

FOCAL Community Living Inc

Members Issue: Spring 2016



To find our Facebook page search 'Focal Disability and Community Living'



**FOCAL AXE GRINDERS
PLAYED AT BATTLE OF THE
BANDS AND WERE A HIT!!!**

Contact: (07) 3812 2014 Email: admin@focal.org.au Visit: www.focal.org.au

Address: 7 Canning Street, North Ipswich Q 4305



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RSPCA Cupcake Day



NAIDOC WEEK



Let's Talk FOCAL...



Hello Everyone,
Since joining FOCAL in my role as CEO in June 2016, I have made it a priority to provide clarity and transparency to our members, participants, staff and volunteers. I have had the opportunity to meet many of you personally at the special members meeting held on 3rd July and continue to be introduced to new people on a daily basis.

I have been working with the FOCAL Management Team to build more flexibility and simplify our processes to ensure we can dedicate maximum time and resources to our clients. In the coming months, my focus will be on a number of different items. Internally, we are continuing research on new opportunities. Particular attention will be on building a clear strategic map for the organisation in the transition towards the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) next year. We are

actively preparing to ensure a seamless transition for both participants and staff.

Externally, the team is developing new connections and reinforcing the FOCAL presence both locally and in South East Queensland. We are exploring how FOCAL can play a more integral role in supporting our participants with housing and accommodation and to this end, a consultation has been scheduled for **Thursday 25th August at 6:00pm**. I would encourage you all to attend and discuss your current and future needs.

In addition to accommodation, FOCAL recognises that economic participation of people with a disability needs to be addressed and it is anticipated that another consultation focussing on employment is scheduled for **15th September 2016 at 6:00pm**.

Mickael Blanc
CEO

Meet Our New Board Member...



Chris Hannah is our new member on the FOCAL Board. Chris currently works at The Public Trust. He has 20 years experience in human resource management. He was very impressed with FOCAL when he worked with the organisation as a volunteer a couple of years ago and decided he would like to continue contributing to FOCAL and believes he can bring knowledge and experience to join the other board members to bring us into the new NDIS structure.

FOCAL BOARD MEMBERS

Roy Henderson	Chair
Denis Ward	Treasurer
Janine Richardson	Secretary
Deborah Robertson	Member
Tony Swords	Member
Chris Hannah	Member

Have you changed your contact details?

Please call 07 3812 2014 and talk to our friendly administration team between the hours of 9:00am - 4:00pm to advise of any changes or to check current details. If you could let us know your email address it would be greatly appreciated as we are trying to encourage a paperless system to help the environment.



Battle of the Bands

On Saturday 2nd July 2016 FOCAL's band The Axe Grinders played in the Ipswich Mall at the Battle of the Bands competition.

There were many FOCAL supporters that came to cheer our beloved band on. The crowd loved hearing them play and the band has been asked to perform at the upcoming Food Fair in the square on the 27th August 2016 between 6:30 and 7:30pm. The Axe Grinders are an amazing asset for FOCAL to have and we love supporting them in all they wish to achieve. The next venture for this up-and-coming group is professionally recording their own album. We can't wait to hear what's next for these talented individuals!



Ipswich Street Feast With the Stepping Out Group

On Saturday the 6th August 2016 the FOCAL Monthly Event was visiting the Ipswich Street Feast at the top of town. The group experienced real street food. Visiting market stalls, pop-up art show, entertainment featuring poetry, rap, and beat-box plus crazy inventions of the weird and wonderful. The group clapped and cheered while watching the pig races and smiles were abundant as people stopped and allowed us to pat their pets. As the band played we were all singing along and dancing in the street while others cheered us on creating a great atmosphere.

It was a fun filled night by all as there was something for everyone, at the end of the night a comment was made that *'it's the best night ever!'*



Audit of FOCAL Services

FOCAL services will be audited by the Institute for Healthy Communities from Tuesday 4th October to Wednesday 6th October. This organisation will be reviewing FOCAL services and assessing how well FOCAL meets a range of quality standards.

Participants, family members and carers are invited to be involved in the audit. You can meet face to face with the auditor or chat over the phone to give your feedback about your experiences with FOCAL and ideas for the future. The audit is a great way for FOCAL to find out what the organisation is doing well and identify any areas where improvements can be made. If you would like the opportunity to speak with the auditors or find out more about the standards please let your Coordinator know.

Below are the topics that will be reviewed:

1. **Governance and Management**
2. **Services Access**
3. **Responding to Individual Needs**
4. **Safety, Wellbeing and Choice**
5. **Feedback, Complaints and Appeals**
6. **Human Resources**

Your Privacy - What you can expect at FOCAL

All staff at FOCAL have an important role in ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of information relating to clients, families and colleagues is always maintained. Some ways FOCAL meets this requirement includes:

- Providing staff with training about what is expected
- Supporting clients and families to understand their rights and what to expect
- Only collecting information that we need to provide services
- Ensuring personal information is not shared with others unless consent has been given
- Maintaining security of electronic and paper personal records and not leaving information out for others to see eg. on desks
- Supporting individuals to make a complaint if they have any concerns about FOCAL's privacy practices or handling of their personal information
- Destroying personal information when it is no longer required. This is to be done in a secure manner (eg. by disposing of it in the assigned bin)

If you have any queries about how FOCAL manages your personal information or have any questions please speak with your Coordinator. A full copy of FOCAL's Privacy Statement can also be found on our website www.focal.org.au



FOCAL Vacation care Visit

By Janelle Lind (aka Skittles or Troll)



On Thursday the 7th July 2016, members of the Lockyer and Ipswich Ulysses branches (plus one friend) gave up their time to either show their bikes off or give rides at FOCAL's Vacation Care Program.

Firstly, on behalf of FOCAL, Kerri Siebenhausen (Out of School Hours Care Coordinator), and Elise Campbell (2IC Senior Vacation Care), Support Staff and especially the children, we wish to say **"a very BIG THANK -YOU for such generous support to the Vacation Care Program"**.

In total (if I counted right) we had 18 bikes come along—1 Trike, 3 x Can AM Spyders and 14 x 2 Wheelers. It was amazing to even hear them arrive let alone see them all parked.

The anticipation of the bike event had been building from the first day of the school holidays (the week before), so the excitement really amped up once the bikes actually arrived. A few of the children were quite hesitant at first, but in the end we couldn't keep them away, and everyone finished up going for not just one but two rides. Some were just shaking with excitement!. They were packed with emotions - smiles you could see for miles. For some it was a dream come true. Immediately the children were asking "Can they come back?" "When are they coming back?" "Can they come in September school holidays?" So it's safe to say, they really loved the whole experience. 🙌😊



Out of all the children there were about 3 that did not want to or could not go on the bikes, however staff made sure that they could see the parked bikes from the room or visit the parked bikes, and have a look/listen/feel of the different bikes on display. One young person in particular comes to mind. He really loved the feel of the Fox Tail, enjoying the sensory experience. I could see his smile from 20 metres away. For those children that were not so strong in the core area, were able to put them onto the Spyder, with a staff member and the rider on either side. As you can imagine it was really hard to talk the staff into assisting, NOT!!! In fact several staff finished up having a turn on the Spyder's, without a child. We call it staff participation.



It really was a terrific event, there was tons of enthusiasm and excitement and lot's of FUN was had by all....

'A special Thanks to FOCAL Staff member Janelle Lind for putting together this great event for the children' 🙌😊



From the FOCAL After School Care children and staff

DID YOU KNOW FOCAL HAS FEE FOR SERVICE OPTIONS...

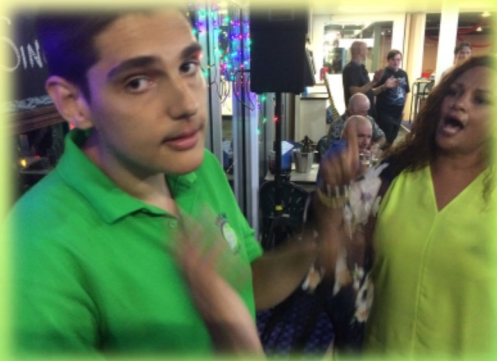


FOCAL provides a broad range of affordable **Fee for Service** supports. If you have a disability and wish to pay for services you can access FOCAL supports in the home, community or at work. People who have compensation funding, cannot access government funding, are on a waiting list or would like to increase the types and hours of service they have can pay for services through FOCAL.

Services can be provided on a short or long term basis and are tailored to meet individual's needs.

Some types of supports you can purchase include:

- **Personal care support**
- **Domestic assistance**
- **Drop in support at home**
- **Respite**
- **After School and Vacation Care**
- **Holidays**
- **Accessing and connecting with community and social activities**
- **Days at the Horizons Program for people with high support needs**
- **Assistance at work**



For more information about FOCAL Fee for Service Options please speak with your Service Manager or contact our Intake Officer on 3812 2014.

What's Happening

Wicked @ Ipswich Civic Centre

Friday 16th September

Where: Ipswich Civic Centre
Cost: \$55 for concession holders
(we can do a payment plan, talk to CCF)

Meet: 6 Canning Street, North Ipswich
Time: 6:30 - 11:00pm

(Drop off and pick up – 6 Canning St North Ipswich)

Please Note: Seats are limited so book now!

To book or receive more information please contact Cheryl or Heidi at FOCAL on 07 3812 2014 by Friday 2nd August 2016



Movies and Dinner

Saturday 8th October

Where: Redbank Ciniplex and Zingara's kitchen
Cost: Movies \$8.50 tickets will be booked online
Money for dinner see menu

Time: 4:00pm - 10:00pm

(Drop off and pick up – 6 Canning St North Ipswich)

To book or receive more information please contact Cheryl or Heidi at FOCAL on 07 3812 2014 by Monday 26th September 2016



ROSEWOOD SHOW AWARDS RECIPIENTS



Important Diary Dates

22nd Aug	MyTime Mens Group Dinner at NuOrleans Restaurant (see Flyer for details)
25th Aug	Focal Consultation meeting - 6:00pm - 7:30pm Canning St, Nth Ipswich Share your ideas about accommodation needs now and in the future
7th Sept	Fresh Futures Market - 9:00am - 1:00pm Ipswich Show Grounds - Attend workshops about planning for the future and NDIS and connect with a range of local services.
11th Sept	MyTime Men's Group Family Mini Golf - 10:00am - 1:00pm Ipswich Golf Driving Range
15th Sept	Celebration Disability Action Week Lunch - 11:00am - 12:30pm 6 Canning St, Nth Ipswich
15th Sept	FOCAL Consultation meeting 6:00 - 7:30pm 6 Canning Street, Nth Ipswich - Share your ideas about employment options now and in the future for people
19th - 23rd Sept	Senior and Junior Vacation Care Program Ipswich Special School Milford Street, Ipswich
26th - 30th Sept	Senior Vacation Care Program Ipswich Special School Milford Street, Ipswich
28th Sept	Vacation Care Program - 9:00 - 10:00am Ipswich Special School, Milford St, Ipswich Drop in session about planning for the future and NDIS
3rd Oct	Public Holiday - Queens Birthday
4th - 6th Oct	FOCAL Audit
5th Oct	Staff Training - This may affect the times of some shifts
11th Oct	FOCAL Drop In Session - 5:00 - 7:00pm 6 Canning St, Nth Ipswich Planning for the future and NDIS
13th October	Parent and Carers Workshop - 10:00am - 12:00pm Ipswich Special School - Discussion with Community Resource Unit about preparing for the National Disability Insurance Scheme
29th October	Siblings Outing to Australia Zoo 8:00am - 5:00pm
5th Nov	FOCAL Annual General Meeting - 2:00 - 4:00pm Venue to be confirmed
4th Dec	FOCAL Community Christmas Party - 4:00 - 7:00pm - Browns Park



FOCAL THANKS.....

FOCAL continues to be fortunate in the support it receives from the community.

FOCAL THANKS...

Novaskill A big thank-you goes out to all the people who participated in the 6 month long Novaskill Project. People who are looking for employment volunteered their time to complete many fabulous projects. These included painting the outside of 6 Canning Street, painting fences, designing and building garden beds, doing general maintenance and upgrading gardens. These projects have made a significant difference to both 6 and 7 Canning Street sites.



Lockyer and Ipswich Ulysses for providing the opportunity to our vacation care participants to see and ride the 18 bikes that came to Ipswich Special School in the June/July holidays.



State Government has awarded FOCAL a Small Assets Grant to purchase a bus. This grant will make a significant difference for people in the region. We are looking forward to adding this bus to FOCAL's vehicles so we can continue to expand and assist with meeting the transport needs of people with a disability.



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) *update*

The NDIS is now up and running in parts of Queensland and Ipswich is getting ready for the transition to start in July 2017. At FOCAL we have been meeting with individuals and families to assist them to prepare for the NDIS and continue to hold future planning sessions of clients, families and carers. In this newsletter there are flyers about the upcoming FOCAL planning sessions which we hope you will be able to participate in.

It may seem the NDIS is still a long time away but NOW is the time to start to get ready so you can make the most out of this opportunity. If you would like assistance with your planning please speak with your Coordinator, a home visit or individual meeting can be arranged to guide you through your preparation.

You are also encouraged to

- ⇒ Keep up to date with NDIS by visiting <http://www.ndis.gov.au/> There are a range of videos and resources to assist you
- ⇒ Book into the QDN workshop at FOCAL for people with a disability and their carers, Tuesday 18th & 25th October 2016 12:30 - 3:30pm
- ⇒ Attend the Fresh Futures Market on 7th September 2016 at Ipswich Show Ground from 9am to 1pm to hear firsthand from clients about their experiences of the NDIS

FOCAL Community Living Inc

Application Form for Membership 2016-17

Dear Member

FOCAL Community Living Inc exists to support people with disabilities, their families and carers. FOCAL is a community organisation and is governed by its members. Without you, FOCAL could not exist so thank you for your ongoing support.

Below is a membership renewal form for you to complete and return to FOCAL.

Member benefits include:

- "FOCAL Community Living" our quarterly Newsletter;
- Information and invitations to upcoming events;
- Your suggestions in the direction and future of FOCAL;
- Voting Rights at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Yours Sincerely



Roy Henderson
Chair



7 Canning Street
North Ipswich QLD 4305

P: 07 3812 2014
F: 07 3812 2023
E: admin@focal.org.au
W: www.focal.org.au

Chair: Mr Roy Henderson
Secretary: Mrs Janine Richardson

Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible
A copy of the association rules can be accessed at the FOCAL Office at 7 Canning Street, North Ipswich.
As a Member you are entitled to vote and are protected from

Please return your completed 2016-17 Membership Application Form to the FOCAL Office

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Organisation: _____ (only if applying for organisational membership)

Email: _____ Contact Number: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Membership Category: New Member Existing Member

Applying For: Member \$10.00 Organisational Member \$50.00

(please tick appropriate boxes)



VACATION CARE PARENT AND CARER NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS) DROP IN INFORMATION SESSION

From 1st July 2017 the NDIS will be available in the Ipswich Region and NOW is the time to get ready.

To assist you to prepare for this opportunity you are invited to come to an NDIS Information Drop In Session with FOCAL.

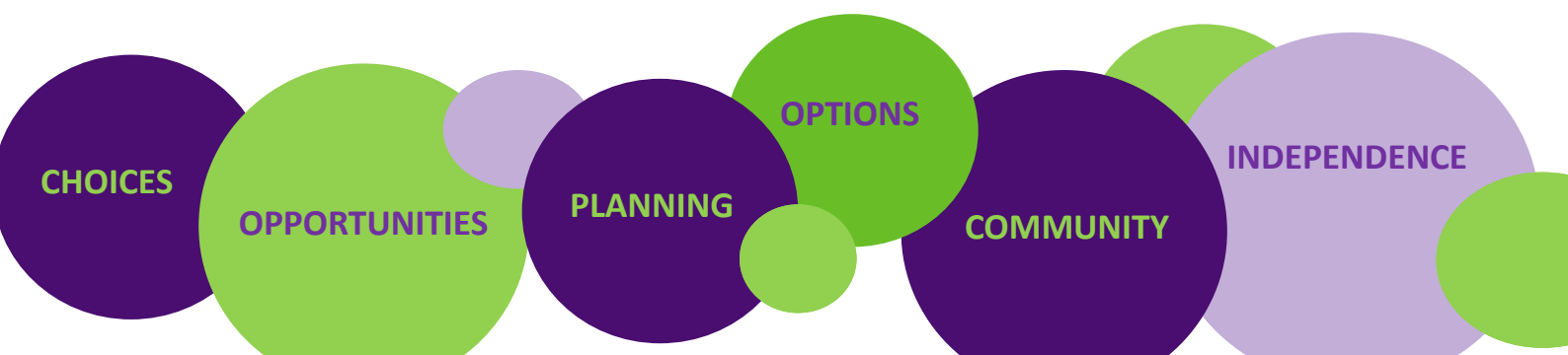
At this session you can

- ⇒ Find out what the NDIS is and how it could work for you
- ⇒ Learn from the experiences of people in Queensland and the NDIS Trial sites
- ⇒ Think about what a good life is for you and how to create this
- ⇒ Receive practical resources to assist you to get NDIS ready and plan for positive futures

WHEN: 9:00 – 10:00am on **Wednesday 28th September 2016**

WHERE: Meet at the Senior Program Room at
Ipswich Special School 2A Milford St Ipswich

If you have any queries please speak with Kerri Siebenhausen





FUTURE PLANNING FOR YOU AND THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)

From 1st July 2017 the NDIS will be available in the Ipswich Region and NOW is the time to get ready.

To assist you to prepare for this opportunity you are invited to attend an informative and practical session at FOCAL.

From 5 – 6pm staff will be available to meet with you individually to talk about your specific plans for the NDIS.

This will be followed by a discussion about

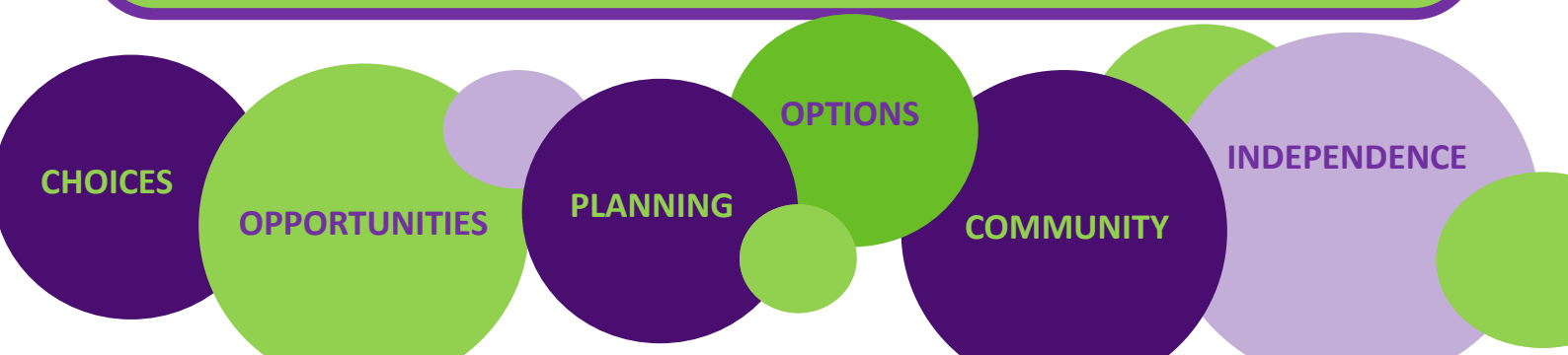
- ⇒ What a good life is for you and how to create this
- ⇒ How the NDIS is working in trial sites and Queensland
- ⇒ What you would like FOCAL to offer now and in the future

Practical resources will also be available to assist you to get NDIS ready and plan for positive futures.

WHEN: 5:00 – 7:00pm on Tuesday 11th October 2016

WHERE: FOCAL Community Living Centre 6 Canning St North Ipswich

RSVP: to FOCAL on 3812 2014 or admin@focal.org.au
by Mon 10th October 2016





FOCAL Community Living Inc

Community Consultation

Employment, Supported Employment & Volunteering Opportunities

FOCAL is currently exploring how employment, supported employment and volunteering solutions could be provided by the organisation for the benefit of the community, in particular people with a disability.

You are invited to share your ideas about your or your family members' employment needs now, and into the future.

WHEN: 6:00 – 7:30pm on **Thursday 15th September 2016**

WHERE: FOCAL Community Living Centre 6 Canning St NORTH IPSWICH

RSVP: to FOCAL on 3812 2014 or admin@focal.org.au by **Fri 9th September 2016**

Light refreshments will be available

CHOICES

OPPORTUNITIES

PLANNING

OPTIONS

COMMUNITY



FOCAL Community Living Inc

Community Consultation

Housing & Accommodation

FOCAL is currently exploring how housing and accommodation solutions could be provided by the organisation for the benefit of the community, in particular people with a disability.

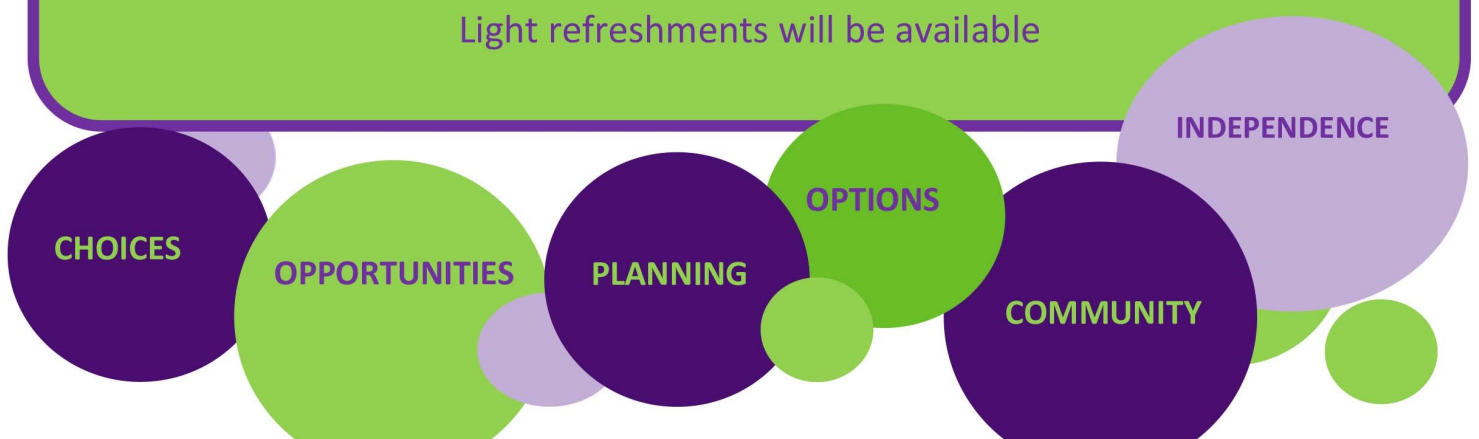
You are invited to share your ideas about your or your family members' accommodation needs now, and into the future.

WHEN: 6:00 – 7:30pm on Thursday 25th August 2016

WHERE: FOCAL Community Living Centre 6 Canning St NORTH IPSWICH

RSVP: to FOCAL on 3812 2014 or admin@focal.org.au by Fri 19th August 2016

Light refreshments will be available



My Time

Ipswich Mens Group

You are invited to join the
My Time Ipswich Men's Group
for dinner at the



Nu Orleans Restaurant

This group meets regularly during school terms for a variety of events including outings, dinners, quiz nights, fishing etc. If you are a Dad, Granddad, Uncle, Male Adult Sibling or Male friend of a young person with a disability you are invited to join this group.

New members are always welcome

Please note: To assist you to join the group we are able to provide a qualified worker to support member's sons or daughters in their home. If this would be helpful please let us

Date: Mon 22nd August 2016

Please note change of date for this event)

Time: 6:00pm—9:00pm

Event: Dinner

Venue: Nu Orleans Restaurant

59 Limestone St, Ipswich

(opposite the old Courthouse)

Cost: Free

To RSVP for all events contact:

Focal Office on 3812 2014

or email admin@focal.org.au

OTHER UPCOMING EVENT

Family Mini Golf

Sun 11th Sept 2016 10am—1pm

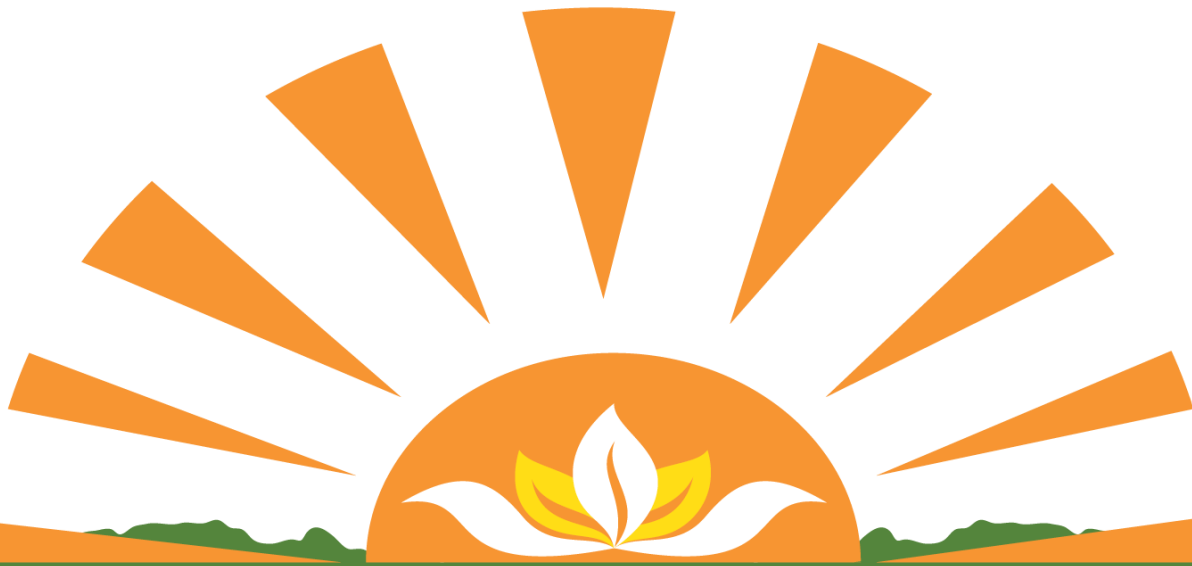
at Ipswich Golf Driving Range

59 Huxham St, Raceview QLD 4305

*Proudly presented by
FOCAL Community Living Inc.*



*with funding through My Time
& support from CPL*



Ipswich Fresh Futures Market

Connect with local resources and support for your future

**Are you living with a disability or mental illness?
Are you wondering what to do once you've finished school?
Are you caring for a young person or adult with a disability?
Are you looking for realistic options for your future?**

Then this market is for you.

Wednesday, 7 September

9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Ipswich Showgrounds Pavilion

Warwick Road, Ipswich

Wheelchair friendly venue

Over 80 stall holders, workshops, food, live entertainment and giveaways.


Workshops will be running in the Greyhound Hall at the showgrounds every half hour on topics to assist people to plan for the introduction of the NDIS. More information will be available on Facebook in the lead up to the day.



facebook.com.au/FreshFuturesMarket

This event is proudly supported by:

Able Australia, ALARA Qld Ltd, Carers Qld, CATS, Commonwealth Carelink & Respite Centre, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Disability Community Awareness, Endeavour Foundation, FOCAL Community Living Inc., HealthCall, HELP Employment & Training, Ipswich City Council, National Disability Coordination Officer, QDN, Real Community Services and TAFE QUEENSLAND South West.



**Mayor Paul Pisasale,
Cr Paul Tully and Councillors
of the City of Ipswich
invite you to attend**

Pasifika
**Spring
Festival**
Celebrating Cultural Diversity

**Saturday, 3 September 2016
Evan Marginson Park, Woogaroo Street, Goodna
3.00 pm – 8.00 pm**

A showcase of multicultural performances and food stalls, including
elders' marquee, children's activities, free rides and sports clinics.

Parking is limited, please consider taking public transport.

For more information
Phone (07) 3810 7989 or
email csweeney@ipswich.qld.gov.au
ipswich.qld.gov.au

