

PEBBLE

November 2021

Message from the CEO & Chair

Greetings everyone

So we are now in 'COVID-19 Normal'! So nice not to have to wear a mask all the time and the ability to get out and about in the community is wonderful!

All SASI staff and clients are fully vaccinated, and visitors to any SASI site will have a vaccination requirement. We take our responsibility for providing a safe workplace for our staff and all our clients and families extremely seriously and are continually updating processes and procedures to keep our community safe.

The **Annual SASI Staff Awards** have been announced this week at the Virtual Annual Forum on Wednesday 24th November – This year we have a huge amount of nominations from parents and carers and colleagues. It is fantastic to see that everyone really values the work and professionalism and creativity that we have here at SASI – wonderful!

2021 Nominations:

1. Excellence in Service & Support Delivery Award :
Team@Langwarrin, Zlata Lizars,
Team@Frankston, Jackie Henry,
Team@Seaford, Support Co-ordination
Team, Chirag Shah, Team@Gippsland,
Team@Cheltenham
2. Innovation & Impact Award:
Team@Gippsland, Jackie Henry, Emily
Jorgensen
3. COVID Champion Award:
Team@Cheltenham, Martha Mungai,
Team@Langwarrin, Team@Mordialloc

The winners for 2021 are:

1. SASI : Team@Langwarrin
2. SASI : Jackie Henry
3. SASI : Team@Cheltenham

Congratulations to all the worthy winners, the decision was difficult this year with so many worthy entries!

And, special mention to Zlata Lizars, SIL Operations Manager who went over and above ensuring support for all our staff, residents and their families in the houses affected with positive COVID-19 cases during October.

Our inaugural on-line forum (via Zoom) for families was postponed this month but we are back again in November and keen to receive any topics suggested, email me your ideas on kath.ferry@sasi.org.au.

Our houses who had active COVID cases last month have successfully recovered, luckily, few of the residents and staff had major symptoms and all staff managed the isolation requirement exceeding well.

Our thanks to the dedication of our SASI staff to support our clients! Job well done!!! We are incredibly fortunate at SASI to have such a committed, professional staff who support our clients and their families.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy the almost, summer weather.

Happy reading.

Cheers

Kath (CEO) & Louise (Chair)



Latest Adventures

Supported & Independent Living Homes

Aspendale House



Joseph loved his long foreshore walk in the sunshine.

Left: Joseph



Cameron enjoyed the sunshine on an outing in Hastings.

Right: Cameron

Springvale House



Jarrod went to see his Mum Diane on the weekend.



Malcolm's physio Sonja has finally come back to work with Malcolm face-to-face.

*Above L-R: Malcolm & Sonja
Above Left L-R: Jarrod and Diane*



Frankston House

Danielle celebrated her 40th birthday at Frankston House along with her housemates and staff members. She enjoyed having dinner with her Dad, Neil, and loved ones at the Frankston RSL. Danielle had a great day!



*Left: Danielle
Right L-R: Danielle & Neil
Below L-R: Stephanie, Janifa,
Danielle, Amy, & Peter*



Cheltenham House

Belinda enjoyed going out to a cafe after a long break due to COVID-19.



Above: Belinda



Ben enjoyed a swimming session after a long time away from the pool.

Left & Below: Ben

Ben also enjoyed a nice coffee at a cafe on a warm sunny day!



Active Choices

Seaford Hub

Cheryl and Sue-Anne started attending the Seaford Hub nearly four months ago. Both ladies have a passion for the Art Program where they have been working on individual projects of embroidery, knitting, sewing, mosaics, and Christmas decorations. Cheryl and Sue-Anne attend on the same days and they both enjoy the social aspect and have struck up quite a friendship.



Above L-R: Cheryl & Sue-Anne

Newborough



Randy recently had his birthday and celebrated by having a community outing and some delicious cake.

Left & Below: Randy





Brandon enjoyed a few hours in the community and came across a beautiful well-mannered horse on his walk. With some encouragement and support from staff, Brandon was able to give the horse a gentle pat on the nose.

Left: Brandon



Above L-R: Randy & Daniel

Left: Randy



There has been so much rain in Gippsland lately, so it has been hard to get outside and maintain the beautiful gardens.

When the sun finally came out, the garden could finally receive some TLC.

Randy did a great job mulching and watering the strawberries.



Did you know....

A lion's roar can be heard over 8km away!



Client Services

Dear valued clients, families/carers, and SASI teams

As everyone knows, the past 18 months or so we have endured the huge COVID-19 challenges; in our personal lives, our community, in the workplace, and in fact right across the world.

This will not be a typical recovery as COVID-19 is unlikely to end suddenly. As such, SASI must plan for multiple scenarios, as we shift from crisis response to recovery.

We have been through three phases amid the COVID-19 outbreak:

- **Response** – coming together and dealing with the situation whilst managing continuity of supports and services - this was done exceptionally well by all levels and teams
- **Recover** – continue learning and emerge stronger
- **Thrive** – preparing for, planning, and shaping the 'vibrant new normal'

So, what is next?...

To move forward from the COVID-19 impact, SASI must be durable and resilient, with a fresh and engaging 'back to business' approach.

We believe that workforce strategies in the recovery phase will be best orchestrated through critical actions to the new normal by laying the foundation to thrive in the aftermath of the crisis and to maintain all our trusted staff in employment. We will need to adopt new ways of thinking and ensure that SASI will successfully manage the requirements of operating as a valued and respected disability provider in 2022 and beyond.

After careful review of the previous organisational structure, we are announcing a realignment of our Organisation Structure. For most staff, there will be no immediate impact on reporting relationships from these realignments. Some people will work within new teams, and a few have been asked to take on new roles.

Changing the teams will influence how we categorise, examine, and find efficiencies in our processes and systems as part of the steps in seeking ways to deliver our mandate 'Your life. Your way. Your choice'.

Our mantra, **ONE SASI, ONE TEAM** providing quality supports to our families and their loved ones.

Our Organisational Chart will be available on our website: www.sasi.org.au.

A proud team of 100% vaccinated employees

We hit a great milestone of getting our amazing team of employees 100% vaccinated for COVID-19 this week. We have been encouraging our teams and it was important to us that we led from the front. So, all of our staff at our locations and residences have prioritised getting their second jabs. We have been encouraging our families, friends, and those in our communities to get vaccinated to build their immunity. Nearly time for boosters!

Remember to download or print your vaccination certificate and get out to enjoy our beautiful city... for assistance please visit [Vaccinations/how-get-proof](#).

USEFUL RESOURCES:

NEW: Pharmacy COVID-19 vaccination social scripts.

Amaze and National Disability Services have expanded COVID-19 vaccination social scripts for autistic people, adding a script for what to expect at a pharmacy appointment.

Autistic people may find the vaccination process stressful. Social scripts can help reduce anxiety through a presentation composed of photos and simple text, giving autistic people an opportunity to prepare for the new experience. The social scripts will be helpful for anyone feeling anxious



about the vaccination process and for the professionals or carers supporting them.

The new pharmacy social scripts add to our other COVID-19 vaccination social scripts:

- Going to the GP to get my COVID-19 vaccine
- Going to a drive-through vaccination clinic to get my COVID-19 vaccine, and
- Going to a mass vaccination centre to get my COVID-19 vaccine.

Visit: COVID-19 vaccination social scripts - Amaze - Autism resource.

2021 Forum Staff Recognition and Awards

We were overwhelmed with this year's response with our highest number of submissions ever received, some teams or individuals receiving multiple nominations.

Winners were announced at the SASI 2021 Virtual Forum on 24th November 2021 – thank you to all who attended, a copy of the presentation will be available on our website: www.sasi.org.au

Our warmest CONGRATULATIONS to our nominees and winners for this year – well done to each of you.

Our SINCERE THANKS to each of you for your continued support and stellar efforts throughout 2021.

FOLLOW US

Stay up to date with the latest news via SASI's social media blogs with faster communication - you can find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram + LinkedIn.



If you have any questions, please contact us on 1300 577 305 or send an email to: enquiries@sasi.org.au.

Stay well, stay safe, and oh... our Christmas spirit is just around the corner 😊

Warmest Regards

Melissa & Client Services Team
Executive Manager Operational Services



Fun Zone



Spot The Difference

Can you spot the 8 differences? The answers can be found below.



Colour in the monkey



Why can't zoo animals take tests?

There are too many cheetahs!



Spot The Difference Answers

Staff Feature

Jackie Disability Support Worker

What does your role at SASI involve?

My role involves providing support to clients to achieve their goals and aspirations. We empower and encourage clients to improve their quality of life. We liaise with external professionals and allied health in order to implement interventions and strategies in order to improve and develop client's communication, daily living skills and their independence. Teaching clients strategies to better regulate their emotions and cope with anxiety and negative behaviours, providing them with alternative solutions. Having good open communication with client's families and day centres in order to work together in a client-centred approach.

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

To eliminate COVID-19!

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

I would say top of my bucket list is to fly to Ireland and visit my family and new nieces and nephews next year hopefully.

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

A Dolphin; they're fun-loving, social and very intelligent animals.

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

I Irish danced for years back in Ireland; bit of trad music and away I go!

Why do you enjoy working at SASI?

Our staff team and management are so client-centred; all of the decisions we make has the client's best interests at the forefront. We are a pro-active organisation, good at problem solving and coming up with solutions quickly. When you see improvements with clients, big or small, it's rewarding and motivating at a team and organisational level.



Above: Jackie



Foodie Corner



Here's a great lunch box favourite to try!

Muffin pizzas are quick and easy to make and so yummy!

Ham & Pineapple Mini Pizzas

Makes 6

Ingredients

- 3 English Muffins, split in half
- 6 Tablespoons Pizza Sauce
- 4 Slices Ham, diced
- 1 Tin Crushed Pineapple, drained
- 3 Cups Pizza Cheese



Image & recipe courtesy of www.kidspot.com.au

Directions

1. Toast the muffins in the toaster
 2. Spread 1 tablespoon pizza sauce on each muffin
 3. Scatter ham and pineapple on the pizza sauce
 4. Top with pizza cheese
 5. Turn grill on
 6. Place on a tray under the grill until the cheese is melted, then serve
- Enjoy!
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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!



Blog

Actively Listening to your Child

by SASI Guest Parent Blogger

How often do you listen when you are having a conversation with your child? I mean actively listen to their concerns and what they are really trying to tell you?

As parents we're often so busy, working, cooking dinner, cleaning the house, driving the car, just trying to get through the day, that we don't actually sit down and really talk with and listen to our children.

It's hard to be present and 'in the moment' with your child and listen to what they're saying when you're run off your feet and your brain is going at a million miles an hour.

But what if you could just stop.

... And listen.

If there is one thing that being in lockdown during the pandemic has taught many of us, it's that it's OK to stop. It's beneficial to take stock of what is going on around us, and get our priorities in order.

[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



Contact Details

P: 13 Sir Laurence Drive
Seaford VIC 3198

T: 1300 577 305

E: enquiries@sasi.org.au

W: www.sasi.org.au

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**

