

# nexus INK



Summer 2024

 nexus inc.

# CEO Welcome

Summer is always a fun and busy time at Nexus with clients getting out at community events and enjoying end of year festivities.

The NDIA has also been busy forming their response to both the Royal Commission and NDIS review. There are many rumours around what might happen but the key point is that most changes will be rolled out slowly - we are told this will be a 3 to 5 year project. We know change can create uncertainty and anxiety, so please feel free to reach out if you want to ask more questions, I would be happy to discuss what we know so far.

We have also been making our own internal changes to rostering, IT, accounting and phone systems. It's been a busy time but we are coming out the other side. Thank you to our staff, clients, families and stakeholders for their patience and support during this project.

We welcomed Renee Spencer this Summer as the latest member of our voluntary Board. Renee, who is Managing Director at Tremayne Fay Rheinberger, brings a wealth of legal and not-for-profit expertise to the role. We also said goodbye to Deb Bailey after three years on the Board. Her passion and advocacy for the support of clients, especially children, was inspiring and will be missed.

Much of Summer at our TechnoPark offices has been spent working around builders as we improve our office space. We are creating more meeting rooms, a great training area and a lighter work space that will bring our Southern team into the one building.

Redesigning the office has been a great opportunity to create spaces that are more accessible and cater to the physical and sensory needs of staff, clients and guests. With soft lighting, sensory panels, and lots of natural light, we look forward to being able to bring together more clients, staff and stakeholders in our new conference and meeting spaces.

Our service in the North West has also continued to grow over Summer as we welcomed four new clients from Devonport into our Supported Living program. We were also joined by nine of their existing support team who we are delighted to have join our Nexus team.

It was great to have some of the North West team visit our Southern office and vice versa. Even though we can connect online, we are keeping physical connections strong with lots of face to face contact. We look forward to continuing to develop our programs across the state.

After a great summer, autumn looks like it will be just as busy with continued growth in the north, implementation of new systems, and the final unveiling of our new offices - watch this space!

**Mark Jessop**  
CEO, Nexus Inc.



A portrait of Renee Spencer, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a green top. The background is a light-colored stone wall.

## Renee Spencer Joins the Nexus Board

We are thrilled to welcome Renee Spencer to our Nexus Board.

Renee is the Managing Director of Tremayne Fay Rheinberger law firm in Hobart and brings over 20 years of legal experience to the Nexus Board.

She is passionate about contributing to an organisation that does meaningful work in the community.

“I am excited to have some input into the strategic direction of Nexus to help ensure that it’s a sustainable operation and can keep doing what it does really well,” Renee said.

Renee has served as a board member for several not-for-profit organisations, reflecting her commitment to community service.

“Ever since I was in high school, I have been involved in volunteering for not-for-profit organisations, because my upbringing had emphasis on giving back to the community,” she said.

“I see a benefit for me as well in that I get to work with other experienced professionals who share the same goal of contributing to society through Nexus.”

In recognition of her expertise, Renee was honoured as a Preeminent lawyer in the 2023 Doyle’s Guide Leading Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution Lawyers – Tasmania.

“At this stage of my career, I think that being on the Nexus Board is a good way for me to continue contributing to society, and is a role which will allow me to use my skills for good,” she said.

Outside of work, Renee loves spending time with her family including her two children and enjoys getting out and about in Tasmania. She is also a lover of good food and says she is guilty of a bit of foodstagramming every now and then!

The Nexus volunteer Board oversees governance and strategy and includes community members from a variety of backgrounds. Renee’s experience and commitment to community work is perfectly suited to the goals and mission of our Board.

# Nexus Team



## Renovating the Nexus Hobart Office

This Summer, we started renovations on our new office space and we are excited to be moving into them very soon!

The completion of our office renovation will mark a significant milestone, as it will bring our entire Hobart team together in one building.

Our new office spaces will feature modern architecture, more meeting rooms, quiet spaces, and lots of natural light.

“We have taken this opportunity to redesign our offices, so they cater to the physical and sensory needs of our clients, staff and guests,” Nexus CEO Mark Jessop said.

“Sensory paneling, natural light, and quiet rooms are just a few of the features that will help create an inclusive and accessible space for everyone.”

People and Practice General Manager Annette Clark said the design of our new office will promote the health and mental wellbeing of our staff.

“The new workplace is going to be an excellent way to enhance team dynamics and continue to develop a positive culture across our divisions,” Annette said.

“The design of the new workspace will provide a more welcoming, friendly and a collaborative work environment.”



## Levy Court

Nexus warmly welcomes new clients, families and staff to our latest Supported Living property in Devonport.

Over the summer we had four clients transfer their support to Nexus. They had all lived together in their existing Supported Living house for many years, and recently decided to bring Nexus in as their new support provider.

It was great that nine of their existing staff were also able to continue to support them and join the Nexus team.

We are excited to continue expanding our services to Tasmanians living with disability in the North West of the state. We now operate five Supported Living properties and a number of community services in the region and will shortly be offering complex support services as well.



## Nexus in the Community



### Outing to the Hobart Regatta

At Nexus, we are strong advocates for accessible and inclusive events that clients can enjoy fully.

This summer, some of our SIL clients had a fantastic day out at the Royal Hobart Regatta.

They enjoyed their time, posing for pictures with the Army, riding the Dodgems, trying their luck on the Lion's Club chocolate wheel and getting show bags to take home.

Client Janine initially did not want to go on any of the rides but changed her mind after watching the dodgem cars!

Holding her Wiggles showbag, Alana had fun walking around the Regatta ground and was excited when the Nexus team arranged for her friend to join her.

After a classic Regatta lunch of chips, chicken nuggets, Coke and ice cream, they returned home. Nexus Support Workers, Janelle and Manjinder, supported the group and said everyone enjoyed their time at the Regatta.

## Client Poem



### Client Poem

Nexus client Ron loves to write poems. His poem, *Resting*, expresses gratitude for his Nexus team, Lisa, Sarah and Steve.

*'Resting'*

When I rest on my bed  
My arms, legs and even my head  
Feel the release from my chair  
I so look forward to going there.  
I think about my day so far  
And Steve driving his fast car  
The lights are turned off above my head  
It's much better like this when I'm resting on my bed  
Mum, wonder what she's up to? Is she cooking a cake  
Or outside on the rake She loves her golf and a wine after  
Tomorrow, who's rostered on with me?  
Is it Lisa, Bruce or Sarah or even all three!!  
Maybe I'll go bowling  
Where my ball will just keep on a rolling  
My bed feels so good  
Ahh they've tucked me in  
Snug as a bug in a rug  
Listening to my music  
Sometimes I drift off to sleep Or pretend, until someone  
takes a peek  
I look around my room What is everyone doing  
I'm nearly ready to get up again  
Steves here to help me up  
I'd be lost without him and the pup  
I do love my bed



# Client Stories

## Anita

Anita had a great time visiting Kickstart Arts in New Town this Summer. Anita loves every minute of her weekly music therapy sessions which she has been doing as part of the Nexus Community Access program. Anita said she was eagerly waiting for her next trip to Kickstart Arts to grab a guitar!



## Ed

Ed wanted his 68th birthday to be memorable so his housemates and Nexus staff made his birthday extra special with beautiful decorations, a big lunch and dinner, his favourite black forest cheesecake, special party hats and thoughtful gifts.

Since Ed loves cats, he received a cat themed calendar and toys as presents.



## Tameira

Tameira has been kicking goals over the last year. She recently finished year 10 and attended her leavers' dinner where she got dressed up and posed for photos with her Nexus team.

Finishing year 10 was an end of an era for Tameira - but an open door for her to take her next steps.

Apart from studying, Tameira worked hard to get her Learner Driver's License. She is now building up hours in her own car and aiming to get her full license.

"Tameira is striving towards independence and is a self-driven superstar. We can't wait to see what she achieves this year!" Nexus Support Worker Natalie said.





# Client Stories

## Yvette and Michael

SIL clients Yvette and Michael had a lovely afternoon at The Great Moscow Circus.

Michael loved watching the motorcycle cage riders show. Yvette could not pick a favourite part of the show and said 'it was all' her favourite!

Support worker Ashlee said everyone had a great time and there was plenty of laughter, clapping, and smiles!



## Lincoln

Lincoln was over the moon on the last day of school, as it was also the beginning of his much-awaited Christmas holidays!

He was eagerly waiting for this day to kick off some amazing things he had planned for the school holidays.

For Lincoln, the best way to celebrate such an exciting day was having a swing at the park!

## Christmas with SIL

One of our SIL houses celebrated Christmas with festive decorations, traditional Christmas feast and plenty of gifts!

According to one client, the house was "full of love, jolly, blessing, happiness and much more."

The Christmas festivities started in November when the entire house was decorated, and the Christmas tree lit up.

Nexus Staff prepared a lovely meal on Christmas day including turkey, ham, veggies, Christmas cake, pudding and drinks.

Everyone played Secret Santa and clients were excited to find out who their secret Santa was.

Support worker Prajina said everyone felt the Christmas vibe and warmth in "each and every corner of the house".







## 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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