

# Bravo Brief Newsletter



June to August 2023

## Upcoming Bravo Events

15

JUNE

**Heart Foundation Walking Group**  
WEEKLY EVENT

19

JUNE

**Bravo Team Rostering System**  
NEW SYSTEM GOES LIVE

31

AUGUST

**Bravo Photo Competition**  
CLOSES

27

OCTOBER

**AGM**

## Upcoming Community Events & Holidays

24 - 09

JUNE JULY

**School Holidays**

30

JUNE

**EOFY**

07

JULY

**QDN Peer Support Group**  
MEETING

13

JULY

**CHSN**  
MEETING

04

AUGUST

**QDN Peer Support Group**  
MEETING

10

AUGUST

**CHSN**  
MEETING

16

AUGUST

**Cooloola Disability Interagency**  
**Network Meeting**

18

SEPTEMBER

**Salus Group**  
CPR / FIRST AID TRAINING

Resilience

# General Manager Update



## Welcome to our June / July / August edition

As winter sets in and the end of the financial year approaches it's a good time to tidy up your thoughts and review your goals. In the often fast paced society we live in today, it is easy to get caught up in the negative news cycle. Take a step back, slow down and focus on making your corner of the world a better place.

**This newsletter we are sharing some information from:**

## NDIS news

### *New Policy – Supported Decision Making*

National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIS) recently released the new Supported Decision-Making Policy which acknowledges the human right of every person to make their own decisions. To read about the policy, [click here](https://ndis.gov.au/about-us/policies/supported-decision-making-policy) or go to: <https://ndis.gov.au/about-us/policies/supported-decision-making-policy>

This policy is about helping everyone understand what supported decision making is, and how we can better support people with disability to make decisions in the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme). Providers play a key role in this.

### *Latest Quarterly Report released*

To read [click here](https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/quarterly-reports) or go to: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/quarterly-reports>.

### *The Disability Royal Commission*

The Royal Commission held its final substantive hearing in May 2023.

[Click here](https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/rounds/public-hearing-33-violence-abuse-neglect-and-deprivation-human-rights-case-study) to access Public hearing 33 or go to: <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/rounds/public-hearing-33-violence-abuse-neglect-and-deprivation-human-rights-case-study> used a case study to examine the nature and extent of violence, abuse and neglect experienced over the life course of people with disability. It also examined the failure of government departments and agencies to keep people with disability safe.

Register for the Disability Royal Commission online information sessions and find out what Australia told us!

DRC is holding two online sessions on 19 and 22 June as part of our 'What Australia told us!' series.

[Click here](https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/news-and-media/workshops/what-australia-told-us-national-information-sessions) or go to: <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/news-and-media/workshops/what-australia-told-us-national-information-sessions> check out the website for more information in English and Auslan.

## PART TWO

# Bravo Community Networker Update



## *Bravo and St Patricks College industry day.*

Bravo participated in May at St Patricks College industry where Codi and Cindy from Bravo met with conscientious and curious learners and discussed the various roles and career opportunities Bravo has to offer. Learners from the college learnt about the role of a Support Worker and the pathways to achieving Certificate III in Individual Support. Other career openings with a Certificate III in Business can be sought within the industry. Bravo is excited to have engaged a School Based Trainee and thanks St Patricks College and the other exhibitors for inviting us along to their Industry Day.

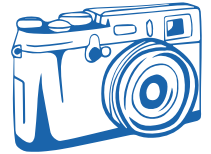
## *Bravo and the heart foundation walking group*

For anyone in the Community who would like to join the Bravo Walking Group contact Cindy Buchan (Community Networker) on 0428 680 465 or turn up at the starting point located at 37 Tozer Park Road, Gympie for sign-up.

**First walk commenced Thursday 15th June 2023 at 9am – weekly at the same location.**

Partnering in the community with Gympie Aquatic Recreation Centre and working closely with Bravo to support the Bravo Movers – Be Brave & Go There - Walking Group.

## *Bravo participant photo competition*



An opportunity for one of Bravo's Participants to become the face of Bravo for a twelve-month period has been launched. The winning photo will be included in the Bravo AGM Report, Brochure, and Service Agreement Packs.

To enter the competition email your photos to: [photo@bravo.org.au](mailto:photo@bravo.org.au).

The competition started on 20/03/23 and will close 31/08/23.

## *National Assistance Card*

The National Assistance Card is a personalised card to assist people with disability and health conditions in the community. The National Assistance Card can be used in everyday or emergency situations where a cardholder needs assistance or support.

### *Who is the Card for?*

The card is available to all people in Australia living with brain injury. In Tasmania the card is being trialled with the autistic community. The National Assistance Card Service hope that, in the future, the National

Assistance Card will be available to all people in Australia with disability and health conditions.

To find out more about the National Assistance Card visit the website: <https://www.nationalassistancecard.com.au/>

To make an application for the National Assistance Card visit the website: <https://www.nationalassistancecard.com.au/apply>

PART THREE

# News & Community Events

## Bravo Day

*April 2023*

The Bravo Day had a big turnout, with Participants, Bravo Employees & Volunteers having a wonderful morning, with fun, games, and lots of laughter. A special mention to all who volunteered their time to make the morning such a success. Thank you to the Gympie Regional Council for their support of the grant approved for the Bravo Day which helps to minimize isolation to Participants and Families after the recent flooding event and to provide an opportunity to come together and celebrate.

*This project received funding assistance from the Gympie Regional Council's Community Grants Program 2022/2023 – Get Local.*



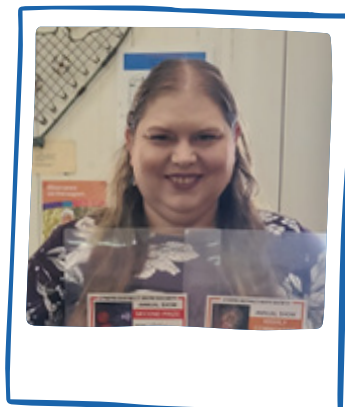
# Gympie Show

May 2023

Thank-you to all who sent in their Gympie Show photos. I hope all involved have had a lot of fun with their pictures posted on Facebook.

Congratulations to those who received awards for their amazing entries at the Show this year.

A big thank-you to the Gympie Show Society for their awesome support. *The Gympie Show Society kindly donated entry tickets to assist people to attend.*



# Bravo Team Participation

## Medication Training

Last month, Bravo Team Members – Support Workers completed Medication training to assist them within their role and provided them with risk management strategies including the latest Legislation.

Feedback from this training is welcomed by all, especially Support Workers and Participants.

## Bravo is Transitioning Systems

Bravo is transitioning to a new roster system. Hooray!

In making this much anticipated move in June 2023 you may notice things changing and they will appear different than the past. What you will see differently is the times are now Australian and 24 hours conversion time!!

Bravo believes this change will continue the improvement of the services Bravo offers.

If you have any concerns around this change, then please reach out to the office.

## Find us on Facebook

What can you expect to see on the Bravo Facebook:

- Upcoming community & disability news & events
- Shared memories with Bravo Participants & Team Members
- Role Model information & sharing
- Shared Goal Setting & Achievements
- Bravo Event information
- Recognition Awareness Days

## Bravo CPR & First Aid Training

**Next Course Date: 18th September 2023**

CPR & First Aid Training in partnership with the Salus Group Academy is continuing to be held at 22 Dennis Little Drive. The training dates are available on the [www.sgacademy.com.au](http://www.sgacademy.com.au) website.

For all Bravo employees to who need to attend this mandatory training, send an email to [hr@bravo.org.au](mailto:hr@bravo.org.au) to be included in a group booking.

For other individuals, organisations or community groups that would like to come and receive their training through the Salus Group Academy and join the courses at the Bravo office, **book online NOW.**

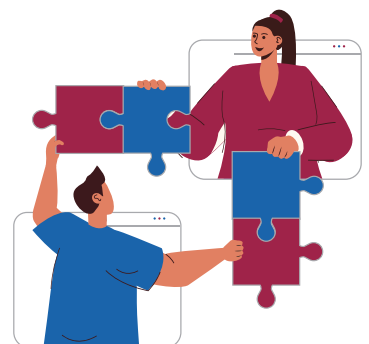
## Careers at Bravo

Bravo is always on the lookout for Support Workers. This is a highly rewarding role for those that value caring for people. Sometimes people with disability only need some extra support to live life the way they choose.

If this is YOU, apply now. If you would like to talk to someone at Bravo, ask for Cindy.

You can also provide your resume and cover letter to [careers@bravo.org.au](mailto:careers@bravo.org.au) or drop one into the office at 7 Alma Street, Gympie. We look forward to seeing you.

Bravo won the Employer of Choice Award with the Gympie Chamber of Commerce Business Awards in 2022.



## Bravo to assess Psychosocial Hazards & Psychological Risks

Bravo will be emailing out a PAW (people at work) Survey which will be sent to all Bravo Team Members to identify what psychosocial hazards and psychological risks are within the Bravo workforce. This survey will provide informed information to assist Bravo in reasonable, practicable steps to mitigate the risk to its workforce.

Once the survey has been completed, a Bravo Focus Group will be formed from within the Bravo Team Members.

For any Bravo Team Member who is interested in becoming a candidate for the Bravo Focus Group and would like to have a voice about positive and proactive solutions to psychosocial hazards within the Bravo workplace, please send an email to [lynn.boyd@bravo.org.au](mailto:lynn.boyd@bravo.org.au)

Numbers for the Bravo Focus Group will be capped, however a good cross section from different working areas of the Bravo Team would be advantageous.

## Bravo Team Meeting Event

*16th May 2023 to 18th May 2023*

A huge thank-you to Anna Brenna for her Team Building & Networking exercises. This livened up the session and gave everyone a chance to have a go at a TEAM activity. The guinea pigs were a big hit with some of the Bravo Team! It was an informative team meeting event focusing on the below key points:

- Bravo Team Survey Feedback
- Continuing to manage Covid 19
- Disability Royal Commission
- Industrial Relations Reforms
- Psychosocial Hazards & Psychosocial Risks
- NDIA Participant Safeguarding Policy
- Governance Board - Operational Plan 2023/2024
- Current & Proposed Bravo Values
- Salary Sacrifice
- Akuety Training



PART FIVE

# Bravo Services

## Plan Management

### *Accepting new enquires*

The amazing Bravo Plan Management Team can help you to achieve your goals. Bravo have the experience to understand that your situation is unique and that you have individual goals and needs.

- The sign-up process is simple and efficient.
- We manage the financial administration with your Provider's, so you don't have to worry.
- We will focus on your plan so you can focus on achieving your goals.
- You have the choice, there is no restriction over your NDIS Service Providers.
- We receive invoices and process payments on your behalf.
- We help you manage your budget, keep track of funds and manage financial reporting.



Contact the Plan Management Team on  
**07 5482 5336 – Ext 4** or email  
[planmanagement@bravo.org.au](mailto:planmanagement@bravo.org.au)



- Statements are provided monthly to you.
- Suppliers are paid daily, providing a fast turnaround of invoices.
- Each participant is allocated their own personal Plan Management Assistant who is available to answer any questions or provide support around plan funding and purchases.

## PART SIX

# From the Governance Board

*Board Meetings are held on the third Friday of every month.*

<b>President:</b> Dianne Melnyk	<b>Treasurer:</b> Dave Cohen
<b>Member:</b> Jackie Harding	<b>Member:</b> Lesley Nissen
<b>Probationary Member:</b> Rebecca Tulle	<b>Probationary Member:</b> Barbara Berwick
<b>Probationary Community Representative:</b> Emma Buhse	
<b>Secretary:</b> Gail Brown	

## Bravo's Values

The Board are renewing the Values, this ensures that they are relevant and reflective of the current environment and align with Bravo's Mission and Vision.

This process has involved input from various stakeholders to identify areas that need to be updated or improved. This approach ensures that the renewal of the Values is inclusive and comprehensive.

The Board would like to thank the Team for their feedback and suggestions, this has been noted and further changes have been made to the Values, see below. If you would like to provide feedback please call Gail at the Office on **5482 5336** or email: [governance@bravo.org.au](mailto:governance@bravo.org.au)

### Welcome

We welcome all people with openness and respect.

### Courage

We encourage bravery in all people to make their own choices.

### Inclusion

Our aim is to provide safe, equal access and opportunities for all people in every aspect of Bravo business.

### Partnership

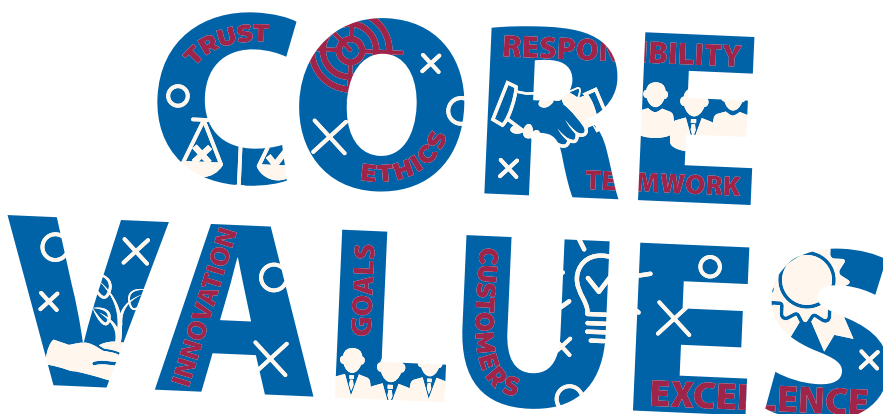
We are committed to partnering with you and your support network, always.

### Show Respect

We will be open and honest and behave with integrity and dignity.

### Justice

We uphold the fundamental human rights of justice, peace and equality and will be fair, honest and show compassion.



# Bravo AGM: 27 October 2023

*Mark this date in your Calendar*

In welcoming our Probationary Board Members check out their stories - Emma, Bec and Barb.



## Hello, my name is Emma Buhse.

I commenced with the Bravo Board in December 2022 in the voluntary position of Community Representative.

I've been living in Gympie since 2004. I met my husband on my first visit and Gympie has been home ever since. I love this community, the support, camaraderie, and warmth I receive regularly from locals when I'm travelling around the town is uplifting. As a person with disability myself, I'm passionate about advocating for people with disabilities, providing information to help other individuals living with disabilities and promote positive representations of disability and of Bravo.

I look forward to assisting people with disabilities and supporting the Vision, Mission, and Values of the Organisation. I can be contacted by phoning the Bravo Office on **5482 5336**; emailing – **[admin@bravo.org.au](mailto:admin@bravo.org.au)**; dropping a note into the Governance Board Box at Alma Street (on the right side of the front door).

*Say 'hi' when you see me out and about!*

## Hi All - Let me introduce myself, my name is Barbara (Barb) Berwick.

I am formerly from Sydney, I have three children and six grandchildren. When my first-born started kindergarten, the school was trialling a Disability Support Unit within mainstream classrooms. Throughout the day Volunteers (that would be me), would make sure children from the Support Unit integrated into their age-appropriate classes.

At recess and lunch breaks children from the Support Unit would return to the Unit, their needs would be attended to before they joined their friends. School Policies were quite unique back then, Volunteers took the Children from the Support Unit swimming, we had BBQs, discos, train rides, sleepovers at my house and more. I think my passion for everything disability and all ability, and to advocate for those who don't have a voice was instilled in me from my first visit to the Support Unit.

My hobbies are Rock n Roll dancing, sewing, eight ball and taking cruise groups away every year.

I am looking forward to being part of an awesome group of people who volunteer their time to serve on the Board for BRAVO.





**Hi my name is Bec and I am currently on probation as a new board member for Bravo.**

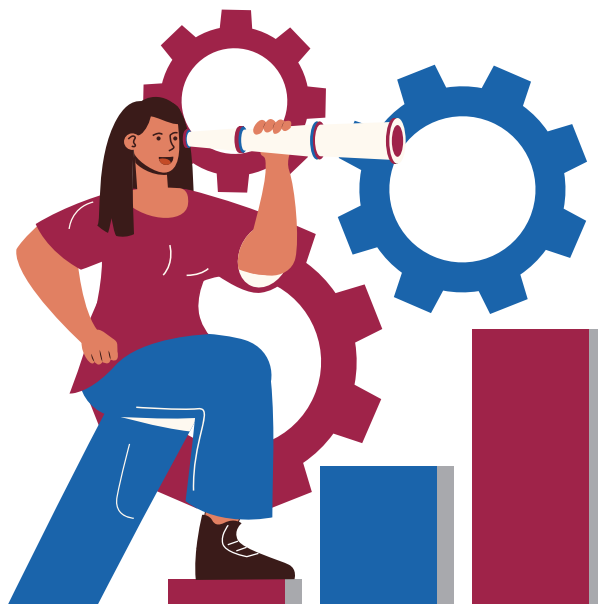
I was born and raised in Gympie, and I am now raising my children in Gympie. I have worked for Laurel Place in Gympie and Murgon for the past 10 years as a specialised trauma practitioner in the field of sexual violence, I am also the Coordinator of the Gympie service. I have a degree in Human Services with a double major in Counselling and Child and Family, I have also completed some post graduate study in the field of Psychology and I am currently completing my dual Masters in Social Work and Mental Health.

Personally, I have lived my adult life caring for children related to me who experience life with a disability, navigating the NDIS and the child protection system. Through my personal and work experience I have some knowledge of the impacts on people with disability and how the systems in which life confines us can impact emotional wellbeing, damage our sense of belonging, restrict autonomy and at times deny basic human rights.

I am of the opinion that we are always learning, and we can learn a lot from others when we stop and take the time to listen. I am here to listen, learn and share my personal and professional attributes to work in partnership towards creating a community that provides inclusion, awareness and everyone feels valued,

*Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself and I am looking forward to meeting each of you.*

**Bec**



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