



Information Service
South Australia



WDS at Government House

DSWA CEO Update

Congratulations to the SA team – Jennifer and Louise are doing some amazing work reconnecting with families and offering family support and starting our employment journey in SA. The WA team love working with them both and we are all so pleased to see such fantastic growth in the membership and the activities that have been coordinated. We are still in the early days of reconnecting members and working toward the new association.

Recently we had an issue with the old SA phone number. This is now rectified and we are pleased we have a new permanent number for InfoSA.



Contact us

0466 076 895

WA is running the Lifeskills Lab Forum event on 7 June. We have just learned that this is a public holiday and apologise for that oversight, we do hope some of you will still be able to join one or many of the sessions at this first forum event.

Book your free tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/DAZIW>

FREE

Life Skills Lab Forum

Why Attend?



Learn Essential Life Skills

Develop communication, problem solving, financial literacy, and more



Engage in Real Conversations

Share experiences, ask questions, and get advice from peers and mentors



Get Ready for the Future

Gain skills to face life with independence and resilience



Saturday, 7 June 2025



**Belmont Hub/
Online via Zoom**



**Open to Adults
with Down
Syndrome,
Parents & Support
Workers**



Scan to register

Next week, will be the final stages of the first draft of the Draft Constitution for the new association. This will be reviewed by DSA and then by the members of the SA working group.

As a team here in WA, we are so pleased to be supporting the SA community and doing what we can to assist. We are delighted to have Louise and Jennifer as part of our team and are so grateful for the support from the community.

Cassandra Hughes
CEO, Down Syndrome WA

South Australia Membership

The South Australian Membership is growing.!

In January 2024 we had 340 members, this has increased to 507 members in May 2025.

Have you joined? If not, sign up for free at <https://forms.office.com/r/tBiBjDZQgY>
You'll receive our email updates and can join the private Family Support Facebook group.

Family Support Update

What a busy month!

How incredible was our World Down Syndrome Day event at Government House with the Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia! It was our first coming together as a South Australian Down Syndrome Community in quite some time and what a special day it was. All going to plan, this will become something we can look forward to each year into the future.

I hosted our first 'Mum's Dinner' where anyone from our community was invited to attend. I loved the opportunity to learn from others a footstep (or more!) ahead of us in the DS life journey.

I was wonderful to see many new faces and meet people face-to-face who have only previously connected through social media. I enjoyed the coming together, sharing of stories- good, bad and otherwise, the opportunity to ask questions and the connections gained. I



feel there is no greater source of knowledge available to us than those who have walked similar paths in recent times.

I hope to be able to offer many more of these into the future so more can experience the love and companionship of our extended South Australian Down Syndrome family network. Keep a look out for the next invitation!

We now have our South Australian Down Syndrome Family Network – Information Services SA page up and active and the response so far has been positive.

It has been created as a safe place for people with Down Syndrome and their families to share information, ask questions and keep up to date with happenings from within our South Australian Down Syndrome Community.

If you're not already a member, please use the link below to join us. You will be asked a series of questions upon your request to join to ensure the group remains a safe space for people and families in South Australia only.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1AJzW3K8cG/>



As we continue to grow and strengthen our community, I'd love your support in spreading the word. Whether it's sharing information, welcoming new members, contributing advice, or simply reflecting on what our South Australian Down Syndrome community means to you, every bit of engagement counts. Your involvement will help us build a stronger, more connected network.

I'm always open to hearing your thoughts and ideas, and I'm here to assist wherever I can. Together, we can ensure our community continues to thrive.

Jennifer McCullough
jennifer@downsyndrome.org.au



Jennifer McCullough

Family Support Coordinator

Available Thursday & Friday



jennifer@downsyndrome.org.au



0467 818 424



www.downsyndrome.org.au/sa

Services and support provided:

- Prenatal and postnatal support
- Family and community support and connections
- Educational support for families
- Educational support for school, preschool, childcare settings
- Awareness and Down Syndrome education for groups, organisations and workplaces
- General assistance, support and advice
- Other needs as they arise for our families, community and people with Down Syndrome - just ask!



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Employment Update

The past couple of months have seen some terrific opportunities for our South Australian Down syndrome community to come together to connect and engage. Most recently around 150 people gathered on the lawns of Government House on a sensational Saturday morning to share morning tea with Her Excellency The Governor of South Australia France Adamson AC. The Morning Tea provided an opportunity for families to reunite in a fun way to celebrate 'World Down syndrome Day' 2025. It was fabulous to see people of all ages attending supported by their families and support networks.

The Governor welcomed everyone with a short speech and spent time greeting families throughout the morning. The Governor spoke about the fact that this is a really exciting time in South Australia as we look to reform a community-based association to offer opportunities to our community. This was tremendous affirmation as the association will aim to help form partnerships within our community, to support and influence social and policy change, to support a life of possibilities and to enable individuals living with Down syndrome to have a voice.

The theme for World Down Syndrome Day 2025 was "No Decision Without Us" Inclusion will never be possible if the decisions that shape the world are made by only a few, for a few. From having a say in everyday personal choices to being involved in writing laws and policies, people with disabilities demand a seat at the table where the decisions are made so that everyone's opinion is heard and the world is finally all for all.

The appointment of myself and Family Support Officer Jennifer McCullough to support the South Australian community to reconnect and to provide opportunities to empower individuals and their families and support networks to live their best lives is exciting. Jennifer and I are working to do this through family support, networking and employment opportunities and training. It is our aim to be visible within the community and to change attitudes , perspectives and perceptions. We look forward to creating a safe inclusive 'space' where our community belongs and can provide support for each other and show the world what is possible.

On March 21st 13 young adults and their support crews were treated to a Pamper Morning at Hair Care Adelaide sponsored by the Gauvin Group. It was a fabulous morning where participants (and their Carers) had their hair washed, styled, coloured, curled and cut! We were treated to a delicious morning tea and got to meet some incredible people who all donated their time so that our group could enjoy a morning of luxury! What way to celebrate WDSD and to make new friends!



Excitedly the Fiona McBurney Match Day Experience has recommenced in South Australia in collaboration with the AFL and SANFL Umpires Association. Michael Hodyl was recently the Umpires assistant at the Port Adelaide Vs St Kilda match which he absolutely loved as Port Adelaide's self-professed biggest fan!!! We have three more participants who will enjoy the experience at Adelaide Oval in the near future. We are hoping to expand this program next season!



Thank you to all those who completed our employment survey. We hope to soon be offering some opportunities to participate in our Discovery and Ready for Work programmes here in SA - more information to follow. We are also working together with SACID (South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability) to provide a collaborative 'I Can Work ' workshop and other educational sessions.

Employment Opportunities

We have several employment opportunities available at the moment. Please contact me (Louise) on: louise@downsyndrome.org.au should you have any questions or queries about any of the information below.

The Down Syndrome Advisory Network (DSAN) are looking for a South Australian Representative to represent the SA community

The DSAN provides direct advice to the Down Syndrome Australia Board. DSAN makes sure that Down Syndrome Australia receives direct input from Australians with Down syndrome on issues that affect them.

Have a look at the You tube link (<https://youtu.be/NxSREhLq-sk?si=53tt2ANAsmcv4kBM>) to see some of the fabulous work that our DSAN members are doing!

If you are interested in:

- Advocacy
- Having a voice for your community
- Making a difference
- Changing attitudes
- Developing your leadership skills

We would like to hear from you!

The role is for a South Australian community member who has Down syndrome and is over the age of 18. Applications will be via a short video.

If you think you might be interested in applying for this paid position or know someone who would be please email me at: Louise@downsyndrome.org.au for more information (easy read available) - applications close 29 May 25.

SACID

Did you know that SACID (South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability) has several Advocacy positions available for people with intellectual disability at the moment around Employment. and consultation about being on a Board. This is paid employment, If you are interested or know someone that might be contact Project Officer Aaron Byrne email - aaron@sacid.org.au

Consultation on the Draft State disability Inclusion Plan 2025 - 2029

The draft State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025 – 2029 (the State Plan) is now available for consultation. The new draft State Plan provides a dedicated whole-of-government approach to create a fairer and more inclusive South Australia and community members are invited to provide feedback by:

- Completing the YourSAY online survey at <https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/draft-state-disability-inclusion-plan>
- Completing and submitting the downloadable survey to dhsdisabilityinclusion@sa.gov.au; or
- Sending a written, audio, visual, or video submission to dhsdisabilityinclusion@sa.gov.au.

Feedback Groups

We're looking for individuals, families and people with lived experience to meet to provide feedback and to shape the new State Disability Inclusion Plan". We are also looking to gather a small group that would like to share feedback with the South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability (SACID) about Advocacy for Intellectual Disability Health.

These are opportunities for our community to have a say and to share our voice about things that are important to us and our loved ones. Please contact me on louise@downsyndrome.org.au if you would like to be a part of this consultation.

Work In the WA Office

While in Western Australia recently I was fortunate to be able to work alongside the Down Syndrome WA team. It was fabulous to meet everyone and to spend time with some of the team who provided invaluable mentorship. Jennifer and I are most grateful for the support that the DSWA team provide for us in SA each week.

Louise Taheny
SA Employment Connector
infos@downsyndrome.org.au



Louise Taheny

Employment Coordinator

Available Thursday & Friday



louise@downsyndrome.org.au



0467 818 424



www.downsyndrome.org.au/sa

Services and support provided:

- Employment, engagement and facilitation of training programs and opportunities for open employment for people with Down Syndrome in South Australia.
- Connection and engagement within the South Australian community.
- Other needs as they arise for our community, families and people with Down Syndrome in South Australia - just ask!



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Thanks for reading!



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