

Celebrating 65 Years

In 2010 Bedford celebrates its 65th year of creating a brighter future for people with a disability. We provide much needed services to over 3,000 people across the State. Our focus has remained constant though - addressing people's evolving needs in a caring and supportive environment. **Find out more about Bedford's journey since 1945 on page 4...**



Proud 'Abilities for All' graduate Kareena Aspinall, Bedford Trainer/Mentor Patricia Murphy with fellow students Amy Baddams and Brenton Hall

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Education Initiative sees South Aussies with a Disability Graduate

An education initiative to help South Australians with a disability achieve sustainable employment culminated on 16 February with the graduation of 128 participants with vocational courses.

Bedford's 'Abilities for All' programme targets those who have multiple barriers to learning and are disconnected from their communities.

Led by Bedford, in collaboration with the Government of South Australia and the Community and Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (CANH), 'Abilities for All' is the only programme of its kind to ensure people with a disability have access to preparation courses to help find and hold down a job.

We are thrilled to have again partnered with the Government of South Australia and CANH to provide a vital programme which ensures people with a disability are given greater opportunities to progress their careers.

In previous years Bedford's 'Abilities for All' programme was solely a tertiary education initiative targeted at people with a disability in supported employment. The new look 'Abilities for All' works by identifying the strengths and barriers faced by South Australians with a disability and then offering a variety of accredited and non-accredited learning modules to improve their 'employability'.

'Abilities for All' provides a vital link between education and employment - laying a path forward for people with a disability in South Australia.

Through one-on-one mentoring, counselling and ongoing support, 'Abilities for All' participants are able to gain much needed confidence and the skills required to enter the workforce.

The graduation was an extremely special occasion for the first ever graduates of the programme who really do have the opportunity to create a brighter future for themselves.



The team at Bunnings took home the trophy for the second year running for their efforts in the best dressed beachwear table competition



Wii challenge sports stars Brod Dyke, Nigel Smart, Adelaide Crows' Brad Symes, Adelaide 36ers Brad Hill and Darren Ng, Adelaide United's Matt Mullen and Inseob Shin, Crows' Andy Otten with Redbacks Tom Cooper and Michael Klinger

Bedford to the Max...

Dear Supporter,

Friends

One of the things we do with our friends is have a BBQ. We held our 8th Big BBQ at Adelaide Oval on 26 March - a wonderful event with over 600 attendees supporting South Australians with a disability. I thank all our wonderful sponsors - the National Australia Bank, City Holden, Optus, Holco, Lion Nathan, The Good Guys - Edwardstown, Network Ten, Chapel Hill winery and Rory O'Neill. Thanks too to our wonderful MC Mark Aiston. Our special thanks go to Tammie Alchin from Bedford's packaging team, who stole the show with her interview!

We have also launched the new 'Bedford Backyard BBQ.' This is a casual and fun way to entertain your friends and raise funds for, and awareness of, Bedford's work for people with a disability. Host a BBQ for your friends and ask for a (tax-deductible) donation for Bedford; any amount will help, small or large. I hope you will get on board with this new initiative! Call Chantelle Dolphin on (08) 8275 0352 or visit our website to book your event!

Another activity many people enjoy with their friends is quilting. My thanks to Faye Packham and Lessa Siegele for their great leadership and management skills in coordinating over 270 people in the

quilting fundraiser which raised valuable funds for our cause. Our sincere thanks also go to all the quilters!

More Growth

We were all so pleased when the team at Heritage Industries Inc in Mount Gambier decided to join Bedford. Heritage has a long, proud and successful history dating back to 20 November 1967, and is the largest supported employment service in the South East of South Australia. This merger is subject to the approval of the Australian Government.

Thanks to the vision of the Board and Members of Heritage, we are set to create something very special in the South East. We now support more than 120 people with a disability in the region and see some significant growth opportunities at Heritage as it expands the size and scope of its services. Exciting times in the South East!

Exciting times indeed for the whole Bedford organisation which now supports well over 3,000 people in need and employs almost 400 support staff over 24 sites. Further, during 2010, we will be providing an additional 50 housing places throughout the State.

I am also pleased to advise that the Bedford Board has approved the building of a brand new day options centre at Wallaroo which we hope will be fully occupied in the near future. The local team has been patiently waiting for what will be a state of the art centre which will help us support more people in the region. I sincerely thank the Copper Coast Council for partnering with Bedford and providing the land we need for this wonderful project.

Our furniture factory upgrade is now complete, with the delivery of a brand new beam saw which will be of great use to our employees and significantly increase our capacity.

Vale Tom Simpson

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Honorary Life Member and former Chairman of the Board, Mr TB (Tom) Simpson. Tom was a great contributor to Bedford over many years and was instrumental in the development of Balyana and bringing the then Prime Minister, Rt Hon Gough Whitlam MP, to Adelaide to officiate in the opening ceremony in March 1974.

Our commiseration goes to Tom's wife Bardi and his family and friends. The Bedford family is poorer for his passing.

Thanks

We have come a long way in our 65 years, but so much more is yet to be done, with your help and that of our partners, who include the State and Federal Governments, and our many customers.

Thank you for supporting Bedford and South Australians with a disability or disadvantage. I hope you enjoy this edition of Talking Bedford.

Best regards,

MAX DYASON
Chief Executive



MC Mark Aiston and Bedford employee Tammie Alchin tell guests how taking part in Bedford's literacy and numeracy programme has completely changed Tammie's life

Bedford Celebrates its Biggest Fundraiser in 65 Years

It's already the largest corporate BBQ in town but this year's Bedford Big BBQ was even more significant thanks to two special milestones. Not only does Bedford celebrate its 65th anniversary this year, it also celebrated the biggest ever fundraiser in its history – with more than 600 people attending the 2010 Big BBQ on 26 March.

Held in the Adelaide Oval Pavilion, the event has become a much looked forward to networking occasion which attracts prominent members of the South Australian business community, including sponsors NAB, City Holden, Optus and Holco.

While it was a prime opportunity to network and enjoy a day out with colleagues, the Big BBQ also engaged guests on a different level - everyone was in casual clothes and encouraged to be as relaxed as possible with a beachwear theme. Guests enjoyed a great gourmet BBQ with some great local fine wine and beer – and the chance to take some of SA's favourite sporting personalities on at a game of Wii! Special guests at this year's event included Crows stars Andy Otten and Brad Symes, 36ers Brad Hill and Darren Ng, plus players from Adelaide United, the Redbacks and tennis star Brod Dyke.

Bedford Reaches More South Australians through ICAN

Bedford is providing disengaged young South Australians with a vital link between secondary education and employment thanks to a new State Government initiative.

Bedford won a competitive tender to become a key service provider as part of the ICAN (Innovative Community Action Networks) initiative – led by the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) and designed to find solutions to current issues preventing young people from completing their education.

Bedford has long been dedicated to providing individualised training and education to people with a disability or disadvantage and ICAN delivery was a natural progression. Individualised learning tailored to a young person's interests, strengths and aspirations is of vital importance in the re-engagement process. Bedford has provided flexible training programmes and case management that cater to the needs and interests of the individual for many years.

ICAN is similarly focussed on ensuring the needs of each individual are met, thus ensuring a pathway through education, training and employment is not only available but achievable. Through the ICAN initiative, Bedford will provide work experience, training and employment opportunities to people between the ages of 12 and 19.

With significant infrastructure already in place, Bedford will play a valuable role in achieving the State Government's mission of re-engaging South Australia's youth.

To find out more about Bedford's ICAN training programmes, call Paul Gaertner, Manager, Training & Education on 0434 187 430 or email pgaertner@bedfordgroup.com.au



Employee Profile - Tammie Alchin

My name is Tammie and I want to tell you how Bedford has helped me completely change my life. I came to Bedford ten years ago because I knew they had jobs for people with a disability. Bedford is about so much more than having a job. Bedford has become a part of me - it's part of everybody here.

I work in the packaging team and I've learnt lots of new skills to help me in my job. I've also made so many friends and they mean the world to me.

I've done heaps of training too, learning things that people without a disability might take for granted. Last year I took part in the 'Literacy and Numeracy' programme because writing is something I've always found really difficult.

We learnt lots of different things, like how to use a bus timetable, read a menu, or follow a recipe. Before the course I couldn't write very well at all. My handwriting was so messy - sometimes not even I could understand it!

My writing is a hundred times better now. For the first time I was able to write a birthday card for my best friend Jacinta. She knew how much that meant to me and told me she would treasure it. That really was the best feeling in the world.

Using money is so much easier now too. I used to have no idea which coins or notes I needed to use. When I was in a shop, I would worry that I hadn't paid enough. Now I know how to work out how much things cost and which coins or notes to use.

Celebrating 65 years

In 2010 Bedford celebrates its 65th year of creating a brighter future for people with a disability.



1920

Bedford started out as the Civilian Tubercular and Cancer Comforts Fund, before changing its direction in 1943 to become the South Australian Tuberculosis Association Incorporated (SATAI).

1945

Bedford Industries was born, with the focus on creating a brighter future for people with a disability through providing work, training and other life opportunities.



1983

Residents moved into Bedford's first 'community house' in Panorama.



1983

Bedford Bingo was launched at Panorama. Bingo remains a vital fundraiser today, with games played every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening.



1994

Club Contact was formed, providing recreational activities and social networks for people with a disability.

1996

Bedford's Australian Disability Enterprises (our commercial business areas) achieved ISO 9002 accreditation.

2002

For the first time, Bedford supported people with a disability in finding community based jobs through Bedford Work Placement.



2007

Bedford merged with CareerSystems, providing increased opportunities for people with a disability or disadvantage in community based employment.

2006

Bedford merged with the Diocesan Association for Intellectually Disabled Persons (DAIDP). This was followed by a merger with Living Skills in Port Pirie, Kadina and Wallaroo in 2007.



2007

Bedford's new furniture factory at Panorama was opened by then Prime Minister John Howard. Today, Bedford supplies flat pack melamine furniture to Bunnings across Australia.

2008

Bedford merged with Millicent Work Option Centre (MWOC) in Millicent, Gambier Contracts in Mount Gambier and Compass in Port Lincoln. Bedford now operates from 23 sites, supporting people with a disability across South Australia.

2008

For the first time ever, regional Achievement Awards celebrations were held around South Australia with the first event in Wallaroo.

1950

Bedford moved from its original Glenelg premises to its current head office on Goodwood Road, Panorama.

1968

Bedford held its first Awards Day. The Achievement Awards remain the highlight of the Bedford year, where the achievements of many members of the Bedford family are celebrated with friends, family and supporters. Holden has generously sponsored the event every year.

1972

Bedford launched its first fundraising lottery. The Bedford Foundation lottery continues to offer supporters a fantastic chance of winning an amazing range of prizes.

1982

The community supported Bedford in the first Seal Appeal. Bedford Foundation appeals continue to provide essential funds to support South Australians with a disability.

1974

The Honorable Gough Whitlam, former Prime Minister, opened Balyana, Bedford's supported residential centre in Clapham. Today, Balyana is the happy home of 150 people with a disability.



2003

The first Bedford Big BBQ fundraiser was held at Balyana. This event has become a major feature on Adelaide's corporate calendar and in 2010 a sister event will be held in Port Lincoln.



2004

The Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) was ratified – bringing increased employment rights to people with a disability.

2006

Bedford's 'Abilities for All' training programme was launched in partnership with DFEEST.

2006

Bedford and the State Government announced the 'Homes for 100 programme', which aims to provide community based housing for 100 people with a disability, with 1 in 5 homes being built in regional SA.

2005

Bedford adopted its new logo, featuring the Bedford butterfly.

2009

CareerSystems, Bedford's community based employment division, wins the Job Services Australia contract, which for the very first time sees Bedford supporting more people in community based activities than elsewhere.

2010

Bedford continues to provide innovative ways for the community to get involved and support people with a disability with Team Bedford events like the City-Bay fun run and the Bedford Big Jump sponsored skydive. New events in 2010 include the Mutual Community Tour Down Under and the Bedford Backyard BBQ.





Team Profile - Andrew Boeyen

I joined Bedford seven years ago as Financial Controller before moving into my current role of Chief Financial Officer. During this time I've seen Bedford grow from supporting around 500 people with a disability in metropolitan Adelaide to over 3,000 across the State.

Over the past three years Bedford has merged with disability organisations in Kadina, Millicent, Mount Gambier, Port Pirie and Port Lincoln. Getting ready for a merge is always exciting and playing a key role in such an important growth phase in Bedford's history is fantastic.

What makes Bedford such a special place for me is the diversity. The workplace culture is like nowhere else. Everyone is very down to earth and it's great being part of a team who are passionate about creating opportunities that ultimately change people's lives. No two days are the same.

One of my most memorable moments at Bedford has to be the day I jumped out of a plane in the Team Bedford Big Jump. I was 'nominated' for the sponsored tandem skydive and when my friends and family heard that the highest fundraiser would skydive into the Adelaide Oval, sponsorship flooded in. It was a great way to support Bedford outside of my normal role and a fantastic experience – I actually can't wait to try it again!

Whether I'm jumping out of planes or managing Bedford's finances, it's definitely an exciting time to be part of an organisation that plays a vital role in securing the livelihood of so many people with a disability.



MC Mark Aiston with graduate Kareena Aspinall at Bedford's 'Abilities for All' graduation ceremony

Student Profile - Kareena Aspinall

My name is Kareena Aspinall. I want to tell you how studying for Certificate I in Business as part of Bedford's 'Abilities for All' course affected me. Before starting the course my life was totally turned upside down - it was as if I was trapped in a whirly wind of blackness. I was practically housebound. Looking back, the course gave me back my confidence and allowed me to make friends and become part of society again. Even though I was still in the whirly wind, I had positive thoughts and new ideas about what I can achieve - a future. My mind began to function again. Without a doubt, it gave me hope and my life back.

Just achieving, completing this course and communicating with other students proved to me that the world is my oyster. I discovered within myself where my knowledge and education were at. Being the only Aboriginal there didn't phase me at all. I just wanted to learn and achieve.

Now, I am nearly out of the whirly wind. I am determined to find out how much more I can achieve. I have a new direction which is to help others and gain my Certificate II in Community Services. To this end, I will be volunteering at the next 'Abilities for All' course at Taperoo - proving again that I CAN achieve and be what I want to be.



Team Bedford members Ted Byrt, Chris Clarke, Chantelle Dophin, Graeme Kerkin, Josh Howie and Nick Petterson

Team Bedford Geared up for Mutual Community Challenge

They may have left their wings behind this time, but Team Bedford members still flew when they hit the road for the Mutual Community Challenge as part of January's Tour Down Under. After a great effort dressed as the Bedford Butterflies at last year's Sunday Mail City-Bay fun run, Team Bedford collaborated again to participate in the annual cycling event.

This was the first time Bedford entered a team in the Challenge, but given the growing support for the City-Bay, it seemed another great team event to be involved in. All funds raised were put towards a side-by-side bicycle for Bedford's Day Options programme - which caters for people with a disability with higher support needs.



Port Pirie Mayor Brenton Vanstone, Minister Jennifer Rankine and Bedford Chief Executive Max Dyason lay the first brick at new Bedford home in Port Pirie

Significant Milestone as First Bricks were Laid at New Housing Site

Bedford in Port Pirie is now one step closer to providing ten people with a disability with the opportunity to live independently - with the first bricks laid at the site of three new homes in February. The first of eight homes to be built in regional South Australia as part of Bedford's 'Homes for 100' project, the houses will be complete by July.

The homes will form a community that provides residents with the appropriate level of support and independence. An existing house on the site already provides accommodation for four high support needs clients.

The laying of the first bricks on the five bedroom home was symbolic of a new chapter in the lives of people with a disability in Port Pirie, representing a significant step forward in the opportunities for people with a disability in the region.

A home not only makes us feel safe, but provides us with an ability to take responsibility for our own lives and feel a real sense of independence.

'Homes for 100', which is run in partnership with the Government of South Australia, caters for people on Bedford

and Disability SA waiting lists and aims to address the enormous unmet demand for community housing in the disability sector - this year alone will see a further 53 residents move into their new homes.

With demand increasing in regional communities, Port Pirie is the first of the regional communities to benefit from the project. The new homes have been designed to ensure they are versatile and can cater for people with various support needs - from 24 hour care to more independent living.

'Homes for 100' involves the building of 32 houses across the State to house a minimum of 68 people on registered waiting lists. One in five of these houses will be built in regional SA.

The support of the Government, specifically Minister Jennifer Rankine, has been ongoing and has helped Bedford to realise its goals of providing this accommodation for those who need it most.

Bedford has now set the wheels in motion in Port Pirie to create a brighter future for more people with a disability by providing sustainable independent and supported living options.



Raising funds at the Mystery Quilt event at Panorama

Quilters Help Sew the Way to a Brighter Future

With more than half a century of quilting experience between them, Faye Packham and Lessa Siegele decided it was time to put their skills to use for a good cause. Faye, Lessa and their friends at the Quilters Guild of South Australia Inc. organised two Mystery Quilt fundraising events during March.

The Mystery Quilt Fundraising Event involved two quilting workshops in Panorama and Pooraka where participants made a quilt with a mystery pattern, designed by Lessa. Quilting kits were also available via mail order.

Faye and Lessa had people register from all over Australia. The events provided a great way to support Bedford while participants made a stunning quilt to take home. The events were a great success, with over 270 quilters joining together to raise more than \$20,000 for Bedford to support South Australians with a disability or disadvantage.

Bedford Backyard BBQ

Proudly supported by



HOLD A BACKYARD BBQ AND SUPPORT BEDFORD AND PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

Gather your friends, family or workmates for a BBQ anytime from now until June - at work, at the beach, or in your own backyard.

Raise money by asking your guests to pay to attend - or you can fundraise during your BBQ. All proceeds go to the Bedford Foundation.

Your Bedford Backyard BBQ pack includes:

- BBQ apron
- Stubby holder
- Springfield butchers voucher
- Fundraising tin
- Fundraising pack with poster & donation form



REGISTER NOW!

(08) 8275 0352 | fundraiser@bedfordgroup.com.au | bedfordgroup.com.au

Our mission is to provide opportunities and support for people with a disability to achieve their goals and realise their potential

Bedford Hosts Biggest Corporate BBQ in Port Lincoln

The Bedford Big BBQ is on the move, with the first ever regional fundraising event to be held in Port Lincoln on 16 April.

Held at the Port Lincoln Hotel, more than 100 guests will enjoy a fundraising experience unlike any other and join Bedford to raise vital funds for people with a disability in the Port Lincoln area.

There is nothing like the atmosphere of the Big BBQ in Adelaide and we're expecting the sister event in Port Lincoln to be even better. The Big BBQ typically attracts a significant number of corporate identities and Port Lincoln is a key regional business centre for the State. There will be a great mix of socialising and networking with great food and wine – all to raise key funds for Bedford's work in the region.

Bedford acknowledges the valued support and funding from Federal, State and Local Governments in assisting the delivery of our services and programmes.

Bedford is proudly supported by:



Get Involved!

Make a difference in your local community with Bedford. For more information on any of Bedford's events, please contact Chantelle Dolphin, Events Coordinator, on (08) 8275 0352 or email cdolphin@bedfordgroup.com.au

- **16 April** Bedford Big BBQ, Port Lincoln Hotel
- **9 June** Bedford Foundation Sex and the City 2 Fundraiser at Hoyts Norwood
- **31 July** 65th Anniversary Dinner at the InterContinental Adelaide
- **13 August** Disability Expo at Adelaide Showgrounds
- **10 - 12 August** Eyre Peninsula Field Days, Cleve
- **22 August** Port Power Bedford Match Day
- **19 September** City-Bay fun run, Adelaide
- **29 September** Smelters Picnic, Port Pirie
- **21 October** Bedford Big Battle at the Hilton, Adelaide

Bedford Christmas Cakes

Will be available this year for the first time! Details on how to order yours will be in the August issue of Talking Bedford.



More than just good business

Talking Bedford is a publication of the Bedford Group
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