

  
**stgiles**  
**outcomes****Christmas Issue**

December 2011

 Like the walker and boots, people like you keep us moving

Dear Friend,

The heart of St Giles is people like you.

Like the walker and tiny boots (pictured right), people like you keep us moving.

This year's St Giles Christmas Appeal is aimed at boosting our funds in readiness for our service expansion in Launceston and Hobart.

Many of the tools we use to make a positive difference to the lives of Tasmanians with disability rely on the generosity of people like you.

You help us with the textbooks and walking frames, the modern communication devices and the very best in electronic mobility devices and wheelchairs.

Without you, our service would not be so rich or diverse.

This year St Giles therapists and community services staff supported more than 6000 Tasmanians.

We helped families and carers with respite, speech pathology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, sibling support groups, centre-based care, diagnosis and family support.

We rely on people like you to help us to continue to deliver these and many other services to Tasmanians living with disability.



Ian Wright - CEO St Giles

Imagine  
if these  
tiny boots  
could talk?



“ I sat in the cold, therapy storage cupboard at St Giles. It was another wet day. I'd been in the cupboard for months and I was ready to rock and roll.

My old leather boots were scuffed and worn.

My joints were stiff but I was confident that once we started moving I would loosen up.

Some warm toes in red socks wriggled into place and my long, navy shoelaces were tightened around frail ankles and calves.

I felt us slowly straighten and gain strength... up, up and suddenly we are off... headed for the Christmas tree. ”



## Making a positive difference Family Support Unit - North

**ALL-STARS Sibling Group** is a six-week program for the siblings of children with significant disability.

The group, a project of St Giles Family Support Team, includes a six-week program of activities.

"We were just two weeks in and having a lot of fun," the team's Jeannette Doyle said.

Once they have completed the initial six-week program siblings are introduced to other siblings and invited to attend monthly activity evenings, day activities during the school holidays and a camp.

**MY TIME Parent Support Groups** occur monthly across Launceston, Scottsdale and Scamander and into the North West at Burnie and Devonport.

The groups are open to any parent or carer caring for a child under 16 who would be eligible for Carers Allowance.

“...We were just two weeks in and having a lot of fun.”



If you're interested you can contact Jeannette or Annette of our Family Support Team on 6345 7333.

**BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT Program** offers support, coaching and behaviour management strategies to families concerned about their children's (u-6) behaviour resulting from a broad spectrum of disability – including children with communication delays, developmental delays and children on the Autism Spectrum.

Further information is available from **Family Support North on 6345 7333.**





## Amy Road Campus Upgrade

St Giles Society has applied to the Commonwealth to fund a \$7 million upgrade to its 74-year-old Amy Road campus.

The upgrade, which will double therapy space at Amy Road, will depend on support from the Commonwealth Government through Health and Hospitals Regional Round funding.

St Giles CEO Ian Wright lodged the organisation's application in person in Canberra in October.

"We are now Tasmania's only provider of intensive allied health services for children and we need more space to meet consistent and growing demand," Mr Wright said.

"The Commonwealth (and the State) knows that when it funds non-government infrastructure it does not have to concern itself with funding ongoing costs."

The Amy Road project is the third and final phase of St Giles Statewide Centre of Paediatric Health Excellence and E-Health Network.

Work on Stage One – a purpose built children's health service in Lenah Valley – will start in January 2012 after St Giles was successful in its bid for \$4.3 million from Regional Development Australia.

If St Giles is successful in its funding application, work at Amy Road will start in September 2012 with completion due September 2013.

## \$5.8 Million Children's Health Service

WORK will start in early 2012 on a \$5.8 million children's health service in Lenah Valley.

While the Commonwealth will fund the bricks and mortar of the project we will need strong community fundraising to help bring the building and the service to life.

In September, St Giles - Tasmania's largest provider of children's allied health services - learned it had been successful in its application for \$4.3 million to fund construction of the centre from the Gillard Government's Regional Development Australia Fund.

State-wide, St Giles provides occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech pathology, equipment services, family support, respite and community support for 6,000 children.

"St Giles history of children's health excellence, which started in Launceston with the polio epidemic of 1937, means we understand and can deliver the therapies required for children to have the best opportunity to succeed," St Giles CEO Ian Wright said.

Federal Minister for Regional Australia Simon Crean said the centre would bring huge benefits to the health of future generations.

Tasmanian Labor Senator Helen Polley said St Giles reputation for excellence in children's health care was integral in its funding success.

"St Giles has strived to bring the very best of health care to children with disability and has done so in a prudent and timely manner for nearly 75 years. I am delighted," Senator Polley said.

Denison MP and Parliamentary Secretary for Community Services Julie Collins said the new centre was visionary.

"It will be a hub for non-acute paediatric allied health and disability services and bring ongoing workforce efficiencies in service through effective resource allocation and co-ordination." Ms Collins said.



Beautiful Gift Idea:  
**CHRISTMAS CARDS**  
drawn by our children  
**\$4 A PACK**

From 65 Amy Road, Launceston  
and Tower Road, Hobart



“...a huge success in Launceston for two decades, will offer families a unique fun-filled experience with lots of free entertainment...”

## KIDFEST

Glenorchy Community Fund has agreed to join with the St Giles Society to deliver Tasmania’s largest children’s festival, Kidfest at the Derwent Entertainment Centre next July.

The event, which has been a huge success in Launceston for two decades, will offer families a unique fun-filled experience with lots of free entertainment as well as activities and stalls offering everything to do with children – from cute designer gear to the latest information about child health issues, education, toys and play equipment.

A date for the event is yet to be finalised, but it looks set to be on a Sunday in July 2012.

“We chose July and the DEC because it will provide a fun focus for families in the middle of a Hobart winter,” Danielle Blewett, St Giles communications manager said.

The Derwent Entertainment Centre is the ideal venue for the event of this scale, which is hoped will attract upwards of 10,000 families.

The organisations are in the middle of negotiations for a drawcard, headline act for the event.

**VOLUNTEERS or STALLHOLDERS:** If you would like to help us develop Kidfest Hobart contact Danielle Blewett on 6345 7333.



## “Walk With Me” - Sep-Oct 2011

Nearly 2,000 people walked to support Tasmanians with disability for St Giles second Walk With Me events in Launceston and Hobart during September and October. Our teams of St Giles ambassadors were joined by World Champion boxer Daniel Geale (Launceston) and Tasmanian cricket star Tim Paine (Hobart). Thank you everyone who supported this wonderful, social inclusion event. We will hold Walk With Me again in 2012.



## Niche 2012 Makers' Markets

Tramsheds, Inveresk, Launceston  
 MARCH 30 & 31  
 AUGUST 24 & 25  
 DECEMBER 7 & 8  
 Proceeds to St Giles





## Ron Horne Scholarship

A St Giles physiotherapist with a proven record of making a positive difference to the lives of many Tasmanians with disability is this year's Ron Horne Scholarship winner.

St Giles awarded the Ron Horne Scholarship for 2012 to Melinda Talbot at its annual general meeting in October.

The Scholarship honours the memory of the late Ronald Alexander Horne MBE JP ACIS CPA.

Mr Horne had a powerful influence in the development of St Giles and was active in developing our paediatric therapy services and in establishing St Giles' Seating and Equipment Clinic.

About Melinda:

Melinda completed her Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Charles Sturt University in 2010.

She joined St Giles physiotherapy team in February this year.

Melinda is married and has two children with additional needs.

She has spent more than 10 years working in the disability field as a house manager, a respite carer, a support worker and an occupational therapist.

Her personal goal is to consolidate her skills and specialise in paediatric physiotherapy.

We are extremely fortunate to have Melinda as a skilled member of our team.



NDIS | revolutionising disability services

## National Disability Insurance update

St Giles Society welcomes news that the Federal Government has brought forward by a year the launch – pilot – of a National Disability Insurance Scheme to 2013.

"It is heartening to see the government setting tighter timeframes for the launch of an NDIS – the sector and all State Government should be willing to move with efficiency and prudence towards implementing these overdue reforms," St Giles CEO Ian Wright said.

The implementation of a National Disability Insurance Scheme was recommended by the Productivity Commission in July.

**In October, the Commonwealth committed \$10 million to investigating the implementation of the scheme.**

A Select Council on Disability Reform has been set up by all governments to consider the recommendations of the Productivity Commission.

Tasmania's advisers to the committee are

- DPAC - Nick Evans
- Treasury - James Craigie and
- DHHS - Ingrid Ganley.

"St Giles and its board are already factoring in an NDIS in our plans for the future delivery of disability services in Tasmania," Mr Wright said.

"Many people are surprised when they learn that people with disability are not treated equally in all states and territories.

"People are shocked when they learn that how you acquire a disability and where you acquire a disability affects the level of financial support, services and care you receive.

"St Giles echoes the Productivity Commission's sentiment that the needs of people living with disability must be addressed by the nation sooner, rather than later."



**St Giles is excited to announce that we are now an approved provider for the Federal Government's funded programs:**

- HELPING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM
- BETTER START FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY

We will offer these programs in early 2012, working with families to provide a range of additional services and more intensive intervention for eligible children, statewide.

For more information about Federal funding and eligibility, visit [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au) or contact Carers Tasmania or Autism Tasmania, who are the initial contact points for families in Tasmania.



## East Coast Outreach Service

East Coast families have benefitted from St Giles' outreach service, which has improved access to speech pathology services in the area.

A speech pathologist can help with children's communication and feeding development - when there is a delay or a disorder that is affecting development.

On the East Coast at St Helens, Bicheno, Fingal and St Marys, Speech Pathologist Kim Neill works with children and their families.

Visits can be arranged at child health centres or in a family's own home.

The children are aged from birth to four years, before they commence (and not attending a) kindergarten.

"There is strong demand on the East Coast for our service - but we are aware that there are some children still starting school without having the opportunity to access speech pathology services in the preschool years. This early intervention may help them to develop enough communication skills to enable them to make their way more easily in the classroom or playground," Ms Neill said.

"We have increased our visits and our profile so health professionals and others can feel there is a local, therapy choice when children present with early communication issues."

Ms Neill is at the St Helens Child and Family Centre fortnightly and weekly at either St Marys or Fingal.

### Q&A

#### Who can refer?

Parents, carers, GP's, Child Health Nurses and other child support agencies.

#### How to refer?

Contact St Giles Therapy Reception on 6345 7388.

#### Where?

East Coast. We also offer outreach to Meander Valley at Deloraine and Westbury; Scottsdale / Bridport; and West Tamar at Beaconsfield and Exeter.

“...early intervention may help them to develop enough communication skills to enable them to make their way more easily in the classroom or playground.”



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