



PEBBLE



May 2023

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Mel and Sarah - Autumn Gardening

Message from the CEO and Chair

Greetings everyone!

Winter is fast approaching and, as we mentioned last month, it's time to make sure everyone is up to date with this year's Flu vax and the latest COVID 19 vax if appropriate....SASI strongly encourages everyone to keep up to date with these easy preventative measures so we all stay healthy over the coming months.

With the cooler weather and people being in closer proximity indoors it is also important to remember hand sanitising, masks and keeping distance to protect ourselves and others from COVID and any other nasties around.

As you would be aware, SASI announced last month that we are in discussions with Independence Australia Group (IAG) about joining forces in the future. We are continuing to explore the benefits and the opportunities of moving ahead with this action and expect to announce further progress very soon.

The SASI Board are keen to ensure that SASI is sustainable into the future and has the ability to expand and offer further supports to our autistic community and their carers. With the recent and foreshadowed changes to the NDIS funding models and tight budget situation the opportunity to identify synergies and efficiencies to enable our work to continue is of paramount importance.

We thank those of you who have sought clarification and provided feedback which has been taken on board to help ensure the best outcomes for the future. It has been particularly good to hear of the interest in being able to broaden our activity and services.

Budgeting for next year is a current SASI Board priority as we plan to ensure another successful year ahead. Increasing numbers of families are contacting us in both Seaford and Gippsland looking for capacity building supports and there has been strong interest in Support Coordination to assist families manage their family member in the NDIS.

Lastly, from us, we are excited to be holding SASI's first Expo which aims to showcase the work we and our partners provide to NDIS clients particularly on the Mornington Peninsula and surrounding areas. This will be held at our Mt Martha, Nepean Hwy site on Saturday June 17th- check out socials for details.

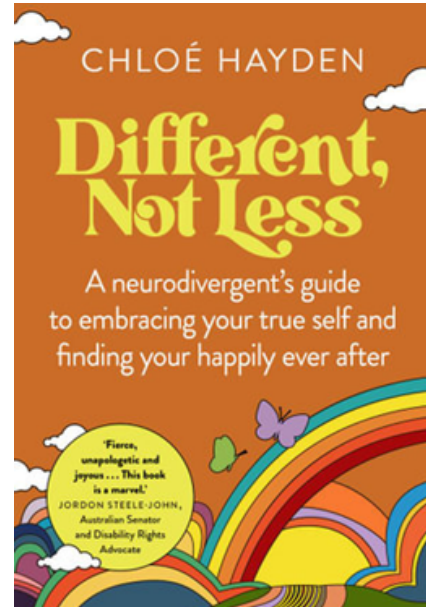
Happy reading

Cheers,

Kath (CEO) & Rob (Chair)

Let's Talk About...Autism Hub

Well the title just says it all! Also, it's hard not to love Chloe Hayden as an actor, autism advocate and amazing person! I honestly could not put this book down. Chloe is extremely generous in the way she discusses her experience as a neurodivergent woman. She talks about her struggles in the education system, mental health, finding your tribe, and eye sparkles. Chloe discusses that eye sparkles are like special interests. We should be encouraging autistic people to embrace their eye sparkles. Because truly amazing things can happen!



Different, Not Less focusses on the beauty and importance of difference. But at the heart of the book's really about the simple notion of inclusion and being kind. Isn't that what we all want? For everyone to feel heard, valued and loved?

Chloe highlights the simple things people can do to make another's persons day easier and even just to make them smile.

If you are wanting to learn more about autism and what you can do as an autism advocate. What better person to talk about their experience than an autistic person. I truly believe that if everyone read Chloe's book the world would be a much kinder place!



Disclaimer:

Please note that 'Different, Not Less' does delve into complex subjects such as isolation, PTSD, eating disorders and sexual abuse. So please be kind to yourself if there is a chapter that you would rather not read.

Georgia - Support Services
Manager

Support Services

SASI on Radio!

Penny and I had such a great time being hosted by Julie and Tina on their radio show, RPPFM in Mornington. Each Wednesday from 2pm - 3pm a disability provider, advocate, person or parent are interviewed. It's an incredible resource focusing on what is happening in our local community.

Georgia - Support Services Manager



Julie and Tina made us feel right at home, it was just like chatting with new friends 😊

We had the wonderful opportunity to chat all about our exciting SASI Camps, Movie Club, Morn Pen Disability Expo and so much more. We hope we are invited back soon!



L- R: Julie, Tina, Penny and Georgial

Latest Adventures



Mother's day gifts, made with love by the talented people at our Hubs!!

To the right a collaboration between different programs at Newborough. Built by the Taskforce program, decorated by Visual Arts program and planted by Horticulture Program.

Below we have offerings for some lucky mums by our Horticulture @Seaford Hub. Sarah - Horticulture Program Leader



Latest Adventures



Above Rahul, below L- R: Stacey and Mel

Friday Afternoon Karaoke at Performing Arts Hub has been rocking out! Nathan loves to sing a range of TV intros and YouTube classics, where as Rahul and Mel love a good rock ballad. They are taking advantage of all the musical instruments available and enjoying expressing themselves in the program, especially Stacy who is learning the bass. The Hub is buzzing on Fridays and the clients all enjoy the soulful tunes!



Above L-R : Rahul and Nathan



Nathan

Latest Adventures



All SASI's sites and services were very excited to host Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Thursday May 25th.

The event was very successful both in the enjoyment of the delicious treats as well as the fundraising itself. We have raised \$300 with more to come from other sites.

SASI's clients and staff kind donations will contribute in a small way to fight this disease that affects so many loved ones. Fundraiser is still happening - to donate please go to <https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/SASIVic>

Scan the QR Code to add your donation





VANILLA CUPCAKES FOR AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

from Ellie - Seaford Hub Hospitality Program Leader



INGREDIENTS

- 100g unsalted butter, softened
- 185g caster sugar
- 2 tsp Vanilla Essence
- 2 large eggs
- 1 1/3 cup (200g) self-raising flour, sifted
- 1/2 cup (125ml) milk

Buttercream:

- 250g unsalted butter, softened
- 3 cups (450g) icing sugar mixture, sifted
- 2 tsp vanilla
- Food colouring of your choice

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 160°C (fan forced). Line two 12 hole cupcake tins with cases and set them aside.
2. In the bowl of a stand mixer or using a hand mixer, cream butter, sugar and Vanilla Essence until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, mixing to incorporate
3. Add sifted flour and milk in two batches, mixing until just combined. Add 1/4 cup of batter to each case then bake for 15-20 minutes or until cupcake bounces back when pressed lightly. Allow to cool in tin for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Buttercream:

In the bowl of a stand mixer or using a hand mixer, combine butter, icing sugar and vanilla. Mix on low to incorporate, then beat on high until light and fluffy (about 5 minutes). Add food colour to desired intensity.

Place into piping bag fitted with an open star tip. Pipe onto cupcakes



Autism and School attendance Tips for advocating for your child at school.

The good old saying 'parenting doesn't come with a handbook' and I'm sure we all agree it should.

One of the biggest challenges I personally faced with my son was school attendance. He is 17 and he never attended a whole week of school in all of his school years. He was the runner, the absconder! The education department spent all of his education years going between special school and mainstream school. Some parts of his IQ are in the 99th percentile but other parts of the IQ at the lower end. He didn't fit into either setting, so we spent a lot of time together through the education years.

Something I wish I had before my son started school was a cheat sheet. Simple language that explained what needed to be requested in the school setting.

In the school setting there is a meeting called Student support group (SSG) meeting.

Who attends the SSG? Usually the teacher, teachers aide, well being staff and the parent. Personally I found that I had to initiate this meeting.

You can take an advocate or support coordinator to this meeting.

At a SSG meeting and Individual learning plan (ILP) is created. See attached document What is an ILP.



A great advocacy business that I often referred to and contact is www.educationrights.com.au

Some days the days are long!! keep advocating for your child because it can all work well together if you have the right people involved.

["What is an ILP"](#)

Work with Us

We are looking for like-minded, motivated and experienced individuals to join our growing team, to build and establish our Gippsland + Mornington Peninsula presence as Specialist Support Coordinators / Support Coordinators.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone looking to take that next step in their career and continued growth. These roles will be a part of our hybrid team and SASI will provide necessary resources for you to work from home as your main office base. To apply for this role, you must be able to have an appropriate area available to work from home and this area must be in line with our WHS policy.

About the role

This role is responsible for providing individualised support to clients of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

You will work with the clients to implement the supports within the persons plan for the purpose of building capacity, managing the impact of their disability and improving their health, well-being and participation within the community.

About you

The successful candidate will be highly resourceful, confident to work autonomously and jump in as a team-player, be comfortable working in a fast-paced environment, sometimes under pressure, while remaining flexible, proactive, and efficient. They must exercise good judgment in a variety of situations, with the ability to maintain a realistic balance among multiple priorities and meet the following:

- Minimum five years working in disability services or a similar environment with demonstrated experience in complex disability support
- Relevant tertiary qualification in; Disability, Individual Support, Community Services, or substantial demonstrated experience
- Comprehensive knowledge of human rights-based approaches and person-centred principles and approaches, including positive behaviour support and active support
- Ability to coach, mentor and develop teams
- Well-developed written, verbal and listening skills
- Capacity to implement change and identify opportunities for innovation
- Solid financial management capability
- Confidence and capability in using systems and technology
- Strong administrative skills: time management, coordination of tasks, efficient work practices
- Ability to plan and schedule own work independently, monitor progress against work plans and outcome
- Cultural understanding reflective of the community
- Excellent interpersonal skills to engage clients, their family/guardians/carers, advocates and all other key stakeholders

It is a requirement of this position to adhere to SASI's Safety Screening requirements and to acquire and maintain an NDIS Check, Working with Children Check, First Aid and CPR Certificate and a valid Victorian driver licence.

For further information or a copy of the Position Description please contact Jess Ernst, HR Advisor on human.resources@sasi.org.au

Sharon Intake & Planning Officer

How long have you worked for SASI?

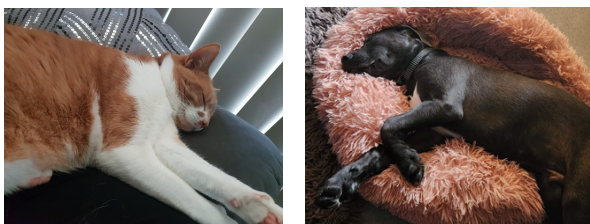
Approximately 2 years and 3 months

What does your role at SASI involve?

My Role at SASI as an Intake and Planning Officer involves processing received Request for Services, Communicating and working with Families and Colleagues to gather the required information for clients coming through intake to ensure our clients a successful engagement into their chosen supports and service/s.

If given a chance, who would you like to be for a day?

If given the opportunity/possibility to be anyone I wanted to be, I would likely choose to be one of my pets. I mean who wouldn't want to be, they have the best time snoring away next to me one either side while I work. They get lots of play time with my boys when home from kinder/school, Endless amounts of attention and love and let's not forget all the yummy treats!!



What TV Show/Movie is your guilty pleasure (yes, time to admit you love it)?



One would think it may be BLIPPI or Paw Patrol however when the 3-year-old is in bed dependent on my mood, I do binge random chick flick Netflix series or I thoroughly enjoy watching Documentaries.

Three words that best describe you?

Stubborn, Independent, Resilient

What is the one thing you cannot resist?

Chocolate!!!

What do you do when you are not working?

I am definitely the typical sports mum, (yes, that means I'm that mum on the sideline thinking I'm a coach!) Swimming, Basketball, Cricket or Football dependent on which season it is and Puppy obedience classes there isn't much home time but I love being a mum to my three boys.

Why do you enjoy working at SASI?

I enjoy working at SASI and connecting to people from all walks of life, I enjoy working with people that are willing to share their knowledge, I can learn from and I can have a good laugh with, I also appreciate the fact SASI provide me flexibility to juggle my work/mum life balance.

We are currently seeking
expressions of interest for

Disney on Ice

Two age groups:

Under 18's

When: Friday 30th June

What time: 4pm - 9:30pm

Cost: Approx. \$55 - \$65

Pick up and drop off from 13 Sir Laurence
Drive, Seaford

Over 18's

When: Saturday 1st July

What time: 4pm - 9:30pm

Cost: Approx. \$55 - \$65

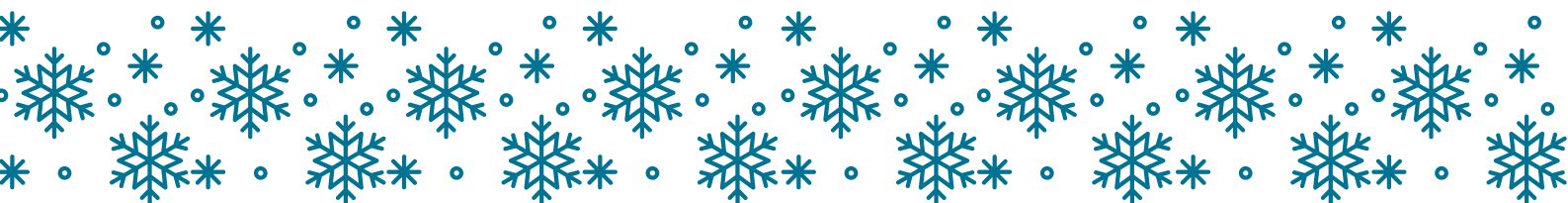
Pick up and drop off from 13 Sir Laurence
Drive, Seaford

Please submit your
Expression of Interest to Penny

0499 326 242

Penelope.Wearne@sasi.org.au

by Friday 2nd of June 2023





Mornington Peninsula

DISABILITY EXPO

Linking Community Together

750 NEPEAN HWY MT MARTHA

SATURDAY JUNE 17TH

10AM - 3PM

FREE EVENT

FUN ACTIVITIES

Speakers & Presentations

GAMING & ART

Gardening & Cooking

FREE LUNCH!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.sasi.org.au

Contact Details

P: 13 Sir Laurence Dr, Seaford, VIC 3198

T: 1300 577 305

E: enquiries@sasi.org.au

W: www.sasi.org.au

Want to share your ideas?
Email us on: enquiries@sasi.org.au



Supporting the autistic community and people with
other complex disabilities

