

QUARTERLY NEWS

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National Joblink



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Time2Drive brings the Good Vibes to the FNQ Volunteer Expo!

On Sunday 25 May, the Time2Drive Learner Driver Mentor Program team in Cairns QLD rolled into the FNQ Volunteers 2025 Volunteer Expo with teapots, treats, and a whole lot of love. With more than 40 volunteer-engaging organisations taking part and over 750 people coming through the doors, it was a fantastic opportunity to connect with our community, share stories, and show off what makes Time2Drive so special.

In true Time2Drive fashion, we didn't just turn up — we turned it into a celebration! We set up a special High Tea for our wonderful volunteers who stopped by to lend their support, share their experiences, and, of course, enjoy a mouth-watering spread of treats and delicacies lovingly prepared by our very own Andrew Young, Time2Drive Program Coordinator. From sweet bites to savoury delights, it was a spread worthy of the stars — and our volunteers are nothing less.

We loved being able to mix and mingle with the public while proudly talking about the life-changing impact our volunteers have — and the joy and laughter that come with being part of the Time2Drive crew. If you ask us, there's no better recruitment strategy than simply being ourselves and letting that joy shine.

A big thank you to everyone who visited, volunteered, or helped make the day such a success. We're proud to be part of a vibrant, passionate volunteer community here in FNQ.



GOOD NEWS STORIES

Raising Over \$1,400 at Relay For Life – Launceston

In the ultimate team bonding activity, National Joblink Launceston team proudly participated in the 2025 Relay For Life, raising a remarkable \$1,414 and walking over 100,000 combined steps in support of Cancer Council Tasmania. The event brought together over 800 community members in a powerful show of support, remembrance, and hope for those affected by cancer.

As part of their presence at the event, the NJL team unveiled a brand-new marquee promoting the organisation's Parent Pathways Program—a supportive initiative that helps parents gain access to training, employment, and life skills. The marquee served not only as the team's base throughout the overnight relay, but also as a vibrant symbol of NJL's commitment to empowering families and individuals in the local community.

"Relay For Life is such an inspiring and emotional event, and we were proud to walk in honour of those impacted by cancer," said NJL Launceston Manager Suze.

"We're also thrilled to have showcased our Parent Pathways Program to the community—it was a great way to raise awareness while contributing to an incredible cause."

Relay For Life is one of Cancer Council Tasmania's flagship events, celebrating cancer survivors, remembering those lost, and raising funds to support vital research and services. The 2025 Launceston event marked the 25th anniversary of Relay For Life in Tasmania, with 51 teams raising over \$212,000.

Despite a few sore aches and pains in the office on Monday we are all looking forward to participating in this rewarding event in 2026.



Busn' About – Rockhampton Transition to Work

"The Rocky/Bersekrek "Busn' About" activity was a fantastic experience for everyone involved! Learning how to navigate public transport, understanding bus timetables, and engaging with local resources like the library and comic store are all valuable skills and experiences. The combination of educational activities and social interaction provided a fun and supportive environment for participants while also building confidence towards employability skills.

It's great to see that they had the opportunity to explore their interests, such as pop culture at Millenium Comics, while also making connections through support groups. Plus, enjoying a meal together and playing board games has been a wonderful way to relax and bond as a group. Busn About was such a success we will be running another one soon.

PARTICIPANT STORIES



Sam – Transition to Work, Launceston

Sam commenced into Transition to Work (TtW) at the beginning of 2025, during this time Sam identified the barrier of leaving school early, only finishing year 11. Mentors worked closely with Sam, identifying the goal of completing a Certificate III in Disability or Community services to address his educational barrier whilst also supporting him in a career in a field that he was passionate about.

At just 17 years old Sam faced hardship, experiencing a lack of stable accommodation which resulted in homelessness earlier this year. Mentor assisted Sam into gaining a placement at the supported accommodation, Thyne House, a program that assists those into an educational or employment pathway whilst providing stable accommodation and programs.

Due to Sam's amazing engagement at Thyne house, he has been nominated to run peer engagement programs such as Barista basics and community cook ups to assist in the engagement of others that reside in Thyne house. Providing a space that fosters a sense of connection.

Now thriving in a stable environment, Sam was able to continue studying for his certificate III in community services, with aspirations of becoming a youth worker to support others that have faced similar challenges. Sam and their mentor meet weekly for support with his modules and assessments, with him receiving amazing feedback from his trainer around his learnings.

“When I first connected with NJL, I was facing significant personal adversity.

Unemployment had taken a toll not only on my financial security but also on my mental well-being and sense of self-worth... I found myself without a stable home and navigating the isolation and uncertainty that accompany homelessness.

At a time when my future seemed unclear and unattainable, your team supported me with empathy, respect, and a steadfast belief in my potential”

Staff at National Joblink have praised Sam for his commitment and initiative as he is living proof that with the right support, TtW participants can re-write their stories. As he works towards his qualifications and continues to support his peers, Sam is turning his lived experience into a powerful force for good.

“Thank you once again for your dedication to empowering young people and for truly walking beside me during such a pivotal time. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been part of the TTW program and to have experienced the integrity, professionalism, and compassion that the NJL team brings to their work every single day.”

PARTICIPANT STORIES



Rubee – Transition to Work, Gladstone

Over the past 12 months Rubee has faced numerous challenges, including anxiety, homelessness, and communication barriers, but through the dedicated assistance of her National Joblink (NJL) Transition to Work (TtW) mentor Donna, significant progress has been made.

Initially, Donna provided crucial support with transport to appointments, purchasing a phone, and discussing study options. Guidance was provided to addressing housing issues, offering referrals, and maintaining communication with Rubee during periods of disengagement, demonstrating a consistent commitment to this young person's well-being.

As Rubee transitioned to more stable housing, TtW mentor Donna continued to provide support in job searching, resume assistance and assisted Rubee to secure employment in the hospitality industry.

Donna continued to support Rubee with the necessary work items including, clothing and purchasing a pushbike, which greatly assisted in building Rubee's confidence and independence for be able to get to and from work.

Rubee is loving her work and is so grateful to have the assistance of Donna, NJL and the TtW program, stating, "I don't know where I would be without your help. You have helped me from being homeless and scared to become a valued employee with a flash bike and a secure house. I can't say thank you enough" which is truly a testament to the meaningful support provided through NJL and TtW.

Well done Rubee! We are so proud of you and all you are achieving !

Chloe – Transition to Work,

Chloe commenced with TtW in February 2024, she had casual employment as a cleaner, however her real passion was working with animals. Her TtW Mentor Dani had discussed undertaking the Certificate III in Animal Grooming as an option to build knowledge and skills towards gaining new employment.

Chloe was excited to look at study, however she was becoming unhappy in her cleaning role and had the extra pressure of unstable accommodation. Dani assisted Chloe with providing information on support services and offering a referral to headspace, whilst also supporting Chloe to continue to job search for employment she would enjoy.

Dani came across the perfect job opportunity at a local boarding kennel and contacted Chloe immediately to assist tailor her resume, cover letter and submit her application. Within five minutes of Chloe leaving her Njl appointment, she excitedly returned to the office to advise she had just received a phone call from the kennel employer asking her to come in for a work trial.

The following week Chole called Dani to let her know the work trial was successful stating, "I had no anxieties and actually really enjoyed myself and I feel like I fit in well." Chloe commenced employment on the 23rd of May she is loving her work and will be enrolling in the Certificate III in Animal Grooming in the near future, which will assist her reach her goal of self-employment in the next three years.

Well done Chloe!

PARTICIPANT STORIES



Erinn – Parent Pathways, Gladstone

It's truly inspiring to hear about Erinn's journey and the support she has received from National Joblink (NJL) and Parent Pathways, throughout the process of starting her own business. Erinn's determination to channel her energy into her new venture, despite facing her own personal challenges but also significant health challenges for her daughter, is commendable!

The proactive steps Erinn has taken—such as researching quotes, organising her ABN, and building a clientele base, demonstrates her commitment to her goals. It's wonderful that she felt supported by her Parent Pathways Mentor Michelle who played a crucial role in guiding her and providing reassurance stating, “I would like to thank NJL Parent Pathways for the support they have

given me and for buying my equipment”.

National Joblink assisted through the Parent Pathways Parent Funds by purchasing cleaning equipment and uniforms, and with her business cards ready to distribute, it seems she is well on her way to business success! The hands-on approach from Michelle assisting with online orders to discussing health and well-being, shows a deep commitment to not only supporting Erinn's business goals but her overall mental health and stability. Erinn's gratitude towards NJL, Parent Pathways and her mentor reflects the positive impact this support has had on her life. Well done Erinn!, we are truly excited to see how your journey continues to unfold.

Toniesha – Parent Pathways, Gladstone

Toniesha commenced Parent Pathways in December 2024 and had strong interest in becoming a Nurse commencing her Bachelor of Nursing degree in March 2025. As a full-time mother to two young children, aged one and three she initially worried about the extra expenses associated with completing her studies. Being part of Parent Pathways allowed Toniesha to access funding and provided her with Parent Pathways mentors Maddie and Michelle, who reassured, guided and assisted Toneisha in her goals and also supplied essential items such as textbooks, a respirator mask and fitting, and facilitated her police check and disability worker screening. Additionally, she was able to access Parent Pathways funding for prescription glasses, enabling her to read clearly while studying and completing her exams.

Toniesha's journey highlights the challenges faced by individuals who are managing family duties alongside their academic goals. The support from NJL Parent Pathways has been crucial in allowing Toniesha to concentrate on her studies without the burden of financial strain. Toniesha was so appreciative and stated: “I was concerned about not having the support, however NJL has gone above and beyond to ensure I have, NJL was able to alleviate a lot of the additional stress that comes with starting study and being a mum”

Well done Toniesha, you are kicking some major goals, and we are so excited to see what your future holds



MEET THE TEAM



Bec Blaazer-McQueen – Transition to Work Mentor, Launceston, Tas

I'm Bec and have been working with the awesome team at Launceston since October 2023 as a Transition to Work youth mentor. I have over 20 years' experience working in the community sector and started my career working with The Migrant Resource Centre in Geelong, Victoria, as an administration assistant and ended up working on their community radio station for many years.

I have been living in Tassie with my three children, two dogs and too many cats to mention for the past 6 years. I enjoy being out in the wilderness, bushwalking and exploring old ruins, history and am a bit of a nerd full of useless facts and information. I thoroughly enjoy my role with NJL and believe everyone deserves a chance and to be shown compassion and kindness.

I feel blessed to be part of our participants' journeys and am truly inspired by the strength of character displayed by many of the young people I meet.

Jayde Robinson – Marketing Officer, Head office Launceston Tas

Hi, I'm Jayde. I have been working for National Joblink (NJL) for 12 years and over that time I have had numerous roles, from being part of the finance team to my current role as Marketing Officer, just stepping into where the need is really.

I have my Bachelor in Contemporary Arts and Teaching, with my original plan of becoming an Art Teacher, but that all changed after starting work at NJL. I found my second family here, and would only give it up if I won the lottery, where I would open up a book store/café, with a goat petting Zoo out the back!

I am music loving, video gaming self-confessed nerd, who is proud mum to one fiercely independent daughter Amelia, and dog mum to a beautiful Dalmatian Romeo. At home you will often find me with my nose in a book, doing some kind of crafty activity or in the garden attempting to grow...well anything!

