

nexus INK



Winter 2023

 nexus inc.



## Welcome from CEO

There wasn't much of the famed Tasmanian Winter hibernation this year for Nexus – we have been as busy as ever. The growth in new NDIS participants has slowed and we now have about 14,000 participants in Tasmania - well up from the 5,000 getting support 10 years ago. This slowing has allowed us to refocus on some of our strategic projects, and make some big advances in staff training.

Developing our team through strong evidence based training is at the heart of Nexus. We have now partnered with two organisations to provide specialist training for Nexus staff.

Sexuality in disability is something the sector has always struggled to address and support. As the NDIS has expanded we are seeing greater diversity in clients including more people who are part of the LGBTIQ+ community. In acknowledgement of this, over 80 Nexus staff attended LGBTIQ+ Inclusion training with Working It Out to increase their skills in supporting clients with a range of topics around sexuality and gender.

In further training news, our first group of staff started the Autism Capability Awareness Training in partnership with Autism Tasmania. Staff and clients will benefit from this with our team having better skills, knowledge and confidence to support autistic clients.

Coming up next on the training agenda is our work with Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) to roll out child safe training. Sadly we have seen the areas where our most vulnerable members of society have been let down which has been highlighted in three recent Commissions – the Child Sexual Abuse Royal Commission, the Tasmanian Commission into government responses to child sexual abuse and the Disability Royal Commission. The common theme I took out of these is that we must remain open to hearing the voice of our clients and their supports.

We are excited to be able to share our commitment to safe and sustainable practice as we welcome our new North West colleagues with the transition of Coastal Residential Service to Nexus. This is a big step for both organisations and we are looking forward to rolling out access to new training and opportunities to our North West colleagues.

**Mark Jessop**  
CEO, Nexus Inc.



## Nexus Welcomes the North West

Nexus is excited to announce we are starting to provide services to Tasmanians living with disability in the North West.

Coastal Residential Services (CRS) have transitioned their clients and staff over to Nexus after over 30 years of providing support to the region.

“We are very proud of the support that CRS has provided to our community in the North West over the last 30 years,” said CRS Chair Kelli Hooper.

“Now, with the rising costs of doing business and the ongoing changes to the NDIS, the Board felt it was time to enter a transition of business so that clients can continue to receive the high level of support they have always received,” Kelli said.

“We specifically engaged Nexus for this transition as we share similar histories and, most importantly, we share the same values of providing high quality, client-focused support.”

CRS clients and over 40 CRS staff members have been warmly welcomed to Nexus.

“We worked with CRS staff to identify what they felt Nexus could offer and we are pleased to be working towards achieving their suggestions,” said Nexus CEO, Mark Jessop.

Since the transition of the business, Nexus has already inducted CRS staff, created Team Leader and Key Worker roles, and provided extensive, specialised training to staff.

“CRS already have a fantastic team of dedicated staff and we are very pleased to welcome them to Nexus and be able to offer them further training to develop their confidence in providing the tailored support that Nexus are known for,” Mark said.

It is an exciting time for Nexus as we take this next step, and we look forward to supporting more people across Tasmania.

# Nexus Team



## Respite Open Day

Our Children and Youth team were pleased to meet families and industry members at our Respite open days.

Guests were taken on a tour of our brand-new, purpose-built respite property and given information on the tailored program we offer.

Launched in 2022, our Children and Youth Respite has been well received by our young clients, who enjoy the home-away-from-home environment and tailored activities.

Our Children and Youth team supports clients to achieve their goals in a safe and fun respite environment. This includes reading, art, cooking, catching transport and other independent living skills.

If you would like a tour of our respite property, please contact our Intake Manager Donna on 6240 5071.



**working it out**

Tasmania's gender, sexuality and intersex support, education & advocacy service

## LGBTIQA+ Inclusion Training

As part of our commitment to supporting people with disability who are part of the LGBTIQA+ community, it was great to welcome Working it Out to Nexus.

Over 80 staff enjoyed participating in the LGBTIQA+ Inclusion Training.

Working It Out is Tasmania's leading sexuality, gender and intersex status support and education service. They provide support and advocacy services, and education and training to schools and workplaces.

At Nexus, our vision is a community where everyone is safe, valued and respected. We are committed to supporting people to safely and positively express themselves regardless of their ability, gender, sexuality, faith or culture.

We are excited to integrate this specialised training into our support practices.

# Vale Kirsty Barwick



Nexus staff and clients were devastated to hear the news that our NCIS Assistant Manager, Kirsty Barwick, had passed away in July.

Kirsty was with Nexus for almost 20 years, with many of these years spent as a long term SIL Team Leader, where she supported and empowered countless staff.

Nexus CEO Mark Jessop said for the past five years Kirsty had been a lynchpin in the NCIS team, where she seemed to find her true passion.

Kirsty was a passionate defender of clients who were getting a raw deal from the system and she mentored many staff with her firm but fair approach.

Mark remembered the many strong and respectful conversations he had shared with Kirsty where she was always willing to challenge the system if needed and offer alternative views.

Kirsty's family, our colleagues and many clients will miss her greatly.

# Nexus in the Community



## Autism Capability Building Program

After 18 months of development, we officially launched our partnership with Autism Tasmania and our unique company-wide training program.

Over 100 Nexus staff will complete the full seven unit program, with all other staff completing an Introduction to Autism unit.

For the Tasmanian autistic community, the training means having access to support staff who have the knowledge, training and confidence to meet their individual support needs.

“Nexus has a strong belief in providing the right support at the right time to clients and this is another way we can tailor supports to the individual,” Nexus CEO, Mark Jessop said.

Good luck to all of our staff doing the training – we are excited to see how you use your new skills!



## Everyone wins in industry collaboration

We know that when organisations in the disability sector help each other everyone wins, so we were delighted to donate \$1,000 to Special Olympics Tasmania to support their recent trip to the Victoria State games.

Children and Youth Assistant Team Leader Dan Chevalier met the team at the airport to wish them well on their trip.

“It is really important to continue having accessible sport and recreation opportunities available in Tasmania,” Dan said.

Special Olympics Tasmania Chair Kath Thomson said Nexus’ generous donation highlighted the importance of collaboration in opening doors to all those living with disability.

# Autism Tas trial for National Assistance Card

Nexus is pleased to support Autism Tasmania in their statewide trial of the National Assistance Card for the autistic community.

Originally created for people with brain injury, the card lists information about the person’s needs, both day-to-day and in emergencies, so anyone is able to support them.

The card is personalised and often includes:

- First name, last name, date of birth and a photo
- Nominated contact person
- Up to five areas of difficulty chosen by the cardholder
- A QR code with additional information
- The Police Assistance Line phone number.

The card helps people access the community, feel more confident, and get support when they need it.  
For further information visit [www.nationalassistancecard.com.au](http://www.nationalassistancecard.com.au)

# Client Stories

## Selby

Selby braved the freezing weather this winter to visit the top of Mount Wellington.

Supported by his Nexus team, Selby had a magnificent day out taking in the views and enjoying the feeling of the icy breeze.



## Jeremy

Jeremy has recently been visiting the local neighbourhood centre to whip up some delicious food including enchiladas, apple pie, cottage pie, and brownies.

Supported by both his Nexus team and onsite staff, this has been a wonderful chance for Jeremy to access the community and boost his life skills.

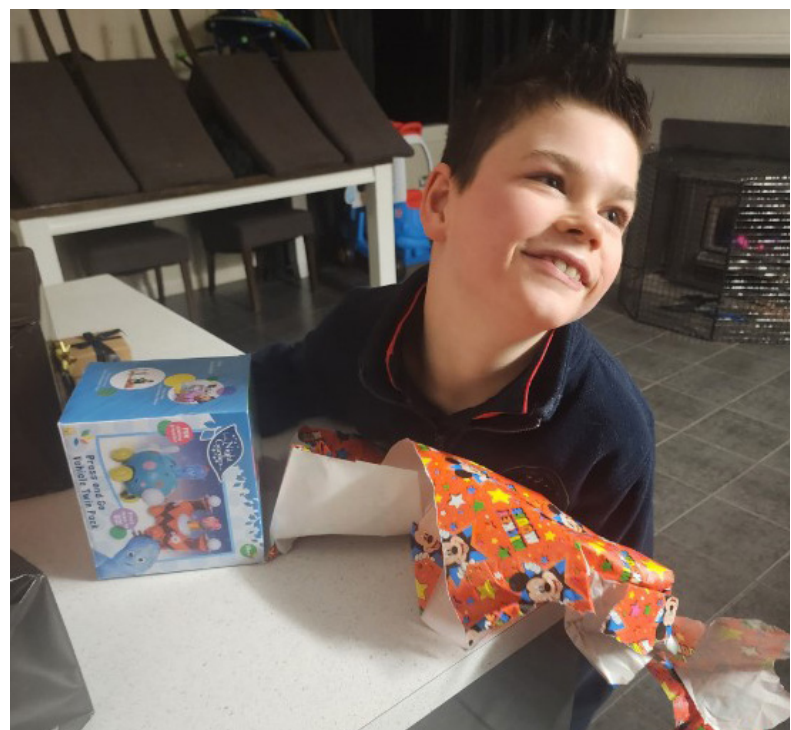


## Lincoln

With big smiles and excitement, Lincoln celebrated his 13th birthday.

With his mum's help he opened all his presents and was thrilled to receive two toy cars, inspired by his favourite television show In The Night Garden.

Lincoln enjoyed playing with the balloons his mum had got for him, making for a special and fun day.



# Client Stories

## Angus

On a road-trip to Richmond, Angus stopped in at the Wicked Cheese Co.

Angus got to sample the cheeses before designing his own platter to eat along with pate, quince jam and crackers.

Angus and his support staff also enjoyed learning all about cheese-making behind the scenes and stopped for a photo with a cow statue on the way out.



## Alanna

Alanna cheered on her beloved Melbourne Football Club dressed in the team colours of red and navy.

Joined by her friend at Blundstone Arena, Alanna was thrilled to see her team win against North Melbourne.

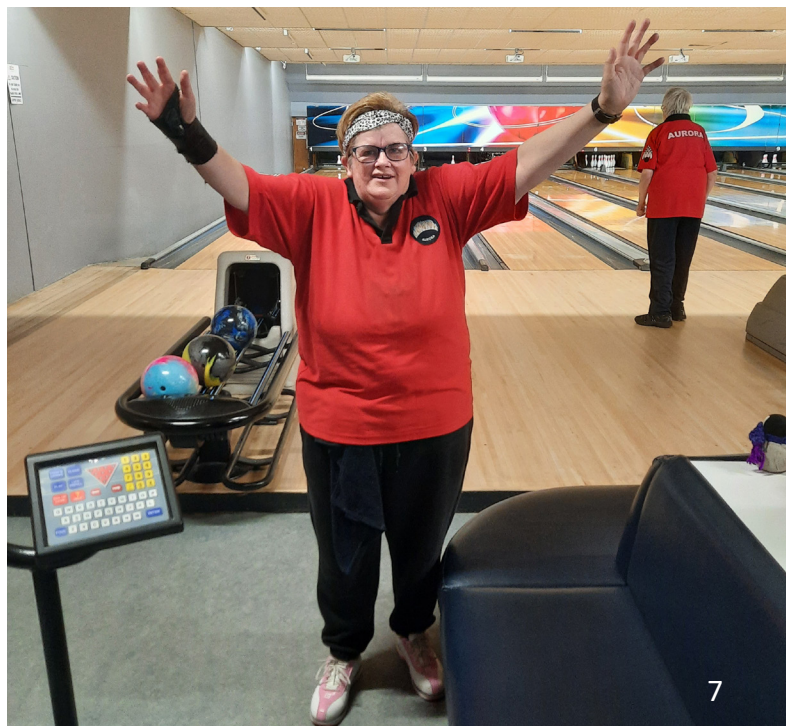


## Janine

Janine is always excited for Sunday because Sunday is bowling day!

Each week she wakes up early and gets her chores done before heading over for a game.

Janine has been bowling for years and enjoys everything about the sport – socialising, competing and winning!





## Bookings now open!

Nexus Children and Youth Respite offers 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:

P. 03 6240 5071 | E. [nexusinc@nexusinc.org.au](mailto:nexusinc@nexusinc.org.au) | W. [www.nexusinc.org.au](http://www.nexusinc.org.au)

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