



**Bethany Care - where your life and your choice matters**





## A WORD FROM BETHANY'S MANAGER

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to welcome you all to the inaugural edition of Bethany Buzz for this year. We've had an interesting start to the year, and the team's spirit and enthusiasm are undeniable as our participants thrive in attaining their goals. As a not for profit Christian organisation, we have made certain that our funds are used to develop the lives of our participants and to improve the quality of services given. We ensure that funds received from the NDIA are utilised in a transparent, honest, and accountable manner.

In order to ensure the comfort and safety of People Living With a Disability (PLWD) when visiting public spaces, we have chosen the most suitable public parks for PLWDs, taking accessibility to essential utilities into account. Furthermore, Hope Cottage is now available for persons in need of Short Term Accommodation (STA), and we are thrilled with the number of reservations we have received.

The importance of workforce training and re-training cannot be overemphasized, so we have engaged various Registered Training Organisations (RTO's) to train all staff members on the best practices in providing support to our participants.

Thank you all for your constant support and I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Bethany Buzz.



Kind Regards

*Idris*

## BILL SHORTEN ISSUES WARNING AFTER \$3.3m NDIS FRAUD

Three men will face court over fraud-related offences against the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), following the execution of search warrants in Western Sydney. The warrants, relating to alleged fraudulent activity totaling more than \$3.3 million, came following an investigation by the Government's Fraud Fusion Taskforce. Australian Federal Police (AFP) officers executed search warrants across three separate residences.

The activity led to the arrest and charging of one man, with two other men being issued with Court Attendance Notices for offences including Obtain Financial Gain by Deception and Dealing In Proceeds of Crime.



The charges relate to alleged work and services being undertaken for registered NDIS providers. "The Fraud Fusion Taskforce is now able to draw on greater cross-agency collaboration, which means wider knowledge and a better ability to detect and catch any criminal who targets the NDIS," Minister for the NDIS, the Hon. Bill Shorten MP said. "My warning to any criminal attempting to defraud the NDIS – get off our scheme."

It is alleged the three men, each known to one another, set up or acquired businesses as disability providers before going on to submit false claims for NDIS services that were never provided. The latest arrests follow the earlier arrest of a Brisbane man for alleged fraud against the NDIS. The man, who was arrested upon re-entering the country in June, had been facing one charge of General Dishonesty.

However, after further work by the NDIA, he is now facing 25 more charges relating to alleged fraudulent activity with a value of more than \$430,000. He will face court on March 3. Anyone with information about suspected fraud involving the NDIS should contact the NDIS fraud reporting and scams helpline on 1800 650 717, or email [fraudreporting@ndis.gov.au](mailto:fraudreporting@ndis.gov.au).

## GOLD COAST DISABILITY ACCESSIBLE PARKS

The Gold Coast is home to over 2200 parks, however, not all of them cater specifically for the needs of people with a disability, in fact, only 129 parks have disability toilets.

One of our favorite parks on the list is the popular Cascade Gardens at Broadbeach. It is a family-friendly spot perfect for picnics, barbecues or a play in the park.

The park features serene rainforest walks, with traces of aboriginal culture. Along the river there are barbecues and picnic tables, as well as a waterfront pathway popular with walkers that connects up to the sensory gardens and playground.

In the sensory garden you'll find elements including a musical gong, wayfinding design and productive gardens that encourage you to interact with the gardens through sight, touch and smell. The playground includes a flying fox, rope bridge, rock climbing wall and a carousel. There is also a liberty swing available for those needing all abilities access.

There are over 50 parking bays, plus 5 disabled parking spaces located within the park. If you are looking for a safe place to access the community we recommend checking it out.



Scan the QR code below to access a list of parks with this useful facility.



## SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION HOPE COTTAGE BOOKINGS

Newly Rebuilt Short-Term Accommodation in Mermaid Waters provides comfortable and fully supported stays for people with NDIS funding for a weekend or up to 14 days.

- 24/7 hours staffed 1:1, accessible accommodation
- Self-contained, accessible kitchen facilities
- 1-bedroom ensuite
- Open plan living area
- All meals provided throughout the day
- Fun activities, including games
- Personalised care and support
- Registered NDIS Provider

Scan the QR Code for a virtual tour...



### Bookings are Now Open!

Give us a call on 07 5551 0276 or email your interest to [enquiries@bethanycare.org](mailto:enquiries@bethanycare.org)





## MEET THE CARER

### GETTING TO KNOW JOHN BERRIMAN

This is John, a support worker who has been with us since November 2022. Here's a little bit about John.

- What do you do to turn things around when you're having a bad day?  
Remember all the good things in my life.
- What energizes you outside of work?  
Coin collecting.
- What's one of your favorite memories from the past year?  
When my son got his P Plates, no more school drop offs or pick ups.
- What's one thing most people don't know about you?  
I can rap dance.
- What's your guilty pleasure?  
Chocolate.



## MEET THE CARER

### GETTING TO KNOW STEVE RILEY

This is Steve, a support worker who has been with us since January 2023. Here's a little bit about John.

- What energizes you outside of work?  
Spending time in prayer and meditation with Jesus
- What's one of your favourite memories from the past year?  
Moving to Tamborine Mountain
- What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit of?  
Drink more water.
- What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?  
Don't worry, be happy. Bobby McFerrin.
- What's the best compliment you've ever received?  
My daughter telling me she appreciated all I have done for her and that I am a good dad.
- If you could trade places with anyone for a day, who would you choose?  
A mechanic, so I could fix my car for half price.



## POLICY SPOTLIGHT—SUN & SUMMER SAFETY

There can be an increased risk of heat-related illness and health complications during the summer months. Studies have shown the issue is usually more significant for people with disabilities. This includes individuals with swallowing difficulties, intellectual and/or physical disabilities. In some cases, particular medications can also increase the risk of heat-related illness.

Recently the NDIS Commission have issued a Practice Alert addressing issues of participant safety during hot weather events. Bethany is committed to following all advice and suggested recommendations to ensure all participants have a safe and enjoyable Summer.

### Plan Ahead

Bethany workers can support participants to plan ahead for outdoor activities during hot weather. This might include planning to:

- Go outside at a time of day that is cooler
- Reschedule or reconsider plans that involve sun exposure
- Go to locations that include shaded areas and amenities
- Have water and preferred drinks available
- Keep food and drinks refrigerated or cold - taking an esky or cooler bag to keep items cold while out
- Avoid wearing dark colored clothing that absorbs heat more than lighter colored clothing.
- Eat cold foods and foods with a high water content such as salads, fruit and cold meats or fish.

### During Extreme Heat

- Stay indoors in a cool environment
- Reduce activity to minimise exertion
- Increase fluid intake.
- All Bethany workers and participants should use sun and heat safety measures if they cannot avoid going outside extreme heat events.



## SUPPORT COORDINATION UPDATE

Hi everyone, I thought I would start off the year by explaining the two types of support coordination available to NDIS participants.

1. **Support coordination** an NDIS service that helps participants to understand, access and manage their NDIS funding. A support coordinator works with participants to develop a support plan, identify and connect with service providers, and ensure that their plan is being implemented effectively. Support coordinators help participants to get the most out of their NDIS funding by ensuring that they are using their funds in a way that meets their needs and goals.
2. **Psychosocial recovery coaching**, on the other hand, has an additional service delivery component that focusses on improving an individual's mental health and emotional well-being. A psychosocial recovery coach works with participants to help them overcome the challenges they are facing, such as anxiety, depression, or low self-esteem. This service is focused on empowering individuals to lead a fulfilling life and reach their potential, rather than simply providing practical support.



While support coordination and psychosocial recovery coaching both play important roles in helping individuals with disabilities to achieve their goals, they are distinct services that offer different benefits. Support coordination focuses on helping individuals to understand and access their NDIS funding, while psychosocial recovery coaching focuses on improving mental and emotional well-being. Participants may choose to access one or both services depending on their individual needs and circumstances.

If you or someone you know is unsure about which service would be most suitable, please feel free to contact me on 0457249721 or via email at [sam@bethanycare.org](mailto:sam@bethanycare.org).

Alternatively, more information can be found by scanning the QR Code provided.



Kind Regards,

*Sam*





## CLASS IS IN SESSION - ENTERAL FEEDING & MANAGEMENT

While many Support Workers already have a basic grounding and experience in this area, it never hurts to sharpen our skills and keep up with industry best practice.

As the opening of Short Term Accommodation at Hope Cottage rapidly approaches Bethany is preparing by training staff to provide Enteral Feeding services consistent. This training will be consistent with the requirements of the NDIS practice Standards and Quality Indicators. Bethany has engaged the services of an external training organization with a view to run routine workshops and courses to ensure we have the necessary skills to provide safe high quality care.

If you are a participant with feeding requirements please let us know, prior to your booking. You will be asked for copies of feeding plans and any other supporting documentation that will help us provide the best possible care.



## HELP IS AT HAND—GIVE US A CALL

**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 5551 0276.

# 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 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, PO 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.



## 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 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.