



Creating 21st Century supports



Here at Inclusion Melbourne, we are pursuing something different - a disability support service that not only provides regular statements to the people we support and their families itemising how and where the support funding is used, but also we invest and support community change. That is why we support and encourage volunteering, and the development of natural supports (building the confidence of people to support a person with a disability without any paid staff or volunteers being

present).

To monitor how successful Inclusion Melbourne is at achieving our goals, staff collect information every six months. They add up how many hours people are spend in activities, the types of activities, and the types of support people access. This is compiled into a report.

Over the past year we have been collecting more information and the past two reports have included the value of this work. We do this through working out the total number of hours that people spend in the community, and take away the hours that people have a paid supporter providing assistance. Then we multiply the remaining hours by the government funding rate. In June last year, the work of our volunteers, and the extra support our staff have provided to shop keepers, community groups and many other places, translated to an additional \$290 of support being provided to the people we work with each week, or approximately \$13,000 per year. More than this, the extra support is heartfelt, and often leads to wonderful friendships and meaningful encounters. I am very pleased to report that our figure for December has just been calculated and it has gone up!

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of our volunteers, during December the people supported by Inclusion Melbourne received the equivalent of an additional \$358 in support each week. Thank you to each and every one of our volunteers who have made this possible.

Meet the staff



Rebecca is a mother to two children 6 and 16 and has been working at Inclusion Melbourne for 12 years. She has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Disability & is passionate about equality for all. She volunteers for Ronald McDonald House and is a committee member for 'The Ebony Jones Will to Walk Foundation'. She enjoys spending time reading biographies, taking photos and socialising with family and friends.

Rebecca Ryan
Support Coordinator



Nathan is fascinated by people, theology, languages and sport. He likes being busy and helping people find meaning and purpose. He has a range of community interests and is involved in *Stop the Traffik*. He has previously been involved in overseas aid projects, script writing and fighting discrimination. He holds an Honours degree in linguistics and a Graduate diploma in theology.

Nathan Despott
Support Professional



The need for a national disability insurance scheme

It is hard to believe that in a country as wealthy as Australia that people with a disability and their families are still left to struggle alone every day. Most Australians assume that if people are born with a disability or acquire one later in life, that some system, somewhere, will take care of them.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

People with a disability and their families know only too well the daily struggle for services and support. They know how often desperate families are left to fill the gaps. There is also huge inequity – people receive different levels of support depending on how, when and where their disability was acquired.

This situation will only grow worse in the future. As the population ages, the number of people with a disability will increase. At the same time, the number of unpaid carers – family members and friends – willing and able to provide support will decrease.

A National Disability Insurance Scheme represents a fundamental reform to the way services are funded and delivered. It is a social reform on the scale of the introduction of Medicare and compulsory superannuation – two safety nets now taken for granted by every Australian.

All Australians deserve the peace of mind that would come with knowing that support will be there if they need it. And we all benefit from a more inclusive, more diverse community.

But this scheme will not become a reality unless there is broad-based community support.

Visit www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au for more information about how you can become involved.

Volunteer....spotlight on Nora

Nora Ashe has been Sheryl's tutor for 11 years and so we thought we'd catch up with her to shed some light on her work.



Nora & Sheryl at the 2010 Inclusion Melbourne AGM

What is your role at Inclusion Melbourne?

I volunteer at Phoenix Park, where I work as a literacy volunteer on Tuesday mornings. Typically I work with and support Sheryl.

Why did you decide to volunteer?

I had been a volunteer before and when I saw Gawith Villa's advertisement in the local paper, I answered it and was accepted.

What is the best thing about it?

For myself, new friends. As a tutor, hopefully being of value to others.

What have you learned about intellectual disability?

People are people and all are entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of ability or situation.

How would you recommend volunteering to somebody else thinking about it?

"Time on your hands? Give Tess a ring - You won't regret the move!"



Update on Education at Inclusion Melbourne

Phoenix Park has started the year at full capacity with the start of a Friday class, which adds to the usual Monday to Thursday classes. Joining the team are Luca Benes as the teacher for the Friday classes and Heather Thompson as the Direct Support Professional assisting the team on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Following the changes in 2010 we are looking to re-establish a dynamic and challenging learning environment building on the programs strengths. This will including looking to more closely orientate the students' learning to their personal goals of social interaction and community inclusion.

2011 will also offer many exciting opportunities. These include: the introduction of a Transition Education and a Volunteering course, classes off site in locations like St Kilda, and looking at enrolling more students.

It is great to welcome five new tutors this year. Together with our regular volunteer tutors these people provide assistance and support critical to the success of our programs at Phoenix Park. As we look to expand and grow the programs we offer we will need more tutors to provide the unique 1 on 1 support to every student, so if you know of anyone who would enjoy tutoring or if you are interested yourself please contact Tess.

One of the big developments for 2011 will be the temporary re-location of the Phoenix Park classes during the refurbishment and upgrade of the Phoenix Park Community Centre. Once details are available a communication will go out to all students, parents/carers and volunteer tutors.

Maria and her team are hoping to have an end of term catch up with all volunteer tutors in April. At this session they will review the term and also start discussions and planning for the 2011 presentation and graduation ceremony. In the meantime please feel free to call or e-mail Maria if you have any questions, concerns or ideas on 9509 4266 or email maria.eliadis@im.org.au

Volunteer anniversaries & commencements: December, January and February

New volunteers

Dee Saidi
Hugh Kidman
Sharon Flitman
Lee Hirsh
Chris Coughlan
Michael Band
Luke Riley
Jeny Varghese
Kylie Castan

1 year

Alex French
Nisha Samararatne
Beverley Gamble
Kate Hiller
Will Green

2 years

Annabel Morris
Brooke Mathews
Paul Green

3 years

Hilary Harland

4 years

Garry Muschialli

5 years

Ambi Sivanathan

6 years

Sandra Eterovic
Ian Mathieson
Barbara Dick
Amy Lee
Trisha Cheary
Margaret Bennett

7 years

Sebastian Halse
Peter Haren

8 years

Bob Martin
Janet Savage

11 years

Nora Ashe
Norma Herman
Richard Day
Alison Rogers

12 years

Ellen Woods
Kerrie Scott



Volunteer vacancies

Role	Particulars	Day / time
Literacy & numeracy tutors	Assisting the teacher to support a person with emerging literacy in a small classroom setting	Monday to Friday: one full or half day per week
Drivers	Transporting a person between activities. Use your own car or an Inclusion Melbourne vehicle	Choice of weekdays and times
Accounting mentor	Help set up stock lists/balance sheets for goods sold at markets by service users.	Flexible day/time
Swimming buddies	Monash Aquatic Centre	Wednesday or Thursday 10 am – 12 pm
Fishing volunteer	Support for two men interested in fishing	Flexible day/time/place
Garden volunteer	Great activities & friendly people	Details on application
Drumming teacher	Teach a young man how to play drums	Flexible days/ times

For additional information regarding any role, please contact Tess Lynch, volunteer coordinator on 9509 4266 or email volunteer@im.org.au. Training, support & supervision is provided for all volunteers.

We need your support

Yes, I want to support Inclusion Melbourne. I'd like to donate:

- \$18: Supporting an artist for with a volunteer art mentor for one session
- \$36: Processing one volunteer application & pre-employment check
- \$65: A day of literacy and numeracy for a person with a disability
- \$75: Weekly transport to community activities for a person with a disability
- \$140: Individual support coordination for a week
- Other: \$ _____

My details:

Mr Mrs Ms Dr Other: _____

Given name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ Postcode _____

Email _____

Phone (h): _____ (w): _____

Phone (m): _____

Credit card Mastercard Visa

Card number _____

Expiry date _____ Signature _____

*Donations greater than \$2 are tax deductible.
If paying by cheque, please make payable to Inclusion Melbourne Inc.*