

## Bedford Today

We provide much needed services to more than 1,800 people across the state. Our focus is on addressing people's needs in a caring and supportive environment. With the help of the community, we can ensure that people with a disability or disadvantage are given the opportunity to fulfil their potential and achieve their dreams.

Bedford supports over 1,800 people with a disability or disadvantage:

Employs over 750 people with a disability in its diverse business areas throughout South Australia

Supports approximately 800 people in personal support programmes and in open employment

Supports almost 100 people in its Day Options centres

Provides residential services for 150 people with a disability at Balyana and in the community.

Employs 333 support staff

In partnership with TAFE (through DFEEST), is delivering accredited training to its supported employees and those of other disability employers through its 'Abilities for All' programme. So far 757 people with a disability have benefited from this programme



Proud graduates at Port Lincoln – **Front row:** Jessie Santic, Judy Everett, Wayde Heidenreich, Janelle Pearson, Rachael Hillier, Geoff Varney, Wesley McKessar. **Back Row:** Joanne Necevaska, Jonathon Tom, Amanda Dixon, Craig Gerschwitz

## Bright Futures Ahead for 'Abilities for All' Graduates

The beginning of this year saw plenty of proud faces as 154 students celebrated their graduation at ceremonies across the state.

The events marked the culmination of the joint State Government and Bedford programme 'Abilities for All' - Australia's inaugural state-wide programme to provide accredited workplace training for people with a disability. This year for the first time, the programme recognised students across South Australia at events in Port Pirie, Port Lincoln, Mount Gambier and Adelaide.

Employees from Barkuma, Barossa Enterprises, Minda, Orana and Bedford graduated with a Statement of Attainment

or Certificate II in Business, Furnishings, Horticulture and Laundry Operations.

The benefits of tertiary study are countless. It is vital that people with a disability in all areas of South Australia have access to further education and training to increase their employment opportunities.

Bedford has been proud to lead this vocational education initiative in collaboration with the Government of South Australia through the South Australia Works initiative and see so many people with a disability participate in the programme and achieve their goals.

**See page 4 for more...**

### Inside...

Bright Futures Ahead for Graduates . . . . .	1
Bedford Today . . . . .	1
Bedford to the Max . . . . .	2
How You Can Help . . . . .	2
Bingo with Cosi! . . . . .	3
High Flyers Make Big BBQ 2009 a Success	3
Donation Ensures Community Contact . . . . .	4
CIC Helps Create More Jobs at Sunday . . . . .	4
Big Jump Highest Fundraisers . . . . .	5
Employee Profile – Jacinta Lindner . . . . .	5
Bedford Celebrates IDPwD . . . . .	6
Bedford Employees Aim High at Nationals . . . . .	6
BCA Pergola Opening . . . . .	6
Bedford Shares its Story . . . . .	6
A Gift that Keeps Giving . . . . .	6
Millicent Benefits from Bedford Merger . . . . .	7
Transfield Services Donation . . . . .	7
Upcoming Events . . . . .	8
Bedford Pays Tribute . . . . .	8

### Adelaide high flyers take to the skies to raise funds for Bedford

**Find out more on page 5...**

### Improved Community Access in Port Lincoln

Port Lincoln Day Options members benefit from generous Canberra Investment Corporation donation.  
**Read more on page 4...**

## How You Can Help

### Donations

Donations to Bedford are used to provide on-job training, accredited training and employment opportunities to support people with a disability achieve their goals and fulfil their potential. Any donation \$2 or over is tax deductible.

### Remember us in your Will

Legacies can take many forms, including a specific sum of money, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder of your estate after expenses and gifts to loved ones. Legacies can include cash, securities, real estate and houses.

### Corporate Sponsorship

Bedford has an active fundraising programme and we appreciate the generosity and support of our sponsors. Corporate event sponsorship provides organisations with an effective means of marketing their brand and showing commitment to corporate social responsibility.

### Workplace Giving

Workplace giving is an easy way for an organisation's employees to get involved in supporting Bedford. Employees can make a regular or one-off donation from their pre-tax wage, making it both a hassle free and tax effective way to give.

### Bedford Lottery

Four times a year Bedford runs a lottery which provides much needed fundraising money for Bedford to provide employment, training and accommodation for people with a disability or disadvantage. Tickets are only \$40 each, or you can buy 3 and get 1 free. Buy your ticket today by calling 1300 300 023 or purchase online.

For more information on how you can help, call (08) 8275 0211 or visit [bedfordgroup.com.au](http://bedfordgroup.com.au)

# Bedford to the Max

Dear Supporter,

I hope you enjoy this issue of Talking Bedford.

## Celebration!

This edition covers the four graduations for the 'Abilities for All' programme. This initiative sees Bedford, with the support of our State Government through DFEEST, partnering with TAFE SA to deliver accredited training to our own employees as well as those of our disability service partners Barkuma, Barossa Enterprises, Minda and Orana.

It was wonderful to see the sense of achievement and pride on the faces of the students and their loved ones at the graduations which were held at Port Lincoln, Mount Gambier, Port Pirie and Panorama. Our thanks go to Minister Paul Caica for his announcement of funding for the enhanced 'Abilities for All' programme for 2009.

Whilst it is wonderful to reflect upon our recent growth into regional SA and into new service delivery areas, it is celebrations such as these graduations which reinforce to us the great value of Bedford and its work.

## Thanks to Canberra Investment Corporation and Foodland

The Foodland Charity Home promotion provided funding for a much needed people mover at Bedford Day Options in Port Lincoln.

We thank Foodland, the 'mighty South Aussies', Canberra Investment Corporation (CIC), Hickinbotham and The Advertiser. It was CIC boss, Geoff Smith, who not only provides work for the APG team at the Sunday development at Aldinga and at Lightsview, but who also nominated Bedford as his charity in this programme.

Thanks to Geoff and Canberra Investment Corporation, we received a \$75,000 cheque from Foodland CEO and friend of Bedford, Russell Markham in December. On 6 March, Geoff personally handed over a brand new people mover to the Compass team at Port Lincoln. Thanks Geoff, thanks Canberra Investment Corporation!

## Day Options

There were smiles all round on 6 March; the Port Lincoln Day Options team were so impressed with their new people mover.

Across the state, we now support 100 members in our five Day Options programmes, each of which has retained its individuality but all of which are focusing upon quality outcomes, community participation and helping members set personal goals and make individual choices.

Having a linkage to Bedford's vocational and training activities certainly adds value to this important area.

We see even more demand for Bedford's Day Options services and we are hoping that, from small beginnings in 2006, with BCA coming on board with thirteen members, we will see even more significant growth over the coming years.

Our thanks go to the Board of Diocesan Association of Intellectually Disabled Persons Inc for generously donating funds for the new BCA pergola at Panorama, which is providing an ideal outdoor area for the team.

## Housing

The community housing programme is moving forward. Work at one of our latest projects, on a five-person dwelling at Daw Park, is soon to start. Our waiting lists are large and we are looking forward to some upcoming developments in regional SA as well as in metropolitan Adelaide.

## Thanks

Bedford's achievements are not possible without the generous support of our Governments, customers, donors and benefactors. We really appreciate your support, which is essential to Bedford's success.

I sincerely hope you enjoy this edition of Talking Bedford.

Best regards,



MAX DYASON  
Chief Executive



Bedford supporter Dot Clarke meets Cosi at Bedford Bingo

## Bingo with Cosi!

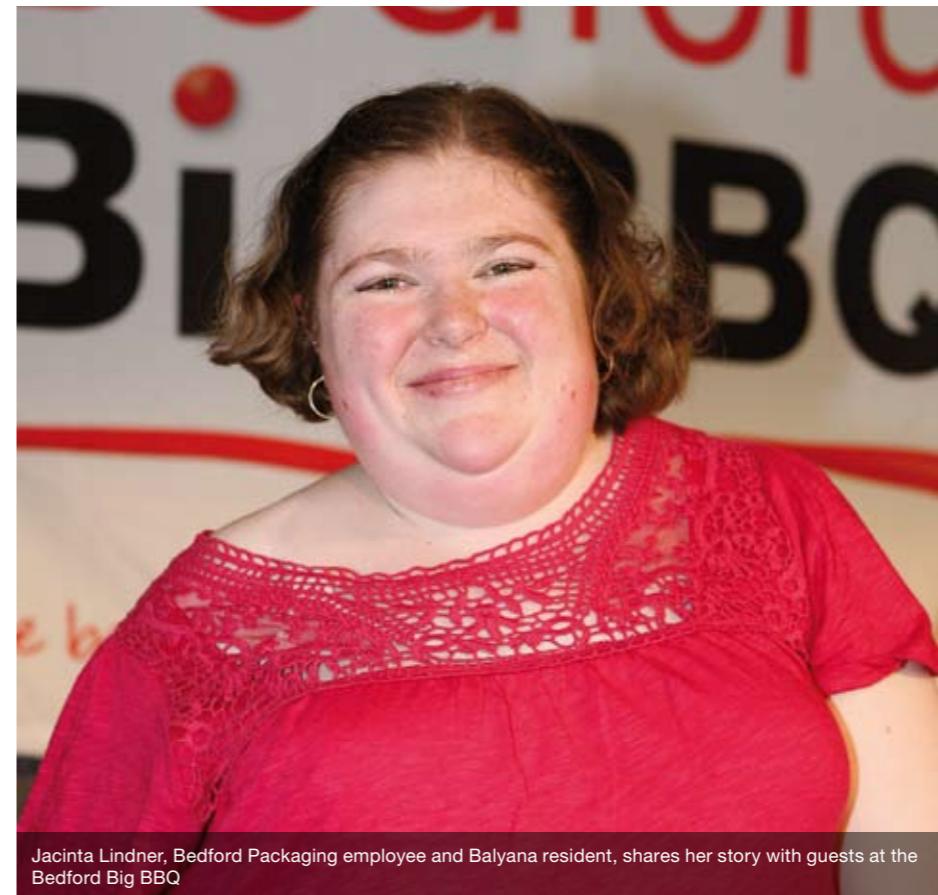
Players at Bedford Bingo had a treat in store in February in the shape of SAFM's Cosi. He hasn't left his day job, but SAFM radio presenter Andrew 'Cosi' Costello traded in his microphone to become a bingo caller for the night – and he certainly added some pizzazz to the number calling!

Long time Bedford supporter Dot Clarke has seldom missed a single game since Bedford Bingo's inception in 1983. Dot was thrilled to have met Cosi and said

"It was a really enjoyable night. Cosi is a lovely young man – such a cheeky possum!"

Bingo is a fun, interactive and inexpensive way for young and old to enjoy a night out with friends. All proceeds from Bedford Bingo ensure we can continue to offer training, employment, life skills and residential services to South Australians with a disability.

**Want to play bingo with Cosi? Come along on 23 April. For more information please call (08) 8275 0288.**



Jacinta Lindner, Bedford Packaging employee and Balyana resident, shares her story with guests at the Bedford Big BBQ

## High Flyers Help Make 2009 Big BBQ a Huge Success

More than 630 people, including Adelaide's best known business identities, packed the Adelaide Oval Pavilion on 13 March to enjoy a day of great food, wine and networking as part of Adelaide's biggest corporate BBQ – the Bedford Big BBQ.

The day's entertainment got off to a flying start, with two local businessmen switching their suits for skydiving gear and making their descent on the oval from 14,000ft, thanks to their donations to Bedford's Big Jump Fundraiser.

More than \$71,000 was raised by guests at the event. Bedford relies heavily on the

support of the community to be able to continue to provide services for people with a disability across the state. Like other organisations and individuals, Bedford has felt the affects of the current financial crisis, so we are extremely grateful for the generous contributions of all the Big BBQ attendees.

The event was supported by a number of local and national organisations including major sponsors National Australia Bank, City Holden, Network Ten, Holco Fine Meats, Casella Wines, Applied Climate Control and A G O'Connor.



# Bedford BINGO!

## 'Top of the Shop'

**Evening Fun Thurs, Fri and Sat 8pm-10pm**

- An entertaining and inexpensive night out!
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- Secure car parking (off Springbank Rd)
- Open from 5.30pm
- Non-smoking since 1999

615 Goodwood Road, Panorama  
Enquiries: (08) 8275 0288

[www.bedfordgroup.com.au](http://www.bedfordgroup.com.au)

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Geoff Smith, CIC Regional General Manager, hands over the keys to Max Dyason – Bedford Chief Executive, Anney Reid – Day Options Coordinator and Aaron Dennis, Malcolm Parfitt and Ryan Crowhurst – Port Lincoln Day Options members

## Donation Ensures Important Community Contact for Day Options Members

Bedford Day Options members in Port Lincoln now have greater access to the community thanks to the donation of a new people mover. Port Lincoln currently supports ten people in its Day Options programme, which caters for people with a disability who have higher support needs.

Bedford was able to purchase the twelve seater bus thanks to the support of Canberra Investment Corporation (CIC), which chose to donate \$75,000 to Bedford as a result of the Foodland Charity House promotion last year.

Max Dyason, Bedford Chief Executive said "Bedford relies heavily on community support to raise vital funds to support our people across the state. We are extremely grateful for CIC's magnificent donation."

CIC Regional General Manager Geoff Smith said he was thrilled the company could contribute to the cause and had made the trip to Port Lincoln to see the difference the donation will make.

"We are extremely supportive of Bedford and its work to ensure that people with a disability are given every opportunity to achieve their goals and dreams," he said.

## Bright Futures Ahead for 'Abilities for All' Graduates

*Continued from front page*

A new initiative was also announced by the Hon Paul Caica, Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education at the Adelaide Graduation on February 12. The initiative is an extension of the very successful 'Abilities for All' programme which was implemented in 2006 – but is targeted at those who have multiple barriers to learning or are disconnected from their communities.

The new programme sees Bedford join forces with the Department of Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST) and Community Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (CANH) to help people with a disability or disadvantage achieve long-term sustainable employment.

Designed around the needs of individual participants, 'Abilities for All' will work to identify participant goals, their strengths and barriers and assess literacy and numeracy needs. Participants will then be exposed to various accredited and non-accredited learning modules with the aim of improving their employability skills.

## CIC Helps Create More Jobs for People with a Disability at Sunday

APG, Bedford's horticultural business, is planning for a busy period following the release of 596 blocks of land at Sunday at Aldinga Beach – a Canberra Investment Corporation (CIC) community in the making.

APG's current work at Sunday involves extensive grounds maintenance such as landscaping the front gardens of every house built on the development. The next stage means that Bedford will be able to provide more jobs for people with a disability through APG.

APG employees have access to on-job training by professional staff and accredited courses including TAFE Certificates II and III in Horticulture and Conservation Land Management.

CIC Regional General Manager Geoff Smith said this ongoing partnership with APG was testament to the capabilities of people with a disability and to the importance of corporate social responsibility.

"We retained APG at Sunday for two very important reasons," he said. "The first is that APG do an excellent job to make sure that Sunday always looks its very best, which gives our buyers absolute confidence.

The second is that we've formed an excellent working relationship with Bedford and we are dedicated to our social responsibility of building communities. This includes providing people with a disability with the opportunity to achieve their goals and dreams."



Mark Hoffman, Academy Services and Andrew Boeyen, Bedford – land safely at the Bedford Big BBQ

## Big Jump Highest Fundraisers

Academy Services National Operations Manager Mark Hoffman and Bedford Chief Financial Officer Andrew Boeyen made a spectacular entrance into the Bedford Big BBQ on 13 March – from 14,000 feet!

The Bedford Big Jump was launched at the end of 2008 as a unique opportunity for supporters to challenge themselves while raising vital funds in sponsorship to help people with a disability.

The two highest fundraisers were given the opportunity to kick off the day's proceedings by skydiving into the Adelaide Oval to join their business peers.

Mark and Andrew's fundraising coupled with their strength and determination to complete the personal challenge of skydiving is testament to their support for Bedford.

## Employee Profile Jacinta Lindner

My name is Jacinta Lindner and I want to tell you a little bit about my life.

I have a disability. I was born with a tumour in my head. I find it difficult to concentrate for long periods of time and I need support to do my work and to live independently.

My first of many operations was at two years old to have a shunt put in to help drain fluid from the tumour area, every day for the rest of my life. Sometimes my shunt moves and this usually means I end up in hospital for more operations to put it back. The last time it moved was November 2008 – it was a bit touch and go for a while there.

I don't know what life is like without a disability – but I do know that I wouldn't be working in such a fantastic place and I wouldn't have had the chance to meet so many great friends and people along the way without your continued help.

I joined Bedford nearly seven years ago – straight from Hamilton Secondary College. I started by doing some work experience in Bedford Hospitality and Bedford Packaging to see where I wanted to work. Working in Packaging suited me better and I started there full time straight afterwards.

I've worked on many Packaging contracts since then, learning lots of new skills – assembling parts for Caroma, putting together more Royal Adelaide Show bags than I can remember, re-labelling bottles for local wineries, and I've recently been working in our new food processing area – doing mini bags of Fruchocs for Robern Menz. And yes – sometimes I do sample the goods!

I'll always remember my first day at Bedford – I walked in and this girl came straight up to me and introduced herself and offered to show me the ropes. That person – Tammie is like my big sister now – we're almost joined at the hip.

That's part of what makes Bedford so special – it's like having a second family – the friendships you make are amazing.

If I wasn't at Bedford I don't know what I would be doing – probably just sitting at home watching TV like a couch potato, being bored and not having any friends.

I have a disability, my mates have a disability – but we're just like you – we want the same things you do.

Please continue to support Bedford and make sure me and my mates have the opportunity to learn new skills, so that we can do things for ourselves – and create our own future!



## Want To Grow Your Career?

Work and learn all about horticulture & gardening at APG – Bedford's horticulture business.

Full and part time jobs for people with a disability are available at our Lonsdale and Pooraka sites.

Call our Recruitment Officer on **(08) 8275 0295** to find out how to apply.



## Bedford Celebrates IDPwD & Years of Service Awards

More than 800 people joined together at Bedford sites across the state to celebrate International Day of People (IDPwD) with a Disability on 3 December last year.

For the first time, celebrations also recognised the achievements of long serving members of the Bedford family with a formal Years of Service ceremony.

“What better day to also honour members of the Bedford family who have committed themselves to the organisation through many years of service,” said Max Dyason, Bedford chief executive.



25 Years of Service recipients. Left to right Martin Murray - Bedford Packaging employee, Roddy Scott and Andrew Bradshaw, APG employees and Steve Jones, Bedford Chief Operating Officer

## Bedford Employees Aim High at National Championships

Two Bedford employees represented South Australia at the Ivor Burge National Basketball Championships in Townsville in February.

Lauren Packham and Sam Thomas joined the state's top basketball players to battle it out for the acclaimed title. The prestigious team was selected by Basketball SA and the South Australian Sport and Recreation Association for People with Integration Difficulties (SASRAPID).

Sam and Lauren have both shown the skills, commitment and determination to gain selection into the State team – which is a tremendous achievement.

Max Dyason, Bedford Chief Executive, said “We are thrilled that both of our employees have been able to achieve their goals and set another great example that shows just how much people with a disability can achieve.”

## BCA Pergola Opening

Members of Bedford Community Access, Bedford's Day Options programme at Panorama, are benefiting from a fantastic new outdoor facility, thanks to a donation from the Diocesan Association for Intellectually Disabled Persons Inc (DAIDP).

The new pergola was officially opened on 20 February. The facility is already proving a valuable asset to BCA and is being used for a range of outdoor activities

## Bedford Shares its Story at Inaugural Open Week

Bedford opened its doors to the public to see ‘behind the scenes’ as part of the inaugural Bedford Open Week. Tours of Bedford's employment areas – including packaging, catering, fundraising, furniture – as well as Day Options – took place at the Panorama site in December last year.

Bedford supporters were able to see the truly inspiring culture that makes Bedford what it is and the services and facilities that are helping people with a disability achieve their goals and dreams.

**Tours of Bedford are available throughout the year by prior appointment. If you would like to book a tour, please contact Lauren Marshall, Community Coordinator, on (08) 8275 0221 or email lmarshall@bedfordgroup.com.au**

## Millicent Benefits from Bedford Merger

People with a disability in the Millicent area are already seeing the benefits of the recent merger of Millicent Work Option Centre (MWOC) with Bedford.

MWOC, which offers services including commercial laundry, grounds maintenance, lawn mowing, landscaping and contract cleaning, merged with Bedford in November last year and has already seen numerous upgrades to its facilities and equipment.

It's an exciting time at Millicent. Bedford has committed to improve facilities and services at the site which will enable the laundry business and Day Options services to provide more opportunities for people with a disability in the region.

Upgrades so far include the relocation of administration facilities and office space to a leased property next to the site and the redevelopment of the commercial laundry facility. The domestic laundry service has already re-commenced as a result of the office relocation.

Millicent's Day Options facilities have also been expanded. Day Options programmes offer a wide range of recreational, leisure and developmental activities to encourage members to become more independent. The expanded facilities mean Bedford can provide this service to more people in the region.

The upgraded centre will be opened on 7 April.



Richard Frahn, MWOC employee



Brian Ferris, father of Kierran

## A Gift that Keeps Giving

Brian Ferris has four grown up children. Kierran, Brian's youngest son, has a disability. Kierran works at Bedford Packaging and lives at Balyana, Bedford's supported accommodation service in Clapham.

“Knowing your kids are set up and living independently is so important,” said Brian. “Since Kierran has been working at Bedford and moved into a house with his peers, his confidence and independence have grown. He's involved in lots of social activities and is doing his own shopping, cooking and cleaning.”

Brian has chosen to help Bedford support others like Kierran in the future by leaving a legacy. Brian explains “When I made

my will, I decided to leave my house to Bedford. When I'm no longer around, three people with a disability will be able to call this their home. For me, it's the best way of giving something back.”

“It's so important to plan for people's needs in years to come,” said Brian. “I want to make sure more people are given opportunities after I'm gone.”

Leaving a legacy has a significant impact, providing opportunities for people with a disability for years to come.

**If you would like to know more about remembering Bedford in your will, please contact Lauren Marshall, Community Coordinator, for an informal chat on (08) 8275 0221 or email lmarshall@bedfordgroup.com.au**



Left to right: Bedford Packaging employees Alice Kaervell, Bridget McInerney, Robyn Phelps, Kahlia Schulz, Jeff Brown, Irene Zoumaras, Max Dyason – Bedford Chief Executive, Dave Reynolds – Transfield Contract Manager, Jason Flynn, Kim Smith, Brad Cheney and Vijay Kulshrestha

## Day Options Members Benefit from Transfield Services Donation

Bedford Day Options members were thrilled with a generous donation from Transfield Services - a new LCD wide screen television. Transfield Services, an international facility management company, employs APG to look after the grounds at the defence sites they manage in South Australia.

Dave Reynolds, Transfield Services Contract Manager, came to present the television to excited Day Options members during February.

“The way I see it, it's a big thank you to the guys who have worked so hard for us over the past four years,” said Dave.

The television will be used by Port Pirie Day Options members as part of their recreational programme.

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

## Upcoming Events:

### Bunnings Sausage Sizzles

24 May, Bunnings, Parafield

26 September, Bunnings, Woodville

27 September, Bunnings, Woodville

During 2009, Bedford will host Sausage Sizzle Community Fundraisers at Bunnings stores throughout Adelaide. Pop in and enjoy a sausage next time you're doing a spot of DIY!

### Annual Achievement Awards 2009 – May and June

Bedford will once again celebrate the remarkable achievements of people with a disability or disadvantage at its Annual Achievement Awards celebrations across the state during May and June.

The Adelaide event will take place on 16 June. Dates of regional events will be advised soon.

If you would like to receive an invitation to this event please contact Joanne Smith on (08) 8275 0294 or email [jsmith@bedfordgroup.com.au](mailto:jsmith@bedfordgroup.com.au)

### City-Bay – 20 September

The City-Bay Fun Run has become a regular event on the Bedford calendar and provides a fantastic opportunity to bring people together for a great day and a great cause.

If you would like to join Team Bedford in the 2009 event, please contact Anna King on (08) 8275 0352 or email [aking@bedfordgroup.com.au](mailto:aking@bedfordgroup.com.au)

### Australian Disability Enterprises

Australian Disability Enterprises is the new name for commercial businesses that provide employment for people with a disability. Previously called Business Services, the new name was launched by the Federal Government on 28 November 2008.



More than just good business

Talking Bedford is a publication of the Bedford Group  
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## Bedford Pays Tribute to Inspirational Employee



### KEITH ROSTON BOWLEY

Board Member, Bedford Housing Cooperative, Deputy Chair, ECA Committee Employee

Born: 19/05/59

Died: 03/01/09

Mr Keith Bowley was an inspiration to all who knew him. When he passed away at the beginning of January, the Bedford family lost a much loved and valued Board Member, friend and employee.

Keith joined Bedford in 1978. He worked as a Board Member of the Housing Cooperative and in the Furniture, Maintenance and Packaging areas.

In 1994 Keith made the life changing decision to move out of his family home to live at Balyana, Bedford's supported accommodation service at Clapham. Four years later, he moved into community housing with his good friend Peter McGuire. Keith and Peter continued to share a house and home together until Keith's passing.

Keith was elected Deputy Chair of Bedford's Enterprise Collective Agreement (ECA) Committee, where he personally championed and drove superannuation reform for the benefit of employees with a disability. Seven years later, every Bedford employee has access to enhanced levels of low-cost superannuation - due to Keith's impetus.

Keith was an inspiring advocate for what people with a disability can achieve; a popular and respected leader and will be fondly remembered by all who worked with him and knew him within the Bedford family. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

## Autumn Lottery '09

WIN! 1st Prize



Plus

Holden VE Omega Sedan

Valued at \$41,039 PLUS

Holden Barina 3 Door Automatic

Valued at \$18,870

OR \$50,000 CASH!

750 Prizes to be WON!

Buy three consecutive tickets & get one FREE!

Two Cars, Cash, Travel, Digital Cameras... and more! 750 Prizes to be WON!