

Australian Deaf Elders Group Messenger

Powered by Expression Australia
in collaboration with ADE Group

ISSUE 2 OCTOBER 2022



Welcome to the second issue of the ADE Group Messenger

This newsletter is distributed to deaf elders in Australia quarterly with stories, activities, and important information.

Australian Deaf Elders Group collaborated together with Expression Australia to develop content and connect deaf elders across Australia. We welcome input from all.

In this issue, we have:

- News from ADE Group relating to NDIS for over 65
- A personal letter from Gaye-Prudence Lyons written to government
- Delicious cheesecake recipe
- Fun crossword puzzle



Memorium

Deaf Elder Laurel Payne for her husband who passed away age 70 this August never receiving full equity to NDIS

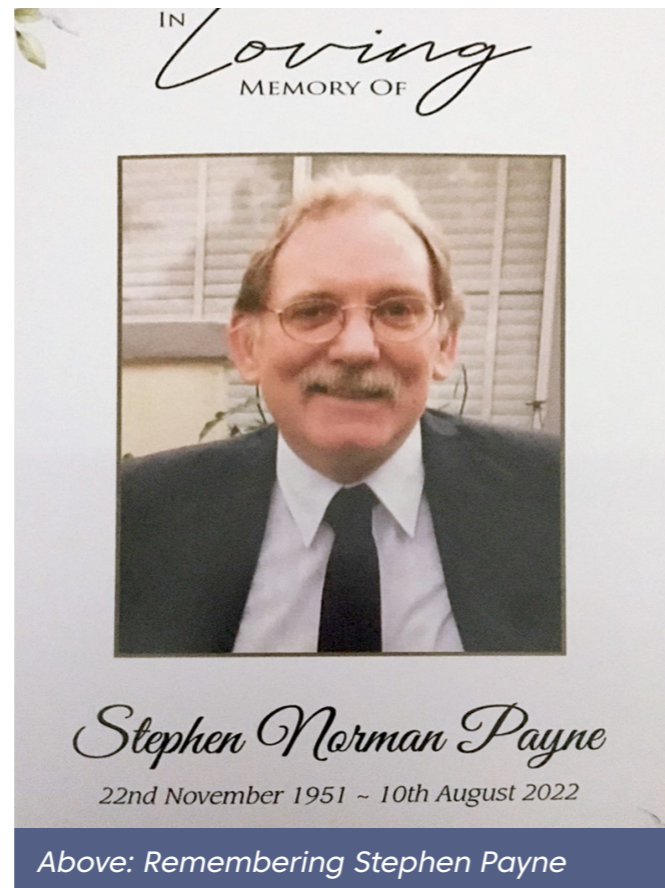
"Whilst my hubby was on Disability Support Pension (DSP) only for short while from voluntary retrenchment as he worked all his life hard at Newspaper company in Surry Hills and Chullora then later in small Printer Offices.

He received 2 letters (one for DSP & other for Age Pension both shows the same wage) from Australian Government just before he was about to turn 65 years old. He was being asked to choose which one did he want to stay on DSP or moved to Aged Care Pension.

It was a very short notice to decide with no explanation of the benefits to move to Age Care compared to the Disability Support Pension he was on. So we attended Centrelink face to face and asked one of Centrelink staff about why we need to choose and also why asking us which one is the best.

The Centrelink staff woman said that she believed Age Pension is a long term for security. She was unsure how security on long term with DSP. This influenced my hubby' decision to change to Age Pension."

Laurel Payne, NSW

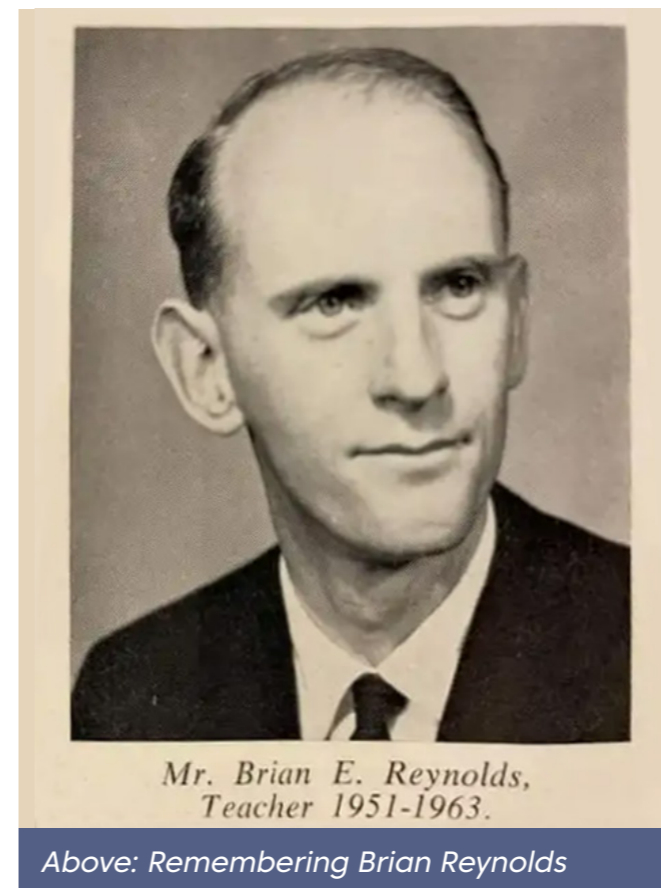


Comment from ADE Team

Stephen could have stayed on Disability Pension and applied for NDIS, but he felt because he on Age Care Pension all would be equal to NDIS. CENTRELINK made short notice and did not explain that no Auslan interpreters or NDIS Tech Assistance available in Age care Pension at that time.

Hence our ADE lobbying continued to change that Centrelink Pensions options letter to include what is available in both schemes, so Elders receive full information to make an informed choice. Not just move them to Age Care straight away on turning 65. Give them the right of equal opportunities to make fully informed choices about either DSP or Age Care Pension.

Lorraine Mulley ADE



Brian Reynolds has sadly passed away.

On the 29th of September 2022 at the age of 92. He was a teacher at Victorian College of the Deaf from 1951 to 1963, and headmaster from 1970 to 1989. His grandfather Cornelius and grandmother Annie were pupils in the late 19th century.

Deepest condolences to the Reynolds's family.



A celebration of life.

Bob Willis has sadly passed away. Bob was a Deaf man who broke down many barriers to ensure the Deaf and Hard of hearing community was able to gain access to information through phone, TV, CD, alarms and the list goes on.

Bob was founder of Word of Mouth Technology in 1993 with his wife, Bette Willis in their home garage. WOM has been a leading provider of these solutions ever since.

He was a brilliant advocate for the Deaf/ Hoh community to improve quality of life for so many in many homes, public venues, churches and schools.

Letters

Here is a letter written by one of our ADE foundation Admin Gaye Prudence Lyons in June 2017.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Gaye-Prudence Lyons, I am a self-funded 70 year old retiree and do not receive any government handouts. I do not even receive a Health Care Card.

I am also a deaf person, who also uses Auslan for everyday communication.

I am bitterly disappointed regarding the Government's stance on not allowing the NDIS for people over 65 years of age. I am at a loss to understand the reasoning behind it.

Being over 65 and retired it does not mean we have stopped living or contributing equally to the economy. I'm not sitting at home doing nothing and waiting to die the government would like to think. I am still active and contributing my share to the thriving economy of Australia.

It is a slap in the face, frustrating and very discriminating feeling for disabled/deaf people not to be allowed to have equality access of NDIS privileges, that is granted to the under 65s disabled/deaf population.

Most of us disabled/deaf people have worked all their lives for a very tiny paltry wage, yet were expected to contribute equally to society and pay equal taxes, but when it comes to their old age there is no rewards or extra support for us in our retirement.

Aged Care/ACAT is not applicable to everyone as the Government no doubt is aware, nor does it provide Auslan packages or the same benefits of the NDIS for people that use Auslan. I for one am not eligible as I do not fit in to the

category of a sick older person who is in a nursing home. Fortunately for me I enjoy good health.

Most disabled/deaf people have struggled all their lives, and always treated like second class citizens, it's amazing in this day and age of a wealthy country like Australia they are still being treated the same.

A perfect e.g. of how Disabled/Deaf people are treated today, you just need to look at the different funding models that the Government has for the Olympics, the "abled hearing athletes" get far much more funding than the "Disabled Olympics", in which is very little in comparison.

Deaf/disabled people are often isolated because of access/communication issues which are not always addressed by the State and Federal governments, we are real people that the Governments of today still simply chooses to ignore. I suggest if the Government is still determined to not allow NDIS for over 65s then they should consider perhaps the following:

Deaf/disabled people to be paid a monthly living/access allowance along the lines of the UK model. But to be equal in monetary payment to the same level of NDIS rules.

OR

Deaf/disabled paid a special DSP to match the equality of NDIS regardless of income.

I urge this current government to rethink the NDIS policy in terms of allowing all people to receive the NDIS equality regardless of AGE.

Gaye-Prudence Lyons, QLD



Above: Jenny Pupitch enjoying a beachside cocktail in Bali

Hello from Jenny

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as I am Jenny Pupich the Co-ordinator for AccessPlus WA Deaf 65+ club - I love working with the Deaf seniors as was responsible for the 50+ club a few years ago.

I am proud to say that I have been working at AccessPlus WA Deaf for 25

years. I love watching open captioned movies, playing 8 ball pool with the WA Deaf team and I am a very passionate Fremantle Dockers supporter. At the time of writing this article I have just come back from Bali with a group of ten Deaf people - you will see the photo of me and Jane Taylor (Expression Australia staff member) enjoying a cocktail at a seafood restaurant on the beach!

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GET THE SUPPORT YOU NEED

It is important to get the support you need which can be one onto one, via video call or face to face so that you can access information clearly in Auslan to allow you to be independent.

You may require translation from written English to Auslan or an Auslan interpreter for your private appointments to give you equal access. Support can be provided to go shopping, places of interest, learning something new or a new skill such as cooking, playing a sport or joining a gym for your well-being.

If you do not get the NDIS funding - free Auslan interpreting is available for Deaf or Hard of Hearing people aged 65+ to access information or learn a new skill.

Keep an eye out for the next newsletter and I will give information on My Aged Care funding and tips on how to connect online with your friends and family.

Jenny Pupich, WA



Lawyers begin class action against the Commonwealth Government on behalf of individuals aged over 65 who had missed out or unable to access NDIS funding.

This action also may be open to spouses and family members who have had the burden of taking on the role of carers for people – this includes CODAs. Mitry Lawyers' aim in this action is to remove the exclusion so all age groups can access the NDIS funding support. You can participate in this class action, by expressing your interest, can be found in this website:

<https://www.mitry.com.au/ndis>

If you need assistance, you can contact australiandeafelders@gmail.com for support in participating the class action.

Recipe

Berry Cheesecake

Source: Total Wellbeing Diet

Serves: 10

Cheesecake is an old-time favourite, but almost always a big 'no-no' when you're watching your nutritional intake. But thanks to this clever recipe, you can have your cheesecake and eat it too, while staying within the guidelines of your daily food allowance.

Ingredients

- Olive oil spray, 1 spray
- Ricotta cheese, reduced-fat, 400 g
- Plain flour, white, 1 tablespoon
- White sugar, granulated, 3 tablespoons, or powdered sweetener
- Eggs, raw, 2 extra large eggs
- Lime zest, 1 zest from lime
- Vanilla essence, 1 teaspoons
- Mixed berries, fresh, 150 g, drained well if frozen, plus extra for garnish
- Icing sugar, 1 tablespoon, for dusting (optional)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 160°C. Spray an 18 cm springform tin with olive oil and line the base with baking paper.

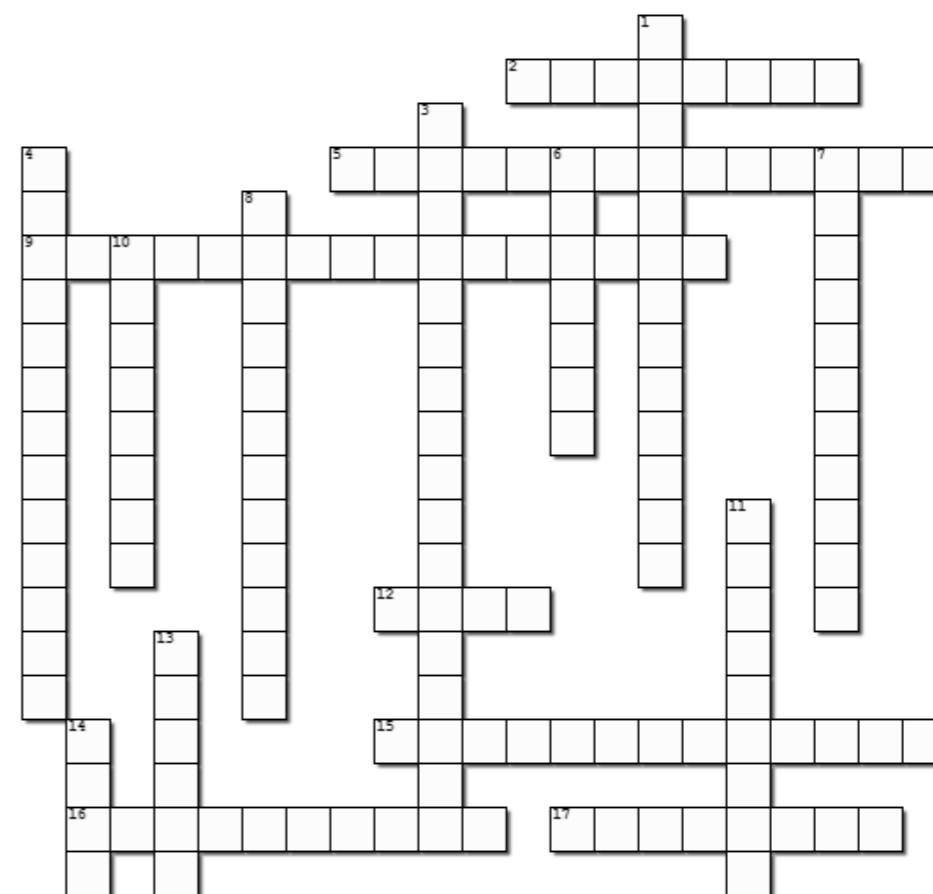
2. Combine all the ingredients, except the berries, in a food processor and process until smooth. Spoon half the mixture into the prepared tin, then sprinkle the berries over the top and lightly swirl through. Finish with the remaining ricotta mixture and smooth the top of the cake.



3. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until just set. Turn the oven off and allow the cake to cool in the oven for 1 hour. Remove and cool completely before serving. If you're not eating the cake as soon as it has cooled, refrigerate until ready to serve. Garnish with extra berries and lightly dust with icing sugar if you like.

For more recipes – go to www.totalwellbeingdiet.com/au/

Activity



Across

2. A person who shares awareness in support for the community.
 5. A place of belonging for Deaf people.
 9. An electronic device that need to be operated into the ear.
 12. A term used to identify hearing loss.
 15. Way how people communicate with hands.
 16. Combination of vision and hearing loss.
 17. A type of lamp that symbolise Deaf community.

Down

1. Exchanging of information by speaking or signing.
 3. Another form of communication/emotion in Auslan.
 4. Something that is fully available to and usable.
 6. The way that people live, ear, wear and communicate.
 7. A person who translates between Auslan and English.
 8. An electronic device in the ear.
 10. A displaying text on videos/TV/film.
 11. Gaining something in positive situation relating to Deaf or hearing loss.
 13. Name of sign language used in Australia.
 14. A person who has a Deaf parent.

Answers will be provided in next issue.

Tell us what you think about ADE Group Messenger! You can provide feedback, ideas or your own news to publish for the next Messenger issue. You can contact us through email or mail.

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