

August 18, 2020

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Rhyse's new job



Weekly snapshots

THINGS ARE GROWING WELL

RHYSE LOVES JOB AT D'AQUINO LIQUOR

RHYSE Forrestal has always been a go-getter. Whether it be at the gym, on the stage or in the workplace - Rhyse never shies away from giving his best. It is a trait not lost on many especially his new employer Parkes D'Aquino Liquor Merchants.

"He has been there a while now and is going well," said Angie White, one of his support staff from Currajong Disability Services.

"He seems to really be enjoying it!"

With previous retail and customer service experience under his belt, Rhyse has made the new transition easily and is glad to be working again and meeting new people.

"I am loving my job and glad to be growing my skill set," Rhyse said.

"The staff are great and the people are fantastic," he said.

"I am a real people person so it has been tremendous and I look forward to going to work each day which not many can say!"



"I am just really grateful D'Aquino's have given me an opportunity to work, achieve life goals, keep my independence and in turn, help with my self esteem and confidence," he said.

The part time role is also close to home for Rhyse and fits perfectly with his lifestyle.

"My job is close to home and it keeps me busy," Rhyse said.

"It really has been a case of life with opportunities for me at Currajong and everyone just keeps helping me enjoy my life to the fullest and achieve my goals," he said.

"Life lately has been great!"



There's always something going on at



TOP (L-R): Shane shopping; Cheryl-Rae having a spell; Jaime at the Club Forbes cinema; Mark is all smiles; Cecile Street gang at the cinema in Forbes; RIGHT: A cool car trip for Blake and Sarah; 70th birthday celebrations at Cecile.



Submit your event or story to us for our weekly newsletter by emailing us at - dane.millerd@currajong.org.au or via our Facebook page or our website - <https://currajong.org.au/contact/>



Carer wellness program

Orange

19 August 2020



This group session is designed to support positive health and wellbeing outcomes for a carer, family or friend of a person living with dementia.

Participants will be empowered to build self-care skills which improve quality of life in a caring role. An individual follow up session will be offered to review progress in achieving your goals.

You will gain knowledge in:

- the impact of caring for a person living with dementia on your wellbeing
- strategies to improve and maintain your health and wellbeing
- how to access appropriate services and support



Suitable for:

Family carers and family members of people living with dementia. This program is not suitable for professionals employed in the health or aged care sectors.



Time: 9:30am – 3:00pm



When: Wed19 August



Where:

Carriage Cottage
145 Spring Street
Orange NSW 2800



Cost: Free

Additional information and bookings:

<https://cw19augorange.eventbrite.com.au>

0438 671 322 or
clare.coyle@dementia.org.au

<This program is funded by the NSW Government>

TANYA TURNS 10!!!



WHEN Tanya Orr started ten years ago, St. George were about to win their first grand final in over three decades, Tik Tok was what a clock did and Corona was a light beer no one liked. Fast forward a decade and Tanya Orr is now one of our most experienced, respected and accomplished support workers at Currajong.

For Service Delivery Manager, Jodie Turner, Tanya embodies all that our organisation represents.

"Tanya is amazing at her job," said Jodie.

"She is the first to put her hand up to do anything and is a real asset to us," she said.

"I know Venise especially loves Tanya and we congratulate her on her service."



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E-health tool targets mental health of those with intellectual disability

UNSW Sydney's Department of Developmental Disability Neuropsychiatry (3DN) has launched an innovative e-health tool to support the mental health assessment of people with intellectual disability and communication difficulties.

Funded by NSW Health, MySigns is a web-based application that adds to the scarce e-health tools available to people with intellectual disability. Despite the fact that those with intellectual disability are more likely to experience mental health issues than people without, access to mental health services for this group is poor.

3DN's Professor Julian Trollor, UNSW's Chair of Intellectual Disability Mental Health, said there are many e-mental health tools available for the general population.

"It is crucial that we also consider the mental health needs of people with intellectual disability and begin to incorporate these into digital health initiatives," he said.

MySigns is designed to be used collaboratively by people with intellectual disability, their carers and mental health clinicians to improve mental health assessment, monitoring and treatment.

3DN Project Officer Dr Jenna Zhao said, "The tool allows carers to upload photos and videos of the person's unique behaviours, gestures and expressions when they are experiencing certain moods. These can then be shared with the person's mental health team to facilitate mental health assessment."

A mental health assessment can be difficult for people with intellectual disability who experience communication barriers because information about their mental health is usually displayed through behaviours, gestures and expressions.

Carers and others who support the person are best placed to detect changes in mental health and are often most familiar with the person's behaviours, gestures and expressions.

Jann Hayman, who calls herself an involved "secondary" carer for her son, who lives in a group home, says she is looking forward to this app being available.

"My son is non-verbal but does communicate with facial expressions, gestures and behaviours. These can be confusing or meaningless to people who are not in daily contact with him — such as health professionals. This app can be used to capture and share those specific signs. It is a very person-centred product."

MySigns builds a visual library of the person's moods and can be used to help new support staff to learn about how the person conveys information about their mental health.

"It is every parent's thought, 'What will happen when I am no longer here?'," Hayman said.

"My son will always require people in his life who know him well. This app is a tool to provide a continuity of vital information. Support staff come and go... I think the app may have wider usage as a tool for new support workers to become familiar with the meaning of my son's specific facial expressions, rather than presuming."

Read more: <http://hospitalhealth.com.au/content/aged-allied-health/news/e-health-tool-targets-mental-health-of-those-with-intellectual-disability-699756497#ixzz6VLch1NGf>

A young man with glasses and a Nike cap is smiling outdoors. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt with a graphic that says "UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND". He is sitting on a lawn chair in front of a beige fence. The background shows some trees and a clear sky.

August

- * Children's Eye Health and Safety Month
- * Gastroparesis Awareness Month
- * National Breastfeeding Month
- * National Immunization Awareness Month
- * Psoriasis Awareness Month
- * National Health Center Week (Aug. 9-15)

Life with opportunities ...



Future Choices Virtual Transition Expo

for Students with Disability

9th September 2020 9-5pm

Presented by



Regional NSW & ACT

futurechoices.vfairs.com

Calls to get more people with disability on the NDIA board

STORY COURTESY OF PRO BONO AUSTRALIA & LUKE MICHAEL

The Morrison government is being urged to increase disability representation on the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) board, after the only person with disability on the board stepped down.

It was announced on Thursday that John Walsh AM was resigning from the board following a seven-year stint in the role.

National Disability Insurance Scheme Minister Stuart Robert said Walsh – who was also principal member of the NDIS Independent Advisory Council for 14 months – will be sorely missed.

“John has guided the NDIA under successive governments and ministers and I thank him for his service,” Robert said.

“It is incredibly sad to see John go, however I look forward to seeing him continue to make an invaluable contribution to the NDIS and the lives of people with disability in his future endeavours.”

The departure of Walsh, who has lived with quadriplegia since a rugby league accident in his early twenties, means no people with disability remain on the NDIA board.

Ross Joyce, CEO of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO), told Pro Bono News it was vital for the NDIA board to include qualified and skilled people with disability.

“The NDIS was something that people with disability fought hard to obtain. It’s representative of millions of people with disability, and therefore it needs to also be informed by people with disability,” Joyce said.

“I think it has to be a policy of the NDIA board. They do have a policy on staff numbers for the organisation but I think it also needs to apply from a governance perspective.

“We would like to see a policy or a quota around the number of board positions that must be people with disability.”

Walsh was replaced as principal member of the NDIS Independent Advisory Council – which represents the participants’ voice to the board – by Robyn Kruk AO.

Joyce said this was the first time he could recall that the principal member of the council was not a person with disability.

Appointments to the Independent Advisory Council and the NDIA board are made by the Commonwealth minister.

Considerations for a potential successor to the NDIA board will commence shortly and Joyce called on Minister Robert to appoint a person with disability.

“We would hope that the minister takes into account a whole range of things, but one of the criteria is that it must be a person with disability,” he said.

“I’m not saying that one or two people are completely reflective of the disability community. But this is good governance practice for an organisation that is focused on providing a national scheme for people with disabilities.

“It doesn’t make much sense to not have people with disability as part of that governance process.”

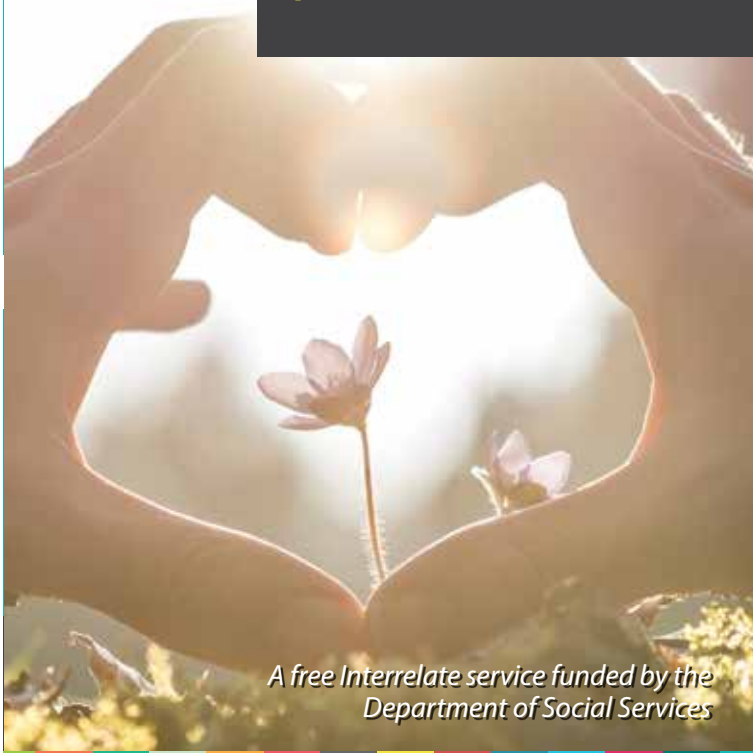
Pro Bono News has approached Minister Robert for comment.

**Looking for an
NDIS provider?**



Interrelate Counselling Support Service

for people with a disability
who have experienced
violence, abuse, neglect
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parents, carers and family
members



*A free Interrelate service funded by the
Department of Social Services*



To book a free confidential counselling session with an Interrelate counsellor:

Phone: 1300 473 528

Online: Send a message using the
online form [interrelate.org.au/
contact-us](https://interrelate.org.au/contact-us)



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who have experienced
violence, abuse, neglect
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parents, carers and family
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Safety

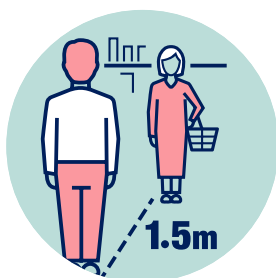
Interrelate is committed to providing
a safe environment where you can
receive a range of individually tailored
services.

Confidentiality

Interrelate staff operate under
confidentiality guidelines.

Keeping everyone safe: Physical distancing

helps stop the spread of COVID-19 between people



Stay 1.5 metres or 2 big steps away from other people.



Follow NSW rules for gatherings (individual and business).



Limit visits with family or friends. Talk to them on the phone or online instead.



Outdoor exercise is OK but stay 1.5 metres away from others.



No shaking hands, hugging or kissing other people.



Get tested if you have any symptoms. Self-isolate until you get your test results.

Stay Safe



Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitiser.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw the tissue away immediately.

COVID-19 symptoms



Fever



Cough



Sore throat



Shortness of breath

For more information

Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

For a free telephone interpreter ring 131 450, say the language you need. Ask the interpreter to connect you to the Coronavirus Health Information line.



Parkes

20 August 2020



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Suitable for:

Family carers and carers of people living with dementia. This program is not suitable for professionals employed in the health or aged care sectors.



Time: 9:30am – 3:00pm



When: Thursday 20 August



Where:

Parkes Community Centre
18 Rose Street
Parkes NSW 2870



Cost: Free

**Additional information
and bookings:**

<https://cw20augparkes.eventbrite.com.au>

0438 671 322 or
clare.coyle@dementia.org.au

<This program is funded by the NSW Government>

