

HELP MAKE AN IMPACT



At The Learning for Life Autism Centre we are passionate about helping autistic children to learn.

Everything we do at Learning for Life centres around each child and their support networks which ripple out to their immediate family/carers, extended family, educators and peers.

Our vision is a world where autistic and other neuro-divergent children thrive and live the life they choose. It's a lofty goal and there are many layers and factors that will affect the trajectory of a child's life. We create opportunities to reach that goal, however there are barriers that need desperately to be addressed.

The following pages outline our hopes and dreams to enable us to provide the best services to support autistic and neuro-divergent children live the life they choose.



Our hopes and dreams

A dedicated Social Worker to meet the complex needs of vulnerable families

Learning for Life families require a myriad of wrap-around advocacy support that extends beyond our direct clinical services, including addressing funding issues, identifying resources as well as facilitating connections and networks. Our Clinical team currently provide this support in addition to providing direct clinical support. It is what sets Learning for Life apart from other service providers, but it impacts on our clinical support resources.

A social worker with family, individual and community support expertise will allow us to continue and extend the individual advocacy support while enabling our clinical team to provide services to additional children on our waiting list.

Proposed solution: Employment of a Social Worker to collaborate with our clinical team and absorb the advocacy support while building further support channels, connections and resources for our families.

Support the increasing needs of complex and vulnerable families

NDIS funding has resulted in an increased number of enquiries from families who would not previously have been able to access our suite of services. We have children with very high support needs and the complexity of delivering service spans both physical space and workforce capacity.

The services are delivered by our Specialist Behaviour Support team who are specifically trained and credentialled to do so and we are one of only a few organisations that are registered to provide this service.

We have outgrown our current premises and our ability to manage the changing demographics of the families we serve is becoming more difficult. When a child with complex behaviours of concern come into our centre increased risk management strategies are employed to ensure the physical safety of the child and our team. This may require lockdown of the centre which affects ability to have other children in the centre during the window of time.

We also have families who do not have the capacity to hold therapy in their homes as both parents may be working, space may not be available, or their childcare centres may not be set up to accommodate the program.

Proposed Solution: We are currently seeking alternative and larger premises from which to deliver our services. This will allow enough space to accommodate additional therapy sessions and offices. New premises will also provide separate and safe areas designated for children with complex behaviours of concern, and our younger children.



Bridge the gap between NDIS funding and fees

The funding received by our children is often at a level that does not cover the cost of program delivery at our clinically recommended hours. The Learning for Life team supports families, when necessary, through formal review processes with NDIS to increase funding plans. In order to provide clinically recommended levels of support and to ensure continuity of service when a child's funding plan is exhausted, Learning for Life provides direct fee subsidies to those families who are unable to self-fund the resulting gap.

Proposed Solution: Learning for Life will continue to fundraise to be able to offer Fair Access to our Services.

Improve our Information Technology Systems

A recent review of our Information Technology systems shows a need for upgrades in how we manage our recording, reporting and donor management.

We received pro-bono support from Salesforce to develop a data collection app to be used in our Early Intervention services which has made a positive impact to the way our Early Intervention team record and report on data.

We are in the process of migrating to Salesforce for our Donor Management system and are searching for implementation partners.

Proposed Solution: Learning for Life is seeking an implementation partner who may offer pro-bono or discounted fees

Recruit additional experienced allied health professionals

As seen across many service domains, Learning for Life has found recruiting for additional allied health professionals challenging. As a not-for-profit, while salaries offered are at award levels, it is difficult to compete with larger and for profit organisations offering significantly above award salaries.

Proposed Solution: We will continue our cultivation of university students in Allied Health fields and provide multiple opportunities for professional growth. We will also re-design our training programs to embed Trauma Informed Care and CALD training. Additional external funding will be required to achieve this training.



YOUR IMPACT → THEIR FUTURE •



To find out more, or to discuss how to get involved:



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www.learningforlife.com.au

