

VOL. 26 | DECEMBER 2023

# INDEPENDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

## REFLECTING ON ACHIEVEMENTS AND LOOKING FORWARD TO NEW BEGINNINGS

Welcome to the finale of 2023 - the IDS December Newsletter. Serving as a bridge between the year's accomplishments and the anticipation of the new one, this edition brings together tales of gratitude, celebration, safety, and more.

Firstly, we want to express our profound gratitude to our wonderful clients, carers, families, and our dedicated staff who have been central to IDS's journey in 2023. Your trust, choice, and unwavering dedication have been the driving forces behind our services.

We also share updates from the recent NDIS review, a milestone that is set to bring about greater equity, transparency, and consistency for NDIS participants.

We also have an exciting line-up of recreational activities to kick off the New Year, promising joy and engagement.

As we usher in the festive season, a special shout-out to our December babies - we can't wait to celebrate with you. Last but not least, let's take a look back at the fun-filled 2023 Client Christmas Party – a testament to our community's vibrant spirit.

Join us as we reflect on the successes of 2023 and look forward to a promising 2024. Enjoy this special edition of the IDS newsletter!



## **ENSURING SAFETY AT IDS: ACCESS FREE RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS**

As we continue to navigate the ongoing presence of COVID-19 in our community, IDS is committed to helping maintain client safety and well-being. We have procured free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) from the state government to offer our community an added layer of security.

If you'd like to receive a free packet of 5 RATs, please visit our office in Carlton. To ensure fair distribution, we're limiting packets to one per person. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work together for our community's health & safety.

## **A THANK-YOU NOTE FROM IDS: CELEBRATING OUR CLIENTS AND STAFF FOR THEIR TRUST AND DEDICATION**

As 2023 draws to a close, the IDS board and management team would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our cherished community.

We extend a massive thank-you to all our wonderful IDS clients, carers, and families for entrusting us with your support throughout the year. We deeply respect your choice and autonomy, and we feel truly honoured to be a part of your lives.

We look forward to continuing our commitment in 2024, providing top-notch support grounded in best practices. Your journey inspires us, and we're eager to enhance our services to better meet your needs in the coming year.

To our diligent and dedicated IDS staff, your tireless efforts have been integral in shaping IDS as a caring, client-centred organisation. Your commitment to upholding IDS values, practicing best standards, and respecting our clients' choices and controls has made a remarkable difference. We are sincerely thankful for your unwavering dedication.

# **DECEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES: IDS CELEBRATES YOUR SPECIAL DAYS**

As the year-end festivities approach, we at Independent Disability Services (IDS) are excited to extend our warmest birthday greetings to our esteemed clients celebrating in December.

We celebrate the special days of George, Paris, Fotini (Tina), Paul, Mary, Rebecca, Rodney, Helen, Jema, and all our December-borns. We hope your birthdays are filled with cheer, laughter, and unforgettable moments.

Every client's birthday at IDS serves as a reminder of our joint commitment to enhance the quality of each day. We're inspired by the journeys of our December celebrants and look forward to continuing to support you.

Here's wishing you a truly remarkable Happy Birthday!

# **STAYING SAFE IN SUMMER: IDS REMINDS YOU TO PREPARE AND PROTECT**

As we embrace summer, it's vital to stay prepared and safe, particularly when it comes to fire risks. Whether your home is located in a fire-prone area, you're visiting loved ones, or planning a holiday, we strongly recommend having a fire plan ready. For more information on preparing an effective fire plan, [visit this site](#).

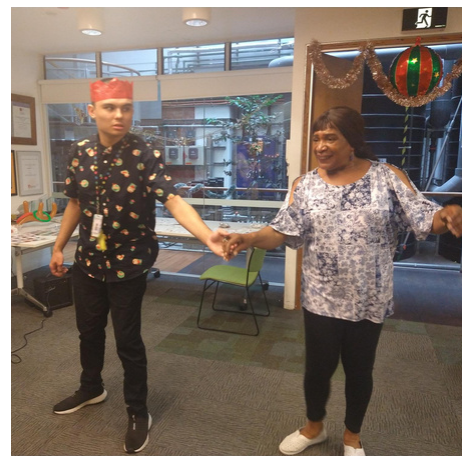
Beyond fire safety, it's essential to protect yourself from the summer heat. Drink plenty of water, avoid exposure to the sun between 11 AM and 3 PM, and never leave children or pets unattended in hot cars. And let's not forget to look out for each other - take a moment to check in on your neighbours. We all play a part in our community's well-being, so let's stay safe together.



# CELEBRATING TOGETHER: IDS 2023 CLIENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

We're absolutely delighted to share that our 2023 Client Christmas Party was an amazing success! We all had a wonderful time singing songs, dancing, taking fun photos and enjoying tasty food.

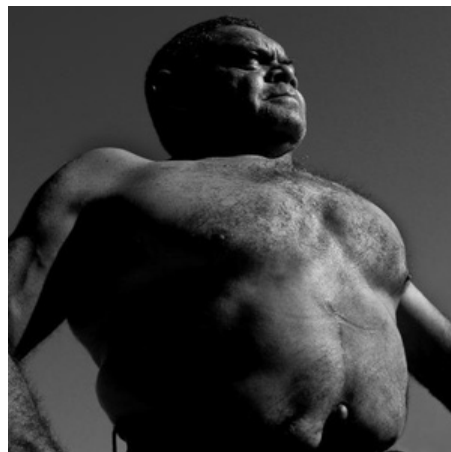
We want to say a big thank you to everyone who came and celebrated with us. Your being there made the party even more special. As we draw the year to a close, we send our heartiest season's greetings to each one of you. Here's to more shared laughter, joy, and connection in the coming year!



# JANUARY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES: FOSTERING JOY AT IDS

The IDS calendar is brimming with a variety of engaging recreational activities designed especially for our valued clients. From exploring new skills to enjoying shared experiences, there's something for everyone!

For more information or to sign up, please reach out to our friendly office team at 9340 5100, or drop us an email at [support@idsa.org.au](mailto:support@idsa.org.au).



## **Wednesday 10th January**

For Kin & Country - Shrine Of Remembrance

## **Thursday 18th January**

MPavillion - Queen Victoria Gardens

## **Tuesday 23rd January**

Yarra Bend Park - BBQ Lunch Included

## **Tuesday 30th January**

Unfinished Business - Melbourne Museum Exhibition

# **NDIS REVIEW: TOWARDS GREATER EQUITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND CONSISTENCY FOR PARTICIPANTS**

The eagerly anticipated review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was released in early December by the Independent NDIS Review Panel.

Tasked with assessing the scheme's decade-long implementation, the panel aimed to restore trust, guarantee sustainability, and enhance participants' experiences by emphasising individuals over bureaucracy and promoting greater equity, transparency, and consistency.

The review forwarded 26 recommendations, highlighting key priority areas:

1. Foundational Support: Recommends a unified, collaboratively governed support system for people with disabilities, ensuring broader access to services such as home and community care, aids and equipment, and early intervention for children with developmental delays.

Further, it recommends access to all people with disability to:

- a. Home and community care
- b. Aids and equipment
- c. Psychosocial supports
- d. Early intervention for kids with developmental delays
- e. Support for young people navigating key life transitions
- f. Support navigating all these supports

2. Participant Access, Planning and Service Navigation Support: Advocates for more flexible budgets and support for participants.

3. Service Navigation: Proposes replacing Support Coordinators, Local Area Coordinators (LAC), and Psychosocial Recovery Coaches (PRC) with a new 'Navigator' role, accessible to all NDIS participants.

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# **NDIS REVIEW: TOWARDS GREATER EQUITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND CONSISTENCY FOR PARTICIPANTS**

Key priority areas continued:

4. **Inclusive Mainstream Services:** Suggests improvements to educational outcomes for children with disabilities, dual funding possibilities for NDIS participants over 65, and enhanced inclusion and discrimination legislation.
5. **Quality and Safeguarding:** Advises the NDIS to be the overarching regulator for all government-funded disability supports.
6. **Pricing and Markets:** Offers several recommendations to improve market functioning.
7. **Workforce:** Recommends designing and trialling initiatives for workforce attraction and retention.
8. **Employment:** Encourages trialling various payment models and focusing on participant outcomes.
9. **Support for Children:** Suggests increasing available support for children in their everyday environments.

The panel proposes a five-year transition plan supported by an NDIS Review Implementation Advisory Committee. While the government will respond to the report early next year, it has indicated its continued focus on tackling fraud and provider behaviour.

Please call our office if you have any questions on 9340 5100  
or email [support@idsa.org.au](mailto:support@idsa.org.au).



# Independent Disability Services

Changing lives, empowering people



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Love us? Leave us a 5-star Google review!

Search for Independent Disability Services (IDS) on Google or [click here](#). For any additional comments and feedback, call us at (03) 9340 5100.



**Rebecca**  
3 reviews

★★★★★ 4 months ago

Hello I'm one of IDS clients who continue to receive through their valued respected client centred supportive support from the amazing office staff who always are dedicated answering the telephones with cheerfulness and understanding with ... [More](#)



**John Lee**  
1 review

★★★★★ 10 months ago

it not another services ... but wonderful life i achieved from there support .... thanks heaps idsa



**Zeba Hekmat**  
10 reviews · 1 photo

★★★★★ 2 years ago

My sister uses IDS for home supports and she could not be happier. They are thoughtful, responsive and always put her needs first. Lovely to deal with too. Five stars!!!

