



## Minda's community expansion

Spring 2010

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The end of each year brings with it celebration and festivities. For Minda, this year's end will be particularly commemorative. Minda will have opened eleven new community homes by the end of 2010. There will be an additional five houses opened early in 2011, making a total of 16 new community homes.

These homes, located across southern metropolitan Adelaide, will accommodate people relocating from the Brighton campus. Another group, currently residing at Tassie House, Blackwood Park, will move to new homes as Tassie House is no longer 'fit for purpose'. Several people will also come off the Urgent Accommodation Waiting List, as a result of our first property in Mary Street, Unley, opening in October.

These homes will each provide accommodation for between two and five people.

*Continued page 3*



Locations and numbers of new community homes to open during 2010 - 2011



**Welcome to the Spring edition of Vocal Point. Spring represents not only a change in season but it is typically associated with ideas of rebirth, renewal and regrowth.**

**Minda gratefully acknowledges EPAC and Adelaide Development Company as major supporters.**



## From the President

That could not be more true of Minda. At the Minda Board meeting on Thursday 26 August, Roy Arnold, President of the Minda Board, advised his fellow Board members that he was stepping down from the role of President to commence his retirement. Subsequently, I was pleased to have been unanimously selected by the Board Members as the new President at that very meeting.

Over his 12 years of service with Minda (three as a Board Member and nine as President), Roy has made an enormous contribution to the organisation. He has advanced the position of Minda and has made an immeasurable contribution to the lives of South Australians living with intellectual disability. On behalf of the Minda Board, I would like to thank Roy for his dedication, commitment and considerable achievements as President and wish him all the very best for his retirement.

In the wake of Roy's recent achievements, namely the adoption of the guiding principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, endorsement of the Master Plan and the evolution towards a more contemporary service model, I certainly have big shoes to fill. I hope that over my time as President, I am able to make such a positive difference to people's lives.

Having said this, in taking over the helm, I am committed to keeping this momentum going and ensuring that Minda is the leader in the disability sector. Together with Cathy Miller, CEO, I feel that we can continue to lead Minda to new heights of service delivery.

Times ahead will continue to be challenging with the implementation of the Master Plan and its \$200 million building project, plus the continuing adoption of the principles of Person Centred Thinking and Active Support, however, I believe the Board and Executive are equal to the task. I continue to seek the support of all Minda's dedicated staff, Association members and the broader Minda family in its endeavors.

I look forward to what lies ahead at this exciting time of development and progress. In this edition of Vocal Point, we celebrate recent progress made in several areas, such as the expansion of Minda's community homes (see cover), the endorsement of the Master Plan for the Brighton campus (p 5), health and wellbeing program for staff (p 8) and of course, progress with the implementation of Person Centred Thinking across Minda (p 9). You will also read about the achievements of a number of people supported by Minda, as well as some of our corporate partners.

I hope you will enjoy the Spring edition of Vocal Point and I look forward to updating you on the latest developments at Minda in the coming months.

It is an honour to serve as President of Minda and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Directors for supporting and endorsing my appointment.

Tony Harrison  
President

Cover story continued...

Wherever possible, people will move into homes where they can exercise choice around the presentation and colour of their room and various other design elements. Individual support needs and compatibility with other residents will also be assessed.

Minda's Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Miller, said the homes provide another opportunity for individuals with intellectual disability to engage with the community and exercise their right to respect, inclusion and choice.

"Where possible, we are offering our residents a choice to live at Brighton or move into new community housing as it becomes available.

"Those who wish to move are assessed and arrangements are made to ensure long term support and care.

"Offering the right balance of choice and support is key for those moving into the new homes and we will put supports in place to ensure the experience is a positive one," she said.

The proceeds raised from the upcoming Black Tie Quiz Night in October, as well as the funds from past Black Tie Quiz Nights, will go towards the furnishing of these homes.

The community accommodation strategy maintains Minda's commitment to providing a 'policy of choice'. This policy of choice will ensure that people are able to choose whether they reside at Brighton or in community accommodation.

While Minda's community expansion is really exciting, some campus accommodation and facilities are also

receiving a facelift. Refurbishment of Crawford House, which will house 13 people, is due to begin shortly, with completion anticipated by the end of September. The Verco Building, which is primarily used for Day Options activities, is also being renovated and refurbished to provide better facilities for Day Options participants. Isabel's cafeteria will also be receiving a much-needed makeover.

Changes to residential services on campus have meant an increase in the number of care workers on the ground to support people.

Minda's future is looking brighter with the expansion of its community accommodation, improvements implemented on campus and, of course, the impending Master Plan.

Look out for the next Vocal Point for more updates.

## Disability Enterprises is now Minda Commercial Enterprises



All of Minda's current enterprises and the Aquatic Centre will be referred to collectively as Minda's Commercial Enterprises, under the management of Andrew Ramsey.

Additionally, Minda Packaging Services (MPS) will now be known as 'Packaging Solutions', complete with a fresh and updated logo, seen below.

Minda has three packaging sites: Lonsdale, Somerton Park and Brighton. These sites will now be branded as Packaging Solutions Lonsdale, Packaging Solutions Somerton Park, and Packaging Solutions Brighton, respectively.

**To see how Minda's Commercial Enterprises can benefit you, please refer to the enclosed flyer, or contact us on 8422 6200.**

A change is in the air with the division of Minda previously referred to as 'Minda Disability Enterprises', changing its name to 'Minda Commercial Enterprises'.

The new name will encourage consumers and businesses to view Minda in the same way as other enterprises producing a diverse range of quality products and services.



## Packaging Solutions

We Can Do It



**My first months at Minda have been fast and furious and I continue to be truly encouraged by the amazing work and the exceptional staff commitment I have seen throughout the organisation.**

## From the CEO

Minda is entering an exciting new era following the endorsement of the Board's preferred Master Plan for the Brighton site at the mid-year Association Meeting in June.

At the heart of this is the way we support people – our service delivery – which is intrinsically linked to the Master Plan. The bricks and mortar of a new development are only part of the project. Behind the buildings and facilities, it is the life of each person that we can enrich that is our highest priority. The built form of Minda is secondary; what is important is that it reflects the intent of our desired service delivery philosophy.

It must be reiterated that the current model is a high level plan only and the Board will now look to commence the process of developing a more detailed plan. During the development of these plans, the input provided throughout the consultation phase will be considered.

In other developments, I am very excited to announce that Minda will soon open a brand new community home in Mary Street, Unley (cover), the first of a number of community homes to be opened in the coming months and I look forward to providing further updates in the next edition of Vocal Point. We are pleased to be able to offer a choice of accommodation options, at Brighton and in the community.

It is fantastic to see those with intellectual disability recognised in the community and recently, two artists, Jerome Dennehy, a painter, and Jackie Saunders, a performance and visual artist, were acknowledged for their accomplishments.

Congratulations to these two talented artists (p 5 & 7)!

The end of year is now approaching and that means a very active period on the events and fundraising calendar for Minda. Our major fundraising event, the Black Tie Quiz Night, will be one to remember and proceeds raised will go towards furnishing Mary Street and other community homes, due for completion in the last half of 2010 and first half of 2011.

Also coming up is the Corporate Golf Challenge on Friday 19 November and International Day for People with Disability (IDPWD) on Friday 3 December. The day recognises the achievements and contributions of people with disabilities and the Brighton site will host a range of activities and events. The Minda self advocacy group have assumed responsibility for making this day a success.

Minda is grateful for the recent support from our corporate donors. Three generous donations were gratefully received from the South Australian Hotel Industry, the Commonwealth Bank and Stateless Systems.

Spring signifies new beginnings and as we embark on an exciting new chapter, I hope you will consider supporting Minda by attending one or more of our upcoming events.

Please enjoy this edition of Vocal Point.

Cathy Miller  
Chief Executive Officer



# Master Plan endorsed

At the mid-year Association Meeting on Tuesday 22 June, the Association voted and endorsed the Board's proposed Master Plan for the Brighton site.

The process has been comprehensive, with some additional time required whilst Minda's service delivery model was re-examined in light of the Board's commitment to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Minda is confident that this is the right model going forward and is committed to ensuring the sustainable future of the Brighton site. Many of the existing facilities on site, including client accommodation, were built over 50 years ago and are now outdated for the provision of high quality care. The Master Plan allows for the delivery of new purpose built housing and facilities of the highest standards.

Wide consultation was undertaken amongst Association Members, Minda staff and clients, the wider community, government, local residents, Holdfast Bay Council and other special interest groups.

Some of the issues raised during the consultation phase included consideration for the following:

- Secondary dune system
- Housing for new clients
- Tutti accommodation
- Commercial precinct
- Retirement apartments
- Housing and infrastructure adjoining the southern boundary
- Traffic management

At the heart of the plan is Minda's commitment to providing the best possible accommodation, care and support to the 1,500 individuals with an intellectual disability who are reliant on Minda for their ongoing quality of life.

While we respect the input from the community and will do our best to cater for it, this cannot be at the cost of compromising our commitment to the intellectually disabled, which is Minda's sole reason for existence.

Implementation of the Master Plan will be a major task over the next five to seven years and, to address that task, the Board has appointed new Minda President, Tony Harrison, as Chair of the Master Plan Steering Committee.

**Further updates on the developments of the Master Plan will continue to be provided in Minda's newsletter Vocal Point and at [www.mindainc.com.au](http://www.mindainc.com.au).**



*Jerome at work*

## Jerome's brush with success

When the artistic urge strikes, Jerome Dennehy becomes one of Minda's most expressive, colourful and indeed talented characters. His aptitude for all things art was most recently recognised over 16,000 kilometres away in England, where one of his paintings sold for £114 and now takes pride of place in the Office of Choice Support, London.

Jerome has enjoyed painting all of his life. His enthusiasm and focus have been supported by his mother, Colleen, a former art teacher and volunteer at Brighton managing the Op Shop.

A participant at Minda's Creative Directions since 1999, Jerome is encouraged by staff at Leverington North to express his feelings and ideas.

Everything about Jerome's painting technique is big and bold, with generous amounts of paint, dramatic movements and strong colours. He occasionally chooses to extend his work into collage.

Several of Jerome's pieces have been displayed in exhibitions on site at Leverington and externally at the Marion Council Chambers, Adelaide Railway Station and at Adelaide's iconic Barr Smith Library.

His artwork has also been developed into individual cards, available from Leverington, which are sure to become highly desired collectibles!

# Accolades for Kelly & Co. Lawyers

Kelly & Co. Lawyers, a long time supporter and supplier of legal services to Minda for more than 20 years, was nominated by Minda as a candidate for this year's Volunteering Awards.

Specifically, Kelly & Co. won the award for their outstanding service as presenter and business volunteer for the annual Minda Black Tie Quiz Night.

The original concept of a Black Tie Quiz Night was developed by Kelly & Co Partner, Jacqui Ion, together with Minda's fundraising team and volunteers.

For Kelly & Co. Lawyers, the aim was to demonstrate their local roots by supporting a charity with strong South Australian ties and continue involvement as part of Kelly & Co.'s broader Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program.

From Minda's perspective, the night was designed to both raise money and raise awareness of Minda and the work it does. Art, craft and furniture from Minda's Commercial Enterprises are profiled and auctioned on the night and each year a painting by a Minda artist is used on the marketing material.

Tutti have also had the opportunity to raise their profile with an introductory performance.

The Minda Black Tie Quiz Night has raised more than \$150,000 nett to help with the furnishing and purchase of equipment for community homes. However, the volunteers from Kelly & Co. Lawyers have done so much more than raise money. Each volunteer has become an advocate and friend of Minda.



*Stuart Price(R), CEO Kelly & Co. Lawyers receiving the Award from the Governor*

Their worth as role models for CSR and community involvement is immeasurable.

We congratulate Kelly & Co. Lawyers on winning this award and thank them for their continued support.

## The power of partnerships



Adelaide Development Company (ADC) and Brock Urban Projects, two corporate sponsors of Minda, enjoy a complementary relationship with Minda and over the years, ADC and Brock have both provided generous support to Minda, largely through many of Minda's events and fundraising initiatives.

Minda is proud to have a long association with ADC, most notably through the successful partnership in the creation of the Blackwood Park residential development. During this time, the two organisations liaised closely with Brock, who managed the sale of the land.

Adelaide Development Company was founded in South Australia in 1922 and since then, the company has been responsible

for the creation of more than 35,000 residential allotments throughout the Adelaide metropolitan area and regional centres. Its list of most recent successful projects in South Australia include Blackwood Park, Flagstaff Pines, Encounter Waters and Franklin Island.

General Manager of ADC, Ian Marker, is delighted to be involved. "Our association with Minda over the last 10 years has made us very aware of the valuable work the organisation does in the community. ADC and Minda have forged a strong partnership, and we hope that our efforts will assist them to help others in need," he said.

Serving the urban development industry, Brock Urban Projects is structured to manage residential and mixed use projects.

The significant experiences and successes of the Brock Urban Projects team have resulted in a unique understanding of the issues and the opportunities that exist within the South Australian market.

Gary Rusling, Managing Director of Brock Urban Projects explains that the relationship dates back some 20 years. "Minda is a special client and friend to the Brock organisation. The journey has been, and remains rewarding in terms of the outcomes achieved," he said.

Individually, the two organisations produce professional service and results. Together with Minda, they facilitate new opportunities and choice for individuals living with intellectual disability and Minda is grateful for their ongoing support.



# Jackie leads by example

*Jackie pictured with Jamie and Steve Goldsmith*

Talented young Wirangu artist, Jackie Saunders' great ambition and drive was acknowledged recently when she was awarded Young Person of the Year at the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Awards held at the Adelaide Town Hall on Monday 5 July.

Jackie's family were there to celebrate her success along with Glenys Jones OAM and Tutti General Manager, Sharon Manning.

Jackie's primary interest is in traditional dance and performance and she has learned about cultural practice through Warriparinga Kurna Centre in Adelaide.

Since 2006, Jackie has been heavily involved with Tutti Arts, where she performs regularly with her sisters in the choir as well as studying drama and visual arts.

Jackie, who also receives services from Minda, has performed in many Tutti productions and is also an accomplished visual artist. Always keen to try something new, Jackie is currently working on pieces for an exhibition called 'Paperworks' for the Pepperstreet Gallery as part of the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival.

A fantastic role model, Jackie shows a wonderful capacity for caring and advocating for others. She is increasingly looked up to by other young Indigenous artists with disability, as well as members of the Tutti community, as someone who can give them encouragement and advice.

***Congratulations Jackie!***

## SAVE THE DATE



### ***Black Tie Quiz Night***

Friday 22 October  
Sebel Playford, Adelaide

### ***Launch of Mary Street, Community home***

October  
Mary Street, Unley

### ***Every Generation Festival***

Wednesday 27 October  
South Australian Learning Centre,  
Brighton

For more information on upcoming events, please contact:

Marion Zafry on 8422 6286, email [marion.zafry@minda.asn.au](mailto:marion.zafry@minda.asn.au) or visit [www.mindainc.com.au](http://www.mindainc.com.au).

### ***Corporate Golf Day***

Friday 19 November  
Blackwood Golf Club

### ***Brilliant Broadway***

Sat 20 and Sun 21 November  
Elder Hall, University of Adelaide.

A musical evening presented by the Rotary Club of Adelaide West and Grote Business Precinct with part proceeds going to Minda. Tickets through BASS on 131 246.

### ***Annual General Meeting***

Sunday 28 November  
Minda, Brighton

### ***International Day for People with Disability***

Friday 3 December  
Minda, Brighton

Please join us to celebrate this important day, which will incorporate the next Open Mind Seminar and the Supported Employee Awards.



**It is time to start practising those brain teasers... Minda's Black Tie Quiz Night is back!**

Adelaide's best excuse for donning your finest and flexing your intellect returns in October with Minda's fourth annual quiz night.

Proudly supported by Gold Sponsor, Kelly and Co. Lawyers, this year's quiz night – the major function of Minda's event calendar for 2010 – will be held at the Sebel Playford, North Terrace on Friday 22 October.

Come along and enjoy a fun night of good-natured competition and a chance to win the grand trophy or perhaps the wooden spoon!

Along with superb food and wine, an exciting range of items will also be on offer through the live and silent auctions. Minda is thrilled that this year's event will be hosted by personality, Brenton Ragless.

The Black Tie Quiz Night raises much needed funds for Minda, with all proceeds going towards furnishing new community

homes, facilitating greater inclusion and community integration for people with intellectual disability.

You can help by taking a sponsorship package, registering a team or providing prizes or auction items.

**Date:** Friday 22 October

**Time:** 7.00pm 'til midnight

**Dress:** Black tie

**Venue:** Sebel Playford,  
120 North Terrace, Adelaide.

*Tables of 10, sorry, no individual tickets.*

**For further enquiries or to purchase a table, contact Marion Zafry or Nicole Anderson at Minda on 8422 6200 or [rsvpevents@minda.asn.au](mailto:rsvpevents@minda.asn.au).**

## Minda's health check

It is no secret that we should keep an eye on our health, but it can often be difficult to find time to get to the doctor for those regular check-ups.

Mutual Community, part of the BUPA group and one of Minda's corporate partners, have developed a corporate health program designed to improve an organisation's health, wellbeing and productivity. At the heart of their program is the 'Health Lounge'. It is designed to offer employees a broad range of health appraisals and improvement services by qualified health professionals and recently, they brought this initiative to Minda.

Over 140 staff visited the temporary facility in the South Australian Learning Centre over two days to receive health checks covering eye screening, blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose levels and massage.

Participants also had the chance to find out their 'real health age' by completing a thorough health survey and discover their Wii Fit age by trying their hand at the Nintendo Wii Fit. A consultant was also present to provide individual advice regarding health cover and membership enquiries.

Karen Lennell, Senior Manager OHS at Minda, explained that the initiative came along at a perfect time. "The Occupational Health and Safety department were looking to start a health and wellbeing program, so when I was invited to attend a demonstration Health Lounge event, I could instantly see the benefits for Minda staff," she said.

The event, which was covered by Mutual Community as part of our corporate partnership to the value of \$20,000, was only the second to have been hosted in



*Minda CEO, Cathy Miller, checking in at the Health Lounge*

South Australia. It was reassuring for some and a valuable wake up call for others and the response was incredibly positive, with one participant commenting the event was "a great initiative, fun and informative".

During the two day event, the various health practitioners provided approximately 80 health checks and 90 massages. Minda thanks Mutual Community for arranging this worthwhile and potentially life saving event.



# Real Lives, Real Places

'Real Lives, Real Places' is the project charged with the implementation of Person Centred Thinking (PCT) against a human rights framework at Minda.

Real Lives, Real Places is the big picture for the implementation of PCT against a human rights approach; however, on the ground level, it has been pleasing to see many areas across Minda have already begun making a real difference to people's lives. These differences may seem minor in the grand scheme of things, however it is efforts like these that take the organisation forward and should be celebrated.

One such success story has been seen at Sturt Cottage Craft. Participants of the program had approached staff about the possibility of being able to make their own cups of tea and coffee at breaks and so, in collaboration with the participants, the staff and volunteers saw to making this a reality.

Now, with the aid of a pouring device to ensure that everyone is able to pour the kettle without scolding themselves, each participant is able to select their tea or coffee, determine how strong or weak they would like it and can add as much or as little milk or sugar as they wish.

Whilst this may seem like a small step, it has had a tremendously positive impact on the service users at Sturt Cottage Craft. Participant, Bev Chatterton (pictured), expressed utter joy in being able to make herself a coffee, saying, "it is very, very, very good".

"I feel brilliant that I can make my own coffee now. I have mine white with one saccharine. Everyone now makes their own at morning tea. They have modified the kettle so that no one tips hot water on themselves."



"They love it, it is much easier too – we can all have choice with what we want, it is so much better," she exclaimed.

It is common practice across Minda that when a standard coffee or tea is made, it is usually made as the person who makes it has their own, but of course, as the cliché says, that is simply "not everyone's cup of tea".

In a similar show of empowerment, some houses across Minda's Brighton campus have recently been supporting people to refurbish their rooms, supporting residents to choose their own colour schemes, fabrics and décor for their bedrooms.

The results have been just as positive as those at Sturt Cottage Craft, with the opportunity for participation and self-determination resulting in unabashed pride and delight that each person has for their room.

Small steps such as these really do empower people and offer them choice, self-determination and a sense of worth and achievement.

This is really the essence of Real Lives, Real Places and these small changes implemented now lay the foundations for what is to come over the next 18 months.

## What is happening with the Demonstration Project?

The Demonstration Project will see 16 people living in the community and supported via PCT including Active Support. The aim is to build a solid example with the learnings documented, from which individualised planning can be rolled out across the rest of Minda.

The first four people will be moving into a newly purchased property at Mack Street, Glenelg North. They are currently meeting potential support staff and in a first for Minda, are participating in the staff selection process. It anticipated that the house will open in September.

Mack Street is the first Demonstration Project home to open, however the openings of several more are anticipated in the coming months.

**If you would like more information about Real Lives, Real Places, including the Demonstration Project, please contact Deb McGrath, Executive Manager Strategic Projects, on 0407 588 265 or email [deb.mcgrath@minda.asn.au](mailto:deb.mcgrath@minda.asn.au).**

## Enrich a life, become a 'buddy'

Minda's new 'Buddy' program links people together to create friendships and to provide opportunities for fun and discovering new skills.

Become a Buddy for a person living with intellectual disability and gain a sense of personal satisfaction in knowing you have made a difference.

### What are the benefits of volunteering?

- enrich and empower another life
- meet new and interesting people
- expand your horizons and learn new skills

**If you are interested in volunteering with Minda, please contact Volunteer Services on 8422 6244.**



# Backyard renovation sensation

*A new look for Wilson Street*

Barbeques, backyard cricket and the Hills Hoist collectively conjure up an affable stereotype of a typical Aussie backyard.

Fundamentally, the backyard is an extension of the home; a place of entertainment as well as a place to unwind, an area for competitive activity and for quiet achievement.

Generously funded by the South Australian Hotel Industry, one of Minda's community

homes has received a \$28,000 makeover of its outdoor area that would arguably leave the likes of Jamie Durie and Scott Cam (Backyard Blitz) impressed.

The five young men living at the Wilson Street property are already reaping the benefits of the new backyard and equipment, with staff reporting that the outdoor area encourages the men to learn new skills and contributes to relationship building and interaction with others.



The residents can enjoy going outside beneath the protection of a large shade-sail, where they are now able to entertain their visiting families and friends.

A trampoline has also proved a huge hit, which was also made available as a result of the funding.

The benefits have been far-reaching and overall, the positive stimulation has contributed to healthier lifestyles for these men.

Thanks must go to the members of the Australian Hotels Association SA for providing the funding, which was specifically to aid the development of these young men, and for their support of Minda.

Thank you also to the dedicated staff who provided additional background support to see this project come to fruition.



# Chip in for Minda



*The 2009 Minda Corporate Golf Challenge participants*

## Do you have a swing in your step? Would you rather be on the fairway than the freeway?

Then get ready to tee off for Minda's annual Corporate Golf Challenge, set in the picturesque surrounds of Blackwood Golf Club.

Enjoy pre as well as on-course food and drink, followed by a superb two course lunch in the club house, complemented by fine wines and fantastic prizes.

Minda is pleased to have ADC return as its major sponsor for the event.

**For further enquiries, or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact Marion Zafry on 8422 6286, [marion.zafry@minda.asn.au](mailto:marion.zafry@minda.asn.au) or Nicole Anderson on 8422 6514, [nicole.anderson@minda.asn.au](mailto:nicole.anderson@minda.asn.au).**

**Date: Friday 19 November 2010**

**Time: 7:00am registration  
8:00am tee off**

**Venue: Blackwood Golf Club  
Cherry Gardens Road,  
Cherry Gardens**

*We would love to see you there!*

# Leverington switches on

When a brand new computer arrived at Leverington South, one of Minda's Day Options, Adam Trevorrow could not wait to log on. So much so that he was tapping the keyboard even before the computer had been turned on!

Adam, who lives in the community, is an ideal candidate to use the computer due to his proficient level of literacy and numeracy.

The computer has been donated as part of the Smart State PC Donation initiative from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, with a second computer donated to Leverington North.

Maddy Granger, who participates in Active Directions, a day option at Leverington North, has also benefitted from the donation. She spends time on the computer each

week and has developed her listening skills and concentration through the interactive programs and games.

For Adam, Maddy and others who choose to work on the computer, it not only develops their technological capabilities, but also provides individual time with staff. Many of the younger program participants left school with a good comprehension of computers and these computers allow them to build on that knowledge.

Dale Govett, Senior Manager Day Options, explained that the computers offer a new developmental activity that is both fun and improves participants' skills.

"Thanks to the Smart State PC Donation program, the individuals who attend the Leverington Day Options programs have the opportunity to improve their skills in a wide variety of areas including hand-eye



Maddy Granger



Adam Trevorrow

coordination, pattern recognition, decision making and literacy and numeracy skills," he said.

On behalf of the Day Options participants and staff, Minda would like to thank the Department of Premier and Cabinet for the donation, which has facilitated new learning and development initiatives for the participants of Leverington.

# Commonwealth Bank's community spirit

Children participating in Minda's Vacation Care have an extra reason to smile after a welcome donation from the Commonwealth Bank.

Branch Manager, Wayne Beaumont, visited Minda to present the cheque for \$5,893 to Andrew Elvin, Executive Manager Residential Services. The funds became available through the Commonwealth's Staff Community Funds Community Grants Program. Since 2007, over \$1.5 million has been donated by 5000 staff to support health at the grass roots and support the local community.

Begun 25 years ago to benefit young people between the ages of 5 and 21, Minda's Vacation Care provides support to 205 families, offering activities on and offsite

and providing opportunities available to other kids.

The program is vital to the families and young people Minda supports, allowing parents to continue to attend work or provide care to other members of their family. James Blenkiron, Vacation Care Coordinator, was most appreciative of the cash boost. "I think it is a wonderful initiative for the Commonwealth Bank to support such a scheme."

"The funds provided the opportunity to replace and purchase new sensory resources that better reflect the developmental needs of the participants, allowing them to develop their skills whilst enjoying recreation-based learning," he said.



Wayne Beaumont presenting the cheque to Minda

Minda would like to thank the Commonwealth Bank and its generous staff for their kind donation through this initiative, which aims to raise community awareness regarding young people living with intellectual disability.

**CommonwealthBank** 

# Life's a ball for Chris

Chris Bergin, a supported employee with Minda Catering Services, is an avid fan of the SAFM breakfast radio team, 'Hayley, Rabbit and Cosi', so when he and his flatmate won tickets to the SAFM Giant FruChocs Ball, it was a rare opportunity to mingle with his favourite radio trio.

"They were really nice," Chris said of meeting the popular radio personalities.

The gala night, held on Thursday 15 July at Swish, North Terrace, was a true highlight for Chris, who lives in the community at

Hillier Road. He had a ball trying plenty of the new Menz Giant FruChocs, enjoying the spectacular dance numbers from Las Chicas Bombas and rocked the night away to the Rogue Traders, who came to town especially for the event.

Chris, 20, would love to be involved in radio and looks forward to meeting the team again in the future. "It was an awesome night and I really enjoyed myself," he added.

Robern Menz, who created the popular FruChoc, is a long time supporter of Minda



Chris with the SAFM breakfast team

and regularly supports Minda events with donations of the South Australian favourite for movie days and at this year's upcoming Black Tie Quiz Night.

# MJP opens new doors Employment Services

MJP Employment Services, an initiative of Minda, has been linking organisations looking to employ people with a disability to suitable candidates for over 14 years; providing ongoing support to ensure that positive outcomes are achieved for both the job seeker and the employer.

Opened in 1996, MJP has now expanded its service with the opening of two new offices in Dale Street, Port Adelaide and Carrington Street in the city; providing even more opportunity for people with intellectual disability to connect with potential employers in the community.

One such success story is Stephen Wallis, MJP's first self employed small business owner. Stephen had been registered with MJP for less than six months when Minda's Independent Support Services (ISS) approached MJP for someone to take on the community house cleaning contracts.

It was a case of the perfect opportunity at the right time. Stephen was approached due to his enthusiasm, work ethic and willingness to give anything a go.

He now runs his own successful cleaning business, having taken all the necessary steps to make this business venture possible, together with training and support from MJP staff.

Stephen's clients have been impressed with the standard of his work and his customer base is going from strength to strength. ISS staff report, "He's wonderful and has been a fantastic addition to our service."

MJP promoted Stephen's business to external customers and managed to secure extra cleaning jobs for him. If you would like to give yourself a well earned break and have Stephen clean your home or business, please contact MJP Employment Services.

**For information on MJP Employment Services, please call 8179 5266.**

*Stephen taking care of business*



**Vocal Point is the official newsletter of Minda Incorporated**

King George Avenue, Brighton SA 5048  
PO Box 5, Brighton SA 5048

**Phone:** 8422 6200

**Fax:** 8422 6330

**www.mindainc.com.au**

### Board of Minda

**Mr Tony Harrison**  
President

**Mr Wes Ashman**  
Vice President

Mr Roy Arnold  
Mr Robert Crabbe  
Dr Bronwyn Halliday  
Mr Kym Hancock

Mr Kym Hancock  
Mr Peter Krieg  
Mrs Lyn Magee  
Ms Kate Thiele

### Chief Executive Officer

Ms Cathy Miller

### Patron

His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce -  
AC CSC RANR Governor of South Australia

We Can Do It