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So you think you know Bedford?



Ashley Patterson

When many people think of the employment opportunities Bedford offers, supported and in the community, our packaging and furniture teams often spring to mind. Whilst these are our largest employment areas, Bedford currently offers training, employment and community involvement for close to 4,000 people with disability or disadvantage in diverse areas including:

- Administration
- Catering & Functions
- Cleaning
- Egg Farming
- Furniture Making
- Gardening & Horticulture
- Commercial Laundry
- Contract Cutting
- Light Manufacturing
- Packaging & Assembly
- Salvage & Recycling
- Timber Processing
- The broadest range of community based occupations

Work experience and a full school to work transition programme are also offered at Bedford, supporting people who are new to the workplace.

Bedford can help you - or someone you care about - turn potential into reality. To find out more, please contact us on (08) 8275 0211 or email bedford@bedfordgroup.com.au



Anthony Dunton



Angelique Hendrikse



Craig Neilson



Tyler Goodwin

I've been at Bedford for 9 years. I started in the furniture team then changed career to become a handyman.

I work in Bedford's hospitality team in the Bedford cafeteria at our Panorama site and also at Entwich café on Greenhill Road.

BL Shipway is a great place to work. I've been there four and a half years - I love it.

I took part in work experience at Bedford in Port Pirie last year. I really enjoyed it and joined the team in October.

BEDFORD TO THE MAX

Diversity

The diversity of our activities is clearly evident in this edition of Talking Bedford, with coverage of our ICAN programme in the Riverland, the brand new 'Let's Go' driving initiative, Heritage in Mount Gambier, CareerSystems, Bedford Training, our new homes at Lightsview and the two new Day Options centres at Panorama.

I sincerely thank the great team at Holden for the 'Let's Go' driving initiative and for actively supporting Bedford since 1968! I also thank the State Government for providing capital and recurrent funding for our community housing development across the state, including at Lightsview.

This edition also covers the wonderful support provided to Bedford by the Port Adelaide Football Club and Adelaide United Football Club, each of whom I thank sincerely.

Thanks and Farewell

When I review our draft 2011 Annual Report and the same publication from 2000, I see significant and fundamental change. This is in no way a reflection on the Bedford of 2000; Bedford has always been a wonderful organisation, a leader in its field and no doubt will continue in that role. Bedford's strong push into community based activities, its spread into regional South Australia and indeed throughout metropolitan Adelaide, the increased diversity of its programmes and the growth and increased complexity and viability of its supported employment

activities are the standout changes. Bedford's diversity model with its pathways sets it apart.

Bedford has had great success in following local, national and international trends toward community inclusion and participation for people with disability or disadvantage. This is something of which everyone involved should be very proud.

I am sure that over the next decade Bedford will continue to adapt, improve and engage even more fully with the people it supports.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to help lead this amazing organisation. Being Bedford's CEO has been much more than a job for me; it has been a privilege. I can really appreciate why our dedicated staff members are so committed to Bedford and why so many have been here for so long. My 'personal best' in terms of employment longevity was six years before joining Bedford 11 years ago!

I sincerely thank you for your support of Bedford; please keep backing this unique and magnificent family, which relies on generous people like yourself to help fund its great work.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Talking Bedford; thank you once again for your interest and your support.

I hope we catch up before I retire on 16 September.

Best wishes,

Max Dyason
Chief Executive, Bedford



How You Can Help...



Bedford Chief Executive Max Dyason with Vince Santoro and the team at The Good Guys, Edwardstown

Bedford could not provide such a diverse range of services for people with disability or disadvantage without the generous support of the community.

Partner with Bedford

By sponsoring a Bedford event or offering items for Bedford Foundation lotteries and events free of charge or at a reduced cost help us maximise our fundraising revenue and offer more opportunities for people with disability or disadvantage.

We will work with you to identify partner benefits to best suit your needs and help promote your products or services.

'Our partnership enables Bedford to continue to provide life skills training opportunities through their 'Let's Cook' programme. It is very satisfying to assist in providing training and support to help people with disability gain the confidence and skills to live independently.'

Vince Santoro,
The Good Guys Edwardstown

To discuss how we can develop a mutually beneficial partnership, please contact Lauren Marshall on (08) 8275 0221 or lmarshall@bedfordgroup.com.au

Training with Bedford completely changed my life



Sammie McTeare. Background: Leanne McInnes

At just twenty-three, Sammie McTeare is full of enthusiasm for the future with two certificates in hand and a career in Youth Services firmly in her sight after a three year struggle with depression and anxiety.

Sammie - a trained hairdresser - was unemployed and fighting to overcome a variety of challenges which left her feeling hopeless about the future, but she was fighting a battle she could not win alone. It was at her lowest that Sammie was referred to Bedford's 'Abilities for All' programme - and it proved to be a turning point in her life.

Sammie began studying Certificate I in

Business at her local Taperoo Community Centre and has since gone from strength to strength, also completing Certificate II in Community Services.

"My trainer, Trish, saw this switch flick on inside me and pushed me to go further. For the first time in my life somebody could see that deep inside me was a girl who was capable of so much more" Sammie said.

Today, Sammie works two days a week, volunteers at the community centre as a Group Support Worker assisting people with learning difficulties and is studying Certificate IV Assessment & Training as well

as Certificate IV Language, Literacy and Numeracy.

"I'm so excited about the future and after years of feeling lost and uncertain, that's pretty special in itself," Sammie said.

Bedford's 'Abilities for All' Programme is the only course of its kind in the State. It is delivered in collaboration with the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST) and Community Centres SA, to give people real choices to further education and training opportunities. Find out more at bedfordgroup.com.au



ICAN participant Jayden Smith



Programme Snapshot: **ICAN**

Skateboard art and cooking for the homeless are just some of the innovative new learning activities assisting Riverland youth with a disadvantage realise their potential.

For the past year, 40 young people from Riverland schools have been involved in Bedford's ICAN FLO programme (Innovative Community Action Network Flexible Learning Options), an initiative that provides alternative learning for 12 to 19 year olds who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from the mainstream education system.

Bedford has recently opened a Skills Centre in Berri to cater for the growing number of students in the region. The Centre comprises an automotive workshop complete with two servicing pits, training rooms, office and presentation facilities plus it has space outdoors to offer Certificate I and II in Construction or Horticulture in the future.

The programme works with local businesses and community groups to find fun and inspiring learning alternatives that equip young people with useful skills and confidence for the future.

Bedford is a registered training organisation (RTO), providing a wide range of training programmes and case management both for its employees and clients with disability or disadvantage and in the community. To find out more, please contact Paul Gaertner, Manager, Training and Education on (08) 8275 0361 or pgaertner@bedfordgroup.com.au

Supported Employment

Bedford boxing up Australia's wine industry

The next time you buy a special bottle of wine consider choosing a label that uses timber cases instead of cardboard and support a vital cause. Many of the timber wine cases produced in Australia are designed and manufactured at Bedford.

Our Mount Gambier timber and manufacturing business, formerly known as Heritage, designs and manufactures a wide range of products for clients around the world, including packaging for more than 30 of Australia's best-known and boutique wine labels.

While a downturn in the wine industry several years ago caused many companies to switch to imported cardboard packaging, Bedford still produces the boxes used by numerous cellar door outlets around the country and in corporate gift packs.

Our employees in Mount Gambier run one of South Australia's most sophisticated timber manufacturing businesses and each product they create is a reflection of their skills and diversity. The team also screen prints labels onto most boxes and delivers timber gift boxes and cases to well-known wine retailers including Melbourne Street Cellars in North Adelaide, the Ivy Hotel, Sydney and Southern Cross Cellars.

Manufactured in the heart of South Australia's pine tree and blue gum plantation timber forests, Bedford products are made from a selection of fine quality wood from some of the world's best timber mills. It's product range also extends to items such as restaurant menu boards, gift boxes, display cabinets and donation boxes.



Jody Bauer and David Wilmore



Janelle Pearson

Bedford and Holden launch 'Let's Go' driving programme

Many members of the Bedford community rely on public transport, however, due to a lack of availability, timing and access, some members become socially isolated and in many cases have to get up very early to catch a web of transport to get to work and take hours to get home again late into the evening.

Since 2005 Bedford has been offering a training programme called 'Let's Go' - a programme helping people with disability or disadvantage get their L's. The programme academically prepares students for the sitting of their L's test but does not carry the tutoring through to the completion of their P's, due to a lack of funding and resources.

To date 179 students have undertaken the 'Let's Go' course - with a phenomenal

97% success rate. Most of the students who undertake the 'Let's Go' programme are often unable to financially support themselves to undertake their P's - including the associated driving lessons which form a compulsory part of the test. In addition, most of the students do not have the support network or vehicle to enable them to undertake the necessary 100 hours of accompanied practice driving.

Holden have generously provided two Barinas for use in the driving programme and also sponsorship to pay for 25 participants to go through the programme to get their P's each year. This will be a 12 month programme for some students and an individualised plan is written for each participant.

Bedford provides employment for people with disability or disadvantage in its Australian Disability Enterprises across South Australia in areas such as furniture production, catering, grounds maintenance and landscaping, packaging, commercial laundry services, light assembly, timber production, salvage and recycling, commercial cleaning and egg production.

To find out more about working at Bedford, please contact the recruitment team on (08) 8275 0295 or work@bedfordgroup.com.au



Scott Kuchel

CareerSystems proving invaluable to businesses

Adelaide Hills Toyota is just one example of a business reaping the benefits of hiring a jobseeker to undertake on-the-job training. The dealership recently hired 30-year old CareerSystems employee Scott Kuchel to undertake two days work experience per week.

Adelaide Hills Toyota Director Tom Gilbert said training given to eager job seekers had mutual benefits.

“CareerSystems approached us to assist in Scott’s training placement. Given our past success with CareerSystems, we didn’t hesitate in welcoming him,” Mr Gilbert said.

“It’s a win-win. We are able to help in the development of a young person and we gain another member of our team for the duration of the placement.”

Scott came to CareerSystems thirteen years ago, having struggled to find work independently due to a lack of self confidence stemming from various personal challenges. For the past ten years he has worked as a night fill attendant for a major grocery chain, but approached CareerSystems seeking new challenges and a desire to pursue an interest in cars.

CareerSystems provided Scott with

training in motor mechanics through the Australian Apprenticeship Access Programme, including five weeks of work at Adelaide Hills Toyota and 13 weeks of further training. In this time, Scott moved out of home and is now living independently for the first time. In the long term he looks forward to a career in car detailing.

CareerSystems has many willing job seekers eager to give their all to a new employer. Scott is a great example of someone taking the initiative to change their situation and his trainers at Adelaide Hills Toyota were clearly impressed by the job he did.

CareerSystems supports over 2,000 people with employment, training and work experience. Heidi, John and Jane are just three CareerSystems clients who are enjoying their jobs...



Heidi Sherriff

‘After studying Certificate II Community Services I felt confident to look for work. Now I’m working on reception at CareerSystems– it’s the best job I’ve ever had.’



John Hambly

‘I’ve recently celebrated ten years at Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary. It must be one of the best places to work I can think of.’



Jane Gersch

CareerSystems recently helped me find my job as Admin Support Officer at The Station in Wallaroo – it’s going great.

Part of the Bedford group, CareerSystems is a community services employment provider, helping find the right jobs for the right people. To talk to CareerSystems about hiring someone for your business, please call Justine Hughes on (08) 8357 6444 or justine.hughes@careersystems.com.au

Looking for work?
please contact CareerSystems on
1300 855 321 or visit us online:
careersystems.com.au
facebook.com/careersystems

New homes for people with disability in Port Lincoln



Jessie Santic

Three people with disability are now able to live independently - some for the very first time - following the opening of three brand-new homes in Port Lincoln on 20 July.

The homes – two, two bedroom units and one, one bedroom unit – are providing an opportunity for residents to really become a part of the community.

Homes like these are particularly vital in regional areas like Port Lincoln where people with disability have traditionally found it more difficult to gain access to accommodation and services, often necessitating a move to Adelaide. As such, regional areas have been an integral part of the 'Homes for 100' programme.

Designed and built by companies Lowe and Redding Design and CG & MA Carpenter Building Contractors, each house has a 6-star Energy Rating and includes solar



Programme Snapshot:

'Homes for 100'

'Homes for 100' is a joint venture between Bedford and the State Government which fulfils a policy direction to de-centralise care for people with disability and encourage greater social inclusion.

Over 70 people with diverse support needs have been housed so far across South Australia through the 'Homes for 100' project.

hot water systems, rain water tanks and energy efficient lighting. The kitchens have incorporated relevant modifications to suit the needs of people with disability and all units have ramps to the front door which are strategically concealed by garden beds.

We're thrilled to welcome the new residents and look forward to every individual prospering in the homes in the months and years to come.

Bedford opens doors at Lightsview

We celebrated the opening of three brand new homes at Lightsview on 28 June with residents, their families and Minister for Families and Communities Jennifer Rankine. Our latest Lightsview property has become home to four people with disability who require 24 hour supported care.

'Homes for 100' is a vital project that recognises the diverse needs of people with disability and the benefits that being part of the wider community can offer. Bedford is proud to partner with CIC Australia at Lightsview and assist people with disability increase independence through supported housing opportunities in the community.

The homes will solidify our already strong business partnership with CIC Australia. Our grounds maintenance and landscaping division currently oversee the maintenance at Lightsview, as well as a portion of the community's landscaping services.

This home has been custom-built to the requirements of people with disability, featuring wider corridors and doorways, stepless entry, larger bathrooms, modified kitchen, lifting equipment from the bedrooms to the bathroom and large bathrooms with grab rails.

CIC Australia's commitment to supply affordable housing will have an enormous impact on the lives of people with disability or disadvantage. It will enable people with disability to have better access to community services including employment and care options and also increase independence by fostering a culture of social inclusion. We see the opening of these homes as a celebration of the important role that people with disability play in the community.

Bedford provides a range of accommodation options for people with disability both in supported accommodation at Balyana in Clapham and in the community. To discuss housing options, please contact Lorna Bugden, Housing Coordinator, on (08) 8374 3074 or email lbugden@bedfordgroup.com.au

Events



Trevor Gilbert, Geoff Cunningham, Jade Parfitt, Carol Derrick, Rachel Hillier, Wayne Taylor, Kirsty Campbell, Amanda Dixon, Nick King, Wayde Heidenreich and Jaiye Ulgis

Footy Fever for Port Lincoln Team

For Bedford Port Lincoln employee Jade Parfitt, 10 July was a once in a lifetime opportunity. The avid footy fan had never experienced an AFL game live, nor has she travelled away from home without her parents, but recently she was able to do both as she travelled to Adelaide to be a part of a Charity Footy Day.

Jade watched all the action of the Port Power V St Kilda match alongside 16 other Bedford employees from the plush surrounds of a Superbox at AAMI Stadium.

For many of our Port Lincoln employees this wasn't just the first visit to an AFL match, it was their first opportunity to get to Adelaide and see AAMI Stadium – not to mention the first trip away from their families.

This opportunity was organised by David Holst, a former SANFL player now Chairman of Intellectual Disability Association and it is the second year that the Charity Footy Day has been held. The SANFL donated the box and the day was supported by Coca Cola. All employees received a goodie bag thanks to Port Adelaide Football Club.

Mayor's morning tea to celebrate 40,000km milestone

Bedford and the City of Salisbury united in celebration on 5 May to recognise a special partnership spanning 11 years and more than 40,000 kilometres covered - on a lawnmower.

Mayor of Salisbury Gillian Aldridge joined Bedford Chairman Colin Dunsford and Bedford's horticulture and landscaping team over a morning tea at Bedford's site in Pooraka to recognise and showcase the contribution that people with disability or disadvantage have provided to the community.

Bedford has been tending the City of Salisbury's parks, gardens and roads for over a decade. In that time it has provided verge mowing for half the total Council area (750 lineal kilometres) – in effect mowing around Australia a remarkable 1.5 times.



AUFC players Zenon Caravella, Bradley Norton and Sergio van Dijk with Bedford's Harry Christaens and Nick Urbon

Adelaide United kicking goals for Bedford

Adelaide United (AUFC) players Zenon Caravella, Bradley Norton and Sergio van Dijk cemented their commitment to Bedford for the 2011/2012 season with a visit to our Panorama site on 27 June. The players took a tour of Bedford and met a group of excited fans!

The Hyundai A-League Club and Bedford joined forces for the first time in 2010 through a community partnership that saw the coordination of AUFC and Bedford fundraising and promotional activities.

Throughout the 2011/2012 Hyundai A-League League season, we will be working with AUFC to raise funds for Bedford to assist us in offering training, employment and community involvement opportunities.



Support Bedford this Christmas

We have partnered with Charity Hampers and Charity Greeting Cards to offer our supporters a selection of quality gift hampers, corporate Christmas cards and e-cards, to help celebrate the festive season.

Part proceeds from each hamper, traditional card or e-card will go directly to Bedford to help us continue to offer the best options and opportunities to people with disability or disadvantage.

Hampers

Select from a large range of Christmas or occasion hampers filled with gourmet food treats and great gifts for family and friends.

Delivery is Australia wide and Charity Hampers will donate 10% of the purchase price to Bedford. Log onto charityhampers.com.au/bedford to view the full range.

Corporate Christmas Cards

Purchase your corporate Christmas cards through Charity Greeting Cards and they will donate 40c per card to Bedford. It's simple, just log onto christmascards4charity.com.au/bedford, select your card, pick your personalised greeting and upload your company logo to be printed on the inside of the card.

E-cards are also available via charityecards.com.au with 20% of your purchase donated to Bedford.

Buy before 8 October and receive a 10% discount, or online before 26 November and get a further 5% off.



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 615 Goodwood Road Panorama SA 5041
 t (08) 8275 0211
 e feedback@bedfordgroup.com.au
 w bedfordgroup.com.au



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:



Bedford Basketballers win big in Athens

With the Special Olympics World Games 2011 in Athens now officially over three Bedford employees are back home and celebrating the medal winning achievements at an international level.

Representing Australia in Basketball at the XIII Special Olympics World Games; Rebecca Sargeant won a gold medal defeating Russia while Bradley Kinross and Wayne Kinross won silver going down to Venezuela 18 to 33.

With 7000 athletes from 185 countries competing in 21 sports, it is the largest sporting event on the world calendar in 2011. The Games ran from June 25 to July 4 with basketball played over the whole seven day period. Gold medal games were held on the final day of competition.

Get Involved!

SEPTEMBER 18	Team Bedford City-Bay Fun Run, Adelaide to Glenelg	DECEMBER 6	Bedford Achievement Awards, Mount Gambier
OCTOBER 6	Bedford Big Battle, Intercontinental, Adelaide	DECEMBER 8	Bedford Achievement Awards, Port Lincoln
NOVEMBER 20	Team Bedford Blue Lake Fun Run, Mount Gambier	DECEMBER 9	Bedford Achievement Awards, Wallaroo
DECEMBER 2	Bedford Achievement Awards, Adelaide		

SOUL DEAL

save to give

Soul Deal is an exciting new SA initiative supporting local charities. The online buying trend sells discounted vouchers for experiences such as dining, travel, beauty and family entertainment. As a Soul Deal charity partner, Bedford receives a percentage of every voucher sold.

Soul Deal supporters receive fantastic daily Soul Deals via email, facebook or twitter. If you like it, you can choose to buy it – for yourself or as a gift. Every time you buy a Soul Deal, you not only save money and get to enjoy the experience, but a percentage of your spend is given to your chosen charity.

The more people who sign up with Soul Deal, the more funds Bedford will receive. Registration is quick, easy and free!

Sign up at souldeal.com.au, like Soul Deal on facebook or follow Soul Deal on twitter. You can also find links to Soul Deal at facebook.com/BedfordGroup

Bedford Foundation

Slice Of Italy **LOTTERY** Bellissimo!

visit bedfordgroup.com.au or call 1300 300 023

Small Lottery value of \$40 a ticket