My name is Nancee Myles, and I am the new Employment Services Manager for Mackay Sarina area with IDEAL Placements (IP). This is my first newsletter, and I am delighted to let you all know that I have survived my first (nearly) six months! I have always believed that the end of the year signals a time to reflect – how much we achieved in the last year, what have we learned moving forward, and how can we improve our service so that we can become the premium provider of employment services in Mackay in 2018.

As we near the end of November 2017, our DES and TTW Team are too busy to reflect on anything as they continue to assist our participants to fulfil their goal of sustainable employment so I thought I would take the time to do it for them. This year our talented and dedicated team have assisted in placing almost 300 people into ongoing jobs. This process is not always an easy one, and includes capacity building, re-education, confidence and team building leading to improved independence and positive lifestyle changes. At IP we believe our participants are the IDEAL Placement for your business! I would like to wish our team, our stakeholders and most of all our participants and their dedicated support networks a very happy festive season, and invite you all to join us in making 2018 an even better year for employment diversity in Mackay!
Whitsunday Regional Managers Report

Wow where has this year gone?! And what a big year it has been, there have been a lot of changes throughout 2017. We have some new faces around the offices for all of our different programs, if you weren't aware we now have all of the following programs - Transition to Work, Disability Employment Services, NDIS Registered Provider, Training and other special projects. If you are interested in any of the programs please contact your local office for more details.

Over Christmas the office will be closed from 2.00pm on the 22nd December and reopening 2nd January 8.30am. If you have any issues over this time please contact 4948 2123 and someone will assist you. Thanks again and have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Congratulations on all participants who exited as independent workers in 2017

Shane    Lyndon    Elaine    Sara    Judy
Noel     Rebecca  Michael  Richard  Kevin
Jean     Cheryl    Dene     David    James
Peter    Ben       Gregory

Participant Christmas Parties

Cannonvale Beach -
Friday 1/12/17
12pm

Bowen Front Beach -
Tuesday 12/12/17
12pm

Collinsville Community Centre
Friday 1/12/17
12pm

FREE lunch and beverages for all to celebrate a great year!
Come down and help celebrate with us.

Mackay
5 Peel Street, Mackay
QLD 4740
Ph: 4957 8177

Sarina
Shop 3, 33 Central St
Sarina, QLD 4737
Ph: 4943 0594

Cannonvale
18/230 Shute Harbour Road, Cannonvale
Ph: 4948 2123

Proserpine
Unit 2 59 Main Street
Proserpine, QLD 4800
Ph: 4945 2591

Bowen
Shop 3, 36 Powell St
Bowen, QLD
Ph: 4786 6729

Ideal Placements, For All Your Employment Needs
**What's Happening?**

**4MK CAROLS IN THE CITY**

4MK’s Carols in the City will be held at Bluewater Quay on Saturday, December 2. Kids' activities will start from 4pm, with the Carols to begin from 7pm. Expressions of interest for food stalls will be open soon, and those with their own generator supply will be prioritised. This event is run by 4MK/Grant Broadcasters, and you can contact Jess for more information at jess.dawes@grantbroadcasters.com.au.

**CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY**

Christmas activities planned by Mackay City Centre will include roving carollers in the two weeks before Christmas, as well as a fun festive season campaign. Starting mid-November, the six-week campaign will focus on the entire festive season – whether you are catching up with family, planning an end-of-work function, looking for fresh food, gifts, or homewares, needing to get a spray tan, your hair done, or just a new outfit. The vast range of businesses in Mackay City Centre can cater to all of these needs.

**SANTA IN THE CITY**

Man About and Carroll's News are hosting the Santa in the City workshop again this year from the vacant premises at 94 Victoria Street. Activities will include a scavenger hunt, colouring-in competition, workplace photo-booth challenge, visits by Santa and more! Mackay City Centre is really excited to be able to support this initiative. For further details on the planned activities and sponsorship opportunities please find the link below: https://mackaycitycentre.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017-
We celebrated the achievements of IDEAL Placements over the last 22 years with our wonderful participants & employers alike. A BIG Thank You to all staff, committee members & members of the community who attended. A special thanks to our guest speaker, Nekea Blegov, Get Smashed Art, for reading out your heart-felt poem and speech; where she talked about how life and how she has overcome her barrier with having autism.

2017 Annual General Meeting

2017 Committee

ORANGE SKY COMES TO MACKAY

"The hybrid van is a first of its kind, with two washers, two dryers and a shower in the back, providing basic human needs to homeless people who often go without them for days and weeks on end." Orange Sky provides a free service all around Mackay stopping in various destinations seven days a week, from CASA, St Vincent De Paul, and more importantly, IDEAL Placements every Thursday. If you need assistance don't be shy to come on down for a chat while you wait for your clothes and linen to be cleaned. To volunteer, go to http://www.orangeskylaundry.com.au/get_involved or simply fill in the form; http://form.jotform.co/form/51507087735863

Kathy Dine from IDEAL Placements Mackay donated a cheque for $40k to the Mackay Drop in Centre.
Why IDEAL Placements if you want help to gain employment?

At IDEAL Placements, we provide services for programs such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Disability Employment Services (DES), Transition to Work (TtW), Ticket to Work, Becoming a Worker (BAW) and Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

IDEAL Placements is an employment specialist, we always focus on the positive approach of, what the participants CAN DO rather than what they can’t do! Digging deep and working with the participants to find their strengths and skills, placing them with appropriate workplaces with employers who are supportive in the workplace, is our speciality.

IDEAL Placements has successfully run the Becoming a Worker program for 10 years and achieved successful outcomes by finding paid employment for the participants. Our recent successes include Michael – Retail Assistant at Carroll’s News in Mackay, and Tahlia – Childcare Assistant at Walkerston Day Care Centre. Nathan has gained work experience at Cootharinga Mackay and several other participants are preparing for interviews and looking forward to gaining more skills.

Some comments from the participants:

*Michael “the butterflies on my first day were really excited but I did what we learnt in class and took some really deep breaths and felt better”*

*Tahlia “I’m loving working with babies and learning new jobs”*

Supporting the participants in seeking and retaining a job and feeling comfortable in their new role is part of the everyday practice for IDEAL Placements and the success of the participants shines through when they reach their goals.

NDIS - Becoming a Worker Program

IDEAL Placements getting into the Oktoberfest spirit by holding a BBQ for participants, staff and employers.
Great News

No Interest Loan Scheme NILS

The No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) provides individuals and families on low incomes with access to safe, fair and affordable credit.

Loans are available for up to $1,500 for essential goods and services such as fridges, washing machines and medical procedures. Repayments are set up at an affordable amount over 12 to 18 months.

To be eligible for NILS you must have a Health Care Card or earn less than $45,000 a year (after tax). Loans cannot be used for cash, bond, rent arrears, debt consolidation, holidays or bills.

Location:

George Street Neighbourhood Centre
4 George St, South Mackay QLD (07) 4957 2626

CASA: 3/54 Gregory St, Mackay QLD
(07) 4951 4299

ST Vincent de Paul Society: 10 MacAlister St, Mackay QLD
(07) 4953 4515

Need us over the Christmas period?
We will be here
Just because the door may not be open doesn't mean we are not here—Call 4957 8177 and someone will be able to help. IDEAL Place- ments will only be closed for the public holidays.

PeakSmart Air-conditioning

The PeakSmart air conditioning program is expanding to regional Queensland which means a household or small business will receive a cash reward of up to $400 if they purchase a peak smart air conditioner.

For more information visit: