

# HOMEPLACE NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION July 2020



## A word from the Executive Directors

There is no doubt the Coronavirus has dominated our world since the last newsletter. While we re-emerge into our wider world, the clear threat of COVID-19 remains. Globally, infections are still growing in several countries, and in our own backyard, authorities in Melbourne are grappling with a sharp rise in cases.

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The threat of Coronavirus remains as we return to restaurants, pubs and nightclubs, gyms, and competitive sports.

Many of our participants have returned to pre-COVID-19 activities, which have all been adapted to accommodate the new world of social distancing and good hygiene.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of staff during this difficult period. Participants in our shared living were at home for many weeks and staff developed a range of activities that were fun and engaging. Many staff have indicated their willingness to make themselves available for extra work should we have a staffing crisis related to COVID-19. HomePlace remains committed to employing our own staff and not using a third party/ agency to support participants.

In positive news, HomePlace has successfully completed our NDIS Quality and Safeguards audit. This audit assessed whether HomePlace services, systems and processes and governance matches the standards required by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. We were fortunate to complete the audit just a few days before the nation went into lockdown for COVID-19.

Many of you will be shocked and horrified by the tragic death of Anne Marie Smith. As a result of her death we have reviewed our processes and systems with a focus on participants who live alone and have few or no networks other than paid staff. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of family and friends in the lives of the individuals we support.

**Denice Wharldall** and **Shirley Paterson**

*Executive Directors*

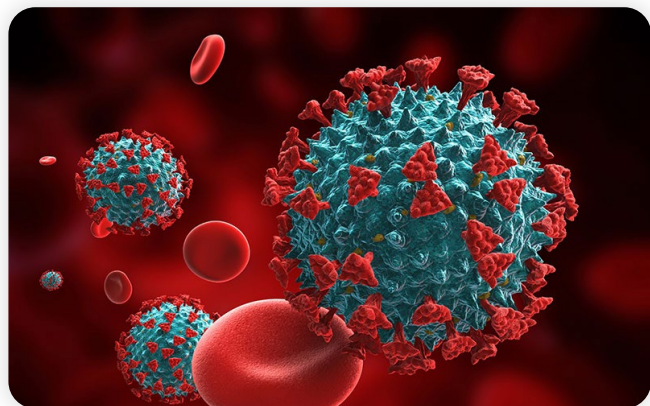
HomePlace  
believes in building  
**long-term  
relationships** with  
our participants and  
their families, to  
ensure that  
**positive and  
sustained** outcomes  
are achieved.

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# HOMEPLACE'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19



While this has been a very difficult time for us all, we are fortunate that South Australia is doing so well in managing the Coronavirus, and, to date, no HomePlace participant or staff member has contracted COVID-19.

As we continue towards a COVID Safe Australia and states and territories ease physical distancing measures, it is vital we continue to protect participants and others from Coronavirus. This includes continuing with:

- good hygiene
- physical distancing
- avoiding public gatherings
- if sick, staying home
- if you have cold or flu-like symptoms, get tested

Some participants are now returning to out of home activities and it is pleasing to see visitors visit family members again at their homes.

For additional information, please visit the HomePlace website.

[www.homeplace.com.au/covid-19-update](http://www.homeplace.com.au/covid-19-update)

## Face masks available for when social distancing is difficult.

Although the COVID-19 situation is under control in SA, we all know that things can change quickly. There may be situations where social distancing is difficult such as while on public transport or at a sporting event like an AFL match at Adelaide Oval.

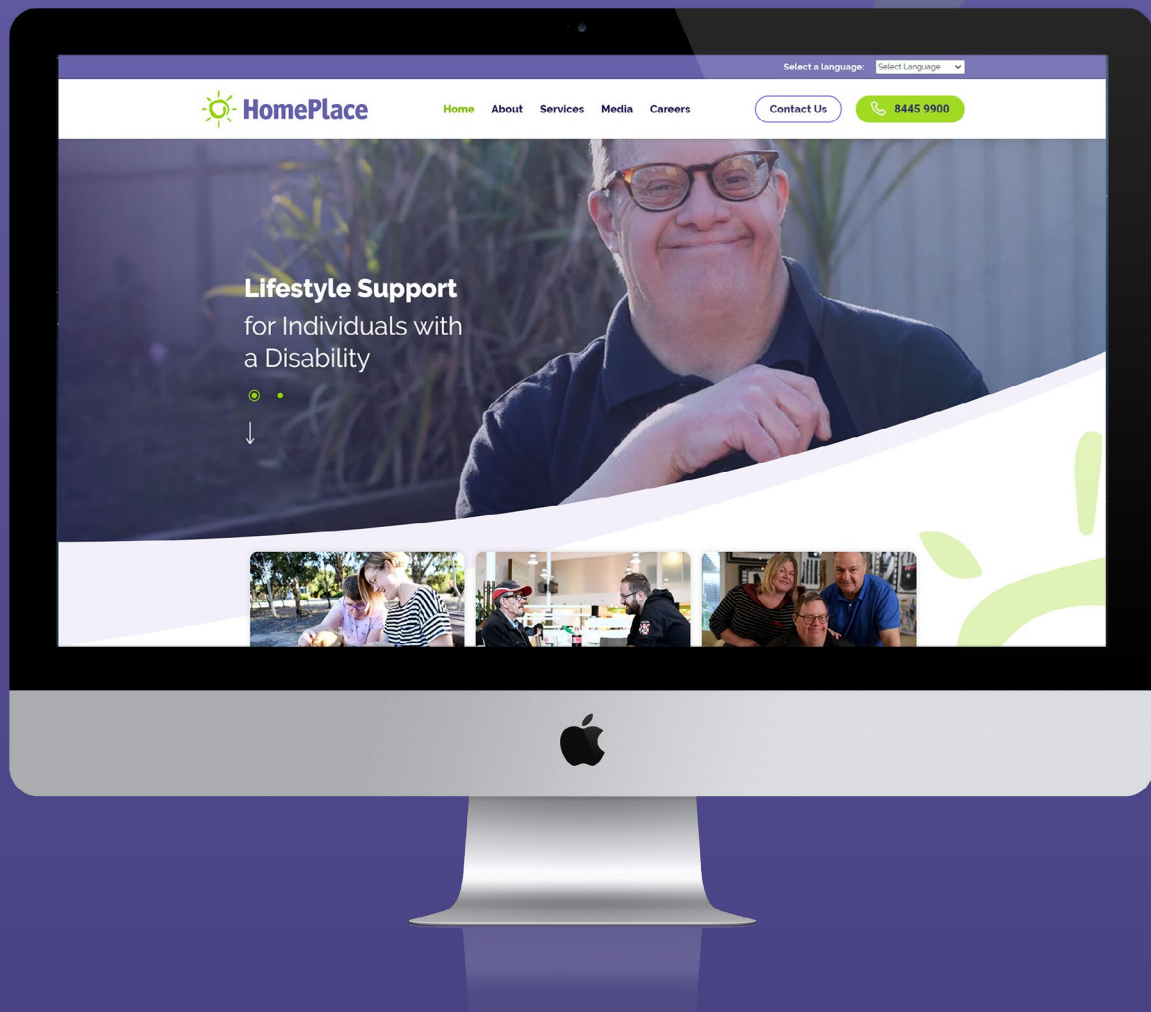
HomePlace has made available disposal masks for such occasions for both participants and staff. Face masks are available from the office but please be mindful to use only as necessary. We are also investigating reusable cloth masks.



Please click on the link below from the World Health organisation on how to wear a mask.

[www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/  
novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-  
public/when-and-how-to-use-masks](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks)

**If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the HomePlace office on 8445 9900.**



## HomePlace launches new website!

We are delighted to introduce our new user-friendly website, which is filled with lots of engaging content.

You are invited to please follow our website and social channels on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) regularly to keep in touch with what is going on in our organisation.



**Welcome**

# GLENN STANTON

**Senior Coordinator**



I love animals and have had lots of different pets like dogs, birds, turtles. At the moment we just have the one cat and his name is Pyewacket.

I like to support some of the local animal rescues, we buy food, beds, medicines and support them with their fundraising so they can rescue and save more animals.

I love going to the movies, live concerts, going to the theatre, travelling and trying new things!

## **What was your last job?**

I worked at another Disability Organisation as Chief Operations Officer.

## **What attracted you to work at HomePlace?**

I worked at Homeplace 10 years ago, what attracted me back to HomePlace is the values that we uphold and the amazing people that we are here to support. A lot of the people that were here 10 years ago are still being supported by HomePlace today.

## **Crows, Port or other?**

Well it depends on who I am talking to at the time! Generally, I would go for the Crows.

## **Morning or evening person?**

Definitely an evening person!

## **Sweet or savoury?**

Savoury

## **Tea or coffee?**

Coffee for sure.





**Welcome**

# PAULA RUDIGER

**Rostering Officer**



I am a wife, mother, step mum and grandma. I am a bit crazy, almost always happy, kind of intelligent, sincere, friendly, committed, spontaneous, orderly, friendly, imperfect, but all together a total package, I think.

## **What was your last job?**

In my last role I worked at NewsCorp looking after the rosters for 200+ staff. These were created weekly to a budget and published four weeks in advance. I was at News for four years and was made redundant just as the COVID-19 work-from-home period started. I did love working at News but after working at HomePlace for the last couple of months, I can honestly say that I am happy for the change of pace.

## **What attracted you to work at HomePlace?**

What attracted me to HomePlace was the challenges around moving to a different environment. The opportunity to help build something new and exciting as we move into using MYP.

## **Crows, Port or other?**

Happy to join a tipping league but I don't really follow ball sports, sorry. In saying that, when I am tipping, I do tend to favour GWS.

## **Morning or evening person?**

Absolutely a morning person. I'm dead by 9pm.

## **Sweet or savoury?**

100% savoury. I worked at Cadbury's when I was younger and have not been a big fan of chocolate since. However happy to accept Lindt balls as a bribe when required.

## **Tea or coffee?**

Both, coffee in the morning, Red Seal teas for the rest of the day.



# Every moment has potential.

## The importance of Active Support

There is now considerable research related to what are the quality indicators of a group homes/shared living. The evidence is strong that where staff use good Active Support, there are better outcomes for the people they support.

Active Support can include people doing something practical with materials such as vacuum cleaning, hanging out washing, laying a table or washing up, or interacting with other people by talking or listening to them and paying attention to what they are doing. It can also include activities like taking part in a group activity, such as playing a board game or being part of a cheer squad.

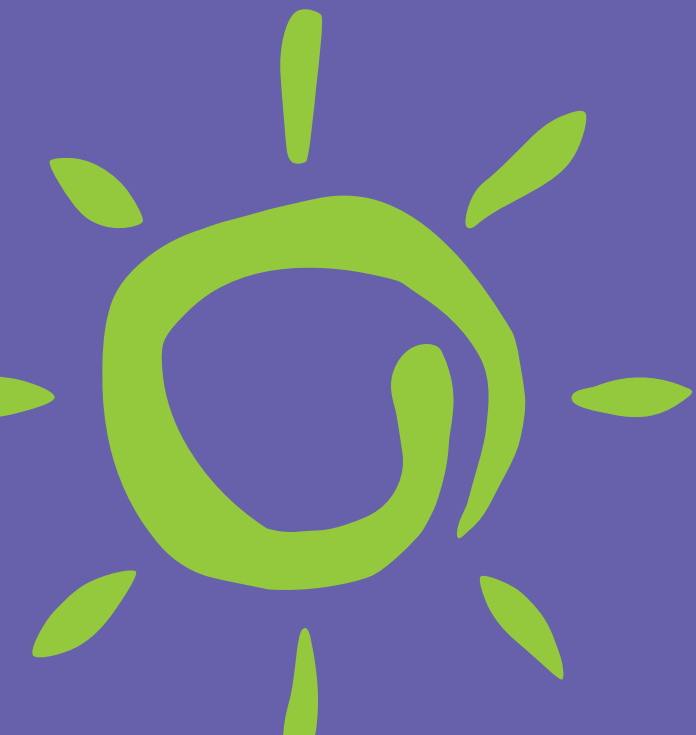
HomePlace has been training staff in Active Support for two years and we believe it is an important skill set for staff.

In order to improve our practice, we are introducing a check list for observing person centred active support practice, we will be focusing on how staff interact with the participant with a focus on:

- Adapting to the person
- Attentiveness
- Enabling
- Meaningful and real
- Organised
- Respectful
- Just enough support
- Ensuring success
- Giving control

The focus is on the quality of the engagement. Research tells us that many individuals with a disability spend a great deal of time not engaged and sitting and waiting.

If you would like to learn more about Active Support, go to [www.activesupportresource.net.au](http://www.activesupportresource.net.au)







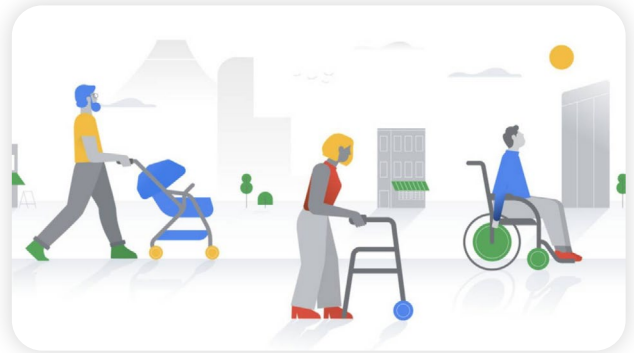
*Banjobe with a series of self-portraits.*

## BANJOBE CELEBRATES LIFE THROUGH ART

Ever since a young boy, Banjobe has enjoyed artwork, including sketching and painting. He began with animal sketches as he was used to hand-rearing rescued native animals. Many of his first paintings include possums and other Australian natives.

Banjobe has a keen eye for nature and can capture an emotion very beautifully in his paintings. He has been working hard during the pandemic and has produced some outstanding pieces for SALA, a solo exhibition and also some privately commissioned work for corporate clients.

His mum, Anthea, said, "Art has been, and continues to be a great source of healing and fulfillment for Banjobe, and the ability to sit quietly and draw and paint has been extremely helpful during these COVID times."



## FIND WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE PLACES WITH GOOGLE MAPS

Google Maps recently announced that users are now able to turn on an "Accessible Places" feature to have wheelchair accessibility information more prominently displayed in Google Maps. This feature makes it easier to find and contribute wheelchair accessibility information to Google Maps.

Users can now access this feature in Maps or Web, Android, and iOS. The Accessible Places feature is available to Google Maps users in Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, with support for additional countries on the way.

All users will also have enhanced abilities to edit wheelchair accessibility features in these countries to further enhance the accessibility information of more than 15 million places around the world.

**SOURCE:** [lnkd.in/gPicW7T](https://lnkd.in/gPicW7T)







# WELCOME JACKIE & KOBI TO HOMEPLACE

Jackie & Kobi have been sharing a home together for over five years. HomePlace began supporting the two ladies on 6th April and it has been a joy getting to know them and develop a relationship of trust and respect. As COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in recent times, Jackie and Koby have been getting out and here they are pictured (below) at the Adelaide Zoo. We thank them and their families for placing their trust in HomePlace and extend to them a very warm welcome.





# The Place I Call Home



Respect



Trust



Safety



Partnership

## WHO WE ARE

Established in 1989, **HomePlace** was formed by a group of parents who were seeking to secure an independent future for their adult children with intellectual disabilities.

Three decades later, the HomePlace service is just as personable, where **we support people with disabilities** to live well by participating in their own home and community.



**HomePlace**  
LIFESTYLE SUPPORT  
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A DISABILITY

19-21 Belmore Terrace, Woodville  
South Australia 5011

9am-5pm Monday - Friday

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