

VOL. 35 | OCTOBER 2024

# INDEPENDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY, COMMITMENT & CARE

This month's IDS newsletter is packed with exciting updates and stories!

Don't miss Cheryl's inspiring journey as a Disability Support Worker, and learn how you can join the IDS Client and Carers Engagement Group (CCEG) to make your voice heard.

Meet our Hero of the Month, Tarik, and celebrate Conjenie's Quiet Achiever Award! Plus, discover the new Victorian Committee for Families of Children with Disability, what the government plans are for the NDIS through the Disability Reform Map, and insights from the Disability Leadership Institute (DLI).

There is so much more in store - stay connected with IDS!

At IDS we're here to support you.

The IDS client services team are available to take your calls between 6am to 10pm, 365 days a year.

Call us on 03 9340 5100

# JOIN THE IDS CLIENT AND CARERS ENGAGEMENT GROUP (CCEG): MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

At Independent Disability Support (IDS), we believe in the power of collaboration and community. We are inviting our dedicated Disability Support Workers (DSWs) to join the IDS Client and Carers Engagement Group (CCEG). Your insights and experiences are vital in shaping the future of the services we provide. The Group meets 4 times a year over lunch and offer insights.

The CCEG serves as a platform where DSWs, clients and carers can share ideas for improvement, offer feedback on current practices, and help us innovate in areas that matter most. Whether it's enhancing the quality of support or addressing the needs of both our clients and workers, we want your voice at the table.

By joining the CCEG, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Contribute to meaningful discussions about the future of IDS.
- Share firsthand experiences and challenges to help us refine and enhance our services.

Join us to collaborate with other carers, clients, and IDS leadership to ensure we're meeting the evolving needs of the disability community.

We value the dedication and commitment our support workers bring every day, and your participation in the CCEG is an extension of that dedication. Let's work together to continue providing top-quality, compassionate support while making IDS a leader in disability services.

Ready to get involved? Contact us today to learn more about joining the CCEG and start making a difference!

## Our last CCEG Meeting at IDS



# CHERYL'S STORY - DSW JOURNEY



Cheryl has worked with us for over five years and is a valued Disability Support Worker with her clients and IDS.

Cheryl is also a member of our Client and Carer Engagement Group, sharing her insights and experiences and helping shape the future of IDS.

My name is Cheryl, and I've been a Disability Support Worker (DSW) since 2010. I live in the South East with my husband, our three children, their partners, one energetic dog, and four mischievous cats. Needless to say, my house is always lively and often filled with the delightful chaos of family life!

I hold Certificate IV in Disability and have completed all NDIS requirements along with the relevant training needed for my role. My journey into the world of support work began after having my children. I loved the care-giving role I naturally took on as a mother and realized that supporting others brought me to a deep sense of fulfillment. So, I decided to make it my career.

Being a DSW means no two days are ever the same. Over the years, I've worked in various capacities within the disability sector, including as an emergency after-hours response officer. I've also worked with local councils, helping people with home care, respite services and providing social and community access support. I've had the pleasure of accompanying clients on coffee outings, restaurant visits, and even special events. One of the highlights was attending the Elton John concert in Melbourne last year-a truly magical night that my client absolutely cherished.

In my day-to-day work, I assist clients with the grocery shopping, cooking and meal prep, and accompany them to medical and allied health appointments. I also help them stay engaged with hobbies and interests, whether it's bowling, exercise classes, or social groups. I believe every individual should be empowered to pursue their goals and live life on their own terms. My approach to support is always person-centred, rooted in compassion, integrity, honesty, and empathy.

# CHERYL'S STORY - DSW JOURNEY CONT

Since joining IDS in 2019, I've seen the company evolve, and I'm proud to be part of such a supportive team. IDS not only keeps us informed of the latest NDIS updates, but they also ensure we're up to date with all necessary training. This commitment to our professional development allows me to provide the highest quality of care to my clients.

## Cirque Du Soleil

Cirque Du Soleil was a fabulous show at Flemington Racecourse under "The Big Top". My Client and I arrived by taxi and met up with the other DSWs and clients in the foyer before heading into the main "Big Top" to watch the show.

The "Big Top" Tent was a full house event. The lights dimmed and everyone was silent as the music began everyone was in awe of the amazing performers and mesmerising acts Clowns, Acrobats and other captivating characters thrilled the audience and delighted us in a circus extravaganza of breath taking visuals and amazing routines timed to perfection.

Clients and Carers enjoyed popcorn and drinks throughout the show and a wonderful afternoon was had by all.

## QUITE ACHIEVER AWARD CONGRATULATIONS TO CONJENIE

Conjenie has been honored with IDS's Quiet Achiever Award, recognizing her exceptional dedication and hard work behind the scenes. Though she may not seek the spotlight, her consistent efforts and quiet determination make a significant difference in the lives of her clients. Conjenie's thoughtful approach and tireless commitment embody the core values of IDS, and her contributions continue to inspire her peers and enrich our community. We're thrilled to celebrate Conjenie as our Quiet Achiever!





# HERO OF THE MONTH CONGRATULATIONS TO TARIK!

I became a Disability Support Worker (DSW) at Independent Disability Services (IDS) around a year and a half ago, and it's been an incredible journey ever since. A typical day at IDS is filled with support and growth, thanks to the great leadership that helps guide us through our work.

For me, the best part of the job is knowing that I've helped someone in need every day is a good day when I get to make a difference. As a mother of six, I've always worked hard and found joy in caring for others, which is why IDS is the perfect fit. The company is amazing, taking care of all our needs and prioritising safety, both for workers and clients.

My advice for anyone looking to become a DSW is that IDS is a safe, caring organisation with excellent leadership. They truly care about the well-being of both their workers and the individuals they support, making it a unique and fulfilling place to work.



## VICTORIAN COMMITTEE FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY

The Disability Reform Roadmap for 2024 and 2025, recently released, outlines key actions that governments across Australia will take to advance critical disability reforms and drive improvements in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The Roadmap emphasises collaboration, with plans for consultations and co-design processes to shape how these reforms will be implemented. You can learn more about the Australian Government's approach and upcoming initiatives by exploring the details of the Roadmap

[A roadmap for national disability reform \(dss.gov.au\)](https://dss.gov.au)

# VICTORIAN COMMITTEE FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY



**Association for  
Children with a  
Disability**

The Premier is establishing a new Victorian Committee for Families of Children with Disability, and the committee is seeking up to 12 members to join. This is a unique opportunity for parents and carers of children with disabilities to share their perspectives and offer valuable feedback to the Victorian Government. Committee members will help shape policies, programs, and services aimed at improving outcomes for children with disabilities.

For more information on how to apply to be a member visit:

[Victorian Committee for Families of Children with Disability - Association for Children with Disability\(acd.org.au\)](https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-committee-for-families-of-children-with-disability)

## **DISABILITY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (DLI)**

Future Shapers 2025

The Disability Leadership Institute (DLI) leadership program is open for applications.

Enrolments for the 2025 Future Shapers program are now open,  
closing 30 November 2024.

This is the premier program in disability leadership, Future Shapers is a 9 month program of vertical leadership development, transformational leadership growth and big picture strategic thinking.

The Future Shapers harnesses the unique perspective of disability leaders and applies it to big picture strategies to build the future, including design thinking, Blue Ocean Strategy and quantum theory.

Transform yourself, your team and your organisation. [Enrol in Future Shapers](#)

# BECOME A PWDA MEMBER

Becoming a member of People with Disability Australia (PWDA) is an empowering step toward promoting inclusivity and advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. As a member, you'll join a vibrant community dedicated to amplifying voices and creating positive change across Australia. Membership offers access to valuable resources, support, and opportunities to participate in advocacy initiatives, helping to shape policies that affect the lives of people with disabilities. By joining PWDA, you become part of a movement striving for equality, respect, and the recognition of the rights of all individuals.

Together, we can make a difference!

As a PWDA member you:

Can access free member-only events and activities

Have a voice in our consultations, surveys and focus groups

Receive notices of and attend any general meeting of PWDA

Vote at any PWDA general meeting

Be eligible for election or appointment as a director

Join PWDA Advisory Groups

Are kept up-to-date on policy and government programs which directly affect people with disability

Receive our media releases as they are published

You can find out more about [PWDA membership on our website](#)

## IDS CLIENT BIRTHDAYS

A big happy birthday wish to Aaron, Janette, Tayten, Sarah, Meckenzie and Shivan!

On your special day, we want to send you all our best wishes! 🎂🌟

May your day be filled with joy, love, and everything that makes you happiest. We are so grateful to have you as part of our community, and we hope this year brings you amazing moments and unforgettable memories.

Wishing you a fantastic birthday and a year ahead full of new adventures and wonderful surprises!

Here's a cheer for our October stars!



# Independent Disability Services

*Changing lives, empowering people*



Want to join our online community?

Connect with our social media community by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



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

Search for Independent Disability Services (IDS) on Google. 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!!!

