

Hello everyone. How are you? My name is Stephen and I work for Expression Australia.

I would like to let you know what has been happening during 2019. We have had an amazing year at Expression Australia.

We have been supporting people in the community who have a NDIS plan and supporting people who don't have a NDIS plan.

It has been a big change with Government funding to organisations ending and the change to funding people through their NDIS plans.

We have worked hard to work out the best way to support the community with the NDIS system.

2019 has gone so quickly – time has disappeared.

I want to thank some important people who have all worked tirelessly with determination this year. Thank you to our interpreters, our staff who meet with clients, reception staff, administration staff who do the NDIS claiming, staff who work on our newsletter and the many other tasks we do.

I would like to thank our interpreters who are out there in the community in various settings e.g. legal appointments, medical appointments, other appointments under the NDIS and workshops to name a few.

I would like to thank our support workers who are out in the community supporting clients individually across the state. Sometimes they travel between Hobart, Launceston and the North West. Their work is really important and I thank them for their work during the year.

I would like to thank our Auslan tutors for their work during the year. They teach our Auslan classes and tutor clients individually. I have noticed a change in the last 3 and a half years in this area. Demand for this has started growing slowly. I have noticed a positive change. I can see clients are happy with their NDIS plans and are able to do the things that they want to do.

My thanks to all the people I have mentioned including Auslan interpreters for an amazing year.

We can look forward to our year ahead in 2020 with the same energy and enthusiasm – ready for any new things 2020 will bring.

I want to thank Expression Australia head office in Melbourne for their support and their hard work too. Their financial management, adaptability and strategic planning in these times of change in a changing world means we can continue to provide services to the community.

Thank you to Tamara Pearce and Chris Mathieson our CEO for their support. Thank you to the Board of Management for their support. They all do a fantastic job in supporting us.

I would like to let you know that as we near the end of 2019, our office will close for a period of time to allow for an end of year break. Our Hobart, Launceston and Melbourne offices will close from 24th December until 2 January.

This allows everyone a rest and according to their belief celebrate Christmas or not and to spend time with their families.

Interpreting is still available during this time. Our interpreting booking office can be contacted on 9473 1117 on 27/12, 30/12 and 31/12.

For urgent interpreting any time contact 9473 1174

If you have any concerns or need clarification, please come and see us before 24 December and we can give you the information you need.

In case of an emergency please contact police, fire or ambulance directly on 000.

For any interpreting that is not urgent please contact us on 2 January.

2019 has been an amazing year, it has been a busy, really good year. It is time for everyone to take a break now. We look forward to working with you all again in 2020.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Thank you all.