

nexus INK



Autumn 2024

 nexus inc.

# CEO Welcome

Nexus is all about giving our clients as much choice in their lives as possible.

This could be choosing to get a fresh haircut, grab a quiet coffee at a café, or go to events out in the community. Things a lot of us take for granted.

Over Autumn many clients chose to ignore the cold and get out and about in the community. We were particularly happy to see Jacob being supported to build skills and grow his own business up in the North West of the state.

This has also been a busy time at an industry level. Over the past 18 months I had the opportunity to go back to my policy roots while I was the industry representative on the Disability Inclusion Bill steering committee. The Bill has now almost passed through Parliament.

Since the old Disability Act was passed in 2011 we have seen Royal Commissions into both disability and aged care that sadly showed government and service providers were not doing their job as champions for the rights of people living with disability.

The new Disability Inclusion Bill is much more about improving the quality of life of people living with disability by ensuring their rights are protected and enhanced.

I am particularly pleased that the Bill supports the rights of people with disability and still makes sure there is sufficient “safeguarding” in place overseeing how disability services operate. It is good to see that the new Act will include:

- A clear definition of Inclusion principles
- Guidance on empowering clients through the use of supported decision making
- Clear principles around supporting children with disability
- The creation of a Disability Inclusion Plan for Tasmania requiring all government departments to report annually on how they are improving inclusion
- The creation of a Disability Inclusion Advisory Council made up of paid members living with disability and chaired by a person with disability
- The creation of a Disability Commissioner role which must be held by a person with disability, and creation of a disability visitor scheme
- Strict rules about the approval, use and annual reporting of restrictive practices
- Requirements and support for disability services to reduce the use of restrictive practices, and the provision of power to the Senior Practitioner to prohibit the use of other practices
- Ways to include service providers based on the type of service they deliver and the clients they deliver it to

Like all Bills there are compromises to be made, and how well it works will depend on how well the government funds it.

However, I am hopeful that this Bill will greatly change, and encourage, the community to focus on how well we include all Tasmanians now and into the future.

**Mark Jessop**  
CEO, Nexus Inc.



## Nexus North West Team Welcomes First NCIS Client

Our NCIS team welcomed their first North West client, Jacob, this Autumn and were excited to start supporting him with his business ventures.

After successfully selling sticks and kindling, he is now looking forward to starting his gardening and maintenance business.

To support Jacob's new business venture, the NCIS team arranged a 4x4 vehicle which will allow Jacob to expand his existing business and start the new one.

Team leader Jess said Jacob's camping and fishing trips to remote areas are a bonus!

Jacob currently spends time, supported by his Nexus team, cutting and splitting timber pallets, which he sells at local petrol stations. He also leaves a few bags outside his home with an honesty box.

A true entrepreneur, Jacob also hopes to start purchasing chickens and raising them, with plans to set up a stall at a farmers' market in the future.

"Supporting Tasmanians with disability in the North West has been very satisfying for Nexus since our transition with Coastal Residential Service last year and we look forward to welcoming new clients in the region," NCIS Manager Beck said.

# Nexus Team



## Connecting the team Across the State

Earlier this year, the Nexus IT team successfully rolled out a new phone system called 3CX.

Initially introduced in our Southern offices and houses, all North West offices and houses are now on the system.

This makes it easier for staff across the State to contact each other, and improves confidentiality when contacting clients.

As well as redirecting calls to the right people, the new system allows staff to make and receive work calls when they are working away from their desk.

Nexus IT project Manager Bruce said he was very happy to see the benefits of the 3CX phone system already.

“Everything seems to be ironing out, we’re getting used to it, and we’ll start seeing people use it more,” he said.

“The ease with which we can now connect with people both internally and externally has been very positive.”



## International Women’s Day 2024

This International Women’s Day, staff across the organisation came together to recognise the achievement of women in the Nexus community.

We celebrated the way Nexus fosters a culture of inclusion and reflected on the ways we will continue to do more going forward.

Our former General Manager of People and Practice, Annette, also gave a heartfelt speech to the group during the International Women’s Day staff lunch.

“We are lucky at Nexus to have women of diverse backgrounds, experiences and abilities,” Annette said.

“We should not celebrate Women’s Day just once a year - it should be ongoing, every day, all day.”

## Keeping Our Clients, Colleagues and Community Safe

This Autumn, we worked with the Department of Health to provide our staff and clients with the opportunity to get vaccinations for both flu and COVID19 onsite at our offices in the South and the North West.

Coincidentally, our vaccination hub fell during World Immunisation Week and was met with great enthusiasm from our staff.

# Nexus in the Community



## NDS Conference

Our staff had a great time at the National Disability Service (NDS) Annual Conference and Workshop in Hobart.

It was a great opportunity to get insights from expert keynote speakers, learn about Tasmania specific legislative changes and network with our industry colleagues.

The day was packed with insightful keynotes and discussions from leading experts and government representatives. Topics included supported decision-making, Behavioural Support Implementation, and integrating Quality and Safeguarding into Disability Service Provision.

The sessions with Alan Hough on building quality and safeguards, and with Stephen Broadfoot about proposed flexible funding and plan changes, were particularly interesting.

Alan also presented the highly informative and relevant 'Right On Board' training which was attended by Nexus Board member Renee Spencer, Program Governance Subcommittee member Ashley Vincent, and Marketing and Stakeholder Engagement Manager Naomi Searle.

It was great to catch up with what was happening in the sector and share ideas on how we can best support Tasmanians living with disability in an ever changing market environment.



## Glenorchy Jobs Fair

We were pleased to support the Glenorchy Jobs Fair again this year and were once again amazed at the level of engagement from attendees of all backgrounds.

Angela from our People and Practice team, and Louise and Jaime from our Supported Living team loved meeting and chatting with hundreds of potential job seekers – hopefully a few of the people they spoke to will be joining us soon!

It was a great chance for Nexus to connect with local job seekers, promote the great work we do, and support the work of the Glenorchy Jobs Hub.

# Client Stories

## Malcolm

Malcolm had a great time at Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, feeding kangaroos and meeting all the different animals. His favourite thing was to try to spot the frog that blended in with the tree. Malcolm also enjoyed the company of a little parrot who followed him as he walked around the Sanctuary. A keen photographer, Malcolm took many lovely photos of his furry friends before enjoying a pastry from Brighton's Best Bakehouse on the way home



## Janine

Janine started a walking challenge to beat our staff at the end of the Summer. Since then, she has walked 663,203 steps and she is very proud of herself!

Janine has already received an achievement award, and she is now focusing on the end of the year challenge to get the most steps and receive the year-end certificate!

Team Leader Cheryl started this walking challenge to support Janine to achieve her health goals. She said Janine is on a nutritious meal plan and walking is a great way for her to stay healthy.

"You can do it Janine... Keep up the great work, we are proud of you," Cheryl said.



## Dean

Car enthusiast Dean enjoyed a day trip to the Kingston Car show on a beautiful sunny day. A big fan of vintage Mustangs, Dean was 'super happy' to pose with his favorite cars.

Support Worker Avijeet said Dean was so excited to attend that he woke up early in the morning and got himself ready.

Dean said he was now eagerly waiting for trips to future car shows.



# Client Stories

## Beverley

It's been a big few months for Beverley who was ecstatic to sell her first painting, and has now put in her application to enter the National Artwork Competition organised by Vision Australia.

Beverley loves her weekly painting sessions with the disability support group at Mathers House, and she enjoys the social interaction while she paints!

"Something broken can still look beautiful," Beverley said.

Good luck in National Artwork Competition, Beverley!



## John

Our North West client John spent a lovely day out in the community after an appointment. He loves having coffee and meals out on his community access days.



## Gayna

Ready for a fresh look for Autumn, Gayna visited her favorite hairdresser in Moonah and felt 'absolutely beautiful' after a new hair color.

Nexus staff supported her to find the perfect spot to add a new splash of color to her hair.

Support Worker Anita said Gayna received a "shower of compliments" afterwards, leaving her feeling beautiful.

Gayna was thrilled by the result and said she was eager to explore new things with Nexus staff in the future.



## Nexus Board Vacancy

Are you looking for your next Board role with a Tasmanian, value-based not-for-profit organisation?

We are on the lookout for community minded individuals to join our skills-based volunteer board.



Want to find out more about the Nexus Board Vacancy? Speak with our friendly team:

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