



Watch Gazette



December Issue 2020



WATCH COUNCIL NEWS

We Wish all our WATCH Family and Friends an Amazing Christmas and a Happy and Covid-Safe New Year.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone return to WATCH on **January 11th, 2021**, after a very long year of restrictions.



IMPORANT DATES

WATCH last day of year	Wednesday 23rd December 2020
Staff and Clients return to WATCH	Monday 11th January 2020
Public Holiday CLOSED	Tuesday 26th January (Australia Day) Monday 8th March 2020 (Labour Day)

WATCH Values

- Quality of Life
- Empathy
- Respect for each individual
- Honest Communication

WATCH In Review

What a year it has been at WATCH, a year like no other we have ever experienced.

The Corona Virus has been a devastating pandemic that saw all of us in and out of lockdown and Government restrictions enforced upon us.

Our absolute priority was always the safety and wellbeing of participants and the WATCH team and we would like to sincerely thank you all for your flexibility and patience throughout the year.

Some of the ways WATCH has kept you safe in 2020 and will continue to do so in 2021 are:

- Taking Temperature of all attendees entering the centre
- No attendee will enter if temperature is over 37.5 degrees
- Any symptoms: cough, temperature, tired/fatigued, runny nose, sneezing, Sore throat must stay home and recommendation is to get tested.
- All Staff are to wear face masks.
- Smaller groups across three buildings (In 2021 this will change back to our regular timetable)
- Limits of people gathering together in a space is displayed in all rooms
- All attendees at the service to wash their hands upon entering the service.
- Making available hand sanitiser and tissues.
- Appropriate and Easy to Read Signage placed around WATCH
- Where possible use alternative modes of contact (i.e. phone or email) to reduce person-to-person contact.
- Reducing periods of face-to-face contact where possible.
- Implementing at least 1.5 metres space between people **where possible**.
- No outside patrons/services are to enter Watch unless absolutely necessary (This restrictions is beginning to lift)
- From November 2020, Necessary services for a person's support can be provided in restricted areas, however, alternative methods of contact should be used where possible.
- All staff have had Covid-19 Infection Control training
- Increasing daily cleaning during and after programs
- All staff will abide by Government restrictions
- A Covid Safe Plan is in place and will continually be reviewed.

We look forward to connecting with you all in 2021 as we return to group based activities and continue to support better choice, better participation and continuous improvement.

We wish all our participants and supporters a very safe and festive season.



Farewell

WATCH Farewells Staff and Participants



Goodbye and Thank you to Alira Birkitt who left us in September, 2020.

Goodbye and Thank you to Chloe DalPorno who is leaving us to pursue her teaching career.

Goodbye and Thank you to Christine F, Paul, Barry, Wendy, Julie, Sasha and Nicole.

We wish you all the very best for your new adventures.

WATCH Survey



The WATCH Survey continued to be conducted throughout 2020. Thank you to all the people who did contribute and completed the survey. It is a wonderful way for WATCH to determine our strengths and weaknesses and for clients/parents/carers to express their opinions.



Areas of Strength:

- Meeting Friends
- Program Choice
- Staff and Management
- Community based activities are good
- Staff help give me independence
- Friendly Staff
- Choices
- Opportunities given to independently work on skill set and routines



Areas of Concern:

- Upgrade facilities
- Fix loud door in Building 2
- Staff sometimes take phone calls during program time
- More programs offered to my ability
- Personal care-Cleaning of faces and clothes before home time
- Communication-Sometimes needs to be presented in words that could be better understood by all.(Easy English)

All of these areas concerns will be discussed in staff meetings in 2021and Watch Council meetings. They will continue to be addressed over the next year and will be used to further develop our service plan at WATCH.

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MESSAGE

Without a doubt the year 2020 has proven most difficult for WATCH's clients, parents, carers, helpers and staff. Covid 19 has placed an enormous strain on us all.

Our Mulgrave and Springvale campuses have had to close for two lengthy periods. Then, when they did reopen, many chose not to attend due to virus related concerns.

Fortunately we have been able to retain our dedicated staff throughout this although doing so has meant for them a reduction in income. Fortunately WATCH has been able to alleviate some of this burden through the Federal Government Jobkeeper Scheme supplementing the considerably reduced NDIS payments. It has not been easy.

On top of this we have all had to make sacrifices in order to comply with measures put in place by the authorities to eliminate the spread of the virus. The uncertainty has had a big impact.

We face 2021 with great optimism. Both WATCH centres will be fully open and firm indications are that things will return to normal. Please be assured, however, that all operations will be carried out in full compliance with government advice.

May I take this opportunity to say sincere thanks you to all in the WATCH "family" for your sacrifice and understanding over what has been a most trying period of time. We look forward to the New Year with eager anticipation.

Wishing you all the best for a lovely Christmas and a safe, Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Miller

Chairman, WATCH Disability Services Inc. Committee of Management.

A large, stylized graphic of the words "MERRY CHRISTMAS" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The letters are thick and have a slight 3D effect. A small, white, snowflake-like ornament is positioned in the center of the word "CHRISTMAS", partially overlapping the letter 'I'.