

# HOMEPLACE

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023



## 2023 — We're off and running

Welcome to 2023! After celebrating participant and staff achievements at our 2022 Christmas Party (see *pages 6-9*) and a short, quieter period over the new year, 2023 has started with energy and excitement for the year ahead.

A few highlights of our plans are listed here in relation to the goals in our Strategic Plan 2021-25:

### Quality at the Core

- Continuing to provide the best support we can in the HomePlace way to the 57 people we serve.

### Growing the HomePlace Community and supports

- Transitioning a new participant to the HomePlace community, and increasing supports to a number of current participants over the next few months.

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- Hopefully being successful in our application to become a Concierge provider to tenants living with disability in a soon-to-be-completed apartment complex.
- Celebrating our collaboration with Specialist Disability Accommodation provider, New Dawn Housing, when two participants we support move into their brand new home in May/June.

## Thriving over the long term

- Implementing more improvements in the way we do things. Some examples include introducing Easy Read versions of our service agreements and rosters of care.

## Events on the HomePlace Calendar are always special. Please see the invitations for our:

- Autumn Barbecue for all the participants we support and their families, on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 5.30pm – 8:00pm.
- Family Forum for parents and family members of people we support on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> of May. The topic for the night is 'estate and will planning'. Highly respected local and interstate lawyers experienced in working with families in the disability sector will be speaking and responding to questions on these important issues. More details to be confirmed.
- Save the date – Winter at HomePlace, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of July, 5:30-8:00pm.

## HomePlace's Independent Visitor program

In 2022, we started our Independent Visitor Strategy. Modelled on the Community Visitor Scheme, Mr Tony Rankine, visited six people we supported during the year. These visits enabled the participants to share their thoughts on the support they were receiving from HomePlace, and whether improvements need to be made so that they can lead a better life. It provided Mr Rankine an opportunity to make sure the participants were safe, healthy and leading an active life.

Reports from the visits have provided valuable feedback regarding participant safety, health and well-being and areas for improvement.

In late January 2023, a second visitor, Ms Leslie Wightman, started. Many of you will know Leslie from her time on the HomePlace Board. With the addition of Leslie's skills and capacity, the Visitor Strategy will enable two visits for each of the six participants in 2023.

If you would like to have a visit from Tony or Leslie, please let your Senior Coordinator know.



## HomePlace Listens 2023

It's really important to everyone at HomePlace that our staff 'live and breathe' our Home Place Values of:



### **Respect:**

For the unique identity of the individual



### **Trust:**

Being honest and reliable



### **Safety:**

Protection against abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation



### **Partnership:**

Achieving outcomes by working together

Later in 2023, we will be starting our HomePlace Listens 2023 project. This will be the third time HomePlace has engaged someone external to HomePlace, to meet with participants, family members, guardians, support coordinators and staff, to find out:

- Are we truly demonstrating our values in everything we do?
- What things are we doing well?
- Where and how could we be better?
- Suggestions for new or different services or supports we could provide that would make a positive

difference to people living with an intellectual disability or cognitive impairment.

We hope that through the contribution of your thoughts and ideas to this project, we can make HomePlace even better in the years to come.

Have a brilliant 2023 everyone!

## **Julie Bowman Chief Executive**





# HomePlace Events

## HomePlace's Autumn Barbecue

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023,  
5.30pm – 8.00pm**

**Findon Community  
Centre, David  
Reserve Park**

**RSVP by 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to  
[mjohnson@homeplace.com.au](mailto:mjohnson@homeplace.com.au) or  
phone 8445 9900 with any  
dietary requirements**

### Fun Autumn Activities!

- ✓ Scavenger hunt
- ✓ Autumn Bingo
- ✓ End of Summer Trivia



**Join us for BBQ  
and salads.**





# Participant Highlights



## Carolyn and Cristiane's Day Out

Carolyn and Cristiane out and about enjoying the sunshine by the lake, and finishing off with a Wednesday taco night.

## All Aboard!

Tina playing Captain on the Popeye.



## Phillipa's first Tai chi class

Phillipa attending her first Tai chi class. Look at her go!



# 2022 Christmas Party











Our thanks to Shield Insurance Brokers for their generous donation which funded Christmas gifts for each participant we support.







# State Autism Strategy

On Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, HomePlace representatives and other organisations within the disability sector were invited by the Department of Human Services to attend a forum to help form the state's Autism Strategy.

Glenn Stanton, Executive Manager Participant Services and Quality, and Anna Dashti, Senior Coordinator, represented HomePlace.

"It was an afternoon full of enthusiasm, energy and ideas with the focus of inclusion, access and rights of Autistic people and the Autism Community".

A big thank you to Minister for Human Services, Nat Cook, and Assistant Minister for Autism, Emily Bourke, for their commitment and passion that was very evident on the day.

It is great to see that an Office for Autism has been created in The Department for Premier and Cabinet.





# HomePlace Events

## Family Forum

Estate and will planning for you and your family member living with intellectual disability or cognitive impairment.

### For whom

Family members of participants we support

### Save the date

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
5.15pm for a  
5.30pm start – 7.30pm

### Where

St Clair Recreation Centre

### Presented by

Local and interstate disability lawyers.



RSVP by 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to  
[mjohnson@homeplace.com.au](mailto:mjohnson@homeplace.com.au)  
with any dietary requirements

# COVID-19 Update

## PROTECTING AGAINST & RESPONDING TO COVID-19 AND OTHER ILLNESSES

### COVID-19 is still here

SA Health predicts that there will be more COVID-19 in the community in the coming weeks.

#### HomePlace staff do NOT need to wear masks unless:

- Participants ask them to wear one.
- They are providing support to a participant who has COVID-19 (they will also wear a face shield, gowns and gloves).

Please use lots of hand sanitiser many times during the day.

If you have a cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, diarrhoea or runny nose, please tell your Senior Coordinator straight away.

### Do you have any questions?

Please ask your Senior support worker/Senior coordinator or phone HomePlace at **84459900**.



# Service Award Updates

**Thank you to the staff who have made a difference to the lives of many people HomePlace supports.**

Rosten Sanya

15 years of service

Marko Antunovic

5 years of service

Kayla Tulloch

5 years of service

Mary Papadopoulos

5 years of service

Soni Brar

5 years of service





# Staff News

## Welcome to our new staff!

**Tracy Lomman (CP Team)**

Support worker

**Charity Kinyua**

Support Worker

**Rhianna Beenham**

Support Worker

**Vicky Jain**

HR Assistant

*(Alongside her usual role as a Support Worker)*

**Andrea Weincke**

Support Worker

**Karen Doak**

Assistant Accountant

**Melissa Mabarrack**

Support Worker

**Ying Liu**

Student

**Erin DeVisser**

Support Worker

**Esther Kananga**

Support Worker

We also wish to thank participants Julie and Trisha who are helping to develop the skills of support staff in training.







## Congratulations to Colleen Bennett

At the Australia Day awards ceremony held at Modbury in the City of Tea Tree Gully, a former staff member from 2004-2016 was honoured with the Tea Tree Gully Citizen of the Year award.

Mrs Bennett was recognised for her tireless volunteer work in local community organisations, where she has contributed thousands of hours over the years to benefit others. Her commitment to serving others has been demonstrated through her lengthy 34-year tenure with Scouts SA, as well as her 26-year and 27-year tenures with Redwood Park Neighbourhood Watch and St John SA, respectively.

## Congratulations, Jodie!

Congratulations to Jodie Loudon, our Training Partner & Senior Coordinator, who has completed a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.



# HomePlace has 4 goals

These are the HomePlace Goals:

## Strategic Goal 1 Quality at Core

This means that HomePlace will provide the best care and support for people with disability.



## Strategic Goal 2 Growing the 'HomePlace Community' and supports

This means HomePlace will look for ways we can provide excellent support for more people with disability.



## Strategic Goal 3 Partnerships & Collaborations

This means HomePlace will look for other organisations who think the same way we do. We will work together with them.



## Strategic Goal 4 Thriving over the long term

This means that HomePlace will keep supporting people with disabilities for a long time.



## The Place I Call Home



Respect



Trust



Safety



Partnership



19-21 Belmore Terrace,  
Woodville SA 5011  
9am-5pm Monday - Friday

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