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## From the Manager

Happy New Year! I can't believe it's 2020. It feels like last year flew by. It has been a challenging start to the year with bushfires ravaging large parts of the country, my heart goes out to all those who've been impacted.

On Christmas Day and New Year we rightly hear about the nurses, firefighters and police who continue to provide vital services, and I want to add to that list all the care workers who did the same. On these days we had a team of 18 out and about ensuring services to our wonderful customers continued. I want to say a simple thank you to each of you for everything you did on these days.

Having said that, I'm calling on everyone to start the year on a good note – by thanking our care workers. If you know who deserves thanks & appreciation, send us an email and we'll anonymously post it in our next edition!

Late last year we learnt of some interesting changes coming to the NDIS. Planners now have authority to include funding in plans for AT items up to \$5K without needing to go through the long AT process. No more 'quote required' for items under \$5K. The planner still needs to be satisfied that the AT is reasonable and necessary so it's a good idea to take along some evidence to your planning meeting.

From 1 July 2020 Participants will be able to spend their Core budget on Capacity Building (and vice versa)! It's good to see changes are being made so participants can use their plans more flexibly.

From the team at MACS, and myself, we hope you enjoy this edition and wish you a year of happiness.

Alison

*Thank you, Narelle, for your years of dedication to MACS MC!*

At the 2019 AGM the Management Committee's Vice President, Narelle Bartley, announced that she would be retiring from the committee after seven years of service. Narelle said that she thought the committee was in good hands and that the organisation was in a strong position, making it a good time for her to step away. Not only was Narelle's involvement with the committee extensive, she was also heavily involved in the creation of MACS, and a member from the very beginning. This made her a staunch believer in MACS' role within the disability community and a loyal customer.

Having been affected by polio at a young age, Narelle brought her lived experience to the committee and was always the strongest advocate for customers. She quickly became the voice of compassion and common sense, which helped shape decision-making throughout her tenure on the committee. She believed strongly in the role of the committee to manage public funds in the best way possible to deliver the highest quality of service delivery to MACS' customers. The committee wishes to thank Narelle for her friendship, her service and all her efforts. On behalf of MACS we wish Narelle all the very best for the future.



### *Comings and Goings:*

**We bid farewell to members of our team: Ashwin & Mackenzie, Carolyn**

**Welcome to the following staff who have recently joined our team: Isha, Ally, Bri & James**

### *NDIS Practice Standard 2 Provider Governance and Operational Management:*

MACS Constitution mandates that a minimum of 50% of the Management Committee must be made up of people with a disability. The Management Committee meet once per month and have documented procedures for monitoring the operations of the organisation. The organisation has a risk register and a conflict of interest



## 6 Wheelchair Accessible activities around Brisbane

1. **Accessible Beaches**— Burleigh heads (accessible beach matting, accessible bathroom, accessible parking, floating beach wheelchair, sandcruiser beach wheelchair), Alexandra Headland (accessible beach matting & accessible bathroom), North Burleigh heads—info obtained from <https://accessiblebeaches.com/directory#accessible-beach-directory> See website for extra info about location and times of matting available
2. **Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary**—708 Jesmond Road, Fig Tree Pocket QLD (accessible and the 430 bus service leaving from the City will take you there)
3. **Moonlight cinema** @ The Amphitheatre, Roma Street Parkland <https://www.moonlight.com.au/brisbane/program/>
4. **New Café or Restaurant**—see The Australian Good Food & Travel Guide for accessible places in your area <https://www.agfg.com.au/>
5. **Ice Skating** @ Iceworld Boondall on Fridays from 11.30-12.30 (not in school holidays)
6. **iFLY** - located @ Westfield Chermside is a fully inclusive and accessible, indoor skydiving experience.



## From the Management



Bob joined the committee as a member and service user of macs to watch MACS grow as a company to be proud of.

Bob would like to see MACS grow to cover more of Brisbane. MACS is in a unique space and could cover a wider area of Brisbane.

Although the NDIS has presented us with a new set of challenges I believe we have managed the NDIS very well and now in a position to grow the business.

I am a electrician with limited experience in business but our president does a good job.

## From the Coordination Team:

In December we were got to let our hair down at our staff Christmas party. Thank you to the Sporting Globe @ Chermside for a great afternoon and thank you Santa Chermside for our annual photo. Check out some snaps below of our Christmas party.

