

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23



Interchange
illawarra



Highlights

Work commenced on our long-awaited social support centre located at Church Street, Wollongong. A small sod turning ceremony took place on Friday 30 June 2023 to celebrate the start of the construction phase.



Interchange Illawarra staff members undertook 850 training modules including the Annual Mandatory Training Program, Midazolam Administration, Enteral Feeding and Epilepsy Awareness.

Interchange Illawarra successfully completed their NDIS Certification Audit in February 2023. The Audit covers assessment of all of our quality systems including safety, training, service delivery and financial management.



During the 2022/23 financial year we coordinated:

- 646 Social Support group activity sessions
- 16 special events
- 60 weekends away
- 9 short holidays

We offered 9 Parent/Carer Health and Wellbeing events during the financial year including lunches at Mountain Ridge Winery, Lucia's by the Sea, Steamers and High Tea at Altitude 1148. We also hosted several Cuppa for Carers morning teas.



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Acknowledgement of Country

Australia is a land with a proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. Interchange Illawarra celebrates and respects these people as the First Australians. We acknowledge their unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land and waters as we all strive for respect and equality in disability care.

About Us

Interchange Illawarra is a not for profit, community based, registered NDIS organisation providing quality flexible supports for people with disabilities.

Interchange Illawarra has proudly delivered support to people with disabilities and their families for over 42 years. To us, supporting people goes beyond physical wellbeing to include nurturing friendships, discovering new talents and abilities. We are incredibly flexible with our programs to ensure they are always engaging, relevant and enjoyable.

Interchange Illawarra now employs over 140 dedicated Support Workers. We support over 270 participants, and their families, but no matter how much we grow we promise that our heart and values will always remain the same.

We have an unwavering commitment to create opportunities for the people who choose us as their provider.





Our Services



Coordination of Supports

Assisting people with disabilities, their families and carers to identify goals and aspirations they may have to live a meaningful life.



Daily Living Assistance

Offering support to people with disabilities to increase independence in their own homes.



Community Inclusion

The choice of assistance during activities and outings, pursuing personal interests or hobbies or going on a holiday independent of family members, or in an individual or a group setting.



Parent/Carer Support

Developing opportunities for parents and carers to participate in the local community, foster relationships and strengthen informal networks.

Management Team



Jake Pearson, Chief Executive Officer

Jake has been the CEO of Interchange for over five years. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, as well as completing studies in Case Management, Community Services Coordination and the AICD Company Directors training course.

Jake is also a committee member on the International Short Breaks Association Board and a Director on the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music Board.



Amanda Maslowski, Business Services Manager

Amanda has extensive experience in the banking sector and small business management, particularly with not for profit organisations.

Amanda holds an Advanced Diploma in Accountancy and a Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability) and has worked at Interchange Illawarra for over 10 years.



Michael Corby, Social Support Manager

Michael has been involved in disability support for over 21 years, initially as a volunteer and casual support worker, while studying for a Degree in Communications.

Michael also holds a Diploma of Community Services Coordination and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. He has a wealth of experience including roles as a Training Coordinator for people with a disability and teaching roles with TAFE Community Services department.



Emma Robinson, HR Manager

Emma has worked in the disability sector for over 14 years starting as a volunteer with Interchange Illawarra's Social Support programs before becoming a casual Support Worker. Emma has worked in various roles within the sector including Team Leader, Case Manager, Support Coordinator and Planner. She has a Diploma in Disability and Community Service Coordination and a Certificate IV in Human Resources.



Tracey Gartz, Practice Lead

Tracey has a Bachelor of Science (Psychology), a Cert IV in Disability Support and has undertaken further studies in Trauma Informed Practice. She has extensive experience in welfare, including working with homeless and disadvantaged youth, as a youth counsellor, and providing early intervention support to children under 8 years of age and their families. Tracey has worked in the disability sector for over 13 years.

Board of Directors



Susan Wallis - Chairperson



Peter Andrews - Treasurer



Lorraine Diaz - Secretary



John Kennedy - Director



Nathan McEwan - Director



David Richardson - Director



Bruce Rowles - Director



Dot Vassallo - Director*

** Dot Vassallo, our long time Board Member, and Interchange family member, sadly passed away on 25 July 2023. Dot will be missed by all that knew her.*



Chairperson's Report

Supporting people with disabilities and their families will always come with significant responsibility and often challenges. However, after seven long years of change and upheaval, first the highly anticipated and necessary move to person centred and individualised funding of the NDIS, and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic, it feels like we are moving from surviving towards thriving as an organisation and a community.

This transition has allowed Interchange Illawarra to do what we do best, innovate and continuously improve our service delivery and options in response to feedback and needs, increase our skills and workforce capacity, and with the purchase and building of our new centre in Church Street, develop purpose-built infrastructure to support our mission and purpose.

We pride ourselves on the professionalism, care and loyalty of our team, in particular the Support Workers who are the backbone of our organisation, and are the reason families continue to trust us to provide essential support, every day of every year. I would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment and willingness to undertake training and development to ensure that you are the best workforce an organisation could hope for, especially when circumstances are not as expected, and plans go awry.

Thank you for stepping in and stepping up for the people and families you support and being there for some of the hardest times as well as the good ones. As a former carer with lived experience of the toughest of times, I personally know the importance of your support and Jake Pearson, Amanda Maslowski and our Board are incredibly grateful and proud of your dedication.

After a long period of stability in our administration team, this year has seen some movement, with a number of long-term team members moving on and new staff joining our ranks. I would like to give my thanks for your years of dedication to Pam Harris, Tanya Ross and Marney Butler who we wish all the best as they share their skills elsewhere, and welcome Sally Hall, Madison Lowe, Jennifer Northey, Jessica Thomas, Mel Burns and Lui Antonelli. I trust we will provide you with learning and development opportunities to allow you to deliver better and better support and thank you for choosing Interchange Illawarra.

It is always a pleasure to attend the Interchange offices, which I do as regularly as I am able, and the professional yet caring welcome I receive each time assures me that the people and families we support are greeted with the same welcome. You, alongside our Support Workers, are our pride and strength.



We were devastated to have to cancel the end of year party last year, however, whilst it was a difficult decision stemming from many hard conversations between Jake and myself, we knew it was the right thing to do to keep all the people in our community safe. Instead, a very small lunch was arranged to acknowledge our volunteers, which I was unable to attend, but I was proud to receive a certificate for 15 years' service to the Board.

We acknowledged the incredible service of retiring volunteer Faye Sengstock at this event, and I am fortunate to be amongst the number of families who benefited from her exceptional care and support as Faye exemplifies the culture and history of Interchange Illawarra and our host family model in particular. It was fortunate I could not attend the event as I would have struggled to stem the tears. Known as the 'Chairperson who cries' this milestone would have had me live up to that name once again.

We strengthened our partnership with fellow local not for profit organisation Women Illawarra this year. I was personally incredibly humbled that an introduction to the incredible Michelle Glasgow at a community fundraising event resulted in the granting of a COVID-19 Recovery Package that allowed us to deliver additional projects supporting people with disabilities and their families. This outcome is my personal highlight of the previous year.



Jake Pearson and Amanda Maslowski continue to be extraordinary leaders who go above and beyond to ensure all of our stakeholders are supported in the best way possible. The leadership you have shown over the years of immense change and uncertainty has been exemplary, steering our tugboat amongst the waves, ready to divert course for calmer and more favourable seas at short notice and in response to change or storms. Friends as well as colleagues, each and every one of the Interchange Illawarra team knows they can rely on you for guidance and support and firm and fair decision making with integrity and trust. You make the work of the board a pleasure and your commitment to 'management without surprises' ensures we are informed and consulted at every appropriate step.

In an organisation as lean and flat as ours, the connection between the Board and Management is even more important and it is essential we work as a cohesive team to meet our collective goals.

It is a privilege and honour to serve with all of our Directors and I thank you all for your commitment and ongoing passion for enabling people with disabilities to lead ordinary lives. I am delighted and surprised each year you renominate to serve, and do not take your voluntary service for granted. Thank you for choosing to share your skills and time with Interchange Illawarra.

The most important people who deserve the greatest acknowledgment are always the people with disabilities and their families who trust Interchange Illawarra and choose our service to enable your families to function at their best.

We are grateful to be working alongside you in the good and bad times and look forward to feasting and dancing with you later in the year at our long-awaited end of year celebration after some false starts in previous years. We are long overdue a party, where all stakeholders come together to celebrate.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you a safe and happy end to 2023 and a successful and healthy 2024, when we will together celebrate the opening of our new building in Church Street.

Susan Wallis
Chairperson



CEO's Report

It gives me some pleasure and loads of relief to be reporting on our first COVID-19 restriction free year since the emergence of the pandemic in early 2020. As an organisation and a society at large, we have all learned how to best deal with the ongoing threat posed by COVID-19 and all its derivatives.

The year has been somewhat defined by some of the damning findings handed down in the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. While these do not directly involve Interchange, these findings have led to substantial changes to the NDIS Practice Standards, being the basis of our registration status and therefore our internal training, reporting and compliance activities in a number of areas. In March 2023 we successfully undertook the NDIS Third Party Verification Audit, with results reflecting the hard work invested in meeting new standards and participant expectations. The Royal Commission findings also had implications for our insurance coverage in some areas, requiring us to realign our service offerings to the new operating conditions.

From a capacity building perspective, we again increased our investment in staff training and development, we ran 'rights and responsibilities' workshops for participants and continued to enhance and upgrade our facilities, most notably a new accessible bathroom for the Evans Street Centre, a new ramp at our Respite Villa

in Lake Illawarra and made considerable progression towards the construction of our new Centre and Office complex on Church Street.

We have long considered our people to be our greatest asset, and to support this view we have invested in a full time HR Manager to assist us to further support and unlock the potential of our wonderful workforce. In a year that we farewelled Pam Harris, Tanya Ross and Marney Butler, we also welcomed Sally Hall, Madison Lowe, Jennifer Northey, Jessica Thomas, Mel Burns and Lui Antonelli to the office team. It gives me great pleasure to see Jen and Lui investing in study and then progressing from Support Work through to Planning and Support Coordination roles within the organisation. Fostering career paths in an industry not known for this, is a part of the Interchange Illawarra culture that I am very proud of.

The retirement of long-term volunteer Faye Sengstock in February 2023 marked a significant moment in our history. In Faye's 33 years of volunteer service she supported dozens of people with disability and their carers, both in the community and in her home, providing valuable respite support to these families. Faye has developed life long relationships with many of these families and these relationships will endure well into the future. I'm very grateful and for the thousands of hours that she has given to support Interchange participants.

It was also an unexpected delight to partner with Women Illawarra to deliver a on a COVID-19 Recovery Package that provided funding for initiatives designed to build the capacity of individual participants and their carers. We were able to fund a number of bespoke projects that would not have been possible without the funding, and I thank Women Illawarra General Manager, Michelle Glasgow, and her team for their collegial and flexible approach to the partnership.

Partnerships/Networks and Alliances

Working in partnership with other agencies continues to be a priority for Interchange Illawarra. The strength of our well-developed relationships provides the opportunity to support a greater number of people with disabilities to access value added activities, and to foster opportunities for community inclusion initiatives.

We have key partnerships with:

- Illawarra Disability Alliance Members
- Community Industry Group
- Good360 Australia
- ASPECT South Coast School for Children with Autism
- Greenacres Disability Services
- Big Fat Smile
- TAFE NSW – Wollongong
- Women Illawarra
- Illawarra Quota Inc.

Donations

Interchange Illawarra is always appreciative of donations received. These valued contributions provide opportunities to people with disabilities, their families, and their carers, that would not be otherwise available. In particular, donations to Interchange help to pay for health and wellbeing activities for carers, as these activities are no longer funded under the NDIS.

Interchange Illawarra acknowledges the donations received throughout the 2022-23 year:

- Illawarra Quota Inc.
- Henry and Maureen Crawford
- Carers NSW

Acknowledgments

Throughout the year, various people and organisations work in collaboration with Interchange Illawarra. These relationships are valued by this organisation and are vital to the ongoing support to people with disabilities, their families and carers.

These include:

- Interchange Illawarra Carers Sub-Committee
- Paul Davies from Paul Davies Digital Co.
- Ross Boyd from RB Computing
- Jo Kernot from Belrebel Consultancy and Training
- Natalie Allan and the Team from MMJ Real Estate
- The Illawarra Disability Alliance Membership
- Staff of National Disability Insurance Agency and NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission



As has always been the case, our Board of Directors, led by Chairperson Susan Wallis, has continued to provide clear and sensible guidance to the executive team. Their trust and shared vision have allowed the organisation to operate in ways that contribute to our mission: partnering with people with disabilities to live meaningful lives and to deliver high quality support. At various times I have personally called in the expertise of each and every Director, this being above and beyond their usual time commitment. I'm grateful for this willingness to share their time, knowledge and wisdom.





Our office staff, being both the Planning and Administration/Finance teams, are the engine room of the organisation. Our office team perform at a very high level under challenging circumstances, often shielding participants, carers and Support Workers from the inherent pressures and stressors that come with interacting with the NDIA. The team comradery and mentality are a distinctive feature of our culture and it is incredibly pleasing to see it in action each and every day. To Amanda, Maria, Michael, Leanne M, Tracey, Emma, Kylie, Brooke, Leanne D, Leonie, Ash, Kade, Cat, Sally, Jen, Madi, Lui, Jess and Mel – I thank you for your continued hard work throughout the year.

The Interchange Illawarra Support Workers are the face of our organisation and this group of skilled, passionate and committed people deliver our services 365 days per year. I am constantly amazed at the regular reports of workers going ‘above and beyond’ for participants and thank every member of our direct services team for their ongoing efforts.

Lastly, ‘thank you’ needs to go to people with disabilities, their families and their carers for sharing their lives, and continuing to choose Interchange Illawarra as their preferred service provider.

Despite a constantly changing regulatory environment, this first post COVID-19 pandemic year has been a successful one for the organisation, and we have laid the foundations (both literally and figuratively!) for some great initiatives for people with a disability in the next couple of years. I am proud to lead an organisation that continues to put people with a disability at the centre of all that we do.

Jake Pearson
CEO





Workforce Team Report

The workforce at Interchange Illawarra is made up of paid Support Workers, a small handful of volunteers, a dedicated office based administration team and management staff. We aim to provide high quality, flexible and person centred supports to people with disabilities, their families and carers.

Active recruitment has been on hold as we aim to better utilise our existing workforce and provide them with their desired work/life balance. We have however still employed a number of new Support Workers through word of mouth during the year. We have continued to refine our recruitment and selection processes and have invested in etrainu, a new training program with a disability focus.

With the introduction of our new customised training platform, Interchange Illawarra's Workforce has access to over 60 relevant courses, in house training, our orientation program and policy and procedures all in one place. These form part of our mandatory training program and are accessible as needed and as a component of our annual staff professional development.

The Workforce Team continue to organise our specialty training sessions on a quarterly basis. These specialty training topics are delivered by Registered Nurses with current experience.

Our Workforce Team are dedicated to promoting a positive workplace culture and engagement with our Support Workers is priority. In our recent workforce survey, our Support Workers were asked to describe our culture in three words. The most common words used were caring, supportive and in a tie for third, inclusive and friendly.

Valuable feedback from carers and participants reveals that our workforce is regarded as well-trained individuals who can perform their duties in a professional manner, and they promote Interchange Illawarra as both professional and responsive to the needs of carers and people with disabilities. We aim to maintain this level of satisfaction by setting high standards during our recruitment process and offering further training opportunities.

We look forward to working with new and existing members of our valued direct workforce in the coming year.

Emma Robinson and Brooke Nigro
Workforce Team

Social Support



The 2022-2023 financial year saw the Interchange Illawarra Social Support program expand, with both new participants joining the social support program and more offerings to existing participants. We have also welcomed some new Support Workers to meet the increased demand for our Social Support groups.

With the health orders and COVID-19 related restrictions a distant memory, the participant numbers for our Weekday Social Support Group are burgeoning.

The increase in numbers of adult participants in our weekday offerings was in part due to the addition of transportation being offered to participants who require it.

We have also added a cooking group on Mondays which has been very well received. A number of participants who had previously left Interchange have now returned to our programs after trying other providers and deciding that Interchange Illawarra was their preferred service provider. This is a really positive sign for the program and the organisation.

Unfortunately, the attendance numbers for younger groups (children and teenagers) have been somewhat down compared to previous years. This has been due in the most part to a marked reduction in NDIS plan funding that has been allocated to these age groups.



We will continue to advocate on behalf of these participants and offer social support that we know is of a great benefit to many. These Social Support groups assist participants to develop appropriate social skills, meet new people and form friendships with other participants in a fun, safe and supportive environment. Participants are provided with a level of support to access social and leisure activities that is not available or possible in mainstream programs.

During the 2022-2023 financial year, the program structure for groups changed slightly. Youth Group ceased to exist and has now been combined with Social Support Saturdays. The groups both ran from Evans Street, Wollongong every Saturday and both had adult participants as the youth group participants were all now in their 20s. The transition to this new combined group was smooth and successful.



Unchanged groups we offered include Social Support Weekdays (with additional days), Social Support Saturdays, Weekends Away, Saturday Club North and South, Kiama Group, Social Support South, TGIF, and School Holidays. We provided support to participants across a number of age groups and service the three local LGAs of the Illawarra. The most popular activities this year were Laser Tag for the younger groups and Ten Pin Bowling for the older groups.

Speaking of Ten Pin Bowling, our inaugural Bowling tournament kicked off in September 2022. Held over 10 weeks, it was a great success with 17 participants having a lot of fun while competing for the championship. Congratulations to Sam S, who was named the tournament champion.

Some of the other special events we held during the financial year included our Outdoor Movie Nights, Dress for Success event, Tulip Time, Rodeo 4 Life, The Enchanted Forest and A Wild Night out animal experience. We also went to see a bunch of cool shows including Shrek the Musical, Disney on Ice, The Umbilical Brothers and the Shellharbour Rocks Festivals.

We also have a new group that tears up the dance floor at the DanceAbility Disco Night on the first Thursday of every month.

Our Social Support Dragons and Hawks fans supported their teams again. We had a group that attended all Wollongong home games for both teams, as usual. Neither team had their best seasons but they can count on our participants to turn up and cheer, win or lose. Thank you to both the Dragons and Hawks for their continued partnerships and support of our Social Support programs over the years.

Our Weekends Away and Short Holiday programs offered short term accommodation (STA) to participants and respite to their carers. Participants can stay at our respite cottage in Evans Street, Wollongong, for the weekend with a group of their friends from the program. It gives the participants a chance to increase their independence, practice their daily living skills, spend time away from their primary carers and maintain their informal supports.

Short Holidays were as popular as ever, and in a post COVID-19 world we had to offer a few extra holidays to meet the demand for them. During the financial year our holiday groups visited Yulefest in the Blue Mountains, a Farm-stay in Gundagai, the Gold Coast, the Entrance, the Great Ocean Road, Canberra, Beechworth, Dubbo and Cairns. We also held a number of STA special event weekends that were well received. A great time was had on each and every one of these short holidays and we look forward to offering more great holidays in the coming year.

In a move to create capacity and potential expansion with the Social Support program, Catherine Windle joined Interchange in July 2022 as a Customer Engagement Officer. Cat, as she prefers to be known, has been an excellent addition to the Social Support team. Her existing knowledge of Social Support in the disability sector has been a valuable resource that has allowed for development and improvement within the program. We have also been working closely with Sally Hall, who joined Interchange during the financial year, as Marketing and Communications Officer. Sally has done an excellent job at revamping the look of our programs and promotional material.

Thank you to all who have been involved in the Interchange Illawarra Social Support Program during the 2022/2023 financial year, participants, families and Support Workers alike. We have made some significant changes and improvements to the program during this period and we look forward to continuing to offer quality Social Support options to our participants and families over the next 12 months and beyond.

Michael Corby
Social Support Manager



Parent/Carer Health & Wellbeing



Interchange Illawarra has continued to offer Parent/Carer Health and Wellbeing activities for the carers of registered Interchange Illawarra participants. We have a proud history of providing holistic support that benefits both the person with a disability and the members of their household.

Research shows that the health, wellbeing and success of people with disabilities is directly related to the wellbeing of their carers, both from a physical and mental health perspective. Caring for a person with a disability can be exhausting, isolating and create significant social and financial disadvantage.

Health and wellbeing activities are designed to offer carers opportunities to connect with each other. We do this by organising and facilitating various programs, workshops and events free of charge to the carers of Interchange participants.

Our Support Planners have taken responsibility and worked together to arrange various events throughout the year, giving carers not only the opportunity to enjoy activities with fellow carers, but also the chance to get to better know our planning staff.

We also ensured that any new member of the Administration team attended a carer event soon after commencing with Interchange Illawarra, so that they could meet some of our carers face to face and gain an understanding of their caring role.

Over the past financial year, we have arranged a wide variety of events, in the hope that we could offer something that appealed to our carers, and covered different preferences, interests and availability.



A group enjoyed a Winter feast at Steamers Bar and Grill, overlooking the waves on a cold and windy lunchtime in July 2022. In September, we were lucky to have a clear, sunny day for High Tea at Altitude 1148. We hosted our traditional Carers luncheon at the Lucia's By The Sea to celebrate Carers Week in October 2022.

The 2023 year started off well with a lunch in the garden at the Fern and Anchor café in February and continued with a winery tour and lunch at Mountain Ridge Winery. Further plans are underway for upcoming events.

Cuppa for Carers is a new initiative, started in 2023. It is held approximately once a month, as a chance for carers to call in to either our Kenny Street or Pur Pur Avenue offices and have a cuppa, some morning tea and chat with other carers. We have gathered ideas from carers on topics for discussion at future morning teas, and will provide a mix of social mornings and information sessions in the coming year.



Kemira Respite House

The 2022/2023 financial year marked the seventh year of our successful partnership with Greenacres, sharing the use of the Kemira respite house on the grounds of IRT in Kanahooka.

This was the first year since the beginning of 2020 that Interchange Illawarra has been able to maintain service delivery uninterrupted by COVID-19 restrictions. This continuity was welcomed by the participants and carers who attend our fortnightly 'Girls' and 'Boys' Weekends Away and Club Josie gatherings for Kemira residents.

Our programs focus on encouraging the formation of lasting friendships with peers, practicing independent living skills and enjoying some time away from primary carers to participate in new experiences.

Josie's Club continues to be enjoyed by Kemira residents on a fortnightly basis. Residents organise their own timetable of activities including hosting dinners in the centre, enjoying events out in the community, as well as craft, cooking and games nights.

The Kemira programs continue to be popular with participants and carers alike, and we look forward to continuing these services in the coming year.

Tracey Greatz & Catherine Windle
Kemira Coordinators





MyTime Wollongong

The 'MyTime' project is funded by The Department of Social Services (DSS) and is provided in partnership with the Parenting Research Centre, Playgroup NSW, Interchange Illawarra, TAFE Illawarra and Big Fat Smile.

MyTime is for parents and carers of a child (aged 0-16 years) with a disability, chronic medical condition or other additional needs including developmental delay. This program aims to assist families to develop social networks, enjoy some time out and provide children who have additional needs and chronic illness an opportunity to socialise with other children.

MyTime continued to be well attended with parents/carers enjoying the opportunity to have a two hour break to chat with others and learn about relevant information.

This supported playgroup initiative is the only one of its kind Australia wide where TAFE Child Care students have a practical opportunity to work with, and better understand, children with disabilities in a social learning environment for the child and their siblings. The students are supported by their teacher and a staff member from Big Fat Smile, who ensure that the children are engaged and well supported. MyTime is good for carers, children and students.

At the end of June, we were awarded the contract to run MyTime Wollongong for another 12 months. We are excited for the year ahead, supporting families as they start the adventure that caring can be.

Kylie White
MyTime Coordinator



Saturplay



The Saturplay program has continued to operate despite the ongoing challenge of access to our usual venue the South Coast School for Children with Autism (ASPECT) School at Corrimal. Ongoing renovations of the school site has meant that operating from the venue was not possible. However true to form we have soldiered on, shown flexibility in our approach to ensuring those participants who were able to be supported to work on their social goals without access to a consistent base have been accommodated.

This has been most successful for Saturplay's existing participants who had achieved social communication and social participation goals to be able to confidently attend the program fortnightly with all activities occurring offsite. We have seen ongoing growth and development in these participants over the year. The generosity of the school in providing the school bus for our use contributed to the positive outcomes for the participants.

In July 2023 the program will return to its base at the ASPECT South Coast School at Corrimal providing a program which can meet the needs of the diverse

population of young people on the Autism Spectrum or those who might benefit from participation. We are proud to continue our association with the school and are excited to be able to benefit from the beautiful new facilities the school offers. The venue provides a familiar environment to many participants who undertake their education at the school. We anticipate being able to increase our capacity to provide Saturplay to a new cohort of participants in the future.

The success of the program during the challenges of the last few years, must largely be attributed to the ongoing commitment of the staff. I am proud to work with such a dynamic and professional team of Support Workers.

To the participants and families who have shown trust in our capacity to respond flexibly to the challenges and provide a quality service, we thank you and look forward to working together to achieve social and community participation goals for 2023 and beyond.

Leanne Micallef
Saturplay Program Coordinator



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