



The story behind our new Group Home

It was in early February 2005 that the possibility of building a new Group Home at Snowdonia Court became a reality for i.d.entity.wa.

This property was originally a Department of Housing and Works (DH&W) house which was razed to the ground after a fire. When offered to i.d.entity.wa, the 490-square-metre property was seen as an opportunity to build a new, five-bedroom, purpose-built home in accord with the Gatter Report of November 2004.

It was determined by management that the new house could be the new home for the residents at 6B Meldrum Way, Koondoola. An Occupational Therapist's report was carried out on the residents to see how the floor plan and design for the new house would be determined.

In September 2005 architect John Blake was appointed by the DH&W. Initially Steve Van Vlijmen and I met with him to discuss the concept and outline features of the house in conjunction with the Occupational Therapist's report. Stephan and I both agree that i.d.entity.wa was fortunate to be allocated such an excellent and experienced architect to work with.

The plans and design for a 5-bedroom house with walk-in robes, two very large bathroom/toilets, storeroom, enormous laundry, well-appointed functional kitchen and spacious common living and eating areas were completed and signed off in mid-November 2005 and submitted to DH&W.

After negotiating additional costs for the house outside the scope of works



and budget with DH&W, they approved the design and plans in May 2006.

The builder appointed by DH&W was Endius Homes, who have many years of experience building purpose-built homes for people with disabilities. Construction commenced on 14 May 2006 and was completed in mid-November, with staff at 6B Meldrum Way taking the residents to see progress at every opportunity.

Construction, originally anticipated to take 12 months, was completed in 35 weeks. In today's environment, where the average time to build a home is up to 60 weeks, we were very fortunate indeed to have very few delays. The end result is that i.d.entity.wa has a lovely, purpose-built house that supports the needs of people with disabilities.

On 8 December 2006 three of the four clients who were going to live at Snowdonia Court moved into their new home; the fourth client moved in early January 2007.

The most significant event still to come is the House Blessing; this is anticipated for the very near future.

Can I thank Stephan Van Vlijmen for his work on this project; Sara Howard who has now picked up the running of the house as Coordinator, ironing out all those seen and unseen problems; members of the Coordinating Group for their support to me during the construction of this house; and a big thank you to Les Doyle for ensuring that the house was opened with staff, furniture etc and his negotiation with retailers to have furniture available at short notice, along with his support to me whilst we endeavoured to have this house opened on time.

I also acknowledge the funding for set-up costs of the house from Lotterywest, the Disability Services Commission for funding a new bus and also set-up costs, and of course DH&W for arranging construction. And finally to the residents, their families and the staff from 6B Meldrum Way who were willing to go the extra mile and put up with the inconvenience of the move to make the opening of the new house possible.

Thank you.

LINDSAY BOYER, Manager,
Residential Support Services Team No 1

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"identikite" welcomes contributions from families, carers and clients, whether it's your view on current issues, or a personal experience you would like to share with other readers. Your comments on the content of *"identikite"* are also valuable, together with suggestions for any issues you would like to see covered in the future. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Write to or fax:

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We value your views

At i.d.entity.wa, if you have complaints, we like to hear them. First of all, it means we can address the issues. Second, complaints give us an opportunity to improve the way we do things.

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of the services we are providing; or you believe that we are not listening to you; or you do not like the way we treat you or your family member who uses our services, then it is your right to complain.

Usually the best way to resolve something is to speak directly to the person providing the service. They will do what they can to make things right.

If that doesn't work, or if for any reason you don't want to raise it with that person, then phone the Kensington office on 9474 3303 and ask to speak to the Coordinator or Manager of the service providing your care.

You can also lodge written complaints by mail (PO Box 5, South Perth 6951) or fax (9474 3315) to our Kensington office. Please remember to mark them **CONFIDENTIAL**.

We are committed to dealing with all complaints confidentially, courteously, and impartially. We undertake to give an initial response to any complaint within 2 working days, and endeavour to complete any investigation within 4 weeks. It is not always possible to resolve every matter in a short time but, however long it takes, we will keep you regularly updated on the progress we are making.

If we cannot resolve matters to your satisfaction there are external avenues for complaint, mediation and legal advice. They include the Disability Services Commission, the Office of Health Review, Advocare, People With Disabilities, the Equal Opportunity Commission and the Sussex St Community Legal Service. Phone numbers and contact details for all of these services are contained on our brochure "We Value Your Views". Ask for a copy from staff in any service that you use, or by ringing the Kensington office. Or download one from our web site at www.identitywa.com.au.

TINA MERRY, *Policy Development and Research Officer*

New families welcomed

Six new families were welcomed to i.d.entity.wa's services and enjoyed a delicious morning tea at Kensington in February.

Families were able to share their stories and network amongst each other. We were able to inform families about the different funding sources that they could access. A lot of information was given about all the different services we offer that can be very beneficial for the whole family.

The Family Counselling and Pastoral Care Service places great importance on providing programs that support carers and their families. We know that YOU as parents are the most important person caring for your child and your health and wellbeing is essential for you to continue this role in the long term.

The morning tea was a great opportunity for families to meet each other and to enjoy a delightful social gathering with other parents in the same situation. Thank you to all those who attended.

EILEEN DIELESEN and ANDREW LIPCZYNSKI, *Family Counselling and Pastoral Care*

In Memoriam

It is with much sadness that we acknowledge the deaths of Rebecca Greene, Chris Gauder, Sheree Reynolds and Tabatha Szczurowski.

We at i.d.entity.wa extend our heartfelt sympathy to their families and friends and pray you may find comfort and strength during your time of loss.

Consumer Participation

Since joining i.d.entity.wa late last year as the Policy Development and Research Officer, I am gaining insight into the complexities of policy development in the disability sector, and of the skills and depth of knowledge that David Parker, my predecessor, brought to the position. Given that David had only a limited opportunity to hand over to me, it has been a little difficult to 'pick up the threads' of some projects, so I hope that you will bear with me as I revisit a discussion that David commenced.

Carers enjoy movie morning



A great movie/coffee/cake morning was held in March north of the river at the Greater Union Megaplex Innaloo.

Six carers attended this morning and met before the movie to enjoy some cake and coffee at the Dome Café in the complex.

Everyone enjoyed the movie *Freedom Writers* with Hilary Swank and Patrick Dempsey, and a few of us had to get the tissues out because it was a really moving story that touched our hearts.

The movie was based on the true story of a very courageous school teacher who made a difference in the lives of some very troubled teenagers. I couldn't help but think how all you wonderful parents/carers of a special needs child make a difference in the lives of your children. The challenges you face in your lives on a daily basis and overcome only serves to make you grow beautiful warm, loving and compassionate hearts. I am always touched to be in your presence and to experience your beautiful hearts and souls.

We plan on conducting more of these mornings as all the carers really enjoyed the opportunity of meeting with other carers, taking some time out of their busy lives and nurturing themselves.

EILEEN DIELESEN, Family Counsellor/Group Facilitator

I am currently considering the key tenets underpinning how consumer participation should take place; that is how consumers (primary and secondary) and i.d.entity.wa come together to make decisions that affect the life of the consumer. There are some existing i.d.entity.wa documents¹ which are very valuable as they explore these issues in great detail. However, this article provides a summary of many of the key points, and I hope will stimulate some fresh discussion on this important topic.

It is vital that i.d.entity.wa fosters a culture where consumers are involved not only in decisions about the circumstances of their daily lives, but also where there are opportunities for them to contribute to decisions that shape the future of this organisation.

I understand that i.d.entity.wa has moved away from a 'membership' model and is taking on the broader responsibilities of a 'service provider'. As a major player in the West Australian disability sector, i.d.entity.wa has increased accountability to Government, and to the community which it serves. Some people fear this increase in accountability brings with it a decrease in the opportunity for consumer participation. I would argue that this is not the case, rather it challenges us to take greater responsibility for the decisions in which we are involved, and to be very clear in regard to the role we play and the influence we can exert.

i.d.entity.wa places a very high value on consumer participation because it can provide different perspectives which contribute to better decisions. Also, when people are directly involved, they develop a better understanding of the rationale behind the decision-making process; this increases commitment to what has been agreed and adds to the skills, knowledge and understanding of all involved.

i.d.entity.wa recognises that our primary consumers (that is people with an intellectual disability) have differing levels of decision-making capacity, and that many will rely on others to make decisions for them. i.d.entity.wa has a responsibility therefore to ensure that it knows who to involve in decisions which impact on the lives of those we care for and support. Our Advocacy policy describes how i.d.entity.wa recognises key people in the lives of our primary consumers.

When you act as an advocate, it is your responsibility to put the person for whom you are advocating at the centre of the decisions you make. In the role of advocate, you are making decisions at the individual level. However, when making those decisions you must consider that i.d.entity.wa has much broader

responsibilities and must respond in a way that contributes to the responsible care, justice and respect of other consumers.

This is most likely to be achieved when staff and consumers work together in a mutually respectful partnership. Staff play a key role in facilitating consumer participation, and they need to be trained and supported in this role. They, perhaps more than any one else, need to understand why consumers (primary and secondary) are sometimes reluctant to voice their concerns or to assert their rights. The input provided by secondary consumers into staff training has proved a powerful tool for building understanding with staff.

There are also occasions when i.d.entity.wa needs to make decisions which impact on the day-to-day lives of the individual. Where i.d.entity.wa takes on this role, decisions will be guided by the values of the organisation, and will reflect the values of the Catholic Church. It is important that people considering entering our services, either as consumers or as staff, consider their own values and whether these fit comfortably with those of i.d.entity.wa as these values will not be compromised.

Clarifying which decisions and choices need to be made on behalf of a person with a disability can be very challenging. It is made more difficult because people who are close to a disabled person are often forced, by funding models, to focus on their deficits rather than on their strengths. We must guard against underestimating people by offering choices that are too limited, or limiting their opportunity to take risks, or, contrastingly, putting them under pressure to make decisions that they are unable to make.

Currently, there are a number of ways that secondary consumers can be involved in decisions relating to the development of services at i.d.entity.wa. This is a very different role to that of the advocacy role, as working out what is best for everyone can be far more difficult than deciding what is best for an individual with whom you have a close relationship.

Opportunities for consumer participation at i.d.entity.wa include:

- Consultations
- Asking for opinions in *identikit*
- Fellowship after Community Mass, and other occasions
- Grievance Procedure
- Consumer meetings (for example the Big Picture held twice yearly)
- Policy Working Parties
- Board of Governors

i.d.entity.wa recognises that there are constraints on consumer participation. As already discussed, many of our primary

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consumers would find it difficult to contribute to higher level decisions, and we acknowledge that secondary consumers already have huge demands on their time and energy. Our consumer participation policy should therefore include strategies to minimise barriers to participation.

For the reasons outlined above, we must accept that it is not always the case that a broad range of views are presented in relation to a particular issue, and i.d.entity.wa must take steps to guard against decisions being unduly influenced by a one person or a small group, or unsatisfactory decisions being made because time to develop ideas and explore options is limited.

Legislation requires us to be constantly vigilant that all decisions are made in the best interest of the person with a disability. The recent introduction of Disability Service Standard 9 places responsibility on the service provider to act 'to prevent abuse and neglect, and to uphold the legal and human rights of consumers'.

Our Consumer Participation Policy might explain clearly that i.d.entity.wa will not attempt to 'control the agenda', will listen to all views presented, and will endeavour to negotiate a level of agreement between all parties, but that the responsibility for decision-making in relation to service delivery will rest with staff or with the Board. i.d.entity.wa recognises that clearly outlining the authority of various positions within the organisation aids effective consumer participation, and that wherever possible decisions should be made as close as possible to the level in the organisation where the impact of the decision will be felt.

Clearly, the value of recommendations made by consumers will be determined by the amount of information they have access to – i.d.entity.wa must endeavour to provide relevant information in timely manner, and in an appropriate format. An additional advantage of having well-informed consumers is that they can provide a strong lobby when the operations of the organisation are constrained by Government policy, and may contribute to policy development at a state and national level.

If you would like to be involved in the development of this policy and you have not already done so, you can add your name to the Client Participation Register. Alternatively, if you would just like to share some thoughts with me, please telephone me on 9474 3303 or email resch@identitywa, as I would appreciate your insight and experience.

TINA MERRY, Policy Development & Research Officer

(Footnotes)

¹ i.d.entity.wa Consumer Participation Rationale Statement March 2002, and Catholic Care Consumer Participation Policy May 1994.

Hard work pays off for Traineeship Graduates

A Graduation Ceremony was held in November 2006 for our first group of Graduates from the Traineeship program. i.d.entity.wa in conjunction with Austral College were very pleased and proud to present certificates to our graduating staff.

The graduates were successful in completing Certificate III and in some cases Certificate IV. The trainees used their workplace knowledge as a foundation and built on this to gain their recognised qualification(s).

This has been a lot of hard work for each individual; taking up study after a long break from education is not an easy thing to do and we congratulate and applaud all staff who undertake this new pathway in their lives. The rewards that come from study will no doubt be felt by

individuals themselves and the organisation.

We are pleased to announce that a third group of staff will commence their traineeships with Austral College in February of this year and we wish them every success.



Back row, from left, Sharon Hill, Danica Ikac, Karen Aitchison, Catherine Holland (Austral College), Elaine Needham, Melanie Holland (Austral college) Lena Rossi, Kay Nixon; front row, from left, Jenni Townsend, Brenda Ninnette, Julie Flanders

Volunteer Recognition Lunch



Social Club members, Volunteers and Staff at Santa Fe Restaurant.

December 5, 2006 was International Volunteer Day, and we couldn't pass up the opportunity to thank our fantastic group of volunteers for their contribution to our programs.

We decided to hold a Christmas lunch at Santa Fe Restaurant in Subiaco and invited all our volunteers, as well as the members of the Social Club. Our volunteers are heavily involved in the Social Club outings, and many have developed strong friendships with the members. We decided to give the members an opportunity to show their appreciation for all the great work the volunteers do.

Sharon Hill (Manager, Community Support Services) presented all the volunteers with a certificate and a gift on behalf of i.d.entity.wa, the Social Club members and all the other clients they support throughout the organisation. We then enjoyed a lovely meal and a few drinks in the courtyard of the restaurant. It was wonderful to see the volunteers and Social Club members socialising together and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

It is not always possible to hold functions or give gifts in appreciation of our volunteers, but we try to reflect our gratitude throughout the year with lots of thank-yous at the end of outings, notes in the mail and birthday cards. **I urge everyone in the organisation to say 'thanks' or give a pat on the back to our volunteers if you see them around the office- they are just as influential in the success and future of our programs as the staff and management are.**

JO SHARLAND, Activities Officer, Recreation Service

Magical Carers Pamper Day

Never in the history of i.d.entity.wa's group programs have all of the booked participants turned up for a group program!! We had a cancellation list of over fifteen carers eagerly waiting for someone to cancel, but alas no one was going to miss this special event.

We were very privileged to receive funding from Carers WA to conduct this day in Carers Week. We hired the most magical venue called 'A Place To Just Be' in Preston Point Road, East Fremantle, and words would never adequately describe the wonderful venue, gardens, ponds and buildings that make up this place. Everywhere you looked there were beautiful works of pottery and art amongst the beautiful gardens. It is truly an oasis in the suburbs and the ideal place to do some pampering. The gardens provided many beautiful places to just sit and 'be' and there was also a small chapel where carers could go to enjoy some quiet contemplative time. The meeting room was large and restful.

We commenced the day with a delicious morning tea and then everyone began the day by lighting a candle for that part of themselves that most needed nurturing. This was followed by a very relaxing couple of meditations conducted by Lea McKenna. Rosemary Arnott then gave a short talk on the 'Living Flower Essences'. After this blissful and relaxing start to the day everyone was in the right frame of mind to enjoy Reiki, reflexology, massage, living flower essence/quantum healing treatments and facials.



Carers discover a place to just be.



A really delicious lunch prepared by Ambience Cafe arrived at 12.30pm with platters of gourmet rolls, quiches, fruit/chocolate and other delicious morsels. There were lots of sounds of 'mmm mmm, mmm mmm', this is so yummy. Everyone enjoyed the day and benefited from all the delightful pampering. The only complaint was that the day finished too early!

A very big thank you is extended to the wonderful pampering angels who donated their time and services to care so lovingly for these carers. Thanks to Rosemary Arnott, Lea McKenna, Libby Butner, Estelle Potgieter, Ingrid Diangia



and Tim Schneider. Without your wonderful generosity we would not have been able to have such a pamper day. You truly are special angels and may God bless you over and over again with his abundance in all things.

EILEEN DIELESEN and ANDREW LIPCZYNSKI, Family Counselling and Pastoral Care Service

Parents Commonlinks Group

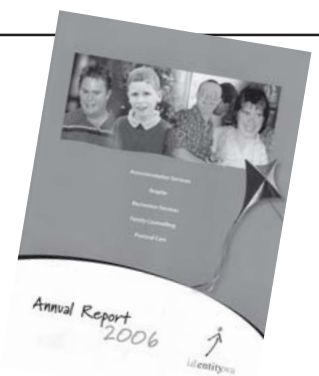
The Commonlinks support group was held at the Nollamara Children's Respite House in November 2006 and seven carers attended.

We commenced the morning with a lovely long relaxation/meditation to bring everyone into the right state of mind/body. A group discussion followed and this was a wonderful opportunity to meet and connect with other carers, hear each other's stories, form friendships and network with each other. Renee van Vlijmen and Claire Purdy arrived just before 11am to give everyone a wonderful pampering massage and reflexology treatments. Their expertise and loving care was greatly appreciated by everyone. A delicious home-made morning tea was served and enjoyed by everyone.

A very big thanks is extended to our two beautiful angels who donated their precious time and energy to pamper these carers. You are so special to do this with so much love in your hearts.

These groups are being offered to parents/carers who are supporting their son/daughter (of all ages) at home. We meet every two months and newcomers are very welcome to join us. There is no cost involved. Please phone Eileen Dielesen or Andrew Lipczynski on **9474 3303** if you are interested in coming along.

EILEEN DIELESEN, Family Counsellor/Group Facilitator



Annual Report

The 2005/2006 Annual Report is available to view or download from our website www.identitywa.com.au. It is also available for collection from i.d.entity.wa at 46 David Street, Kensington. Please contact us on 9474 3303 if you would like a copy. The Full Financial Report 2005/2006 is also available on the website.

Keeping us down on the farm

Wow! What a different week I had away from Head Office.

I accompanied Julie Johnson and the ladies from Woodside Street away on holiday, to a Farm Stay in Margaret River. To my surprise Julie was at my place bright and early, as the ladies were very eager to get their holiday started.

As we arrived at the Farm Stay the ladies couldn't wait to get out of the car and stretch their legs. As for Janice, she was more enthusiastic about getting straight into the farm to feed the animals.

At 4pm was bottle feeding for Pearl and Rex, the little baby piglets, followed by Gumboots and Sieve, the baby kangaroos. Janice was in there first for Rex, and Tahlia with Pearl. Claire and Jo had a go with the baby kangaroos. After the bottle feeding, off we went to feed the other animals. At the start some of us, mainly myself, were a bit hesitant with the long tongues and dripping saliva, but Julie, the farm girl at heart, took the reins and got us all involved. In the evening we headed into town for dinner at The Spaghetti Bowl which was wonderful. The hospitality we got there was unforgettable. Then after our big feed it was back home for showers and bed. What a first day.

The next few days were very exciting! We met Jane and Peter at

Palandri's for a bit of shopping, then off to lunch at Providore Winery where we also got to taste some delicious jams and dipping sauces. The staff at Providore were so wonderful; they brought us complimentary bread from France to try. They explained that it came to Providore Winery frozen and uncooked, then they bake it fresh everyday. After our meal we left Jane and Peter and headed to the yummy Chocolate Factory.

Our time was filled with lots of enjoyable fun, visiting the Candy Cow, where we got to see Red Gum Honey Crumble being made, and with a little extra treat from the staff, we got to taste the freshly made crumble, then to the cheese factory, and home for an awesome tractor ride. Both Janice and Jo came with me, you could feel the ground trembling from the cows running up to get some bread from us. It was an awesome experience. Later that night Julie and I thought we would take the ladies for a nice drive to Canal Rocks in Yallingup, and I've never seen Claire have so much fun and the smiles and laughter we received off her were a total Kodak moment.

The next day we travelled to the Mammoth Cave. What a treat, the ladies were great, hiking up and down all those stairs. Yes, all 150 steps we had to climb up, from the bottom of the



cave. After our hike we all decided it was time for lunch at the Mammoth Café, followed by an afternoon snooze, as that was a really big day for us all. Dinner time came quickly and off to The Spaghetti Bowl one last time.

Friday morning was the end of our stay, so we fed the animals for one last time. The ladies became accustomed to feeding them, as it was an everyday delight. But sadly, it was time to leave and head back home.

I'd just like to say what an experience it was for me to be with these ladies. To Jo, Claire, Tahlia, Janice and Julie, thanks for a wonderful week, and I can't wait to do it again sometime.

ROZANNE HARE, *Administration Officer*

Parents pampered

The Commonlinks Carers' Support Group was held at the Riverton Children's Respite House mid-March and eight carers attended. Everyone was put into the right state of mind by a deep meditation/relaxation which was followed by a group discussion.

A delicious morning tea was served and then five wonderful volunteers arrived to offer their pampering services to the carers. Their expertise and loving care was greatly appreciated by everyone. A delicious home made morning tea was served and enjoyed by everyone.

A very big thanks is extended to our five wonderful volunteers: Renae van Vlijmen, Clare Purdy, Tricia Luck, Richie and Gabriella Pavledis, who donated their precious time and energy to pamper these carers. You are so generous and kind hearted to give your time so willingly for no remuneration.

These groups are being offered to parents/carers who are supporting their son/daughter (of all ages) at home. We meet every two months and newcomers are very welcome to join us. There is no cost involved.

Please phone Eileen Dielesen or Andrew Lipczynski on **9474 3303** if you are interested in coming along.

EILEEN DIELESEN, *Family Counsellor/Group Facilitator*



Teen SIBS 'Big Day Out'

In the December school holidays a wonderful group of ten teenagers came together for a fun day sharing friendship, support, fun and laughter.

After some fun 'get to know each other' activities and morning tea we headed off in the bus to Kalamunda Wet'n'Wild Park. We arrived on a perfectly sunny and warm day for an exciting time on the water slides and various pools around the park. We enjoyed a delicious sausage sizzle for lunch.

Over the day everyone bonded together really well and there was a lot of laughter and reminiscing over previous camps/fun days. Some of the teens had been to many camps and fun days over the years and there was a lot of begging for future activities for older teens. We plan to increase the SIBS program and offer activities for the growing number who are 16 years and over.

It was very special for us to spend time with this group of teenagers who always show themselves to be really responsible young citizens and have a depth of caring and maturity that never ceases to amaze us. We really enjoyed being in your company and seeing you all exchange contact details and hopefully continue to support each other with friendship and understanding. We look forward to spending more fun time with you all in the future.

EILEEN DIELESEN AND ANDREW LIPCZYNSKI,
Family Counselling and Pastoral Care Service



Teen SIBS get wet'n'wild!

Summer School Holiday Fun

The 2006/2007 Summer School Holidays were as busy as usual for the Recreation Service, with five camps and 14 day outings being held during December and January.

A total of 19 camp places were available for the children on the program and they enjoyed trips to Bunbury, Halls Head and South Yunderup. We had some great weather so the groups spent a lot of time outdoors, with visits to the Bunbury Jetty, walks along the river and trips to the park. They also enjoyed trips to the cinemas to see *A Night at the Museum* and *Charlotte's Web*.

With 14 day outings, the staff and volunteers were kept very busy each day, taking the children to Mandurah, Perth Zoo, The Maze, playgrounds, Rockingham, Supa Golf, train trips to Fremantle and much more. At Rockingham we spent the day at the beach, where we built the biggest sandcastle anyone had ever seen. Then one of the children dug a hole so deep that a staff member could stand in it and you could only see the top half of her! Everyone rushed to fill sand in the hole around her legs and laugh at her when

she couldn't move – they soon stopped giggling when they realised it was a long walk back to Perth without someone to drive them home in the van!!

The trip down to Fremantle was a great success – the four boys attending had heaps of fun riding on the train. Rhys decided he is going to be a train driver when he grows up and spent the whole trip calling out "THE NEXT STATION IS..." and "DOORS CLOSING!" at the appropriate times. He had all the passengers in our carriage in stitches – we certainly couldn't refute his enthusiasm for the job!

The day spent at the Playzone Indoor Play Centre in Fremantle was a big hit with the four children who attended. They played in the ball pit, went down slides, climbed up ladders, climbed through the netting, crawled through the tunnels, climbed down ladders...climbed up ladders...up again...down again...and up...down...up...down... Needless to say the staff who had to supervise them were exhausted by the end of the day! Funnily enough, the children seemed to

be STILL full of beans when their parents picked them up that afternoon!

While the staff and volunteers are recovering and resting, we are happy to report that the December/January School Holidays were a great success. The children had a great time and the parents were given a much-needed break over the long summer school holidays. A huge thank you to our group of dedicated volunteers – we couldn't do it without them and we are so grateful for their help.

For more information on the School Holiday Program, please contact Marie Martin, Coordinator, Recreation Service, on 9474 3303.

JO SHARLAND, *Activities Officer, Recreation Service*



School Holidays Program
sponsored by Lotterywest. Thank
you very much for your
generosity



SIBS Camp

For the third year in a row we had to contend with rain on the first day/night of the camp and yet again this did not stop everyone from having a really special and fun time.

The camp was held last October at Alfred Hines Seaside Resort in Rockingham and what a wonderful place to be, with the dormitories being right on the beach front. We were the very first group to enjoy the refurbished premises with brand new beds and they were very comfortable. The campsite was very spacious with lots of playground equipment.

On the first day the planned barbecue on the foreshore became an indoor event at the campsite, but we managed to get into the bus later and have sweets at the Baskin and Robbins ice cream shop – yummmmm! In the evening we went out to the Rockingham Bowling Alley and enjoyed a game and playing on the various machines.

On the second day we headed out to Mandurah and went to the King Carnival and enjoyed two hours of non-stop fun on the rides, dodgem cars and mini golf. We managed to have fun in between light showers of rain again! Afterwards we went to the English Candy Store in Rockingham and bought lots of delicious sugary treats. In the evening we had a fantastic talent quest with some remarkable talent being presented. Worst act was the ‘bad taste singers’ who had hairbrushes for microphones and couldn’t hold a tune!

We were very fortunate to receive the generous funding from Lotterywest again and this enabled us to give the children extra fun activities that could not have been offered otherwise. On the last day we went to Fremantle and enjoyed lunch at McDonald’s and then a really fun session at Cirque Bizirque learning all kinds of tricks.

The camp provided the siblings with an opportunity to have some respite from their families and the challenges that happen for them, as well as the opportunity to meet other children in the same situation and experience understanding, friendship and gain some life skills to help them deal with the situations that happen for them. Many of the children exchanged contact details and hopefully they will reconnect and form friendships to continue supporting each other.



Fun and games when SIBS get together!



A great big thank you to all the staff and volunteers who gave 200% of themselves over the three days and to Mrs Dot Sandilands who again impressed everyone with her delicious home cooked food. Thank you to IGA Bentley for their generous food voucher donation. Their generosity was very much appreciated as it enabled more fun activities to be offered to the children. We look forward to future camps and SIBS activities and hope to increase these in the coming year.

Eileen Dielesen and Andrew Lipczynski, Family Counselling and Pastoral Care Service



Yes! I would like to “MAKE A DIFFERENCE” for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

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