

nexus INK



Summer 2022



Welcome to our Summer edition of Nexus Ink - and what a Summer it has been!

A busy end to 2021 was quickly followed by a busy start to 2022 with COVID suddenly in our community. Many staff and clients were affected, and I am very grateful to our entire Nexus community for their hard work in maintaining safety protocols and working together to keep us all safe.

Our Nexus COVID Management team has been meeting daily to look at our case numbers and manage our response. Thankfully our pre-planning and our team's ability to adapt quickly have meant that we haven't had that many COVID19 cases so far.

Whilst we started the year with very little help from the Government, we are pleased to see that the disability sector is now being supported with a dedicated Public Health team, extra PPE, and a free supply of RATs for providers.

The Federal Election is just around the corner so our management team have also been busy campaigning with the sector for a quicker, fairer, and more consistent funding review process. A number of clients have had their funding cut and we are working hard to advocate on their behalf and find suitable and safe ways to support them in the meantime.

A key part of our success is our people. This is evident now more than ever and we are always on the look out for exceptional Support Workers. This is why we are thrilled to be involved with the Glenorchy Jobs Hub. Run by the Glenorchy City Council, we have already welcomed a number of new staff from the program and are looking forward to engaging with more through the collaboration.

As ever, our clients have shown great resilience during the ongoing disruption of COVID and have continued to work on their own personal goals over Summer. In particular we are excited to be welcoming clients to our new Customised Employment program and Child and Youth program. It's great to already be seeing goals achieved by these new members of the Nexus community.

We are looking forward to growing these programs further over the next few months and supporting even more Tasmanians.

Mark Jessop



Farewell to Alison Hodges

After over 20 years with Nexus our Manager of Client Support, Alison Hodges, retired in December and is already greatly missed by staff and clients.

Alison started with Nexus in 2000 as our Client Services Assistant Manager. Alison wanted to get a bit more hands on experience so she went out as a House Manager for a couple of years before returning to an office based role.

Since then Alison has been an unstoppable force at Nexus picking up many roles over the years. Most recently Alison has been busy overseeing Support Coordination, Behaviour and Allied Health services, Guardianship hearings, Quality and Compliance, and intake. Across all of these roles Alison's goal has always been to look out for the health and wellbeing of our clients and engage with the bureaucratic red tape when clients were ignored or marginalised by mainstream health services.

Throughout her time at Nexus Alison has always been an avid traveller and she is looking forward to much more travel in her retirement.

From all of us at Nexus, thank you Alison for your amazing service and all the best for your retirement.

“Alison has had an amazing career at Nexus and has seen a lot of changes over that time – many of which she had a key influence in. Her knowledge and friendliness will be greatly missed but we wish her all the best for her well deserved retirement.”

– Mark Jessop, CEO

COVID Vaccinations and Support



Nexus COVID Vaccinations

Late in 2021 the Tasmania Government made COVID19 vaccinations compulsory for everyone working in direct client support in the disability sector.

At Nexus we had always encouraged staff to get vaccinated and we were very pleased to see that the majority of our staff were already vaccinated when the Government changes were made. We supported all staff to receive their vaccination by rearranging rosters and providing support if they had to miss a shift because of side effects.

We are pleased to say that all staff who were eligible were vaccinated by the required deadlines and many are now in the process of accessing booster doses.



Support for Staff During COVID19

Whilst staff at Nexus have continued to provide clients with the highest levels of support during this time, we understand that staff also need to be supported.

Our staff have been reminded of the Employee Assistance Program that Nexus offers and are encouraged to have regular check-ins with their Team Leaders and Managers to discuss any challenges they are facing both at work and in their personal life that may affect their work.

As well as supporting staff to look out for their overall wellbeing, Nexus launched their Pandemic Worker Support Policy which provides a financial safety net for staff who need to get tested or isolate as a result of COVID19. This helps staff who do not have personal leave, and who are not eligible for the governmental COVID19 relief, to apply for financial assistance from Nexus to cover missed shifts.

“Our Nexus team have been amazing. They have worked incredibly hard to adapt to constantly changing COVID guidelines and keep staff and clients safe. I take my hat off to them.”

– Annette Clark, GM People and Practice

Nexus in the Community



Jobs Fair

We had some great engagement at the last Hobart Jobs Fair so we were back again for the second one and were once again impressed by the enthusiastic job seekers looking to enter the industry.

Thanks to our team members David, Casey, Clive, Donna and Christie who engaged with everyone at the Fair and talked about their roles and experience at Nexus.



Disability Expo

We were excited to have two stands at the Disability Expo this year – one for Nexus and one specifically to showcase our social enterprise, SEED.

We had a lot of interest across both stands from people seeking a variety of supports and we are pleased to now be providing support to some of the people we met at the event.

Glenorchy Jobs Hub



As part of our ongoing efforts to engage with the local community, Nexus signed up to be involved with the Glenorchy Jobs Hub – a new initiative by the Glenorchy City Council to find employment for people in the local area.

The Hub provides services to assist people get job ready and it connects with local businesses to promote jobs suitable for Jobs Hub participants.

Nexus is excited to be a part of this program and have already held an engagement session with participants to tell them about the industry and the types of jobs that are available at Nexus.

Client Stories

Nicola

Nicola has taken full advantage of Summer this year, enjoying getting out in the sunshine.

At the Glenorchy Pool Nicola got back in the water and went swimming for the first time in ages.



Bryce, Clayton, Jack, Jamie and Mitch

Since the launch of our COVID Cleaning Team and our Orchard Team, we have had a great group of clients who have now been employed in these teams.

All of them have picked up new skills in cleaning, picking, pruning, packing and orcharding.

Clayton Running the Bridge

Congratulations to Clayton who absolutely crushed his first 10km run at Run the Bridge.

Alongside Assistant Manager Matt Pearce, their training paid off with both of them keeping excellent pace for the whole run.

A long term goal successfully achieved – we love to see it and can't wait to see what comes next!



Client Stories

Jamie

Jamie has been getting out and about more in the community this Summer with visits to parks, restaurants, and the SEED orchard.

He particularly enjoyed this outing to the Risdon Brook Dam where he enjoyed a BBQ lunch and a game of UNO.



Window Decorating Project

One of our Supported Living teams make great use of their large front window with a series of fun decorations.

This one was completed by the clients in the house and the theme was 'under the sea'.

Yvette

This Summer Yvette took a drive with our Community Services team to Sandy Bay beach to soak up the sunshine.

While she was there she reminisced about the lovely time spent with her siblings.





We're Expanding our Children and Youth Program

Nexus have been working with Tasmanians living with disabilities for over 20 years and we are pleased to now be welcoming and supporting people from the age of 7 years.

We are currently expanding our children and youth programs, properties and staffing team, and are excited to soon be offering:

- Long and Short Term Respite Services
- After School Supports
- Community Access and Capacity Building

Find out more at www.nexusinc.org.au or contact our friendly team on 03 6240 5071 or email donna.coetzee@nexusinc.org.au

