



in this edition:

when family support really matters
aged care expo exceeds expectations
the italian ambassador arrives in brisbane
and much more.

OUR VISION

To be a leader in the provision of quality, accessible and affordable community care services for the general and CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities.

OUR VISION

To be the focal point in Queensland for the promotion and study of the Italian language and culture.



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Only a few nights ago, I was still in the office past midnight and it's not often that I get to go home before 8pm because of the multitude of tasks that require constant and immediate attention.

I do it willingly and don't begrudge the extra time but I sometimes feel that I am like one of our carers.

Only in my situation, it is Co.As.It. that I am caring for.

I am often confronted by the stunning realization that I am ultimately responsible for over 5,000 clients, over 400 staff members and approximately 75 volunteers as well as Italian language teachers.

I value our very competent Board of Directors and their on-going support and most of all, our very dedicated people who run our programs and the daily operations of the organisation but the buck stops with me and it is a sobering fact - aged care is not for the faint-hearted.

I look back over the past year and grieve at the terrible stories that have emerged of neglect and mistreatment of residents in nursing homes, feel defeated by knowing that more than 16,000 people have died whilst waiting to be assigned a home care package by the Government. This is due to insufficient funding allocated to this sector.

Lost opportunities where inaction has caused such grief make me question commitment to doing a job and doing it well, especially when knowing that people in the community are suffering. We realise the importance of caring for people, we strive for excellence in all that we do and will continue to represent those who cannot represent themselves.

So close to the end of another year we look forward to the Government's response in implementing a better system that ensures sustainable and ongoing care for the aged and vulnerable in the community.

I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Dina Ranieri

GET ONLINE WEEK EVERY AUSTRALIAN ONLINE

Get Online Week began in 2007 as an initiative to bring digital inclusion to national attention in the UK. Since then, the campaign has grown into a week-long annual celebration, with thousands of events taking place each year, bringing digital skills and know-how to everyone. In 2018, over 750 events were held in Australia for the nation's first Get Online Week.

Get Online Week was held from 14-20th October and this year, 900 community organisations held events across Australia helping people with limited digital skills get more out of life online.

Co.As.It. Community Services, as part of the Be Connected Network Partners, delivered two events aimed at giving people the opportunity to get more out of life online, to be aware of scams, and to learn practical tips on avoiding getting caught by unscrupulous internet scammers.

The events took place over two days at the Southport Community Centre, Gold Coast and at the Abruzzo Club, Carina. A total of thirty participants not only enjoyed the activities planned by the teams but also the delicious refreshments made available at the sessions.



Tech classes are held every Wednesday at the Abruzzo Club for Southside clients and every Friday at the Italian Language Centre for Northside clients.

These classes are FREE!! Over 65s are welcome.

Learn computers, Skype, Facebook, mobile phones, how to avoid scams (and more).

From 10am to 12pm

Call Cintia for more info 3624 6100

REGIS AGED CARE FACILITY - LUTWYCHE EMBRACES THE CIAO PROGRAM



The CIAO Program's vision is to support residential aged care homes in creating an inclusive environment by providing culturally and linguistically appropriate diversional therapy activities for older people from CALD backgrounds.

In recent months, Co.As.It. has welcomed several aged care facilities to this service, one of them being Regis Aged Care at Lutwyche.

Enthusiastic staff at the Regis have embraced the Italians in their facility, are trying to cater to appropriate Italian meals and even considering having staff participate in Italian language classes to facilitate communication with their residents.

The facility's commitment to the CIAO Program has seen them increase the group frequency to fortnightly sessions because of the growing number of Italians now residing there.

The dozen or so residents have formed a close knit group and are always available for a chin wag or a little mutual heckling.

When the CALD Activity Officer is there it is apparent that the residents really enjoy being in an Italian little group, reminiscing and discussing traditions from the communal bottling of tomato sauce, to wine making, to the expertise of making traditional dishes served at Easter and Christmas.

This group's favourite CIAO activity is without a doubt Picture Tombola even though some do not participate in the regular bingo held by the aged care home.

The activity is a mix of numbers and pictures of Italian places, food and everyday items and it always generates a lot of laughter, singing and happiness.

For one particular gentleman, the pictures spark fond memories of having met his wife at a water fountain in a Piazza in his hometown in Sicily.

Other residents break into spontaneous songs when a picture of a red rose reminds them of an old romantic folk song about a red rose and an admirer.

The stories shared put a smile on everyone's faces as they also reminisce about their experiences and youth.



WHEN FAMILY SUPPORT REALLY MATTERS

Our Home Care Package client Harry was recently discharged from hospital. Although he returned home, the fearful spectre of permanent residential care was a constant shadow.

Harry lives with diabetes and requires four injections a day to manage his diabetes adequately. As he is also legally blind, Harry really struggles to monitor his condition and his medication independently.

Regrettably, we were unable to provide the support he needed within his package funding and things were starting to look grim.

Thankfully, willing to dedicate time on a daily basis, we were able to educate Harry's son on how to read and manage his father's medication. His son now visits his dad with great love and commitment on a daily basis and this readiness to put that time aside every day has enabled his father to stay in his own home.

Subsequent visits from our Clinical Team Leader and other nursing staff have left them all impressed with the expertise of Harry's son in his management of the disease. If it were not for this family support Harry would be living in an aged care home.





DONNA AND KIMBERLEY

Donna is one of our clients who had lovely feedback to share with us in regards to her Community Care Worker Kimberley.

Donna tells us: “I really appreciate Kimberley’s help. She is reliable, thoughtful and always asks if there is anything else that she can do to help”. We love hearing about how wonderful our workers are! We already know their worth but it’s nice to have the clients tell us too!

JUDITH AND ROBERT

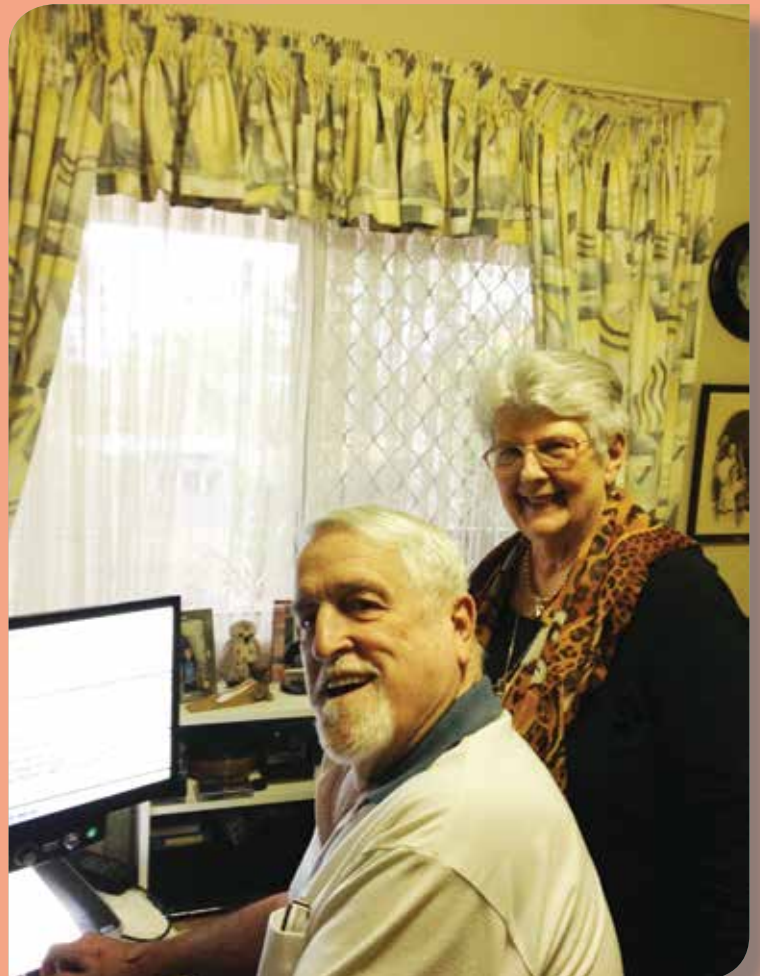
One of our Review Officers recently returned to work after maternity leave and at her first service review she had the pleasure of meeting Judith and Robert, a lovely couple who live in Kenmore.

Judith is a very caring person with a warm smile and Robert was a professional musician who proudly showed her some of the trophies and commendations he received during his world tours.

Robert has a few health issues, including macular degeneration, however with the help of a reading machine, he continues to enjoy reading. He told our Officer that he would be happy to donate his reading machine to someone else when he no longer needs it. We hope he will be able to continue to use it for many years yet!

They are both extremely happy with their Community Care Worker Valerie, who they stated is always on time, polite, and “a great kid”.

They look forward to Valerie’s visit and they are so happy and satisfied with the service that we provide that they have been recommending Co.As.It. to all of their friends. It is great to hear our care workers are doing such a sterling job - well done!



SONIA

Our Home Care Package client Sonia has been experiencing some serious health challenges and unfortunately, she does not have a strong support network nearby.

Co.As.It. has taken on the role of supporting Sonia with her hospital visits and medical appointments by providing transport, translating services and social support.

Sonia has found her situation to be very overwhelming at times, being socially isolated and having language barriers, she has relied heavily on the staff at Co.As.It. to assist her with understanding the results of her medical appointments and hospital admissions.

Sonia is currently in hospital after undergoing surgery and Co.As.It. Community Care Workers have continued to visit her every day during her hospitalisation, providing her with support, encouragement and social contact to help improve her outlook and well-being.

Sonia has mentioned many times that she wouldn't know how to manage everything without our support.

She is also very grateful to be able to speak to office staff in her own language (Italian) as this makes her life much easier when clarifying her services or seeking other pertinent information regarding her Home Care Package.

Sonia is well aware that having the support of Co.As.It. has meant she is able to remain at home, giving her the independence she needs to keep the lifestyle that she loves.

From our perspective, we love knowing that we continue to improve the lives of those in our community.



MULTI-DIMENSIONAL SUPPORT

Kevin and Beryl run a support group at the Holy Spirit Church New Farm and they contacted us for help in supporting George and Mari who are refugees from Syria. They did not know how to help or what kind of help they needed as they could not communicate with them due to language barriers.

We are really lucky to have so many bi-lingual workers and our Arabic speaking Recruitment Officer Omar was able to gather valuable information about their background.

The couple arrived in March 2019 and it was heartbreaking to learn that George had been subjected to such terrible abuse in Syria that it resulted in him losing much of his sight.

George would like to work but due to his vision impairment has found it difficult to seek a job that would be suitable. Mari, his wife of 40 years, is now his eyes and she has no other goal at this point but to support her husband.

The Care Services Coordinator Paola identified that George could be eligible for NDIS and was integral in involving the NDIS Coordinator Polly who provided information on the program, advised them about

their eligibility and which documentation was necessary from George's specialist so that he could apply for the service.

Paola also found that Mari was experiencing high levels of carer stress and she explained how important it was to keep her social connections alive so that she did not become isolated. It is pleasing to know that Mari will soon start to learn English with a tutor.

A referral to our counsellor Antonio Nerio will ensure they receive support to access social activities and help them establish new connections that will enrich their new life here in Australia.

Kevin and Beryl were overcome to see the change in Mari and George's attitudes, they were able to acquire important information about potential support, express their concerns to someone who could understand them and finally see a brighter future after all that they endured.

It was a pleasure to be able to provide them with support on a multi-dimensional level and to witness the benefits of what we can achieve by doing our job well - every day.



SENIORS' WEEK FORUM

On Wednesday 21 August 2019 Co.As.It. Community Services hosted a Health & Technology Forum for Seniors' Week thanks to support from COTA (Council on the Ageing).

The event was geared towards people in the community who are over 65 years of age, wishing to learn more about technology, social connections, staying active, electrical safety, POA's (Power of Attorneys) and how to arrange an advance health directive plus much, much more.

In essence, the topics were specifically designed to share knowledge that is vital to our community. Good timing, given the current state of the health system and our ageing population.

The forum was attended by over 140 guests and was held at the Gaythorne RSL from 10am until 12.30pm, followed by a lunch in the banquet room until 2pm.

Following a small grant from Ergon-Energex to help us deliver electrical safety information to the CALD community, special guest speaker Brett Harrison, HSE Business Partner from Energex shared information the importance of safety switches.

Homes that are over 15 years old may not have safety switches installed. Brett stressed that these devices offered a high level of personal protection from electric shock.



Electrical security and safety has been a long-term concern for the welfare of the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) clients Co.As.It. supports.

It is not unusual for our community support staff to visit homes where there are multiple adapters attached to one power board, wires snaking over floors and appliances often doubled up and running through multiple power boards. Fundamentally, it has been identified that in this target group there is a limited understanding of electric safety i.e. circuit breakers and other safety devices.

Another special guest speaker, Antonio Palella, Principal Solicitor from PHV Law discussed the importance of the Enduring Power of Attorney, and described the importance of having a Health Care Directive.

Other topics included keeping active, how to maintain social connections by Laura Panarello (Counsellor/Dementia Support Officer), how to access aged care by Stefania Di Lione (Assessment Officer) and Michelle Calabro (Home Care Packages Intake Leader), how to stay active by Diana Barreto, (Allied Health Assistant) and also navigating technology and how to avoid technology scams by Cintia Paolino (Community Services Officer).

SENIORS' WEEK LUNCHEON

The hugely popular Seniors' Week luncheon was held at the Dog and Parrot Tavern in Robina in August.

Over 160 people attended to celebrate positive ageing and the on-going contributions made by seniors to our community.

This lively annual event is eagerly attended not only for the social networking that it affords local seniors, catch-ups with friends, acquiring valuable information within the local community but above all because there is always great music and dancing to be enjoyed, especially if all-time favourite performer Fortunato is playing!



CARE EXPO EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Co.As.It. Community Services was one of many aged care providers that attended the annual Care Expo at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre in South Brisbane on October 4th and 5th.

The Expo was aimed at optimising opportunities to meet and connect with providers from a diverse range of community services e.g. aged care, disability services, education, mobility aids, mental health, social and recreational services.

Home Care Packages Intake Leader, Michelle Calabro was a guest speaker at the event presenting

‘How to Navigate Aged Care Services - Choosing the Right Provider’ which was delivered to an enthusiastic audience with standing room only.

The presentation was captured on video and can be seen on the Co.As.It. Community Services’ YouTube Channel.

Co.As.It. staff was able to provide information on how to access aged and disability services through our organisation.



BRINGING JOY TO RESIDENTS

There is no doubt that computers and the internet have brought about changes to the way we live like no other invention mankind has had before.

One group of people that struggles to understand or keep up with this change in this fast paced digital world is the elderly.

Isolation in aged care due to age and ailing health especially for the culturally and linguistically diverse in our community has been identified as effecting mental health. Digital technology such as tablets or ipads can enable access to the outside world for these special needs groups.

Volunteers visiting elderly can bring the outside world through a tablet to provide a new level of social support.

Culturally and linguistically diverse volunteers with digital technology can provide access to different



language current affairs, documentaries and even movies and music at their finger tips with a tablet.

So when the Department of Social Services advertised a Volunteer Grant opportunity for computer equipment, Co.As.It. submitted an application to purchase tablets.

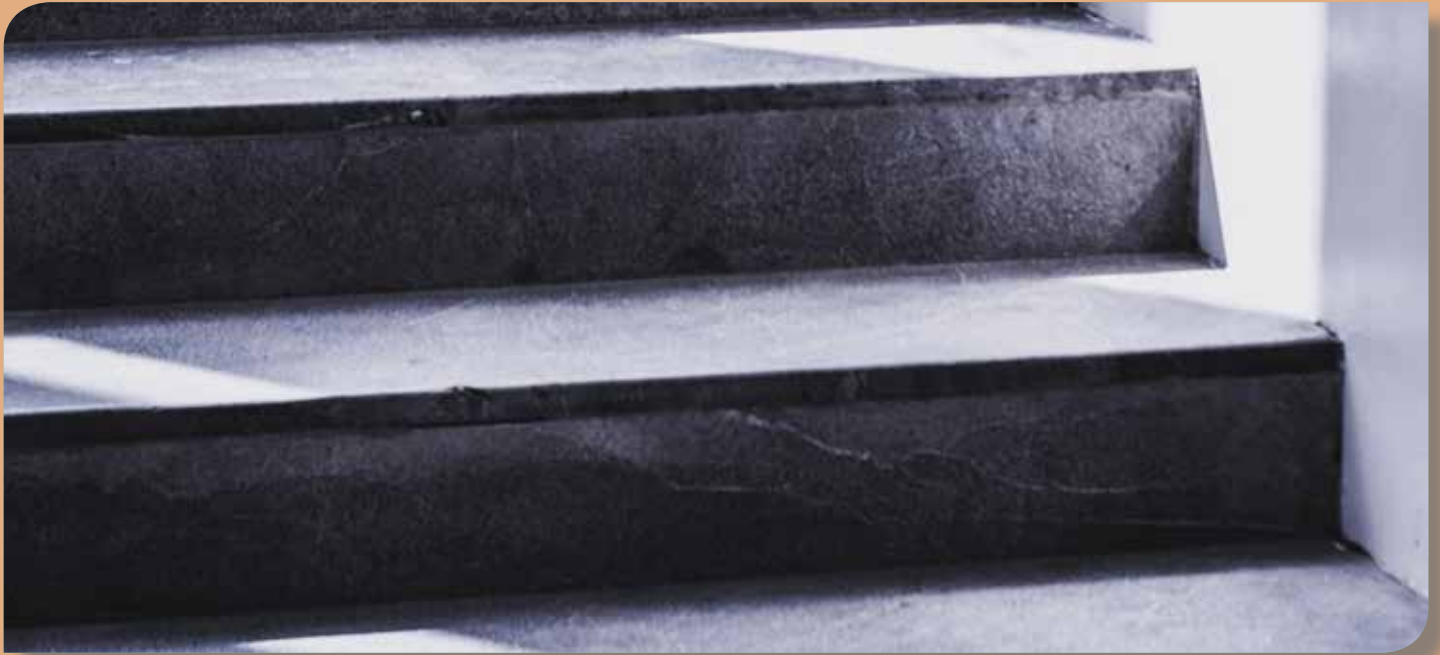
The grant's purpose was to assist volunteers in helping the elderly person they visit to be more included and connected with their community.

Co.As.It. was successful in receiving the funding grant and was able to purchase 10 tablets to be used by our volunteers in our CVS Program.

Some elderly have not had frequent contact with digital technology and when exposed to interacting with a tablet showing them images on Google Earth of their home town overseas or places they may have always dreamt of visiting, the expressions of joy are a very rewarding experience, both for the volunteer Community Visitor and the elderly person.



ARE YOU CARING FOR SOMEONE? THEN TAKE THE BIGGEST STEP: THE FIRST STEP!



It is important to remember that on top of the usual daily stressors we all face such as meeting deadlines, running late due to traffic jams, being asked to work extra hours, family commitments etc., dealing with people day in day out can result in emotional and physical exhaustion.

It is a well-documented fact that all of us, when exposed to prolonged periods of stress, can experience feeling overwhelmed, undervalued or unappreciated as well as mentally drained.

Tension and ongoing stress can manifest in the form of frequent headaches, lowered immunity and ill health, loss of motivation including social withdrawal -just to mention a few.

So how do people cope? The answer lies in finding our own personalised way to de-stress. Even though everyone knows of the importance of 'relaxing' we often find it so hard to do.

Mostly it is because our ever-growing stress levels and inability to grasp opportunities to de-stress often lies in apathy.

Let's face it, it is hard to muster motivation whilst confronted by too many daily commitments.

However, the biggest step is... to take the first step! So, begin the process of finding your own tailor-made preferences. Try these ideas:

- JUST STOP for a minute or 15mins and do nothing
- Start a weekly routine for a cuppa with a friend
- Take a walk in the park by yourself or with a friend, a dog, a unicorn!
- Try to find a unicorn!
- Enjoy a regular remedial massage
- Luxuriate in a soothing bath at the end of the working day
- Become engrossed in a good book

The list is endless but the key factor is persistence! Once a choice has been made (whether it is on a daily/weekly/fortnightly basis), keep it at all costs, this is your time only!

By the way, try sharing ongoing personal achievements with your colleagues.

It will increase your determination to continue finding ways to de-stress, with the potential of encouraging others to take their first step! Good luck and let us know what works for you!

ARE YOU A DO-IT-YOURSELFER?

The trend of DIY (or do it yourself) can be both a bonus and a hassle. One day someone is going to get rich by writing a book about getting out of doing things yourself!

Admittedly, DIY helps you learn new skills but it could also curtail - permanently- any future DIY you may wish to do it if you mess with electricity! Just remember - electricity kills!

At any time at home, we often change light bulbs, put dozens of plugs onto the same power board, refill the iron while it is still on etc. It seems like we have become complacent about the dangers associated with electrical appliances and gadgets.

The number of deaths from electrocution in young people is climbing. Recently a number of teenagers have been electrocuted in the bathtub because they have had their mobiles plugged into power to charge and have then accidentally dropped their mobile in the water.

Co.As.It. has developed an electrical home safety brochure in Italian and in English through a grant from Ergon Energex that reminds us about the dangers of living with electricity.

If you are interested in getting a copy please contact Cintia at our office on 3624 6100.

MISTAKES: ACKNOWLEDGE, APOLOGISE, PLAN

Have you ever made a mistake when working with seniors? If you have, you are certainly not alone! As workers we do our best to provide quality programs and interactions for clients, however, mistakes are bound to happen.

Learn how to acknowledge your mistakes and appropriately apologize, while making plans to assure your mistakes do not happen over and over again.

Making mistakes is a part of life and a part of work. You will make mistakes and so will your team members because no-one is perfect.

Hopefully, no one will be hurt as the result of your mistake, but that does not mean you should not acknowledge and apologise for your actions.

When you notice your mistake, or when your mistake is brought to your attention:

- **DON'T** be defensive. It is easy to become angry or feel offended that someone is calling you out for a mistake.
- **DO** take a deep breath. You may not think the mistake is your fault, and that's okay. However, before you respond, take a deep breath and approach the situation calmly.
- **DON'T** make excuses or pass the blame on to someone else. That's unprofessional, be mature about the situation.
- **DO** say you are going to look into it. If you notice your own mistake, or if someone brings it to your attention, the first step in acknowledging your mistake is to find out how it happened in the first place. Review the mistake, check past

schedules, or revisit the situation to recall how your actions led to the mistake.

- **DO** acknowledge your part in the mistake. The overall consequence may not be your fault entirely, but if your actions led to the end result, you should acknowledge that to the person, your supervisor, and any other relevant parties.
- **DO** apologise sincerely. Apologising can sometimes feel a lot harder than it is because the action is counterintuitive. Approach the person you are apologising to sincerely and apologise for your actions. You can also let them know how you will be using this experience to learn from and improve.
- **DON'T** talk about the situation to other staff members who are not directly involved. This can only add to staff gossip and is not productive.
- **DO** make a plan to be sure the same mistake does not happen in the future. If it is relevant, talk to your Team Leader about a review or rewriting of a current policy or procedure, or other action.

[extract from goldencarers]



THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN BRISBANE

Since her arrival in Australia the newly appointed Italian Ambassador to Australia, HE Francesca Tardioli has been busy visiting the many Italian communities across the country.

Ms Tardioli arrived in Queensland last October, on the occasion of a combined mission of all Ambassadors from the European Union.

During her stay in Queensland, Ms Tardioli visited the newly refurbished Italian Consulate and also met with key members of the Italian community during a public meeting organised by Dottor Salvatore Napolitano, Italian Consul for Queensland and Northern Territory.

The meeting took place at Com.It.Es. offices at 42 Newbery Street Newmarket. The address is also shared by the Italian Language Centre (ILC).

Among the invitees, we could recognise the members of Com.It.Es. together with Co.As.It. President Nereo Brezzi and Co.As.It. CEO Dina Ranieri, representatives of the Dante Alighieri Brisbane and Gold Coast, former Chief Magistrate of Queensland Judge Rinaudo, the Minister for Education the Hon Grace Grace MP, the Secretary General for the local Italian Chamber of Commerce accompanied by its Vice-President, and several businesspeople and young Italians.



NICOLE



Co.As.It. has registered and attained approval status to operate this specialised service and we continue to integrate this program into our framework slowly.

As we become more apprised of the parameters to deliver these specialised services we are recruiting a formidable and highly qualified taskforce with the experience and competencies to bring this program to the fore.

In the past few months the program has grown to 37 clients, we have held the first round of team meetings and we have started our planning to hold mental health training for our NDIS support staff in January 2020.

We are in a very celebratory mood as we plan the very first NDIS Xmas party and we eagerly await our marketing department's invitations which will be sent to all of our clients.

Our lovely client Nicole, a confident and talkative young woman, lives with visual and intellectual

impairments and has only been accessing NDIS for a short period of time.

Care staff support Nicole four days a week between Monday and Thursday and are heavily invested in capacity building to expand her individual skill set.

Nicole is receiving support to develop the confidence and knowledge to make and undertake autonomous travel, do her own meal preparation and cooking, laundry and house cleaning.

In the meantime, care staff is providing transport to and from her place of work as well as providing her with transport to access community engagement viz. tennis, swimming, bowling and shopping.

Nicole tells our workers that she is very happy with the support she receives and is very interested in becoming proficient in managing her own lifestyle.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW AGED CARE STANDARDS

As part of Co.As.It.'s commitment to the ongoing training of staff, four training sessions were held for Community Care Workers to discuss the New Aged Care Quality Standards.

Our Compliance and Quality Officer Adolfo Cicchitti guided the attendees through the standards with particular emphasis on **Standard 1 - Consumer Dignity and Choice** - and its underlying concepts as the foundation standard.

As the presentation unfolded, staff was encouraged to reflect on how the standards impact their role and, more importantly, how they can continuously meet the required Standards' Consumer Outcome.

Active participation in discussion groups gave the Community Care Workers a chance to deepen their understanding of the standards by sharing their personal stories.

The sessions held at our centres at the Gold Coast, Caboolture, Newmarket and Acacia Ridge, were also facilitated by our Care Staff Supervisors and Coordinators who contributed to the discussion by providing answers and guidelines to our engaged community workers.

We look forward to continuing training and education in 2020.



A LOT OF FUN FOR EVERYONE!

A Games Day in August brought out the vigour in some clients, many participated in the camaraderie and laughs thanks to 'friendly' competitions in indoor bowling, card games and bocce.

Competitiveness certainly came forward in everyone despite some of the clients needing a little help to compete - all in all a very satisfying 'sporty day.'

At Casa Serena it isn't unusual to enjoy the musical sounds of resident accordion player Carmine Iacovella. Carmine often plays Italian folk songs much to the delight of clients and team members alike.

He can be seen regularly boarding the bus with his accordion and a suitcase full of sheet music in hand and he is always ready to perform. Just as well both clients and staff can shake out some great dance moves!

Halloween was a hoot at many of the activity groups this year with staff dressing up in ghoulish outfits and sporting pumpkins full of sweets for trick or treat as clients arrived at the centres.

The spookiness was also reflected in the centres' decorations and clients took to the theme with real gusto. There didn't seem to be any shrinking violets at these events with many participating in being scary indeed.

Latina Fiesta was another occasion to get some colour and vibrancy at the centres, our staff are always the first to volunteer to get dressed up and it certainly makes for some very animated discussions when the clients see them.

Then let's not forget Melbourne Cup shenanigans with model horses, sweeps and "Laa dee Daa" outfits fit for the races.

Music, laughter and great fun is the order for every day and we look forward to sharing new and exciting themes in the next few months.





EVENT AFTER EVENT ON THE SOUTH COAST

There are so many things to showcase at the Gold Coast social activity centres it's no wonder people want to attend every day of the week!

In the past few months clients have celebrated "Ferragosto" with a "Tutti al Mare" (All at Sea) theme where the three groups came together on the Gold Coast Seaway to enjoy fish and chips overlooking the Broadwater and ocean.

The Bastille Day Choir made a much appreciated visit to the centre where clients enjoyed revolutionary music and a wee bit of Paris chic! (Well, the berets were very cute!)

There were also three outings south to the Tweed Heads Bowls Club for a light 'flutter' on the poker machines before enjoying lunch.





The mild Spring weather in September had our clients visiting the Albert River Wines where they enjoyed freshly made morning tea overlooking the vineyards.

Taking a stroll around the chapel and other buildings was interesting but not as interesting as coming up close and personal with the sheep, donkeys and Shetland ponies that live on site.

Father's Day is always a great occasion to remember parents and their influence in the lives of the clients.

Let's not forget about "Fiesta Latina", which was celebrated with a picnic at Paradise Point we can assure non-attendees that all of the outings and activities were very much enjoyed and appreciated by the clients.





LET'S GET OUT AND ENJOY LIFE!

Our social outings clients have little difficulty getting motivated to go out, socialise and enjoy the company of friends for a day. The social outings groups in Brisbane that have enjoyed some really lovely outings recently!

Coordinators have organized trips to the Toowoomba Flower Festival where despite the on-going drought, the flowers were magnificent and the beautiful little town is a favourite sightseeing destination.

Shopping days at Harbour Town are great for the acquisition of nice little sale items and many thought to buy any Christmas gifts they needed.

Clients loved morning tea once again at Bar Spritz, overlooking the Kangaroo Point Cliffs, Brisbane River and the skyscrapers of the CBD.

As usual, the best attraction is the resident bearded dragon lizard that makes regular appearances to smooch tid-bits during the day. (He seems to have put on a more weight since their last visit!)

Lunch at the Greenbank RSL was also very popular with a seafood buffet on offer and the clients also went to the Ginger Factory and the Buderim Tavern where they too rode good old 'Moreton' the 100 year old sugar cane freight train.

Perhaps the most popular outing was a trip on the Aquaduck where clients were taken for a spin around the Gold Coast before the Aquaduck headed into the water near Sanctuary Cove.

Everyone expected a large splash and they were a little apprehensive but the vehicle glided into the canal as smoothly as a duck!

The Captain offered anyone brave enough to take the helm and many clients loved piloting the vessel as could be seen by the huge smiles!



THE STUDITALIA AWARDS CEREMONY 2019 CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

On Friday 25 August 2019 there was an air of excitement on the manicured front lawn of Old Government House at the Queensland University of Technology as invited guests began arriving in anticipation of the 25th Studitalia Prize awards ceremony.

Way back in 1994, the then Italian Consul Raimondo de Cardona put forward the idea of rewarding excellence among Year 12 students studying Italian in Queensland schools.

Over the ensuing quarter of a century, hundreds of successful candidates have been awarded the prize of a month-long all expenses paid trip to Italy with the opportunity of attending an Italian high school.

This year's winners will be hosted at the "Convitto Paolo Diacono" boarding school in the picturesque town of Cividale del Friuli (near the city of Udine).

In the majestic reception room of Old Government House, the six Studitalia 2019 prizewinners took



their seats alongside illustrious representatives of the Italian community in Brisbane, parents, teachers and friends.

Two 2017 StuditaliA Prize Alumni, James Humphries and Luisa Randall acting as joint Master of Ceremonies, began proceedings by warmly welcoming guests to the 25th anniversary event of the prestigious StuditaliA Prize.

Both recounted how winning the prize strengthened ties with the language and culture of Italy and has been a life-changing and deeply enriching experience for them.

The StuditaliA Prize is an annual event on the calendar of the Queensland Education Department

and is run under the patronage of the Italian Consulate Brisbane.

It is worth noting that Dottor Salvatore Napolitano, the Italian Consul for Queensland and the Northern Territory, currently chairs the selection committee which is made up of representatives from the Queensland Department of Education, Italian Language Centre (a division of Co.As.It. Community Services Ltd), the Dante Alighieri Society Brisbane, Griffith University's Department of Italian Studies and Com.It.Es.

In his address, Consul Napolitano first wished StuditaliA happy 25th anniversary and then went on to say what an extraordinary achievement it has been over the years thanks to the valued teamwork and collaboration amongst all parties: the organizing committee, sponsors, teachers, parents, students.

Consul Napolitano took the opportunity to warmly welcome the star attraction of the evening, renowned pianist Alessandro Marangoni who entertained the guests with a masterful concerto featuring enduring pieces by Rossini and Chopin.

The winning students George Griswold, Kelsey Frith and Sebastien Masel (Brisbane State High School), Niccolino Ciranni (Cairns School of Distance Education), Kaitlin Brownhill (All Hallows' School) and Claire McCormick (Stanthorpe State High School) then showed off their mastery of the Italian language by each delivering a short speech.

They were unanimous in their thanks to the organisers and sponsors of StuditaliA for continuing to offer such a worthwhile prize and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve their knowledge of Italian language and culture.

On behalf of Education Minister Grace Grace who could not be present, Dr Regan Neumann, Assistant Director-General State Schools then congratulated the winners and awarded them their prizes.



SPEAKING ITALIAN ACROSS QUEENSLAND

The new Australian Curriculum Languages is designed to enable all school students across Australia to engage in learning a second language. This not only extends the capacity to communicate but develops understanding of and respect for diversity and difference.

The aim of Language Speaking Competitions is to allow language students to express their ideas, display their language skills and gain confidence in using the language they are studying.

During the month of August 2019, students studying Italian at schools across Queensland had the opportunity to show off their linguistic skills at five regional Speaking Competitions organised across the State.

Students were judged on their delivery, fluency, pronunciation and grammatical accuracy by judges who are experts in the teaching of Italian to speakers of other languages.

The first of the five regional competitions kicked off in Brisbane with the 4th Italian Speaking Competition organised by the Italian Language Centre (ILC) with the support of the Modern Language Teachers' Association Queensland (MLTAQ) over the weekend of 3-4 August 2019.

Students from Yr2 to Yr6 recited poems and those in Yr7 to Yr12 delivered speeches. At the end of each session all students received participation certificates and a commemorative gift before judges called up the gold, silver and bronze medal winners.

Judges from ILC, the Dante Alighieri Society and Griffith University congratulated students on demonstrating exceptional linguistic abilities - reminding them that regardless of whether they had won a place, they were all winners for having participated.

The second regional Italian Speech competition held in Townsville on 7-8 August 2019 was hosted by the Townsville Catholic Education Office (TCEO) at the Ryan Community Centre. Sharyn Bell from TCEO warmly welcomed assembled students, parents

and teachers representing primary and secondary schools from Townsville and surrounding districts.

The invited judges, Marzia Mauro and Rosella Dermedgoglou from the Italian Language Centre (ILC) evaluated language accuracy and fluency as students recited poetry or delivered prepared speeches.

The highlight was the presentation of the Junior Championship Trophy by signora Di Marzio and her son Donald Di Marzio who awarded the Maria Di Marzio Memorial Trophy to the primary student in Years 5-6 with the highest score.

In the Secondary section, the Dante Alighieri Townsville representative presented the Dante Alighieri Champion Speaker Award to the top scorer in Years 9-10.

The MLTAQ Gold Coast, Peninsula, and Sunshine Coast branches hosted the third, fourth and fifth regional Language Speaking Competitions at Griffith University Gold Coast on Sunday 18 August.

The competition continued at Cairns School of Distance Education on 23 August and at the University of the Sunshine Coast on 25 August.

At these final three Speaking Competitions, the Italian judging teams included Marzia Mauro and Rosella Dermedgoglou from the Italian Language Centre who judged students in Years 4-12 on their fluency, pronunciation and accuracy.

Judges agreed the standard was extremely high, reflecting the effective language teaching and learning taking place in Italian classrooms throughout Queensland.

These events promote the teaching and learning of a foreign language and make a valuable contribution towards students becoming better global citizens.

At all the language competitions there was great excitement amongst the Yr10, Yr11 and Yr12 finalists who all qualified for entry into the Italian Language Queensland State Championship to take place in Brisbane on 20 October 2019.

This spectacular event, now in its second year, celebrates the XIX Settimana della Lingua Italiana nel mondo.

Dina Ranieri, Chief Executive Officer of Co.As.It.-Italian Language Centre (ILC), firmly believes in supporting the promotion and teaching of Italian in Queensland by sponsoring Italian Speaking competitions across the State.



The ILC (Italian Language Centre) a division of Co.As.It Community Services Ltd not only organises invaluable professional development sessions for teachers but also offers Italian language classes from beginners to advanced as well as Italian for special purposes for the corporate sector.

For more information:

www.italianlanguagecentre.org | enquiries@italianlanguagecentre.org | phone 3624 6100 | facebook: ILC Brisbane

A decorative plate with a blue and yellow floral pattern is on the left. To its right is a cluster of yellow lemons with green leaves and small white flowers.

*Save the
Date*

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

FASHION PARADE
RAFFLES & PRIZES
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MARCH 7, 2020



*Brisbane
Hilton Hotel*



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Volete incontrare nuovi amici?
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avete bisogno di aiuto?**

Il Co.As.It. Community Services fornisce assistenza alle persone anziane e ai giovani dal 1987 e il nostro personale esperto e qualificato è capace di prestare un servizio culturalmente e linguisticamente adeguato.

La maggioranza del nostro personale è bilingue e capace di assistervi nel vostro ambiente familiare in casa vostra.

I nostri gruppi sociali offrono un pasto casalingo e la possibilità di incontrarsi con gli amici e chiacchierare dei tempi andati.

Attività di arti manuali, canzoni e balli, tombola e gite fanno parte del nostro programma giornaliero.



Contattate il nostro centro al

3624 6100

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