



WEEROONA NEWS

April / May 2012



L-R Back: Judy, Andre, Andrea, Greg, Doris

L-R Front: Sandy, Tricia, Kerry, Susie

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2 From the Manager
- 3 Staff Training Opportunities
- 4 What have the Weeroona staff been up to?
- 5 Staff Information and updates
- 6 Disability Service Standard Review
- 7 Article from Tim Joyce, Date Claimers and Every Australian Counts
- 8 Weeroona Contact Information



FROM THE MANAGER

Welcome to all,

I hope you enjoy our new format for the newsletter. Office staff have all contributed to the new look and we are hoping to publish articles from those who may be interested in sharing an experience with our readers. Please contact the office if you would like to take part. We would love to hear from you.

Our Disability Services Surveillance Audit was held on 21st March. The Auditors reported three (3) observations and their recommendation was for certification continue. The Auditors noted the favourable comments from interviewees regarding Standard 4 - Privacy, dignity and confidentiality and Standard 5 - Participation & Integration. I congratulate the staff on the excellent result I must thank everyone for their participation.

I take this opportunity to report that Selena Cartwright has resigned as President of Weeroona. Selena told the Committee that she has enjoyed her time as President and wishes the Committee well in the future. Selena and Michael are expecting their first child in July. We wish them all the best with the new addition.

Cheers
Greg

\$\$\$ ANZAC DAY and TIME SHEETS \$\$\$

Due to the Anzac Day public holiday being on Wednesday 25th April, could all staff please have their time sheets in by **10AM TUESDAY 24th APRIL.**

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

◆ **An opportunity for FREE training to gain your Cert IV in Disability**



Eligibility: No prior qualifications in ANY field.

Assessment: Assessment tasks will range from observation and class participation to formal written tasks. Literacy support will be available.

When: This will depend on the final participants and trainer availability but there will be some scope for flexibility eg. 1 6hr day of face to face training per fortnight for 12 fortnights or 1 half day per week of face to face training for 26 weeks. Additional support as required via email and phone.

Where: Venue TBA but training will be in Gympie.

How do I apply: All prospective students will be required to undergo an eligibility assessment before starting the course. Contact Weeroona to complete a 'Pre-Assessment of Incentive for Eligibility' form which we will then lodge on your behalf.

*Definite numbers are needed as soon as possible so please ensure you have contacted Weeroona by **Thursday 6th April** if you are keen to take advantage of this great opportunity, or just want to ask about them.*

◆ **Support for you - Building Your Resilience**

Saturday 21 April 2012 - 9.30am to 4.00pm
Red Bridge Motor Inn
380 Connection Road, Nambour
Cost for Parent/Carer: **FREE**

The workshop is for parents of children (0-18 years) with Asperger's Syndrome who are interested in learning strategies for surviving and thriving whilst bringing up a child on the spectrum. Registration forms available at the Weeroona office.

WORDS OF WISDOM



Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

(Albert Einstein)

What have the Weeroona Staff been up to?

Disability Services Forum

Myself (Sandy) and fellow Faciliator Andre recently attended a DS Forum in Currimundi, but not before becoming lost first! Was that because of a dodgy map or not following directions? We'll leave that one for you to decide! Once we finally arrived, the forum presented an opportunity to share information with other service providers, listen to a brief on Fair Work Decision followed by a discussion on the New Disability Service Pathway where services present had a chance to voice their opinions—very interesting as some were quite passionate about their views but all in all it was an informative day.

"I know it was the silly old map printed off the internet"!!!! (Andre)

IPad Communications Workshop

Andre and I (Sandy) travelled to LifeTec in Newmarket to attend Utilising Mainstream Technologies for Communication which demonstrated multiple communication applications available for use on an Ipad or Android tablet. It was interesting and practical as we sampled each application using Ipads and Android tablets.

Person Centred Thinking

I (Sandy) thoroughly enjoyed a two day workshop presented by Parent to Parent (what can I say, it was a busy month)! It was a very interactive workshop which made participants aware of what life may be like living with a disability. The workshop focused very much on what is important to the person with a disability and what is important for them. I came away with more insight as well as some very useful tools and information that I am looking forward to using within my work.

Cultural Diversity workshops

1/ "Engagement Day" - Building regional Indigenous cross cultural capability. Kerry and I (Andre) attended this 1 day workshop which provided invaluable information around how to connect with the local Indigenous community. It also provided contacts of other organisations in the Sunshine Coast and Gympie regions who work directly with people from an Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander background.

2/ Greg and I (Andre) attended two very informative 1 day workshops in Brisbane—'Culture Wise Practice' & 'Providing Culturally Responsive Service'. These workshops promoted the concept that culture is about diversity in our communities. Individuals & families are all different, all unique and we all have varying beliefs and practices. These may include people from other countries and who may speak a different language. The workshop focused on the importance of being respectful of beliefs, practices, cultural and linguistic diversity in our community.



DISABILITY SERVICE STANDARD 10

Staff recruitment, employment and development

Weeroona has Policies and Procedures which ensure:

- ⇒ suitable staff are recruited, selected and employed to provide individuals and families with positive service delivery.
- ⇒ Interviews for permanent office positions may include a member from the management committee.
- ⇒ all staff (office and support workers) have an induction and have skills & knowledge to work alongside individuals and families in a positive manner.
- ⇒ all staff have Position Descriptions and complete Performance Appraisals.
- ⇒ personnel files for all staff are collated and stored in a locked filing cabinet with relevant documentation.
- ⇒ all staff have a current Positive Notice blue card.
- ⇒ staff are notified of upcoming training events for their consideration and professional development records are maintained for all staff.
- ⇒ all staff feel valued and supported.
- ⇒ all staff have the right to make a complaint without fear of retribution.



Relevant Policies and Procedures at Weeroona:

- ◆ RECRUITMENT & EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF
- ◆ EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
- ◆ HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- ◆ PRIVACY, CONFIDENTIALITY & ACCESS TO PERSONAL INFORMATION
- ◆ STAFF DISCIPLINE
- ◆ STAFF GRIEVANCES & DISPUTES
- ◆ STAFF EXIT
- ◆ WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

Please feel free to come in to Weeroona at any time to read through our Policy manual. If you would like a copy of a particular policy we can provide one for you.



Administering Medications

It has been brought to our attention that when support staff are signing the Medication Chart after administering medication, some are dating the form with the day and month only. We require the full date including the year to be noted on the chart please. It may seem irrelevant but if we ever have to refer to the form in the future, it becomes meaningless without the full date being noted.

Also a reminder to all that vitamins, herbs, minerals, homeopathic remedies, health supplements and over – the-counter medications and creams are classed as non-prescription medication. They must be identified on the PRN & Non-Prescription Authorisation Medication Form and officially authorised by a Doctor before staff are allowed to administer. If you have any questions please phone your Coordinator.

What to remember when: CALLING THE AMBULANCE



Call triple zero (000), and ask for “Ambulance”
(if unsuccessful on mobile use 112)

Be ready to tell the operator:

- The exact address of where the ambulance is required (include cross roads, landmarks, buildings);
- The phone number you are calling from;
- What the problem is/what has happened;
- How many people are injured;
- The patient's age;
- The patient's gender;
- If the patient is conscious; and
- If the patient is breathing.
- The operator may provide you with Ambulance pre-arrival advice to assist the patient;

Quiz

What is the street address of:

- Centro
- Gympie Library
- IGA

Answers on page 8

It is important that you **DO NOT HANG UP** until the operator tells you to. You may have to hold the line while an ambulance is dispatched.



Disability Action Week is an opportunity for the community to come together to shine a spotlight on social inclusion and access issues, and to celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with a disability. Last year's event in Mary Street along with the art displays and the fun day at the All Ability Playground was a big success. Once again, Weeroona is participating in the preparations for this year's events which will be held from the 9th to the 15th September.

If you would like to attend the organising committee or can help out during the events in September give Tricia a call at the Weeroona Office.



OUR TRIP

by **Tim Joyce**



On Thursday March 15, Mike and Tim went to Woolooga for the cattle sale. We enjoyed watching the auction after lunch.

We watched the cattle being loaded onto body trucks and trailer. I would like to buy some Drought Masters and lots of jobs to do every day and night on my farm and Saturday too. I had a sandwich for morning tea and a steak sandwich for lunch. OK from Tim Joyce in Gympie.



EVERY AUSTRALIAN COUNTS

Campaign heats up so ready to rally?

The biggest ever rally of people with disability, their families and supporters is getting ready to roll across the country on 30 April 2012.

Visit www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au
or ask your coordinator for more information.



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Please use the front entry at the top of the ramp to enter the building.

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon— Thurs 9.00am to 4.00pm

Fri 9.00am to 3.00pm

Closed weekends and Public Holidays

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUT SOMETHING IN THE NEWSLETTER?

PLEASE LET US KNOW, CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.

Compliments, Suggestions or Complaints

Please feel free to complete a Service Improvement Request Form located at the desk in reception. Your comments can remain anonymous by placing the form in the suggestions box at the ramp.

DATE CLAIMER:

THE GYMPIE SHOW 17-18-19 May

Companion Card holders pay concession price while their carers enter free. For more information phone the Secretary 5482 1721.