

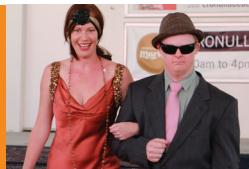
INFORM



IN THEIR
WORDS
PG 2



COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES
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EVENTS
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EMBRACING THE CHALLENGES OF THE NDIS

Sylvanvale's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) worked for many years on the transition to individualised funding in the UK. InForm gets her view on Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Q What does the NDIS do?

A The NDIS is about giving people with disability choice and control over their lives. Under the NDIS, people direct their individualised funding to the services and service providers of their choice. The NDIS aims for people with a disability to have their own circle of support, networks, friends and perhaps a job. It's about enabling people to do

the things they want to do and becoming much less dependent on us.

Q What do you think about the NDIS?

A I welcome the initiative and its focus on giving choice and control to people with disability. I am however concerned that the NDIS alone will not solve the barriers for people living with lifelong disability. There needs to be greater

thought around broader strategies for inclusion and acceptance in the community.

Q Describe one of the challenges?

A One of the greatest challenges of the NDIS is helping people to understand the limitations of their individualised funding package. Disability care can be expensive. The key is to find creative solutions to help money go further so you can still achieve your goals.

For the full interview please go to www.sylvanvale.com.au

WELCOME

Welcome to our first edition of InForm, Sylvanvale's bi-monthly newsletter for our customers, their families and carers, our staff and volunteers. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you up to date with what's happening at Sylvanvale, with the NDIS and in the broader community. If you have any feedback or ideas of what you'd like to see in the next edition, simply email communications@sylvanvale.com.au

Pauline Stanley
Chief Executive Officer



A MOTHER'S EXPERIENCE OF INDIVIDUALISED FUNDING

My name is Bev and I'm the mother of Angela, who has complex needs. You may have heard of Angela, as she's recently launched her own website.

For a long time I've been an advocate of individualised support for people with complex needs. When the opportunity to move to individual funding came up I took it immediately as equality of opportunity for complex needs over the years was non-existent.

Moving to individualised funding has enabled us to focus on what Angela enjoys and give her experiences that make her life richer. She has a great routine each week that includes bowling, working on her website, remedial massage, shopping and time at home with her personalised multimedia environment. Angela still attends Sylvanvale's day program but not as often.

The real quality of life for Angela is being able to participate in and be part of the community. One of Angela's individual (IP) goals is to be a customer at a florist because Angela is sensory

related, loving the smell and sight of flowers. At first we weren't sure if this would work, but now when Angela goes to the florist their reaction is "Hello Angela how are you?" while explaining to any new staff that Angela takes a little longer to choose the flowers she wishes to buy.

At the start it wasn't easy moving to individualised funding. For us, this was about taking steps away from traditional services offered by a provider we've been with for a long time. However my hesitation didn't last long.

Since we moved to individualised funding, things have changed

enormously. Angela is a much happier person. I guess that makes sense, because her life now focuses on the things that make her happy especially the sharing of ordinary places within the community like everyone else.

My tip? Make sure you have the right allies. Allies promote inclusion, social change and equality. Surrounding yourself with the right people will set you up for success. Remember, with the right support anything is possible.

You can view Angie's website at www.angelanugent.com.au

Useful NDIS websites



NDIA: www.ndis.gov.au

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has been established to implement the NDIS.

National Disability Services (NDS): www.nds.org.au

This is the peak association for non-government disability service organisations.

Every Australian Counts:

www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au

This organisation is focused on making sure the NDIS is delivered as promised and is the best it can be.

In Charge: www.incharge.net.au

This organisation exists to help with the 'how' of self-directed supports.