

From 1 February, single-use plastics, such as straws, cutlery, cups and take-away containers, will be banned from general sale in Victoria.

However, there is an exemption for people with disability who need drinking straws, who can buy them on special request.

There is no requirement for anyone to prove a disability or medical need when requesting straws.

The ban applies to all Victorian businesses and organisations, including non-profits, but does not apply to people using them privately or at home. You can prepare by:

- deciding if you still need single-use items and where they can be avoided or reduced
- avoiding shortages of alternative items by ordering them ahead of the ban
- finding a source of plastic straws if you choose to exercise an exemption.

For more info, visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/single-use-plastics>

## LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN TOGETHER!

Did you know that there are approximately 2.65 million carers in Australia who provide unpaid day-to-day support and care for their friends or family? Carers play a central role in caring for and supporting people with disability in Australia. They provide a family member, partner or friend with regular or ongoing care and help - without being paid. They assist with a variety of personal care, health care, transport, administrative support, cognitive and emotional tasks, household chores and other activities.

Caring for someone is fulfilling but it can also be challenging. It's important for carers to have access to extra support to help them provide quality care. Check out the NEWS page on the IDS website to find out some ways you can prioritise yourself, in order to be a better carer.

We understand how overwhelming it can be to be a carer for a loved one. Often it is reported that carers don't seek help for themselves. But remember that you are an important part of the care team and your well-being is vital to being able to provide the right care.

IDS is organising a Client and Carer Engagement Group (C&CEG) to provide support and discuss the best way to provide client-focused support through 2023. Our first meeting is scheduled for the 3rd of February, 2023.

If you are interested in attending or would like more information, call the office at 03 9340 5100.



## IDS SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Nominations for the year are now open!

These awards provide an excellent opportunity to recognise and reward outstanding services provided by our team members.

Criteria for the awards include:

- Excellence in client service
- Living the IDS values
- and innovation or process improvement

You are welcome to nominate yourself or anyone else in the team.

Email us at [admin@idsa.org.au](mailto:admin@idsa.org.au) with your nominations or use this form

<https://hipaa.jotform.com/220447837834059>

We look forward to receiving your nomination. The last date for submissions is 7th March 2023.




## UPCOMING DSW FORUMS

These forums are a safe space for disability support workers to share news, information and resources. It's also a great place to interact with other DSWs and create helpful networking opportunities.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21ST 2023  
AT KEILOR EAST RSL FROM  
10 AM TO 1 PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22ND  
2023 AT RINGWOOD RSL  
FROM 10 AM TO 1 PM



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