

COMMUNITY & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION 2018 | EDITION. 15



UNISSON DISABILITY REBRAND 6 MONTHS ON

Back in November we launched our new name and look, Unisson Disability. We wanted a name that better represents the values of the organisation and more clearly describes what we do. It has been 6 months now since the change and the feedback has been very positive.

We knew it was important to reach out to the families of the people we support to ensure they felt happy with our name change, and were happy with how we communicated the change to them.

We surveyed a sample of our families one-on-one to find out what they think about our new name.

We were pleased to hear that an overwhelming majority were happy with our new name and how we communicated with them.

Here are some results from the survey:

- 95% feel they were adequately informed about what was happening
- 100% knew that the name change was coming
- 92% were happy with the way we communicated the change
- 95% have no concerns about the change for their family

We consider you an important part of our journey so please email or call Katrina Jackson Marketing & Communications Manager on 1300 266 222 or or info@unisson.org.au if you have any questions.

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WHAT'S ON IN YOUR
COMMUNITY

DYING TO TALK

TALKING END OF LIFE (TEL) ONLINE TOOLKIT LAUNCHES

We are excited to share with you that Unisson Disability has been involved in the development of a world-first resource to support people with intellectual disability understand end-of-life.

Together with researchers from the University of Sydney, Western Sydney University, HammondCare, CareSearch and Flinders University, Unisson embarked on a landmark project to ensure Australians with intellectual disability understand the concept of death and their own mortality, and are appropriately supported to comprehend and cope with end-of-life issues.

In a world-first, the Talking End of Life (TEL) project has been developed as a research-based online toolkit to support staff and carers to deliver end-of-life information to adults with intellectual disability, and discuss end-of-life planning in everyday contexts.

The TEL toolkit reflects 10 years of Australian research on end-of-life and people with intellectual disability, with research demonstrating that currently, many people with intellectual disability encounter death without understanding what is happening, both when loved ones die or when they themselves approach death.

Professor of Intellectual Disability, Roger Stancliffe, from the University of Sydney asserted, “People with intellectual disability shouldn’t be left out of conversations about death and dying. However, our research shows that far too often they are, but that’s where the TEL toolkit becomes such a valuable resource.”

The Toolkit is free to access and available online at www.caresearch.com.au/TEL/

TEL will equip direct support professionals and carers with the information and confidence to involve people with intellectual disability in conversations about end-of-life and death.



Talking End of Life ...with people with intellectual disability



NDIS UPDATE

Here at Unisson, we understand how daunting the NDIS can be, so we are offering one-on-one meetings to help you understand what your next steps may be. To organise a meeting, please call our team on 1300 266 222 or email info@unisson.org.au

Alternatively, the NDIA are offering a range of information sessions and workshops. You can visit their website for more information and upcoming events www.ndis.nsw.gov.au/events/

CARERS AND THE NDIS (TWO DAY WORKSHOP)

Carers and the NDIS is a free workshop designed to help carers get the best outcome from the NDIS for the person they care for and for themselves.

The two part workshop focuses on building knowledge and skills to help carers make informed choices when accessing the NDIS.

Day one – An introduction to the NDIS

Day two – Your role as a carer in the NDIS
(Attendance both days is required)

For more information email education@carersnsw.org.au
or phone 02 9280 4744

To register: www.surveymonkey.com/r/ndissdm

PARRAMATTA	• 20th June
DEE WHY	• 28th June

PARTICIPANT WORKSHOP – MAINSTREAM AND FUNDED SUPPORTS

A workshop for Participants, their family and carers. Have you received your approved plan? Do you want to know more about how your plan and your funding work?

The workshop will cover:

- Connecting with mainstream services
- Funding, budget categories, and the supports you can purchase
- Working with service providers – increasing your skills and confidence
- Your consumer rights under the NDIS
- How to make a complaint
- Learning from, and connecting with others
- Assistance available from your Local Area Coordinator

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
26 June 2018	10am – 1pm	St Vincent de Paul Level 1, 45-47 Scott St Liverpool NSW 2170

Please RSVP to Schedeen.Snowden@ndis.gov.au or 0434 478 305

Please advise any accessibility requirements or dietary requirements. Participants, family members and carers are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

NDIS: SELF-MANAGEMENT

What does self-management of your NDIS funding mean, and how can you be an effective self-manager? This workshop will give you the tools you need to take more control of your supports and your budgets.

Discover the ins and outs with the experienced St Vincent de Paul Society LAC team. You will learn through examples and practical problem-solving activities.

Topics

- Comparing the three plan management options
- Benefits of self-management
- Challenges of self-management
- Paying invoices through your MyPlace portal
- Recruiting and managing your own staff

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
28 June 2018	9.45am – 1.30pm	Wyong Golf Club 319 Pacific Hwy Wyong NSW 2259

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

CREATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

By working with our business services, customers assist us to maintain and create job opportunities for people with disability, in turn allowing opportunity for people to build a sense of valuable contribution, and achieve social inclusion in a work environment.

The business services we run enable supported employees to develop new skills, through on the job training, contributing towards an overall positive experience, building confidence and having a positive impact on their lives.

MOWMENTUS

Mowmentus is the reliable choice in garden maintenance and lawn care. We maintain the lawns and gardens for residential and commercial clients, municipal councils, government departments, retirement villages, hospitals and more.

Our people are renowned for their friendliness, dependability and quality of workmanship.

We'd be pleased to provide you with an obligation free quote about providing maintenance for your premises.

MAILPLUS

At our mail and packaging fulfillment business, Mailplus, we're highly regarded for our responsiveness, attention to detail, customer service and our drive to continually deliver the best possible results for our customers.

MailPlus supports a variety of businesses with our complete range of mail distribution, packaging and light assembly services.

Our prices are very competitive and you'll be delighted by our service standards.

We'd be pleased to discuss your specific project with you.

To enquire about our services contact us at info@unisson.org.au or 1300 266 222.



UNISSON DISABILITY ART EXHIBITION

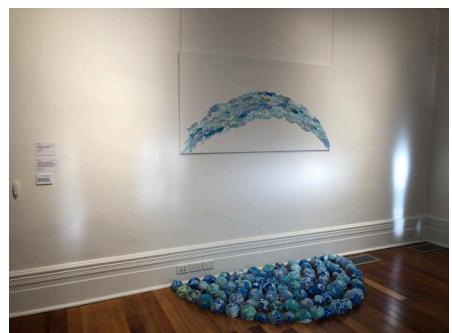
OF LAND, SEA AND SKY

Unisson Disability's art exhibition Of Land, Sea and Sky opening night was held on Thursday April 5.

We had such a fantastic night with an overwhelming number of people who attended, including Northern Beaches Councilor Penny Phillipott who is a huge advocate for the arts. Wanda Sadowski from Accessible Arts who has continued promoting Unisson's artists with several social media posts around the night, the exhibition as well as several banners on their website showcasing the amazing artworks.

We also had wonderful support from Abbotsleigh's staff, students and families. Abbotsleigh principal Megan Krimmer, many students and their families attended and were a part of the welcoming introduction and some even bought a few artworks!

Thank you to all who showed your support and attended as well as those who bought an artwork or two! We sold just under 40% of the artworks for sale on opening night which is an exceptional result.

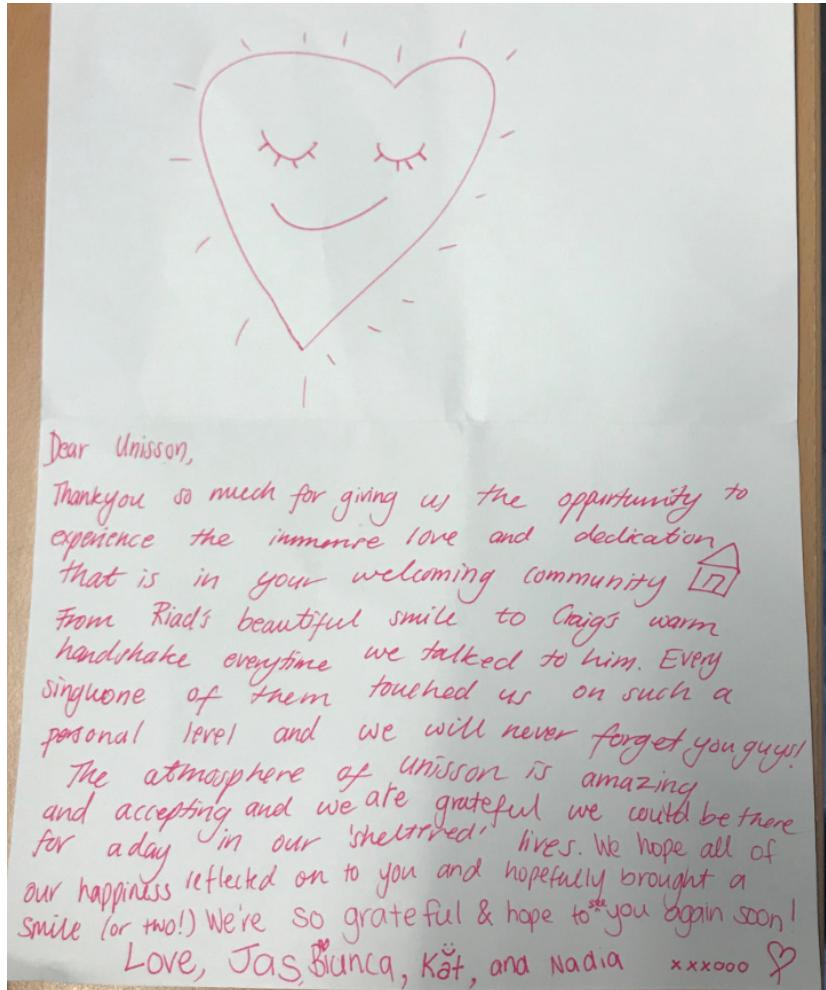


LETTER FROM BRIGIDINE

Unisson often partners with local schools for work experience opportunities for the students. Recently we had four young women from Brigidine College in St Ives come join us for a day. They were so moved by their experience that they wrote us a letter expressing what the day meant to them and how thoroughly they enjoyed their time with us.

Thank you Jas, Bianca, Kat and Nadia, we loved hearing how much you appreciated your experience with us and we hope you will come back to spend more time with us!

Read their beautiful letter.



MEET STEPHEN TIMM



Stephen and MailPlus Production Supervisor David

STEPHEN BEGAN AT UNISSON'S SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT BUSINESS MAILPLUS IN 2015

After searching for a long time for a better place to work, Stephen found Unisson Disability. "I was not happy where I was before and I came with my mum to look at MailPlus. I thought MailPlus looked like a good place to work."

David, a Production Supervisor at MailPlus describes Stephen as at times shy, however when there is happiness in the room, he loves to participate in this and contribute to the good vibe!

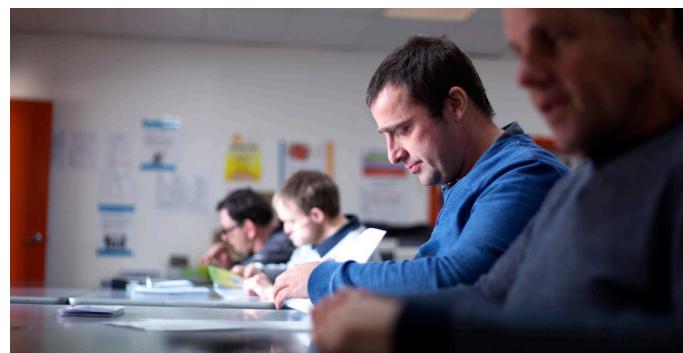
He is most comfortable when everything is running smoothly and everyone is getting along well. He is innately courteous, considerate and likes to help. All the staff value him for these characteristics. His smile lights up the room.

David says "He particularly enjoys and is proud of the Seniors Card precise double fold job. He also works on all folding, inserting and sealing jobs. He has recently started a cooking course with Unisson and is enjoying that."

"Being here has changed me a lot. I can do my own thing

more out in public. I feel more comfortable. I feel more confident to do things. I like art, painting and drawing. I'm painting a castle now. I use a picture to help me. I like cooking, dancing and music."

Stephen is also a different person on stage when he is singing and dancing. In that space he can be and do what he wants and it doesn't matter how many people are watching. His smile also lights up the stage!



MEET ONE OF OUR STAFF

PHIL REILLY, SUPPORT FACILITATOR WITH MAILPLUS

Last year we rolled out a program across the entire organisation focused on the art of building relationships, creating connections and finding the opportunity to say 'Yes' in everything we do. We believe the support we provide to you, and your family member is what we do, the connection and relationship we create with you, is HOW we do it well.

One of the principles of this program, People Crave Belonging focuses on human connection and why that is important to not only our staff but the people we support and their families.

In practicing this belief we asked one of our staff to find out why they think the Art of Human Connection is important.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO UNISSON?

Initially I was only employed in April 2004 at the old Lorna Hodgkinson Institute at Gore Hill as an electrician/handyman to help with the maintenance for a few weeks. When the support staff who worked with four clients at the Royal North Shore Hospital enclave decided to leave I was asked to help out for a few days which ended up being for the next four years.

As time went on engaging with the supported employees I found I was getting such positive outcomes with myself that it changed my view on how to live my life.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT UNISSON?

Interacting with clients in a positive way and putting myself in to improve their lives. I also liked being part of a dynamic team which I consider friends as well as work colleagues who also helped promote this way of thinking.

TELL US SOMETHING INCLUDING ABOUT YOURSELF?

I have had the opportunity to have worked and visited many parts of the world North America, Europe, Middle East and Asia so have experienced many different cultures during which time helped to maintain a very open mind. It also helped to pick up on many different snippets of their associated languages. Another aspect of Unisson which I like is the diversity of the people, cultures and activities I come across while working here.

I am also proud to have served with the British military which provided some very exciting experiences.

WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE CRAVE BELONGING?

It's in our D.N.A to want to belong that in turn promotes the concept of family, tribe, and nationhood. Belonging helps to promote a sense of security and maintain the desire to help others.



Phil and Johnathon checking one of the 34,000 letters they are sending out.

REBECCA'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

This May marked 30 years with Unisson for our energetic and talented CEO Rebecca Fletcher. Rebecca has worn many hats during her time with Unisson including working within finance, human resources, employment and client services and in 2005 became our CEO.

This milestone was celebrated with lunch and cake at our Pymble office including a few speeches about the impact Rebecca has made at Unisson and the connections she has made with our staff and the people we support and their families and friends.

Thank you Rebecca for your passion and dedication to the Unisson community.



WARRINGAH LIBRARY

ART DISPLAY

For 6 months now Warringah Mall has been displaying artworks from the artists at Unisson. What started as a one off display has now become a permanent fixture after staff at the Library received such positive feedback, with artworks getting swapped around each month.

When you have a moment, we invite you to come along and see some of the amazing creations! If you would like to support our artists with a display or know of an establishment that would like to participate, please contact us at info@unisson.org.au or 1300 266 222.



DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

WANT TO SHARE A STORY FROM A PREVIOUS EDITION?

We keep all the previous editions of our Community & Friends Newsletter on our website under the About Us tab. Visit unisondisability.org.au to view all our past editions.

SUMMER EDITION 2017 | EDITION: 13

COMMUNITY & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

UNISSON

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW UNISSON DISABILITY COMMUNITY & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

WE ARE NOW UNISSON DISABILITY

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WORK WITH US

Being a part of the Unisson Disability team gives you the opportunity to make a real difference in one of Australia's fastest-growing and most innovative sectors. At Unisson Disability, the opportunities for human connection are extraordinary. Expect to build strong connections with the people you work alongside and support.

WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR?

- People who are fun, great at building connections with others, and have a sense of adventure
- People who are compassionate and genuinely interested in improving lives
- People who share our values of integrity, collaboration, conviction and generosity
- People of all ages!

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

We believe that every person has a story. This applies not only to the people we support, but also to our approach to the people we employ. With a continuous focus on team building, leadership coaching and ongoing training, we seek to create a working environment that's unified with our core purpose: promoting everyone's ability to live a great life. Our promise to our team members is that we will help you develop your personal strengths and grow in your role.

Working with Unisson Disability allows you to support people who have similar interests to you and to work as part of a team that is passionately-committed from top to bottom. We consider the support we provide to be what we do, while the connection we create is how we do it.

Want to join the team? We'd love to hear from you. Have a look at our current vacancies on our website unissondisability.org.au/careers and follow the instructions on how to apply



TAX APPEAL

As this financial year draws to a close, Unisson Disability would like to say thank you for the ongoing support given by our community, supporters and families. With your support, Unisson is able to continue to provide opportunities for the people we support to live their lives as independently as they can.

While the NDIS allows us to implement each and every one of our client's support plans, every gift and donation contributes to funding something extra that might make a huge difference in someone's life, or allows us to invest in better resources and training for our valued staff.

A big part of what we do at Unisson is enabling our participants to pursue their own goals and create rich and fulfilling experiences in their communities.



IN YOUR COMMUNITY

ROBOTICS WORKSHOP FOR TEENS AGED 11 – 14 YEARS

The workshops will be fun, interactive and practical. Participants will have the opportunity to develop their social skills through robotics in a group situation. These are beginner robotics workshops only to:

- Work as a team to construct and program a robot to obey your commands
- Learn various ways to achieve the same outcome using your skills in programming the robot
- Work and problem solve with peers
- Make decisions as a team

WHEN: at a time that suits most teens

WHERE: Somewhere on the Northern Beaches

COST: \$176 for 3-hour group session. NDIS Capacity Building supports or private fee payment may be used.

RSVP: To express your interest in attending, contact engagementteam@lifestart.org.au for the EOI form. You will receive confirmation in regards to being added to a waitlist for your region.



VACATION CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY

Vacation care programs of Northern Beaches Council (and many other Councils) are disability friendly. Children aged 5-12 years love exciting excursions, discos, craft and sports days with a difference. See

www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/services/children/child-care/vacation-care.

WHEN: Monday-Friday 7.30am-6pm. Parents of children requiring additional care should apply at Council at least 8 weeks before enrollment since funding needs to be accessed via the Federal Government's Inclusion Support Subsidy (ISS). Staff require detailed information about the child's individual needs, and will consult with schools and complete an assessment to determine if your child's needs will be met at Vacation Care.

WHERE:

- Beacon Hill War Memorial Hall (Upper) 35 Willandra Road, Beacon Hill
- Cromer Community Centre (Main Hall), 150 Fisher Road North, Cromer
- Curl Curl Youth and Community Centre, Abbott Road, North Curl Curl
- Forestville Youth Centre, 28 Melwood Ave, Forestville

COST: \$66 per day

RSVP: Contact the Vacation Care Services Coordinator on 9942 2576 on the Northern Beaches.



IN YOUR COMMUNITY

THE ANNUAL NORTHERN BEACHES ART PRIZE

Since 1955 when it began as Warringah Art Prize, it has become the Northern Beaches' most prestigious art competition. All local artists are invited to enter for total prizes worth \$27,000 over four categories:

- General
- Small Sculpture
- Waste to Art
- Youth

When: Entries will open on Tuesday 1 May and close Sunday 24 June. General and Small sculpture 10-19 August, Youth and Waste to Art 24 August-2 September. www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/arts-and-culture/northern-beaches-art-prize

Where: Creative Space, 105 Abbott Road, North Curl Curl 2099

Cost: Entry fee of \$35 for the first submission and \$25 for every additional entry. If you're an eligible senior and student concession holder, the entry fee is \$15 per submission

RSVP: For information or to become a sponsor, see the above web page or contact the Northern Beaches Council Events Team on 9942 2301 or events@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au



DANCE TO THE NINES!

Free and accessible night for adults over 18 with a disability, with dancing to the music of Evergreen Music. Light refreshments (like muffins, cheese & biscuits, fruit, tea, coffee, orange juice, chilled water) provided.

When: 14th September and 14th December.

Where: Dougherty Community Centre, 7 Victor Street, Chatswood 2067.

Cost: \$10 payable at the door. Carers free entry since no individual support is provided.

RSVP: To book, phone the Dougherty Centre staff on 9777 7801 or email dcc@willoughby.nsw.gov.au.



ARE YOU SOCIAL?

HAVE YOU CONNECTED WITH US THROUGH OUR SOCIAL PAGES?

Our social pages are our platform for educating the wider community about some of the challenges facing people with disability. It is a platform that we use to share inspiring and insightful information from around the world and within your local community.

We invite you, to follow our tweets, our Facebook page as well as our other sites and tell us what you think about our posts. If you're already our friend, please remember to comment, like and especially share the information we post. We need you to help widen our community and extend our social reach!



JOBS BOARD

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER - PROPERTY & FLEET – Pymble

TEAM LEADER – Hills District

REGISTERED NURSE – Central Coast

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL ROLES – Located across Sydney, Central Coast and Hunter Regions.

Visit unissondisability.org.au/careers to apply.

PREFER ONLINE?

Receive less mail that clogs up your letterbox and help the environment. Send us your email to receive your Community & Friends Newsletter online.

Provide us with your email address and our newsletter will be delivered direct to your inbox!

Call us on 1300 266 222 or email info@unisson.org.au to update your details.