



# DISCO Beat!

June / July  
Edition - 2022

Partnering Schools, Linking with Business, Supporting Youth!

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## Mike's Column

### Farewelling a great Contract

It was sad recently as DISCO said goodbye to the Transition to Work contract after proudly undertaking the service since 2016. The contract is now being delivered in the Darling Downs employment region by Busy At Work and we wish them every success. I would like to acknowledge Kym Baills who managed the program and all of the team members who supported her. In addition, DISCO would not have been able to do the job that we did without the commitment and support of partner Gateway To Training (GTT) who delivered the contract on the Southern Downs and in South West Queensland. A big thank you to Esme and her team.

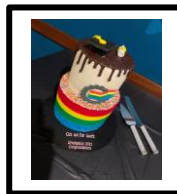


I would like to acknowledge the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) for the provision of a \$7,000.00 flood grant which has been used to replace carpet, a computer and a desk at our Head Office after these items were impacted by water when our office flooded.

It is wonderful to see the youth unemployment rate nationally remain below 9.0%, with the ABS confirming that the rate in May was 8.8%, which is great news. Locally in Toowoomba (QLD Statistician's Office) we sit at a rate of 10.7%, Darling Downs / Maranoa at 12.3% and Queensland Outback remaining very high at 38.6%. Queensland as a whole sits at 10.1%.

Ongoing interest by local and regional employers has ensured the organisations placement rate remains high with our contracts supporting youth into employment running above 70% with continuing positive interest in apprenticeships.

It was fantastic to see so many young people graduating from our Get Set for Work contracts in June. A wonderful group of young people from our Toowoomba, Gatton and Dalby sites completed their training and many have or are about to commence in work. I would like to acknowledge all team members for their support as well as our RTO partner Aurora Training and thank them for their support.



Just prior to COVID-19, The Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) undertook research looking at how young people were engaging in work outside the traditional definition of a nine-to-five full-time job. This research covered work that is defined as flexible work - encompassing part-time, casual, self-employed work and gig work, with a particular focus on what the gig economy meant for young people. The FYA found that young people were disproportionately represented in flexible work - and that this number was growing. For example, since 2016, they estimated there had been a 340% growth in the number of people engaging in gig work (on-demand work obtained through digital platforms) with people aged 18-34 years-old making up more than half of this number. The report highlights some interesting information and facts regarding how the emerging generation approaches work and how employers need to respond to ensure they can learn about how to engage this cohort for future work.

Learn more here: <https://www.fya.org.au/app/uploads/2021/09/FYA-New-Work-Standard-2020.pdf>

**Mike Paton - CEO**

## Livewire

Livewire is a free online community connecting teens living with illness or disability, & their siblings, and has been developed with young people in mind.

Teens aged 12 – 20 living in Australia or New Zealand who have a chronic health condition, serious illness or disability and their siblings.

Simply create an account and the team will be in touch to enable you to access to Live Chat.

Whether you're at home or in hospital, you can make friends, share stories, laugh, have a vent, and be yourself. Our Moderated chat is live from 12pm weekdays and 9am weekends 'til midnight (AEST) every day, plus live streaming, games, videos, comps and more.

Connect to Livewire here: <https://www.livewire.org.au/>

## Gatton Update

It is hard to believe we are already halfway through 2022 and how time flies when you are having fun. A lot has happened in the past few months in our Gatton office. We said Goodbye to our GSFW Co Ordinator, Jasmine, but also celebrated with her as she was promoted to site Coordinator at James Street. Not seeing Jasmine's welcoming smile each day was not only hard on our GSFW participants but also staff. We knew we would not be able to find someone to replace Jasmine so instead we hired internally someone who would make our GSFW program their own, we welcomed our newest member Jenna to the Gatton team.

We have enjoyed being able to have numerous guests in the office again. We had visits from Tafe, The Australian Defence Force, Stanbroke, Bootstraps, Anglicare and a local Indigenous artist Trent who volunteered his time to run an Indigenous art workshop and also shared some great stories.

Our semester one Get Set for Work participants graduated on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of June at the Gatton Shire Hall. We recognised and celebrated the achievements of all seven of our students. The night was perfect, everyone looked amazing and enjoyed sharing their achievements with their family and friends. We were extremely grateful to Stanbroke Beef who supplied all of the meat for the evening and thankful for the opportunities they have offered our clients and knowledge they have shared.

We have also been busy wrapping up our TTW contract which saw us saying goodbye to all of our clients. Although it was sad to see them go, we wish them all the best for the future, and I'm sure we will still see them around periodically popping in to say hi.

We attended the Lockyer Valley Jobs and Careers Expo and we are booked in to attend the Faith Lutheran and Laidley High careers expo next month. We also have our school leaver presentations booked in for the coming months.

**Kim Stevens - Gatton Site Coordinator**

**DISCO is supported by the Australian & Queensland Governments.**



## YES Program

The Youth Employment Support (YES) Program is a short-term intervention project that assists young people between 15-24 years of age. The program offers an individualised support service for young job seekers for 6-8 weeks as they navigate toward their desired career and/or educational goals. YES is currently offered across the Toowoomba, Dalby, Gatton, and Oakey regions and is perfect for youth who lack the knowledge and/or skills to gain employment.

YES specifically aims at developing young job seekers' practical skills and confidence. This is achieved through professional resume and cover letter writing support, job interview preparation, budgeting, and further job readiness skills in order to successfully obtain employment. As a result, many of my YES clients gain a set of highly developed skills that assist them in achieving their desired career prospects.

This year, I have been provided the opportunity to present at a range of local Career Expo's to market YES to students as they prepare for their future transitions after school. Together, with the Get Set for Work teams across the Gatton and Toowoomba sites, we were able to effectively engage with students from Faith Lutheran College, Wilsonton, and Toowoomba State High School's to discuss their career prospects and offer them information on how DISCO can support them in their job search journey's. As a result, students gained an awareness of the program's available, and DISCO built further upon its relationships with local schools to support those in need of support.

One resource that has been used with our one-on-one sessions with YES participants is the UQ Interview Question Bank - <https://employability.uq.edu.au/files/179920/SEED-Careers-InterviewQuestions2022.pdf> I highly recommend checking this resource out as it is a great tool to enable you to prepare for that interview and set yourself up to be ready for whatever the prospective employer might throw at you!

This is a fantastic resource that provides a useful breakdown on what certain interview questions are asking and it even offers some suggestions on what to think about and include in an interviewee's responses. This is used throughout appointments to generate and apply ideas on paper as a steppingstone to practicing interview questions.

If you know a young person who would benefit from some assistance finding work or have any questions regarding the program and what else YES can offer, please feel free to contact me on 0457 871 530 or, alternatively, via email at [dana@disco.org.au](mailto:dana@disco.org.au).

**Dana Sallway – Youth Employment Support Coordinator**



## Dalby Doings

The beginning of June saw the Dalby Get Set for Work (GSfW) clients finish their *Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways* so it could be submitted to our Aurora Training in time to be marked and printed for our Graduation. Participants also completed their White Card Training prior to the end of the program as well.

We undertook industry tours to Kerwee Feedlot and Farmfest and site visits of the local SEE (Skills for Education and Employment) program and the Dalby Library (we like to educate the participants that libraries are not just about books, and they are a great resource for accessing the internet and accessing computers for job search and job applications).

We also had a representative from Golden West (a local Group Training Organisation) to discuss apprenticeships and traineeships.

Personal Development sessions included budgeting, ensuring all participants have a Tax File Number, Medicare Card, Learners Licence (if eligible and wanted) and a bank account. Lifeline also visited onsite to discuss addictions, which is more relevant than ever with the continually increasing online addictions (which we are noticing more and more with our GSfW participants).

Career Development included woodworking sessions to make a plant stand for the plant previously propagated in our horticulture session the previous month.

A major focus was placed on Jobsearch workshops, and our participants will hopefully gain some exciting news in the coming weeks from the applications submitted during this time.

A very relaxing Reward Day was held at the local Lake Broadwater undertaking tug of war games, stories around the campfire (with roasted marshmallows of course) and a sausage sizzle lunch.

Graduation was held on the Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of June with 9 of our 10 commencing participants graduating. They all received a Portfolio which included their *Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways*, White Card (and certificate), Skilling Queenslanders for Work – Get Set for Work Graduation certificate, participation awards and a quality resume and cover letter.

Unfortunately, due to our office being swamped by sickness (impacting staff and participants) and the extreme weather being experienced, a decision was made to cancel the program Reward Day at Dreamworld. All clients who were eligible for the reward have been offered a \$50 Gift Card at a venue of their choice.

Our semester two Get Set for Work program will commence on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of July. Interviews for Semester 2 are progressing, and we currently have half our places filled for this program. Lara Smith, our Get Set for Work Coordinator will be supported by Lachlan Scells in the role of Youth Support Officer.

Dana Sallway is also continuing to visit the Dalby office once per week to support our local Youth Employment Support (YES) program registrations. The program assists young people needing support in relation to developing their career path and provides direct one-on-one support. Call our office on 46622147 if you need more information.

**Le-Anne Callaghan**

**Southwest Qld Area Manager & Dalby Site Manager**

## James Street News

James St has welcomed a new team for term 2 of the Get Set for Work Program at James St. The new team is led by Jasmine Palm, Site & Get Set for Work Coordinator with Shaelie Bee and Jess Dwan joining as Youth Support Officers with the ongoing support of our school-based trainee Neve on Mondays.

We hit the ground running with our first day on site together being the programs first day back after the Easter holidays. Change was always going to be difficult for some young people however after a few weeks the group realised all DISCO staff are supportive and are only here to help them succeed.

We had guest speakers from TAFE, Legal Aid Australia, Busy At Work, the Defence Force and DGT as well as undertaking First Aid and RSA training. We had some young people obtain part-time employment while others began to search for further training options after DISCO.

During the final 6 weeks we completed double the amount of training hours that they achieved in the first term, which showed their hard work and dedication to complete their certificate training. We had 15/16 clients complete their *Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways* which was excellent. As with all DISCO groups, all the fun and hard work does come to an end and none of them wanted to leave. For some it was the first time they have felt a part of something and could be themselves and their personalities blossomed as their confidence grew so our graduation was so wonderful to reflect on all their progress with many parents so grateful for the Get Set for Work Program and how it had positively influenced their child.

Our semester two program is now full with 18 young people commencing on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. We look forward to the continual growth and changes at the site to reflect our program objectives whilst shaping the young people's lives who walk through our doors at James Street.

**Jasmine Palm**

**James Street & Get Set for Work Coordinator**



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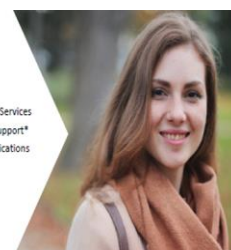
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### GET TRAINED IN A CERTIFICATE COURSE

- ⇒ BSB30115 Certificate III in Business
- ⇒ BSB30115 Certificate III in Business (this qualification includes Retail Electives)
- ⇒ BSB30415 Certificate III in Business Administration
- ⇒ SIT30616 Certificate III in Hospitality\*
- ⇒ SIT30116 Certificate III in Tourism
- ⇒ CHC32015 Certificate III in Community Services
- ⇒ CHC33015 Certificate III in Individual Support\*
- ⇒ ICT30519 Certificate III in Telecommunications Technology

\*SIT30116 requires 36 shifts of work placement; CHC33015 requires 120 hours of work placement

Call us today on 1300 936 864!



# Snell Street Update

The last few months for Snell Street have been busy with staff wrapping up the Transition to Work service that we have been delivering since 2016.

It has been a privilege to work with each young individual that has walked through the doors at our Snell Street Office.

I would like to take the time to thank each staff member from the Snell Street team over the last few years for their passion for youth and for walking alongside each young person they worked with.

I would like to thank our young people for trusting DISCO to help them through life, along with assisting them to achieve their goals and dreams. The majority of our young people gained employment or completed a Certificate III or higher qualification.

A big thanks to our accommodation partner headspace for allowing us to share and collaborate together.

A big thank you to all of the local businesses and organisations who employed our young people. You have been a big part of the success of the Transition to Work service.

**Kym Bails – Operations & Site Manager**



# Quote of the Quarter

“Leaders are not, as we are often led to think, people who go along with huge crowds following them. Leaders are people who go their own way without caring, or even looking to see, whether anyone is following them. "Leadership qualities" are not the qualities that enable people to attract followers, but those that enable them to do without them. They include, at the very least, courage, endurance, patience, humour, flexibility, resourcefulness, stubbornness, a keen sense of reality, and the ability to keep a cool and clear head, even when things are going badly. True leaders, in short, do not make people into followers, but into other leaders.” **John Holt**



# Staff Profile – Neve Jericevich

Hi Everyone,

My name is Neve and I'm the school-based trainee based at the James St site.

I have worked at DISCO since August 2021 and after initially undertaking a placement from my school, I realised that I had a passion for working with youth which led me to enquire about possible employment whilst studying at school.

At DISCO, and via my training partner, Aurorra I'm doing a *Certificate 3 in Community Services*.

I attend Toowoomba Christian College at Highfields where I'm currently studying year 11.

I hope to continue working at DISCO until I finish year 12 and will then make some decisions about whether I work full time or continue studying to achieve my career goal.

**Neve Jericevich**  
**School Based Community Services Trainee**



# headspace

headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation started in 2006, providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25-year-olds.



Each year, headspace helps thousands of young people, and their families, access vital support through headspace services in over 145 communities across Australia, as well as providing online and phone, counselling and vocational services in schools and in the community.

headspace supports youth with mental and physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other drug services, as well as work and study support. With a focus on early intervention, headspace provides support at a crucial time in their lives to help get them back on track and improve their ability to manage their mental health in the future.

Learn more here: <https://headspace.org.au/>

