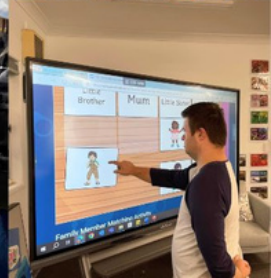


NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024



Down Syndrome
Queensland



Message from the CEO

Welcome to the Down Syndrome Queensland, February newsletter! All our services and programs are well underway for 2024. Across the various areas of the business there is a continued effort put into securing grant funding to support DSQ's work. Where possible we seek opportunities in partnership with our counterparts across the Federation. Leveraging each other's strengths assists in furthering our reach into the communities across the country.

A key focus for DSQ this year is to connect more locally with community and health/education professionals in regional areas. The Support Services and Education Services are planning a schedule to commence towards the end of quarter 1.

At the end of 2023, the Programs area successfully completed delivery of the first Possibility Pathways Program. The Possibility Pathways Program is a Government funded program through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative. The program aims to help develop the foundation skills to support young people with an intellectual disability so they may pursue their career aspirations to further training, employment or improved job roles. The second course has just commenced and if you are interested in enrolling in the third course it commences at the end of April. [Click here to learn more about this program.](#)

As always there is a lot happening behind the scenes at DSQ - enjoy reading about all the DSQ activities!

Written by Chris McMillan, Chief Executive Officer

Opportunity: Volunteer Co-ordinator

Do you want to be part of making World Down Syndrome Congress (WDSC) 2024 come to life?

Volunteers are a critical part of Congress and we need someone to help us to recruit and organise our volunteers for this once in a lifetime event.

This is a voluntary role between now and the Congress in July. Time commitment will start at a few hours a week, building up to a day or two a week as we get closer to Congress.

Responsibilities will include:

- helping in recruitment of volunteers
- establishing an on-boarding / registration process for volunteers
- co-ordinating the roles for volunteers
- co-ordinating uniforms
- induction and co-ordination at the Congress on 9-12 July.

Ideally candidates will be based in south-east Queensland.

Please note if you are interested in being a volunteer at Congress we will put out a call for volunteers closer to the time.

If you are interested in helping make WDSC 2024 a success and would like to find out more, please contact Liz Willis at liz.willis@downsyndrome.org.au

Let's do it all over again!

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

It's February already, wow! Looking into the coming months, we have some great opportunities for our community to get involved and make a difference in the lives of people with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities.

Lots of Socks for World Down Syndrome Day!

We are looking forward to celebrating World Down Syndrome Day again in March, which means it is 'Lots of Socks' time again. Showing your support through a 'Lots of Socks' Day on 21st March is a simple and fun way of raising funds and awareness of Down syndrome within your office or child's classroom.

Join us for a Scenic Rim Trek!

Another amazing opportunity coming up is our first ever Inspired Adventure Trek through the Scenic Rim, 11-13th May 2024. This trek is a great opportunity for you to meet new people, push yourself out of your comfort zone and raise much needed funds and awareness of Down syndrome. It could also be a unique and special experience for you to share with your mother for Mother's Day.

These are just two of the many exciting opportunities to support Down Syndrome Queensland throughout 2024. If you would like to get involved and make a real difference in the lives of people with Down syndrome and intellectual disabilities, simply email engagement@downsyndromeqld.org.au.

Written by Michael Harrison, Community Engagement & Fundraising Manager

SUPPORT SERVICES

We have so many exciting opportunities coming up this month that we'd love you to be a part of:

World Down Syndrome Day Ipswich Event – Save the date!

On 16th March, wear your most colourful socks and enjoy a Story Time to celebrate the lives and achievements of people with Down syndrome. This is a free event from 10–11:30am at the Ipswich Children's Library – booking is essential!

- Enjoy a story read by disability rights advocate and entertainment all-star, Olivia Hargroder
- Design your very own pair of socks with artist, Ruby Herrenberg
- Chat to representatives from Down Syndrome Queensland
- Take home a free First 5 Forever book pack (1 per family with children under 5)

DSA Have Your Say! Workshop – \$100 Paid Opportunity

Down Syndrome Australia (DSA) want to hear from you about what matters to you! The workshop will be held on Thursday 29th February 3:30–6:30pm at the DSQ Ascot Office.

This is an opportunity for people aged 15–24 years with Down syndrome or intellectual disability, where you'll be paid \$100 to come and share your thoughts. DSA are working with the NDIA to run these workshops. Registrations close at 4pm on Monday 26th February.

Sleep In Children With Neurodisability: Final Study Recruitment

Participate in the University of Queensland's national study that is evaluating sleep in children with Neurodisability!

The study aims to better understand parental perceptions and current community management of sleep problems for children with neurodevelopmental disorders. This research will pave the way for better understanding of sleep problems in children, improve treatment protocols and overall outcomes for patients who struggle with various aspects of sleep.

[If you'd like to participate, click here!](#)

Written by Laura Mugaba, Support Services Manager

On Friday March 1st, the Down Syndrome Queensland Education Team will present an Inclusive Unit Planning workshop for educators who are teaching or supporting learners with Down syndrome and/or another intellectual disability. This practical workshop will take participants through a step-by-step process of writing an inclusive unit for diverse students, including adjustments for individual students. Participants will leave with a draft of a new unit plan, aligned with the Australian Curriculum, that enables learners with Down syndrome and/or another intellectual disability to be learning the age-appropriate curriculum unit "on the same basis" as their peers, supported by reasonable adjustments.

This workshop is suitable for P-12 classroom teachers, HOSES, Inclusion teachers, Learning Support teachers, and curriculum leaders.

The workshop will be run by Dr Carly Lassig (DSQ's Lead Education Consultant and Senior Lecturer at Queensland University of Technology), and the DSQ Education Team, who have extensive and varied teaching experience in mainstream and special schools.

Places are limited and registration closes on the 23rd of February, so get in quick! We hope to see you there.

Written by Carly Lassig, Lead Education Consultant

Join the Possibility Pathways Program

PROGRAMS

Enrolments for our Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative, Possibility Pathways Program, is currently open and we are looking for people to join our second cohort for 2024!

This 8-week program aims to support young people with an intellectual disability to prepare for sustainable mainstream employment and beyond. Through engagement in our program, we believe that students will develop the fundamental skills to pursue their career aspirations and increase their likelihood of transitioning to further training and employment or improved job roles.

The program includes components of foundation skills such as reading, writing, oral communication and numeracy. Foundational skills are embedded into a curriculum of topics critical for and tailored to this priority group of people with intellectual disability, and responsive to the barriers they face to employment and other pathways.

The next cohort will begin on Monday 29th April until Tuesday 18th June 2024.

Program Details:

- Days: Mondays and Tuesdays*
- Times: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Location: DSQ Ascot Office – 77 Kitchener Rd, Ascot
- Cost: There is no cost to participate in this program

**Please note that attendance on both days is required.*

We are eager to welcome you to our program and support you every step of the way.

If you are interested in this program, please complete the expression of interest form below. Feel free to contact us with any questions or for further information via 07 3356 6655 or email office@downsyndromeqld.org.au.

BECOME A MEMBER



Down Syndrome
Queensland