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From the Coordination Team

- **In the last newsletter I made an error leaving the title of “NDIS update—what’s in a name” in the Management Committee section. This was an unfortunate error as it was a tribute and a goodbye to Anthea our Manager**
- **Christmas is just around the corner now. Please let us know if you will be away over Christmas to assist us in our rostering**

From the Manager

My name is Alison Herring. New Service Manager here at MACS.

It’s a great pleasure and privilege to be given the opportunity to join such a wonderful organisation and be surrounded by such a passionate, dedicated team.

I am new to Brisbane having moved here from Mackay in March this year. I have 12 years’ experience in the disability sector, 11 of those managing an organisation for people with a spinal cord injury, or other physical disability. I have had a lot of exposure to the NDIS having transitioned a service in Mackay, and have since worked coordinating NDIS Supports here in Brisbane. I’m looking forward to working on the NDIS implementation for MACS and ensuring Service Users continue to receive the best services both before and after they enter the scheme.

My partner also has a spinal injury so I have a good personal insight to lived experience faced by those with a physical disability. We have two children, one in the form of a Golden Labrador and the other an American Staffy! Thank you to Anthea for a wonderful handover, I’m sure she will be very much missed by everyone. I look forward to meeting and working with you all.

From the Management Committee:

Welcome to our new Manager, Alison Herring

The Management Committee would like to extend a warm welcome to Alison Herring, our new Manager. Amongst many other things, Alison has previous experience transitioning a service similar to MACS onto the NDIS. Alison also has some introductory words in this newsletter so we won’t repeat them. We look forward to achieving great things with Alison in 2018!

NDIS update

In late October the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) announced some changes to the NDIS to try and make the scheme more user friendly. The most important of these changes was that there will be no more NDIS plans created over the phone – all plans will be developed face to face. At MACS we were quite concerned about the suitability of NDIS plans developed over the phone so we applaud the NDIA’s decision to make planning sessions face to face only. You can read more about this at the *Every Australian Counts* website:

Beginning next year people in the Brisbane area can start the process of developing their NDIS plans and becoming NDIS participants. However the scheme doesn’t officially start in the Brisbane area until July 1, and our advice would be not to panic if you’re not 100% ready by that date. There will be thousands of applications being processed which will take time, and existing support providers will continue with transitional arrangements until everyone is on the new scheme. It may be better to have a properly developed plan that’s a bit late, than an incomplete rushed one submitted on day one.

One thing you may want to consider when planning for the NDIS is minimum start times. If, for example, you receive 20 minutes night-time assistance you actually need funding for a 1 hour minimum start (as you legally can’t pay someone to do a 20 minute shift). If you’re assisted for twice a night, each time for 20 minutes, it’s not 40 minutes or even an hour of funding you need, but two lots of 1 hour minimum start. That may seem counterintuitive, but don’t shortchange yourself by underestimating your night-time support needs!

Service News:

⇒ **Danielle and Barry are very excited that they will have the opportunity to meet with Service Users in the coming weeks. This will be an opportunity to discuss the latest developments in regards to the NDIS. Also, Barry and Danielle will be passing on useful statistical data detailing information of services received from MACS over the last year. This information will be beneficial when Service Users are asked to complete their Plan for NDIS services. MACS is also very happy to assist any of our service users during the planning stage. If you have any questions regarding this please don’t hesitate to contact the office.**

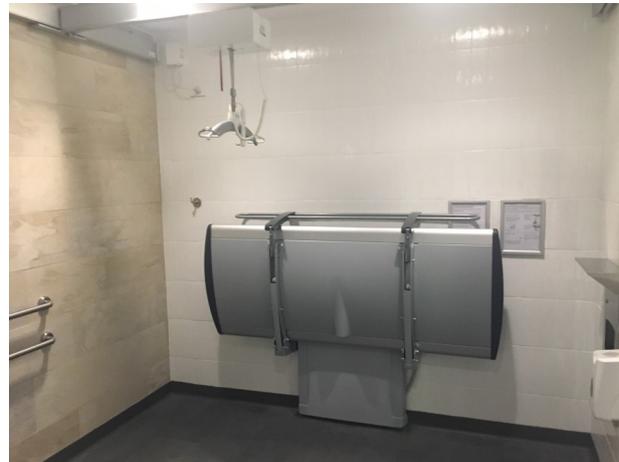
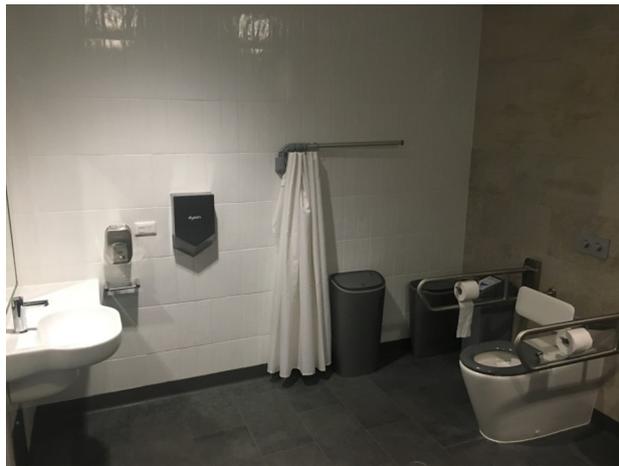
We have welcomed 2 new staff members, Tom and Marnie to the MACS team and look forward to you getting to meet them. We said goodbye to Heath recently and wish him well in his future. We also said goodbye to Jo after 14 years of working for MACS

Policy Update:

Human Services Quality Standard 6: Human Resources

MACS recruit with Service Users requirements in mind and ensure that they are suitable for their role within the organisation. When staff are appointed MACS ensures that they have access to support, supervision, opportunities for training and development and grievance processes.

Check out Brisbane Airport's new accessible bathroom with ceiling hoist and changing bed: <http://newsroom.bne.com.au/brisbane-airport-breaking-down-barriers-for-travellers-with-disabilities/>



Recipe of the month:

White Christmas



Ingredients:

- 250g cophia
- 3 cups Rice Bubbles
- 1 cup coconut
- 3/4 cup icing sugar
- 1 cup milk powder
- 30g glace cherries
- 1/2 cup sultanas

Method

- Line a 28cm x 18cm lamington pan with baking paper
- Melt cophia. Add to all other ingredients combined in a large bowl and mix thoroughly
- Press mixture into pan, and refrigerate until firm
- Cut into serving size pieces

Did you Know?

1. Perth is Australia's windiest city
2. Elvis' middle name was Aron
3. The smallest bones in the human body are found in the ear
4. Cats spend 66% of their life asleep
5. Spiders are arachnids and not insects
6. Honey is the only natural food that never spoils
7. The only continent with no active volcanoes is Australia
8. The sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English alphabet
9. Your tongue is the fastest healing part of your body
10. If you add up all the numbers from 1 to 100 consecutively (1+2+3...) it totals 5050