


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.




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.


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.

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.




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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

