

WHAT'S NEW?

MAY
2025



Welcome to the May 2025 HPA newsletter for our customers and stakeholders!

Everyone has enjoyed the few days of dry season weather with cool evenings, to then be hit with unseasonal rain and return of the humidity. To say the last year has had unstable weather is an understatement

HPA continues to review its products and services to ensure we keep up with demand. In this newsletter, we have highlighted one of our customers and one of our regular supporters. These companies and others like them underpin HPA's objective of providing appropriate employment opportunities.

Recently, we were awarded a grant from the Department of Social Services to develop a co-designed (with people with disability) workshop to work with employers and business to breakdown barriers to employing people with disability. We are very excited to be commencing "Employer Abiliti " in June and will be recruiting people with disability in Darwin / Palmerston and Katherine to help design the workshop and then deliver the workshop.

As a business, if you are interested in having a free workshop at the end of the year, please call us, we are keen to work with you, **piece by piece, together we WILL achieve.**

Stephanie Ransome
CEO (Acting) | General Manager Operations



AUSDESIGNS

HPA takes on major bag order for Nitmiluk Tours

It all began with a meeting, when a representative from Nitmiluk Tours in Katherine (NT) connected with one of our HPA managers and decided to place an initial order for 75 tablecloths. Impressed with the quality, they have now entrusted us with a much larger project, an order of approximately 700 designer carry-all bags, featuring our vibrant Aboriginal fabrics.

More than 10 HPA employees are working regularly on this project. From cutting fabric and adding interfacing to assembling, sewing, and finishing, it's a complex process that our skilled team handles with care and precision.

This is a big challenge—but one we're proud to take on. A huge thank you to Nitmiluk Tours for their trust and support!



Interested in adding these to your collection?

Contact us at ausdesigns@hpa.net.au or call (08) 8932 5184



ALLISON

SUPPORTED EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

"I really enjoy sewing. I've learned a lot from the 'old ladies' - that's what they call themselves! They've taught me so many things."

Meet Allison - 22 years at HPA!

Allison has been working at HPA for more than 22 years. She is kind, helpful, and always smiling, a real joy to work with! Her presence adds so much to our team, and we are incredibly grateful for the joy she brings every day.

Most days, you will find Allison busy in the sewing room. She helps the team make bags, aprons, lanyards, and other items. Right now, she is working on a big order of bags. "There are many to make, using different fabrics and sewing styles."

When she is not sewing, Allison helps in the paper shredding room. She is always ready to help wherever she is needed.

Allison is very friendly and has made many good friends at HPA. **"I came to HPA to work in a nice environment, but also to meet people. I've made so many good friends here, we even see each other outside of work."**

In her free time, Allison likes to relax, go for walks, and spend time with animals. Thank you, Allison, for being such a special part of HPA. We love having you here!

Ausdesigns is an industrial textile business that specialises in design and manufacture of promotional products.

Reidy's

FISHING LURES

Thank you to Reidy's: A valued partner of HPA

We want to express our sincere gratitude to Reidy's for their incredible support and collaboration over the past years.

Their trust and confidence in us have enabled us to take on exciting projects, including the assembly of fishing lures.

We would also like to thank our dedicated team members, Adam, Andik, Joseph, Lara, Tim, Maria P, Troy, Nathan, and Lenore for their hard work and commitment.



Karen, THANK YOU for your delicious contributions!



For the last 4 years, Karen from Paul's Milk Delivery has been organising milk donations, a beautiful initiative to ensure everyone can enjoy fresh milk at work.

Every Tuesday, a friendly driver delivers milk crates to both HPA sites, making our day a little brighter (and tastier)!



“Big thank you to Karen and the crew for delivering the milk to HPA every week. We couldn't be more thankful for your services. The participants enjoyed the donated yoghurts for morning tea this week. We look forward to seeing you again soon.”

Interview by Jocelyn, Supported Employee at HPA for 18 years



Connecting at the Darwin Disability Expo Were you there?

Brendan, Callum, Chris, and Javed were active volunteers during the Disability Expo, outstanding HPA Ambassadors chatting with many families, community services, and providers throughout the day. Their enthusiasm and support were a great contribution to the event. **Thank you Brendan, Callum, Chris, and Javed!!!**

"It was so much fun, and I would like to do it again next year!" Brendan



Cheers to our volunteers!

National Volunteer Week together

Thank you amazing volunteers for your unwavering support, for showing up, and for making an impact in the community. Your dedication, energy, and passion over the past year have made a real and lasting difference. Whether you gave a few hours or many, your time and effort have not gone unnoticed.

Thanks also to our incredible Board members, for generously giving your time, expertise, and heart to make HPA what it is today.

Community Hero – Frank's longtime volunteering with HPA



Frank, here with David, has been a volunteer with HPA Since 2022. He helps out 2–3 days a week, driving our Paper Collection Van and working with supported employees across Darwin and Palmerston. Frank is a vital part of the team.

“I am a married 68-year-old man with 5 adult children. I am a qualified Mental Health Social Work Counsellor Clinician who retired 3 years ago after spending 20 years in Health Services, both here and in WA Public Hospitals. My values of equality and supporting others started back in the 70s.”

Frank served 12 years in the Army and has volunteered with many groups, like Meals on Wheels, youth programs, and environmental causes. “Even when I was studying at uni, I kept volunteering wherever I could.”

A typical day at HPA includes loading the van with bins, picking up full bins from customers, and heading back to Yarrawonga to unload for shredding, all with a supported employee by his side. “It’s a team effort.”

“The best part is working with and supporting the employees and watching them grow in confidence and ability to interact with customers. That is extremely rewarding to witness.”

Frank plans to keep volunteering as long as we need him. “This role fulfils my need for social inclusion for all and a desire for Social Justice in a very hard world at the moment.”
Thank you, Frank, for everything you do. Your dedication makes a real difference.

Want to volunteer with us?
Email: inspire@hpa.net.au

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to our new creative force!

We are excited to introduce the newest member of our HPA team: Aadit, who you might already know as Eddy!

Eddy has joined us as a Graphic Designer, bringing with him a strong background in marketing, branding, and visual communications (especially in the community services space). We are thrilled to have him on board!



What made Eddy want to join HPA?

"I was drawn to HPA because of its strong community focus and meaningful impact. Being able to use creativity to support an organisation that uplifts people with disabilities truly aligns with my values."

Outside of work, Eddy enjoys beach days, spending time with loved ones, and indulging his love of exotic cars. He also enjoys exploring design trends and playing with digital art.

Eddy is also taking the lead on printing and sublimation shirts at Ausdesigns! We can't wait to see the fresh, innovative designs he brings to life.

Eddy describes himself as creative, innovative, and compassionate, and we couldn't agree more. Get ready for some amazing new shirt creations coming soon!

"Feel free to pop by and say hi, I'm always keen to connect!"

Showcasing our services to the member for Blain, Matthew Kerle MLA



Yesterday, we had the pleasure of welcoming the **Member for Blain, Matthew Kerle MLA**, for a site visit at Ausdesigns.

Mr. Kerle showed great interest in the range of services we offer, including Breaking Ground, our Home Maintenance services, the paper shredding program, and our new Car Wash service.

It was fantastic to share the meaningful work our teams are doing and the valuable skills our supported employees are developing every day. He was also very impressed by the large range of crafted products created by the Ausdesigns team.

We are always thankful for the chance to show what we do and look forward to sharing even more in the future. **Thank you for taking the time to visit us, we hope to welcome you back again soon!**

Appreciating our people: Employee recognition

At HPA, we believe in celebrating the dedication and achievements of our team members who go above and beyond their job responsibilities.

Thank you Sau and Mel and for your contributions in creating a supportive and inclusive environment for our supported employees and participants.



CONTACT THE TEAM!

Are you considering a fun work shirt or conference item design, or are you interested in one of our products?

Any questions about the ordering process?

Reach out to us at any time. Our team is always happy to assist you!

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last news!

