

nexus INK



Autumn 2023



Welcome from CEO

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Nexus Ink - it has been a big few months with a lot happening both at Nexus and in our sector.

In March I appreciated the invitation from Tasmanian Senator Anne Urquhart to hear Federal NDIS Minister Bill Shorten speak in Burnie about his plans for disability employment.

Minister Shorten's approach to improving employment outcomes for people with a disability had three key elements: improving the school leaver program, exploring targets in government contracts and providing employer support to encourage the hiring of people with a disability. The NDIS is still behind in its employment targets and we all need to work to improve this.

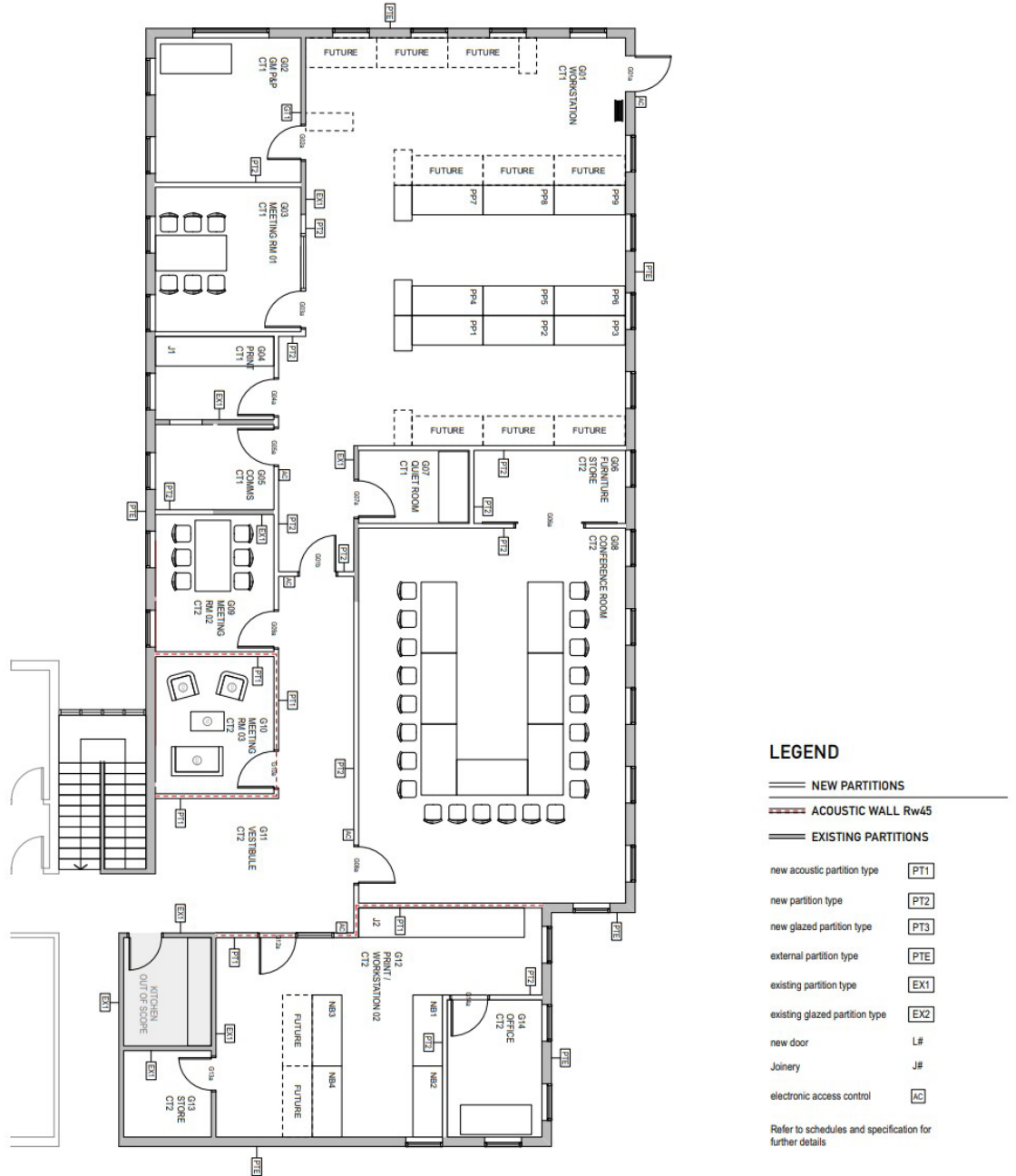
It was refreshing to hear Minister Shorten's passion for the scheme and his drive to make it work – not at any cost, but by bringing in new positive energy and direction.

Closer to home, Nexus has been busy working on our 2023-24 budget, growing our new Children and Youth Respite service, supporting clients to engage with local community groups, meeting local jobseekers, and continuing to roll-out our new client management software. All big jobs!

Our other big upcoming project is bringing most of our teams together under one roof. Our new upstairs offices at Technopark will include training facilities, quiet work spaces and meeting rooms. Renovations are planned to start in June and we expect minimal disruptions to our services.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new offices later in the year!

Mark Jessop
CEO, Nexus Inc.



Redesign and expansion of Nexus site

To cater to Nexus' rapid expansion over the past decade, our main office site will be completely redesigned to meet the changing needs of our staff and clients.

As the organisation has grown our offices spaces have also grown with office staff now across five different sites at TechnoPark.

In April this year we were pleased to take over the second floor of the Tech 2 building, with both levels to be completely remodeled and modernised. Office-based staff will be primarily located under the one roof, allowing for greater ease of collaboration and cohesion.

With the new office design finalised, work is expected to begin in June and finish in September.

The new redesign includes trauma-informed and sensory-friendly designs, and eight meeting rooms which will be ideal for training or quiet working.

Nexus Team



SEED apples picked for 2023

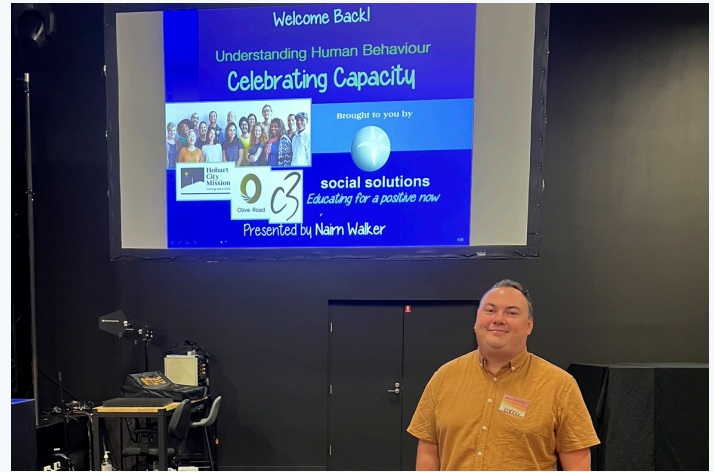
The 2023 apple picking season started in February with a burst of activity and has continued on into Autumn. The SEED social enterprise program manages the orchards, located in the Huon Valley.

Each day, two to eight workers picked a variety of apples at the 25 hectares of orchards, located in the Huon Valley. On a quiet day they would pick two bins worth of apples and on a busy day, up to 21 bins.

Customised Employment Assistant Team Leader, Clint, pictured (left) with SEED employee Gerry (right), have enjoyed this exciting time of year.

Clint said seeing employees build their confidence, learn work and life skills, and make new friends along the way are his proudest achievements.

In addition to learning about orcharding, SEED employees gain onsite skills in building maintenance, domestic painting, flat pack installation, first aid and safety. Clint has even supported several employees to get their forklift licence.



Celebrating capacity

Capacity Building is a key part of disability support and something Glenn, our Community Services Assistant Team Leader, focuses on daily with clients.

Glenn found a great opportunity to explore this further at the Celebrating Capacity workshop which looked at Capacity Building through the lens of social and economic inequity.

The workshop provided insight on supporting vulnerable people to build their capacity by taking into account the unique barriers they may face.

The workshop was hosted by Hobart City Mission, Olive Road and C3, and presented by Bridges Out of Poverty trainer Nairn Walker.

Glenn is always looking to expand his skillset as he supports a diverse group of clients who range in age from 20-80 years old and who have a variety of disabilities.

The biggest takeaway for Glenn was the extent to which a person's social situation, particularly their upbringing and socio-economic status, can affect them throughout their life.

Glenn plans to share his new knowledge with his colleagues.

“It is great to see SEED employees build themselves up, learn work and life skills, and make new friends.”

- Customised Employment Assistant Team Leader, Clint

Nexus in the Community



Surfs up for Billy

A look of sheer delight spread across Billy's face as the beach-lover had an experience he never thought was possible.

Billy was lucky enough to take part in an assisted surf experience, through the volunteer-run Disabled Surfers Association (DSA) Tasmania. Billy has always been a fan of the water, enjoying two swims a week, but had never tried surfing.

Support Worker Gabby heard about the opportunity and knew Billy would love it. Gabby said Billy's excitement on the day was "unbelievable" and seeing him so happy gave her a few tears.

DSA Tasmania provides a fun, safe, open-water surfing experience for people of all abilities, in an inclusive environment. They worked expertly with Billy, who is wheelchair-bound and non-verbal, to make his dream day come true.

This image and cover are supplied by DSA Tasmania.



Cricket lover returns to the field

There was no greater feeling for Nexus client Michael than achieving his dream of playing cricket again.

Michael participated in a blind and low vision cricket game in March, organised by the Clarence City Council. Support Worker Subarna said it was a proud moment for Michael to play alongside players from the Blind Cricket Tasmania state team.

Michael scored 21 runs and was so excited to tell his friends and family about this huge accomplishment, having not played cricket for many years.

Subarna supported Michael every step of the way. The pair did a warm up session before the game, and Subarna helped Michael to catch the ball and get to know the shape and feel of the ball in his hands.

Well done to Michael and Subarna on this fantastic achievement!

Big outcomes from Glenorchy Jobs Fair



Nexus staff spoke with hundreds of job seekers from a variety of backgrounds at this year's Glenorchy Jobs Fair – an initiative of the Glenorchy Jobs Hub.

Our Talent and Recruitment Advisor, Christie, said the influx of EOI applications shows how well-known Nexus is in the disability sector.

We have since hired several people we spoke to on the day and are interviewing others – we look forward to welcoming them to the team!

Client Stories

Jack

There was great excitement when Jack got his driver's licence at the beginning of May.

After countless hours of practice and hard work he has finally achieved his goal!

Jack's new licence will provide him with much more freedom and will help him to engage in some new work opportunities he has recently started.



Tony

Wearing a bunny-ear hat, Tony enjoyed lots of festive fun with his friends over Easter.

To add to the festivities the Nexus team placed beautiful decorations throughout the house including themed bunting, tablecloths, Spring décor and baskets of chocolate treats.

A hot Easter lunch of roast lamb and chicken, with a pavlova dessert, rounded off the special day.



Salmon Ponds

On a sunny day, Mark, Andy and Ed went on a scenic road trip to Plenty.

The excited trio stopped at the Salmon Ponds where they enjoyed the picturesque gardens, buildings and water views across the historic estate.

After exploring the grounds and feeding the fish, they stopped for delicious pancakes at the café before heading home.



Client Stories

Maree

Avid gym-goer Maree was supported to undertake another successful session.

Among her regular exercises are arm strengthening with light weights, a step-up box, and ball throwing.

Maree loves going to the gym and always has a smile for the fitness instructors, no matter how hard the exercises are.



Pania

Pania had a great time celebrating her birthday surrounded by friends.

She was thrilled to receive gifts and handmade cards, before sharing a lovely lunch and cutting her cake.

In the evening Pania went out to a restaurant with her housemates and her Nexus team to continue the celebrations.

Michael

A trip to the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary gave Michael the chance to get up close and personal with some bouncy friends.

Spending time in the kangaroo park, Michael gave them some feed and even worked his courage up to pat one.

Rounding off a stellar day out he got a chocolate drink and dessert afterwards.





Children and Youth Respite now open!

We provide home-away-from-home style respite for people aged 7 - 15 years old with a particular focus on building capacity in a fun and safe environment.



Want to find out more about getting support from Nexus? Speak with our friendly team:

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