

Community partnership in disability sector goes 'swimmingly'!

Local training provider 'Bayley and Associates this week presented to community access provider 'Sharing Places' a generously donated 'pool chair' to recognise their diligent commitment to providing service excellence to people with disabilities.

The handover was attended by MLA Michael Gentleman, Member for Brindabella who said in his speech: *"We tend not to hear the every day stories about how hard the staff work, the supportive relationships they form with their clients and the profound difference carers can make in the quality of life of their charges. It's nice when you can get a good news story that's about what's right with the sector."*

The Bayley staff works with 'Sharing Places' to provide OH&S training to the staff including 'Manual Handling' and 'Legal Duty of Care'. They recognised a kindred spirit with Sharing Places as both organisations express a strong commitment to delivering client service excellence.

The Bayley staff wanted to recognise this commitment by donating a 'pool chair' to enable Sharing Places clients to enjoy increased access to therapeutic water-based facilities.

Director Ruth Bayley said: "I have always felt that the disability sector is quite underfunded. This makes it even more significant that Sharing Places diligently offers training to its staff to enable people to do their jobs effectively and safely. The staff and I wanted to do something to show how much we admire that commitment which is in line with our own philosophy".

Bayley and Associates approached Sharing Places with a proposal to make a donation to help with its service delivery. Sharing Places saw it as an opportunity to fulfill a great need for a 'pool chair' to afford them much more flexibility in where they can take their clients for hydrotherapy and other water-based activity.

Susan Healy, Executive Director of Sharing Places says the donation will enable the staff to deliver much better service and at the same time improve workplace safety: "Sharing Places Inc is most grateful for the donation of a pool chair to assist clients who have high support needs to access swimming and hydrotherapy programs"

The pool chair was handed over to Sharing Places on Thursday 13th September. Attached are photographs of the event.

Ruth Bayley and Susan Healy are both available for interview or comment on the donation and the positive impact on Sharing Places staff and Clients.

For more information about the handover event or the donation please contact:

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