



WEEROONA NEWS

"Taking time to care"



Ky enjoying playtime at Baby Bridges. More information on page 6.

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FROM THE MANAGER

Welcome All, to our April/May edition of the newsletter.

After much hard work by staff and especially Doris, Weeroona SelfDirect has been approved by the Department to be a Host Provider in the Your Life Your Choice initiative (YLYC).

As a Host Provider, Weeroona SelfDirect aims to assist people to have the control and flexibility that is available when a person manages their own support.

Doris Knackmuss is our Facilitator in Weeroona SelfDirect and has developed an excellent understanding of the QLD Government's YLYC initiative. Doris will assist you in gathering information about self direction if you require it and will be working with you if you choose Weeroona SelfDirect as your Host Provider.

For official information, search 'YLYC Host Providers Gympie', select the Dept. of Communities' search result, and scroll down to Weeroona SelfDirect. You can read about our model of service and our fee structure.

Please call Doris on 5482 2451 for an initial consultation (free of charge) and with no obligation.

Our recent Audit against the Human Services Quality Standards (HSQS) was conducted on April 2 & 3. the audit resulted in nil nonconformities and a recommendation that Weeroona be certified as having met the Standards. Thanks to Individual/Families and Support Workers for their much needed participation and also to our Office Staff for their work throughout the year to achieve this great result.

Till next time,

Regards,
Greg Wilson.

INFORMATION FOR SUPPORT WORKERS

Reminder for submitting Time Sheets on line:

Please do not submit incorrect timesheets: Check each shift to make sure the dates and times you worked are accurately reflected. If your timesheet is incorrect you can edit within the Time On Line system or, contact your Coordinator for assistance.

Only submit once all your shifts worked and ensure they are correctly entered!

Support Worker Refresher Training

Invitations will be sent out this week so keep an eye out and RSVP as soon as possible. Attendance is mandatory and you are expected to make any necessary arrangements to ensure you can attend one of the sessions offered.

Contact your Coordinator if your usual shifts need to be rearranged.

Documentation

All Support Workers are required to provide Weeroona with their current documents, such as CPR, Licence, Vehicle Checks in order to maintain your employment. Please respond promptly to all reminders and requests.

LOCAL EVENTS



15th, 16th & 17th May — Gympie Show

People with a Companion Card & their Carer have free entry.
Weeroona Support Workers have free entry if they are supporting someone for Weeroona and have a Weeroona ID card. If not, entry fees apply.

Sunday 25th May - Goomeri Pumpkin festival

All day free entertainment. Food stalls, markets and displays

Your Life Your Choice

Now available with **Weeroona!**

Hello everyone,

As many of you know, I have worked with Weeroona for a number of years in the role of Coordinator. I am excited to now facilitate selfdirected supports within the 'Your Life Your Choice' initiative.

Selfdirected support provides the option for Individuals and Families who have individualised funding to have increased authority, control, flexibility and choice over their supports.

I have included our 'Weeroona SelfDirect' brochure for more information.

I look forward to assist Individuals and Families to embrace self-directing their supports and I can be contacted on 5482 2451 or ylc@weeroona.org.au.

Warm Regards

Doris Knackmuss



'Get the Wrap' ON Winter Fire Safety

FACT: Last winter there were 542 reported fires with 190 of those occurring in July alone. Protect your household and those with increased risk. Everyday people get burned in fires, everyday!



Tips for Staying Safe through the Cooler Months

- 1. Install and maintain your Smoke Alarms:**
Have an adequate number of suitable smoke alarms installed throughout your home and make sure that you test and clean them regularly, and change the battery annually.
- 2. Prepare and Practice your Escape Plan:**
Develop a home escape plan and practice it with all the members of the household. Assemble at your meeting point eg. Letterbox. Ring the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service on 000 from a neighbour's house. NEVER go back into a burning house.
- 3. Screen and Clean up your Open Fireplace:**
If you have a fireplace ensure fire screens are always in position. *All solid fuel heaters should have chimneys cleaned annually – only use dry timber*.
- 4. Stay clear 1metre around your Heaters:**
Portable heating equipment should be placed in a stable position, a safe distance away from clothes curtains, tablecloths, and bedding. Keep a clear space of 1 metre around heaters.
- 5. Check and Test your Electric Blankets:**
Check blankets for damage or frayed cords before placing them on the bed. To test an electric blanket, lay it flat on top of the bed, and then switch it on for five minutes to confirm it is OK, before affixing it to the bed. It is recommended that they are turned on half an hour before going to bed and then turned off at the power point when getting into bed. Never sleep with the electric blanket on.
- 6. Regularly clean your Clothes Dryer:**
Clean lint filter regularly. Don't leave on for long periods of time and especially if you are leaving the house. Make sure they go through their full cycles, which includes cool down.
- 7. Take extra care with your Candles, Matches and Lighters:**
Use candles and open flames with care and extinguish them before going to bed or upon leaving the home. Store matches and lighters in a secure place not accessible to young children. Ensure cigarettes are completely extinguished before going to bed. Never smoke in bed.
- 8. Your Dead Locks can be deadly:**
Never dead lock yourself inside your home. Smoke, toxic gases and fire spread rapidly, and time is limited for your escape.
- 9. Keep watch over your Cooking:**
Never leave cooking unattended. Cooking fires are the most common cause of residential fires. Have an extinguisher and fire blanket in the kitchen and know how to use them.
- 10. Choose Low Fire Danger Clothing:**
When purchasing clothing for children, such as pyjamas, nighties etc look for LOW FIRE DANGER labels. Elderly people should consider buying clothing which is close fitting, made from wool and will offer a higher degree of fire resistance than synthetic materials.

For more information call 1300 369 003 to book your safehome visit from the fire station nearest you or visit www.fire.qld.gov.au

ipg print



IN AN EMERGENCY CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)



Interview by Lara Caughey, Horizon Foundation Public Relations Officer

GYMPIE children with a disability have gained their rightful gift to grow as a result of Baby Bridges early intervention program according to a local mother.

Angela West, 39, from Curra, and three-year-old son Ky who has Down syndrome, reaped the rewards of the free six week program recently.

“It is a very important program and provides a world full of knowledge,” she said.

“It helped both of us build friendships.” “He developed his motor skills, is more social now and they helped him with his writing skills and how to hold a pencil.

“Getting other parents’ perspective on how they cope with their children and the extra interaction the specialists do one-on-one with each child stood out to me.”

Angela urged other parents in their region to get involved in Baby Bridges.

“Every parent who has a child with a disability should sign up to create a brighter future for your child,” she said. “I have already asked if I can do the program again.”

Before Angela embarked on Baby Bridges she felt alone, isolated and lost. After reaching out to the wider community she found the program and received much-needed support.

“The friendships have continued with the ladies from the group and we talk about the children then share further resources to things like equipment,” she said.

“The information I received was important, getting other parents’ perspective on how they cope with their children and the extra interaction the specialists do one-on-one with each child stood out to me.”

“I have more support out there in the community now and access to greater facilities.”

Angela reflected on her journey of motherhood and the program which provided her with pivotal support. “Having a child with a disability is a hard journey but it is worthwhile,” she said. “I want what is best for him and many opportunities in life.”

“There are more places I know where to take him for things like physiotherapist.”

“Baby Bridges is a very good program. I am glad I joined it and done it.”

Do you (or someone you know) have a child 5yrs or under who has a disability/developmental delay?

A confirmed diagnosis is not needed to be involved in
Baby Bridges

The next free Baby Bridges program starts on Friday 23rd May—places are still available!!

For more information or to register please contact

Tammy Shelley at Weeroona



BABY BRIDGES.

Phone: 5482 2451



Complaints are OK

HUMAN SERVICES QUALITY STANDARDS

Standard 5: Feedback, Complaints and Appeals

Weeroona Staff are required to tell you about the procedure for providing us with feedback on the services and supports that are being provided, how to raise concerns and complaints and what to do if you are not satisfied with actions, outcomes or a decision that has been made.

Weeroona makes every effort to provide a service that meets the expectations of individuals and families, but sometimes things can go wrong. In these instances we welcome your feedback. If you want to raise a concern or a complaint that is okay too. Telling us about what we do right is also important.

Your feedback, complaints, and appeals are welcomed. These help us improve the quality of our service and the supports that we provide to you.

If you need help to raise your concern or complaint or to provide feedback please let us know. Outside agencies can also assist you with this process.



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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 your work published?

No promises, but we may put it in the newsletter.

PLEASE LET US KNOW, CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.

Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

Please feel free to complete a Compliments and Concerns Form or a Complaints Form, both are located at the desk in reception. Your comments can be anonymous by placing the completed form in the suggestions box at the ramp.



Weeroona is on Facebook!

“Like us” on Facebook to keep up with what is happening day to day; for ideas of things to do & to keep informed about upcoming events, training and news items.