



MDS

Macarthur
Disability Services

ANNUAL
Report

In 2015 I...



restored a table



got my driver's license



went indoor skydiving



danced in-front of a crowd



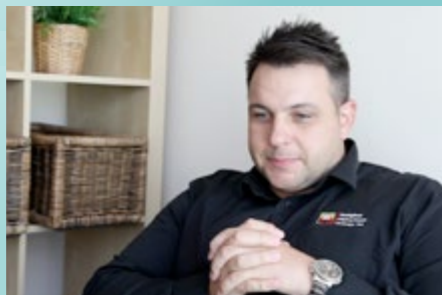
worked on my barista skills



became a photographer



raised money for the RSPCA



became more self aware



presented to over 300 people

On The Canvas To Recovery



Sri is an incredible local artist who loves to paint artworks of different styles, patterns and textures. While her artworks explode with confidence, her anxiety has had a big impact on her social life. Earlier in the year, Sri was referred to our Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) program and has since gone from strength to strength.

Sri's MDS case worker Linda, provided individual support and made Sri's artistic talent the focus of her recovery. In working with Sri, Linda opened discussions with Narellan Library to organise an exhibition of some of Sri's abstract artworks. The success of this exhibition led to Camden Council requesting some of Sri's Aboriginal artworks be put on display at Camden Library as part of NAIDOC week.

"My Aboriginal artwork helps me to get back to old roots and remember where I'm from. It's like I'm claiming my heritage, which had shied away. I am Aboriginal and I am proud."

The reception of Sri's work has been amazing, with over 30 artworks being sold to date. One was even sold from the boot of Sri's car before it even got put up on display. Another artwork titled 'Mind of Confusion' was sold to a doctor who said it was "A great art piece for mental health."

Sri said "If it wasn't for the support of MDS I wouldn't be where I am today. Linda's been so amazing and I'm extremely grateful for her support. She believed in me when I didn't, she gave me hope and opened up many doors. She has helped me with my confidence and helped me to believe in myself and my abilities. People like me just need support and guidance and to not be given up on even at times when we do give up on ourselves. A gentle confident nudge and a reminder is all that we need."



JEFF
Scobie



CEO Report

MDS is celebrating another sensational year of providing support to people with a disability and those living with a mental illness in our community. It has been a year in which our focus was shared between maintaining MDS's existing quality programs while at the same time, looking forward to the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in July 2016.

We have seen significant growth in demand for self-directed programs in preference to more traditional services. MDS is now supporting over 50 people who are enjoying the flexibility that an individually tailored program of supports and services offers.

We have supported people to pursue their goals, interests and aspirations. The task of narrowing down a long list of achievements made by people with the support of MDS is very difficult, but two that spring to mind are: Sri who with the encouragement of her MDS case worker, began using art as a form of therapy to overcome her anxiety. The work she has produced has been outstanding and it has helped her to develop confidence in herself and her abilities. We also watched Joseph, who after undertaking training in public speaking, was able to present to a room of 180 people – something that many people would find terrifying. These examples demonstrate what people with a disability and those living with a mental illness can achieve if given the opportunity and the right support.

This year, MDS was excited to work with its first two NDIS participants – both are young people who moved to the Macarthur area from the NSW Hunter region where the NDIS has been trialled over the past two years. This has allowed MDS to get a sense of what is to come when the NDIS is released in our area. Having the opportunity to work within the NDIS system has enabled MDS to examine the way in which we operate – the services we deliver, the ways in which we deliver support and the flexibility of our staffing.

STAFF Awards

MDS held a celebrity themed Staff Awards dinner in early July with costumes ranging from Elvis to the Wiggles! The night celebrated the contribution and success of our staff with 4 awards being given out on the night.

Our Winners were:
Star Excellence - Michelle Stevens
Star Team - PHaMs
Star Leader - Vanessa Vale
Star Service - Michelle Cummings

Congratulations to all our winners and a big thank you to all our staff for their invaluable contribution to MDS.



We have continued our strong presence in the community by participating in a variety of great community events.



Some of the highlights include:

- MDS winning the award for the biggest team in the 2015 Campbelltown City Challenge Walk;
- Our Get Active Macarthur event being attended by over 800 children from the local area. This event is highly valued in the community as it provides an opportunity for children and young people with a disability to try a variety of sports and activities and have a lot of fun along the way; and
- MDS continuing its support of local artists by sponsoring the Macability Award and exhibiting the works of young people who participated in the Artways program, both of which recognise and showcase the creative talents of people with a disability.

MDS has enjoyed incredible support from the community this year. Thank you to all of those local people, businesses, sporting and networking groups that have supported MDS during 2014/15. Your ongoing support allows MDS to continue to hold events like the annual MDS Ball, one of the best inclusive social events held anywhere.

As I reflect on what MDS has achieved this year, I would like to thank the MDS Board of Directors for their commitment, support and vision during my first year as CEO. Finally, I thank the entire MDS team for the work they have done in supporting people with a disability and those living with a mental illness to achieve their goals and aspirations. I look forward to next year!

JUSTIN
Thornton



PRESIDENT'S *Report*

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is finally here. Well, almost, with the roll out date for the Scheme in South West Sydney recently announced as July 2016.

As I reported last year, MDS has been working very hard to ensure that the organisation is not only ready for the challenges that will be presented by the NDIS, but that it is ready to make the most of the opportunities that will come with the roll out.

The Board of Directors and the Management Team will continue to work hard to ensure that MDS is ready for the roll out of the NDIS and that MDS will continue to provide the best services it can for its participants, both before and after the roll out.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank and congratulate CEO Jeff Scobie, his Management Team, and indeed all members of staff, for their consistent performance over the past year. The Management Team has again achieved some outstanding results and MDS continues to be one of Australia's leading service providers in the disability support sector.

The last AGM saw the end of an era for MDS with the retirement of longstanding CEO Anne Thorn. When an organisation such as MDS loses a longstanding CEO such as Anne, there is a risk that the organisation will not cope with that change and the standards of its services will drop.

That has not been the case with MDS.

Since Anne's retirement, MDS has faced many challenges, however MDS has not only met those challenges, it has maintained the standard of service it provides to its participants, has maintained its commitment to its core values and has grown even stronger.



This is not only a testament to Jeff and his current Management Team, but it is also a testament to the strength of the organisation as a whole.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their personal support during the year and for the voluntary contribution they have made to the success of MDS.

The Board

Justin Thornton PRESIDENT

Diploma Law, Accredited Specialist in Business Law

Justin is a qualified solicitor and is a partner of Marsdens Law Group with extensive experience in business and company law. Justin has an interest in providing opportunities, support and training for people with a disability.

Bill Kuchta VICE PRESIDENT

C.A. (Fellow)

Bill is a former partner of Pricewaterhouse Coopers with experience in emerging businesses and the global mobility of Human Resources. Since retirement in 2007 Bill has been involved mainly in the Not for Profit Brain Foundation as a Board member.

Daniel Kuchta TREASURER

B. Commerce (Accounting), C.A.

A Director since May 2009. Audit Partner of Kelly + Partners. Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants and a Director of Mater Dei Camden. Daniel provides financial audit and assurance services to a diverse range of business from large companies to the not-for-profit sector.

Kristie Leopardi

B. Arts, B.Commerce

Kristie is a Senior Manager Human Resources with Westpac Group. At Westpac, Kristie is an executive member of the accessibility employee action group which drives education and awareness and identifies opportunities to enhance and embed greater accessibility for employees and customers. Kristie has an interest in social equity and in providing opportunities for community participation and employment for people with a disability.

Vanco Djoneski

B. Engineering (Electronics), Postgraduate in Digital Telecommunications, Dip. Community Services Work

Vanco is a teacher/lecturer, engineer and was the manager of a research laboratory for 18 years. Currently Vanco is working as an advocate for people with all types of disability and a community member of the Guardianship Tribunal of NSW. Vanco has extensive experience in assessing the needs of PWD and networking with the relevant services for solutions to their issues.

Mark Kofahl

B. Ec (Accounting), Macquarie University, MAICD

Mark has an accounting background and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Mark has founded a number of successful companies in the I.T. Industry and specialises in digital and web technologies. Mark has particular interest in promoting social justice as well as delivering services and opportunities to the disadvantaged. Mark is also a Director of Mater Dei Camden, a school serving the needs of developmentally delayed children.

Krystle Wolthers

Diploma Law

Krystle is a solicitor with Marsdens Law Group practising in Estate Planning. Currently completing her Masters in Law, she is a volunteer solicitor with the NSW Cancer Council, the Macarthur Legal Centre and St Vincent De Paul. Krystle has an interest in human rights, social justice, assisting people with disabilities and volunteer work.

Daniel Murphy

B.App. Sci (Sports Ex Sc), M. Physiotherapy

Daniel is a Physiotherapist and Exercise Scientist, currently working as the Senior Physiotherapist at Bounce Back Physiotherapy in Narellan. Through his work and socially, Daniel has developed an interest in the correct care and social integration of people with a disability.

2015 *Highlights*



Recognising our staff at the Staff Awards Dinner



Introducing 3 new services



Moving into our purpose-built accommodation site



Providing services to over 50 people with individualised funding



We fundraised \$70,635 & over \$15,000 in in-kind support

DANIEL
Kuchta



TREASURER'S *Report*

Through the dedication and good work of the team at MDS we have returned a modest surplus of 1.9% of revenues this year while still delivering a quality service to people with a disability. These savings will allow us to invest in projects to get ready for the roll out of the NDIS in our area which we are keenly anticipating.

While the client facing part of the organisation has been focused on the NDIS, the back office and finance function has not stood still. The team has made progress with the implementation of appropriate software systems that will integrate the key components of the IT function and allows us to cope with the change in the way we will be funded.

While turning our attention to the NDIS roll out, we have not lost sight of the current environment we operate in. We have been successful in a number of opportunities and programs that has seen our revenue grow by 6.6% and allowed us to support more people in our community.

MDS is largely a service-driven organisation as evidenced by our employment expenditure which makes up more than 76% of our costs. While employment expenditure is strictly classed as an expense, the people that we employ are not. They are an asset to our organisation. They live our motto of "Defying Boundaries" and help the people we support to meet their goals.

We always welcome donations and sponsorship from our supporters. Without their support, we cannot promote healthy lifestyles such as participation in our Get Active Macarthur event or celebrate at the Annual MDS Ball. It is at these events we as the Board get to see first hand how MDS changes the lives of people with disabilities, their families and their friends.

CAMDEN SHOW *Winners*

Back in February, MDS participants were hard at work preparing many different entries for this year's Camden show.

Come March all the entries were in and MDS were eagerly awaiting the opening of the show to discover if their hard work had paid off. It had! The competition room was scattered with awards for MDS participants and the entries shone for all to see. The final count ended up with MDS winning 9 awards including 6 for first place!

MDS CEO Jeff Scobie said "It was great to see MDS participants involved in such a wonderful community event. MDS entrants were overjoyed with their success."

The hard work is already underway for 2016, with plans to enter in some of the incredible produce from our Tahmoor site.



We thank both the Federal & State Governments in their support of MDS, entrusting us with the financial resources to assist numerous people with a disability. We take financial stewardship very seriously and ensure that the money we received is administered in a prudent way. Through sound financial management and good governance, MDS is exposed to very little risk. We trust that this one element along with everything else we do helps make MDS an attractive option to carers, people with a disability and funding bodies.

I would like to thank Jeff and the team for their dedication, professionalism and commitment throughout the year. 2016 will bring new and exciting challenges and with commitment to continued education as well as strengthening the management team, we are in a sound position to tackle these challenges and succeed.

I would like to thank people with a disability and their carers for choosing MDS and making it the organisation it is today. We trust that you continue to look towards MDS as your service provider and look forward to working with you in the future.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Board Members under the leadership of our President Justin Thornton. While the composition of the board changes, the commitment and focus to MDS remains.

Financial Highlights

A summary of the significant items appearing in the financial report, and the comparatives for the 2015 year is as follows:

Item	\$16,349,695	\$15,335,536	\$1,014,159	6.6%
Total revenue	\$16,032,237	\$14,992,193	\$1,040,044	6.9%
Total expenses	\$317,458	\$343,343	(\$25,885)	(7.5%)
Net Surplus/ Deficit)	\$3,909,008	\$3,803,364	\$105,644	2.8%
Current assets	\$8,486,295	\$8,339,355	\$146,940	1.8%
Total assets	\$2,862,832	\$3,101,213	(\$238,381)	(7.7%)
Current liabilities	\$3,583,421	\$3,753,939	(\$170,518)	(4.5%)
Total liabilities	\$4,902,874	\$4,585,416	\$317,458	6.9%
Net assets 2015	2014	\$ Increase (\$ Decrease)	% Increase/ (%Decrease)	

Jacaranda Creative Hub

The participants at MDS are bursting at the seams with creative energy. From painting, photography and ceramics, to writing their own play (including creating costumes, designing props and preparing sound effects) there is always an endless flow of passion and expression. MDS wanted to provide the opportunity for all participants to be able to express themselves creatively, and so the Creative Hub at Bradbury was born.

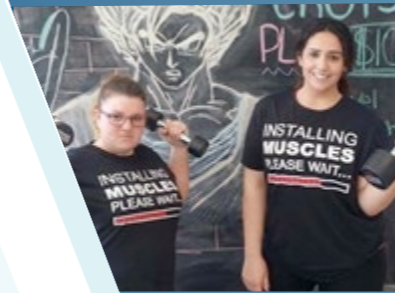


In taking over and renovating the Bradbury Community Hall, MDS now has a specific and inspiring space for our participants to let their creative hair down. The hub has a stage and hall for performances, a gallery space for exhibitions, a grassed outdoor area; with plans to include a recording studio, a computer lab and a photography & video studio.

The 'Jacaranda Creative Hub' officially opened in December last year with an exhibition from the MDS Artways program. Many incredible and inspiring artworks were hung on display, projected onto walls and performed in front of an audience of over 100 people. It was a great way to showcase the potential of the new creative artspace and the untapped talent that we have at MDS.

Fast forward to 2015 and the space at Jacaranda is full of energy and excitement almost every day of the week. On Mondays, participants learn how to use sign language through the signing choir. Tuesdays are drumming days, with over 50 participants banging out beats and rhythms to their favourite tunes. On a Wednesday the MDS choir gather to sing a collection of classic and modern songs, in preparation for their end of year concert. And Thursdays is dance day. Participants practice their hip hop moves and release some energy while keeping active.

I'm looking forward to...



staying healthy



going on holidays



starting my own company



buying a car



working full-time



giving back to the community



learning to cook



working with animals



raising my children



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Defying Boundaries

