



# Family Newsletter

## May 2019



### CEO update

John Forster, CEO of Noah's Ark appeared before the Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on The National Disability Insurance Scheme to highlight the importance of the Scheme being accessible to all children, regardless of their backgrounds.

Noah's Ark is concerned that some families don't have the same access to information and supports as other families. There needs to be better sources of independent information to support families to understand their options and decide what is best for them.

In addition, more needs to be done to reach out to families with young children, including those who are difficult to engage. More needs to be done to recognise how difficult it can be for some families to seek support, including some families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

### New Director of Services

Welcome to our new Director of Services, Roxanne Higgins. Roxanne has a background in Early Childhood Intervention and is a registered Psychologist. While at Scope, Roxanne was the Manager of Allied Health in the southern region and then Change and Implementation Lead, with responsibilities for supporting services while Scope was introducing its NDIS Implementation Readiness program.

### Noah's Ark and the NDIS

Noah's Ark now has 50% of teams fully in the NDIS and this continues to grow each month.

We are in a strong position in NDIS service delivery thanks to the work of Key Workers and Team Leaders. Our teams fully operational within the NDIS are continuing to grow and look at innovative ways to meet the demand they are experiencing.

### Team Updates

Our Bendigo team have been working on opening a new site in Echuca. The address is Unit 3, 209 Hare St, Echuca VIC 3564. This is exciting as it allows us to reach more families in the region.

Our Tarneit and Hopper's Crossing teams are merging to form Wyndham, whose new Team Leader is Liz Chung. Kali McWilliam is the new Team Leader for Craigieburn.

### Facebook

Have you 'liked' us yet on [Facebook](#)?

Keep up to date on upcoming events, news, teams' activities and features on families like yours.

Send us a Facebook message and we'll answer any questions you may have!

### Family Satisfaction in 2018

Last year:

- 98% of families reported an improvement in their child's performance against goals identified in their family service support plan (FSSP)
- 97% families reported an improvement in their satisfaction in their child's performance

*"Thank you for working with us, for matching us so well with our Key Worker and just the great progress we have seen in our son moving beyond being a bunch of behaviours and being a boy with personality, gifts and an extraordinary ability to make people laugh.*

*"We can't be any more thankful for what is happening for our family."*



## Zoe's Story

Have you watched [Zoe's Story](#)? This video outlines our school aged offer program here at Noah's Ark.

*"Without the support of Noah's Ark I actually don't know where we'd be with Zoe right now. I don't even know whether she'd be at school."*



## Zalie Donates Her Art to Noah's Ark

In April, one of our ex-clients Zalie donated artwork to be displayed in the Bundoora office.

Zalie received support for Autism Spectrum Disorder back in 2005-2007. She has kept in contact with Noah's Ark since that time and is now thriving in High School and is an accomplished artist.

Visit the news section of our website to read more stories like these: <http://www.noahsarkinc.org.au/news-and-events/>

## PhD Scholarship with RMIT University

Noah's Ark and RMIT University have developed an industry-university partnership to further develop our knowledge and understanding of inclusive practices in Early Childhood Education and Care.

Noah's Ark is supporting a PhD scholarship valued at \$30,000 per annum for 3 years. Sam Bothma was the successful candidate and will be co-located at RMIT's Bundoora campus and Noah's Ark head office in Malvern.

Sam will be exploring how current strategies embedded in Early Childhood Education and Care frameworks can be strengthened in ways that support the inclusion and learning of young children with developmental delays.

She will work with staff from Noah's Ark and RMIT to develop, create and publish a series of articles that provide valuable knowledge and understanding.

## Reports for Parents

Since the last newsletter, we released four reports via our website:

- *Early Childhood Intervention Family Exit Interview Report 2018*
- *The Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM) Report 2018*
- *Annual Report 2018*
- *Family Outcomes Survey – Revised (FOS-R) August 2018*

To view these reports visit our website:

<https://noahsarkinc.org.au/sharing-our-knowledge/>

## Upcoming Events

Our Bendigo office is running a **free** Parent-Child Mother Goose program every Tuesday in June from 9.30am-10.30am.

Together, parents and children in the program will:

- experience the spark of delight and magic that comes from enjoying a favourite song or rhyme
- learn and retain a repertoire of rhymes, songs and stories
- enjoy strengthened bonding

For more details, call Customer Care on 1800 819 140. Check the events section of our website for information on upcoming events: <https://noahsarkinc.org.au/events/list/>.

