



# BigDog

## SUPPORT SERVICES

December 2019 Newsletter

HE SEES YOU  
WHEN YOU'RE EATING...



Thank you

HE KNOWS  
WHEN YOU'VE GOT SNACKS...



# NEWSLETTER

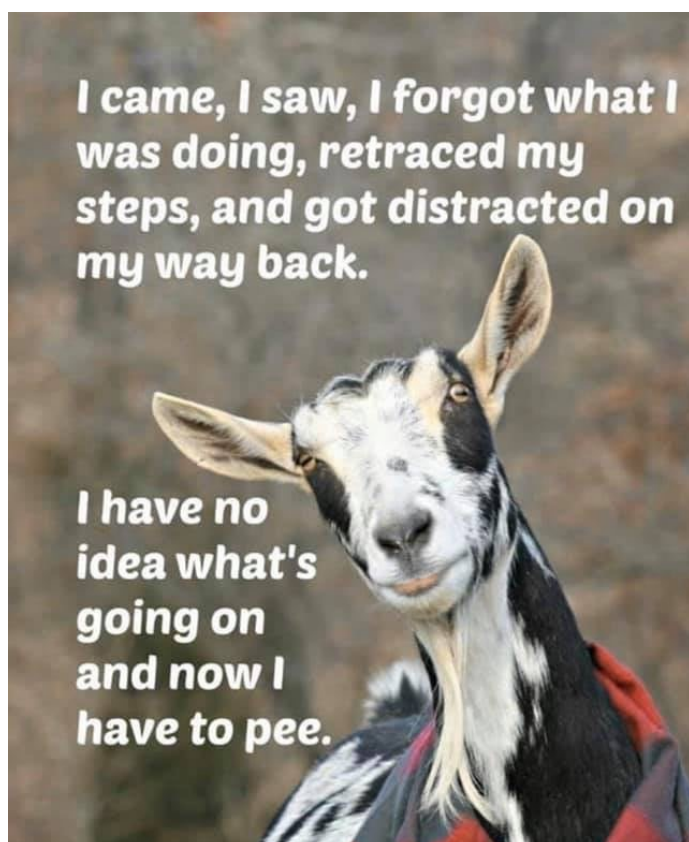
**ndis**  
REGISTERED  
PROVIDER

## Steven's Editor Notes

Hi everyone,

As we reach the end of 2019 I look back with satisfaction at the progress that BigDog has made on behalf of our participants and our role as a professional support organisation. The year has seen some positive changes in the NDIS but there is still work to be done. That's why BigDog has attended over 70 community consultations and engage with the NDIA over matters that concern participants and providers alike. 2019 has seen significant growth within BigDog and increasing brand awareness with the update of our logo in January and the presence of our fleet of vehicles in the community. We have also seen an improvement in our online accounting and reporting systems and look forward to the introduction of our new website in January 2020.

My very best wishes go out to everyone at BigDog, our staff, our participants, our families, our supporters and my own family for a happy Christmas and a prosperous 2020.



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# News Hound COVER STORY

## Thank you to our valued staff

To my management team, I acknowledge the difference that you have made to make BigDog the professional and successful business that we are, and thank you for your dedication and professional manner.

Within the support teams you know what you have achieved this year, you know the difference that you have made to our participants, their families and our community.

Those differences have been enormous and far too many for me to refer to individually.

But what I want to say with sincerity on behalf

of myself and the management team, is thank you to each and everyone of you.

I have received a number of reports this year and what they overwhelmingly is the positive attitude, behavior and your support is centred on your participant. On those occasions where we don't get it right, we are learning and we are putting it right. It is you that is making a difference.

I also know how much your families support you in what you do and I would like to extend my thank you to them as well.

### Thank you to our valued sponsors

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## Medium Term Accommodation

The Minister for the NDIS, Stuart Robert, announced a new type of transitional housing support designed to support participants as they prepare to move into their permanent home.

Funding for Medium Term Accommodation (MTA) is available to NDIS participants who require temporary transitional housing while they wait for their permanent home to become ready or available for use. Typical examples of where MTA might be used include:

- bridging accommodation for younger participants who are at risk of being admitted to aged care, or those who wish to leave aged care, while they wait for home modifications or identified specialist disability accommodation
- participants who are ready to leave hospital but are waiting for disability-related home modifications to be completed on their house
- participants who have been found eligible for specialist disability accommodation but are awaiting on a vacancy or build to be completed.

‘The NDIS enables people with disability to live more independently and one of the most fundamental aspects of all our lives is having choice and control over where we live, who we live with and the supports we need,’ Minister Robert said.

‘We don’t want people in hospital or aged care settings any longer than they have to be and

by introducing funding for MTA, we’re addressing those challenges.

‘Today’s announcement also builds on changes being made as part of the Australian Government’s plan to deliver on the promise of the NDIS.’

MTA has been introduced into the NDIS Price Guide as a new support item, giving clarity to providers on the price limits.

MTA also responds to a number of key COAG Disability Reform Council commitments and will help deliver on the Government’s target, announced last week, of no new younger people entering residential aged care by 2022.

### **NDIS Price Guide 2019-20 - effective 1st December 2019**

A small number of changes have been made to the NDIS Price Guide and Support Catalogue 2019-20:

- The inclusion of six additional areas reclassified as remote.
- Price limit increases and name change to Short Term Accommodation and Assistance.
- Introduction of MTA.
- The introduction of two new support items for dietitians.
- Clarification to define that new supports listed under ‘Core’ effective 1st October 2019, are claimable for disability-related health supports only.

# Now you're 18 **TRANSITION GUIDE**

## BigDog Transition Guides

A series of Transition Guides are available to read or download from our website. They contain information and links to sites that will assist a young person to obtain the necessary items in their life such as a Tax File Number.

### The Law

At 18 you are now in control of your life. The law says you are an adult and you don't need your parents' permission to do anything.

- you can be taken to the adult courts if you break the law
- you can be sent to an adult jail for an offence

- you can buy alcohol and go to a public bar
- you can buy cigarettes
- you can be held responsible for any agreement you make (for example, if you borrow money, rent a flat, sign any contract)
- you can get married without anyone's permission
- you can get a tattoo
- you can make a valid will
- you can buy a can of spray paint
- you can change your name without anyone's permission
- you can have your genitalia including the nipples pierced
- you can apply for an Australian pass-port without your parent's consent
- you can now engage in consensual sexting if all of the people involved are 18 or over

### Public Places

It is an offence to be drunk in a public place. Using obscene or insulting language or behaving violently, disorderly or indecently is also an offence. These offences are called public nuisance offences. It is also an offence to be drunk or disorderly in a licensed place (such as a bar or a club).

If you are acting drunk, creating a disturbance or enter without being allowed then the club may ask you to leave. They can use force that is reasonable and necessary if you fail to leave when asked.



A GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITY TRANSITIONING FROM HIGH SCHOOL

# Community NEWS



## Queens Park Market

### Sunday 15th December

To find out more about the Queens Park Markets, visit them on Facebook: @queensparkcraftmarket

Or contact the market coordinator by email: queensparkmarkets@gmail.com Or call us here at WhatsUp Alexander St: 4632 9559

### Queens Park Fireworks

As a result of the current total fire ban, Toowoomba Regional Council has made a decision to cancel the fireworks display for New Year's Eve this year.

"In lieu of the fireworks we will be staging a light show to bring colour and light to the evening in a safe and enjoyable way," said Cr Geoff McDonald.

"We will also be staging a rain dance to see if we can crack the drought which would be the perfect way to kick off 2020!"

## Community Achievement Awards

Congratulations to Kim Stokes for receiving a Community Hero Award for her untiring commitment to the Toowoomba Community. Here receiving her award from Coralee O'Rourke MP Minister for Communities.





# Community PARTNERSHIPS

## Community Services Breakfast

Jon Crisp, thank you for hosting the final Toowoomba Community Services breakfast for 2019 at Downs Steam Tourist Railway and Museum on Friday. Great company, wonderful conversation, a nice brekkie to start the day and a fantastic tour led by Vince.

We acknowledge the passion and craftsmanship of the volunteers that have restored a number of locomotives and carriages at this museum.



To obtain a copy of WhatsUp in Disability magazine or to be an advertiser, please contact WhatsUp via:

Office 4/33 Bell Street, Toowoomba

Email [admin@whatsupindisability.org](mailto:admin@whatsupindisability.org)

Phone 4632 6678

Online [www.whatsupindisability.org](http://www.whatsupindisability.org)

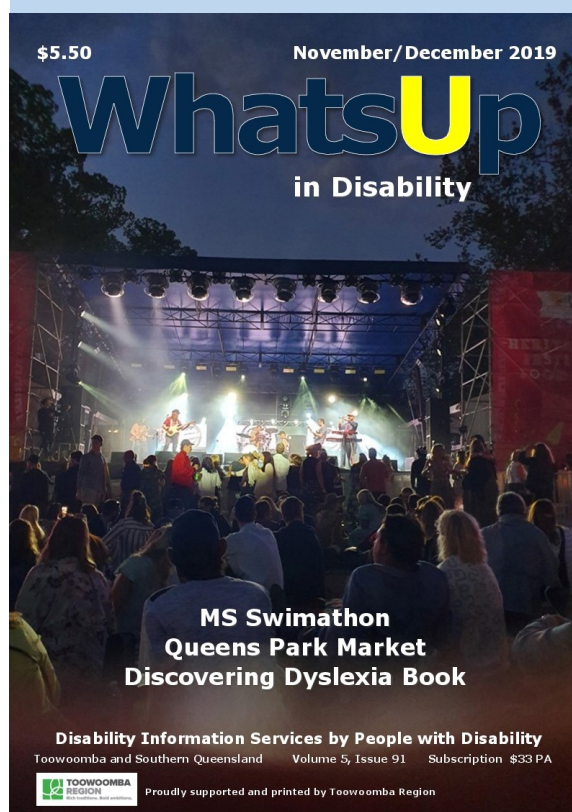
## Nov/Dec Magazine

### WhatsUp in Disability

Stories in this issue include:

- Carnival of Flowers
- MS Swimathon
- Discovering Dyslexia
- Disability Action Week
- Croquet for everyone
- Queens Park Market
- Mental Health Week
- Scott and Matt at home

Steven Paull President



# Christmas in **ROCKY**



Steven and Jacob



Suz and Tyler







Kurt, Jacob, Trey, Tiko and Brodee



Christian and Emma



Sam, Tahlia and Kira



Betty, Simone, Tahlia and Kirsty

# Community Centre with SHARON

## Christmas Party

10:00am to 2:00pm

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019

Paul Myatt Community Centre

11-15 Alexander Street

North Toowoomba

RSVP to Sharon by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December



**Participants Free**  
**Guests are \$15**

Includes Christmas lunch and dessert,  
munchies, drinks, games and waterslide.  
Bring your togs and towel

### December is full of things to do!

Check out the December Calendar on our website for daily activities:

Monday Art Therapy

Tuesday Gym

Drum Therapy

Wednesday Swimming

Cook and share

Thursday 10 pin bowling

BBQ in the park

Friday Craft morning

Reminder that there is no additional cost for these activities for anyone attending the Paul Myatt Community Centre on those days.

### Special Events

3<sup>rd</sup> International Day of People with Disability

13<sup>th</sup> Movie Day

20<sup>th</sup> Rocky Participant Christmas Party

21<sup>st</sup> Toowoomba Staff Christmas Party

23<sup>rd</sup> Toowoomba Participant Party

25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

26<sup>th</sup> Boxing Day

27<sup>th</sup> Christmas Stories Day

### BigDog Day Service Toowoomba

Paul Myatt Community Centre

11-15 Alexander Street

North Toowoomba 4350

#### Coordinator

Sharon Price

Phone: 4512 6020

[dayservice@bigdogsupport.com.au](mailto:dayservice@bigdogsupport.com.au)





# Rockhampton with SUZANNE

## New Respite Accommodation

The apartment is an easy stroll to the cultural and culinary delights of the Rockhampton CBD.

The unit has 2 bedrooms with built in wardrobes, separate bathrooms, a well equipped kitchen with polished stone benchtops, built in laundry, it is also airconditioned, fully furnished with quality fittings and a fully stocked kitchen

The building has a lap pool, gymnasium, security entry and parking and a wheelchair accessible bathroom.

Bookings are essential



The view from our new unit is nothing short of spectacular, looking over the Fitzroy River and the surrounding ranges early in the morning.



### BigDog Day Service Rockhampton

206 Murray Street,  
Allentown, Rockhampton 4701

#### Coordinator

Kylie Shields

Phone: 4573 4611

[ssmith@bigdogsupport.com.au](mailto:ssmith@bigdogsupport.com.au)

[sheit@bigdogsupport.com.au](mailto:sheit@bigdogsupport.com.au)



# Safety matters with

# STEVE

## Toowoomba By-Pass

Please be aware that starting on Monday 9th December, the new Toowoomba bypass will become a toll road.

If any staff have been using this road with participants, please remember to stop using it as of Monday. The preferred route to take is James Street or Margaret Street to utilise the old Range Crossing through Withcott.

Any charges, including administration to will be in turn charged back to the staff driver.

Department of  
Transport and Main Roads

### Public Notice

### Notification of tolls for Toowoomba Bypass

The Department of Transport and Main Roads advises the following tolls will apply for use of the Toowoomba Bypass from 9 December 2019.

Vehicle type	Toll *
Motorcycles	\$1.15
Cars	\$2.30
Light commercial vehicles	\$5.70
Heavy vehicles	\$22.85

\*Tolls are inclusive of GST.

For more information, visit  
[www.tmr.qld.gov.au/ToowoombaToll](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/ToowoombaToll)



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# Staff information with ANN

## Toowoomba Staff Christmas Party



**BigDog Staff Christmas Party**

 **5:00pm**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019**  
**Paul Myatt Community Centre**  
**11-15 Alexander Street**  
**North Toowoomba**



**Staff and families are all welcome**  
**Bring a plate**  
**BYO Alcohol**

RSVP to Ann by 18 December

## Birthdays



**December**

3rd	Carries
7th	Zantanamaud
9th	Jacob E
	Kurt
10th	Craig M
12th	Alysa
	Sarah D
13th	Corrina
17th	Karen
20th	Kerrie-Anne

**Have a great day!**



## Christmas Trading Hours

The Administration office will be operated by a skeleton staff over Christmas, closing only Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and New Year's Day.

Paul Myatt Community Centre will also be open as detailed above with day service activities each day.

Rockhampton Day Service will be closed for the period Monday 23rd December to Monday 6th January.





# What's happening in **DECEMBER**

# **MERRY CHRISTMAS**



**Sunday 8th  
December**

**SENSORY  
MOVIE DAY  
FROZEN II**

10:30 AM

Grand Central  
Cinemas

**All tickets \$6  
Bookings Now**



**Sunday 15th  
December**

8:00 am—1:00 pm

Queens Park Ovals

43-73 Lindsay Street

All proceeds to sup-  
port WhatsUp in Disa-  
bility Magazine





## Community Services Breakfast



Trevor Watts, Kim Stokes and David Janetzki



## JPs in the Community

### Justice of the Peace

This service is available at the Paul Myatt Community Centre 11-15 Alexander Street Too-woomba (please make an appointment)

The **JPs in the Community Program** is also available through major shopping centres, libraries, court houses and hospitals.

# BigDog

## Contact Us

### BigDog Support Services

232 Ruthven Street  
Too-woomba QLD 4350

PO Box 234  
Harlaxton QLD 4350

**(07) 4632 9559**

**1800 22 44 32**

[www.bigdogsupport.com.au](http://www.bigdogsupport.com.au)





from **BigDog**



**WhatsUp** in Disability



**HOLDEN**



Merry Christmas.

