

Latest News from Down Syndrome WA

# Newsletter 2 December 2021



Hello DSWA members! We said goodbye too quickly in the last issue. There was so much activity in November we had to keep our members updated.

There is important news from our CEO, Cassandra Hughes, details about event registration changes, the final tally for Step UP!, an Employment Connections event story and much more. Read all about it!

As usual, there is loads of good news, creative ideas for the festive season, and as usual photos of our amazing kids and community.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

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# What is happening at the Association?

## CEO's Corner



November has been a busy month for the whole team finalising our big October events, commencing activity planning for 2022, preparing for the Aim High Getaway, and working diligently on the employment project.

The Health App is almost ready for launch with just a couple of final tweaks and it will be ready for release. This will be a soft release, with a formal launch of the App in early 2022.

We have had several important compliance issues to work on, the most important being to ensure that all Staff and Volunteers of DSWA have received their first COVID vaccination by 1 December. We are progressing very well and are just waiting on a few volunteers to confirm their status. As an organisation we will be ready by the 1 December deadline. I do wish to acknowledge all staff and volunteers that have provided information quickly, and those who have received the vaccination in recent weeks. As of 1 December anyone without their first COVID vaccination is not permitted to work or volunteer for our organisation. This is a federal mandate and carries heavy fines if we were found to be non-compliant. And finally, we are gradually improving processes for the staff too, by introducing efficiencies such as electronic timecards and the use of Microsoft teams for easy and quick access to each other.

As CEO I have been fortunate to attend a couple of industry events in November which provided some very valuable information and networking. I also attended the Margaret River Heart Event – see more in the article below. Thank you for the support and assistance I have received from members, the board and staff. It has been a wonderful first 8 weeks. As we go forward, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns, ideas or suggestions.

***Cassandra***

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## Event Registration Changes

Going forward all DSWA activities (with the exception of Getaways) will be booked through the online service TryBooking. Both free and paid events, activities and programs will require all families to register through TryBooking. This will significantly improve our service to you, improving the ease of payment and confirmation of your booking. It will also reduce time spent on administrative tasks such as compiling registration lists and processing of your payments. Your program coordinators will be able to assist you should you have any difficulty registering for your event. Each time we have an event, a link will be sent to you for registration.



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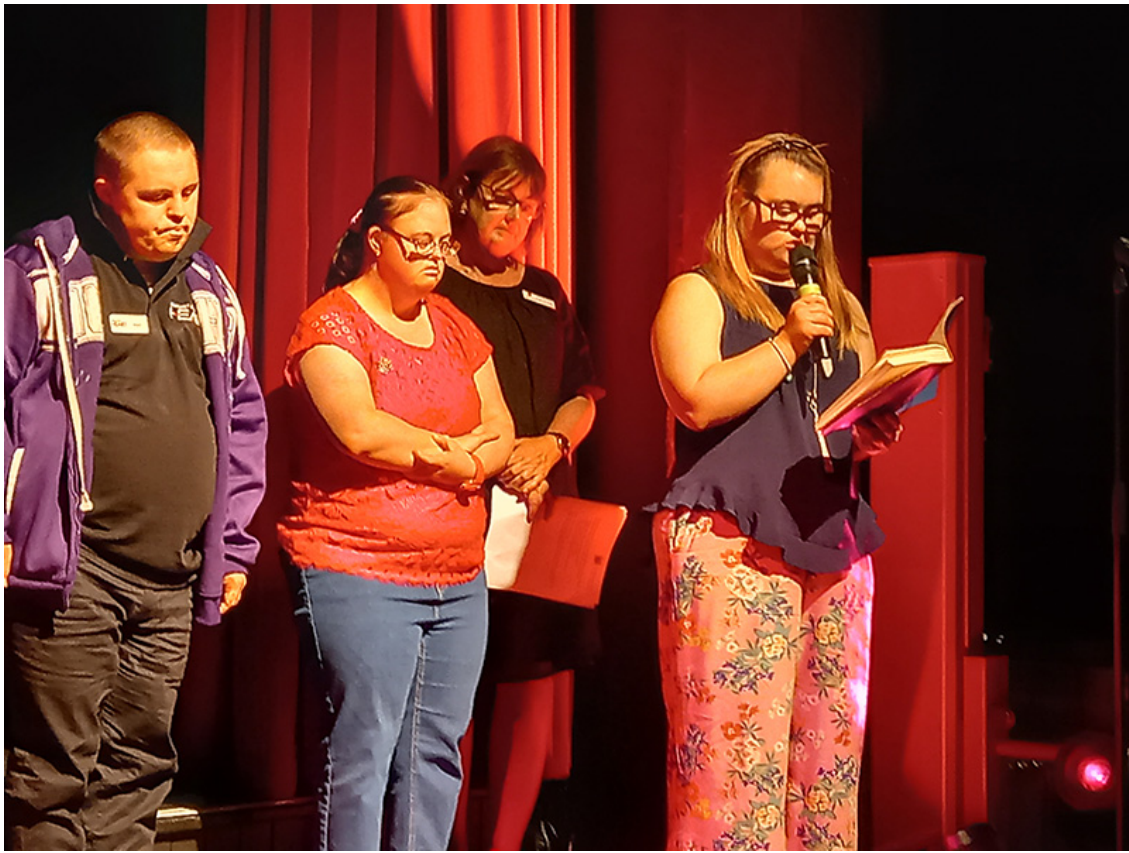
[start fundraising](#)

\* Credit card transaction fees apply.

## Donations just became easier

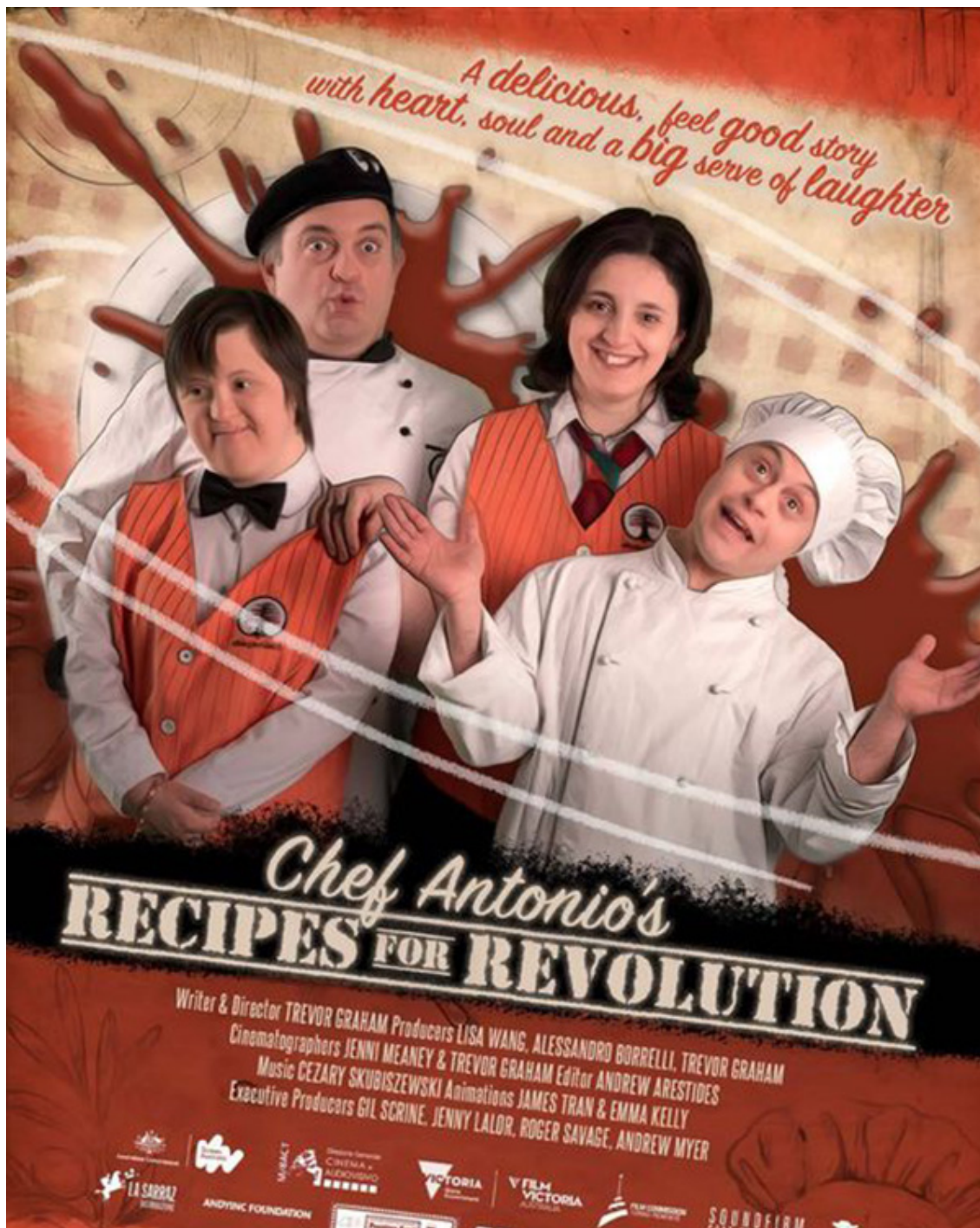
In conjunction with the other state and Territory associations WA will commence using MyCause as the portal for all donations and fundraising. This portal is very customisable for a range of fundraising activities including member fundraising that can all be done through the site. MyCause will make donating to the association much easier and will significantly improve our fundraising capacity. MyCause will be implemented in early 2022 and will be accessible through the DSWA Website. Contact us for more information.

## Employment Connections



On Friday 26 November, 2 members of our Employment Connections group spoke at the premier of the movie Chef Antonio's Recipe Revolution in Margaret River. Rachel Parker from Perth who works for a Dentist and Claire Robinson from Busselton works for Abbey Beach Resort, spoke beautifully to an audience of 60 people and shared their stories about how valuable it is to be working in open employment and what it means to them. This was also a wonderful opportunity to reach out into the South West region, having the opportunity to meet families new and old alike. We are very grateful to Margaret River Heart for the invitation to attend the screening of the film which is a touching documentary about one man's commitment to providing employment for people with Down Syndrome. Chef Antonio now has restaurants across the world, including one in Sydney! At the event we also met the lovely Matt, who you can see in our pictures. Matt is an Usher at the cinema and helps out every Monday as well.

DSWA Chair Kathryn Salt introduced the evening with the Hiring Chain Video, and then went on to introduce the DSWA Employment video produced earlier this year. Kathryn provided a great presentation on the value of open employment to our members. If you haven't seen this video checkout our website <https://youtu.be/xRZRILy0BRU>. Thank you to Kathryn, Rachel, Claire and Cassandra for travelling to Margaret River to attend this event.



If you haven't seen it yet, check out the trailer of the movie on the DSWA Facebook page. <https://fb.watch/9uGg-uS5ar>



[Watch official trailer on Vimeo](#)

## All things NDIS



REGISTERED  
NDIS  
PROVIDER

### New Service Agreements

In early 2022, we will be sending new Service Agreements to all families with NDIS plans. These are a generalised service agreement listing all services we provide, with a statement "as requested and booked". The service agreements will be accompanied by a scheduled of supports which will give you a clear idea of the charges to the NDIS line items in your plan. This new service agreement means you will only get one service agreement per year. It will be accompanied by an Annual Participant Details form to complete details about the participant. Again, we will only require that once per annum.

General events will have registration details on TryBooking, larger or complex events, such as Getaways, will require you to complete a registration form. We have trialed this with the 10 participants who recently went on the Getaway and it seemed to work quite well. We anticipate that the new agreements will be a fillable form, saving all that printing and scanning. We hope this will make it much easier for you.

To ensure that DSWA is NDIS compliant, it is imperative all participants have a current service agreement, and we have details of your participants on file. These new forms will be emailed in

the first week of January and will be required to be returned by 24 January. This will assist to ensure we are compliant with DSWA's first NDIS audit in February which requires all of this information to be in place and up to date.



## Support Coordination starting in 2022

DSWA will be commencing Support Coordination in 2022 on a part time basis. We hope this will grow organically over time. The Support Coordinator has been chosen and we will announce the new person in the December issue. As the demand grows, we will employ further support coordinators to meet demand. This is an important service to our members and one we have had several requests for.

If you are interested in Support Coordination for your family please contact our CEO, Cassandra Hughes – [ceo@downsyndromewa.org.au](mailto:ceo@downsyndromewa.org.au) to register your interest.



## Vacancies

Would you like to be part of the awesome team that makes our events and activities a possibility? We have a few opportunities coming up that You might be interested in.

From our CEO, "I would like to acknowledge Anabelle May whose contract comes to an end in November. Anabelle has provided outstanding outcomes for our members and their families, co-facilitating, coaching, and mentoring to provide the workshops this year. Anabelle has been a wonderful assistance to our families and has guided the project so well. Thank you, Anabelle. I would also like to acknowledge Jibu Mammen who is DSWA's Employment Coordinator. Jibu has also achieved outstanding results for our participants, placing several people into the workplace and making valuable connections with employers. Jibu has recently resigned and will finish at the end of December. We are so grateful to both Anabelle and Jibu for their wonderful contribution to DSWA, they will both be missed".

## Check out these great opportunities

**Kids Club Coordinator** – if you love the 5-12 age group, you will love coordinating activities for this amazing group of children and parents. – You'll have a blast (Casual 8hrs per month)

**Employment Mentors** – how would you like to support one of our new employees in their role, helping them learn and assimilate into their new role – coaching and mentoring at its most



rewarding (Casual)

**Project Coordinator** – for the Information for Life project. A very cool project co-facilitating workshops with our young people and with members to share vital information from and for our community. (12 month contract)

**Employment Connections Coordinator** – working with Businesses and our members to carve out the perfect job in open employment – you should see those smiles! (6 month contract)

For more information send Cassandra, our new CEO an email for the position description and details of the role. [ceo@downsyndromewa.org.au](mailto:ceo@downsyndromewa.org.au)

DSWA is a great place to work, with a great team, and an awesome community to provide services to. Don't miss out on a chance to be involved!



## Busselton Getaway

10 members attended the Busselton Getaway on the weekend. They had an action-packed itinerary travelling around the region participating in a range of social and adventure activities including a Cave tour, Bootleg Brewery, Discover Deadly and the Train and Underwater Observatory at Busselton Jetty. The weekend started by meeting at DSWA on Friday at 9.45am and travelling to Busselton where they had great accommodation at the Esplanade Hotel. The group returned to Perth at 5.15pm on Sunday. It was a full and fun weekend for all.

A big thank you to all participants who made this such a great event and to Suzanna, Lakeiya, Joe, Matthew and Ryan for their awesome coordination and support making the Getaway possible.

[View more photos](#)

## Social Connection

## DSWA Playgroups

Our playgroups are a fantastic place to enjoy time with other parents and children. If you have a child with Down syndrome 0-5 we would love for you to join us.



## Perth Metro Playgroup

Perth Metro Playgroup has settled into our new home, the Colin Moore Community Centre. 724 North Beach Road Gwelup.

We were recently joined by Kate and Rachel from Sensorium Theatre for a sensory rhyme time, "Here is the Sea". We had a huge group with 21 kids attending the day, enjoying the music, signing and interactive rhymes.

## South Metro Playgroup

Runs every Monday, 9.30am-11.30am, Warnbro Community and Family Centre. 1 Moreton Cres Warnbro.



**Christmas is almost here**



In December, we have our Christmas picnics to look forward to. Aim High and Friends for Life join forces, whilst the Playgroup and KidsClub families will enjoy celebrating together.

Book your place on Trybooking for your Christmas party.

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**Aim High Club**

## ***New AIM High Program starting in January***

Join us for this four-week program starting on Thursday 20 January. This program will be all about healthy cooking and lifestyle, exercise and fun. More information will be available next week, but for now – Save the Dates. Jan 20, Jan 27, Feb 3 and Feb 10. It is a four-week program, designed to attend all days. Discover what a healthy day looks like with Suzanna and the crew!

The program will be held at Reabold Tennis Club Floreat. 10am - 4pm. The approximate cost is \$1600 for the full four weeks. This will be confirmed as we finalise all the details.



### **SAVE THESE DATES..... Aim High**

We have started working on planning for 2022 – here are some dates to save!

Aim High – Save the Dates

- Aim High - Health and Fun workshop – Jan 20 for four weeks.
- Aim High - Getaways – 25-27 March, 10-12 June, 2-4 September and 25-27 November
- Aim High - New!! In 2022 we are introducing Mid-Week Getaways 4 May, 27 July and 12 October

Members Save the Date

- The Annual Gala Dinner will be held on 20 August.

In December we will publish the first 2022 events calendar to help you all with planning your year. What until you see what our fabulous team and new fundraising sub committee has in store for 2022.

## **Some of our team show off their talents!**

Check out this fantastic Super Fins production which has an all star cast from DSWA. The cast includes Aim High Coordinator Suzanna and DSWA members including Alana Giglia, Caroline Crawford, Anna Gray, Joe Salt, Andrew Domahidy, Gabby and Michaela.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=831370&>



You are ALL in for a treat!

This fun filled production, starring Superfins swimmers, coaches and some brave parents, will be performed at:

Churchlands High School Concert Hall—20 Lucca Street Churchlands

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021

6.45pm to 8.15pm

Adults \$20 and children/concession \$12

Buy your tickets **NOW!!!** Tickets will sell fast so don't miss out!!! Control/click on the link below

<https://www.trybooking.com/BVHVU>

Venue is wheelchair accessible

Email: [enquiry@superfins.org](mailto:enquiry@superfins.org)

## A SUPERFINS PANTOMIME TROUBLE AFOOT



## StepUP! #21YourWay



### StepUP! #21YourWay was held on the 24th of October.

It was a gorgeous spring day, with the sun shining and barely a cloud in the sky. 330 of our members and community joined us on the day. Infinite Limits dance group ran an upbeat warm up with the crowd joining in. Wasamba, Fremantle festival drummers, started off the walk with a festive vibe. Participants walked along the South Perth foreshore and were greeted at the finish line by the Perth's Allied Customer characters for high 5's and photos.

Everyone then enjoyed the free rides and attractions and tucked into the sausage sizzle, food vans, coffee and icecreams. This year we were entertained by a 'DSWA's Got Talent' on the Radio Lollipop Roadshow stage. Members came up to the stage, to show off their singing and dancing while the crowd cheered on. It was a really great way to celebrate the participants who were there on the day.

We want to say a big Thank You to everyone who fundraised for this event. \$21,500 was raised prior to the event and on the day for DSWA. The costs to provide rides and activities for the day

were \$8450 which means that the \$13,000 will go back into the association, so we can continue to deliver our programs and services to our members.

[View more photos](#)

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## Creative Corner

### Accordion Christmas Trees



All kids need is five minutes to make this super-simple Christmas tree craft. Fold green craft paper accordion style, and then deck it with colorful paper cutouts as ornaments — and don't forget the star on top.

[Further instruction](#)

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*Stay well everyone and please contact us if you have any questions.  
We are here to support, inform and connect our Down syndrome Community.*

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