

Community Living Association Inc.



Annual Report 2015

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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Community Living Association Inc would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work. We acknowledge the Turrbal people of the north of Brisbane, the Juggera of the south and other traditional groups in the surrounding areas.

We acknowledge all of our ancestors, Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and non-indigenous, past and present, for shaping who we are and guiding us into the future. We welcome you to the community we share. We acknowledge this country as a 3 flag nation.



History of the Turrbal People

The Turrbal people are the self-identified traditional custodians of the North Brisbane area and linguistically relate to a poly-block of languages - the Yuggerra (European translated Yuggerra) and Gubbi-Gubbi dialect - which is spoken as far inland as Moggill, North to the Pine River and South to Logan (Steel, 1983, p. 121). An Indigenous people's language belongs to country and creates traditional lore, custom and the country from which it originates, i.e. flora and fauna species. The 'TURR' in Turrbal is translated as 'NO' whereas 'BAL' describes an Indigenous peoples place marker. Central to an Indigenous people's name and linguistic grouping is the root that is an indicator of one's immediate family and their familial reproduction under this name. Underlying this immediate connection is the kinship net-work that connects a people to country. This connection is directly descended from the mother's side, hence the Indigenous expression, "*skin of my country*". (Dr. Peter Whalley, Interview. March 19, 2010. Senior Lecturer QUT Oodgeroo Unit).

Nundah was originally pronounced in the language Yuggerra as both Nyanda and Nandah meaning 'chain of water holes' (Steel, 1983, p. 129). This definition stands in relation to a major Indigenous pathway that was effectively used as a coastal trade route, a site for Corroborres and a meeting spot for various Indigenous groups who travelled North and South along the Coast, as well as for those Indigenous peoples travelling inland (Steel, 1983, pp.123-131).

Post-colonial Nundah was initially named Zion Hill in relation to the presence of the German Moravian Missionaries (who later relocated to the Bunya Mountains) to which local Indigenous Tribes referred to as 'Umpie Daggur' (houses of white men); Zion Hill was later renamed The German Station but was officially re-named Nundah during the 1890's reflecting both local Indigenous historical interest and the connection to Turrbal country.

Pre-colonisation (Steel, 1983, pp. 123-126) there were a large number of Bora Rings or Bools located within the Nundah area; this indicated that a dense Indigenous population were present on country. Bora Rings are traditional initiation sites where young Indigenous men are welcomed into manhood through customary ceremonious rituals such as circumcision, scarification, the learning of sacred song, stories, dance and traditional law. Indigenous people are not homogenous groups but consist of separate nations all encompassing differing languages, traditions, lore and symbology. Therefore Bora Ring ceremonies are conducted in a variety of ways reflecting a particular Indigenous group (Family Representative Committee, 2006, pp. 4-6). Indigenous groups were distinguished from one another by the directions of the incisions (scarification) that were made upon the breasts and arms during initiation ceremonies i.e. the Turrbal people were differentiated by a fleshy protuberance made upon the wrist by continually casting fishing nets (Dr. Peter Whalley, Interview. April, 17, 2010. Senior Lecturer QUT Oodgeroo Unit) and also displayed chest scars which were arranged in vertical patterns with scarring added to the shoulders of males at the time of a Bora Ring ceremony (Steel, 1982, p. 126). The Turrbal people were known to have participated in Bora Ring ceremonies at Nudgee, Keperra, and Samford neighbouring the Garumngar people. The Bora Ring at Keperra lent itself to the suburbs name as 'Kipper' means young man in Turrbal.

Bora Rings still presently exist in Brisbane and can be located at Toorbul Point, Samford, Samsonvale and Mount Esk Pocket (Petrie, 1902, p. 55).

The Turrbal people displayed a continuous connection to country in the Nundah area. The Duke of Yorks camp, that self-identified themselves as Turrbal people, was located in Yorks Hollow which at the time was a gully that passed through Victoria Park and the Royal National Association Showgrounds (RNA). This Indigenous campsite was traditionally known as Barrambin. Another two known Turrbal campsites were located at Toowong and was called 'Baneraba' and Newmarket known as 'Buyuba' meaning 'shin and "[referred] to the straight reach of Enoggera Creek in the vicinity of Bancroft Park" (Steel, 1982, pp. 124 – 125). The Turrbal people of Barrambin, Baneraba and Buyuba were Riverine people and consisted of between fifty to sixty men who utilized a wide array of local resources that were located upon country. Indigenous groups that subsisted along coastal inlets were recorded as having high population densities due to the availability of marine resources producing a picture of "a stable and well developed coastal settlement patterns" pre-colonisation (Whalley, 1987, pp. 19-24)

** CLA has compiled this history as part of its commitment to Reconciliation processes in Australia. We recognise that much of the material is sources from European records and may contain inaccuracies.*

**CLA continues its support of Reconciliation by supporting annual Sorry Day activities with Noonga Reconciliation Group.*

CLA's History

Community Living Program (CLP) was established in 1987 as part of the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (CRS). The program, which was attached to the Taringa Rehabilitation Centre, was to support young people with an intellectual/learning disability towards independence. In 1987 the program was moved to the Spring Hill regional unit, its first community-based setting.

People with an interest in the program (Friends of CLP) became concerned when the CRS decided to cut back CLP's resources, and decided to seek funding under the new Disability Services Act (1986). Funds were granted in 1989 for a research and development project. The Friends of CLP incorporated as the Community Living Program Inc. on the 23rd of June 1989. On the 20th January 1995, CLP changed its name to Community Living Association Inc (CLA) when it began to sponsor a range of other projects.

CLA now manages:

- Community Living Program
- ARROS
- Community Connections
- Community Projects Team
(Co-ordinating NCEC, The Shed, Volunteers and other Projects)
- Village Housing
- Research work
- CLA Student Unit and
- CLA Brokerage Arm

Our Purpose

Community Living Association (Inc.) aims to:

- To contribute to the relief of poverty, sickness and other misfortune and to the promotion of the well being of individuals, groups or communities who are disadvantaged and vulnerable either socially, physically, intellectually or emotionally (hereinafter called social welfare); in particular those people who experience a learning (intellectual) disability.
- To undertake, or carry out any other benevolent work or purpose.
- To promote, establish carry out and support and to assist in promoting, establishing, carrying out and supporting any social welfare program designed to contribute to the alleviation of poverty, sickness or other misfortune including those undertaken by Statutory Authorities, voluntary Welfare Organisations and other community groups.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to determine and achieve what is important to them.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to stand up for themselves, individually and collectively in the community and to have their say in representing their interests, issues and needs to all sectors of the community and government.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to improve the social and economic conditions of their lives, for example: income, housing, health, transport, sporting, recreational, artistic etc.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to develop a safe and secure life in the community.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' to develop their family, friend, partner and community relationships and connections.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' achieve a state of good psychological and physical well being.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' achieve a sense of personal potency and of personal meaning.
- To assist people with 'learning difficulty' achieve a sense of meaningful use of time for example; employment, community service etc.

- To collaborate with other organisation's in the achievement of C.L.A.'s objectives.
- To document and record C.L.A.'s work and endeavours.
- To identify and initiate creative responses to the needs and issues of people with 'learning difficulty'.
- To assist community members build better communities through the inclusion of people with learning difficulties.
- To assist families in their commitment to family members with a learning difficulty.
- To support young people and their families where those young people are at risk of homelessness, or early school leaving or other social disadvantage that could lead to poverty, sickness or other misfortune.

Mission Statement

CLA Inc. will seek to carry out its' objectives in ways that are:

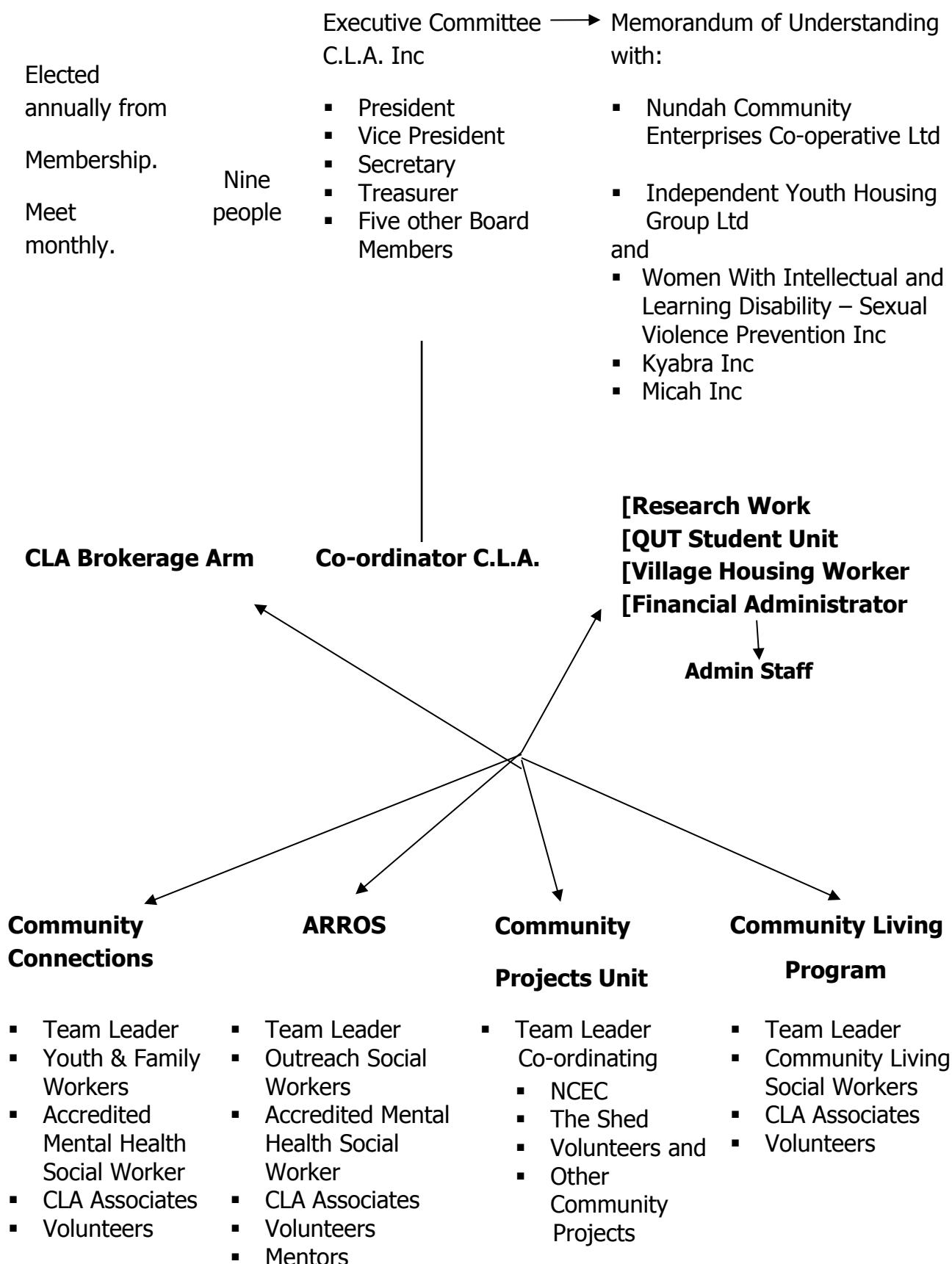
- Respectful, kind and encourage one's own control;
- Flexible, innovative and responsive, leading and giving hope;
- Diverse, fun and address the whole self;
- Written down and shared with others;
- Well-resourced and heading toward self-sufficiency;
- Co-operative and collaborative and value all opinions;
- Seek feedback and question deficiencies; and
- Challenge society and change it, acting politically.
- Stable, keeping core values and vitality

CLA's Funding Partners

Grants	Funded By
Community Living Program	Dept of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Service (QLD)
ARROS: Individual Funding Packages	Dept of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Service (QLD)
ARROS: Transitions Funding	Dept of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Service (QLD)
Community Connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Connections (Ending December 2014) 	Dept of Education, Employment / Workplace Relations (QLDI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brisbane Emergency Response Outreach Service 	Dept of Community, Child Safety and Disability Service (QLD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconnect 	Dept of Social Service (Federal)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Welfare Workers 	Dept of Education and Training (QLD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Grants 	Lord Mayor Suburban Initiative/ Mental Health Commission/Gaming Machine Grants/Brisbane City Council
CLA Inc. Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village Housing (LTCHP) 	Dept of Housing (QLD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program Unit (CAP Headlease) 	Dept of Housing (QLD)

ORGANISATIONAL CHART

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF C.L.A. (INC)



President's Report

Dear members and friends of CLA,

Community Living Association's vision is to build community that includes all its members. Our particular focus is supporting people with intellectual disabilities and their families; and supporting young people at risk and their families.

CLA's mission states that we will do this in certain ways and I have written the 2015 President's Report as a report card on how we are doing. I encourage each of you to share examples of whether we are working in these ways, and to challenge us if we are not.

CLA commits to being respectful, kind and encouraging one's own control.

CLA commits to being respectful and to kindness. Over the past year CLA staff have continued to bring respect and kindness to their work with constituents, young people, families and community members. CLA staff have continued to work for respect and kindness in the lives of constituents and young people by valuing people's gifts and talents and supporting them to express these; by supporting people to be included as valued members of their relationships and community; and by challenging exploitation in relationships and community. When people have issues with each other we support them to work them out. When people have issues with us we listen and try to respect as best as we can.

CLA is steadfastly committed to continuing to encourage the role of constituents in governance, as peer educators, as self-advocates. This year CLA has continued with efforts to encourage constituents' voice and to encourage control. We continue to have three constituent Board members, we continue to support IYHG housing and NCEC workers' co-op organisations which are fully or partially governed by constituents and which assist people to service their own needs. There have been many occasions in which we have supported constituents to act as peer educators, as speakers at University classes, PaperBag Lunches, the QLD Roundtable for Intellectual Disability, a variety of forums and educational events. Jenifur Charne has travelled to ACT to share the IYHG story, Danny Thomas is travelling to

Melbourne to speak at the Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability (ASID) Conference, and Paul O'Dea is one of CLA's nominated representatives to ASID as part of our membership of ASID.

CLA commits to being flexible, innovative and responsive; to providing leadership; and to giving hope.

Over the past year, CLA has continued to develop and deliver innovative responses to improve the well-being of our members and community:

- In conjunction with WWILD-SVP we are developing a Mental Health Recovery Group model for people with intellectual disabilities. CLA is also partnering with WWILD-SVP to develop training around mental health and intellectual disability. We will invite people with intellectual disability to be peer educators in both of these projects.
- We have collaborated with Kyabra Community Association and Micah Projects to develop an Emergency Outreach Program for young people in the care of Child Safety who are self-placing away from foster and residential care placements.
- We are also jointly involved with Micah in a project addressing disability and domestic violence. We will collaborate with WWILD on this project and will engage constituents as peer educators.
- CLA has been successful in obtaining Skilling Queenslanders for Work funds for projects where we will co-operate with NCEC.
- We congratulate NCEC on their project with Multicultural Development Association (MDA) where a number of constituent workers with NCEC helped train a group of Bhutanese refugees in garden maintenance.
- Congratulations also to Radio Ability Group who we supported to introduce constituents to radio announcing.

CLA commits to being diverse, fun and addressing whole self.

CLA has worked hard to have a lot of fun this year. We even have photos to prove it!! Lots of fun was had at a range of activities and events, including:

- The Micah Ball (see the pictures);

- The Bridge to Brisbane (Congratulation to Caroline Harbottle and Natalie Sprott for assembling a fun team!)
- The Bush Dance was fun (see pictures)
- The Adventure Holiday, Walking Group, Ability Radio have all been fun
- Part of this AGM is to have fun!

CLA commits to writing down what we know and sharing our knowledge with others.

CLA continues to be involved in research, writing, and publication. We are jointly engaged with the University of New South Wales and Queensland University of Technology in a research project on young people in transition. We are involved in developing mental health and intellectual disability training material. ARROS are currently developing case studies about their work and will present these at a forum later in the year. CLA constituents and workers have spoken and shared their knowledge and experience at many events, including QLD roundtable, paper bag lunch, volunteer training, QUT University, Business Council for Cooperatives, the School Re-engagement Forum and the YANQ Conference (Hidden Disabilities).

CLA commits to being well-resourced and working towards self-sufficiency.

CLA has worked hard to support resourcing of constituent organisations, including IYHG, Village Housing, and NCEC. We make sure workers are resourced, and we make sure we meet our financial obligations. In no way are we self-sufficient yet and over the next years there is no doubt CLA will be financially challenged as we transition to the NDIS.

CLA commits to working co-operatively, collaboratively and valuing all opinions.

As outlined, CLA has engaged in a number of collaborations and over the last year these have grown to become more formalised, including MoUs with WWILD SVPP, NCEC, IYHG, Kyabra and Micah.

CLA commits to political action to challenge society and change it.

Over the past year CLA has made a number of representations to Government and private industry on behalf of individual constituents; people with intellectual disability more generally; and young people at risk. CLA presented at NSW Council for Intellectual Disability forum, and we have again been a leader in organising the Intellectual Disability Roundtable. Later this year will hold a forum with Micah on the NDIA and people with intellectual disabilities on society's fringe. ARROS will present on their work at this event.

CLA commits to stability, maintaining core values and vitality.

At a time of great change in society and social welfare, CLA has maintained considerable stability in operation. CLA continues to retain staff longer than most organisations. Most importantly we have worked hard to maintain our core values of;

- Respect
- Kindness
- Challenging exploitation
- Seeking inclusion
- Seeking to have everyone's gifts recognised
- Seeking that people have the resources they need
- Supporting people's choice
- Supporting people's control

How are we measuring up?

The AGM is a time we come together as the CLA community. As well as being a time to report on CLA's work to the organisation's members, today provides an opportunity for you to give your feedback on how we are measuring up to the CLA mission and values.

This year, I would specifically like to hear how we are measuring up on our commit to –

1. Being respectful, kind and encouraging one's own control; and
2. Working co-operatively, collaboratively and valuing all opinions

I would like to hear if you think we are being respectful and kind, and any examples where we have not done this; and if you think we are working co-operatively, collaboratively, and valuing all opinions, and any examples where we have not done this.

I have asked CLA staff to prepare some feedback forms and have them here today so people can make their thoughts known to me. You don't need to include your name on your feedback form. Staff will distribute feedback boxes where you can return your completed forms.

Your feedback will help us to know what we are doing well, and it will show us where we need to make improvements. Your feedback will help us to do the best job we can to build a community that includes all its members.

Sarah MacDonald

CLA Committee President

List of Presentations, Publications and Papers

Presentations/Publications/Papers	Persons
QLD Roundtable	Jenifur Charne, Paul O'Dea, Ian Williamson, Bernard Denny and Felice Kirby
Rebels Group NDIS Workshop	Paul O'Dea, Michael Cherry, Ian Williamson and Daniel Thomas
Business Council Corporative	Daniel Thomas
Business Council for Group Meeting Canberra	Jenifur Charne
QUT Lecture	Jonathon Rivers, Paul O'Dea, Ian Williamson and Michael Cherry
CLA Training for Volunteer	Clint Madden
Griffith University	Kelee Sheard and John Monson
Paper Bag Lunch	Michael Cherry and Katy Klein
Mental Health Training	Michael Cherry
Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability Melbourne	Daniel Thomas
School Re-engagement Forum	Nikita Townsend Mitchell Byng Thomas Watson

ARROS in 2015



ARROS currently works with 24 people. I would like to thank each and every one of them for allowing us to be part of their journey through this year, and for their openness and honesty in sharing with us the highs, lows, triumphs, fears, excitements, disappointments and celebrations. We feel honoured to have shared it with you.

We are funded by Disability Services to work with young people with an intellectual or cognitive disability who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including young people who are exiting out of home state care. We are currently working with 24 constituents. We also worked with another 9 people since our last AGM.

Staff

The ARROS core staff group consists of 3 full time Outreach Workers, 1 Associate Outreach Worker and a Team Leader. We are supported by 5 associate workers, 6 volunteers, 1 mentor and a number of social work students who have joined us over the year. This year we say goodbye to Amelia, who has been an invaluable member of the team for the past ten months, and welcome Triona, who joined us in September.

Key Projects

ARROS workers have worked on the following key projects over the past 12 months.

- *ARROS Outreach and Connection Work* – ARROS workers support 10 people with an intellectual or cognitive disability who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This work focuses on finding places to live, spaces to belong and roles for meaning.
- *Transition and Post Care Support* – ARROS works with 11 young people who have or are transitioning from out of home care into adulthood (or independence). This work involves supporting young people to prepare for their transition through accessing needed resources, creating supportive relationships and trying to find meaningful roles in the community. We recently began holding Transitions Get Togethers, to promote peer learning and peer relationships. See our separate article for all the details.
- *Individualised Support Packages* – ARROS works with 2 people solely through their individualised funding packages. We also support 8 people whose individual packages compliment the services they receive through block funding.
- *Transitions Mentoring Program* – We now have five volunteers who connect with young people who have exited out of home care. These relationships are incredibly powerful and add significantly to a young person's sense of belonging in the community. We continue to look for new people willing to take on the mentoring roles.
- *Young Person's Homeshare Project* – ARROS successfully completed a homeshare arrangement this year. After two in house mentors, who lived with the constituent for one year each, the constituent has now developed the necessary skills, confidence and sense of belonging in the community, to live independently in her own home. Congratulations to the constituent and our very warm thanks to both the in house mentors, whose support has been instrumental in creating such a positive start for this young person.
- *Preparing for the NDIS* – We are supporting people to prepare for the NDIS. These are some of the things we've done this year to prepare:

- We are supporting people's access to individualised funding. Eleven of the ARROS constituents now have individualised funding to help meet their needs.
- There are three people who have been assessed as eligible and are likely to receive individualised funding packages once they turn 18.

Some of the ARROS constituents have kindly agreed to share some of their stories as part of this report. We hope you enjoy them!

Many thanks and warm regards,

Meg, Jess G, Michael, Triona & Jess B

Transitions Get Together

This year we were fortunate to hold several ARROS *Transitions Get Together*. This project was funded by the Moreton Bay Regional Council's Community Grants Program and was designed to be a proactive approach to supporting at-risk young people, with an intellectual disability, who have exited or are exiting Child Safety.

Facilitating workers report the success of the program pivoted from the ability to create a safe and nurturing environment, in which the young people felt they could share openly. Further to this, creating focussed discussions within each "get together" allowed for productive and meaningful group collaboration. For example, one session aimed to explore *relationships and family*, which offered a targeted opportunity for shared experiences and growth through peer support. The get togethers also served as a platform to promote the concept of volunteer and mentor relationships as a valuable part of reducing social isolation in young people's lives.

The *Transitions Get Together* program was also an exciting opportunity for ARROS workers and constituents to build a relationship with The Create Foundation. Create is a peak body for young people with an out-of-home care experience. It runs programs and events that could provide further opportunities for ARROS constituents. ARROS was fortunate to welcome Lucas Moore, Qld Coordinator of Create, who was able to bring a positive injection of energy and experience to the sessions. Create have significant experience running groups with this community of young people and are well aware of the benefits from programs in this format. Outcomes resultant from the *Transitions Get Together* project were built on a four pillar framework:

- Building relationship capacity – to extend the range of people's relationships, both building capacity in existing relationships and supporting more capacity through new relationships.
- Providing New Information – increasing the sources of new information that the person can absorb and relate to their lives. An example of this could be the opportunity for young people to learn how other young people handled a particular challenge in the Transitions Get Togethers groups.

- Generating new resources – seeking fresh resources from external sources or underutilised resources in people’s possession (e.g. peer learning regarding better management of money, discussion around the usefulness of YHARS funding in the exit of formal care, planning for the introduction of the NDIS)
- Building Decision Making capacity – working to unlock the barriers for the young people to take agency regarding their situations and to make decisions around how they want their lives to look and to plan steps towards this.

Shayne Elliott at the Men's Shed

I started at the Men's Shed about six months ago.

We help each other out and build things out of wood. We also play games. We've got a dart board there and a ping pong table.

I've built a coffee table, dart cabinet and I'm just about finished building a racing car. The racing car's for my eldest granddaughter Jessica. It's her Christmas present. I've also got to build something for Mia and Cody.



Rachael quits smoking

After being a long term smoker, Rachael made the massive decision to kick the habit on 8th July 2013. With determination, she was successful in this, despite the obvious challenges it held. Two years later, we celebrated with a delicious lunch at Capri. Well done Rachael!



Fun Day Out at Ekka!

James went to the Ekka for the first time in over 10 years and had an awesome day. This idea all started when APPEA and Elders kindly donated Ekka tickets to CLA. Although it was very crowded at the showground, James handled it really well by focusing on positive things he was interested in, and by having a couple of breaks outside the premises to relax. James particularly enjoyed interacting with dogs from Seeing Eyes Dogs Australia and Police Officers.

James was pretty proud of himself for spending less than \$5 at the Ekka, but managed to have a great day. He said although many things have changed, it still reminded him of his good childhood memories with his deceased father. This experience increased his confidence and comfortability in a crowded space. And James is looking forward to going to the Ekka again next year ☺



Community Connections in 2015



Community Connections works alongside young people and families where there are issues that could lead to early home leaving and/or early disengaging from school.

Using an early intervention and community development framework. Our work also encompasses group and project work and creating links with the school and wider community.

It has been another very big year of change for Community Connections, with the Youth Connections program being defunded nationally in December 2014.

As a team we have worked hard to ensure maximum service and have diversified our service option to endeavour to meet the needs of young people. This has included extensive planning, applying for additional funding, and capitalising on our skill sets. This has meant some changes in roles during 2014-2015, with the major changes occurring in early 2015-2016 financial year. We have 1 worker focussing on support to young people aged 12 – 25 years who have cognitive disabilities, 2 workers who have become Accredited Mental Health Social Workers under the Better Access Medicare program, 1 worker who has been supporting students at Kelvin Grove State College, and staff facilitating groups at Everton Park State High School and Kedron State High School.

We have one staff member co facilitating the "Friends" group at Nundah Primary School, and we continue to provide staff and students to the Homework Help project at Nundah Library. We also picked up contracts with Department of Education and Training to provide Student Welfare Workers to 3 primary schools. These contracts will be re-negotiated in December 2015 and we would like to thank Taki and Gigi for their commitment to these school communities.

Fortunately, in the midst of the almost constant change, the Reconnect program continues to be funded with our current contract until June 2016. We have again been assessed as a highly successful service, with the Reconnect workers exceeding both case number and outcome requirements.

A significant achievement over the past financial year has been The Brisbane Partner for Stronger Families, Stronger Communities involving CLA, Micah Projects, Kyabra, and Jabiru. As a partnership we have successfully tendered for a number of projects including the Brisbane Emergency Response Outreach Service, for which CLA is the lead agency. This project (commenced July 2015) has meant an extension of the services that Community Connections is able to provide to young people. This project supports young people who are in the care of Child Safety but who are 'self placing'. The service is a 24/7, Brisbane wide service and is an exciting opportunity for Community Connections. We congratulate Chloe Warrell on her new role and welcome Tracey Wrigley and Tamara McGuigan to the Community Connections team.

We have continued to invest energy in strengthening our existing, and building new partnerships to support our work with vulnerable and at risk young people. We would like to acknowledge and thank all of our stakeholders for their support over the past 12 months.

- We continue to work alongside Picabeen Neighbourhood Centre and Jabiru Youth and Community Services as the North Brisbane Community Partners to seek opportunities to expand support options to young people in Brisbane North.
- Several groups at local High Schools (some co-facilitated with school staff and other community agencies) including Peer Skills, Brita Futures, Independent Students groups, COPMI, and Indigenous Students groups.
- *Centrelink Cluster Meetings* - Continue to be held on a quarterly basis and provides an opportunity for Social Workers from local Centrelink offices and workers from Community Connections to build relationships, share information and experiences about working with young people.
- Facilitating the Northside Intercultural Youth Working Group.
- Supporting young people in our homeshare arrangement.

- Supported young people / children and their families who access the Nundah library homework club.
- Participate on the Brisbane North Youth Justice Complex Case Panel.
- Work with BCC, ZCC and Jabiru on the Walls and Colours project in Kids Space, Chermside
- YANQ Conference Presentation on “Hidden Disabilities”
- School Re-engagement forum – with special thanks to Nikita, Mitchell, Thomas, Martin Mills and Deb Lynch
- Provided support and participated in the Sorry Day event hosted by Noonga Reconciliation Group.
- Continued participation in a variety networks, including NSAAN, NAADV, IUYI, BNYI, BNYA.
- Participation in the Nundah Headspace Reference Group.
- Work with BCC on the highly successful Youth Week Suitcase Rummage at the local Nundah markets which raised in excess of \$1000.00 and engaged the local community and schools in a conversation about youth homelessness. We would especially like to acknowledge and thank local member Tim Nichols and local councillor Kim Flesser for their support of this event.
- Students Cassie, Georgia, Lydia, Hannah, Megan, Meg and Gemma.

On a final note, I would like to thank all the Community Connections staff over the past 12 months: Minda, Eden, Cate, Renee, Chloe, Taki, Gigi, Alex, Iann, Hannah, Georgia, Jackie, Katrina, Amelia, Mandii and our new full time workers as of July 2015, Laura, Tracey and Tamara. Apologies if I have forgotten anyone ☹.

Youth Connection

December saw the close of the Youth Connections program after five years of service delivery to young people disenfranchised/disengaged from education, family and community. This also saw the end of the consortium that had been developed to run this program with Brisbane Youth Service as the lead and involving Jabiru, Salvation Army Youth Outreach Service, Inala Youth Service and Community Connections.



The program delivered significant outcomes for young people and families around complex barriers they faced through individual, group and advocacy support. In addition to this, there was a continuation of the 'Live to Learn' program which included numeracy and literacy skill building and developmental group work delivered to young people in preparation for a return to education. Young people's achievements were celebrated with certificates and acknowledgement of their successes.

Community Connections' work included a focus on supporting young people experiencing anxiety and school refusal. As part of this focus, a disengagement forum was organised inviting attendance from school principals, teachers, support staff and community workers from across the Brisbane Education region. Forum attendees heard directly from young people who had previously experienced school refusal as well as presentations from Martin Mills and Debby Lynch. Community Connections workers, Tania Lawrie and Eden McNamara presented around practice principles and frameworks in work with young people who experience school refusal. The forum was well received and great feedback was given around hearing directly from young people around their experiences with school refusal.

Cross Cultural Work

Community Connections continued to convene the North-side Intercultural Youth Working group over the past financial year. Project work that evolved out of the working group included supporting the Youth Voice committee with their forum on bullying and racism and consultation with school communities around young people's experiences of racism and bullying and their views on what can be done by government and communities to mitigate this.

Community Connections remains committed to supporting students from Culturally Diverse Backgrounds and has facilitated two Brita Futures (Resilience Building) groups and two Peer Skills Training groups with Kedron State High School English as a Second Language students. We also support the Homework Help tutoring group at the Nundah Library alongside Brisbane City Council, St Rita's school and Clayfield College. This initiative is open to all school students but tends to be frequented by primary school aged students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Disability support

Community Connections has continued to extend their work with young people with a cognitive disability and their families. Individual support includes transitions from school, planning with young people and families around goals for the future and NDIS as well as supporting young people to build relationships with significant others and supporting access to information to make meaningful decisions.

Kelvin Grove State College

Community Connections and Kelvin Grove State College partnered in July 2014 in a fee for service relationship- Kelvin Grove approached Community Connections to contract a social worker 1 day a week (which increased to 2 days a week in January 2015) to provide support to young people at risk of disengaging from education. The work focuses on supporting engagement with education, supporting the best possible outcomes in school, connection to family, peers, employment, housing (independence) and community.

This partnership has also included working with independent students and developing an independent students project alongside Chaplain. This project was initiated in response to students identifying issues such as access to money and food, and needing support to increase skills around cooking and grocery shopping. The Community Connections social worker and Kelvin Grove Chaplain successfully approached a number of local churches to provide Coles and Woolworths vouchers for independent students to utilise on occasions when Centrelink payments hadn't stretched far enough for the fortnight, or during emergency situations. Donations also included money for the school canteen to provide lunches at school for independent students when needed and for ingredients for the independent students cooking group which was in planning stages in 2014/2015 financial year.

The Kelvin Grove and Community Connections partnership has been a successful partnership for CLA, the school and for young people and is a partnership which is continuing into the 2015/2016 financial year with a hope to increase from 2 to 3 days per week.

Everton Park Transitions Project

Community Connections secured a small grant from James Kirby Foundation last financial year to work with young people with a disability to work on the transition from high school at the end of year 12. Often young people with a disability experience poor post schooling outcomes due to the lack of supports established for them post school. Community Connections partnered with Everton Park State High School Special Education Unit to facilitate two groups with 7 young people (in total) across term 3 & 4 in 2014 and terms 1 & 2 in 2015.

Aims of the group:

- Increase the support young people with a disability receive when transitioning from school
- Increase post school outcomes
- Increase young people 's knowledge of the services available to them in their local community
- Support young people with a disability to navigate the public transport system
- Support young people to build social connections
- Access to work experience opportunities

Outcomes:

- One young person was able to complete her certificate in hospitality by gaining her work experience hours in the Espresso Train Café
- During her work experience at the Espresso Train the young person developed and demonstrated their skill at independently using public transport for the first time, and did so successfully for each day of work.
- The second group presented the knowledge they had gained about services in the community to their parents and guardians at a morning tea at the end of the group
- Some young people are now independently catching public transport

- Some of the young people are engaged in the services the group visited such as Help Enterprises.
- Social skills: the young people would begin each group at the Espresso Train café to check in, catch up and share some social time before beginning the day. This would also give young people the opportunity to order a drink and have the experience of socialising within a café environment.

Accredited Mental Health Social Work

Community Connections welcomed a new program to the team in 2014 in the form of Accredited Mental Health Social Work (AMHSW). AMHSW are registered providers with Medicare Australia. They have been assessed on behalf of the Commonwealth Government by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) as having specialist mental health expertise. An AMHSW is eligible to provide services through Commonwealth-funded Better Access to Mental Health Care Programs. AMHSW have experience in assessing and treating people who have mental health disorders, for example young people with:

- Depression and other mood disorders
- Anxiety disorders
- Suicidal disorders
- Relationship problems
- Life crises
- Adjustment issues
- Trauma
- Family conflicts

Community Connections has been working with young people who are 12-25 years old living in the Brisbane North region. Referrals have come from a range of services, young people, families and Government organisations. We are committed to providing ongoing mental health support to young people for up to 10 sessions (per calendar year) bulk billed with a referral from their general practitioner. Heading into 2015/2016 financial year CLA has three (Minda Kaszai, Megumi Hassan and Chloe Warrell) AMHSW, 2 of who are accepting referrals and 1 of who is practising in this role 2 days a week (Minda Kaszai).

Jesse loves Music

'Jesse' loves music, especially the Beach Boys. This year he has been able to work on a number of projects with his support workers that involve his passion for music.

Radio Group

This year Jesse went along to the Radio Group at WWILD. His highlights were performing for everyone at the break up party; visiting the ABC studios at Southbank and being interviewed by another group member; speaking on air at 4ZZZ and telling listeners that he loves the Beach Boys and speaking about his dad's restaurant. He also got to say his favourite catchphrase from the TV show Full House 'have mercy'.



Recording at the Edge

At the beginning of the year Jessie identified that he would like to record some of the beach Boys songs in a studio. Along with his worker Alex, Jesse has recorded 18 songs at the Edge recording studio. Jessie sings and plays the ukulele along with backing tracks. He looks forward to spending more time doing this future.

Performances

Jesse loves performing in the CoCos office because he is a better singer than everyone! He likes that workers dance and clap along. Jesse is keen to join the Nundah Allstars when they get back together, hopefully next year!

Community Living Program in 2015

The Nundah All Stars

This year the Nundah All Stars decided to head in a different direction to their traditional Musicals and host a Bush Dance! This provided a wonderful opportunity for everyone to dress up, come out and enjoy music and dancing. A petting zoo of baby farm animals provided much delight for everyone as well as traditional damper cooked on a wood fire and billy tea. The Baby Boomers Bush Boogie Band provided the music and set a great scene for dancing. The heel and toe and other traditional bush dances were jigged and jived throughout the night as well as old ABBA favourites. The night was a huge success and everyone reveled in the opportunity to be a star on the night.



Adventure Holiday Group

It has been another eventful year with the Adventure Holiday group. We have enjoyed lots of fun times trying new things and spending time together. Our outings and camps this year have included three camps – Ewen Maddock Dam up on the Sunshine Coast in October last year, Pottsville beach camp in May and just recently a camp at Kindilan Outdoor Camp in Redlands. Our outings have included a relaxing end of year trip to Redcliffe Lagoon for our Christmas break up, a Fishing Adventure in March this year as well as a trip down to Daisy Hill Koala Sanctuary.

Here's a bit of what our group has been up to this year



My favourite adventure holiday outings are the camps because I really like the food - Brett



My favourite bit of camps is going to see what's at the local markets - Tracey

*The Adventure Holiday Group is always looking for new members.
Being a part of the group means I get out and spend time with friends
- Kerri*



I really enjoyed trying my hand at Archery while at Ewen Maddock Dam



Camps are great I have a really good time; it's good to have a laugh and get on with everyone. It's also good to have a bit of a technology detox while on camp

4 Us Savings

This has been a huge year for the 4 Us Savings Group. The group first met on the 2nd of May 2003 and after 12 years of hard saving; with new members joining and others leaving, the group decided it was time to finish up. There were many reasons for this, some being constituents are now so good at saving independently – they no longer needed the groups support and many people had reached their savings goal. Over the last 12 years – every member of the 4 Us Savings Group has worked hard and achieved their savings goals. Furniture, holidays, computers and televisions are some of the many things people were able to purchase with the support of the group. To finish up, the group had a wonderful celebration with some delicious burgers while enjoying each other's company. CLP wishes all past Savings Group members the best with continuing to reach their goals. GREAT JOB!!

Parent Group

Throughout this year the parents' group has been meeting on a monthly basis for coffee mornings in the downstairs coffee area of the Kedron-Wavell Services Club. The group consists of parents of individuals with an intellectual disability who are supported in the CLA community. Our purpose is to share stories, exchange information, provide support to each other and make time for a social catch-up. Conversation topics have included NDIS preparation, future housing options, existing services for people with a disability in the community, upcoming workshops and pathways to obtain professional assessments. Some quotes from our members best reflect why we come together;

"I very much appreciate the much needed emotional support. Thanks for giving me the opportunity..."

"I like meeting up with the ladies because I feel they understand my concerns as we are on a similar journey. A cuppa and chat is helpful."

Rebels with a Cause

"Helping people with disabilities to stand up for themselves"

2015 has been another busy year for us! We have had a number of opportunities sharing our stories with people in the community. Here are some of the highlights

- During the month of February and March, we met weekly to develop a NDIS resource workbook for CLA constituents. The resource book was developed so that workers, constituents and their significant others could plan and work out what they would like to achieve in the future under NDIS. To make it more accessible and user friendly, we used lots of pictures, photos and other visual cues so people could write, draw and add extra information as they wished. Seven constituents attended the two half-day workshops and everyone got to take their own completed workbook home. We received great feedback from both constituents and families and were very encouraged by that. With the support from placement students Maddie, Grace and Michael, we are able to create individualised workbooks for other constituents so everyone has a chance to do their NDIS planning in a more creative way.
- In April, Ian, Felice and Jonathon were invited to be the guest speakers for a social work lecture at the Queensland University of Technology. They shared with the social work students on the importance of having a meaningful role in the community and being able to advocate for themselves.
- In May, Michael, Ian, Bernard, Felice, Paul and Jennifur presented at the 2015 Queensland Roundtable Conference on the topic *"Issues for People with Intellectual Disabilities: Creativity and Collaboration for 'Choice and Control'- Australians with Intellectual Disabilities - Who is Leading the Way and Who May be Left Behind under the NDIS."* The group shared their experiences on setting up and running People's organisations. Bernard, Felice and Ian told the story of the Nundah Community Enterprises Cooperative and Jenifur and Paul shared how they started the Independent Youth Housing Group Ltd in

1989. It was a wonderful experience and we were chuffed by the positive feedback we received from the audience.

- Looking ahead, we would like to explore the option of setting up a self-advocacy group where we can meet more regularly and put together our own training packages and deliver to the wider community.



Literacy for Everyday

A year of achievements and learning for the students and tutors at Literacy for Everyday.

Literacy for Everyday is a group of people that come together on Friday's to support one another to achieve learning goals. These goals can include learning about money skills, using email or finding out about the wider world around us or our own suburb. Kelee says she likes LFE because she is learning how to write properly and money skills. She also likes meeting new students and tutors. This year the group has welcomed new student Miranda and tutors Jim, Sujarta and Cathy.

With so many of the students going on holidays in Australia and overseas, the iPads are very useful for finding out about the places people are travelling to. At the morning and afternoon tea breaks, there is always an opportunity to share adventures stories and current events. Alan keeps us informed of local news and Susan and Cathy research recipe ideas to cook when they are on the afternoon tea roster.

Due to construction happening at Literacy for Everyday's usual location, we had to look for a new venue. Nundah Activity Centre kindly provided a space for the group and we moved. It took a little bit of getting used to the new location but eventually we all settled in. At the start of Term 3 the group was offered space at the CLA building so we moved again. This new space is working very well for the group.



The Sandgate Historical Society was the destination for the mid-year excursion. Pam helped to organize the outing and talked us all through some of the fascinating items on display at the museum. Everyone enjoyed spending time looking at the history of our local area and asking questions about old objects in the display cabinets. There was much laughter when people tried to use an old fashioned chip cutter. Nikki discovered it was not as easy as it looked! A splendid morning tea was provided by the welcoming volunteers, with cucumber sandwiches and china cups for tea, everyone was very pleased. A fun and informative day for everyone involved! Many thanks for the support from Sandgate Historical Society.

Literacy for Everyday would like to express sincere gratitude and thanks to everyone involved in the group including students, tutors and families. With this ongoing commitment, LFE looks forward to another year of celebrations, learning and expanding our community.



Jonathan's Ekka Day

Jonathan loves the Ekka. He waits with great anticipation for the Ekka every year even when the Ekka is months away. He never gets bored with telling people who are around that he is going to the Ekka. When the Ekka is finally near and the facilities are being set up Jonathan would look through the train window with excitement and letting everyone knows that he is going on the big wheel. To be able



to cover the expense of the Ekka, Jonathan would do his best and make self-sacrifice so that he can save enough money to go to Ekka every day and buy things that he likes.

On Tuesday afternoon (11th August, 2015) we went to Ekka by train. It was an awesome day for Jonathan. He was very excited about going on the big wheel. When we got there, after having some food for lunch, he went straight to the big wheel. At the entrance Jonathan turned to me and asked me if I could wait for him at the entrance while he went on the big wheel by himself. With a bit of concern I stayed at the entrance as I recalled another worker said he might be afraid of heights. I never moved my sight away from him. However, he was having such a good time that every time his stall came down I could see a big smile on his face. He also waved at me when he was not too busy enjoying the city sights.

"I went on the big wheel and I went for 11 rounds!" Proudly, Jonathan kept reminding me every 10 minutes after he got off from the ride, and of course, everyone around us on the train on our way back to CLP.

As we were leaving for the day, Jonathan had his picture taken with a police officer in front of the Queensland Rail Exhibition Office. He was very excited about it and asked me to help him to print out the photo. The picture was shown to everyone in the office with the legendary story of the day.

Written by Jonathan and Michael He (Social Work placement student)

Systems Advocacy, Education & Training Projects

Victoria has been working on a number of projects in 2014-15 as part of her joint role with WWILD-SVP Association Inc. Projects have included:

Roundtable on Intellectual Disability 2015: Issues for People with Intellectual Disabilities - Creativity and Collaboration for 'Choice and Control' - Australians with Intellectual Disabilities: Who is Leading the Way and Who May be Left behind under the NDIS. It began to be organised from November 2014, and was held on May 29th 2015. The final report was finalised in July 2015. The event was a collaboration between Community Living Association Inc., WWILD-SVP Assn. Inc., Endeavour Foundation, Qld Disability Network (QDN) and Qld Aged and Disability Advocacy (QADA) and community members. Thanks to the working party members - Donna Best, Kathy Ellem, Sarah MacDonald, Geoff Rowe (QADA), Chez Leggett-Cook (Endeavour), Gillian O'Brien (WWILD) and Morrie O'Connor (CLA) - for contributing to the organisation and running of this successful event in 2015. A special thanks to the members of the Nundah Community Enterprises Cooperative and IYHG who spoke at the event, sharing the stories of development of their organisations. All of our self-advocate speakers were awe inspiring to the Roundtable participants – Thank you!

Paper-bag Lunches Forums – CLA & WWILD-SVP Assn Inc. joint project which is providing an opportunity to bring together self-advocates practitioners and researchers around effective practice in supporting people with intellectual disability in a variety of contexts. Our other aim is to provide opportunities for and promote the voices of people with intellectual disability to be able to share their own stories of lived experiences. Thanks to Gillian O'Brien from WWILD for collaborating on this project. The topics over the last year have included:

Mental Health issues for People with Intellectual Disabilities – November 201

Supporting Young People with Intellectual Disabilities Transitioning from Care: Issues and Best Practice – March 2015

Domestic and Family Violence and People with Intellectual Disability: Prevalence and Practice Issues – August 2015

The State of Advocacy for People with Intellectual Disability: Practice and Policy in a Changing Environment – November 2015

Thanks to our fabulous self-advocates guest speakers who shared their stories and our other guest speakers including Dr. Luke Hatzipretrou (IDIOS), Niki Edwards (QUT), Jessica Burke (ARROS), Sarah MacDonald (UQ PhD student), Meryl Ehrenberg (CRDVS), Deb Turner & Tamieka Treblico (Alina & Targeted Family Support), Sue Salthouse (PWD ACT), Sue Barnes (PWDA), Di Toohey (SUFY).

Community Living Program – Speakers or ‘Rebels’ group. The CLP ‘Rebels’ group came together in 2014 to look for opportunities for public speaking and of sharing their stories with others in their communities who were interested in learning more about the lived experience of people with intellectual and learning disabilities. The group this year decided to focus on the NDIS as a primary project with some other smaller gigs in between. Group members have included Danny Thomas, Paul O’Dea, Michael Cherry, Ian Williamson and Felice Kirby. Jon Rivers has also helped out on occasion. Heidi and Victoria have assisted the group members with their projects, while Semester 1 students Maddie and Grace also helped out the group during that period. The projects included:

- Heidi, Victoria, Maddie, Grace supported the group members to develop a workshop and workbook for constituents and their workers/carers to be able to use that would help them to learn about planning for the NDIS.
- Victoria (and their individual workers) supported the group members to prepare for and speak at various workshops including QUT guest lectures, Roundtable, volunteer and student training and Paper-bag lunch presentations throughout the year.

Funding Submissions – Victoria has worked on developing funding submissions for CLA from November to July 2015 as part of her normal role.

Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability (ASID) Qld. – Victoria and Morrie represent Community Living Association as a member of its QLD board and as Secretary. The aim of ASID is to improve the quality of life for people with an intellectual disability with the goals including to forge interaction between intellectual disability research, policy and practice; and to lead the development of strategic

partnerships. ASID Qld have some projects/events being organised over the coming year to promote the research, policy, good practice and the lived experience of people with intellectual disabilities. Morrie has also been participating as a QLD representative of the National Board, and one of the changes he has been promoting, along with other members, is the inclusion of the voices of People with Intellectual Disabilities on its National Boards and State Divisions. As an organisational member, CLA is allowed to have two representative members. With changes now made at a national level, Paul O'Dea, a constituent of CLA, has agreed to become CLA's constituent representative member of the ASID. Thanks to Paul for his agreed commitment to ASID.

Mental Health Projects – Joint Project with WWILD – SVP Assn Inc.

Victoria was successful in gaining 2 funding submissions from the Qld Mental Health Commission in March 2015.

One project allows for the trial of Mental Health Recovery group for People with Intellectual Disability, in conjunction with WWILD. This project is being run by Minda (Community Connections) from CLA and Jane Barrett from WWILD. This project will conclude by April 2016.

The second project, which Vic has been working on full time since the beginning of August 2015, involves the development of a training package for *Working with People with Intellectual Disabilities who develop Mental Health Disorders*. The workshops, which will be delivered by Jess Groves (ARROS) and Vic, with assistance from Morrie, will be delivered to professionals, support workers, and family members and carers of people with intellectual disabilities over the coming months. Self-advocates are also presenting their stories at the workshops.

Community Projects Team

Community Projects

The Community Projects Team supports the work of Nundah Community Enterprises Cooperative (NCEC), CLA's Volunteer Program, the 23 Nundah St Community Space and a range of other community projects.



NCEC

Nundah Community Enterprises Cooperative (est 1998) continues to make waves, providing valuable employment opportunities for its members, desirable goods and services to the public and recognition nationally as a leading social enterprise. Another feather in the Co-ops cap this year is winning a prestigious Australian Social Enterprise Award for **Best**

Small Social Enterprise in Australia! Congratulations to all the coop members, board members and current and former staff! Thanks also to CLA for supporting the development and continuation of the co-op.

Volunteers

CLA volunteers have continued to make a wonderful contribution this year with many hours contributed and opportunities gained. Volunteers work across the depth and breadth of the organisation, from one to one relationships with constituents to supporting people's organisations like Literacy for the Everyday and the Nundah Co-op. For more information on volunteering please speak to Richard.



23 Nundah St

23 Nundah St or 'the Shed' continues to provide a space for The Nundah Coop as well as CLA groups. We also rent the space to groups and local businesses (Including the Nundah Farmers Markets) to contribute toward the cost of running the building.

CLA Student Unit

In 2015 the student unit began work in the Pine Rivers Special School community, with the intent to build relationships and to support the school community to get ready for the NDIS. Social work students spent time working with staff, students and families to understand the hopes and needs of the community. During the time based in the school, a fantastic resource was compiled, detailing relevant services and supports within the Pine Rivers region, to be utilised by families and staff within the school, and can be accessed by community members through the CLA website.

In June this year, CLA Inc. held three information sessions for staff and families around NDIS readiness, which generated lots of interest from participants. The organisation has committed to support families to engage in the planning process to ready themselves for the introduction of the new system, which has already begun! A very big thank you to both Sue Williams and the students, Esther and Lianne, who gave a lot of time, energy and commitment to make this work happen, and to the Pine Rivers Special School for welcoming us into their community.

Housing

Village Housing

Village Housing is an initiative of CLA that provides long-term housing to Community Living Program (CLP) constituents and other eligible community members.



Village Housing purposely includes people with and without intellectual disability in its aim to create the best life possibilities for people with an intellectual disability. Village Housing hopes to demonstrate that communities can be a place where all people are equally valued and where their gifts and contributions to others can be recognized.

Goals of Village Housing are to:

- Increase housing options for constituents of CLA and other eligible persons in North-East Brisbane;
- Provide safe, affordable and secure accommodation close to public transport and other services;

Provide supportive accommodation through:

- A balance of people with and without an intellectual disability;
- Positive and purposeful interactions with other tenants and neighbours;
- Engagement of those who are important to constituents in their housing situation; and
- Engagement of tenants in sharing the management of Village Housing

Village Housing has eight dwellings, comprising 6 units and 2 houses. Currently the members of Village Housing meet every few months. This is an opportunity to discuss tenancy and maintenance issues. It is also a good chance for socializing and supporting each other. Most meetings are held at the Espresso Train café however for a bit of fun the group at times chose a different venue.

Over the past year we have undergone some minor alterations and upgrades, including new flooring, blinds and appliances.

Village Housing subdivided one of their properties and sold the land and house separately.

Village Housing continues to offer good quality, well maintained and affordable housing to people on low incomes and pensions.

Village Housing Crisis Accommodation Program

Village Housing utilises one property with Queensland Housing Department funding for crisis accommodation for eligible persons. Village Housing also subsidises a number of people with crisis housing needs in private rental. Funds for this purpose are through donations.

In Home Mentor Scheme

Village Housing also provides support for the In Home Mentor Scheme which provides in house support to people transitioning to independent living.

Independent Youth Housing Group Ltd



IYHG is a constituted body which receives ongoing support from Community Living Association.

The main goal of IYHG is to provide quality, stable housing for low income earners. IYHG presently has 11 properties in Clayfield, Nundah and Northgate areas and houses 12 people.

The company is not for profit and completely run and maintained by its 14 members.

CLA Brokerage Arm

The CLA Brokerage Arm is a recognised host provider under the Your Life Your Choice project with Department of Communities. It acts as a budget holder for funds that an individual with a disability receives from DSQ for support.

NDIS

The National Disability Scheme will begin in Queensland in 2016. It will mean changes to the way services are funded for all people with a disability. CLA workers have started helping constituents, families and supporters to be prepared for these changes. If you would like to know more about this, please ask your worker.

Here are some websites that are connected with Community Living Association

 COMMUNITY LIVING ASSOCIATION	CLA Inc website: www.communityliving.org.au
	Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CommunityLivingAssociation
 GiveNow.com.au Give more, give smarter, give better, give now!	GiveNow: http://www.givenow.com.au/communitylivingassociation On this site you can make a donation to support innovative housing and personal development options for young people with a disability existing Child Safety and other young people experiencing social disadvantage.
	Community Crew Resource Hub: www.communitycrewhub.com This site provides information on supporting people with a disability and their families to explore the options of niche volunteer roles or creating a micro business as an alternative way of meaningfully engaging in community.
	Nundah Community Enterprises Co-operative: www.ncec.com.au The Nundah Co-op provides meaningful employment for people with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues.
	Home Share Project: www.homesharebrisbane.com The idea of homeshare is to create an opportunity for the householder to offer affordable accommodation to a homesharer in exchange for some agreed support or company.

Supported by



Australian Government
 Department of Families, Housing,
 Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

