

VOL. 33 | AUGUST 2024

# INDEPENDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

**INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY, STAFF TRAINING  
AND LOTS MORE**

In this month's newsletter don't forget to Save the date for our "Christmas on the Catwalk" Gala at the State Library on 3 December 2024, celebrating International Day of People with Disability. IDS is committed to safety and quality care through comprehensive training for staff and continuous professional development. We recently celebrated International Friendship Day with clients through engaging activities, reinforcing our commitment to community and inclusion. IDS also supports the NDIS recommendations and advocates for accessible housing standards in Melbourne. We're dedicated to ensuring that the voices of people with disabilities are heard and continue to push for improvements in the sector. Additionally, we extend birthday wishes to our clients Jean, Emily, Mark, Riley, Roderick, and Deniz, celebrating their journeys and milestones.

At IDS we're here to support you. The IDS client services team are available to take your calls between 6am to 10pm, 365 days a year. Call us on 03 9340 5100.

# SAVE THE DATE: IDS GALA DINNER DEC 3RD

Save the date for our "Christmas on the Catwalk" Independent Disability Support Gala Event at the State Library on Tuesday, 3 December 2024. Join us in celebrating International Day of People with Disability and be part of creating an inclusive and diverse community in Australia. Your presence will help shine a spotlight on the importance of inclusion and support for people with disabilities. Tickets on Sale Soon Watch this space!



## MANUAL HANDLING TRAINING

IDS prioritises the safety and well-being of both our clients and staff by delivering comprehensive manual handling and medication administration training for our DSWs.

Our manual handling training equips staff with essential techniques to safely assist clients with mobility, reducing the risk of injury for both parties. Additionally, our medication training ensures that DSWs are knowledgeable about helping with medication by best practices and legislative requirements.

Delivered by a Clinical Nursing Advisor, these training sessions ensure our team is skilled, confident, and compliant in providing the highest-quality care and meeting our obligations under IDS's policies and procedures.

Our IDS team is below, upskilling their manual handling skills.



# INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY

On the 30th of July, we celebrated International Friendship Day at IDS. We dedicated the day to our clients, who engaged in fun activities such as potting small succulent plants, a very competitive game of Bocce, and creating an artwork banner expressing what friendship means to them. Our clients, their support workers and IDS staff all enjoyed lunch and took the time to connect and celebrate International Friendship Day.

Photos below of our clients below enjoying International Friendship Day



# IDS HERO OF THE MONTH. CONGRATULATIONS TO KATHY

Q. 1 Why did you become a DSW?

A.1 Growing up, I watched my grandfather struggle with Motor Neuron Disease (MND) while my grandmother cared for him. Seeing her strength and dedication inspired me to want to help others facing similar challenges. This experience made me realise the importance of providing compassionate and skilled support, which led me to become a Disability Support Worker (DSW) to make a difference in people's lives.

Q. 2 What does a typical day at IDS look like?

A.2 I work after hours at IDS from 5 pm to 10 pm, from home. My day starts with setting up my workspace to be ready for any situation that might come up. My duties include responding to client needs, rostering and any unexpected issues. Additionally, I do one shift a fortnight with a client I really enjoy working with, giving me the chance to provide hands-on care and build a personal connection.

Q.3 Tell us about the best day you've had at IDS?

A.3 I cannot think of any one particular day. However, the best days at IDS are when I get to meet new people. Connecting with new clients, learning their stories, and understanding their needs is always rewarding. Each interaction offers a chance to make a positive impact, no matter how small.

Q.4 Tell us a bit more about yourself.

A.4 I'm a parent of four—three daughters and a son. Alongside my work at IDS, I work full-time as an integration aide at a secondary school, supporting students with diverse needs. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, whether it's being outdoors, attending my kids' activities, or relaxing at home.

Q.5 What's your message for other individuals looking to become DSWs?

A.5 If you're considering becoming a Disability Support Worker, know that it's a rewarding job where you can make a real difference in people's lives. It requires compassion, patience, and a genuine desire to help others. While it can be challenging, the satisfaction of helping someone makes it worth while. You'll also learn valuable lessons in empathy and understanding.

Q.6 How do you ensure that those receiving services feel comfortable and secure?

A.6 I make sure clients feel comfortable and secure by focusing on good communication, understanding their goals, and being aware of their vulnerabilities. Clear communication builds trust, and understanding their goals allows me to support them effectively. Being mindful of their vulnerabilities ensures I provide compassionate and reassuring care.

Q.7 What makes Independent Disability Services unique from other disability support organisations, and how does it align with your values as a worker?

A.7 Independent Disability Services (IDS) stands out because of its commitment to both clients and support workers. They create a supportive environment where staff feel valued and empowered. This aligns with my belief that when workers are respected and supported, they can provide the best care possible. At IDS, I'm part of a team that cares about my growth and well-being which helps me offer the best support to our clients.



**Independent Disability Services**  
*Changing lives, empowering people*

**Hero of the Month**

**Allocations Officer/Support Worker**  
At IDS, I'm part of a team that cares about my growth and well-being which helps me offer the best support to our clients.

**Kathy Podhajski-Brown**

# **NDIS PROVIDER AND WORKER REGISTRATION TASKFORCE ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT IS RELEASED**

As a registered provider, IDS is committed to delivering high-quality care by ensuring that only qualified DSWs provide support to our clients. We achieve this through rigorous compliance measures, regular reviews, and continuous professional development. We fully endorse and welcome the recommendations from the NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce, as they align with our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of service delivery and safeguarding the well-being of those we support.

Read the full article

## **#4ABETTERNDIS**

Disability Intermediaries Australia have launched a new website where people concerned about the future of disability services can take action, have their say and send a letter to the federal government asking for a commitment to addressing the current crisis in funding for disability services.

## **IDS'S REACTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION FINDINGS**

IDS recently advised our key stakeholders of our response to the DRC review. Albeit we are disappointed that all of the recommendations were not implemented we will continue to rally to ensure that people with disabilities are heard and advocate for the prevention of neglect and abuse.

### **NDIS Bill Passes Senate and House of Representatives**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill 2024, introduced to Parliament in late March, successfully passed through both the Senate and the House of Representatives on August 22nd. The Bill faced intense debate in the Senate over the past two weeks and was twice referred to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee for further consultation and review. more information can be found at [National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment \(Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1\) Bill 2024 – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](#). IDS expects that this will pave the way for the much awaited Federal and State Governments responses to the NDIS review.

# **PLANNING AMENDMENT C376MELB HEARING**

Our CEO Sylvia Rosemond and Bernd Bartl from Melbourne University recently presented at the City of Melbourne planning panel reviewing the Planning Amendment C376melb and made a submission to include the Universal Housing Design Guidelines Gold standard to all new builds in the City of Melbourne. The argument that was presented supported the inclusion building to the gold level which allows people with disabilities to live equally accessible lives in their own home and the that the Gold standard enhanced sustainability, supported the Charter of Human Rights and responsibilities Act 2006 - Freedom of movement, and the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act. We highlighted the importance of all new builds being accessible to enable all people to live inclusive and empowered lives commencing in their own home. We won't know the impact of our presentation for a few months however IDS is passionate about positively contributing to making changes to enable equality and empowerment for people living with Disabilities.

## **IDS CLIENT BIRTHDAYS**

A joyous birthday wish to Jean, Emily, Mark, Riley, Roderick and Deniz! We hope your special day is filled with laughter, happiness, and memorable experiences. We applaud your journeys and eagerly look forward to celebrating more milestones with you in the year ahead.

Here's a cheer for our August stars!