



sunnyhaven  
Disability services

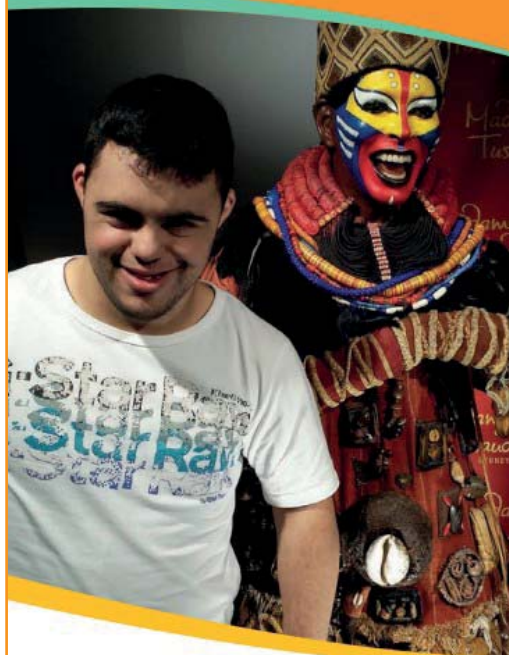
2016 Annual Report

YOUR VOICE - YOUR FUTURE



# community connexions

Your voice, your future



## our vision

Sunnyhaven  
wants people with  
disability to feel included  
in their communities,  
and be recognised for  
their abilities and  
their cultures.

# community Living

Your voice, your future



# Respite

Your voice, your future

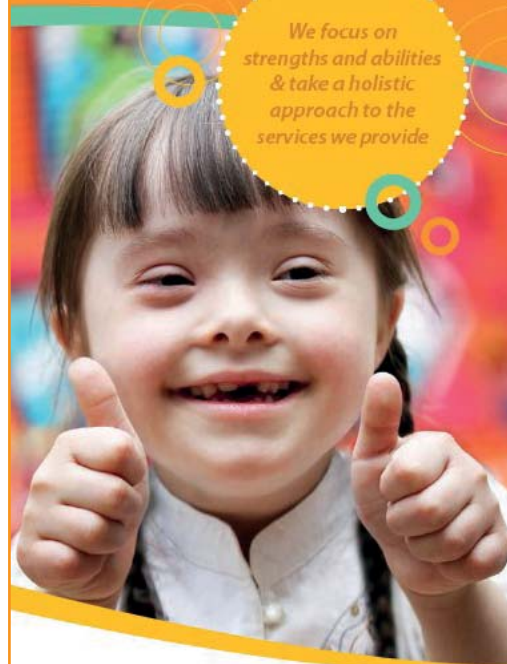
*For Carers Supporting a Person with a Disability*



## our service

# Early Childhood Intervention services

We focus on  
strengths and abilities  
& take a holistic  
approach to the  
services we provide



## sunnyhaven supporters

David Coleman Member for Banks  
Mark Coure Member for Oatley  
Chris Gambian  
Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC)  
Bayside Council  
George's River Council  
National Disability Service (NDS)  
Snap Printing  
Live Vibe Music  
Nici Wright - Artist  
RJ McWhinney Panel Beating  
Harrington Pharmacy  
Rotary Club Hurstville  
Lioness Club Sutherland Shire  
Oatley 101 Society of Arts Inc.  
Late Clare Gewrtrude Walker  
Christopher Pelcz Architects  
Shopfront Theatre  
Aerolize  
JFM Law  
CBB  
ADG Architects

## Table of contents

Company Philosophy	Page 4
Strategic Initiatives	Page 6
Chairperson's Message	Page 8
CEO's Message	Page 9
Treasurer's Message	Page 10
Quality Manager's and Financial Controller's Messages	Page 11
2015 - 2016 Board of Directors	Page 12
Organisational Chart	Page 14
Management Team	Page 15
Our Staff	Page 18
Community Connections	Page 20
Community Living	Page 22
Respite Services	Page 25
Early Intervention	Page 25
Therapy Services	Page 26
Coffee Club Story	Page 27
Sunny Stories	Page 28
Creative Arts	Page 30



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ABN: 71 059 213 946

# company Philosophy



## Purpose

Sunnyhaven works with individuals to build on their strengths, to achieve their goals and to aspire to new things.



## Vision

Sunnyhaven wants people with disability to feel included in their communities, and be recognised for their abilities and their cultures.



## Values

- **Respect and Recognition**
  - We treat everyone with courtesy and are respectful and responsive in our dealings with others
  - We encourage independence and acknowledge people's gifts
  - We support each other in all endeavours
- **Integrity**
  - We behave with honesty, accountability and reliability
  - We care for others and for ourselves
  - The decisions we make are transparent and we follow through agreements we make with each other
- **Innovation**
  - We are creative in our delivery of services to and in our community
  - We put people at the centre of their own lives and work with them to expand their dreams and aspirations
- **Professional Excellence**
  - People receiving our services are the driving force behind all decisions we make
  - We use resources in the most effective and efficient manner
  - We are dedicated to high standards of practice and promote opportunities for professional development for all our employees



“What lies behind us and  
what lies before us  
are tiny matters compared  
to what lies within us”



# Strategic initiatives

## Strategic Initiative

1

We will be a viable and effective organisation, delivering high quality services that people need, want and can purchase through the NDIS.

## Strategic Initiative

2

We will have suitably skilled and qualified staff and leaders who are valued for their contributions and care about the work they do.

## Strategic Initiative

3

We will continuously review how we work to ensure we are always improving our practices and the quality of the services we provide, and comply with the legal requirements and industry standards.

## Strategic Initiative

4

We will manage our current assets effectively and responsibly, and explore opportunities to expand our assets to increase opportunities for people receiving our services and ensure our viability.



“To know that one life  
has been made easier is to  
know we have succeeded”



# Chairperson's message



**Jemima Moody**  
Chairperson

This year Sunnyhaven Disability Services is moving on from a period of consolidation, building on the whole-Service continuous improvement strategy implemented by the CEO. The Service capitalised on the considerable experience of the staff and management team, to ensure that the preparations for the NDIS were timely, detailed and outcomes focused. The CEO and management team have implemented the individualised client management system and we find ourselves close to finalising our preparation for the commencement of the NDIS in July 2017.

Both staff and the Board have recently been involved in strategic planning days to set the vision for the Service for 2016 through 2018. The Service is focusing on building on its strong local profile, future vision and growth and is determined to become a leader in the provision of disability services in NSW. As the calendar year draws to a close we see the positive results of the implementation of Service-wide NDIS-ready strategic plan and we are confident that the Service is in a position to capitalise on the opportunities provided in the new disability climate.

The Service continues to perform well financially; compliant with the financial pre-requisites of the NDIS and focused on strategic investment, including the construction of the multi-storey development in Heath Street, which is on track to be completed in mid-2017. This will provide high quality accommodation for 10 residents and staff and a reliable future revenue stream in an uncertain political environment.

The high standard of the care and innovative services provided in the day programmes and residential accommodations are justifiably a source of pride for the staff and the management team. We are excited about the newly constructed dedicated art space at Beach Street which is anticipated to be very popular with current and future clients.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Quality Manager, Program Managers and key staff for their care, skill, dedication and commitment to continuous improvement. Staff recognise the ultimate recipients of their hard work are the clients and families we support, and are committed to ensuring people with disability are included, recognised for their strengths and empowered.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment and expertise of our board members who generously share their time to guide the organisation.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our CEO, Maree, who has worked incredibly hard for the benefit of clients, through the high standards she implements within the Service. While she is focused on measurable operational success and the long term prosperity of the organisation, in treating each client with genuine care and respect she encapsulates our values and sets the tone for the culture of Sunnyhaven and for this we are deeply appreciative.



# CEO's message

It is with great pleasure that I submit my annual report to the Board of Management and our membership.



**Maree Mullins**  
Sunnyhaven Ltd  
Chief Executive Officer

The last 12 months has provided a number of challenges to ensure we are ready for the 2017 rollout of the NDIS. A number of strategies have been developed and implemented. The most significant internal change is the client management system called MYP. This system has enabled us to import all of our consumer data, develop robust consumer outcomes and develop financial proposals for new and existing consumers. This system also facilitates remote access to our staff who provide supports that are not centre based.

Our financial report places us in an impressive position to see us into the future.

Our major project this year has been our Heath Street project where we are building a 10 bed unit complex for consumers. These units will provide opportunities for independent, living skills training and support staff to assist with daily living tasks. We believe this is the first innovative model of this kind in Sydney. We had attempted to gain financial support from the state and federal government however, after a number of submissions we were not successful. Sunnyhaven has incurred the costs of this development. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the late Claire Walker and her family of a \$160,000 contribution to the project. My thanks to ADHC for the financial support they have given to Sunnyhaven. To CommunityBuilders.nsw. who supported the Creative Arts Space which will be a wonderful asset to everyone.

Sunnyhaven continues to provide respite to families and consumers and this service has provided over 35,040 hours of support.

Our day services has provided support and skill building programs to 65 consumers which has delivered 75,000 hours of support. Our Accommodation service provides support to 32 clients who have diverse needs and the hours of support collectively has been 213,160. Our Early intervention Project has excelled this year on a very small budget of \$60,000. They have provides support to families and their children.

Sunnyhaven's top 3 priorities the next coming year will be to work in collaboration with families to assist them with meeting the challenges of the NDIS, to open the Heath street development to consumers who can live semi independently and to ensure our staff have the necessary skills both operationally and consumer related services.

My sincere thanks to our families who have worked with us in a very changing environment. My passion is supporting the skills, the abilities and the talents of people with a disability. I look forward to continuing to do so.

My appreciation to our Managers and staff who often go well beyond what is required of them.

My utmost respect to the Board of Management who donate their time and their expertise to ensure Sunnyhaven has good governance and strategies to take us into the future.

# Treasurer's message

I have much pleasure to present the Treasurers Report and the audited Financial Statements for the Financial Year July 2015 to June 2016. This is my first year as Treasurer and it is with quite a bit of pride that I present these reports as they indicate that the overall financial health of the organisation continues to be strong.



**Vivian Edmonds**  
Treasurer

The total turnover of Sunnyhaven Disability Services has reached \$8,075,137, this represents an increase of 13.49% from the previous year turnover. The total Government Grants is \$6,874,136, which is an increase of 15.47% from the previous year grants.

The total operating expenses in the financial year 2016 is \$6,727,732, this represents an increase of 7.78% or \$485,375 from the previous year, which is consistent with the Boards budget expectations.

The total operating surplus is \$1,347,405, which is an increase of 54.31% from the previous year. This is a tremendous result.

The Statement of Financial Position reflects Net Assets of \$11,050,653, an increase of 13.89% or \$1,347,405 in comparison with the Net Assets as at 30 June last year (2015). This increase was primarily attributable to the reduction of other financial liabilities.

Sunnyhaven has achieved its highest turnover, highest net surplus, and the best net assets position in its history. The Cash and Cash Equivalent held as at 30 June 2016 has increased from \$842,937 to \$1,085,926, an increase of 242,989 from 30 June 2015.

Maree Mullins, the CEO together with her Managers and staff are to be commended for their dedication and effort in achieving this favourable result.

Mr John G. Oehlers of John G. Oehlers Chartered Accountant, conducted the annual audit of the Financial Statements for the 2016 Financial Year in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards and has found everything to be in order.

Sunnyhaven Disability Services has continued to grow and I submit these Financial Statements with confidence that Sunnyhaven continues to be a financially sound organisation and will continue to meet new and exciting challenges in the next Financial Year.

I would personally like to thank Maree Mullins in her capacity as CEO together with my fellow Directors for their support throughout the year.

I would also like to thank my colleagues, who are an exceptional group of dedicated, caring and committed people who without their unconditional input, many things just would not happen. Collectively they provide a steady hand on the tiller which augurs well for a bright future. I am immensely proud of the team that I have become part of and have no doubt that together we will evolve and grow for the benefit of all those disability services.



# Quality manager's and Financial controller's messages



**Alessandra Luz**  
Quality Assurance Manager

The past year has been an exciting time for Sunnyhaven and for people with disability, their families, guardians and carers, with the NDIS rolling out.

The NDIS will be available in Sunnyhaven on 1 July 2017. To be ready for this transition we have been working closely with Clients and Families to provide them with information and assistance.

We have invested in a new Cloud-based database called MP. The Quality Management System has policies and procedures in place to support Clients.

In line with our Strategic Plan, it has been my role to conduct regular surveillance audits and compliance checks.

In accommodation, Ombudsman NSW, Official Community Visitor Scheme has conducted six visits and the results have been promising.

My goal for next year is to obtain ISO accreditation and arrange a review of our verification accreditation.



**Shana Chai**  
Financial Controller

Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2016 shows that SunnyHaven Disability Service is again in a strong financial position in terms of balance sheet, net Assets has increased by \$1.4M at June 2016 in comparison to last financial year,

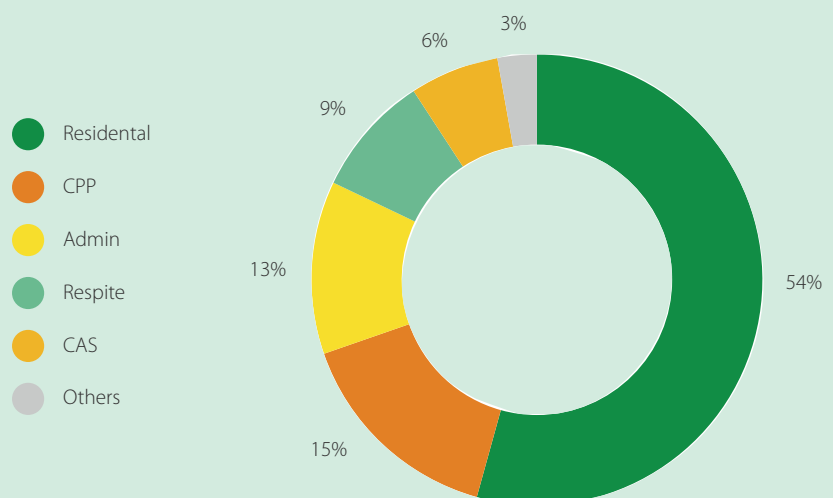
Financial strength is not only to provide us with a more opportunity to seek the best service for all business activities including residential, respite, Community Access needs, but have the resources to cover any contingencies that may arise.

Year end audit has completed successfully by the auditors, John G. Oehlers, performing a detailed review of the accounts. Income and expenditure has been successfully managed against the budget. We have also well prepared for the introduction of the NDIS in June 2017.

The finance departments is committed to ensure that continuous improvements are being implemented to enable Sunnyhaven to achieve best outcomes for people with disabilities.

As a new team member of Sunnyhaven, I am delighted to see that Sunnyhaven has got the most supportive working environment, I am looking forward to contributing my service to Sunnyhaven in coming years.

**Expenditure by program for 2015 - 2016**



# 2015 - 2016 Board of Directors



Jemima Moody  
Chairperson



Simon Fenton  
Vice Chairperson



Vivian Edmonds  
Treasurer



Elaine Cohen  
Director



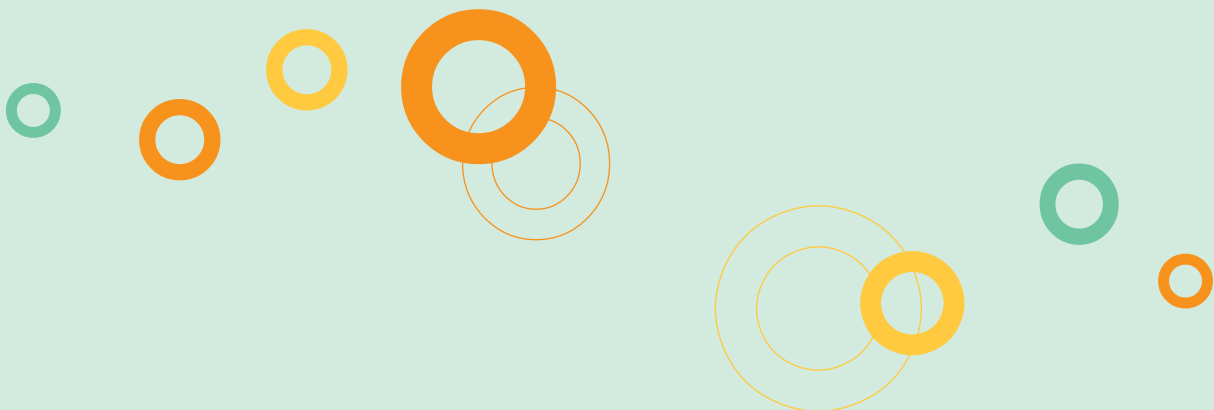
Lorenzo Di Palma  
Director




Carol Lawrence  
Director



Maurene Horder  
Director



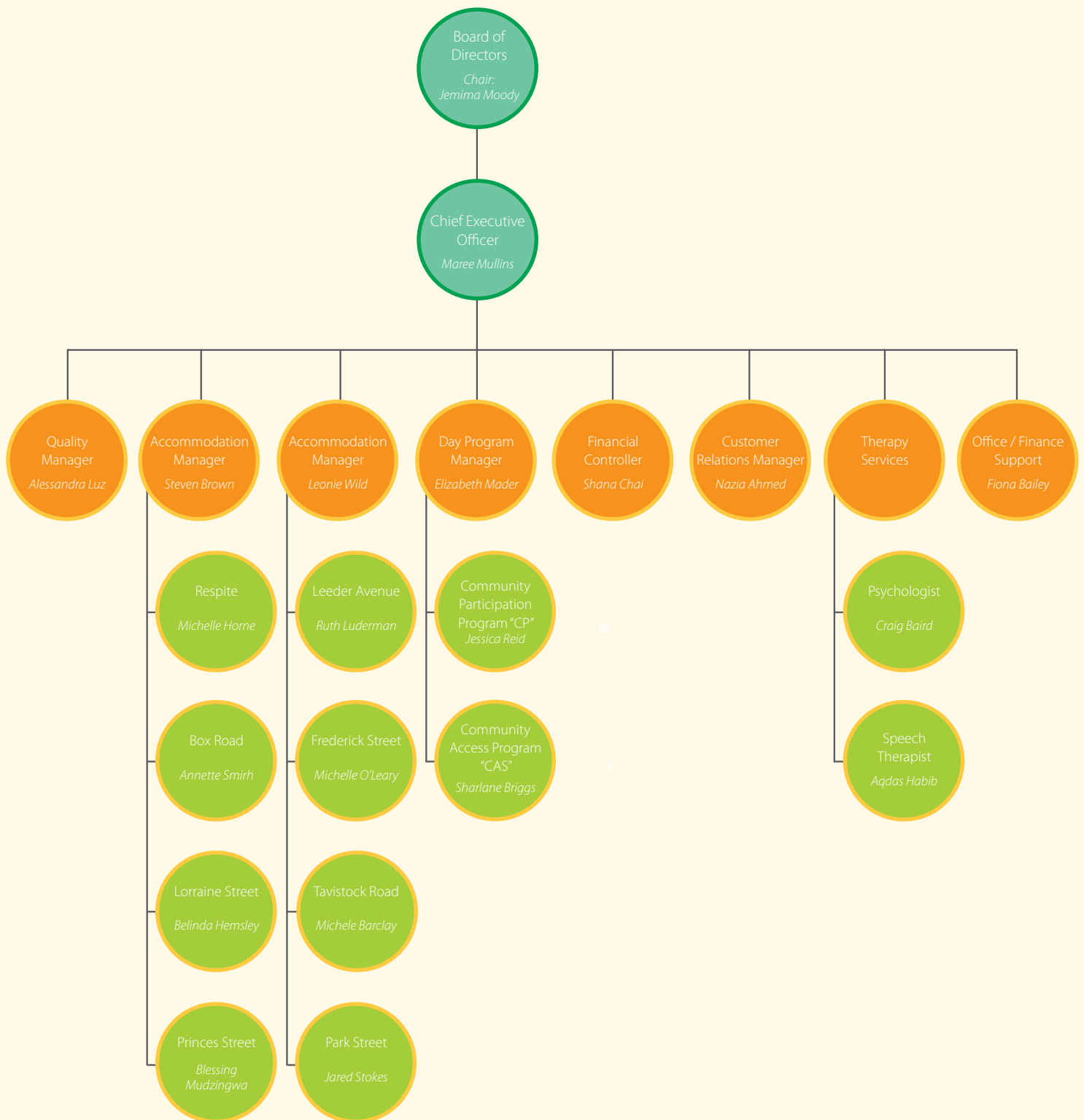


A portrait of a man with a friendly smile, wearing a black polo shirt with green stripes on the sleeves. He has a prosthetic arm on his right side. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a building.

“Don’t let what you can’t do  
interfere with what you can do”



# organisation chart





# management+ Team



Maree Mullins  
Chief Executive Officer



Nazia Ahmed  
Customer Relations Manager



Alessandra Luz  
Quality Assurance Manager



Shana Chai  
Financial Controller



Leonie Wild  
Accommodation Manager



Steven Brown  
Accommodation Manager



Elizabeth Mader  
Day Program Manager



### Teresa is Loving Life

My name is Teresa , both of my parents have passed away. I used to live with my brother who also has a disability. We lived together for 2 years, but it all became too hard for us and we needed help.

I moved to Sunnyhaven's group home in 2015. I now have increased services and developed new friendships.

I am able to visit my brother as well.

This year I went to Camp David for a holiday which was great fun.

I now have a job at Ascalon twice a week where I help pack Lindt chocolate, I try not to eat them as they are very tempting.

Each Wednesday night my female housemates and I go out to different restaurants and clubs, where we can have some special female time. I also go and get my hair cut at "Queenies".

I love to go shopping and I buy food and vegetable for our house. I can now count my own money.

I try keeping myself fit by walking and swimming.

I love living at Tavistock.





# Riverwood

Lift to platforms 1 & 2

## Miss Independence

Hi my name is Jessica and I live in Lorraine St.

I would like to live by myself with occasional support form staff.

I can use public transport, do my shopping, cook and do housework and laundry. I need support sometimes with which bus numbers to catch and at what time to be there for buses and trains and working on this so that I can do it myself with a mobile phone app.

I like to go to the club for meals, go shopping at Riverwood or Roselands and have been going to the Foodies Market at Peakhurst . I also like to visit my Grandmother at Coogee and go for walks along the beach.

I my spare time I like to draw, play my Nintendo DS and watch movies.

I hope that next year I can move into my own unit.





# our staff

The successful recruitment and retention of our staff is vital to our continuing success.

This year we commended our staff by presenting them with watches for their commitment to the organisation.

Across the entire organisation, our staff are focused on the people we support and value excellent service, innovation and continuous improvement. Our staff possess a wide range of skills, qualifications and experience and come from a diverse range of background. We currently employ 59 full time and par time staff working across our services. An additional 12 casuals assist when required.

## Awards:

### 6 Years

Lisa Pelcz  
Valerie Webster  
Elizabeth Taylor

### 7 Years

Nazia Ahmed  
Josefa Davui

### 8 Years

Elizabeth Mader

### 11 Years

Maria Arango  
Michelle O'Leary

### 12 Years

Annette Smith

### 14 Years

Desmond Burnes  
Dane Williams

### 16 Years

Leonie Wild  
Angela Nicol

### 21 Years

Belinda Hemsley  
Kathy Skibola





"We can't change the  
direction of the wind,  
but we can adjust our  
sails to always reach  
our destination"



# community connections



**Elizabeth Mader**  
Day Program Manager

I am pleased to submit the 2016-2017 Annual report for Community Participation and the Community Access Program. My role is to manage Sunnyhaven's day programs at Kogarah and Penshurst.

It has been an exciting and productive year for Sunnyhaven's Day Programs we continue our commitment on delivering quality programs and services to our participant's and families.

The Community Participation Program provides services to 36 participants aged 18-45 who have a range of support needs and future aspirations; we have provided over 20,000hrs of community participation this year.

The Community Access Program provides services to 28 participants aged 45-65 who are at different life stages. We have provided over 15,500hrs of community inclusion program.

This year we have been developing new activities and continue to develop a strong connection to our community.

## **Aerolize**

Aerolize acrobat trapeze work has been a huge success and I would like to thank Nick and his staff for all the work they have done with our participants over the past six months.

## **Music Therapy**

Anne Lehman a big thank you for your commitment to our music therapy program, Anne has worked closely doing one to one sessions and group sessions with all a participants across day services.

## **Shopfront**

Shopfront drama and acting classes first term has been a huge success with participants gaining more confidence.

## **Creative Arts**

Oatley 101 Society of Artist incorporated recently celebrated their 17th Members Annual Exhibition. The event was very well attended with an abundance of beautiful artworks on display. Guest presenters and major sponsors also supported the event, Director of Hazlehurst Regional Art Gallery.

Thank you to Geraldine Taylor, president, the committee members of the Oatley 101 Society of Artist for their generosity and very kind donation of \$2000 which will go towards the purchase of equipment for the Art Therapy program which Geraldine Taylor runs at Sunnyhaven Thank you for recommending Sunnyhaven as a service provider worthy of receiving the proceeds of the evening.

## **Salvation Army**

The participants at the community participation program have been attending the Salvation Army at Rockdale

## **Accessible arts expo**

Sunnyhaven also was a Silver Sponsor at the Accessible Arts Expo at Carriage works in September.

Kaeleen Hunter and Angelika Henerich from Live Vibe music worked with our clients to show case their many hidden talents on stage at the accessible arts expo.

## **Speech Therapy**

Aqdas Habib (Speech Therapist) has been working closely with our staff providing training and implementing communication board support plans for our participants.

## **NDIS**

The introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will bring about wonderful changes in the lives of people in Australia with disability. The NDIS will provide great levels of choice and control, and will focus on the needs, aspirations and goals of participants.

If you're just starting your NDIS journey, there will be a few things you need to consider. Fortunately, you don't have to do this alone, our staff are on hand to help make your journey as simple as possible.

We are here to support you to:

- Understand the NDIS and how it works
- Find out if you're eligible
- Identify goals and aspirations that the NDIS may fund
- Put together the documents you need for your meeting with a NDIA planner or NDIA area coordinator when the time comes.

You can meet with us at our office, or at a location convenient to you, or even at your own home. Our goal is to be there every step of the way and help make your NDIS plan a reality.

To support your transition to the NDIS, we are developing a NDIS pre-planning kit that you can take to your meeting with you.



I welcome the opportunity to review the activities and support that we can offer and in consultation with our participants, parents and carers, staff and strategic partners, develop new and diverse activities and opportunities for the people with disability who currently utilise our Day Program Services. We also look forward to welcoming new participants and families as the NDIS roles out in July 2017.

### **Parents Support Group**

Sunnyhaven will be holding information sessions to help you transition into the NDIS, we also hold parent support groups the last Tuesday of each month if you are interested in attending please contact us on 9588 5433 the support groups are a good way to share stories or information



# Community Living



**Leonie Wild**  
Accommodation Manager



**Steven Brown**  
Accommodation Manager

Sunnyhaven is currently focusing on building a financial framework for the NDIS roll out in July 2017.

Sunnyhaven provides services to 32 residents across 7 group homes in the St George and Sutherland shire.

This financial year we have provided 213,160 hours of group home support.

Sunnyhaven is continuing to refurbish and renovate our group homes for our residents. Our Maintenance plans have been revised to ensure the best standard of living for all our residents within Sunnyhaven group home services.

Sunnyhaven is in the process of implementing a new client management system MYP. Once this system is running at its full potential families can keep up to date on progress of goals and measurable outcomes each individual customer.

I would like to also thank residents (Alan, Pat, Ricky, Chris and Dianne) from our group homes that have been regularly attending our clients representative meetings. Their input has been invaluable to ensure we are providing the best possible services and outcomes

This year we saw the sad loss of Ciara Cochran who passed away. Ciara is sadly missed by all by all the residents and staff of Sunnyhaven.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to all the staff in Accommodation Services and to the Team Leaders for ensuring services provided to Sunnyhaven resident's address their individual needs and aspirations.

While we celebrate the achievements of our customers both as a collective and as individuals over the past twelve months, the next twelve months will see them getting ready for the biggest change in disability services ever seen in Australia.







"Possibilities are  
always endless"





"The most valuable  
antiques are dear old  
friends"

# Respite services

Sunnyhaven provides Respite Services across the Sydney metropolitan area. This Short Term Accommodation setting is essential for the customers who access this service to help maintain family relationships and/or to prevent breakdown of the regular support networks.

Respite provides individualised care as required for the 60 clients that attend respite services and has provided 35,040 hours of services for individuals that access respite service

Respite Services has also provided support for 3 Emergency Response residents until suitable group home accommodations were secured.

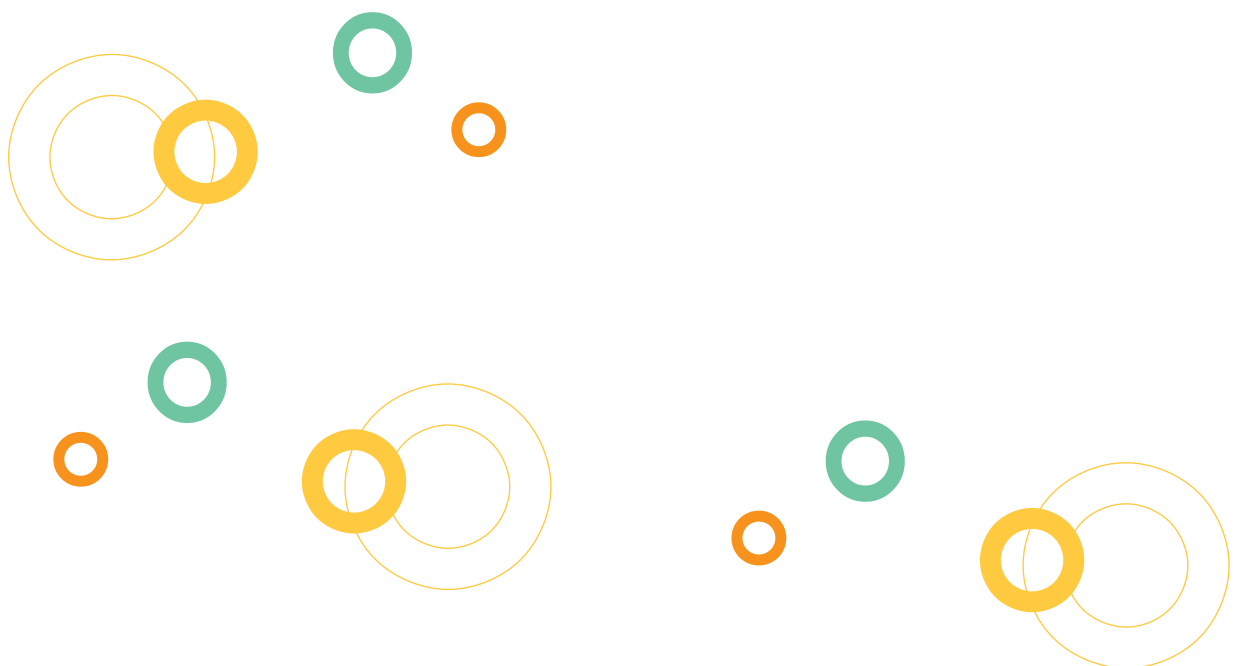
Respite has also under gone a makeover with the outdoor BBQ area having much needed work, the shade sail being installed over the pool and the large bathroom being renovated for ease of access for our service users.

Sunnyhaven Respite would like to thank all the staff, parents' family community for their support in 2015- 2016

# Early Intervention

Sunnyhaven's Early Intervention program has grown over the past year, since its establishment by the clinicians in 2015. We currently have a total of 10 clients across speech pathology and psychology. Our Early Intervention program consists of collaborative work between therapists and families, carers and educators, to support the clients throughout the assessment and intervention phases.

Early Intervention provided 1976 hours of support.





# Therapy services

Sunnyhaven therapy service provides a collaborative approach to ensure that clients receive intervention strategies that best meets their needs. Adults with communication problems are often impacted socially, educationally, professionally, interpersonally and emotionally. Sunnyhaven's therapy programs are tailored to suit individual requirements, and will teach specific skills and strategies that can be confidently used in typical, everyday situations.

Our program in Speech Therapy for adults treats a number of different speech, language, communication and swallowing difficulties and disorders. Our program in Psychology is aimed at improving our clients' independence and lifestyle, as well as providing counselling and family support services.

This therapy approach is provided in the home, preschool and school settings, delivering services such as:

## **Speech and Language Pathology**

- Speech, language and pragmatic assessments with comprehensive reports;
- Receptive and expressive language learning difficulties;
- Speech and articulation therapy;
- Pragmatic (social skills) therapy;
- Stuttering (dysfluency) therapy;
- Literacy and phonic based therapy (including phonological awareness, reading, spelling and writing);
- Voice therapy;
- Swallowing / feeding / fussy eating.

## **Psychology**

Our psychologist provides:

- Psychometric and screening assessments with comprehensive reports;
- Individual Family Service Plans and Individual Educational Plans;
- Positive behaviour plans;
- Behaviour intervention / modification;
- Skills building;
- Psychological and emotional regulation;
- Independent living skills;
- Independence in the classroom;
- Family coping and support;
- Evidence based intervention.

We look forward to ongoing growth in providing innovative services to both Sunnyhaven adult clients and also the Early Intervention Program paediatric clients.



**Aqdas Habib**  
Speech and Language  
Pathologist



**Craig Baird**  
Registered Psychologist



# coffee club story

Coffee club continues to provide a service for a people with a disability every Friday night service users come from far and wide.

This program is open to all individuals with a disability provides a safe place for each person to express themselves and belt out their favourite tune on stage.

This year we have had Helen Spora, Ian Thompson from our Community Living clients assist with the running of the Coffee Club program. Ian ensures the stock for coffee club is purchased each week so we don't run out the important things and Helen has been assisting with the gate and setting up of the coffee club space.

We have provided over 2000 hours of service annually to people with a disability. How many attendees

Michelle Horne, Team Leader and Rimaha Wiringi, Disability Support Worker continue to provide support the ensuring all coffee club attendees have a fantastic night.

Sunnyhaven Coffee Club would like to thank all the staff, parents' family community for their support in 2015- 2016.



Suzanne and Michelle at Halloween night



Chris at Fancy Dress night

clients love to dress up to for  
in their favorite costumes  
for coffee club events e.g  
Halloween.

# sunny stories



AGM

## 1 Chris Gambian

We were privileged to have Chris Gambian, who was the Labor candidate for Banks visit Sunnyhaven. Chris stated "I'm passionate about ensuring that every person can have a strong voice in the halls of power".

## 2 Cert IV in Disability

Staff training is essential to ensure that our consumers receive the skill employees. Nurturing our staff to develop more rounded skill sets helps them contribute to Sunnyhaven. We congratulate our team who completed their Certificate IV in Disability. Our thanks to Cerabal Palsy's Alliance for the training and the excellent results received.

## 3 Arts donation

Our thanks to Gerry from Catley 101 Society of Artists for their kind donation of \$2,000 to assist with purchasing art supplies for our Creative Arts project.

## 4 Demountable

Our Creative Arts space had a dramatic landing on our site at Beach Street. On behalf of all our consumers our thanks goes to the Community Builders NSW grants for supporting this innovative project.

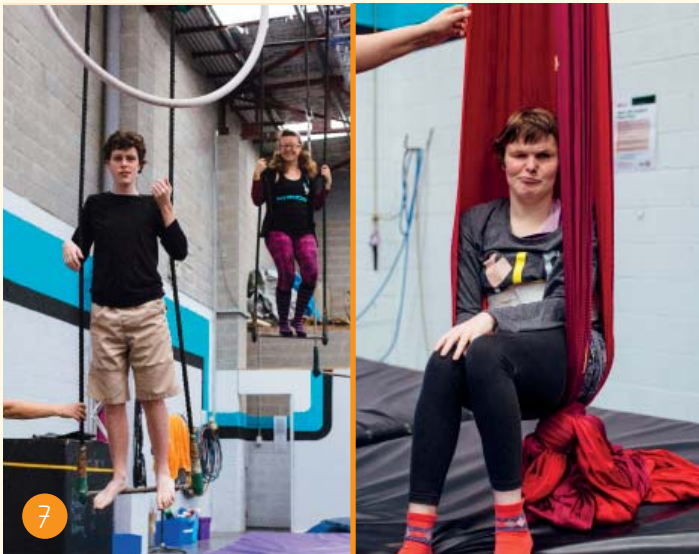
## 5 Giving back

Our consumers at our Community Access project enjoy being a part of the volunteering community. They assist Meals on Wheels.

## 6 Computer Skills

People with disabilities meet barriers of all types. However, technology is helping to lower many of these barriers. By using computing technology for tasks such as reading and writing documents, communicating with others, and searching for information on the Internet, clients and employees with disabilities are capable of handling a wider range of activities independently





### 7 Aerialize

Our very courageous and adventurous consumer attend circus skills each week. The transformation is amazing to watch.

### 8 Fruit and Veg

Our Fruit and Vegetable program forms part of our social enterprise mission. Our consumers attend Flemington Farmers markets every Friday and purchase cheap fruit and vegetables. We then pack the vegetables and sell them to the local community.

### 9 Respite living skills

Respite is not only a break away from the home. We teach living skills whilst they have their stay and engage in community life.

### 10 Friendships

Teresa and Sharon enjoy their friendship. They love going shopping.





# our creative Arts program

## From Live Vibe Music

One of the greatest outcomes we ever experience is to be invited to return & continue to build on relationships with services & Sunnyhaven is at the TOP of our list. It's such a pleasure to create with the crew at Sunnyhaven as they have deeply embraced the arts process and are so willing to expand, explore & create innovative multimedia outcomes. Its skill building & empowering and the growth we have witnessed as a group and on individual levels is an extreme pleasure to watch – they totally embrace the concept of using the arts as a tool for communication & expression.

We really enjoy creating in the space at Sunnyhaven and the investment in music/audio equipment is having an impact on participants too – several have conquered the performance fears & others have learnt to hone their ability and confidence to shine.

Creation of the song & film clip for TELL YA A STORY was a very intensive activity based program which really hit the mark amongst the crew & showed clearly that when real engagement occurs there is an authentic sense of joy & camaraderie and the opportunity to dress up & express a different 'character or persona' was relished and offered enjoyable positive interactions between everyone.

## Brief outline of the workshop

TELL YA A STORY FILM CLIP – this was edited from 'capturing' the process of all the workshops & was brought together at the end of the project to create a cool 2 minute clip. The lyrics were actually created by the participants on the fly when asked to 'tell us their story'.

DRESSUP was OVERWHELMING – they loved this the most & I think it would be good to do this again THO we may approach it a little differently. It was a great lesson for us all that they love styling up for the camera & creating personas & was a massive hit.

Kaeleen Hunter and Angelica Heinrich  
LiveVibe Music





# Annual St George Community Awards - A letter from Voula

Thank you to the presiding panel for the opportunity to nominate Sunnyhaven Disability Services for the Community Group Achievement Award 2016.

Sunnyhaven Disability Services has a 65 year history in providing a diverse range of support options to people with a disability who live in the St George area. Their strong history within the community has their commitment to providing individualised services to people with physical and/ or intellectual disability in order to assist them build their strengths, bridge their weaknesses and support them in achieving their goals and inspiring them to make new ones.

When my son Phillip graduated from Bates Drive School in Kareela, our family entered into the large unfamiliar territory of the adult disability sector and the resounding support, encouragement and patience of Maree and her team was remarkable.

Maree showed us their passion to ensure people with a disability feel involved in their community, whom are recognised for their abilities and their culture respected. Indeed, it is at the heart of everything they do.

Sunnyhaven has encouraged Phillip from the onset to be independent, considerate, patient and caring. They plan activities that provide enjoyment and foster self-worth and in doing so, assist the individual to get the best out of life, community and their natural environment.

Phillip perhaps still has some work ahead of him but with regular sessions from the Psychologist and Speech Therapist on staff, as well as the operating Music and Art therapy programs, run by the president of Oatley 101 Society of Artists and offered at Sunnyhaven, the improvements are remarkable.

Sunnyhaven constantly run workshops and activities with the clients to foster inclusion into the wider community. These activities such as swimming, gardening skills, shopping workshops, 'MasterChef' cooking classes, 'Coffee Club' as well as travel workshops to help them gain the skills to independently commute to and from the centre and validating their feeling of achieving some independence.



Although the clients at the service have a range of obstacles preventing them from supported employment, the Sunnyhaven team instil in them a sense of self-worth and capability through ventures such as their weekly Fruit and Veg Van which takes the drive to the Sydney Markets, where the clients barter with the vendors to get their bargain deals, load the van and return to distribute their goods to make up bags and boxes of fruit and vegies and selling them (not-for-profit) to the wider community. This is a highlight for Phillip and many of his friends and I am looking forward to the new dynamic community projects being planned for the year ahead.

In a Disability sector where the increasing competition for the dollar is fast becoming fierce, Sunnyhaven has not lost sight of the individuals' identity in their care. I see an organisation that supports collaboration between management, staff, the individual, their family and the community to ensure that the very best outcomes are identified and realised. I wish the same for my son and therefore, it is my pleasure to nominate Sunnyhaven Disability Services for the Community Group Achievement Award 2016.

Written by Voula Kapsimallis

Mother of Phillip Kapsimallis, client of Sunnyhaven Disability Services Kogarah.

