

Work Solutions Gippsland

Christmas Newsletter 2011



A Message From the Chief Executive Officer

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As I reflect on the past year I am delighted with what we have achieved at Work Solutions Gippsland (WSG) in 2011. Throughout the nine offices of WSG our team have worked hard to gain and then assist many participants maintain employment within their local community. We will continue in 2012 to work with you to ensure you are given the best possible service to achieve your goals with employment.



I believe employment is the ultimate outcome of social inclusion and I want everyone who has that strong desire to be employed to achieve that job. In some cases it may not be the “perfect” job however every job is an entry into the labour market and a real opportunity to contribute to business and community.

Employers are the key to our success and how we relate to, and support an employer in contributing to social inclusion is one of our key objectives. There is curiosity amongst employers and often a lack of knowledge as to the value a candidate with a disability, illness or health condition can contribute to their business.

WSG are committed to assisting employers throughout the region in building their disability confidence and presenting sound business cases to employers which will ultimately enhance opportunities for WSG candidates. “Gippsland Employers making a Difference” (GEMAD), one of WSG’s initiatives, now has over 300 signatories. A commitment to GEMAD enables employers to build their disability confidence and consider employing a candidate through WSG.

The publicity surrounding this initiative is gaining real traction, with an interview with the ABC just last week. In February 2012 the six local governments in Gippsland are partnering WSG in a business breakfast where employers will have an opportunity to learn more about Disability Action Plans. You can find out more about GEMAD www.gemad.com.au

I am proud of both staff and participants who together have achieved some outstanding results in both getting a job and keeping it. If you are keen to get work I encourage you to continue to work closely with your Employment Consultant and your journey to success will become a reality. There is no better place to start by registering with WSG!

“Being socially included means having the opportunities, the resources and the capabilities to participate in this way –to learn, work, engage in the community and have a voice.”
Julia Gillard Prime Minister 2010

I acknowledge Christmas can be a stressful and emotional time for many and despite the hurdles that we all encounter from time to time I encourage you all to think of one great thing you have done for someone or achieved for yourself this year!

From the WSG family to yours I wish you a safe festive season and hope that 2012 can be what you hope for.

Donna Faulkner

Chief Executive Officer

WSG Team Update:

Head Office

Chief Executive Officer: Donna Faulkner
Marketing Manager: Bob Faulkner
Operations Manager: Ross Egan
Human Resources Manager: Michael Crane
Receptionist/Administration: Aleisha Smith
Finance/Claims Officer: Narelle Bounds
Community Employment Liaison Officer: Ann McGown

Team Leaders

Bairnsdale Sale Yarram Mark Dodman	Traralgon Morwell Moe Wade Walker	Warragul Leongatha Wonthaggi Ingrid Leeuwdrant
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Employment Consultants:

Richard Jaeger	Nicole Hartley	Georgina Whitchurch
Gary Thode	Don Haley	David Morgan
Sally Brabham	Samantha Sanders	Tracey Zahra
Patrick McIvor	Marbiya Kasim	Trina Clarke
	Danny Bridle	Stacey Manners
	Doug Bowler	
	Cassandra Bailey	
	Mira Koch	

Staff Profile:

Nicole Hartley



Is an Employment Consultant at the WSG Traralgon office, Nicole likes meeting people and is very passionate about her job and enjoys seeking employment for people with barriers along with spending time with her children.

Hobbies: Scrap Booking, Cooking, Fishing

Family: Husband, Two Children, Two Gold Fish,

Lives: Traralgon

Favorite T.V. Show: Master Chef

Favorite Movie: On Golden Pond

Favorite Song: All ABBA songs

Favorite Food: Roast – preferably cooked by someone else...



Bernie's Brilliant Car Wash
Ph 1300 974 669
On-Site Hand Car Wash & Vacuum

Bernie's Brilliant Car Wash is delighted to introduce a new team at Bernie's; Will Hardeman as the Supervisor is supported by Sharlene and Nola as work trainers. Bernie's Brilliant Car Wash now has 9 contracts across the region and is washing around 160 cars per month. Each new employee of Bernie's will be awarded a "Certificate of Competency" having achieved an improvement in skills such as punctuality, reliability, communication and the awareness and application of OHS.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION:
MOBILITY ALLOWANCE: centrelink.gov.au

Mobility Allowance assists people with disabilities who are involved in qualifying activities and cannot use public transport without substantial assistance.

Qualifying Activities may include looking for work, or any combination of paid employment, voluntary work, vocational training and independent living or life skills training.

Eligibility:

You may be eligible for Mobility Allowance if you:

- Are aged 16 or over, and
- Cannot use public transport without substantial assistance, and
- Need to travel to and from your home when you are looking for work, doing work or training.

Standard Rate: apart from the above you must also:

- Be undertaking training, voluntary work, paid work, independent living/life skill or any combination of these for at least 32 hours every 4 weeks on a continuing basis
- Have an agreement to look for work through an employment service
- Be participating in a Disability Service or
- Be receiving Newstart allowance, Youth Allowance or Austudy and be required to meet the Activity Test.

Higher Rate: you may be eligible for the higher rate of Mobility Allowance if you are:

- Receiving a Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment, Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance and
- Be working at least 15hrs pw on wages that are at or above the relevant min wage or
- Be undertaking job search activities for work of at least 15 hours per week on wages that are at or above the relevant min wage under an Employment Pathway Plan or agreement with an employment service or be working for at least 15 hours a week on productivity based wages under the Supported Wage System.

Note: you can still qualify for Mobility Allowance if there is no public transport where you live and you do not need to get any other payments from Centrelink to qualify for Mobility Allowance. Mobility allowance is not income or assets tested and is a non-taxable payment.

For more information please go to centrelink.gov.au



WSG appreciate your thoughts and ideas , if you could complete the following questions and forward your answer to your nearest WSG office, we can take on board your suggestions towards improving the service and information we provide. Thank you!

Do you find the information in the Newsletter useful/informative? Please circle your response!

Yes / No

(If no please explain and add some suggestions you may like to see in the Newsletter)

How often would you like to receive a WSG newsletter? Please circle your response!

Twice a year /more often



Quality Assurance News

Annually Work Solutions Gippsland are audited against the Disability Service Standards with this year the auditors focusing on our Traralgon, Moe and Warragul offices. Some of you may have received a consent form to participate in the audit and or, to meet with external auditors. We would like to extend a big thank you to those who took the time to return their survey and or to participate in the audit, your contribution and feedback is valued by us and in some way contributes to continuous improvement.

Those participants who returned their surveys were placed in a draw for a \$50.00 Coles/Myer voucher,. The lucky person was a participant from our Bairnsdale office ... Congratulations!

There are 12 Disability Service Standards and WSG is proud of our compliance and commitment to all 12. You will find a copy of these 12 standards in your Participant Handbook; meanwhile don't hesitate to ask your Employment Consultant for further explanation.

As part of our continuous improvement we are always keen to receive feedback about all facets of our service and the website is no exception. (www.wsgipps.com.au) Please speak with your Employment Consultant if you have any suggestions or ideas. Alternatively you can pop your suggestion in the feedback box in the receptions areas of each office.

Join Us For Morning Tea!

To celebrate the festive season, each WSG office will host a morning tea on Thursday 22nd December 2011. We would love you to pop in! We'll have the kettle boiling from 10.30am – 12.00 midday so please join us if you can.

WSG office hours over Christmas and the New Year

All WSG offices will close from 2.00pm on Friday 23rd December 2011 and Re-open at 9.00am on Tuesday 3rd January 2012.
If urgent contact is required, please contact **0438 744 795**



*Merry Christmas and we hope that 2012 is all that you hope it to be!
from everyone at Work Solutions Gippsland*

