

## CEO's Message

Welcome to the Summer Edition of Activ News and wishing you a happy holiday season.

You may have noticed the new format of Activ News. We are now distributing two versions of our newsletter; one for our customers and one for our families and carers. If you believe you have received the wrong version, or would like to receive both, please contact our communications team on [communications@activ.asn.au](mailto:communications@activ.asn.au) or 9387 0481.

On 12 December the State and Federal Government's announced that WA will be adopting the national model of the NDIS. Activ continues working with people living with disability and their families to transition into individualised service funding.

In October, Activ expanded its service offering in Kalgoorlie, unveiling a new community service that offers in-home care and access to social, recreational and skill development activities.

Promoting inclusiveness and understanding are key goals of Activ and on Friday 1 December we held our 2017 Human Library event to facilitate greater interaction between the community and our customers. The event was held at Rockingham Central Library and everyone who attended was encouraged to 'read' a human book by having a conversation with them.



Activ also made an announcement on Tuesday 12 December regarding the wages of supported employees. There is further information inside this newsletter.

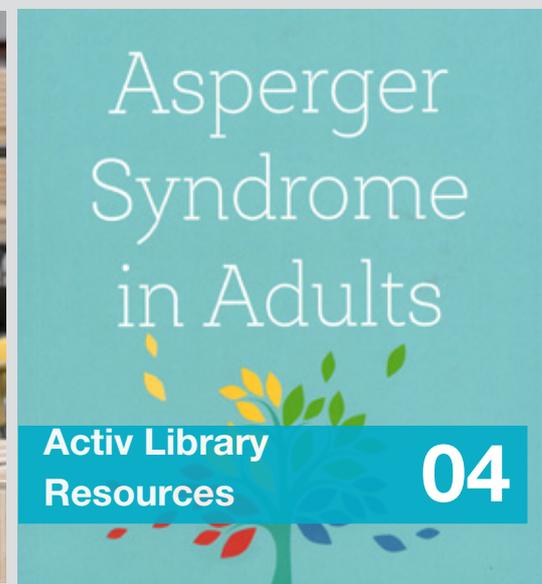
Danielle Newport  
Activ CEO



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## *2017 Activ Human Library*

Leading into Disability Awareness Week, Activ was proud to host its 2017 Human Library event on Friday 1 December.

People of all ages gathered in the foyer of the Rockingham Central Library where Activ's Beaconsfield PS&C Performing Arts Group kicked off the morning with a wonderful performance.

After morning tea, the six Human Books took to their places and readers took their turns to absorb the wonderful stories that they had to tell. Each Human Book had a disability theme to their story and readers all said they were amazed by the positive and inspiring tales that were told.

Congratulations to everyone who shared their tale. A special thank you to Mel, Shirley, Sara, Ayesha, Judy, Craig and Greg for being stellar Human Books.



Attendees gathered in the foyer



One of Activ's human books, Mel

## *NDIS Announcement*

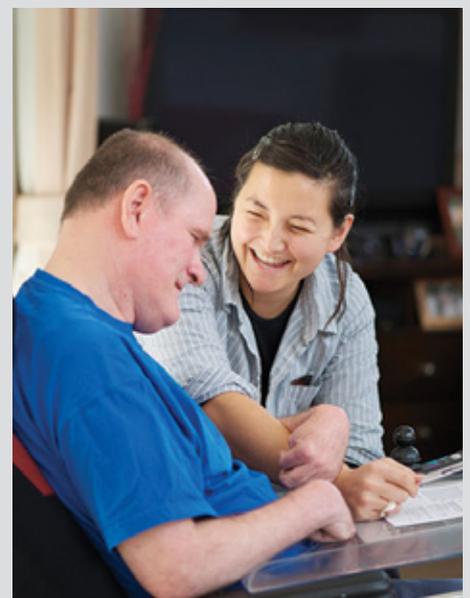
On 12 December 2017, the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments agreed that WA will join the nationally delivered National Disability Insurance Scheme. This announcement replaces the previous agreement for Western Australia to run its own WA NDIS.

This change will commence on 1 July 2018. The NDIS will continue to be implemented on a geographic basis and will be fully rolled out across WA by 2020.

All current participants in the WA NDIS will transfer to the nationally delivered Scheme from April 2018 until 31 December 2018.

Activ will continue to support you and your family members through this transition and can be part of your planning process should you wish.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us on 9387 0473.



# Supported Employee Wages Update

Activ will be paying its supported employees an additional one-off wage payment after an internal review identified a mistake in the way we calculate wage rates.

We apologise to all our supported employees and their families and carers for the mistake.

## What are the changes?

The changes relate to the way we assess and pay our supported employees. The two major changes are:

- Following individual wage assessments, supported employees will receive a back payment for underpaid wages as a result of a mistake Activ has made.
- In future, supported employees will be assessed against the Greenacres wage assessment tool.

## How many supported employees are affected?

Activ employs 1,064 people living with disability, all of whom are impacted as is any ex-supported employee from the last 6 years.

## What will happen to supported employee wages and pensions?

After the assessment, wages will be the same or better. If wages are higher, there may be an impact on pensions. We are working closely with Department of Human Services.

All our supported employees will receive the same or better pay.

## When will supported employees get paid correctly?

Activ needs to conduct a wage assessment for each individual supported employee. Supported employees will be assessed and paid their correct wage before 30 April 2018.

## Who will get paid first?

We are individually meeting with all supported employees in alphabetical order based on the site's location (i.e. Albany first). However, we recognise that many have already made plans for leave between now and end April 2018, so we will be flexible and work around this to the best of our ability.

## Will supported employees be assessed against a different tool in the future?

Yes. Activ will now use the Greenacres wage assessment tool. This means that the assessment levels of some employees may change but their pay will be the same or better.

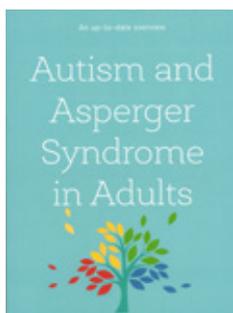
## I still have questions. Who can I speak to?

If you still have questions, there are a number of ways you can contact us:

- Call us on 9387 0567 between 9.00am and 5.00pm weekdays
- Email us on [questions@activ.asn.au](mailto:questions@activ.asn.au)
- Talk to the manager at your family member's Activ location

## Activ Library - New Resources

These are some of the new arrivals available for loan from the Activ Library. If you would like to see any of them please call us on **9387 0458**, or email us at [library@activ.asn.au](mailto:library@activ.asn.au).



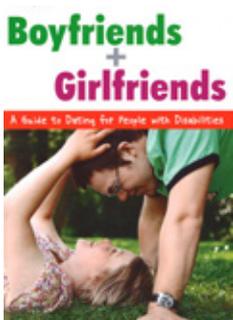
### Autism and Asperger syndrome in adults

Beardon, Luke. -- London, Sheldon Press : 2017. viii, 120 p. ; 22 cm.

This book tackles myths and stereotypes about autism and clearly explains its implications in adulthood. It examines aspects of adult life including higher education, employment, relationships and parenthood.

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### Boyfriends and girlfriends : a guide to dating for people with disabilities

Couwenhoven, Terri. -- Bethesda, Md, Woodbine House : 2015. viii, 118 p. ; 23 cm.

An easy read, illustrated guide about dating and relationships for teens and adults with disabilities.

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### Fall down seven times, get up eight : a young man's voice from the silence of autism

Higashida, Naoki. -- London, Sceptre : 2017. vi, 273 p. ; 21 cm.

Written by the author of *The Reason I Jump*, this book provides an illuminating insight into autism from his perspective as a young adult.

SC/AUT HIG Autism - Personal Stories

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