

Social Valued Roles and Establishing Meaningful Relationships

Many of you would be aware of the term Social Role Valorisation (SRV). After all, it's the main principle behind what we do every day at work. If this term is new to you, or you're still a little unsure of what it means, please take a look at the FOCAS website to gain a greater understanding of the term and its application. For those of you who are familiar with the concept, have you stopped recently, to really think about what it means to the participants you



are currently supporting? While we probably take for granted our own social roles within our families, in our neighbourhood, in the community or at work, many of our participants simply don't enjoy the same level of involvement. That's why a good Community Facilitator always looks for opportunities to break down the barriers between our participants and the wider community. Facilitation is not just a word, it's a practice, and it's a practice that can make a huge difference when it's directed at increasing our participants' engagement with social roles - roles

such as neighbour, volunteer, employee, sportsperson, group participant and even quite simply community member. From roles come relationships but these too usually require some intentional effort and facilitation from us to enable them to develop. Thinking about how our participants can get to know their neighbours better, establish friendly relations with their hairdresser or their butcher, and ideally building friendships with others in their community is part of SRV and good community facilitation.

Staff Movements

As most of you would be aware that Zali is no longer with us due her commitment with her hmedical studies. Zali's position has been expanded and the successful applicant who will fill this new position will be announced very shortly.

In other staff movements...

I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing Autumn Ford all the very best as she takes time off work to have her baby. Good luck Autumn, I'm sure you'll enjoy life with your new-born. Your efforts for FOCAS have been greatly appreciated and I hope to see you as soon as you're ready to come back to work. Rhonda Waller also leaves us to travel the country and will be away until early next year. Wishing you a fun and safe journey Rhonda and don't forget to send a postcard :-). Looking forward to you being part of the team again on your return.



I would like to officially welcome Tracey Rundle and Wendy McCabe to the FOCAS team. Some of you will already have 'buddied' with Tracey or Wendy and I'm sure the rest of you will say a friendly 'hi' when you cross paths.



FOCAS Social Event

Some of you have responded to my request, included in the last edition of WTF, for expressions of interest in a FOCAS social event. I'd like to hear from a few more of you with some ideas. I'd like to be sure that we include as many staff as possible, so let's hear your thoughts and get the ball rolling.

Staying Well

By now we all know our infection control measures backwards and we all do the right thing to protect our participants as part of our duty of care to them. What we might forget is that we also have a duty of care to ourselves. Please make sure that your working environment is a healthy one, and that you avoid contact with anyone, including participants, who are unwell. Please protect yourself from the risk of illness as best you can, for your own benefit, and because we all need you fit and well.



Staff training and development

I am pleased to announce that I am in the process of finalising the first round of our staff online training programme with National Disability Services (NDS), our industry peak body. The first topic will be manual handling. *Watch this space!*