

Nick Pascuzzi My STEP Story

Hi, I'm Nick Pascuzzi. I have been with STEP since April 2009. I graduated from a course in Learning for Life in April 2010. I completed the Personal Growth, Work-related and Administration modules. In this course I learnt about:

- Teamwork
- Appropriate phone manner
- Signage in the workplace such as Fire Equipment, Exit and Wet Floor signs
- Responsibilities in the workplace such as being on time, being polite, being co-operative
- Following instruction
- Office Equipment

I am also enrolled in the Numeracy and Literacy Course. I have been enrolled in this course since February 2009. In this class I learn about;

- Word processing
- PowerPoint
- I have improved my typing speed and accuracy
- Converting measurements such as millimetres to centimetres, centimetres into metres
- Publisher

I enjoy every day that I come to Garden Street to attend my classes. I have made great friends, met lots of new people, I feel comfortable, I learn lots of new things and I have lots of fun.

Since graduating from Course in Learning for Life I have gained two volunteer positions at radio stations on the Gold Coast. Hopefully one of these will be able to offer me a traineeship. I am also going to volunteer at The Deck in administration.

At Garden Street I feel like everyone else. I don't normally like wearing shorts out in public as people tend to stare at my legs. At Garden Street I feel comfortable enough to wear shorts as no-one judges me.

I am also proud to say that I own my own car and have had a driver's license since 2007. I am proof that people with a disability can drive as well.

Thank you for listening to my story.



Left: FSG Australia's Garden Street Office, home to STEP & Enrich programs



I visited Nick recently at the STEP Garden St office, where he was busy doing the banking for the Deck lunch project. He told me a little more of his story.....

I left school (Helensvale High) in 2004. At my school formal I received a phone call to say some medical tests I had showed I had non-hodgkin's lymphoma and so I had a '15 minute formal' and went straight to hospital! I had chemo and radiation over the next 6 months and lost my hair which I LIKED. I was a bit down but got up again and now I have been in remission for 6 years, going strong. No more hospitals! Since my own cancer experience I have been really involved in CANTEEN where I am now on a local committee to help other young people like me who have had or have cancer.

The greatest thing that STEP has helped me achieve? I'd say my English and money skills. At FM 107.3 where I volunteer, I now write the community service announcements and help with downloading. I love being busy and I also LOVE Collingwood Football Club – goes the Pies!!!

For more information about STEP (Skilling, Training and Employment Partnerships) please contact Kim Fulton on 5588 5200.



FSG in your community

Always making a positive difference in people's lives

GOLD COAST - BEENLEIGH - BRISBANE SOUTH - IPSWICH - REDLANDS - SUNSHINE COAST

FSGA celebrates Disability Action Week 2010



Over 60 people gathered in the grounds of the FSGA Garden Street Centre in Southport on 8 September for a BBQ catered by the STEP hospitality group. Participants and staff from the FSGA STEP, Lakeview, Enrich and Leisure and Events programs enjoyed great food and music (selected by DJ's Gus and Justin). Leisure and Events staff had everyone making gorgeous butterflies and contributing to our posters which presented the questions: What makes you happy? How can we make the world a better place? What would you like to achieve for yourself and others? A special thankyou to Maria Bellman, STEP Facilitator for her fantastic motivation!

Meanwhile Bluegums and Beenleigh office staff attended the Logan Disability Expo during Disability Action Week and took the opportunity to spread the word about our services. In a wonderful example of inclusion, a neighbour of our Bluegums House invited a number of participants to morning tea – a great time was had by all!

In Brisbane South the CRCC Carebus travelled all over the region spreading the DAW message: for us to transform and grow, just as the butterfly does, and to become more welcoming and inclusive places for everyone.

Pictured above: Chris (DSE) & Daniel (Enrich/STEP), left: Aaron (Enrich) & Angela (Leisure & Events)



NEWS ALERT!

MY Shed is a new initiative operating from 'the shed' in the grounds of Coomera Family Central. A range of equipment and materials are supplied by FSG Australia and activities are designed to interest young men who would like to develop new skills such as woodwork and bicycle maintenance with the help of our skilled volunteers. For more information please call Julie Cox on 5519 4129.

FAMILY CENTRAL SOUTH HAS MOVED!

FSGA was delighted to have the opportunity to co-locate our Southern Family Central Service with our wonderful colleagues from Wesley Mission Gold Coast Hub. Our Family Central focus is complimented and enhanced by this positive collaboration. Wesley Mission offer an range of services including: Youth at Risk Alliance, Youth Support Coordinators, Complex Needs Assessment Panels, Suicide Prevention Program, supporting young people who are refugees, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered, community care services, Walk in My Shoes education program, Restart alternative learning program and Social Connections Project. The address is 208 Highfield Drive, Robina. For more information contact Lindy Kay on 5559 0254.

Thankyou...

United Way QLD recently facilitated some fantastic volunteers from Genworth Financial who spent the day at our Pinelands facility participating in a working bee and helping us to plant a sensory garden.

Two exciting new initiatives - New Locations - New Gold Coast Base

FSG Australia Now on the Sunshine Coast!

FSG Australia is making its way North with funding recently announced for an innovative new mental health program. FSGA successfully tendered for the QLD Department of Communities funded Consumer Operated Services Program to provide a range of supports to people with a mental illness with medium to high support needs.

Opening up to life's possibilities...

The PEARL Program will deliver an individualised, flexible and responsive consumer-operated service focusing on the development of personal wellness within a recovery framework. This is an intentional peer support model that aims to prevent major crises from developing that may lead to hospitalisation or entry to clinical acute services, including hospital emergency department's outside-of-hours.

The program has commenced operating from 16A Yinni St Maroochydore and our new Manager is Jonelle Tyson. Jonelle brings with her a wealth of experience and is greatly committed to the consumer operated and recovery models. She is looking forward to liaising closely with existing local services and a broad range of stakeholders in the region. One of her first tasks will be to recruit Peer Workers for the first stage of the program and this process will be underway shortly.

For more information please contact Jonelle Tyson on (07) 5443 1558.

The PEARL Consumer Operated Services Program is a QLD Department of Communities initiative.



FSGA expands services in Ipswich

TIDES

Resident Recovery Program Towards inner discovery enabling self-hood

Another successful submission process has resulted in FSGA commencing a new Resident Recovery Service in the Ipswich region. Called TIDES, this model has been developed to assist people with moderate to severe mental illness to break the cycle between homelessness, admission to Queensland Health inpatient facilities and boarding houses or hostels that are not conducive to their recovery. There will be an emphasis on developing skills and resources that assist people to remain living in the community, increase their capacity to manage their lifestyle and health needs and promoting participation in the community through valued roles.

Funded by



Donna Comerford will manage the TIDES Resident Recovery Program and can be contacted on (07) 3281 3299.

New home for FSGA enVision Programs Gold Coast

After many years of being located in and around the Burleigh Heads area, enVision Programs Gold Coast base is moving to the former head office at 16 Railway St, Southport. Staff will have greater space to work and host meetings and consultations and the service now has better accessibility and proximity to public transport. The enVision team join their FSGA colleagues and co-tenants from the MY Home MY Life and KAIA (formerly Child Safety Program) in the buzzing Railway Street hub.

enVision Services will maintain a presence in the Southern Gold Coast with the soon to be launched activity centre at 30 Palm Beach Avenue Palm Beach. This promises to be a welcoming space; a community house setting, offering participants a large range of opportunities to develop skills and make new friends. Some of the activities offered will include: computer training, gardening/horticulture, peer/friendship groups, Men's Shed. There is currently a competition to find a great name for the centre. More information in our next edition.



Left to right (back) - Kerrie, Christine, John, Jackie, Naomi (front) - Kathy, Dianne, Annmarie, Maree

FSG AUSTRALIA INFO LINE

Offering assistance with:

- general information about FSG Australia
- enquiries about FSG Australia programs, centres and services
- information about and supported referral to other available services in the region
- information about specific disabilities, access issues etc
- practical advice for carers
- complaints or grievances
- ideas and suggestions for changes or improvements
- passing on positive feedback

If you need any information at all and you think FSG Australia might be able to help, send us an email!

info@fsg.org.au or visit our website www.fsg.org.au

We especially welcome people with a disability, carers and family members, to use helpline. It is also open to anyone in the community who would like to know more about disability, mental health and aged care, and people who may have an interest in employment or volunteering with FSG Australia.



FSG Australia
Head Office

18 Demand Street, Arundel Qld 4215

PO Box 2597, Southport Qld 4215

Telephone (07) 5564 0655

Facsimile (07) 5564 0070

www.fsg.org.au