



Essential Personnel

Issue 1

NEWSLETTER February 2010

The Pumpkin Patch

In Cambodia, a young man named Nimul opened his home and gave his energy to young Cambodians with disabilities. Through education and training his organisation- Yodifee tries to change the culture of begging and dependency and encourages self sufficiency, offering employment opportunities.



Essential Personnel visited Yodifee. With no funding and a growing waiting list they are in need of support for new wheel chairs, computers, education tools and resources.

Here at Essential Personnel, being an employment agency for people with disabilities, we felt we would like to help in some way.

For the past 5 months a crew of our clients have been growing Watermelons, Rockmelons and Pumpkins in the Swan Valley. Now it is time to harvest!



No chemicals have been used and all the money raised will be going to the children in Cambodia. The produce is yummy and low cost.

If you would like to buy a pumpkin, watermelon or rockmelon, please order from Essential Personnel.

Northam: 08 9622 3476 262 Fitzgerald St
Midland: 08 9274 7524 Unit 1 21 Springpark Rd
EP@essentialpersonnel.org.au

DISABILITY SERVICES STANDARDS

The **Disability Services Standards** are rules that tell Disability Employment Services how to make sure they give people with disabilities a **good quality** service.

The Australian Government gives money to Disability Employment Services to:

- ⇒ help people with disabilities to find and keep a job.
- ⇒ support people with disabilities in their jobs.

What are the Standards?

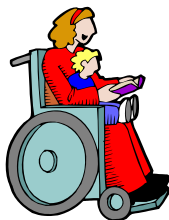
The standards tell your service how to make sure that they:

- ⇒ have the right attitude to working with you
- ⇒ give you the right help to find and keep a job
- ⇒ find the right way to help you get the job you want
- ⇒ have the right staff to do the work and are well managed

Why are the Standards important?

The Standards are important because they tell you your rights:

- ⇒ when you go to a service.
- ⇒ when you are looking for a job.
- ⇒ when you are working in a job.



Standard 5

Participation and Integration

Taking part in the community



Bill has a new job. He is going to be part of the team.

Your service should help you to...

- Be involved in the community
- Use services in the community



CEO's Corner



Year 2010 started with a bang! The New Year brought along with it the commencement of the new ATE program (Alternatives to Employment), now being Coordinated by new staff member Janine Kocis. Janine has taken on board the huge job of managing existing clients and also introducing a number of new clients to the program, overseeing the tasks of locating Support Workers and Activities for the clients throughout the Wheatbelt. Equal Gardening resumed work after a well deserved Christmas Holiday break, and returned to a huge workload – proving its popularity within the Local Community.

The yearly planning day was held at Yanchep Lodge on Thursday 4th February 2010 with full attendance of all staff. The spectacular weather aided to a successful day of business planning and future forecasting starting with a CEO's report revising the year gone with a full financial report including the current standing of Essential Personnel. Rob Cousins & David Shepherdson provided a thorough presentation to assist Employment Coordinators on "Improving the quality of evidence for Assessments" which of course is the back bone to the support provided to our clients.

The New Disability Employment Service Deed 2010 is a major amendment to the structure of the Disability Employment Network, and staff were taken through an overall summary of the changes and how

business will be affected.

Rebecca Waldie presented an explanation of Client File reviews, in preparation for the yearly Audits conducted, and Liz Hughes conducted a summary of the new Training & Career Development sector that she will be concentrating on and managing this year.

The new ATE program is now completely up & operating, and Janine provided an update on how the program was running to date, advising us of the numbers of clients on board, and the status of support provided to each client.

The highlight of the day was thanks to a very brave & special client of EP, Toni Folley, who opened her heart to us all by taking us through her daily life living with Schizophrenia. For those staff who have had little experience with this illness it was a positive eye opener and even those staff that are familiar with the disease gained a very personal insight into the emotion and thoughts of someone suffering the disease since childhood.

It was once again a successful event enjoyed by all staff.

A date has been confirmed for the Fancy Dress Fundraising Ball held at the Northam Town Hall – this event will be held on the 18th June 2010. We look forward to a fun night filled with many festivities and hope to see you all there!

Finally I look forward to an exceptional year ahead; we have many new programs and ideas on the go for a successful 2010.

Summer *GARDENING*

Water Saving Tips for Summer

There are easy steps you can take to keep your garden from getting too thirsty.

You will be helping the planet at the same time!

- Collect rainwater so that you're not wasting precious drinking water
- Recycle water. It is also a great way to water the garden! Using plastic buckets, collect water in the shower while you are waiting for the hot water to come through.
- Move your pot plants out of the wind and into the shade
- When watering pot plants, place the entire pot into a bucket of water. Let it drain and then remove the pot from the bucket. The excess water in the bottom of the bucket can be re-used.



New Staff at Essential Personnel



Rebecca Waldie - Manager, Quality Assurance & Compliance



Janine Kocis - Essential Choices—ATE Coordinator



Wendy Hoare - Employment Coordinator



Humour Hill



Knock at the Door

A new pastor was visiting the homes of his parishioners.

At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, Genesis 3:10."

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.


Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid, for I was naked."



Essential Choices Update

We are applying to "Royalties for regions grants" and "Lotteries Grants" To Purchase a Property at 12 Grey Street, Northam



This property will be used as a  late clients
To :

- Acquire living skills such as Cooking and to simulate a home environment To develop related skills.
- For the social opportunities of interacting in craft classes and other classes related to their requirements and personal goals.
- Interact with the community in developing a facility so that the clients can run a "café" style lunch area for the broader community once a fortnight or month.
- Develop learning opportunities by offering an area where the clients can obtain computer access and acquire skills in this area.

Training Opportunities at Essential Personnel

Recently we have created a package of learning material which may help you get a job and keep it. It is called 'Job Ready'.

What it will do is prepare you for a job interview and give you confidence to go for jobs which you may not have thought of before.

It will be run in a relaxed, non threatening and fun way. If you think you would like to be involved or just ask more questions, please ring Liz at Essential Personnel on 9622 3476.

If you already have a job and feel you would like to change your employment direction but need to improve your skills, talk to me. We can find out what is available and how you might be able to achieve your ambitions.

Any person (male or female) who would like to learn how to look after their skin, I have a beautician who is happy to show you how. This would be in a group session - \$2 cost, fruit smoothies included. Ring to find out more.

Contact me, Liz on 9622 3476

I work Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday each week at Northam.

AVON ROAD

*(Recreational Opportunities for Adults with Disabilities)
(All ages welcome)*

SOCIAL SPORTS, WEDNESDAY NIGHT

at the

Recreation Centre, Northam

Between 5.30 pm and 6.30 pm

TERM 1, 2010

**From 3 February to 31 March Boccia will be
played each Wednesday night.**

**Cost: Free if played on oval \$2.50 (16 years and over) if played inside
60 cents (15 years and under)**

Enquiries phone:

Leandra Walker 9622 3605 (all hours)

Karen (Essential Personell) 9622 3476 (business hours)

Cool drinks available \$1.00 per can.