

nexus INK



Spring 2021



Welcome from CEO

In this edition we once again celebrate client achievements and the dedication of our staff who support them.

We all know that every person, regardless of ability, has the right to be included and valued in society. Unfortunately we still see areas in our community that are not accessible.

This is why we are passionate about supporting clients to overcome these barriers so they can keep working towards their goals – just like we all do.

In this edition you can read about:

- Hamish being supported to find a new way to get his L plates rather than using the online system
- People living south of Hobart being supported to access services at our new Huonville Office
- Our team participating in a session with Women's Legal Service to talk about the legal framework around noticing and reporting abuse

In June we went to the To the North Market. It was great to see a client running our apple stall and taking home some of the profits. This is just one story of how clients in our employment program are achieving outcomes and getting out in the community. This client is now going to sell apples at other markets!

In my new role as State Chairperson of the NDS (National Disability Services) I appeared before the Tasmanian Legislative Council's enquiry into the State disability service. We talked about how it is hard for people to get onto the NDIS, how we lack a depth of services outside of the cities, and how State government services need to be more accessible.

Back in the Nexus office we ran more COVID vaccination hubs for all staff and clients who wanted a vaccination. I appreciate that families and staff are taking this very seriously and continue to support us to reach our target of having the majority of staff fully vaccinated by October. We have another COVID clinic starting on 17 September.

We are looking forward to the next few months heading into the tail end of this year as we launch more programs and support more Tasmanians.

Mark Jessop



In July we were excited to welcome MPs, local councillors, staff, clients and members of the community to the opening of our Huonville office.

We started the proceedings with an Acknowledgement of Country from our Administration Officer, Adele, before the Honourable Jacquie Petrusma MP performed the official opening.

Our main office will still be at TechnoPark in Dowsing Point, but having our new Huonville office will mean that we are able to work with clients from the Huon and Channel region who cannot always get to the city to access support.

The Huonville office will also be home to our sister organisation, Social Enterprise, Employment and Diversity (SEED) which will be providing a tailored employment program to people living with disability.

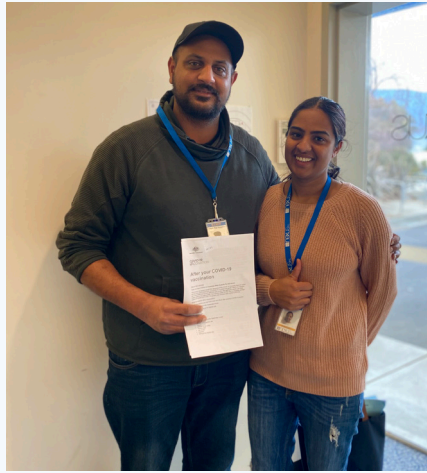
To get in touch with our team in Huonville, please call 6240 5080.

“It’s wonderful to have a new local office for Nexus in the Channel and Huon area to make sure that people living with disability receive the right support at the right time.”

- Jacquie Petrusma



Nexus COVID Vaccinations Hub



Through winter we worked with the federal government and Aspen Medical to provide our staff with the opportunity to get the COVID19 vaccination onsite at our offices in TechnoPark.

Across three hubs we had over 100 staff vaccinated and were able to offer doses to our neighbours at Able Tasmania.

We are working hard to get our clients access to the vaccinations, and this is underway both in and out of our supported living houses. It was great for our staff to be able to add this additional layer of protection for clients, colleagues and themselves.

Training with Women's Legal Aid

Our board member, Deb Bailey, is the Principal Solicitor at Women's Legal Service Tasmania Inc and came into our office to speak with staff about the legal framework around reporting abuse. She provided valuable resources for better supporting clients who are experiencing abuse and sexual violence.

A 2021 report commissioned by the Disability Royal Commission revealed that, in 2020, women with disability were more than twice as likely to report sexual violence as women without disability. We want to make sure all of our staff feel well equipped and confident in supporting clients who may have had these experiences.



Nexus in the Community



Hobart Jobs Fair

We are always looking for enthusiastic and skilled team members so it was great for us to be able to meet so many people from a huge variety of backgrounds at the Hobart Jobs Fair.

Thanks to our team members Craig, David, Jess, Krystal, Matt and Troy who engaged with everyone at the Fair and talked about their roles working for Nexus.



Claremont College Careers Fair

With an increasing need for support workers, we were pleased to collaborate with NDS to meet with College and High School students at Claremont College's Careers Fair.

Team Leader, Daniel, talked to students about his role with Nexus and pathways to become a support worker for people with disability.

To the North Market



As part of Showcase Moonah we had a stall at the To the North Market where we sold fresh apples and hot spiced apple juice. All the apples were picked by clients at our Franklin Orchard as part of the pilot for our employment program, Social Enterprise, Employment and Diversity (SEED).

Staff members Naomi and Jackie were onsite to manage the stand along with staff member Clayton who was also a participant in the SEED program.

Client Stories

Ed

Ed has been enjoying day support activities and getting out and about in the community.

He joined fellow client, Sharon, at Richmond Bridge and also had a lovely day out meeting the cats at the Cat Café.



Kelly

Kelly has been working hard at the gym with her weekly exercise program and is excelling at all the activities they throw at her.

Each week Kelly looks forward to her session and she does something new and exciting each time to keep it interesting.

Chris

Chris has been doing some amazing work with wildlife rescue this year.

Chris passed his snake handling course with flying colours, and is now a volunteer with Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary after successfully completing Bonorong's wildlife rescue course.



Client Stories

Tyson

Tyson had a great time celebrating his birthday at Go-Karting earlier this year.

He won Gold in the Grand Prix and then enjoyed a burger at Mr Burger with his dog Cooper.



Alison

Alison has been working with our capacity building team to bake lots of lovely things including muffins and this delicious chocolate cake.

Alison is taking lots of photos of her creations so she can add them to her Nexus photo album that she is creating with staff.



Hamish

Hamish started with Nexus in 2020 and told us that he was having trouble doing the computer-based test for his learner drivers' license.

The Nexus support team found that Hamish could answer 35 questions in person instead of doing the online test, so Hamish worked hard with the team to get through the Tasmanian Road rules book and he passed on his third go.

Hamish then did around 30 hours of mentor driving with his support team and passed his Ps test this year. Hamish stayed dedicated and positive to achieve his goal and his support team are very proud of him.





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