

Dear Compass Families and Friends ..... What an exciting month we have just had !!!

Our Mother's Day Market on 10 May was very successful and well attended. We were able to hold the market back at our Caloundra Centre again and this proved a great bonus to trainees and staff in being able to set up the day before and use both indoor and outdoor facilities. Again there was a wide range of quality produce made by our trainees and catering provided by the Farm Team and outside vendors. Sincere thanks to all trainees and staff for the way that everyone worked so well together to make it such a relaxed and fun day, and to the families and friends who came along to support us. A special thanks also to Robyn and Tim for the great entertainment.

We raised just over \$1000 on the raffle which was amazing. Thank you to all families who supported us by buying and selling tickets and to the prize donors, The Caloundra Quilters and E & R Engraving for their generous donation of the prizes. A special Thank-You to Cheryl Luck who sold an enormous amount of tickets to family and friends. Congratulations to the prize winners: 1st prize (quilt) R. Tzvetkov, 2nd prize (frame) C. Wilson, 3rd prize (pen) D. DeVeigne.

We had our annual surveillance audit by the Institute for Healthy Communities Australia on 24 May. The audit is to measure us against the Disability Service Standards and ensure that we provide a quality service to our trainees and meet all licensing and legislative requirements. This year the focus of the audit was on Standard 4 (Privacy, dignity and confidentiality), Standard 5 (Participation and integration) and Standard 8 (Service management). The auditors did a thorough check of all documentation and records, as well as conducted a number of interviews with trainees, families and staff to verify and validate that we comply with the required standards. Thank you to all who were involved in the audit this year. Feedback from the auditors was excellent. We all try to, and believe that we do, provide the highest standard of service to our trainees, but it is always great to hear that from the professionals who audit similar organisations all across Queensland. The feedback we receive every year from our auditors is that we are continually providing the highest standard of service and care to our trainees and that our approach and programs are highly innovative and unique.

Recently, David and I attended a two day workshop conducted by the National Disability Service on the National Disability Insurance Scheme being introduced by the federal government. While still in the early stages, indications are that the scheme will be available for many more people who are born with, develop or acquire a disability throughout their life. Trial sites are currently being explored, and if implemented, the scheme is still a few years away, but may create some exciting opportunities for people with disabilities to have more control and flexibility around their supplementary funding.

More exciting work is currently underway at our Caloundra Centre to bring the toilet facilities up to standard. Council has worked closely with us since we have taken over the lease of the centre to ensure that the facilities there are both functional and safe for our trainees and appropriate to our needs. The old toilets are being demolished internally and replaced with a standard unisex toilet suite, an ambulant unisex toilet suite and a purpose designed and built wheelchair accessible suite. Work is expected to be completed by the end of June and will give us modern and hygienic facilities.

Have a great month... Norm



**Date Claimers**

<b>Monday 4-8 June 2012</b>	Environmental Week
<b>Monday 11 June 2012</b>	Queen's Diamond Jubilee holiday
<b>Friday 15 June 2012</b>	Sunshine Coast Show
<b>Thursday 21 June 2012</b>	Break up day Break up
<b>Friday 22 June 2012</b>	P2DAY program Break up
<b>Monday 9 July 2012</b>	First day term 3
<b>Tuesday 10 July 2012</b>	P2DAY first day term 3
<b>Monday-Friday 13-17 August 2012</b>	Independence Week
<b>Sunday 2 September 2012</b>	Fathers Day



# updates

We would like you all to welcome three of our newest staff from Palmwoods Amber, Lisa and Kay.

They are looking forward to working alongside your Son/Daughter to further develop there skills.

A little about each one.....

Amber likes to keep herself busy working 3 jobs and in her down time likes camping.

Kay also works at a local private college Part-time and runs a home business along side her husband. And

Lisa originates from Oklahoma and is now raising 2 beautiful young children with her husband here on

## Sunshine Coast Regional Council's 'All Abilities Access'



Late November last year we received a generous **'All Abilities Access'** grant of \$8145.23 from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council for the farm roads and foot paths.

Due to the severe wet weather we encountered earlier this year the project was delayed for some time but is now complete.



The access roads and paths on the farm are now safer for all to use including trainees, visitors & staff.

### 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](http://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.

### Winter Trainee Order



For Sale

Jumpers and Vests  
Please contact the office

**Orders are to be in by 20<sup>th</sup> June**

Thank You!  
😊



Contractors – Eastern Tree Services



Recently the Compass Institute has received a huge donation from Energex Contractors.

Eastern Tree Services are vegetation management specialists contracted to Energex they delivered 10 overloaded truckloads of mulch to the farm out of pure generosity.

We are all extremely grateful for the benevolent work done by Andrew McApee and his team, who were courteous and supportive.



The mulch will be well used for fixing that little weed problem, and improving the nutrition of plants in the farm.



NATIONAL Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will start in Australia from July 2013 in up to four locations across the country.

At an NDIS rally in Sydney, Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced that from mid 2013, about 10,000 people with significant and permanent disabilities would start to receive support.

By July 2014, that figure would rise to 20,000 people.

“The timeframe announced today means the first stage of an NDIS will be delivered a full year ahead of the timetable set out by the Productivity Commission,” Ms Gillard and Disability Reform Minister Jenny Macklin announced.

“For the first time in Australia’s history people with significant and permanent disability will receive lifetime care and support, regardless of how they acquired their disability.”

The government will fund its share of the cost of the initial stage of the NDIS in next week’s budget.

“A new National Disability Transition Agency, funded by the Australian Government, will be established to run the delivery of care and support to people with disability, their families and carers in the select locations,” the PM and Ms Macklin said.

“We want Australians with disability to start benefiting from this fundamental reform as quickly as possible.”

“An NDIS will give all Australians with a significant disability the peace of mind to know that their care and support needs will be addressed, no matter where they live or how they acquired their disability.”



“Delivering the national disability insurance scheme should be above politics,” Mr O’Farrell told the gathering, adding that NSW was making itself NDIS-ready.

Sydney Rugby league coach Ricky Stuart, who has a teenage daughter with autism, said it was time politicians took action.

“Our disabled resources, our disabled children are pushed – they’re pushed behind,” he told the gathering.

“We can’t have that. We need to put them to the forefront and make them more important than me and you and everybody else. They need to be number one.”



NDIS | revolutionising disability services

# From David's Desk



Hi Everyone,

Norm and I recently attended a conference here on the coast run by National Disability Services for service providers & interested parties. The main topic was the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which has been the subject of a great deal of news and talk over past months. (The Federal government have recently agreed to fund the first stages of the rollout.) Essentially this scheme, if fully implemented, would mean that people who are born with or incur a disability in their lifetime will receive ongoing funding (apparently) sufficient to meet their support needs. This is compared to the current situation where funding is, particularly in the post school sector, a veritable lottery and almost always insufficient to meet the full support needs. I have heard government representatives state that the funding is a privilege and not a right. Apparently it is a right however for the same overly numerous representatives to receive their pay packets and perks while purportedly representing the interests of people with disabilities. The same representatives state publicly that the government will only fund 80% of the costs of the services leaving service providers like Compass to find the difference. Can you imagine the government striking the same agreement with a building company to pay for 80% of a building for example? (You might be interested to know that in 2011 Compass provided approximately 40,000 hours of service and received government funding for 31,000 hours – approx 76%)

**The conference focused on the impact the NDIS might have on service provision in this country and the basic theme was 'grow or die off'. The facilitators talked about the likelihood of large global entities attracted by the new funding opportunity moving into Australia to provide 'one size fits all' types of service centres while the local grass roots organisations were being swallowed up. This has happened in other sectors in the not too distant past and fits into the general policy of fostering monopoly.**

I believe *crisis* and *opportunity* are two sides of the same coin – what organisations might experience in this situation depends largely on where they are along the continuum of traditional through to modern service models. Over the two days of the conference it became increasingly apparent that Compass is very well placed to seize the opportunity that appropriate levels of funding and a free market might bring. The reasons are too involved to recount here, however they all stem from our education, training and vocational pathway approach... an approach which has regularly received the highest praise from our quality auditors – people who travel Queensland assessing service providers and are amongst the most informed people in the sector.

All of this ties in with two significant events this year. First is the scheduled renewal of our Strategic Plan over the next few months in time for its release in 2013. Second is the occurrence of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in November – a time to reflect on where we have come from... and where we want to be in another 10 years and the 10 years after that. We are all shareholders in an organisation that benefits each and every one of us in some way. It may provide a safe place that is focused on helping our sons and daughters reach their potential ... it may provide a place where you can come to learn new skills, and connect with your friends and the world... it may provide a place where you can be gainfully employed while continuing to learn to provide for yourself... it may provide fulfilling employment in a career area where you love to work... or it may provide an opportunity for you to volunteer that is aligned with your values and belief systems. Whatever it provides for you, I want to ensure that it can continue to do so for many, many years to come.

Over the next few years Compass will take its service to other young people and their families in our region. We have been approached about establishing Compass Education & Training centres in Maroochydore, Gympie and Caboolture and each of these **have merit. The challenges will be...**

- to make sure we find people who are as passionate about helping others realise their potential as our current staff are
- to find suitable venues that we can make our own
- to ensure that we can provide the same sort of personalised support to people at these centres
- to continue to develop partnerships in the community and corporate sector
- to continue to build real pathways into the community through work experience, supported and open employment options as we have with the Farm, the markets, the property maintenance enterprise etc.

So while the environment may be radically altered over the next four or five years with the possible introduction of the NDIS, we can work together to meet the above objectives and others, knowing that we all stand to benefit from the improvements we make along the way.

Best wishes,  
David

