

September 2018 | Issue 129

 Identitywa  
Sharing the journey

# Identikite

The official newsletter of Identitywa





### Our Vision

All people live with a sense of purpose, a sense of belonging and a sense of wellbeing.



### Our Mission

Identitywa works in partnership with individuals and families to build a community where people with disability enjoy a fulfilled life.

We support individuals to achieve their goals, whatever they may be. We offer families the support they need.



### Our Values

Above all else, we make a commitment to act.

We will look for the opportunities rather than seeing the barriers.

Our approach will be objective, transparent and fair. We will always be honest and open and no matter how challenging, we will endeavour to see it through to the end.

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Cover photo: Year 12 student, Jess, is making sure that he will be confident to travel on public transport when he leaves school at the end of the year. He practises catching the train regularly with his support worker, Joshua.



## CEO Report

**It is always wonderful when we have the opportunity to reflect on our Catholic heritage and on Identitywa's contribution, as an agency of the Archdiocese of Perth, to the lives of people with disability and their families.**

A special morning tea hosted for the Sisters of Mercy at the beginning of July gave us an opportunity to celebrate all of these things.

During a tour of Identitywa Northbridge, the Sisters saw first-hand the transformation of the buildings which were originally home to the school they founded.

The Sisters were definitely impressed with what they saw and were delighted with its new purpose and to hear about our outreach.

Sister Carmel Wringe spoke on behalf of the Sisters and said that their founder, Catherine McAuley, "would be so pleased to see the great Mercy work you are all continuing to do here."

Identitywa owes a great deal to the Sisters of Mercy, in particular to Sr Maureen McCarthy RSM, who made a significant contribution in the early days of our agency. Sr Maureen made things happen, aided by the generosity of her Order and the understanding and support of the Archbishop.

It is wonderful that we still have a strong relationship and we look forward to continuing this into the future.

I encourage you to read the page 4 story on the *Plenary Council 2020* which has been launched by the Archbishop. It has been more than 80 years since a Plenary Council was held, so it is a significant opportunity for discussion about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Currently, we are hosting Identitywa NDIS sessions for people with disability, their families, friends and support staff. If you have any questions about the NDIS and how Identitywa can support you, I encourage you to attend one of these sessions which are being offered until the end of 2018.

**Marina Re, CEO**



L to R: Sr Jilyan Dingle, Jan Elliott, Sr Carmel Wringe, Sr Noreen Cahill, Marina Re, Sr Marie Fitzgerald, Sr Louise Fortune, Sr Janina Pascoe, Lee-Anne Brensell & Sr Catherine O'Connor.



# Plenary Council 2020 launched

Archbishop of Perth, the Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB, launched the *Plenary Council 2020* in May this year.

Approved by Pope Francis who has spoken on the 'need to engage in the world and respond in faith', the Plenary Council process encourages people to think about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. *What are we called to do? Who are we called to be? How do we need to change?*

Archbishop Costelloe said this is a significant moment for the Catholic Church in Australia. "I look forward to walking with the people of God as we look towards the future.

"No matter where you might find yourself in relation to the Church – deeply involved, only partially engaged, uncertain or disillusioned, on the margins, or a friendly or critical outsider looking



The Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB

in – we need to hear from you for we are sure that God speaks to us all, and the Church needs to listen to everyone," he said.

For more information on the *Plenary Council 2020*, go to <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>

# NDIS Information Sessions

**Identitywa has been hosting NDIS Information sessions for people with disability, their families, friends and support staff since June and will continue to do so until the end of the year.**

There has been very positive feedback from participants at these sessions, with the additional benefit of a 'question and answer' resource being developed in response to issues raised by attendees. This valuable reference will assist people who want to know more about navigating the NDIS to achieve the best outcomes for their individual circumstances. We have listed below some of the questions raised so far:

**What are the access request phone calls about and why are we not being contacted by letter?**

The NDIA is currently telephoning individuals due to transition into the NDIS. An 'access request' is the first step in joining the NDIS and this phone call starts this eligibility process. Information will be sought about the person's age, Australian residency status and disability. Telephone contact is being used to speed up the process of moving people into the NDIS.

**If I don't receive an access call from the NDIS, will I miss entering the scheme?**

No. If you are receiving Disability Services' funded supports now and have signed consent to share your information, your details would have been given to the NDIS. The Identitywa team is also tracking the individuals we support to ensure they have the information they need ahead of their scheduled transition to the NDIS and will provide any assistance required. In the unlikely event that someone is overlooked, there is still no risk of missing out – there is no 'closing date' for eligibility applications.

**Will there be a gap in service between my current funding stream and the NDIS funding?**

When you become a participant in the NDIS you develop a plan containing your goals and the reasonable and necessary supports that you need to achieve them. The Department of Communities (Disability Services) and the NDIA have been working together to coordinate the cease date of Disability Services' funded supports with the commencement date of the NDIS funded supports. Identitywa's recent experience is that individuals have not been experiencing a break in service. It is important for you to respond in a timely way to requests made of you from the NDIA, Disability

Services or service providers, such as signing consent forms, so that the service transition process is not hampered.

**What do the funding bodies mean by 'a no worse off principle' when my first plan transitions?**

Governments made a commitment that an individual receiving disability supports before becoming a participant in the NDIS, will achieve at least the same level of social and economic participation (or undertake the same range of activities) through the NDIS. There are rules built into the NDIS that ensure that people will not be disadvantaged by accessing the scheme. Where the NDIS does not fund the kind of support you previously received under another program, the NDIA will seek to identify alternative supports or refer you to other service systems. The best way to make sure nothing is missed in your plan is to start preparing early. Taking time now to understand what you are receiving from your service providers will assist in ensuring that you have what you need in your first NDIS plan.

Dates for the NDIS information sessions and more Q & A's can be found on our Website or for further information regarding the NDIS Transfer and Transition in WA go to [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)

## Celebrating 2018 National Carers Week

Families and carers are invited to join us for

### High Tea

Thursday 18th October

10am - 12.30pm | Identitywa Northbridge

We are delighted to have Janni Goss, *The Laughter Lady*, as our guest speaker.

RSVP by 11th October 2018  
Email: [rozanne.pugh@identitywa.com.au](mailto:rozanne.pugh@identitywa.com.au) | Tel: 08 9474 3303



## Establishment of reference group an exciting outcome of annual survey

**“There is always room for improvement, so we will continue to look for ways to improve our services and supports, maintaining our reputation as one of WA’s leading disability service providers.”**  
CEO, Marina Re.

The release of the results of Identitywa’s 2017 Family and Carers survey indicated an overwhelmingly positive response to Identitywa’s support and services.

Whilst being very pleased with the results, CEO Marina Re said the survey provided valuable feedback which gave a benchmark for future surveys.

“One key outcome from the survey was drawing together a reference group of individuals, families and guardians whose input will inform Identitywa’s practice and process improvements,” said Marina.



Convenor, Jacqueline Daisley, is confident that direct feedback plus group discussion will be powerful drivers of service improvement and development initiatives.

“I’m thrilled that we now have the opportunity to meet with and consult regularly with individuals receiving our support and their families,” she said.

New members are welcome to join the reference group. Face to face meetings are scheduled six-weekly but as attendance for some can be difficult, people can still fully participate by providing their feedback by phone or email.

Chris, who shares his Identitywa home with four housemates, said he is feeling very excited about being involved.

Joan and Di, who have family members living in shared living, both put up their hands to be part of the new initiative and agreed the concept and creation of a reference group was an excellent way to facilitate communication. “Good idea,” said Di. “I’m always happy to provide feedback!”



Reference group members Joan, Chris and Di at the inaugural meeting.



## Making a meaningful difference to Peyton and her family

**“Peyton absolutely loves going to Identitywa’s Children’s House. She is super excited every time we turn the corner and she can’t get to the front door fast enough!” says mum, Kristy.**

For over five years, Peyton has been accessing services from Identitywa’s house located in Riverton. Initially just visiting during the day, she now regularly stays overnight.

“After the first time she stayed, I knew that it was a positive experience for her. We live busy lives and staying at the house gives Peyton some time off from that. It also gives me an important opportunity to spend time with my other children and get involved in what they like to do,” said Kristy.

Kristy believes Peyton has benefitted immensely, including making friends, one of whom she now attends school with. Another positive benefit for the family has been that through having the experience of staying somewhere different from home, Peyton has been able to cope better when the family go away and stay in different places.

“Having wonderful people look after Peyton is super too. We couldn’t ask for better support from staff. I am so thankful. It has been one of the best decisions we ever made for Peyton and our family,” said Kristy.



## Dale's impressive fundraising efforts bring in the \$\$\$\$\$.

There were lots of smiles and laughter when Dale and his hairdresser, Dave, got together for the *World's Greatest Shave* fundraiser in May.



Dale celebrates his fundraising efforts with his family and friends.

With the assistance of his support worker, Michele, Dale entered the annual charity event which saw him raise over \$1,000! "We are all so proud of Dale," said Michele. "He wanted to do something to help others and jumped into the initiative without hesitation, inspiring others along the way."

Donations for Dale's campaign came from his work colleagues and customers of the Op Shop he works at in Cockburn as well as his family and friends. Dale's mum, Carol, watched the big shave. "I am very, very, proud of my son," said Carol. "A very big thank you to everyone for supporting him to raise so much money!"

## Housemates present at their local Rotary Club

The citizenship key of LIFE means making an active contribution to our community, taking risks and having fun.

House mates Simon, Jess, Eileen, Joshua and Christopher certainly embraced this when they took on a public speaking engagement at the Attadale Rotary Club in April this year.

Club President, Colin McCulloch, asked them to share their life stories with members. For Jessica, the opportunity to meet the members was a real highlight: "I liked going to Rotary and meeting new people," said Jessica. "Even though I am a bit shy, everyone was kind and nice so I really enjoyed the evening and the delicious dinner we shared."

House Senior, Amanda, went along on the night too. "The Rotarians were very welcoming," said Amanda. "It was wonderful to watch everyone enjoy the opportunity to present."



Simon, Jess, Eileen, Joshua, Amanda and Christopher with Rotary's Patricia Robertson.



## It's all about fun, friendship and a great life for Ben

Living independently has been life-changing for Ben. He just loves his home in the northern suburbs and his family really appreciate his independence.

Ben's mum, Michelle, says the support of Identitywa over the past three years has enabled his family to feel confident about him living away from home which has been a positive for all of them.

"We really value the stability and the reliability of Identitywa's support," said Michelle.

"For Ben, the transition to self-managing his supports has been seamless and really the best thing we have ever done. Whilst we are still very much involved in his life, we know that he is accessing the quality support he needs to be happy and remain independent."

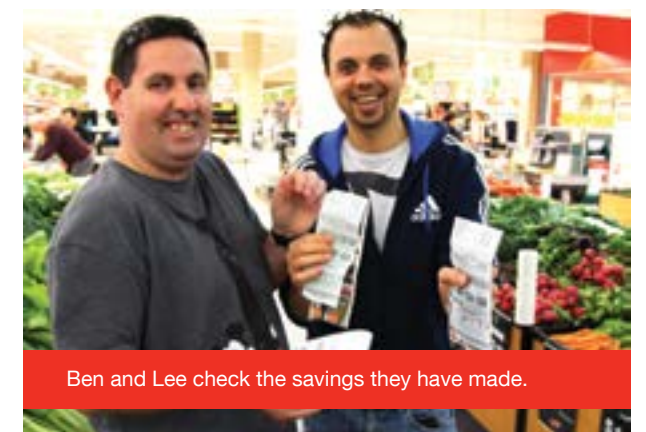
Ben really looks forward to time with his Identitywa support worker, Lee. One of the things Lee helps Ben with is his weekly shopping. Lee goes to his home in the morning and they spend time working on a shopping list. They always check the local paper for specials as Lee has been helping Ben to 'shop smartly'.

"Ben has become really good at recognising all the savings and we check all the dockets together to see how much he has saved," explains Lee.

"We always include healthy food options in our shopping and look forward to cooking lunch together each week."

Along with shopping and cooking, Ben and Lee go on lots of adventures too. Together they have been sand boarding, caught a ferry to Rottnest, travelled to the Pinnacles north of Perth and attended the Perth Wildcats' games, which they absolutely loved.

Ben says he is happy. He is enjoying his life and definitely all the things that he gets to do with Lee.



Ben and Lee check the savings they have made.





Paul's casual job makes him feel very happy and proud

**Paul loves his job delivering flyers around his local community.**

With lots of encouragement from his support workers, he delivers up to 60 flyers, finishing at an old Catholic church where he has a rest for a few minutes before returning home. Paul is totally committed to his job and takes great care to ensure he doesn't miss anyone's letterbox!

# Having a break can benefit everyone

Short term accommodation and stays at our children and adult houses offer lots of fun opportunities to get out and about in the community and to take an active role in the day-to-day activities in the houses.

For Sam, who transitioned from the children's to the adult short term accommodation, staying at the house really provides stability for her and a sense of independence.

The service enables her to achieve the outcomes of her lifetime goals; which is an integral pillar of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

"Sam stays from a Saturday to Tuesday each fortnight," explains mum, Sharyn.

"We both get the chance to have a break which is really important. She is very happy to go and it is so good to see her feel confident to try new things."



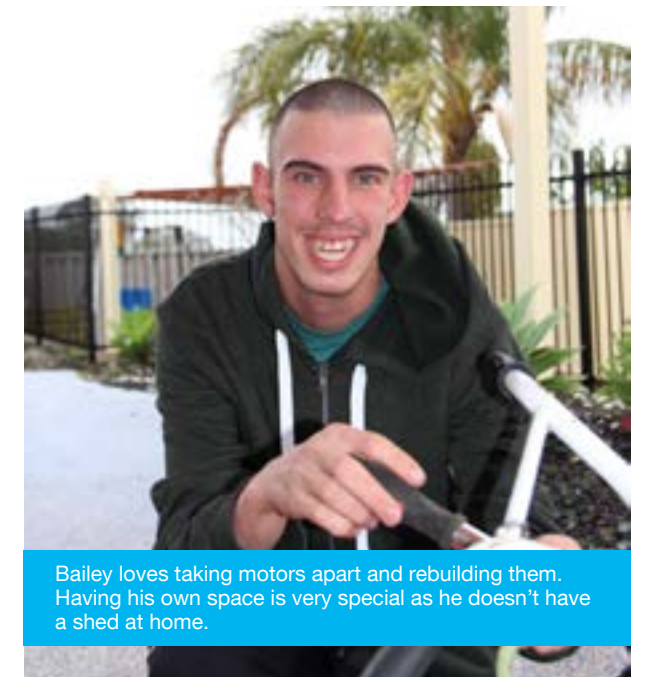
Sam shopping for plants which will be used in the garden at the Adult House.

Bailey lives and breathes fixing bikes... collecting parts from whenever he can, including visiting roadside collections with his support worker.

Bailey regularly stays at the Adult House. So that he can pursue his hobby, a shed has been made available for him to store his large array of tools and the many bike parts he collects.

"Bailey is a great example of someone who is highly motivated to achieve a great result," says Team Leader, Kathy. "He can't wait to go to the shed after school to start working on his latest project.

"He is very meticulous about what he is doing and we just love seeing his enthusiasm as he puts all the parts together to make a 'new' bike. He definitely has the talent to be a great handyman when he leaves school next year."



Bailey loves taking motors apart and rebuilding them. Having his own space is very special as he doesn't have a shed at home.

## 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY - CHRISTMAS IN JULY celebrations

There was lots of excitement as housemates Rhianna, Kerry, Janice, Caroline and Claire prepared for their 2018 Christmas in July celebrations.

Everyone contributed to the event - decorating the dining room and preparing the festive fare. The aroma of the delicious food and Christmas music welcomed their families and friends as they arrived to share in the celebrations.

It was unanimously agreed it was a wonderful success and they are all looking forward to the next party.



It's about children and adults having a good time away from home, enjoying new experiences as well as familiar ones, while families and carers get the chance to have a break too. For more information about the short term accommodation, please go to our Website [www.identitywa.com.au](http://www.identitywa.com.au) or call (08) 474 3303.



**A Catholic outreach supporting people  
with disability and their families.**



*Identitywa is a registered NDIS provider.*

We welcome contributions  
to Identikite from people we support,  
their families and staff.

Articles can be emailed to the Editor  
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