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 Merry Christmas

A WORD FROM BETHANY'S MANAGER

DEAR FRIENDS

I hope you are all geared up for the festivities. The Bethany team have had a lot to do recently which has enabled us to improve service provision to our lovely participants. We have also bolstered our policies and procedures to ensure they're all in line with the NDIS best practices which has yielded positive results and we passed the recent NDIS audit.

Furthermore, in this edition of Bethany Buzz, we have made efforts to engage the community as we were featured in the NAYBA impact audit which showcased the positive impact of faith-based organisations on the GoldCoast. There has been a lot of improvement to our day group activities, encouraging independence and social interaction with members of the public.

Finally, Barrier Reef and Hope Cottage have been completed, two participants have moved in and the third will be in next year. Our respite services will commence soon, and it is our hope and prayer that we are able to support families and participants in need of short-term accommodation.

Happy Holidays.



Kind Regards

Idris

HOPE COTTAGE GRAND OPENING

Bethany recently held its grand opening for its new permanent accommodation and short term respite property in Mermaid Waters. It was a fantastic event attended by participants, support workers, Service Managers past and present, Board members, members of Hope Church and other local dignitaries including Councillor Herman Vorster.

The event started with speeches and prayers followed by the ribbon cutting ceremony with Bethany's founder Ruth Hay. After the house was officially declared open, guests were treated to a guided tour of the new premises, while enjoying some light refreshments. Finally, towards the end of the event, guests were offered a slice of a specially designed cake made to commemorate the occasion. Welcome to your new home boys!



BETHANY PASSES ITS NDIS AUDIT

Bethany is once again pleased to announce it successfully passed its NDIS audit. The audit took place in late October and helped Bethany understand what is working well and what areas may need some attention.

In their closing comments, the auditors noted that Bethany participants seemed happy while accessing the service and commented on the professionalism of staff and how well the residential house was being run. Well done everybody!



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Despite the busyness and excitement of the Christmas season, moms and dads can generally find a little respite and enjoy the festivities in some way. But for some parents, Christmas can be a moment of great anxiety if their loved one doesn't quite fit the mould. Their child may have particular needs that make this time of year a real struggle. When socialising is difficult or impossible, a family can feel isolated and excluded, which can feel worse at a time like Christmas with all the expectations we have for this holiday. For people with special needs, occasions like Christmas often keenly highlight what is different about their behavior. Moms and dads can feel their child is under the microscope and they're constantly on the lookout to make sure their child is behaving, coping, and kept safe.

In an effort to support parents who need extra support with their children at a time when others are in their element, a parent center in North Carolina posted a message on Facebook. It's a message of faith in their abilities as parents, a message of understanding. So if you know any parent who might be struggling this Christmas, share this message as well as a judgment-free hand of support. To the parents who have to walk away from the invites, stay home this season or can't partake in the holiday hustle, just breathe, you're doing a great job.

To the parents who have to sit in a different room, away from the party, away from the noise, the smells and bright lights. Keep going. For those of you who have to bring special food, a special toy or an electronic, don't feel bad, you are providing support for your child even if others don't understand it. Be proud of all your hard work and be thrilled when others want to take part in joining you and your child in their world instead of having expectations of joining theirs. You got this!



NEW HOUSE COORDINATOR—INTRODUCING BOLA

With our new accommodation build now open, we would like to introduce Bola, the new House Coordinator for all things Barrier Reef / Hope Cottage. Although relatively new to Bethany, Bola comes to us with a wealth of invaluable experience setting up respite homes for in the sector.

We are excited to learn how Bola will put her mark on the new facility. She is dedicated to providing excellent care tailored to the individual needs of each resident.

“My name is Bolanle Adeleye, however, I prefer to be called Bola. I have just been appointed to the role of House Coordinator to both Barrier Reef and Hope Cottage. I am so excited to be part of the amazing Bethany team. I’ve had previous experience as a team leader and also support worker prior to joining Bethany on a full-time level. I’ve previously had experience in aged care and was also a chef for a number of years. No matter the role, I take pride in whatever I do, making sure I assist and provide professional support to all of our participants alongside their families. With the new house opening, I will make sure that we continue to deliver a holistic care to every participant either on a permanent basis and through our respite services.

I will continue to encourage and assist all participants to work towards achieving their set goals and look forward to meeting you all during this new season. Please feel free to engage in conversation with me or ask any questions you may have.

Thankyou, and God bless”.



POLICY SPOTLIGHT—TRANSITIONING TO HOSPITAL

Transition Process

Bethany has a policy to proactively assist with transitions to and from the service.

Risks

All associated risks will be recorded, considered and minimisation strategies identified. This will primarily be done during the service access process. All risk details will be noted on the Individual Profile document appropriately.

Communication

Bethany will provide clear communication to other providers about the participant and their support needs. If possible, Bethany will initiate or contribute to transitional planning meetings.

Relevant information that can be shared during transition can commonly include:

- Medication Notes
- Behavioral Support Needs – Including Restrictive Practices, behavioural triggers and strategies
- Communication aids/tools used by the participant
- Risk assessments
- General health care details
- Any relevant incident reports



SUPPORT COORDINATION UPDATE

Hi Everyone,

We are fast approaching the end of the year and Christmas is just around the corner. Recently, I have been involved in finalising the NDIS support funding for the residents moving into our new SIL (Supported Independent Living) house.

It was lovely to see the Bethany team work together to achieve this wonderful goal, and even more witness the positive impact this has had on the families and guardians involved. Following on from this, I thought it would be a opportunity to share a snapshot of different home and living options available within the disability support sector and describe how an NDIS and a Support Coordinator can assist exploring some different options.



What can a Support Coordinator help me with?

- Explore housing options, while taking consideration of participant goals
- Assist arranging required supports to move house
- Assist with completing Home & Living NDIS applications/ reviews
- Support with housing plan implementation
- Monitoring plans and assist with reassessment/ plan variations when needed

What type of housing options are available in Australia?

- Private rental market
- Home ownership
- Public housing
- Specialised Disability Housing (SDA)
- Supported Independent Living (SIL)
- Community housing
- Shared equity

Why are home and living options important?

- It builds capacity and living skills
- Promotes independent living
- Increases social participation and access the community
- Helps pursue and achieve goals

If you are interested in learning more about home and living options, please contact me on 0457249721 or via email at sam@bethanycare.org. Alternatively, more information can be found on the NDIS website by scanning the following QR Code, or clicking the link. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/improving-ndis/improvements-home-and-living-supports/home-and-living-demonstration-projects>



On behalf of Bethany I would like to take this opportunity to thank all clients, families and guardians for their continued support. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year, and I look forward to working with you in 2023!

Kind Regards,

Sam



About us...

BC OFFICE TEAM

Service Manager
Idris Akintola

Assistant Manager
Teressa Athanasius

Operations Manager
Brian Lynch

House Coordinator
Obert Ndongdzai

House Coordinator
Bola Adeleye

Administration Assistant
Caron Quilliam

Support Coordination
Sam Schilling

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson
Pastor Justin Reid

Treasurer
Amy Leong

Director
Peter Dokmanovic

Director
Helen Karena

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK



If you have any feedback on what we are doing well or how we can do things better, please contact us. This may include any comments or suggestions about any aspect of service delivery, for example, policy recommendations. Please contact us to share your views. Your input is important to us.

You can provide your feedback through the following channels:

- by post Bethany Care Limited, PO Box 35 Varsity Lakes Q 4227
- email enquiries@bethanycare.org
- phone 5551 0276
- website www.bethanycare.org, click on "contact us"

JOIN US AT HOPE CHURCH

Bethany is a ministry of Hope Church and extends a warm invitation to all individuals & families to join in its dynamic services community events. Please visit

<https://www.facebook.com/hopechurchgc> or

<https://www.instagram.com/hopechurchoustralia> for updates.



SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

- Club BC Tuesday - A fun filled centre based day where anything can happen from a Fiesta themed party to indoor Olympics, homemade baking and a variety of creative projects. • Club BC Thursday - A day of action and adventure out in the community. Whether it is activities in a park or exploring new places everyone has fun.
- BC Bowling - Every Saturday our BC team of bowlers heads off for a morning of friendly competition. There is room for you on the team.
- BC @ Hope Church - Participants are always welcome to join the Sunday morning church service at Hope Church
- BC Camps - Our annual 4 day camp is held every September. Most campers and carers say it's the highlight of their year.
- Assistance with Self-Care Activities - We have a team of experienced and trained carers who provide one on one support to help you reach your goals whether in your home or in the community
- Supported Independent Living - Bethany has three SIL homes, Yodelay & Barrier Reef for the men and Maidenhair for the women.
- Short Term Accommodation - Hope Cottage available for short stays in a purpose built modern home.
- Support Coordination - Do you need assistance with coordinating all your NDIS supports? Bethany Care has an excellent and experienced Support Coordinator who is available to assist you to navigate your way through the NDIS.