Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends,
Have you noticed that our days are already getting a little lighter and longer? With the cold and wet conditions over the last fortnight several staff members and students at the Burnie campus in particular have been absent due to illness.
We hope the worst is over and those members of the school community are soon fit and well.

I would like to report on several changes that have occurred since 1st July.

Reforms in the Disability Sector

Many families may already be aware that Disability Services have now been absorbed into a new agency - Gateway. The Reform Implementation Unity (RIU) has been working with representatives to look at how intake, assessment and referral pathways to Gateway can best be transferred.

The Gateway will have three main functions in relation to disability services as follows:

Intake and Assessment
Provide information to individuals and services contacting the Gateway about both generic and specialist disability services within their local area. This will occur through a tiered approach:

- General enquiries, requests for information
- Screening Assessment of need but referral to a generic service
- Targeted Assessment of need referral to specialist disability service

When contact is made with the Gateway an initial screening assessment tool will be used. This tool
assists the Gateway to determine what kind of response/service is required to meet the needs of the client.

In completing the initial screening it may become apparent that a more detailed assessment is required by applying the Targeted Assessment for Disability Services. This assessment tool gathers more detailed information about the client, from the client themselves, family carers and other previous assessments. The tool also determines eligibility for specialist disability services as outlined in the Disability Services Act 1992.

**Active Monitoring**

The role of active monitoring in the Gateway will be to work with people with a disability in a range of ways:

- Provide needs based contact with self managed clients who do not need coordination on a regular basis but need to know where to call if they have an issue. A good example of this is someone living in private rental accommodation who attends a supported employment service but only requires assistance when the lease agreement is reviewed.

- Maintain a needs register or waiting list for services. The Gateway will maintain regular contact with people on the waiting list to monitor their needs and potentially look at interim solutions if the needs increase but a service is still not available. This is anticipated to alleviate crisis response.

The active monitoring role of the Gateway will also include working with the specialist disability services sector organizations (Accommodation Support, Respite, Community Access, Individual Support) in relation to the capacity of the sector to accept referrals.

**Local Area Coordination**

The Gateway will provide a coordination function for clients in the local area. This can occur as follows:

- A single session response to people in immediate need
- Ongoing person centred planning as a result of the targeted assessment prior to referral to services
- Case management to clients who require ongoing support to access and stay connected with services.

Based on feedback from the focus groups there may be clients that receive a small amount of support from the funded service sector, e.g. 1 day a week of a community access service, 6 hrs a week of an ISP. These clients may need coordination from the Gateway to secure additional services or to monitor their needs and this would
be an appropriate function of the Gateway.

**Brokerage**
The Gateway will have access to brokerage funds to provide time limited support and/or crisis intervention where needed. This may occur if access to a funded service is not available, or the client/family require an immediate service response.

**Co-located Disability Services Officer**
It is proposed to have a co-located DHHS Disability Services Officer in each of the Gateway’s. The functions of this role will be to provide advice and support to the Gateway where there is lack of clarity around eligibility and complexity of referrals. This role will be employed and managed by DHHS and will be a member of the area Team.

**In Conclusion**
These changes may be very confusing for parents and carers to fully understand at this moment. I suggest that if you are currently seeking support e.g. your child will be transitioning from SOSE NW into a life long pathway i.e. day service provision then please contact Mrs Bronwyn West, the Transition Co-ordinator for both campuses who will be able to share further information about these complex changes.

**Disability Liaison and Mediation Services**
The Department of Education has awarded the tender for Disability Liaison and Mediation Services to the Life Without Barriers organization. The service is:
- Accessible to both families and schools in relation to students with disabilities
- Available statewide
- To support collaborative communication processes between families and school staff
- To assist with conflict resolution mediation

This service replaces the current advocacy services previously funded by the Department of Education through the Association of Children with Disabilities.

May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mrs Diane Ewington from ACD who for many years has provided a most comprehensive and ongoing support service to families across the North West. Whilst ACD were not successful in winning the contract at this time, I am fully aware that Diane will continue in a support role to assist families and carers with problem solving issues.
Now for some ‘brighter’ news .........

John Murray, a student in the Yellow Room at the Devonport campus won a prize at the Winterfest Chocolate celebrations at Latrobe last weekend. Well Done John! John’s cake was made exclusively of delicious chocolate.

Andrew Foster who also entered the cake competition also received an award for his efforts.

A sincere thank you to Ms Jo Corvinus for taking the initiative to involve our students in such a festive event.

Frogs in a Pond

Witchy Poo

Reminders

Student Free Professional Learning Day - Monday, 19th July

Grace

ADVERTISING

Volunteers Needed for The Playhouse

The Playhouse is on the corner of Charles & Forbes Street in Devonport and open from 9.30am – 2pm. It’s a drop in centre for parents/carers and families with children 0-5 years of age.

Volunteers work with other volunteers to meet and greet patrons, handle door fees and make sure people are happy. Volunteers are welcome to bring along their children and shifts are flexible – it doesn’t have to be a weekly commitment. If interested please call the Community House on 6424 7060.

Thanks for any help you can provide us. We’re hoping to encourage older mums to come along and mentor the younger mums (or dads).

Regards,

Kate Beer, Coordinator
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