



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Summer ■ 2010

## A message from our CEO



I'd like to begin by wishing everyone a happy new year, and I hope everyone's Christmas was safe and relaxing.

As Life Without Barriers welcomes in the New Year, I'd like to share with you some of our achievements

over the past few months and update you on our plans for 2010.

In December last year our new website was launched. Under the same address ([www.lwb.org.au](http://www.lwb.org.au)) the new site, which is approved by Vision Australia, is a wonderful tool for people to learn about our organisation, access our services and share in our news and upcoming events.

Also in December, we celebrated our National Disability Achievement Awards in Brisbane. The Awards were attended by the Queensland Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs, Ms Annastacia Palaszczuk and recognised the outstanding accomplishments of our clients with a disability and carers.

On top of this, we launched our Reconciliation Action Plan in South Australia and won our first tender to provide care to elderly people and people with a disability in Northern Queensland, under the Home and Community Care Program.

As part of our Executive restructure, we welcomed Sue Mather as our new Corporate Services Director. Sue will lead the Corporate Services Team, which includes IT, Human Resources, Learning and Development, Marketing and Communication and Planning and Governance.

This year we'll continue our expansion into Victoria with a number of Disability Support services, as well as in the Northern Territory with the development of two Disability Day Centres. We'll also be establishing a mental health support service in Fremantle, WA, and focus on the goals set out in our Reconciliation Action Plan that include increasing Aboriginal employment within Life Without Barriers.

We have a big year ahead of us, I hope you enjoy reading about our recent achievements and look forward to sharing our journey with you in this new year.

**Ray Dunn**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Life Without Barriers

## New Service in the North

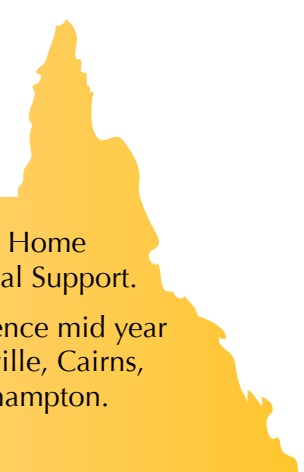
QLD

In November, Life Without Barriers won its first tender to provide home-based support to elderly people and people with a disability in Northern Queensland.

The Home and Community Care (HACC) program will provide a range of support services, including

Personal Care, Domestic Assistance, Home Maintenance, Respite Care and Social Support.

The program is scheduled to commence mid year and service 568 clients from Townsville, Cairns, Bowen, Innisfail, Mackay and Rockhampton.





NATIONAL

## Our Brand New Website

Life Without Barriers has a new website.

Launched in December, the new website, which is approved by Vision Australia, is a more accessible, comprehensive and vibrant communication tool than the previous site.



Key features of the new website include information about our broad range of services, a list and Google maps of our office locations and a regularly updated news and events page.

As part of the website we have created our own Carer Connect portal, designed specifically for our carers to safely store their contact details, find out about news and upcoming events and to access support materials.



The website is part of a number of projects we will roll out this year to improve our services, communication and accessibility in the community.

To visit our new website, go to: [www.lwb.org.au](http://www.lwb.org.au)

NATIONAL

## Welcoming our Director of Corporate Services



**Sue Mather**  
Corporate Services Director

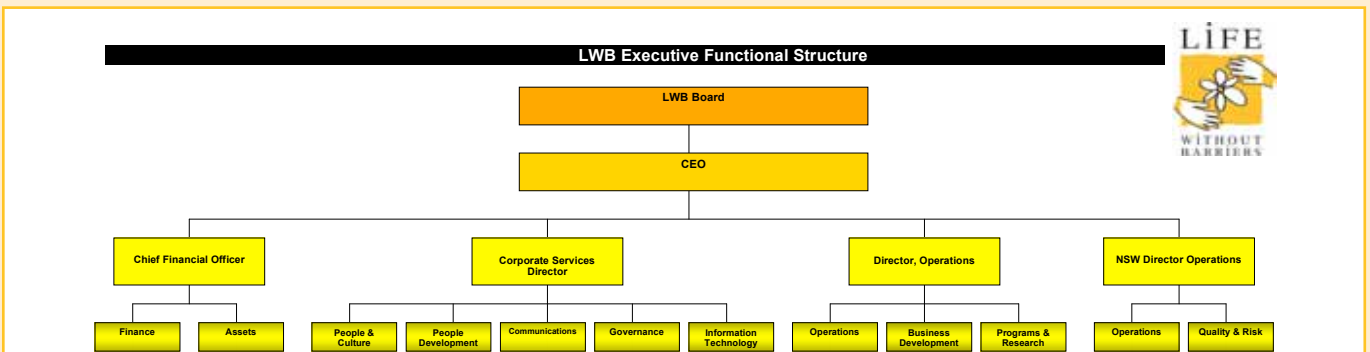
In November, we welcomed our Director of Corporate Services, Sue Mather.

Sue, who brings with her a wealth of experience in senior management roles will lead the newly formed Corporate Services Team, which includes Learning and Development, Human Resources, Marketing

and Communication, Information Technology and Planning and Governance.

A large part of Sue's focus over the next 12 months is ensuring that the Corporate Services Team understands the business and is providing the best, value – adding support to those delivering our important services to our clients.

The Corporate Services Director is a key role in our management structure that will support our continued growth and allow for an improved delivery of our services to the community.



## Disability Achievement Awards Shine

Twelve Award winners were honoured on December 3 as part of Life Without Barriers annual Disability Services Achievement Awards.

Coinciding with the International Day of People with Disability, 170 people from across Australia packed into the Novotel Hotel in Brisbane to celebrate the awards, with some guests travelling from as far as Warmun, a remote Aboriginal community in WA.

A special guest of the Achievement Awards was Queensland Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs, Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk, who took the opportunity to launch the Bligh Government's new \$1 million Community Living Program initiative to support Queenslanders with a disability.

National Disability Practitioner Edward Birt said the success of the 2009 Achievement Awards has inspired him to repeat the event in 2010.

"This event has generated a lot of interest from other states keen to host the awards, which is very encouraging," he said.

"The Awards are our way of recognising the valued role of carers and people with a disability in their communities."

A List of the award winners is below:

### A. Client Award Winners:

#### Determination and Persistence Award

- Chantel Farmer, Queanbeyan, NSW
- Gordon Seymour, Toowoomba, QLD
- Anthony Little, Nowra, NSW

#### Community Builder Award:

- Vincent Tipiloura, Darwin, NT

#### Courage & Commitment Award:

- Mark Fuller, Springwood, QLD

### B. Personnel Award Winners:

#### Community Access & Engagement Award:

- Martin Day, Springwood, QLD

#### Creativity Award:

- The Dubbo Transition Support Team, Dubbo, NSW
- Susan Baker, Hammersley, WA

#### The Support Person of the Year Award:

- Jo Burgess, Narrabri, NSW
- Catherine Renfrew, Cessnock, NSW

### C. Community Award Winners:

#### Accessible Community Award:

- Mark Leslie, Toowoomba, QLD
- The Warmun Aboriginal Community and the Disability Services Commission, Warmun, WA



#### Disability Achievement Award winners

**Back row:** Martin Day, Mark Fuller, Gordon Seymour, Susan Baker, Catherine Renfrew, Jo Burgess, Shirley Purdie, Rossanne Banks.

**Front Row:** Anthony Little, Martin Day, Maree Grant, Vincent Tipiloura



Queensland Disability Services Minister,  
The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk

## SA Launches Reconciliation Action Plan

SA

Ensuring our commitment to working towards national reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians, in November we celebrated the South Australian launch of our Reconciliation Action Plan.

Adelaide's Shores Function Complex was filled with over 100 invited guests, including South Australian Minister for Reconciliation Jay Weatherill and Manager for Modbury District Centre, Bruce Johnson.

Guests enjoyed performances from the Tal-Kin Jeri dance group and musician Tony Minniecon, while our CEO Ray Dunn spoke of the importance of Life Without Barriers embracing reconciliation.

Aboriginal Program Manager, Malcolm Gollan, said the day was also an opportunity for each Life Without Barriers team to report on how they are incorporating the Reconciliation Action Plan into their programs.

"Encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to become involved in Life Without Barriers, reviewing our practices to ensure they are culturally appropriate and establishing relationships with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander training groups were high on our teams' priorities," he said.

"In 2010 we will continue to roll out the RAP plan in every State and undertake a review of our progress to date."



### "Seven Sisters"

Val Gibson is a Kokatha artist. Over the course of a month Val guided a group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women from Life Without Barriers through this painting as our symbol of Reconciliation.

## Ageing Carers Initiative

VIC

We have recently won our first residential care tender in Victoria to provide care to people with a disability in the north west of Melbourne.

Winning the tender means that by 2012, we will provide care to 15 people with a disability in three purpose-built houses.

Victoria State Manager Mark Zentgraf, said the residential housing would benefit both people with a disability and their ageing carers.

"The three houses will allow us to run our services to people with a disability within a very supportive environment, while giving their older carers some certainty about their loved one's future," he said.

The tender is part of the Victorian Government's Ageing Carers Initiative, which is aimed at caring for persons with a disability who have older carers.



## Awards Recognise Contribution to Employment

NT

In November, Life Without Barriers won two Aboriginal Employment Service (AES) Community Awards in Central Australia.

Life Without Barriers was recognised as an organisation in the Partnership category for "building and forming a relationship with the AES that has contributed to positive Aboriginal employment outcomes."

The second award acknowledged the work of our NT Program Manager, Andrew Chisholm, for his outstanding contribution to Aboriginal employment.

The Awards, held annually, celebrate young achievers, outstanding businesses and community leaders. Both nominations for Life Without Barriers were under the umbrella category of Outstanding Business.

Winning the two awards represents a key goal in Life Without Barriers' 2009/2010 Strategic Plan, which is to develop our Aboriginal workforce strategy and build strong relationships with Aboriginal communities.



## Renovations for new Queanbeyan Respite Centre

ACT

Renovations have begun on our respite centre in Queanbeyan City, which once completed, will be the first respite centre in the region to provide support to people with a disability.

The centre, which is planned for completion in April, has been much anticipated by families and carers in the community and will provide 24-hour care to people from ages 6 – 64 years old with a disability and complex needs.

Disability Program Manager, Lance Nash said significant consideration was given to the interior design of the centre.

“The philosophy of the respite centre is to provide a home away from home setting, making it an enjoyable and relaxed time for the individual

in an environment where the family can be confident that their family member’s needs are being well catered for,” he said.

As part of the centre’s opening, a prominent Aboriginal Elder who gave the “Welcome to Country” ahead of the Prime Minister’s Sorry speech honoured our centre with the Aboriginal name “Moudji”, meaning ‘friend for life’.

Ngambri-Ngunnawal Elder, Matilda House who is the Chairperson for the Burringiri Association was asked to name the respite centre after she and the Life Without Barriers ACT team developed a close friendship. Matilda is also planning a painting to represent Moudji, which will be displayed in the centre.



Moudji (friend for life) Respite Centre

## Carers Share Christmas Spirit

WA

The Christmas Spirit was alive and well at our December Foster Carers' Christmas party in Balcatta, WA.

Foster carers and the young people who live with them were treated to an afternoon of activities including a bouncy castle and face painting, as well as a visit from Saint Nick.

Team leader Jacqui Luff said the Christmas party was our way of saying thank you for the important role that foster carers play in our community.

"It is an essential service, foster carers provide a supportive nurturing environment that helps people gain access to the community," she said.

"The barbeque is a great opportunity to celebrate the carers and support workers who have made a contribution this year."



## Footy Fever Float Celebrates Festive Season

TAS

Several weeks spent creating a football themed float paid off in December for a group of our Flexible Support Option clients and staff who joined in the fun of the Oatlands Christmas pageant in the Tasmanian Midlands.

As one of a number of floats that celebrated the Christmas tradition, Life Without Barriers' Footy Fever float paid homage to AFL and was covered with streamers, giant cardboard jerseys, balloons, hats and footy memorabilia.

The Footy Fever float entertained the many onlookers who lined the footpath, as it followed the Tasmanian Police Pipe Band into the Village Green where the local Rotary Club hosted a barbeque.



Footy Fever Float

## 2010 Events Diary

There are a number of important dates to mark on the calendar every year. Below are a few events that are celebrated this year in Australia and around the world to raise awareness of each cause.

NATIONAL	<p><b>January</b></p> <p>26 January <b>Australia Day</b> <a href="http://www.australiaday.org.au">www.australiaday.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>February</b></p> <p>7 February – 7 March <b>Clean Up Australia Day</b> <a href="http://www.events.cleanup.org.au">www.events.cleanup.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>March</b></p> <p>7 – 14 March <b>Foster and kinship Carer Week</b> <a href="http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au/events/foster-kinship-week/index.html">www.childsafety.qld.gov.au/events/foster-kinship-week/index.html</a></p>
	<p><b>April</b></p> <p>10 – 18 April <b>National Youth Week</b> <a href="http://www.youthweek.com">www.youthweek.com</a></p>	<p><b>May</b></p> <p>15 May <b>International Day of Families</b> <a href="http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/family/">www.un.org/esa/socdev/family/</a></p> <p>27 May - 3 June <b>National Reconciliation Week</b> <a href="http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/reconciliation-resources/nrw-resources">www.reconciliation.org.au/home/reconciliation-resources/nrw-resources</a></p>	<p><b>June</b></p> <p>20–26 June <b>Refugee Week</b> <a href="http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au">www.refugeecouncil.org.au</a></p>
	<p><b>July</b></p> <p>4 - 11 July <b>NAIDOC Week</b> <a href="http://www.naidoc.org.au">www.naidoc.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>August</b></p> <p>2 - 8 August <b>National Homeless Person Week</b> <a href="http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au">www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au</a></p>	<p><b>September</b></p> <p>5 – 11 September <b>Child Protection Week</b> <a href="http://www.napcan.org.au">www.napcan.org.au</a></p>
	<p><b>October</b></p> <p>18 October <b>Carer's Week</b> <a href="http://www.carersweek.com.au">www.carersweek.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>November</b></p> <p>1–30 November <b>Movember</b> <a href="http://www.movember.com.au">www.movember.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>December</b></p> <p>3 December <b>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</b> <a href="http://www.idpwd.com.au">www.idpwd.com.au</a></p> <p>5 December <b>International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development</b> <a href="http://www.un.org/observances/days.shtml">www.un.org/observances/days.shtml</a></p> <p>10 December <b>Human Rights Day</b> <a href="http://www.un.org/observances/days.shtml">www.un.org/observances/days.shtml</a></p> <p>18 December <b>International Migrants Day</b> <a href="http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/events/migrants/index.html">www.un.org/depts/dhl/events/migrants/index.html</a></p>