

Dear Compass Families and Friends

Hope you have been enjoying the much awaited sunshine and dry weather that we have had over the last week or so. I know the farm trainees and staff appreciate the opportunity to get out there and start planting new crops and not spending the day having to duck for cover every time it rains. The farm is really looking nice at the moment so congratulations to everyone working out there for your hard work. You should be really proud of what you have done!

There are a few events of note coming up in the month of August.

The first is our Independence Power Week, during the week commencing 13 August. While the concept of independent living is embedded into all of our programs, it is still a great opportunity to add an even more concerted focus to this during a Power Week. Staff and trainees at our Palmwoods and Caloundra Centres will be involved in activities to create further awareness and highlight the opportunities available to them to assist them to maximise their independence in all facets of their lives.

On 28 August, Nambour Special School is holding it's Post School information evening. Compass will be there as usual to provide advice and information on our programs and services. Those of you who graduated from school in recent years will be all too familiar with how difficult and daunting this process is for young people and their families, particularly as they are given no real encouragement or reassurance to actively explore the options available to them, with no firm idea of when or if they will be advised if they have been "lucky enough" to receive funding. If you know a family in their last two or three years of school, please encourage them to go along and really start looking at all the available options now. They need to have a really clear idea of what their options are long before they need to make that final decision—often required of them at very short notice.

This Term we also welcome Adele and Samara, second year OT students who are undertaking their placement at the Caloundra Centre.

Our centre teams have been very busy conducting meetings with trainees and carers and reviewing progress plans. As you are aware, the progress plan is the individual plan that looks at the short and long term goals of the trainee and identifies how we will work together to achieve these. The meeting should go for no longer than 30 minutes and is conducted twice a year. It is really important to have all stakeholders input into this process, as the ultimate winner is your son/daughter. Our aim is to identify which particular focus goals we agree are the most important and then develop a plan to address these at Compass with a view to them being transferred into the home environment and wider community. When your Team Manager contacts you to arrange an appointment, please negotiate a suitable time if you possibly can as your input is highly valued by our staff who support your son/daughter.

Have a great month.

Norm



Geoff Marshall of Exhibit Electrical
supports Compass...
for your electrical needs please
support Geoff and Exhibit Electrical



Date Claimers

Monday-Friday 13-17 August 2012
Independence Power Week

Sunday 2 September 2012
Fathers Day
Bunnings Caloundra Sausage Sizzle

Thursday 20 September 2012
CAU Break up Day

Friday 21 September 2012
P2DAY Break up Day

Monday 1 October 2012
Queen's Birthday Holiday

Wednesday 3 October 2012
CAU Recommence Term 4

Thursday 4 October 2012
P2DAY Recommence Term 4

Have you ever been inspired by someone who is nothing less than remarkable?

I'm not sure about any one else but one of my highlights of this Olympics has been watching Oscar Pistorius compete in the 400m. I was throwing my hands in the air screaming at the television willing him on, like I was watching a grand final football match on Saturday when he ran in the qualifying round. And when he qualified for the semi-finals, I was ecstatic. Yes, there was disappointment when he didn't make it through to the finals, but that image of Kirani James swapping name tags with Oscar on the track at the end of the race – that makes it all the more humbling experience.

YOU'RE NOT DISABLED BY THE DISABILITIES YOU HAVE.
YOU ARE ABLE BY THE ABILITIES YOU HAVE.
OSCAR PISTORIUS



Kirani James was interviewed by BBC sport after the race and they asked him how the race was for him – he said that he was honoured to be running a race with Oscar Pistorius. This time he didn't make the finals. However, by walking out on that track and competing with the likes of Kirani James, Oscar has shown us that anything is possible. I have no doubt in my mind that Oscar will be back competing in the next Olympics.

And now, he is the first Paralympian to compete in an able-bodied Olympic track event. "I was starting to run times which allowed me to compete internationally on the able-bodied circuit," [he told CNN](#).

For me, he is a symbol of everything we can do and everything we dream of doing. In an interview he was quoted stating, 'Live for your dreams' and that is exactly what he is doing. Out there on the track he is showing us how this is done. I don't think there is any stronger statement of our power as human beings. When he ran on Saturday, the BBC commentators, Colin Jackson, Denise Lewis and Michael Johnson were saying they thought the crowd roared almost as loud for him, as they did for Usain Bolt.



Corinne



Compass pointing the way to success

The Compass Community Enterprises are a part of The Compass Institute, which provides education, training and vocational programs to adults with disabilities after they leave school. Compass currently has three centres on the Sunshine Coast providing programs and support to 65 young people with disabilities. Programs cover areas including literacy, numeracy, social skills, independent living skills, workplace training, Community Enterprises and vocational work and volunteer placements.

Genna and Sophie are part of the "Compass Community Enterprises - Property Maintenance" crew.

Continuous Improvement Plan

We at Compass are committed to ongoing service improvement. If you have a suggestion about how we can improve our service, please write your suggestion on one of our **Service Improvement Suggestion Forms** which are available from the office, any of our centres or on our website: www.compassinc.org.au and we will carefully consider every idea.

Advocacy

Remember that you are able to bring along an advocate or support person to any meeting that you have with Compass. An advocate is someone who is there to support you or represent you and your interests in circumstances where you feel that this additional support is required. Please ask us if you need more information or assistance with organising for an advocate.

COMPASS CALENDAR

Need to check dates for the holidays or a special event? Our Annual Planner Calendar is available 24/7 at www.compassinc.org.au

From David's Desk



More Government...

At a time when the State government is taking the axe to the public service, The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) has released an Implementation Report outlining key aspects of the ACNC's regulatory approach aimed to come into effect on 1 October 2012. At the same time the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) has reviewed the draft Bill and has called on the Federal Government to delay its introduction. They recognise that this approach would mean that the commencement of the ACNC would need to be deferred beyond October, however are of the view that the progression of the Bill in its current form would represent a major step backwards for the not-for-profit sector.

If and when it is established, the ACNC becomes responsible for determining the charitable status of charities and registering them. The ATO's role will be to assess charities' access to tax concessions. Importantly, the ATO will transfer information on existing charities to the ACNC; existing charities endorsed by the ATO as tax concession charities will not have to re-register. The ACNC outlines its key tasks as:

- registering entities as charities and subtypes of charities, including PBIs and health promotion charities);
- implementing a report-once, use-often general reporting framework for charities, with annual financial reporting to start from 1 July 2013;
- establishing a one-stop shop public information portal by 1 July 2013;
- providing education and support to the sector; and
- promoting sound governance through a compliance framework to maintain public confidence in Not For Profits (NFPs.)

My concern is of course that this will provide yet another layer of red tape and regulation adding further to compliance costs... to say **nothing of the amusing thought that a government departments' input could possibly 'provide education and support to the sector'** let alone **'promote sound governance to maintain public confidence'** in NFP's. I think that the Australian public would feel very strongly that confidence in NFP's is very far from the issue!

The AICD is concerned that the Bill in its current form represents a major - retrograde step because:

- It imposes substantial and unwarranted compliance costs on charities. The proposed requirements in the Bill are only adding to existing legislation governing charities;
- It is likely to make it harder for charities to attract or retain experienced directors (most of whom serve on a pro-bono basis) due to the heavy-handed approach taken in respect of director responsibilities; and
- It prioritises conformance over performance as the attention and resources of charities are taken away from their underlying objectives - which are vital to the less fortunate in our society.

Naturally, the Federal *Shadow* Minister Kevin Andrews has also taken the political opportunity to enlighten the electorate about the **Coalition's approach to the charitable sector in a recent speech. We'll keep you informed... and I'd like to hear from you if your son or daughter with a disability has been negatively affected by recent State government cuts.**

I want to confirm that I remain personally committed to the cause of the NDIS and will do all I can to bring pressure to bear on both State and Federal Government to make the launch and follow on a success. Premier Newman is making no bones about the *fact* that **'Queensland cannot afford to contribute to the NDIS' even though Queensland was able to afford a round of pay rises for State politicians in recent weeks.** The Federal Government admission that 65% of the money they have put on the table will be eaten up by set up and administration is damning evidence of over regulation, over administration and over staffing not to mention under performance! Remember to have your say – it only takes two minutes – on www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au

On a happier note, I want to draw attention to the amazing generosity of people who are associated with Compass... and those who are not. Recently one Compass family have offered to make a regular quarterly contribution of several thousand dollars – not to support their family member - but to be used to carry out projects that will benefit all Compass trainees! This wonderful gesture has been accompanied by a significant degree of humility and a desire for no fuss to be made about it. We also this week received a donation of **\$500 from two lovely ladies who are not associated with Compass in any way... and the offer of more in the future. It is not from a service club and they have simply chosen to help us in our aims to help your son or daughter. I can't say how much these two donations mean to me personally. I am humbled by it.**

David

