

PEBBLE

April 2021

Message from the CEO & Chair

Greetings everyone

The clocks have now changed back, mornings are lighter and we are seeing the nights 'drawing in' as they say in my homeland!

You may have heard media reports this week regarding the vaccine 'roll-out' for the disability sector which is not going as well as expected, to say the least. Hopefully shining a spotlight on this will move things along, fingers crossed.

The Board and Executive met on 28th March to review our overarching strategy; where we are and what SASI plans to offer in the next three years. Many topics were discussed and the Executive are busy forming plans so that they can be communicated. In short, we remain committed to providing supports to people on the autism spectrum and those with other complex disabilities. We are keen to offer more accommodation options for families, as well as skill development, recreation and community options to support our clients to develop and grow towards their goals. We plan to offer camps/respite options to give clients some variety of experiences and meet some new people, as well as giving families and clients some respite. SASI would celebrate some of our clients moving on from SASI, having been successful in achieving their goals with us, to other alternatives such as education or employment in the future. Nothing is off the table, if there is funding and we have the skillset to support our clients we will do it.

Our Seaford Hub refurbishment is almost complete, with the Hub open for business. The Hub hosted many families and interested community groups and schools during the week of 6th April. The Hub staff are in place and equipment and furniture has arrived. The new team are very excited to be able to offer a range of new supports in our 'new look' space.

We are pleased to welcome a new Support Coordinator who joins the team at SASI this month. Ellen comes with a broad range of experience and will assist managing our waiting list for this support.

Short term accommodation (STA) is successfully operating at our cottage in Newborough, and STA will also be offered at the new Cranbourne property for those suitable with funding. The Gamers Hub at Moe has grown and now provides access for more clients and with 'word of mouth' locally we imagine this will further grow to offer some innovative supports to families in the local area.

Our co-located space, in partnership with the Salvation Army at 750 Nepean Highway, Mt Martha is now up and running and is hosting a morning/afternoon tea in May to invite prospective families, Special Development Schools (SDS), and other community members to view the space and discuss their needs.

SASI staff continue to ensure everyone's safety by implementing all the relevant guidelines for safe support provision, including mask wearing,

Cont...



physical distancing, hand washing/sanitiser, daily health checks, temperature checks, designated spaces for everyone and access and egress routes to and from each building occupied.

Happy reading...

Cheers

Kath (CEO) & **Louise** (Chair)



ACTIVE LIVING

Looking for some respite come and join our walking group.

Pelican Park Recreation Centre

Thursday 11.30 —12.30pm

(Meet in the Centre foyer)

GOLD COIN DONATION

Chance to Walk and Talk with DEB

Starting 22nd April 2021

For further information ph. 5974 7800



Try to be a
rainbow in
someone else's
cloud

- Maya Angelou



Latest Adventures

Supported Independent Living Homes

Aspendale House

Joe and Savier enjoyed going on a bushwalk.

It was very overgrown, and they were ducking and weaving between the bushes and trees.

Right: Joe & Savier



Cameron enjoyed preparing lunch for him and his house mate.

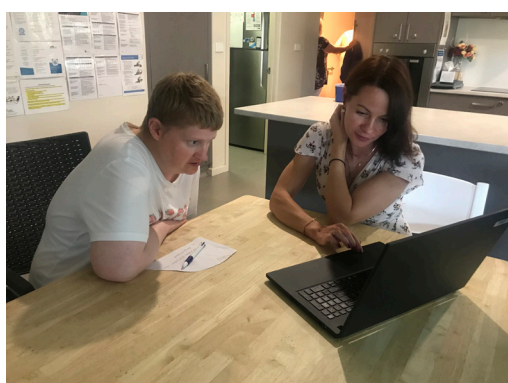
He also enjoyed playing mini golf with staff.



*Left & Right:
Cameron*



Springvale House



Malcolm discussed his supports via Zoom with Tara and in person with Darya.

Left L-R: Malcolm & Darya



Dandenong House

Ben and Future at Dandenong House have customised the 'key communication lanyard' to use daily with Luke across all of his programs and are providing easy access to picture communication and requesting when necessary. This has become an important tool for all SASI clients who depend on visual cues for communication where ever they may be. Luke was using the lanyard with his support team at a local cafe to help him understand his routine, make requests, feel safe, understand social expectations, and to be able to transition smoothly to the next activity in his schedule. It was a successful community access visit for Luke, his staff, and for the community as well. The cafe staff were so pleased to see SASI staff using augmentative and alternative communication tools and were very interested in finding out all about it. They also praised our Dandenong team for the dedication and fantastic support they give to Luke each week.



Above L-R: Ben, Future, & Luke

Cheltenham House

Cheltenham House residents decided to make chicken and vegetable pastries for lunch and baked a butter cake for afternoon tea on a rainy Sunday.



*Left L-R: Belinda & Ben
Right: Matthew*



Did you know....

Butterflies taste with their feet!



Active Choices

Newborough

Daniel enjoyed an outing to the park this week, and he loved his time on the swing.

Having had limited community outings during COVID, everyone is so happy to start moving back into normal day to day outings.

Right: Daniel



Above, Right, & Below: Dwayne



Dwayne had an amazing time on his first over night stay in the Cottage at SASI Newborough. He joined in some local activities with Latrobe Street Games where he showed his skills of frisbee throwing and football.

Once returning to the Cottage for the evening, Dwayne enjoyed a delicious dinner and relaxing with a much loved jigsaw puzzle. There was more fun to be had with some fun banter while watching the footy - 'Go the Pies'.

Dwayne loved his first experience staying in the Cottage and looks forward to his next stay.



Seaford Hub

Introducing the new staff at the SASI Seaford Hub:

Grace

We are very excited to have Grace leading the Performing Arts at Seaford Hub. Grace is currently doing a Masters in secondary teaching after completing a Bachelor of Arts where she majored in drama and children's literature. Grace is also a dance choreographer and is involved in various local theatre companies. She is currently appearing in the Australian premiere of "Keeping Up Appearances" with MLOC. Grace will be running drama and dance at the Hub.



Above: Grace



Curtis

We welcome Curtis to the team. Curtis has worked at EB Games for eight years. His knowledge of gaming and all the latest products is extensive. Curtis has just completed a Diploma in Community Services. He is very excited to be setting up a program that will incorporate social skills whilst teaching everything related to gaming, from setting up to playing with confidence as part of a group. The program will also provide an opportunity for clients wanting to develop and improve their technology skills.

Above: Curtis

Peter

We are delighted that Peter will be leading the Visual Arts program. Peter comes with a fine arts degree. He has worked in the mental health sector for over a decade delivering art programs at the Splash Out Art Studio. He has also supported people with autism to integrate into mainstream school. Peter has vast experience supporting people with their individual art expression and assisting them to showcase their work in art exhibitions.



Above: Peter



Benjamin

We welcome Benjamin who comes with over a decade of experience working in the mental health sector in a variety of roles within Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and London. His main passion is music. Benjamin writes and produces his own songs. Look out for him on the Friday online music program. Benjamin is very excited to be incorporating his passion for music into the Performing Arts program.

Above: Benjamin



Rose

We are pleased that Rose has joined the team at the Seaford Hub. Rose started working at SASI nearly two years ago. During this time she has completed a dual Cert IV in Disability and Competitive Systems and Practices. Rose was also working in the disability sector in South Australia prior to starting at SASI. She was based at the Croydon site where she played an integral part in setting up the art program.



Above: Rose

Brent



We welcome Brent who will be leading the Hospitality Program. Brent has experience working as a Head Chef for over ten years. He has vast experience of leading teams in a fast paced environment. Brent decided he wanted a career change in 2019 and completed his Cert IV in Disabilities. He is very excited to be able to incorporate his passion for food and desire to build skills and learning opportunities within the newly purpose built kitchen and café training space.

Above: Brent

Sarah

We are very excited to welcome Sarah who will be working in the Hospitality/Sustainable Garden Program. Sarah has worked in the disability sector for 5 years. Sarah has also worked as a chef for five years in America, working in different restaurants across Florida. She is currently completing a Masters in Nutrition and Public Health. Sarah also has a Bachelors in Food Science as well as a Bachelors in Fine Art Gold & Silver Smithing. Her passion is to set up a sustainable garden at Seaford Hub and introduce a garden to plate program.



Above: Sarah

Riyah



We are pleased that Riyah has joined the team at Seaford Hub. Riyah has worked at SASI for almost two years during which time she has completed a dual Cert IV in Disability and Competitive Systems and Practices. Riyah commenced her career in disabilities after raising a family. She is still working at Supported Independent Living Homes but will also be working a couple of days at Seaford Hub. During her time at SASI, Riyah has proven to be a skilled support worker with a can do attitude.

Above: Riyah



Client Services

Dear clients, families and SASI teams

Hope that everyone is travelling well...we are a buzz with excitement with our upcoming 'EVERYbody Dance Now' event, a reminder of the date Thursday 29th April.

If you/your loved one has not registered yet, head to our website as places are limited and all bookings must go via 'book a service' - www.sasi.org.au/book-a-service.

Camps + Getaways

Gippsland Getaway - short breaks are incredibly important - caring, even for someone you love, can be an exhausting experience, which can leave you little time for yourself or other members of your family.

There is plenty to explore in the gorgeous Gippsland region, from beautiful national parks to stunning beaches and local cafes, all within a short drive from our property at Newborough. Immerse yourself in the local surroundings while relaxing on your own deck.



Access for all abilities...24/7 supports available with qualified and professional staffing teams.

Onsite activities include:

- o Woodwork opportunities
- o Gardening for those with green fingers
- o Cooking up a storm is also on the cards
- o Wildlife watching

For further information, please contact Lisa Wellington at lisa.wellington@sasi.org.au or complete a Request for Service by visiting the SASI website www.sasi.org.au.



SASI is expanding our Support Coordination team

We are looking for passionate individuals to join our team of Support Coordinators.

About the role, a Support Coordinator is responsible for supporting NDIS clients to implement all the supports within their NDIS plan, including informal, mainstream and community, as well as funded supports. They will support the client to strengthen their ability to coordinate their own supports and participation in the community, along with ensuring mainstream services meet their obligations, for example housing, education, justice and health.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining SASI or would like further information, please drop an email to Tania Sinni at tania.sinni@sasi.org.au.

Get in shape for July - Day Programs Transition

This is when everything changes for day program with ratios no longer in the NDIS Price Guide, services providers such as SASI must implement the new pricing model. To successfully transition to the new apportioned pricing policy SASI is currently working

behind the scenes to ensure that as this rolls around all stakeholders are aware of the outcomes and impacts to invoicing.

We aim to have clear guidelines and communication in the coming weeks via email, social media and website updates.

Accessible Parking Permit

A new scheme, launched on 22 March, has been introduced across Victoria and the scheme is designed to create fairer outcomes and free up accessible parking bays for the people who need them the most.

The main changes for drivers with disabilities or injuries are that:

- You shall need to start the application or renewal process online, before you visit the doctor
- Accessible parking permits will be extended from three to five years
- People with permanent disabilities will no longer need to be re-assessed in the future.

The main changes for General Practitioners (GP) and Occupational Therapists (OT) are:

- Instead of filling out a physical form, you shall need to complete the functional assessment online
- The outcome of the functional assessment will be sent to the patient once their local council has reviewed the application
- OTs will now be able to assess a patient's eligibility for a permit.

Visit accessibleparking.vic.gov.au for more information about the changes.

Stay safe, stay well, stay warm ...

Warmest Regards

Melissa & Client Services Team

Executive Manager Operational Services

COVID-19 Update

Current Status


















The vaccine roll out for the disability sector is not going as well as expected.

How this effects us at SASI

We are now almost back to pre-pandemic times.

The refurbishment of our Active Choices facilities at Seaford is nearly complete, and the Hub is now open!

We will keep everyone updated with specific details about the rollout of the vaccination.

Accommodation	AC Hubs	Client Services
 Aspendale	 Online Programs	 Support Coordination
 Cheltenham	 Mount Martha	 Positive Behaviour Support
 Dandenong	 Newborough	 Intake & Planning Team
 Frank St	 Moe	
 Frankston	 Seaford	
 Langwarrin		
 Mordialloc		
 Springvale		
	Coming Soon	Corporate Services
	 Home to Community	 People & Culture Team
	 Cranbourne SRS	 Finance Team
	 Camps	

 Service Open  Coming Soon

COVID-19 Resources

Department of Health
www.health.gov.au

Department of Health & Human Services
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au

Premier of Victoria
www.premier.vic.gov.au

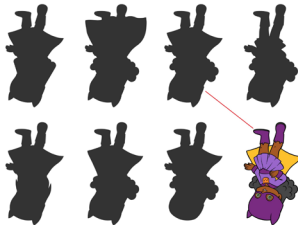


Fun Zone



Match the Shadow

Have fun matching the super hero's shadow (answer below).



Match the Shadow
Answer



Spot The Differences

There are 6 differences between the two pictures on the left of super heroes.

How many can you find? See the answer below.



How does Ant Man keep his suit from getting wrinkled?

With help from Iron Man!



Spot The Difference Answer

Staff Feature

Darya Cheltenham/Springvale Practice Leader

What does your role at SASI involve?

I manage operations in two SASI houses – Cheltenham and Springvale. It is a very busy role which involves various things including rostering, staff reviews, planning, collaboration with families and day programs, mentoring etc.

It keeps me on my toes!

If you could have a super power, what would it be?

At the moment, invisibility would definitely be a virtue! Otherwise, I cannot imagine travelling overseas in the foreseeable future!

What do you have at the top of your bucket list?

Taking a year off work and travelling the world with my husband Nikolai and kids Sasha and Mason.

If you were an animal, what would you be and why?

I would be a cat. I have always been inspired by their grace, plasticity, and independence.

What is the one thing no one knows about you (until now!)?

I am an advanced level pole dancer (for fitness!) and speak three languages fluently.

Why do you enjoy working at SASI?

Working for SASI for the last 12 years has given me an opportunity to balance a successful career while juggling motherhood away from our extended families. I have met a whole bunch of great people and have grown professionally. Working with clients with autism has taught me valuable life lessons and I will be forever grateful for this opportunity.



Above: Darya



Foodie corner



Lunch is sorted!

Give these lettuce cups a try for a delicious and healthy lunch option.

Chicken & Avocado Lettuce Cups

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 Baby Cos Lettuce
- ½ Avocado
- ½ Red Onion, finely diced
- 1 cup shredded BBQ Chicken
- Sea Salt
- Cracked Pepper



*Image & recipe courtesy of
www.4ingredients.com.au*

Directions

1. Pull all the leaves from the lettuce. Wash and pat dry.
2. Scoop the flesh from the avocado skin and mash with a fork.
3. Season with sea salt and cracked pepper, add the onion and mix well.
4. Place the lettuce leaves onto serving plates.
5. Top each with a teaspoon of the creamy avocado mix and some shredded bbq chicken.
6. Roll and enjoy!

Have you got a recipe you'd like to share? Email it to us, along with a photo of your masterpiece, and you may see it in Pebble!



Employment on the Spectrum

by SASI Guest Parent Blogger

Finding a job can be difficult enough. Finding a job for someone on the spectrum seems to be ten times more difficult.

At the age of 18 my autistic son has only worked a handful of days in his life. I tried to help him to find a part-time job when he was 16 but it proved extremely difficult. To apply for jobs at many of the 'usual' places such as supermarkets, etc. you need to go through an online application process. Gone are the days where you just hand your resume to the manager and hope to get a call back.

With each of the online applications there is generally an aptitude test that the prospective employee must complete. There are some questions to help them find out information about the incumbent. One such question is: Do you have a disability? To which my son answered honestly, even though he hesitated to do so, we thought honesty was the best policy. Perhaps as a result of his honesty, perhaps not, he never once received a reply from any of the places where he applied for a job, and subsequently unlike most kids his age, he has never had a part-time job.

[Read more](#)

The rest of this article can be found on the [Blog page](#) of our website, along with many other interesting articles written from the perspective of a parent of a child with autism.



Image courtesy of pixabay.com



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Want to share your ideas?

Email us at enquiries@sasi.org.au



Your life. Your way. Your choice.

**Supporting children, teenagers,
and adults with autism and other
complex disabilities**

