

IMPACT Make Your Mark

NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 19
June 2006

Welcome to the June 2006 Newsletter. June is the anniversary date for the long established community organisation known as IMPACT Make Your Mark. The organisation's previous names include CYSS, Skillshare and Bundaberg Skills Centre. On 19 June 1978, the CYSS was formed to provide assistance to unemployed youth. The organisation has continued with this service but now also provides assistance to any disadvantaged person or to people with a disability in the Bundaberg & District community. It is estimated that over 40,000 clients have participated in programs and initiatives offered over the past 28 years. The organisation now oversees in excess of 40 different programs.

Dorothy Cox
Chief Executive Officer



HIGHLIGHTS

- ☺ **IMPACT Make Your Mark's REUNION**
- ☺ **What is it about Positive Start?**
- ☺ **Enterprise Learning News**
- ☺ **RE-BORN CJP-WP Graduation**
- ☺ **Changes to Work for the Dole**

SPOTLIGHT ON.....

IMPACT'S REUNION

More about our Programs & Services at www.impact.org.au

☺ **IMPACT Make Your Mark Reunion** **28 Years of Service to the Community**



Past employee Kylie Johnson with Chief Executive Officer of IMPACT, Mrs Dorothy Cox



Chairperson of IMPACT, Mrs Barbara Matt with past employee Yvonne Vuichoud and husband Ron

What a great night of great memories!

This month the organisation celebrated 28 years since inception. Over 90 current and past Directors and staff attended a reunion at IMPACT on Saturday 17 June. The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mrs Barbara Matt, has been a director for 23 years, and the CEO, Mrs Dorothy Cox has completed 25 years of service.

The organisation was originally formed to apply for a Grant to conduct a Community Youth Support Scheme for unemployed youth. When funding for CYSS ceased, the organisation expanded its assistance to all age groups through a SkillShare program.

In 1998 SkillShare funding ceased and the organisation became an employment agency under the Job Network program.

Today it provides a wide range of services mainly directed towards assisting the disadvantaged or people with a disability.

The organisation had a humble beginning operating from a rented hall and using secondhand furniture and resources. Today it operates from purpose built premises, with modern equipment and resources. Throughout its history, the one thing that has not changed is its purpose to provide quality services in a supportive environment.

Lots of great opportunities are available for people who want to find employment, gain some extra skills by completing training or enhancing existing skills, volunteer their services, or undertake a mutual obligation activity. We also offer assistance to the community in a myriad of different ways, including Positive Parenting support for young Mums, opportunities for youth to gain employment while participating in environmental projects and practical assistance to disadvantaged youth.

The organisation now employs 83 staff including 24 people with a disability.

☺ **What is it about Positive Start**

Do you have clients who are new or expectant Mums?

Do they need a break, some support and social interaction with other Mums?

Positive Start is a program for young women 15-24 years of age who are expecting a child or have a child under pre-school age.

It provides support and information on pregnancy and parenting and gives young Mums the opportunity to meet other young Mums.

This is what young Mums are saying about Positive Start.....

- It gives you more confidence in what to do, especially when it's your first baby and not knowing what's going on. It puts you on the right track of what to expect and how to deal with it.
- You get the benefit of talking to other young Mums and learning from each other
- Your baby gets to socialise and we do fun things
- Meeting other expectant mums somewhere that is comfortable and feels safe
- You get to get out of the house and talk to others and get good support
- We get a break, in a safe environment for our babies



Andrea Bax – Positive Start Coordinator

If you have a client/s who this program would assist please call Andrea at IMPACT Make Your Mark on 4153 4233 to find out more.



Tynon Frost at under 8's day

Funded by Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

☺ **Enterprise Learning News**



Following the successful Launch and Showcasing of the Bundaberg & District Enterprise Learning for the 21st Century Initiative held at IMPACT in May 2006, the Coordinator of the Project, Barbara Chapman, is arranging a meeting early in Term 2 of this year for involved and interested teachers. This will be held to investigate ideas to develop future school projects, to enhance existing ones, to study the sustainability of these projects beyond the life of the overall project and to discuss ways in which Enterprise Learning can be incorporated and embedded into individual school's curriculum.

Partnerships with other community organisations involved with youth matters are being extended and the Project Coordinator will arrange to address parent groups to acquaint them with the objective and aims of the Project and the value of Enterprise Learning for young people

For further information, contact Barbara Chapman on 4153 4233 or e-mail to bchapman@impact.org.au.

Funded by Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training

☺ **RE-Born Recycling Community Jobs Plan – Work Placements**

The Graduation Ceremony was held recently to mark the completion of this fifteen week Project. Ten participants commenced with the aim of producing furniture from recycled timber. Participants were paid a training wage and the finished products donated to community organisations, namely Phoenix House, TAFE Community Child Care Centre, Forest View Community Kindergarten and Preschool and Bundaberg & District Women's Domestic Violence Service.

The graduation was attended by Hon. Nita Cunningham MP, James Stanfield from the Bundaberg City Council, Michelle Davies from Department of Employment and Training, representatives from community organisations as well as family and friends of participants. Articles produced in the project were on display and there was much comment about the fine quality and workmanship.

At the time of graduation five participants had gained work in -

- **Welding**
- **Environmental Waste Management**
- **Truck/forklift Driver**
- **Diesel Mechanic TA with possibility of an apprenticeship**

Hon. Nita Cunningham MP presents a Graduation Certificate to Aaron Ward



If you know of someone who may be interested in a Community Jobs Plan – Work Placements Project run by **IMPACT Make Your Mark**, give us a call on **4153 4233** and their name can be placed on our waiting list.

They will receive valuable training, job seeking skills, support and a training wage in order to increase employment potential.

Funded by the State Government's *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* Initiative

☺ **Changes to Work for the Dole**



Under the new Work for the Dole Contract the government will embrace a wider group of people beyond the current unemployed job seekers, who will also be able to develop relevant work skills and gain Training Credits. The new groups will include:

- ✓ Parenting Payment recipients, both single & partnered
 - ✓ People with a disability who have some capacity to work
 - ✓ Mature age people up to 64 years of age
- Not all Work for the Dole participants will have a mutual obligation and be required by the Government to participate in the project. Some people will have the ability to volunteer to participate in Work for the Dole – this should result in providing the Employment Services Network with an opportunity to recommend more voluntary clients into the program
 - IMPACT will also be referring Voluntary participants into the Employment Services Network as a pathway to employment
 - Some very long term unemployed participants will have an increase in the number of hours they will be required to attend Work for the Dole activities. This group will be expected to complete full-time Work for the Dole which will be a requirement of 50 hours per fortnight for 10 months.

Cont.

☺ **Changes to Work for the Dole cont.**

- Eligible jobseekers, who are referred to Work for the Dole after 01 July and complete half of their full required hours, will be eligible for early access to \$300 of Training Credits. This is an excellent incentive for participants to work towards an opportunity to attend further education opportunities in their preparation for employment
- To make the Work for the Dole experience relevant to local employment needs, clients will be matched to placements most suited to their employment goals. These goals will be based on the Skills in Demand of the local labour market, and all Sponsor and Host activities will need to reflect at least 1 Skills in Demand area and 20% of the time within the placement will need to develop the identified skill. IMPACT staff will ensure participant's placements align with the Skills in Demand identified by their Employment Services Case Manager.

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MISSION STATEMENT

IMPACT Make Your Mark provides support, employment and learning opportunities for disadvantaged people in the community

VISION

To be a Bundaberg based not for profit organisation providing support, employment and learning opportunities for the Bundaberg & District community, for the benefit of disadvantaged, unemployed and people with a disability by providing:

- Innovative and dynamic responses to our client needs
- Assisting clients to overcome barriers to learning and employment
- Supported employment opportunities for clients with a disability
- Quality training in a supportive environment