

FAR NORTH COMMUNITY SERVICES

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I was at a social function recently and met a lady who works at the hospital. When I mentioned I work at Far North, she immediately shared a story about Jim one of our support workers. This lady was in awe of how Jim supports people, his compassion and the way he tailored the support to meet the needs of the gentleman. I was reminded how important our support staff are and how they influence in the community and make a difference every day. We are fortunate at Far North to have such a dedicated team and I commend and thank Jim and the rest of our staff for the great work you do in helping to enrich our communities by including every-one.

We are continuing to prepare for the transition to the nationally administered NDIS and this will bring some changes in the way we work as we move from a payment in advance model, to a commercial fee for service model and payment in arrears. As we adapt to the changes our most important goal is that the services for the people we support continue and we stay focused on building strong relationships and support people to achieve their goals.

The transition will occur between Oct and Dec this year, however we are pleased that staff from the National Disability Agency (NDIA) visited the Kimberley and engaged with people with disabilities, their families and service providers during March. The NDIA is the agency that administers the national NDIS. Workshops were held in Broome and Kununurra, with a focus on the participant pathway and getting feedback from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and those living in remote locations on how they can improve the scheme.

We recently had all of our Coordinators together for two days training in Broome and preparation for the changes ahead. Our regional Coordinators have experienced a lot of growth in the last 6 months with many new people joining our service. They are a strong, enthusiastic and competent group and I extend my thanks to them, along with thanks to our Broome team. We are focusing on training for the rest of our staff in the coming months and Sharon and Kelly have been working hard to plan for this with a good mix of training opportunities ahead.

It has been a long and challenging wet season, so as the weather starts to change and the humidity drops, there is new energy emerging. I look forward to working with and alongside you all to keep our vision and values alive in the coming months.

Kathy Hough

CEO

A bit about the NDIS

Transition to the nationally run NDIS

In December 2017, the Premier, Hon Mark McGowan announced that WA would join the nationally run National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). People who are currently part of the WA NDIS in the Kimberly will transition to the national scheme between October and December 2018.

The national NDIS is run by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) whilst the WA NDIS is run by the State Government – Department of Communities – Disability Services. The two departments are working together to ensure a smooth transition for people already in the scheme.

The NDIS and your plan

Far North is registered with the NDIA so your current plan and supports can continue during and after the transfer. Your Coordinator will work closely with you to make sure everything transfers smoothly.

Your Coordinator from Far North will develop a new service agreement with you that tells us how you want your support provided. This is a requirement from NDIA. Your Coordinator will talk to you about this during September as we get closer to the transition time.

After the transition, instead of having a Local Coordinator (LC) from Disability Services you will have a NDIA planner to assist you to review your plans and develop future ones. The NDIA will recruit NDIA Planners who will live and work in Broome and other towns in the Kimberley.

The Planner approves your plan.

Local Area Coordinators

The NDIA will also develop a tender to contract Local Area Coordinators. In most other states Local Area Coordinators are employed by not for profit organisations, whilst in South Australia they are employed by government. An organisation that employs Local Area Coordinators cannot be a service provider as well.

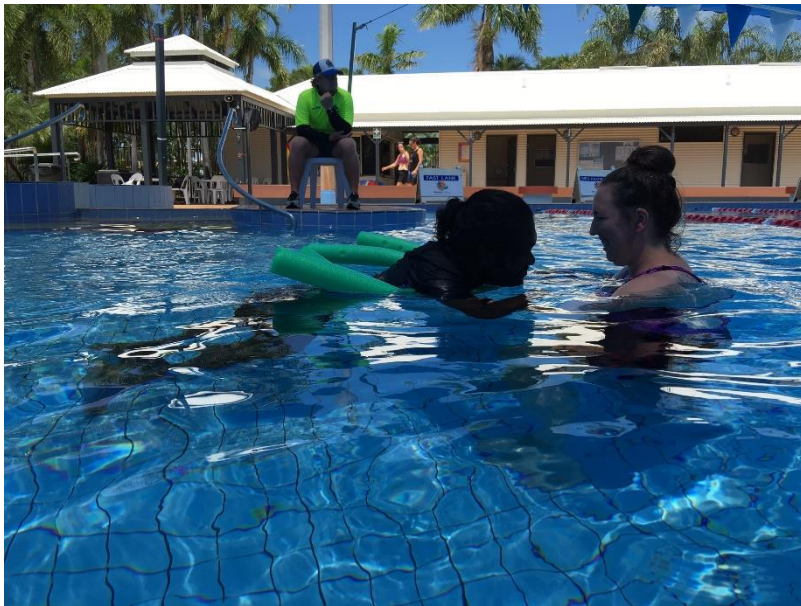
A Local Area Coordinator helps you to implement your plan and get the services you want.

Personal Care Packs

A big thank you to Andy and the team at [Bali Hai Resort & Spa](#) for donating a range of items that will go towards making up personal care packs. The packs will be offered to people in The Kimberley who are in need by our ILC Coordinator Janet O'Connor. We are very delighted and grateful to be collaborating with a local business for such a great cause.



Jason at BRAC!



Jason has recently started Hydrotherapy at BRAC, Jason said the experience was “very soothing and wonderful” he also said it was better than expected. Way to go Jason!

Other changes occurring at Far North

As the organisation continues to grow and we prepare for the nationally administered NDIS we are getting our team ready and making sure we keep on improving. We want to have decision making as close to the people we support as possible, with a plan to make sure everything isn't centralised in Broome.

We now have offices in Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Kununurra. We are working with families in some communities and employing local staff where possible. We have targets to significantly increase the number of Aboriginal staff we employ and to find more effective ways to provide high levels of training and professional development for our staff.

In the coming weeks we will be sending out an internal expression of interest for 3 part-time roster coordinators. They will be based in Broome, Derby and Kununurra. In time, we want more admin and rostering support delivered locally and will be looking at ways that we can afford to do this. Fiona, our current roster coordinator will be taking on additional duties in preparation for moving to a funded in arrears model and daily approval of timesheets and line management of our new roster coordinators.

We will be advertising for a Manager position in Kununurra early in the new financial year, with one Manager covering the East Kimberley and one for the west.

Jen Mofflin will be moving back to Perth to be closer to family during June and Elaine Clarke will be taking on the role for the West Kimberley.

Catching Barra's in Kununurra



Vernon is Edward Smith Grandfather he is 93 "the most senior man being supported by Far North I'm guessing" Vernon had a good laugh today when Colin took him fishing, Colin was putting the bait on when Vernon said "no no no you're doing it all wrong, let me show you how to catch a Barra" Vernon put the live bait on and in no time at all Colin was needing to help Vernon pull this big Barra in. Huge smiles all around, moral of the story, never stop learning and always listen and respect you elders.

Life in Kununurra for Edward and Brendon

Brendon has recently moved to Kununurra and is living with Edward, together they rent a house and have become great house mates. Brendon has moved from Kalumburu and is loving his new house and all the friends he is making here in town. In the photos you can see Brendon on his bike, a huge thank you to Far North for making it possible to purchase a bike for the support workers, this means they don't need to feel like they are running a marathon while trying to keep up with Brendon, the opportunity to work toward some great goals for Brendon is so exciting. Brendon continues to have a huge smile on his face daily and his great personality shines through more and more each day.

[Penny Gilbertson](#)

Kununurra Coordinator



ILC in Kununurra Update

Managers from Centrelink in Kununurra and Far North are working closely together through the ILC project. This has resulted in more people being referred on a regular basis to find out more about the NDIS, and learn about eligibility. This partnership has also supported me to stay in touch with people. By working closely together we were recently able to get one individual back on country and with family.

My meeting with the Manager of the Sober Up Shelter has led to a greater awareness of the NDIS and the types of supports that the NDIS can provide. The aim is that people using the service are more likely to engage with scheme. Following our meeting, one individual wanting to make some steps towards engaging with the NDIS.

Several of the families I have met with at the beginning of the ILC role have now developed and had an NDIS plan approved and are utilising services. We are excited that many more families will have this opportunity in the future

Tegan Parker

Kununurra ILC Coordinator

Isaac's Communication breakthrough



Over the last year Isaac has worked extremely hard and has been very focused on expressing and improving his language skills.

Prior to this Isaac was non-verbal. Isaac is now starting to pronounce letters and sounds. Isaac with his support workers practice his communication every week with the help of the speech and language apps on his iPad and recommendations from his Speech Pathologist and his primary carer Sandi.

Isaac is extremely dedicated and determined to pronounce new words and sounds. Isaac has just recently started doing some music therapy with his support worker Byron. Through this Isaac is creatively learning new sounds and it is a fun way in helping him enhance his communication skills. Everyone at Far North

Community Services are extremely proud of what Isaac has achieved and are excited to be part of his wonderful journey.

Elaine Clarke- Broome Senior Coordinator

#GoodLifeKimberley

Far North has partnered up with Unique Kimberley. **Unique Kimberley** is an innovative marketing and tourism consulting service.

This project has been designed to encourage people with disabilities, their families, their carers and Far North staff to share stories of good lives of people with disabilities in the Kimberley and positives outcomes of support from Far North Community Services on social media. The content will be aggregated from Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube and published on www.farnorth.org.au. All content will be curated so that only positive content is published.

Why? The hashtag provides a platform for people to celebrate their good life in The Kimberley.

Where? The #GoodLifeKimberley hashtag can be used on Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. On Facebook your post can be shared onto the Far North Facebook page.

Who? Anyone and everyone!

Although the people in the images **must give consent**.

How? On your post hashtag #GoodLifeKimberley It must be spelt correctly but is not case sensitive.

When? The project has commenced so on your next post add the hashtag #

Where will my post go? Your post will remain on your personal profile and once aggregated from the staff at Unique Kimberley it will then go onto the Far North website www.farnorth.org.au and Far North may occasionally share it on their social pages.

What should my post and image be about? Your daily life in the Kimberley, eg. Weekend activities, going to the beach, you and your family or friends.

How many time should I use the hashtag? As much or as little as you like, although we would LOVE to see as many posts as possible!!

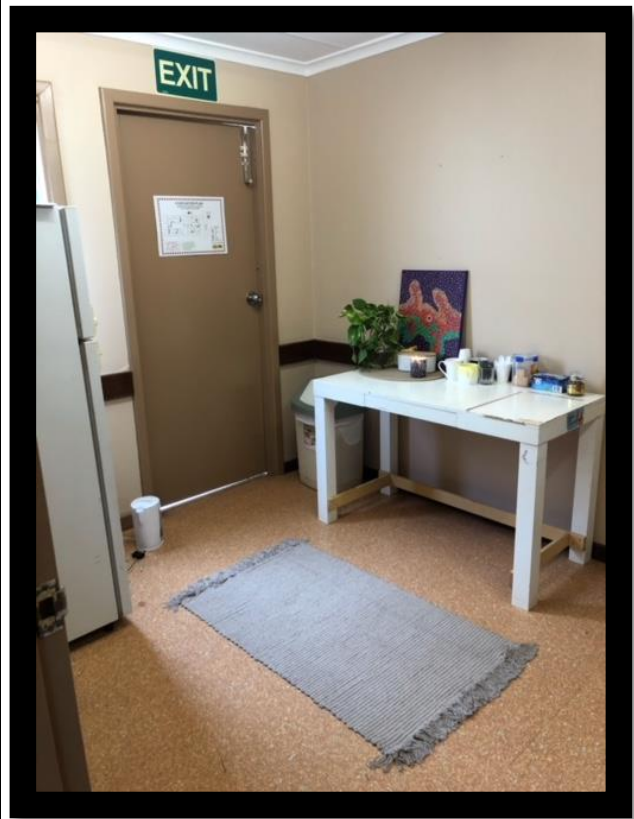
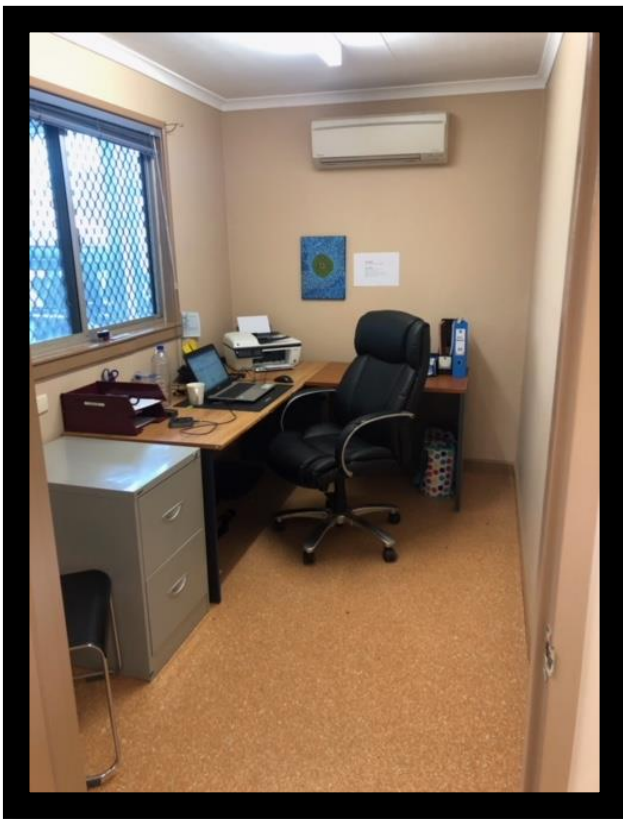
If you have any questions, please see your Coordinator.

We can't wait to see your photos!! **#GoodLifeKimberley**

Far North in Halls Creek

Far North are establishing supports for people in Halls Creek. Our office is based with Jungarni-Jutiya Indigenous Corporation. We currently have one Support Worker supporting a young man to gain the skills for employment as a Stockman.

We are so happy with the way the Halls Creek community has embraced Far North and we share their excitement about the possibilities for the future. We are on a recruitment drive for people to provide support and are looking for people who share our values. So if you think you can make a difference in some-one's life, are happy to support people do the activities in their NDIS plan the give Sarah a call on 0429 401 538 or Sharon on 0417 403 306.



Thank you for reading and Happy Easter from everyone at Far North!

