

standby me



North East Citizen Advocacy Inc

North East Citizen Advocacy Newsletter

Issue 1, 2018

Match Anniversaries

Robert & Matteo - 1 year

Lorraine & Kay - 3 years

Elizabeth & Tanya - 5 years

New Match

Damian & Teresa

Advocate & Participant Function

Reminder to RSVP by April 30th for catering purposes
if you haven't already done so.

contact office on 8407 3684

Event details:

May 24 6:30 pm
1848 Bluestone Room
Old England Hotel

Volunteer Advocate Spotlight

(A volunteer's experience as an advocate)

Thank you to the advocate for sharing your story.

I attended an event where Geoff McLean (a past employee of NECA) was asked to present a talk on the need for advocacy and volunteers.

After 30 years of working full time, I now had time on my hands to do something else in my life. I thought that is this is maybe what I needed. So my hand went up to give my help and I was taken on board and so I was matched up with my participant - now about 8 years on.

It has been rewarding to me. There is a great need for caring and understanding and to help people with ongoing health conditions, but also to block out negative thoughts and/or distract people from daily worries. I do this just with a friendly phone call or a coffee together.

I take my participant to hospital appointments and day surgery; take her clothes shopping and we meet for lunch, especially on birthdays and at Christmas. I spend many times on the phone with her, where mostly I turn her negative thoughts around and help her find solutions to problems so she can move forward in life.

My participant works full time and I have a busy life also, but I try my best to make time for her, changing my timetable to fit in with her needs. And I will do so for many more years to come. The people at NECA do care.



We have been receiving an increase in the amount of calls in relation to NDIS reviews and confusion surrounding entitlements.

If you need assistance navigating aspects of the NDIS, we are here to help. Please contact us on 8407 3684.



As most of you are aware late last year an authorised body conducted a mid-cycle audit on our programs.

We are happy to announce that we met all the requirements of the National Standards for Disability Services for both Citizen Advocacy and Individual Advocacy.

On behalf of the Committee and staff a big thank you to everyone who participated in the audit.

Our next audit will be in May 2019.



NECA FUNDRAISER - Watch this space!

We have begun preparations to hold a Bunnings BBQ fundraiser.

Last year, thanks to everyone who volunteered, we raised over \$1200.

More information once the date is confirmed.

Future Grant Agreement for NECA

As of July 1, 2018 the Department of Social Services will bring changes to our service agreement under the National Disability Advocacy Program.

Our new agreement will include a Systemic Advocacy model.

This will mean that our programs will comprise of 70% Citizen Advocacy, 20% Individual Advocacy and 10% Systemic Advocacy.

This change effectively reduces the amount of citizen advocacy matches we will be required to make.

We will however continue to provide the same level of support to existing and future matches throughout their journey.

Systemic advocacy seeks to influence and change a 'system' such as legislation, government policy and community attitudes.



NECA skills sharing update

Thanks to everyone that replied to the Committee's skills sharing email.

We've had some welcomed responses and we hope to be in touch with you soon.



Become a Member of NECA

Do you know that you can become a Member of NECA?

Membership enables individuals to vote and to support NECA's purpose.

Memberships is \$10 per individual or \$5 concession.

Please contact the office for further information on (03) 8407 3684.

North East Citizen Advocacy Inc. is funded by the Department of Social Services.
