

Annual Report

2015

/16

inclusive
DIRECTIONS



Organisation Overview

Our Vision

Supporting and
empowering
communities towards
an inclusive future

Our Values

Inclusion
Integrity
Teamwork
Excellence
Accountability
Commitment



Our Services

We understand the importance of early intervention in contributing to better outcomes for children.

The benefits of this approach can include:

Reduction in challenging behaviours

Increased language and communication skills

Increased social skills

Improved cognitive functioning

Increased adaptive behaviour.

Our personalised therapies can assist in improving schooling and social outcomes for children, thereby increasing their potential for social and economic contribution within the community.

Diagnosics and therapy

It can be a challenging time looking for answers to concerns about a loved one. Our team of speech pathologists and clinical psychologists are to assist you and your child with therapy options and/or undertake a diagnostic assessment which will help you clarify your child's needs and appropriate course of action.

Flinders Early Intervention Program

Originally developed by world-leading researchers at Flinders University, the Inclusive Directions Flinders Early Intervention Program is a comprehensive 20-week program for children living with autism. After two intensive weeks of behavioural intervention training, families maintain what they have learnt at home, with continued support ensuring Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) techniques are incorporated into home routines.

Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA)

To help a child develop new skills, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) ensures they are engaged participants in the learning process. This evidence-based approach assists in the development of a range of social, communicative and cognitive skills, and has a focus on positive reinforcement. ABA therapy can be delivered at home or in clinic.

Behaviour Support

To best support a child with special needs, the Inclusive Directions team works with a family at home, in the community and at school to tackle challenging behaviours using practical, evidence-based strategies to reduce problematic behaviours and ensure the best possible chance for success.

We work collaboratively with family, carers, schools and social services to develop Behaviour Support Plans. An emphasis is placed on mentoring and coaching families and support staff with implementation and continual review of behaviour support to achieve improvements in quality of life, acquisition of valued skills, and increased community and social inclusion.

School Readiness

As the first of its kind within South Australia, our School Readiness Program is a targeted, comprehensive and accessible program for children with autism. The program helps children to learn about typical school rituals, how to sit on the floor and at tables for lessons, care for self and property, working in groups, turn taking and responding to the teacher.

Mentoring

For existing students, Inclusive Directions is an official provider of the South Australian Government's Innovative Community Action Networks Student Mentoring program, which strengthens student outcomes in engagement, retention and attainment in learning through tailored programs.

Saturday Social Club

Saturday Social Club focuses on social skills development in a relaxed and fun environment, and encourages children to work together, seek peer support and interaction, and learn how to make positive friendships within the early childhood and school environments. This program is run weekly on a Saturday morning from 10am until 3pm.

School Holiday Program

The School Holiday program gives parents and children alike a chance to enjoy a break by offering fun, interactive play opportunities for youngsters during holiday periods, allowing parents to continue working or enjoy some downtime.

Programs for Teens

Our popular Teen Directions program aims to develop social skills for young people aged 13-17 years who have higher support needs within a safe and secure environment, while the Independent Directions social program offers young adults requiring lower level staff support needs an opportunity to enjoy increased participation in local community activities.

Well-Being Programs

We are always updating our range of wellbeing programs. To get the latest information about our wellbeing programs visit www.directions.org.au.

Training

Inclusive Directions offers a comprehensive and flexible range of Professional Development options for those working in all areas of early childhood and education services.

You're in good hands with our team of clinical and allied health staff, behaviour therapists, developmental educators, teachers, bi-cultural support workers and executive managers.

We offer flexibility and options, including scheduled sessions and self-paced or group workshops on-site at your business or off-site. We also develop customised programs.

Our range of professional development programs and workshops includes:

- > Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) & related disorders
- > Behaviour
- > Child safe Environments
- > Sensory Integration
- > Speech and language
- > Enhancing visual communication
- > Understanding & responding to trauma
- > Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA)
- > Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)

We are able to tailor a training package to suit your needs or the needs of your organisation. Training can be delivered to individuals or groups of any size and can be delivered as part, full-day or multi-day workshops depending on your requirements.

From the Chair and CEO

The 2015/16 financial year has been an exciting time for Inclusive Directions with the opening of Flinders Therapy House – allowing us to provide personalised disability and developmental services to children and their families by using evidence based methods and approaches. It is with great pride that we present the 2015/16 Annual Report.

Inclusive Directions is strongly supported by its Board, who generously donate their time and expertise to ensure our organisation is governed effectively, enabling us to continue to support our clients, families and stakeholders. We would like to recognise and thank the Commonwealth and State Governments and Partners who provide funding to enable us to provide quality programs to children and families.

We also thank our parents and clients for their ongoing support and understanding that our collective efforts are making real differences to the lives of hundreds of South Australians and their families. We are immensely proud of our range of programs and services and we remain committed to giving children get the best start in life so they can grow and mature to become the very best person they can be.

Year in Review

Inclusion Support Agency

Throughout 2015/16 Inclusive Directions operated as an Inclusion Support Agency (ISA) under the Inclusion Professional Support Program (IPSP), funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

The IPSP program was developed to encourage and support improved inclusion for all children. Operating across five regions spanning South Australia and Victoria, Inclusive Directions provided education and care services within the early childhood sector to support the creation of inclusive environments for all children, including those with additional needs.

Throughout the 2015/16 year the major focus for Inclusive Directions was:

- > Children living with a disability;
- > Children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds;
- > Children with a refugee or humanitarian intervention background;
- > Indigenous children; and
- > Maintaining the Specialist Equipment and Bicultural Services initiatives.

Inclusion Support – Year In Review

Delivering Inclusion across 5 regions in 2 states – South Australia: North, South, Riverland, South East and Western Victoria.

Services Supported:

- > Long Day Care
- > Vacation Care
- > Before/After School Care
- > Family Day Care
- > In Home Care
- > Occasional Care
- > Other

4,791

children supported – including 2,346 with a disability, 2,352 CALD, 41 Indigenous and 52 Refugees

1,786

service visits

1,251

supported eligible services

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Inclusive Direction is a registered provider of support and services and is pleased to provide increased support and services under the NDIS.

Our range of services and supports assisted people and families to understand, navigate and make the most out of the NDIS. We work with people with a disability and their families, using a person-centred approach, to support them to identify and achieve their goals. We continue to be committed to working with each individual to achieve their goals, at their pace and in their own way.

Case Study

Within days of arriving at Inclusive Direction's therapy centre and early intervention program, the family of Port Pirie toddler Jace witnessed significant improvements in his communication and behaviour.

Three-year old Jace, together with his parents Rebecca and Karl and his brothers Aiden and Leo, became the first South Australian family to use the new Inclusive Directions facility.

"It was extremely emotional for us," his mother said. "Within a few days of attending the House we could see improvements and he was saying new words and has been responding to tasks."

Jace was diagnosed with autism last year. His communication skills are limited, his speech incoherent and he has limited ability to make eye contact or recognise the presence of others.

Since his diagnosis, Jace has been receiving speech and occupational therapy in his home town of Port Pirie but his parents believed their son needed more intensive support. They were recommended to the Flinders Autism Early Intervention Program by another parent whose son had undertaken the program.



The family's two-week intensive Inclusive Directions Flinders Early Intervention Program was fully funded by the NDIS.

inclusive
DIRECTIONS



Locations

Southern Hub

143 Daws Road, St Marys SA 5042

ph 08 7325 8600

Northern Hub

28B Commercial Road, Salisbury SA 5108

ph 08 7325 8600

Mt Gambier

71 Sultontown Road, Mt Gambier SA 5290

ph 0481 092 986

To learn more about us, please visit

www.directions.org.au