





## A WORD FROM BETHANY'S MANAGER

### DEAR FRIENDS

I hope your new year is off to a good start. What an interesting time the last few months have been. With a number of our team off work due to COVID related reasons we fortunately employed nine new support workers, which enabled us to continue providing services with very little interruption. Continuing to provide excellent, client centered, safe programs and supports to our clients have been our top priority. As you will see from this edition of Bethany Buzz lots of things have continued to happen at Bethany Care. Whether its a club BC program or individual support, participants have been having fun in group activities or like David Ray watching airplanes land and take off at the airport with his support worker.

Due to the wet weather it took longer than anticipated to clear the site for the rebuild of Hope. I am pleased that now the ground is levelled and prepared ready for the foundations to be laid. The steel framework is being prepared off site and should be delivered in the next few weeks. We are hopeful that the rebuild will be completed in July however there is a shortage of materials due to COVID which can hold up production. If you are in the Mermaid Waters area please feel free to drive past and have a look.



Kind Regards

*Penelope*

## HOPE COTTAGE —PRAYING FOR THE FUTURE

Today we took a prayer team to 63 Barrier Reef Drive, the site of the first Hope Cottage property.

Our team included Ruth Hay—the original visionary / founder of Bethany Care, the General Manager & Management team, Support Workers, Lead Pastors of Hope Church and other members of the Hope Church / Hope College family. We gathered bright and early to survey the area and pray before the build goes up.

We prayed for the clients and families that will use the facility, the local community and neighbors, and we thanked God for His favor, provision, and ongoing wisdom and guidance. We can't wait to share this amazing facility with you.





## AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS!

Australia day took place on 26th January and Bethany and Support Staff took the opportunity to celebrate.

Bethany held specially themed activities both at Club BC and at the residentially houses. Everyone had fun and enjoyed the Barbeque, and the ice cream with laming-tons. What a wonderful time of celebration!



## SPOTLIGHT ON DAVID — ONE OF MY FAVOURITE PASTIMES



### WATCHING THE PLANES GO BY

This is David, a long-time friend of Bethany who has been with us since the early days. A resident at one of our permanent accommodation houses, David likes to get out and about in the local Gold Coast Community.

One of his favourite pastimes is to go to the skate park and watch the planes fly overhead. When asked what he especially likes about the planes, he remarks on their sheer size, how heavy and gigantic they are. He especially likes JetStar, New Zealand and American planes.

Although he's never been on a plane he would love too. When the borders open up he'd love to make a trip the USA with Mum and maybe some Bethany Support Workers can come too!

David accesses the community as part of our "One to One" program. If you would like to find out more, or maybe arrange services for you or your loved ones, please contact the Bethany office on 07 55510276.



## HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR — FROM CLUB BC!

### GONG HEY FAT CHOI!

Gong Hey Fat Choi! (translated as - "wishing you great happiness and prosperity").

Everyone had fun learning about Chinese culture, customs, arts and crafts at Club BC. It is one of the world's oldest cultures, tracing back thousands of years. Important components of Chinese culture include ceramics, architecture, music, literature, martial arts, cuisine, visual arts, and philosophy.

Chinese greetings and blessings to you all and your families.

What a joyful day!



# WE ARE HERE TO HELP



Bethany understands life can be challenging, especially when you are caring for a loved one. Please know help is at hand. If you need help understanding the NDIS, accessing our services or simply want someone to talk to, please call us on 0452 218 753.



### PHOTO OF THE MONTH

some of our carers enjoying the staff Christmas party...

## WELCOME TO THE BETHANY BOARD PETER AND HELEN



We would like to welcome two new members to the Bethany Board.

First we are excited to welcome **Peter Dokmanovic**. Peter has over 35 years managerial experience in various companies and multinationals across Australia. He has served as a National Manager providing oversight and leadership to state managers, ensuring budgets, targets and KPIs are properly met.

He has vast experience implementing Human Resources policies and principles across and also safe work practices.

In addition to the impressive skills and experience detailed above, Peter is currently managing the Hope Cottage building project, ensuring things run as smoothly as possible. Welcome Peter it's great to have you here.



Also joining us is **Helen Karena**. She comes to us with an extensive background (26 years) in community services, and we feel is a great pick for the Board. Her background includes 14 years in the disability sector as an individual support worker, 9 years as an early childhood educator, and more recently 4 years in the mental health sector. We are excited to draw from this vast experience in the future.

Academically speaking, Helen holds a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education and a Certificate IV in Disability Work. She tells us "I have a good understanding of the needs of the individuals with disabilities and how to facilitate building quality support/care to the individuals and their families. Welcome to Bethany Helen, we look forward to working with you."

## COVID –19 —HELP IS AT HAND

Here's a few things we are doing to assist you during the pandemic.

- 24 hour a day emergency support—If you are a Bethany Service User and have become a close contact or diagnosed as COVID-19 positive, you can call us for assistance during business hours on 07 5551 0276 or after hours on 0468841695
- Flexible service delivery to enable us to continue essential support and minimise disruptions
- In line with the regulations, our support workers are all, at a minimum, double vaccinated. We are taking extra precautions to keep people safe. Although group sizes may be smaller, we are open for business and committed to offering social connection and safe community access
- Bethany has secured a number of Rapid Antigen tests we are making available to participants in an emergency. If you require a RAT urgently, please call the Bethany office and let us know. We may be able to help.





## ETRAINU TRAINING—CONGRATULATIONS PAUL FOR COMPLETING ALL YOUR TRAINING

To ensure Bethany Support Workers are up to date with what's going in the disability space, all staff are required to undergo online training to ensure their skills are consistent with current best practice. The goal is to ensure staff are confident and competent in their roles and to ensure there is continuous improvement the quality of service delivery we provide.

The compulsory courses include Restrictive Practices, Human Rights, and Medication Management, to name a few. Staff are given access to log onto the website, complete the courses and gain certificates.

While staff have the flexibility to go at their own pace, special mention should go to Paul Adams who has completed all required courses in record time.

Congratulations Paul, wonderful effort.



NDIS Practice Standard 1

Working with People with Disability

NDS Workforce Essentials



NDIS Practice Standard 1

Manual Handling for Disability Support Workers

NDS Workforce Essentials



NDIS Practice Standard 2

Emergency and Disaster Management

NDS Workforce Essentials

## MEET THE CARER

### GETTING TO KNOW ADELINE MORRIS

Adeline has just joined us at the end of 2021. She is an energetic support worker with a passion for helping people with disabilities live their best lives. Here's a bit about Adeline.

#### **What's one thing most people don't know about you?**

I've been living in Australia for almost 18 years now. My husband and I and our three children don't have any family here. However, during this time we have "acquired" family and have friends that we now refer to as "old friends". The one thing that they don't know about me is that I used to be a Lifeline counsellor.

#### **What's your favorite way to unwind after a busy day?**

One of my best ways of winding down at the end of a long day is to run a rather hot bath and just soak. Sometimes I'll take a book to read or some gentle worship music or a glass of wine.

#### **What's something you've done, but will never do again?**

My husband celebrated one of his birthdays by bungee jumping off one of the highest jumps in the world, the bridge over the Zambezi River. I wasn't going to do it but at the time realized it was "now or never". Standing on the edge of the platform with every fibre in my body screaming NOOOOOOO! I just couldn't jump. Before being harnessed up to the bungee cords I spoke to one of the operators and he just winked at me. So, on the 2nd countdown of one, two, three jump. He gave me a gentle shove and over I went. Once in the air it was truly amazing. The sensation of bouncing freely and the beauty of the gorge below was overwhelming, and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I know I will definitely NEVER do it again.

#### **If you could snap your fingers and become an expert in something, what would it be?**

I'm fairly handy with cooking, but not so good at baking, so it would definitely be baking.



## NDIS PARTICIPATIONS CAN USE PLAN FUNDS TO CLAIM FOR TEST RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

NDIS participants can purchase rapid antigen tests (RATs) with funding from their NDIS plan. Participants can use their core funding to purchase RATs where it is required to access their reasonable and necessary supports.

Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC has today confirmed that eligible NDIS participants can purchase rapid antigen tests with funding from their NDIS plan, to ensure safe access to their supports in current COVID-19 outbreaks. Participants can use their core funding to purchase rapid antigen tests where it is required to access their reasonable and necessary supports.

“We know that rapid antigen tests are an important tool for ensuring that participants continue to access their disability related supports” Minister Reynolds said.

In addition to this, we are pleased to advise Bethany has secured a number of tests we are making available to participants in an emergency. If you require a RAT urgently, please call the Bethany office and let us know. We may be able to help.



## POLICY UPDATE—DISASTER RECOVERY POLICY

In line with recent changes to the NDIS practice standards Bethany has recently updated its policy.

The document includes 5 separate plans for

- 1) Imminent natural disasters,
- 2) Flood or water damage
- 3) Fire
- 4) Clinical waste or hazardous substances
- 5) COVID-19 Outbreaks (Pandemic)

Each plan details specific Management or governing body actions and periodic review points. The plans follow the different stages of a disastrous event

- 1) Preparedness – Before the emergency
- 2) During the emergency
- 3) After the emergency
- 4) Evaluation and Appraisal

In addition to this it contains emergency contact lists, maps and role alternatives in the event of staff absence and a commitment to continuity of service where there are unavoidable interruptions to services.

The document is 22 pages long and will be made available to all participants and their supports through email or printed copy if you prefer. We will also provide a feedback form so you can make any recommendations or suggestions on the content.





# About us...

## BC OFFICE TEAM

**General Manager**  
**Pene Hodge**

**Manager of Services & Supports**  
**Idris Akintola**

**Operations Manager**  
**Brian Lynch**

**Permanent Accommodation Coordinator**  
**Trevor Judd**

**Finance Coordinator**  
**Teressa Athanasius**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chairperson**  
**Pastor Justin Reid**

**Treasurer**  
**Amy Leong**

**Director**  
**Kerry Lovell**

**Director**  
**Peter Dokmanovic**

**Director**  
**Helen Karna**

## 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 Bethany 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, Box 35 Varsity Lakes Q 4227
- email [enquiries@bethanycare.org](mailto:enquiries@bethanycare.org)
- phone 5551 0276
- website [www.bethanycare.org](http://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/hopechurchaustralia>  
for updates.



• MGP  
• BPO  
• EWC  
• PLE  
• VCS

## 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 Care has two SIL homes, Yodelay for the men and Maidenhair for the women.
- Short Term Accommodation - Our wonderful Hope Cottage is currently under renovation but will be open next July better than ever for short stays. In the meantime our carers can provide support in your 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.