

nexus INK



Spring 2023

 nexus inc.



CEO Welcome

Another season has come and gone and what a busy one it was!

We are now well into the roll out of our new client/rostering and accounting/payroll systems. Both have been huge tasks that continue our commitment to creating effective and sustainable business systems.

Well done to everyone across our operational and corporate teams who have worked on this change, and to the implementation team who have put in a great final effort to get the project over the line.

We also welcomed members of the NDIA Board to our offices to meet with members of our executive team, subcommittees and Board. Thank you to Kellie Brandenburg, Estelle Pearson, Leah van Poppel and Richie Fejo for visiting to talk about the roll out of PACE in Tasmania.

It was great to be able to share our successes and challenges and we appreciated the chance to have our say and share our thoughts on how we can continue building a supportive and sustainable NDIS.

This quarter is when we hear about how the disability support sector is going. Many of the largest providers are struggling and many small providers are only just holding on. We are also all adjusting to changes coming from the NDIS Review, Royal Commission and Minister Shorten who is keen to make some well overdue changes.

Despite the industry statistics, Nexus actually made a small surplus (4%) which, as a not for profit, we are committed to reinvesting in our service development, facilities and staff.

I was one of four staff to celebrate my 10th year at Nexus at our Nexus 25th Birthday celebration at Wrest Point. A number of staff were recognised for reaching milestones this year and I'd like to make special mention of Craig Vernon, Daren Richards and Lynne Triffitt who were all with Southern Residential Services which merged to form Nexus – so really they are celebrating over 25 years of continuous service!

The greatest buzz I got from the event was to see all parts of our organisation come together in celebration – our clients, their partners and families, volunteer Board members, partners and guests, and staff. As one of our advocacy partners said to me 'this is inclusion in action'.

Mark Jessop
CEO, Nexus Inc.



Celebrating 25 Years of Nexus

In November we marked a milestone 25 years of supporting Tasmanians living with disability.

Opening in 1998 after the merger of two service providers, we have grown from just nine supported living houses, to over thirty houses and more than 300 clients across the state.

We celebrated the occasion with a big event at Wrest Point Convention Centre and it was fantastic to see clients, families, staff and our supporters all coming together to celebrate the positive impact that Nexus has had in the Tasmanian community.

The event was opened by our new Chair of the Board, Gail Ward, who has been a great champion of both staff and client wellbeing and recognition in her role as a Board Member.

Our speaker for the night was Jodie Denman from Autism Tasmania. Jodie spoke in her capacity as a family member of people living with disability, and particularly highlighted the important role that support workers play in the life of their clients and their clients' families.

We followed this up by recognising staff who were celebrating milestone years at Nexus this year with a presentation ceremony of certificates and awards.

In the lead up to the celebrations, we created a 'Nexus Boutique' at our offices, where staff and supporters could donate formal wear for clients and staff to access for free.

We recognised that not everyone has access to formal wear and it was fantastic to see so many clients picking up outfits that made them feel great on the night.

Even the CEO picked up his bright red jacket to get into the festive spirit!

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this fantastic night out and we will see you all at our 30th Birthday!

Nexus Team

As part of the 25 Years of Nexus Celebrations we acknowledged the dedication and contribution of all Nexus staff, and particularly recognised those celebrating milestone years in 2023.

Congratulations to the following staff members for their milestone achievement this year:



5 years

Anthony Bailey
Ira Bleakley
Troy Briggs
Kylie Briggs
Kyla Browning
Daniel Chevalier
CJ Coppleman
Virginia Davis
Andrew Freedland
Manoj Handique

Sally Harris
Kim Hills
Jessel Isidiro
Tina Johnson
Brad Johnson
Manpreet Kaur
John Le Marie
Samantha Little
Yasmyn Nube

Stephen Palmer
Tammy Parker
Alyson Richardson
Mickayla Tonks
Cori-Lee Wade
Bianca Whitney
Glenn Woodhouse
Krystal Woolley

10 years

Indy Cassidy
Mark Jessop
Sean Thomson
Guido Tkalac

15 years

Gail Cartledge
Todd Faulkner



20 years

Danni Smith

25+ years

Daren Richards
Lynne Triffitt
Craig Vernon



Nexus in the Community



Hobart and Devonport Disability Expos

This year we had teams at the Speak Out Disability expos in Hobart and, for the first time, in Devonport.

Our team in the North West was particularly thrilled with the positive response Nexus received in Devonport.

We recently expanded our services to include the North-West, and visitors to our stall showed great interest in Supported Living and Community Access options.

It was great for our team to be so warmly welcomed and to have the opportunity to talk with the local community. Nexus client Alan (pictured above left) travelled from Hobart for the event and stopped to chat with Supported Living Assistant Manager Troy Briggs.

Meanwhile in Hobart there was great interest in our Children and Youth respite services with families stopping by to chat about the tailored support we offer.

Read more about our services at www.nexusinc.org.au



Glenorchy Jobs Hub Youth Forum

We are very pleased to continue our work with the Glenorchy Jobs Hub to regularly engage with jobseekers in our community.

Recently we attended their Youth Forum where representatives from our Supported Living team and People and Practice team spoke to the group about the variety of opportunities available in the disability support sector.

Thank you to everyone who attended and engaged with our team, hopefully we will see some of you join the Nexus team soon!

In the first 6 months of last year, we grew by around 50 staff to meet growing demand for service.

NDS Hot Topics Breakfast



It was great for members of our Nexus staff and Board to join other industry leaders at the 2023 National Disability Services Hot Topics Breakfast.

Presentations from Minister for Disability Services Jo Palmer, NDS President Rohan Braddy GAICD, and NDS CEO Laurie Leigh covered the common challenges and future developments in our sector.

The annual NDS Disability Hot Topics Breakfast is a forum for the major issues in the sector and a chance to share experiences and ideas with fellow Tasmanians.

Client Stories

Lindley

Hobart Show Day is always a big day in town and this year Lindley had a great time visiting the new site out on the Regatta Grounds. Lindley visited Side Show Alley, met the local livestock, made friends with a happy clown and enjoyed all the sights and sounds of the entertainment at the event. He had a fantastic day out in the community and is looking forward to next year!



Julie

Julie was thrilled to celebrate her birthday with her housemates and enjoyed opening all of her presents and blowing out the candles on her amazing birthday cake.



Michael

It was a big season for Nexus client birthdays with Supported Living client Michael also celebrating his birthday. Michael celebrated with his housemates and a lovely cake! The house was decorated by the team to get everyone into the birthday party spirit.



Client Stories

Bowling Day Out

Clients and staff took to the bowling lanes for a day out in Moonah – from all reports the clients had a great time, whilst the staff need to freshen up their bowling skills!



Mandy

For Mandy, the happiest place in the world is her kitchen. She baked a delicious chocolate cake for an afternoon tea for her housemates.

According to support worker, Tanya, Mandy was delighted when the cake came out so well!

Mandy loves going through her recipe books to come up with different delicious ideas for her housemates.

Apart from creating her lovely sweet treats, Mandy also assists with dinner meal preparation for the house.

Damian

Damian had a great night out at our 25th Birthday Celebrations, looking sharp in his three piece suit. Damian was one of a number of clients who went shopping for formal wear at our 'Nexus Boutique' and found this fantastic outfit!





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:

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