

What would it take to achieve your goals and dreams?	Our Work Together WAIS is a community of like-minded people working in partnership at all levels, with individuals at the centre, to influence and develop individualised, self-direct supports and services.
Living your life your way WAiS is committed to exploring and supporting people's choice, control and ability to determine and direct their own lives.	Would you like more choice in the way you live your life?



July 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

WAiS E-Bulletin 2015

Welcome to the first WAiS E-Bulletin for the new financial year! We would like to welcome our new and existing members to another exciting year ahead!

This year we acknowledge old friends and look forward to meeting new ones! We have welcomed new staff into our WAiS family and begin the year knowing we will be able to accomplish more with a team of such complementary expertise.

We have recently moved and are quickly finding our feet in our exciting new premises.

Whilst we wrap up our last few sessions of the 2014/15 Provider Program we are inspired to read the positive and constructive reflections our participants have had of their experience.

Feedback from the program indicated that the coaching support was a critical element in building momentum for change, taking effective action and creating sustainable changes.

"(The coaching and mentoring) was instrumental in instilling confidence in our group to change direction."

"The program gave us the tools to counter the arguments against engaging people to provide support outside of the traditional employee/employer model."

We can't wait to start the program for this year!

Provider Program 2015

WAiS has moved

Meet the Team

Going Regional

WAIS Projects 2015

Membership News

Individuals and Families

Re-launch Community of Practice

Share a story feature

WAiS staying connected



Leading into the Future:

Delivering Excellence, Provider Development Program for 2015/16.



Last year, the WAI^S team was heavily engaged in delivering the Leading into the Future, Provider Program, made possible through a DSC/NDIA co-funded grant. This year WAI^S is very excited to announce that we have the opportunity to continue our Provider Program in 2015/16 with the offer of additional grant funding through the Disability Services Commission.

Expressions of Interest are now open to join the program! The Delivering Excellence, Provider development program is structured to give individual mentoring and coaching support to providers, along with the opportunity for collective learning in workshops settings.

Participating providers are supported to review their current organisational position and to design a development plan. This process includes outlining areas of strength, as well as areas to

be developed throughout the nine to twelve month program.

The focus for this program is on the practical elements of delivering individualised supports and services.

Registration with the Program includes:

- A tailored organisational analysis and development plan;
- The option for your Provider development team to attend five core workshops;
- Individualised coaching and mentoring; and
- A selection of tailored workshops and information sessions in alignment with your development plan.

Workshops, coaching and mentoring will focus on best practice of individualised

supports and services. Core workshop content is likely to include individual service design; responding to people & families; innovative support approaches; recruiting for individualised support; supported decision-making; relationships and community connections; person centred planning, and values-based decision making.

In addition, participants can also choose from other WAI^S workshops.

We anticipate having a range of excellent presenters with a breadth of skills, experience and knowledge, including the WAI^S team, national and international speakers (subject to availability).

For further information please contact us on 9485 1997 or [Email us!](#)

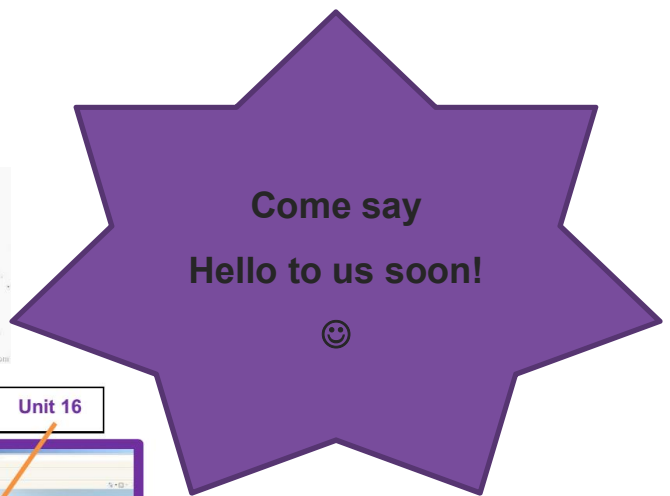


WAI^S has moved!!!!!!

WAI^S has recently moved offices and we are now located at:

Bluenote Building,
Unit 16
Campbell Street
West Perth WA 6005
9485 1997

*Opposite City West
Train Station
*Next to Afendi's Cafe



Meet our Team...



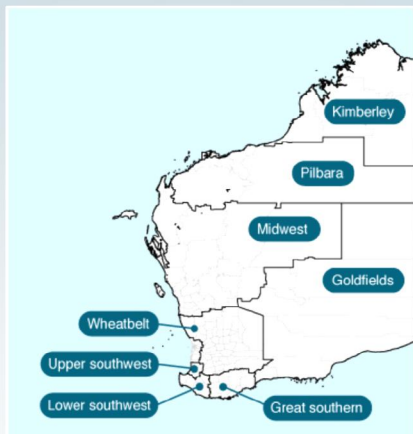
WAI^S STAFF

WAI^S is a small and dedicated team of people who are committed to, and passionate about people having good lives. Through our collective experiences we offer a range of supports, information and advice across the spectrum of Individualised and Self-Directed Supports and Services.

WAI^S is growing in response to increasing demand, we are extremely fortunate to have a fantastic, dynamic, team of professionals and people with lived experiences, as part of the WAI^S Team.



Going Regional



WAI's has been funded to continue its great work in the regions in 2015. As we all know WA is spoilt with diversity and WAI's is keen to ensure WAI's's rural and remote providers and individuals are well represented.

WAI's is currently undertaking a regional profile exercise to ensure the people that live in our wonderful rural and remote areas of WA, receive the support they need, to live the life they choose!

We would love to hear from you if you live or provide services in our wild west. Please call us and/or watch this space for more information!

Individualised Services are about people living good lives, comprising the things in life that are important to all of us. These include having genuine and reciprocal relationships, a sense of belonging, contributing to our home, work and community, and most of all, being respected and valued.

WAI's Projects for 2015

- Connecting with Regional and Remote
- Provider Program – Delivering Excellence
- Resource Development
- Sharing the Learnings – MyWay/NDIS trials
- Community of Practice
- Opportunities for Individuals and Families
- Training and Workshops opportunities

Membership News

Our membership year for 2015-2016 has just commenced and renewal letters and invoices have been sent out to existing members. If you're not sure if you are registered as a WAI's member for this year, please call us ☺

Membership Benefits include (but not limited to):

- Expert Advisory Services (including up to date information on the legislative, statutory and contractual framework affecting its members)
- Member presentations, seminars and conferences
- Targeted Advice and mentoring
- Use of WAI's Logo
- Representation on specialist membership groups



Individuals and Families

It's an exciting time for WAI S to be able to work with people and their families. With so many changes occurring within the sector, both locally and nationally, it would be easy for people to feel overwhelmed and confused.

Here at WAI S we believe knowledge is power and to be part of a collective means not having to do it on your own.

Over the next 12 months we'll be offering learning opportunities to individuals and their supporters, covering a variety of topics.

Often you don't know what you don't know! Planning, communication, shared living, individualised support, self-direction and supported decision making – to name a few, what do these all mean? How can knowing more about this lead to a better life for me or my family member?

We would like to provide regular opportunities for people to come together to share their experiences, tell their stories, hear what others are doing and problem solve together.

People will be able to raise issues and concerns in a safe and supportive environment.



Short term coaching or mentoring may also be available. This work can also extend to the regional areas of WA.

If you would like to know more or would like to become a member of WAI S please contact us on 9485 1997 or email us. We would love to hear from you!

Bron Pike:

b.pike@waindividualisedservices.org.au

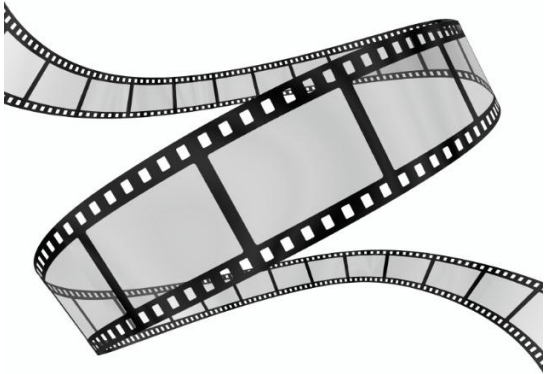
or

Jaquie Mills

j.mills@waindividualisedservices.org.au



Capturing people's stories of self-direction...



We are looking for WAI S film stars!!! Please help us!

The WAI S team is open to using whatever means we can, to help people to be aware of, and choose self-directed, individualised services.

To that end, we are trying to *capture video stories* from people who have self-directed their supports to better ensure they live the life they want. These short clips will be variously featured on the WAI S website, in WAI S workshops & webinars, and as resources available for WAI S members.

When we gather these stories, we start the conversation with the story-holder, to help us understand the essential elements that got the person where they are today. These could include questions around:

- How you came to know what you wanted
- How others supported what you wanted
- Who those other people were
- What was important about how they supported you
- What's good about where your life is at now
- How you will self-direct your supports to get you to where you want to be in the future

As the star of the story, the person helps us create a storyboard which guides our interviewing and recording, including of other key people who are important to their story.

If you've got a story about self-directing your supports, (or know someone who does) and would like to contribute in this way, please let us know. We want to hear from you!

Please contact Susan Stanford on 9485 1997 or email: s.stanford@waindividualisedservices.org.au



WAI S Staying Connected.....

**The TORONTO SUMMER INSTITUTE, in San Diego
INCLUSION, COMMUNITY AND DIVERSITY**

July 11-16, 2015

Currently our fearless leader Leanne Pearman (CEO, WAI S) is in the USA immersing herself in all things inclusive! The summer institute 'is for people who choose to invest themselves in creating and being the change they want to see in the world. People working actively on the complex issues of inclusion and diversity in families, communities, workplaces and schools will be attending. This Institute is for Thinkers and Doers - for people who know there are no easy answers and who are seeking new ways of thinking and acting.'

Another great example of WAI S ensuring we are staying up to date with contemporary, international, expertise and leadership in the Individualised Services arena.

We can't wait to hear from Leanne how she enjoyed her learning experience and what creative insights she has brought back to share with us all!



FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

**University of Melbourne Disability
Research**

Wednesday 15th July
(socialequity.unimelb.edu.au)

Cath attended this exciting event that brought together researchers, service providers and disability organisations with the aim of exploring research methodologies and directions in decision-making models.

A number of themes and ideas were explored, including; Human Rights in context, history, law and policy, research pitfalls and ethical considerations, community capital and inclusion, advocacy, guardianship, aspirations and ideology to evidence and where to now.

It was clear that there is a growing investment in this area, and that we need to share our knowledge and to recognise the evidence and good practice that already exists. People were in agreeance that we needed to safeguard against Supported Decision Making becoming a 'tick-box' exercise.

If you have any stories, information or resources to share on supporting people to have choice and make decisions, please let us know so we can spread the word!

Please also make sure to check out WAI S Supported Decision making resource on our website.



Easy English

Did you know that 44% of Australian adults have difficulty reading and writing?

WaiS is committed to accessibility for everyone. This includes the documents we create and circulate to our members. Easy English is a style of writing specifically for people with reading difficulties. Easy English combines text and images to convey information simply and directly.

Last week, a WaiS team member attended a workshop in Perth run by the Victorian-based organisation, Scope, to learn how we can create WaiS documents in Easy English style.

Check out how Easy English looks on the Scope website:

<http://www.scopevic.org.au/service/accessible-information/>

We will be looking for people to assess our Easy English documents and give us 'user reviews'. If you are interested in reading, and find reading difficult, we would appreciate your review of any Easy English documents we draft. Sound interesting? Contact Susan Stanford on 9485 1997 or email: s.stanford@waindividualisedservices.org.au

NDIS – will it enable better outcomes for people with disability and their families?

Given key decision makers will soon be deciding on the future of the NDIS, WaiS is seeking to gather the experiences of people with disability, their families and service providers in the trial sites. This is in order to identify any issues with the NDIS in its design and implementation that go against or hamper the NDIS meeting its goals and objectives.

These include:

- Enabling people with disability to exercise choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and the planning and delivery of their supports;
- Promoting the provision of high quality and innovative supports that enable people with disability to maximise independent lifestyles and full inclusion in the community; and
- Raising community awareness of the issues that affect the participation of people with disability and facilitate greater community inclusion of people with disability.

(NDIS Act 2013, s3)

It is also important to assess if the NDIS is abiding by the guiding principles contained in the Act.

To discuss this further or share your experience, please contact WaiS on 9485 1997 or email admin@waindividualisedservices.org.au.

