

2006

Annual Review



Montrose Access

OUR MISSION

To provide support services to children with physical disabilities and their families in order to assist these children to achieve their maximum individual potential for participation in the community.

OUR VISION

To be a Queensland based centre of excellence, helping children with physical disabilities achieve the best quality of life possible.

OUR PRINCIPLES

Respect and Dignity

We respect the right to privacy, dignity and confidentiality for all.

Equity and Fairness

We believe in consultation and equity in everything we do.

Family Focus

We recognise that each family is unique and has individual goals.

Partnership

Partnerships within our communities are the strength of our future.

Quality and Innovation

We strive for continuous improvement, innovation and growth.

MONTROSEACCESS HOLDS
MANY STORIES OF SUCCESS
DESPITE OPERATING IN A
FIELD IN WHICH THERE IS
RARELY A 'CURE' FOR OUR
CLIENT'S CONDITIONS.



INTRODUCTION

About MontroseAccess

MontroseAccess provides services to over 500 children across Queensland who have physical disabilities which are not adequately supported by other organisations. Since 1933, children from age 0 to 18 have received quality care, education, accommodation, therapy and respite services

Today, on a daily basis, we provide therapy and respite services, care and advice at one of our three sites, in a client's home, in consultation with schools and via an outreach programme across the state.

Our client's lives are improved dramatically by the services we provide — from hydrotherapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and social work, to recreation activities and the provision of tailor-made orthotics. These services are not provided on an ongoing basis in a hospital or by many other support organisations — we are THE service provider for these children!

Many of our clients with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and other neuromuscular conditions would previously have been dependent on a walking frame by the time they turned 10 years old. They would be permanently in a wheelchair by Year 8 at school. Together with medical advances and the various services provided by MontroseAccess, many of the children's clinical progression is often delayed by five to ten years. It is proven that our techniques in therapy services improve the quality of life and lengthen the independence of these children.

Our respite care and recreation activities also provide mental, emotional and physical relief for our clients and their families. Children are able to attend camps with others despite possible physical dependencies — something they are unable to do through their schools or social groups. Respite services allow families to pursue activities of their own with the knowledge that their child is not only being cared for by highly skilled respite carers but also participating in activities which develop their emotional and mental well-being. These services result in improved quality of life for our children and their families.

Our Clients

MontroseAccess has a growing client base. We currently treat children with 45 different physically disabling conditions of varying severity.

MontroseAccess recognises that a child's greatest asset is their family, and further recognises that a family with a child with a severe physical disability needs extra support. Therefore the entire family, including parents, siblings and other extended family members are given consideration and additional services are provided to family members as required. Services to the entire family commence at time of diagnosis and/or referral and continue throughout the time that the child is a client, including grief counselling, where the child has a life-limiting condition.

Where we Work

Our clients and their families live throughout Queensland, from the New South Wales border up to North Queensland and as far west as Mount Isa. We provide our services through an outreach programme, with staff based at our three offices in southeast Queensland — in Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast.

At present, our disability management services are provided to children in the following towns and regions:

- Alligator Creek
- Atherton
- Augathella
- Ayr
- Beaudesert
- Blackwater
- Brisbane
- Buderim
- Bundaberg
- Cairns
- Caboolture
- Caloundra

- Charters Towers
- Chinchilla
- Emerald
- Gladstone
- Glenden
- Gold Coast
- Gympie
- Ipswich
- Hervey Bay
- Kawungan
- Kingaroy
- Mackay
- Maroochydore
- Maryborough
- Mission Beach
- Mooloolaba
- Montville
- Mount Isa
- Nambour
- Noosa
- Rockhampton
- Roma
- Theodore
- Toowoomba
- Torquay
- Townsville
- Tweed Heads
- Winfield
- Yeppoon
- Winton

International Standards of Care

MontroseAccess dedicates considerable resources to recruiting and retaining highly trained staff in the disability sector. A comprehensive programme of professional development is also provided to ensure that staff maintain and increase their knowledge.

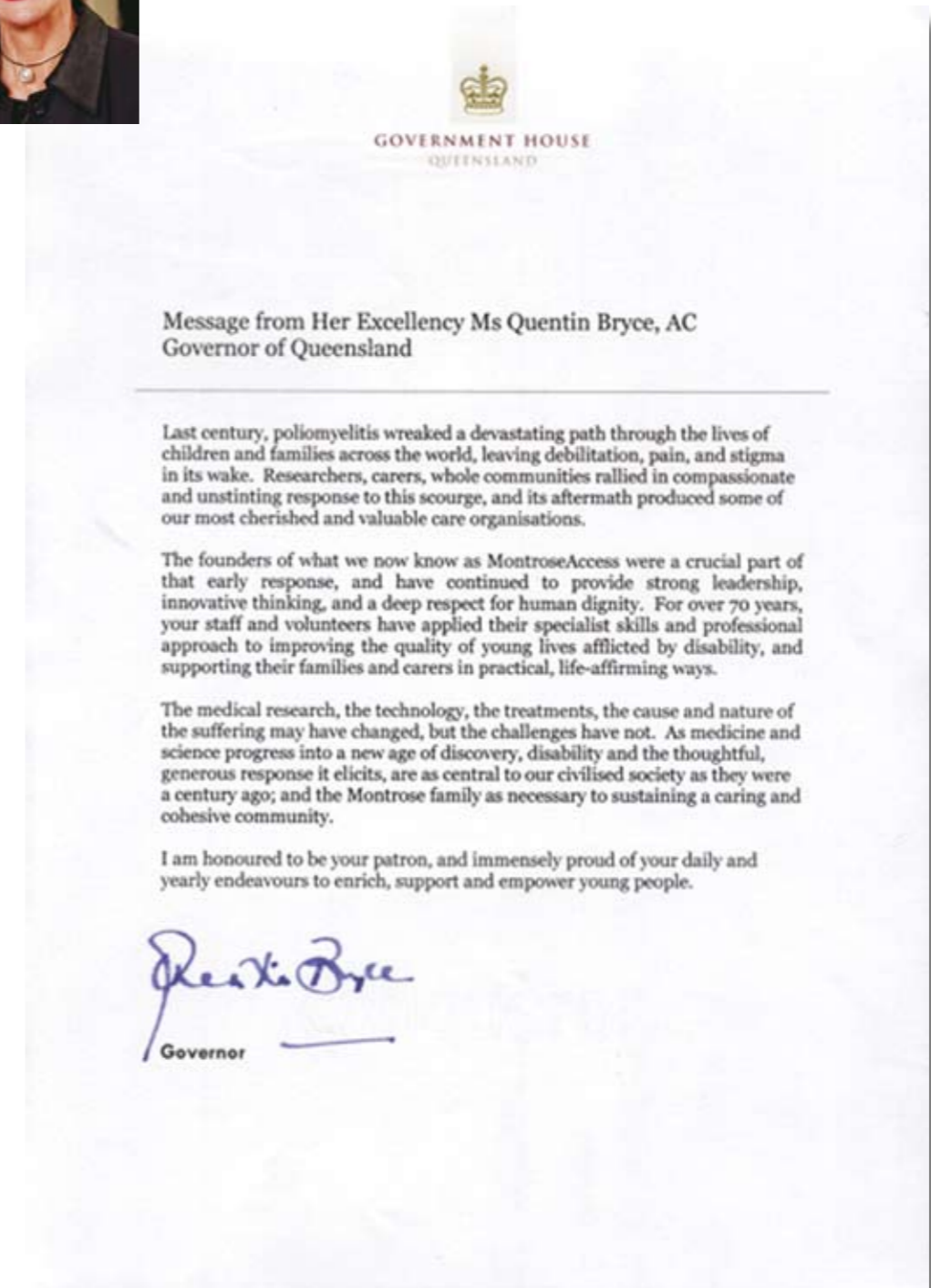
Most of the staff at MontroseAccess possess a strong academic background, and many are working towards research projects of international significance, including publication in contemporary allied health journals across the globe.

In addition, the organisation has formal and informal programmes to ensure that long-standing expert staff members assist with mentoring and developing less experienced and graduate staff, ensuring the long-term transfer of specialised knowledge.



Above: MontroseAccess provides an opportunity for children with disabilities to form friendships with other children.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON



THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS
HAS BEEN A BUSY TIME
FOR MONTROSEACCESS
WITH MANY CHANGES
TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE
ORGANISATION.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The past twelve months has been a busy time for MontroseAccess with many changes taking place within the organisation. We have farewelled two former directors, celebrated the efforts undertaken by our generous supporters and undertaken a comprehensive approach towards developing a strategic plan to move the organisation forward into the future.

Changes to the Board

Two of our long serving directors have retired from the Board of Directors — Mr Ian Dickson and Dr Lloyd Toft.

Mr Ian Dickson, who resigned in August 2006, had been a director of MontroseAccess since November 1988. He was president from 1997–1999 and made significant contributions to all our sub-committees including as Chairman of Marketing and the former Property Committee. Ian's wife Helen will also be missed as she too dedicated considerable time and energy through her participation on the MontroseAccess Ladies Committee as President and in various other roles.

Dr Lloyd Toft first joined MontroseAccess in November 1990 and in that time had been Senior Vice President and served on several committees including Client Services and the Management Review Committee. Lloyd Toft resigned in November 2006 after sixteen years of service to the Board.

We would like to wish Ian, Lloyd and their families all the best for the future.

Strategic Planning

A Strategic Planning Workshop was held on Thursday 27 July 2006, to obtain feedback from over forty participants from various stakeholder groups including client families, staff members, business leaders and government representatives. Each group was able to provide an insight into their current perceptions and understanding of MontroseAccess's services, including their own experiences, preferences and vision for the future, our public profile, current services offered, the increasing demand upon those services and

wider geographic requirements. The information provided will assist the Board and Management to identify strategic priorities and assist with the planning and operation of MontroseAccess in the next five years.

The workshop provided a range of interesting and potentially exciting prospects for MontroseAccess. There will be ongoing discussion between the Board and Management to continually develop future strategies and focus on providing the best quality support services to children with physical disabilities and their families.

Appreciation of our Supporters

On Monday 20 November 2006, a 'Supporters Appreciation Evening' was held on behalf of MontroseAccess at Government House. The purpose of the evening was to recognise and honour the many sponsors, volunteers and outstanding individuals who have contributed greatly to MontroseAccess.

Paul Rigby received Honorary Life Membership to the Society in recognition of his outstanding fundraising achievements. Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, spoke in detail about the great work MontroseAccess does in the community and how sponsors and volunteers such as Paul are important to our organisation.

Paul was a MontroseAccess client from 1964–1975. For the past four years he has single-handedly organised the Bribie Island Bowls Day, which has raised over \$32,000 for MontroseAccess. When you ask Paul why he fundraises, the answer is always quite simple — he wants to help the organisation that helped him when he was a MontroseAccess client.

Paul is planning to continue his fundraising endeavours by hosting the annual Bribie Island Bowls Day in November 2007. Our sincere thanks to Paul for his achievements and we look forward to our ongoing relationship in the future.

I would especially like to thank Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC for hosting such a lovely evening.

As President of the Board of Directors, I also wish to express my gratitude for the ongoing support by fellow Directors, our staff, supporters and volunteers, without whom new programmes, growth of services and our new facilities would not be feasible.

John Kennedy
President



Above: Paul Rigby receives Honorary Life Membership from Her Excellency the Governor

In Memoriam — Paul Hopkins

In November, MontroseAccess was saddened by the passing of Dr Paul Hopkins. As a member of the board from 1978 to 1996, Dr Hopkins contributed greatly to the strategic direction of our organisation and particularly to the Medical Committee with his expertise as a highly respected medical practitioner.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



John Kennedy President
Manager
 State Services
 Carers Queensland
 Appointed: - as Director 1998
 - as President 2004



Ian Dickson
Electrical Engineer
 Dowding & Mills
 Appointed: 1988
 Retired: 2006



Dr Lloyd Toft
Orthopaedic Surgeon
 Watkins Medical Centre
 Appointed: 1990
 Retired: 2006



Dr Geoffrey Wallace
Paediatric Neurologist
 Mater Medical Centre
 Appointed: 1995



Jill Cross
Speech Pathologist
 Speech Pathology and
 Literacy Clinic
 Appointed: 1998



Jack Bryce
Partner
 Minale Bryce Design Strategy
 Appointed: 2003



Mark Greenup
Manager
 ABee Promotions
 Appointed: 2003



Christopher Wille
Solicitor
 Minter Ellison Lawyers
 Appointed: 2003



Craig Bellamy
Partner and Chartered Accountant
 PKF Australia
 Appointed: 2004

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to advise that our ongoing efforts to attract additional Government funding have been successful. In December 2006, Disability Services Queensland announced that MontroseAccess was successful in applying

for funding to provide respite and day activity services to over 18 year olds, and to provide early intervention services to children with disabilities aged 0 – 8 years. The funding for these new programmes is on a recurrent basis.

The implementation of these programmes will be a welcome challenge and will involve our services being offered to clients outside our traditional client base. It does, however, mean that we will be able to continue to provide a service to some of our clients after they have reached 18 years of age. Also, young children who may not have met the admission criteria under our existing programmes will now be able to benefit from our expertise in children's services.

The President has reported on the Strategic Planning Workshop held in July 2006. This workshop was an invaluable forum to focus on issues confronting the organisation and its stakeholders. My thanks to everyone who attended the workshop, in particular our client parents who made such a valuable contribution. It was also very pleasing to have the Honourable Warren Pitt, Minister for Communities, Disability Services, Seniors and Youth, attend the workshop and present his thoughts on MontroseAccess and our future role as a partner with government in providing quality services for individuals with disabilities.

Following the workshop a statement of strategic intent was developed. The major issues to be addressed are organisational development, financial sustainability, range of services, service delivery modes, resource management and human resources. These issues will not be addressed

in isolation but will contribute to our overall future focus, thus ensuring a coordinated and comprehensive set of strategies for the coming five years.

We continue to establish and maintain ongoing meaningful partnerships with other community organisations. The success of the 'Turning the Tide' Conference for Muscular Dystrophy was particularly pleasing. This conference is evidence of the valuable partnership between Parent Project Australia and MontroseAccess and was a credit to all those involved in the organisation and conduct of the conference.

Our partnership with our interstate sister organisations through Ability First Australia continues. This gives MontroseAccess a valuable national presence and international representation through the affiliation with Easter Seals America.

While 2006 was busy, the coming year will be even busier and more challenging but has the potential to be extremely satisfying as we implement strategies to address the identified issues.

My thanks for the ongoing support provided by the President, Mr John Kennedy, and each and every director and staff member. Thanks also to the Minister for Disability Services Queensland for his continued support and a special appreciation to our local member of Parliament, Mrs Julie Attwood MLA, who has continued to be one of our staunchest supporters.

Finally, I must express my appreciation to those parents who have given their valuable time to support the organisation by fundraising and lobbying government on our behalf. Their continued representation to parliamentarians and to representatives from Disability Services Queensland has definitely helped in acquiring additional funding. This support is also testimony to the value and quality of our services.

Darrel Bourke
 Chief Executive Officer

OUR SERVICES — RESPITE

MontroseAccess continues to provide both in-home and out-of-home support for clients and their families. A particular focus for the out-of-home service in the last year is the provision of interesting and age appropriate activities and outings. The employment of extra staff has allowed increased forward planning of holiday activities and also enhanced our ability to communicate proposed programmes to families. As always, our clients are encouraged to suggest activities and outings which interest them as well as to participate in the planning process. A generous donation from the Whitehouse Foundation has been very helpful in assisting us to support a wide range of outings.

Over the past year, we have received feedback from our families with young adults approaching discharge age, or who have recently been discharged, regarding the need for ongoing respite support. These families have actively lobbied government to provide funds for MontroseAccess to continue to provide out-of-home respite to young adults post 18 years of age. A funding application has been approved by Disability Services Queensland to establish a respite programme for young adults. The programme will be established in early 2007 at our Corinda site where it will use the current out-of-home respite facility. Adult services will be provided on a Monday to Friday basis in addition to the current children's service offered on weekends and school holiday periods. This will fully utilise our respite centre.

The introduction of the new Disability Services Act 2006 requires all staff, volunteers and contractors to have a criminal history check performed prior to commencing work. All MontroseAccess staff, volunteers and contractors have undertaken this check and are also being required to have a Blue Card. This extra safeguard provides increased security for our clients and families.

In order to increase the physical safety of clients, an intercom system has been installed in the out-of-home respite facility. This allows staff to lock

the doors to the facility but allows easy access for clients, family and friends to gain entry.

Changes required to the out-of-home respite centre to comply with new fire regulations have now been completed ensuring the facility remains fully compliant with the Building and Other Legislation Act 2002.

There have been significant opportunities for staff education over the past year. The Disability Sector Training Fund, which is supported by Disability Services Queensland, has offered a wide range of free training opportunities. Staff have also been able to attend the Disability Support Workers conference in Melbourne as well as the 'Turning the Tide' conference co-hosted by MontroseAccess and Parent Project Australia. These training events assist MontroseAccess to build a core of well-trained and knowledgeable staff who are better able to provide quality services to our clients.

Sue Tonks
Manager of Respite Services



Above: Out-of-home respite.

OUR SERVICES — THERAPY

Our teams of Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Recreation Officers, Social Workers and Therapy Support staff have enjoyed another busy, challenging and rewarding year. MontroseAccess and client families are grateful for the superb expertise and dedication of our Therapy Services staff.

Our caseload has remained stable during 2006 with 66 admissions, according to our entry criteria. Unfortunately, approximately 50% of referrals are not admitted and some of these children will not have access to an alternative service provider.

Our two largest groups of children have neuromuscular conditions and arthritis. Since 2004, the percentage of children with neuromuscular conditions has risen from 40.9% to 47.6%, reflecting the community's increased knowledge of MontroseAccess' expertise in management of these conditions. The cohort of children with arthritis has remained at approximately 16% of the caseload.

Flexible Options

This year, Therapy Services staff have continued to develop group programmes for caseload management and to make the most of opportunities for the children to socialise and make lasting friendships. Clinics have been developed for splinting, orthotics and management of arthritis. The Recreation programme further supports children's socialisation and quality of life and the Family Support programme focuses on the child's parents and siblings.

MontroseAccess continues to respond to the demographic changes occurring in Queensland with the inner city teams experiencing a reduction in caseload numbers but fringe suburbs and regional and rural teams coping with increased referrals. To cope with this change, team boundaries have been adjusted and hours have been reallocated to teams where the need is highest. Areas of highest need continue to be the Sunshine Coast, the suburbs on the northern outskirts of Brisbane and regional and rural Queensland.



Above: Recreation provides activities for all to enjoy.

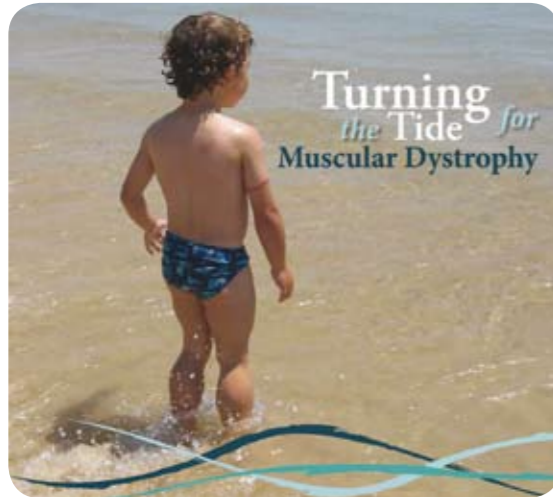
Education and Research

MontroseAccess assists in the training of Physiotherapists from University of Queensland and Griffith University, Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists and Social Workers from University of Queensland and Recreation Officers from Griffith University. We also participate in the community training of medical students.

During 2006, MontroseAccess supported a Speech Pathologist to be a member of the planning committee for professional development events presented by Speech Pathology Australia.

This year, staff members Marion Cook and Mathilde Backhouse, initiated the development of research partnerships with their schools at the University of Queensland in the field of neuromuscular conditions. Research is an area in which Therapy Services wishes to increase its focus.

Mathilde Backhouse presented her paper on continence in boys with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at the Fourth International Neuromuscular Conference in Denmark. This paper is published in The Australian and New Zealand Continence Journal, Vol. 12, No.3, Spring 2006.



EACH YEAR, THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT HOSTS A SERIES OF EVENTS UNDER THE FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMME, WHICH IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF MONTROSEACCESS' GOAL OF SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES.

Neuromuscular Issues

MontroseAccess supports 225 children and young people with a neuromuscular condition. With the support of staff and management, our Neuromuscular Advisor, Mrs Helen Posselt, consolidated the Neuromuscular Clinic and spearheaded the presentation of the 'Turning the Tide' Conference for Muscular Dystrophy in partnership with Parent Project Australia.

The conference was held on 27 and 28 October at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Education Centre. 305 delegates consisting of Australian and New Zealand families affected by Muscular Dystrophy, local and national researchers, and medical, allied health and educational practitioners attended.

International, national and local experts spoke with hope and superb knowledge of advances in research, medical and therapy management, and of cognitive, educational and psychological issues. MontroseAccess staff also presented workshops and displays. The feedback indicates that participants gained immense value from the content of the conference and also from the networking opportunities.

The Neuromuscular Clinics are held fortnightly with the consistent support of our Paediatric Neurologists, Dr Geoff Wallace and Dr Kate Sinclair, and MontroseAccess therapists. Seventy clients now regularly attend the clinic and several new clients have been admitted through the clinic.

Families prefer our clinics to those at the hospitals because of the co-ordination of medical and therapy teams and also because of the practical aspects such as babysitting for siblings, space when waiting, the welcoming environment and stress free parking.

Family Support Programme

Each year, the Social Work department hosts a series of events under the Family Support Programme, which is an integral part of MontroseAccess's goal of supporting and strengthening families. The events include parent retreat weekends for mothers and fathers, parent pamper days and 'timeout' mornings.

'Steps to School' returned to MontroseAccess in 2006. Six children and parents making the transition to school attended sessions conducted by Occupational Therapists and Speech Pathologists. Social Work led a concurrent parent group, focusing on issues related to starting school. The children were guided through self management skills, listening, sound awareness, sensory and in-hand manipulation tasks. The group was very successful and will be run each year on a needs basis.

Families consistently express a need to form friendships with other families with children with similar conditions and to continue to receive information on their child's condition. MontroseAccess aims to respond to both of these needs by hosting Family Days which include a component of education and some entertainment. The 'Arthritis Family Days' are held twice each year in partnership with Arthritis Queensland and are well patronised. It is through attendance at these days that many client families with a child with arthritis are introduced to our service.

The 'Arthrogyrosis Family Days' commenced this year in response to a request from a country family. After several well-supported meetings, families and children have formed friendships and informal networks.

Children with disabilities have siblings who are affected by the emotional and physical issues around having a child with a disability in the family. MontroseAccess has created a very supportive sibling's programme, which includes the 9-14 years siblings activities group. This small group occurred twice this year with the assistance of the Recreation department and was open to siblings of all clients.

Equipment and Resources

Equipment for treatment and to lend to families is essential for children with disabilities. MontroseAccess continues to make direct loans to families at no cost. In 2006, for all other borrowers, the organisation introduced a hire fee. This hire fee will assist in defraying the high cost of operation of the Resource Centre and of equipment repair and maintenance.

Early in the year, the Non Schools Organisation funded some much needed items of equipment for our Gold Coast office. These included a large plinth for the office, wheelchair ramps, and communication software.

The Sunshine Coast team also acquired resources through community fundraising at a client's local Pony Club. These new therapy resources have increased the variety of toys, activities and sports equipment available for therapists and clients to use.

An upgrade of our equipment database allowed for the Online Public Access Catalogue providing information on equipment, resources and reference material to be accessed from staff computers.

EQUIPMENT FOR TREATMENT AND TO LEND TO FAMILIES IS ESSENTIAL FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES. MONTROSEACCESS CONTINUES TO MAKE DIRECT LOANS TO FAMILIES AT NO COST.



Above: All ages are catered for during Boy's Group.

THE GOLD COAST TEAM HAS SETTLED INTO ITS NEW PREMISES AND HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF SPACE AND PERMANENCE TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE ITS WAITING LIST, INTRODUCE NEW PROGRAMMES AND TO WELCOME CLIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Gold Coast Regional Team

The Gold Coast team has settled into its new premises and has taken advantage of space and permanence to significantly reduce its waiting list, introduce new programmes and to welcome clients and their families. The team's staff has also increased with the introduction of a local Recreation officer and increased Therapy Assistant hours.

In 2006, the Gold Coast team initiated an on-site service — boy's and girl's groups based upon the Corinda model. Provision of centre-based services has enabled the team to admit children earlier and to provide more therapy hours per child. The Speech Pathologist in particular has been able to offer intensive blocks of therapy to children whose parents are willing to bring their child to our office.

Naomi Stevenson (Physiotherapist) and Darren Hughes (Orthotics Technician) have collaborated to hold several successful orthotics clinics which are time efficient and ensure a quality product. Forty children attended for night splints, leaf spring splints, articulated foot orthoses and many other orthoses. Upper limb splints are also possible simply because we purchased a sewing machine. The Physiotherapists also continue to operate their successful twice-weekly hydrotherapy clinics, assisted this year by a Therapy Assistant who specialises in aquatic activities.

The team has hosted Gold Coast interagency meetings and other community events. Most of the paediatric service providers attend the interagency meetings to liaise with other services, discuss complex cases and to be made aware of possible new referrals with adequate planning time. They also network, share information about changes to staffing, service issues, changes which may affect service provision to local children, funding and resources.

The Gold Coast office also held a Family Fun Day, which consisted of several families joining our Therapists for a BBQ, arts & crafts, a performance by wheelchair dancers and a visit from Captain Starlight.

Sunshine Coast Regional Team

The Sunshine Coast benefited from additional Therapy Assistant hours and a part time, local Recreation officer. Combined with the recent adjustment to team boundaries, the long waiting lists will be addressed for the short term, and service delivery in general will benefit.

The team covers a large geographic area with the new southern boundary being just north of Caboolture. It also has an outreach service to Bundaberg, Maryborough and Gympie. There is always time for fun as the team hosted a very enjoyable Christmas break-up party with many clients and their families in attendance. They enjoyed party food, games, and presents from Santa. It was a great opportunity for the families and children to meet and make friends.

Outreach Teams

The Darling Downs team changed its service model in 2006 to respond to some new referrals in Augathella and Roma. Of course, local education staff, community groups and community health professionals welcomed this extension of the MontroseAccess outreach service. The team now takes flights to these remote areas rather than driving and uses a standard outreach model of at least two visits per year, with email and phone support between visits. In each area the team visits the schools and homes of clients and offers group education sessions to all interested parties.

Both Corinda Outreach teams have taken increased referrals which have been managed through allocation of hours from Brisbane-based teams. Central Qld has had growth in Gladstone and Townsville and continues to travel to Cairns, Mackay, Emerald, Biloela, Theodore, Blackwater and other small towns in between the larger centres.

The Outreach teams continue to prioritise children with neuromuscular conditions exacerbated by the existing unmet needs of some children in areas without local service providers.



Above: Gold Coast Girl's Group.

THE OUTREACH TEAMS CONTINUE TO PRIORITISE CHILDREN WITH NEUROMUSCULAR CONDITIONS EXACERBATED BY THE EXISTING UNMET NEEDS OF SOME CHILDREN IN AREAS WITHOUT LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS.



Above: Camps at the Gold Coast provide a perfect beach afternoon.

RECREATION

All programmes offered by the Recreation Department aim to broaden the client's recreational perspective, making it possible with a small amount of assistance for their ultimate participation in any activity. In pursuit of this aim, the Recreation Department has been able to provide over the past twelve months:

- 50 group activity places per month
- 28 day activity places
- Over 40 week-long camp places
- Over 20 weekend camp places
- Support to 8 schools for clients attending school camps
- Over 160 school holiday activity places
- Individual leisure counselling to over 10 clients

The Recreation Department expanded this year ensuring that each regional office now has a part-time Recreation officer. The Gold Coast office gained their Recreation officer in August 2006 and the recreation programme is well underway with local group and holiday activity programmes, as well as Individual Leisure Counselling and continued support for Gold Coast children to attend our camps and weekend activities.

The Sunshine Coast office gained their Recreation officer in late October 2006. He is working towards developing similar group and holiday activity programmes, as well as commencing Individual Leisure Counselling and continuing to support clients to attend camps and weekend activities.

Groups

Therapy teams and Recreation officers continue to co-host many group activities and family days, many of which are held at Corinda. The Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast were also able to commence some similar groups during the year. Recreation activities include Boy's Group, Girl's Group, Playgroup, Steps to School, Arthritis Family Days, Arthrogryposis Family Days, and Family Fun Days.

One of the most successful programmes run by the Recreation Department are group activities. Over the past few years, after school group activities have more than doubled due to their popularity and ability to meet client's needs for social and



Above: Boy's Group activities at Corinda.

recreation opportunities with their peers who also have a disability.

The Girl's and Boy's Groups are targeted at primary to lower high school aged clients and are run once a month at our Corinda office. The most longstanding of these is the monthly Boy's Group which attracts more than 20 primary school aged boys and often their male siblings. Incidentally, the boys themselves voted not to include girls so in 2006, the staff created a separate Girl's Group. Boy's Group has been supported by client parents who fundraised throughout the year for items needed to sustain the group; such as taxi fares, supplies and some entertainment costs. A concurrent parent's gathering is equally well attended whilst the boys are busy socialising and participating in various activities.

In 2006, highlights of Boy's Group have been Indy races, mural making, scavenger hunts, a tree planting in remembrance of Steve Irwin and a Christmas party where Santa distributed gifts. The

Gold Coast Boy's Group this year targetted an older group of clients who are high school age. This group participated in activities largely based in community settings such as dining out, ten pin bowling, Timezone gaming and going to the movies.

On occasion, groups are run in conjunction with therapy staff who provide programmes and use the group time to review and monitor clients' needs and development. This has been particularly relevant to the Gold Coast Girl's Group which targets primary school girls. This group encourages the girls to participate in activities based on-site such as afternoon tea, chatting, organised games, sports, crafts and cooking.

The Kid's Club groups are run off-site at Wishart on the Southside and Petrie on the Northside. The Teenage Social Club is run jointly with the residential respite service once a month on a Friday night. Clients are able to access respite for the evening and are taken out for social activities including dinner, bowling, movies, Southbank, DVD nights and theme nights.

Camps

Camps aim to broaden recreation experiences for clients in a safe and well-supported setting. The camps are usually well patronised and nearly always have a waiting list. There are also camps run in conjunction with the Social Work Department including sibling's camps, specific condition camps (e.g. arthritis), and a girl's camp.

During 2006, the 15 – 18 years camp was conducted in conjunction with Teenage Adventure Camps Queensland and the support of the Sports Super Centre. Held on the Gold Coast in the June – July school holidays, the camp hosted a variety of fun activities including theme parks, shopping, bowling, outdoor activities and movies.

Our most popular 10 – 14 years camp was held in the September school holidays at the Gold Coast. This camp had an outdoors focus with clients engaging in activities such as bush skills, archery, flying fox, sports and a visit to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. The Schoolies/Graduation Camp was not held this year due to the low number of clients wishing to participate.

This year, 18 children attended the annual camp for siblings of clients with a life limiting condition — the highest number yet. This number has increased each year and indicates the need amongst our families. Siblings from Mackay, the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, Ipswich and Brisbane attended. This was a joint Social Work and Recreation activity.

Social Work activities addressed identified goals and, as many siblings have attended continually for a number of years, the programme has been adapted as they grow and develop.



Above: Recreation activities during school holidays.

CAMPS AIM TO BROADEN RECREATION EXPERIENCES FOR CLIENTS IN A SAFE AND WELL-SUPPORTED SETTING.

ALL PROGRAMMES OFFERED
BY THE RECREATION
DEPARTMENT AIM TO
BROADEN THE CLIENT'S
RECREATIONAL PERSPECTIVE,
MAKING IT POSSIBLE WITH
A SMALL AMOUNT OF
ASSISTANCE FOR THEIR
ULTIMATE PARTICIPATION IN
ANY ACTIVITY.

Holiday Activities

During the school holidays, activities continued to be provided for clients both on-site at Corinda and off-site at various locations around the Brisbane area. Targeted at primary and high school aged clients, the activities included whole day experiences such as crafts, cooking, outings, movies, bowling, sports, games etc. As well as benefiting the clients, the activities allow parents day respite time.

Our Gold Coast office commenced the activities programme for the 2006/07 Christmas holidays — aimed at primary and high school aged clients. The activities for the clients are located on-site, with a few outings planned around the Gold Coast area. The day experiences include crafts, cooking, BBQ in the park, ten pin bowling, sports and games.

Leisure Counselling

This individualised service provided assistance to ten clients by developing a programme which enabled those children to participate in leisure, recreation or sports activities within their local communities. One client in particular has been able to continue participating in Indoor Cricket — a sport he truly enjoys and is of great benefit to him socially and physically. Children with physical disabilities may need assistance with creating their leisure opportunities for the following reasons:

- They may be socially isolated
- They may not know how to access sporting / recreational organisations in their area
- They may assume they are unable to participate in a particular activity because of their disability
- Their families may need education and support
- The community organisations which offer leisure activities may need education and support to include the child

This service has proven successful in introducing clients to recreational activities and will continue in 2007.

Helene Frayne
Manager of Therapy Services

MARKETING AND EVENTS

Marketing Department underwent considerable changes during 2006, including a new manager, staff members and structure. The latter part of the year concentrated on broadening the understanding amongst staff of the support role the department provides to MontroseAccess.

Our events programme throughout the year included our annual Corporate Golf Challenge, as well as our supporter's appreciation evening. Combined with participation in various other organisation's fundraising events, we have managed to increase our public profile amongst the Queensland community.

Our quarterly newsletter has been transformed into MAQ — MontroseAccess Quarterly. This new design has received favourable feedback from our readers and continues to provide informative articles for the benefit of our client families and supporters.

The introduction of bumper stickers towards the end of the year is a new step in increasing awareness of our organisation in the community. 2007's plan is to build upon this campaign together with exciting new events to add to our calendar.

Our website has been approved by the Board for a total redesign and we look forward to a fresh outlook in all our marketing publications in the coming year.

Martha Saw
Marketing Manager



Left: Government House hosted an afternoon in the gardens for MontroseAccess families.



Above: MontroseAccess clients participated in the Clubs Queensland 'Clubs Smile for a Child' programme.

Clubs Queensland — Bringing Smiles to Queensland Children

In 2006, the 'Clubs Smile for a Child' programme raised an amazing \$260,000 on behalf of MontroseAccess, Starlight Children's Foundation and local Queensland hospitals — helping Queensland children in need!

This is the third year that this fundraising initiative, organised by Clubs Queensland, (the industry association and union for registered and licensed clubs in Queensland) has supported MontroseAccess. Throughout the state, participating clubs (sporting clubs, RSL clubs, surf lifesaving clubs, community clubs and bowls clubs) organised charity events, sold merchandise and provided club donations - all in an effort to raise money for Queensland's children.

MontroseAccess extends our sincerest thanks to all of the participating clubs, members and staff who contributed to the success of the 'Clubs Smile for a Child' programme. Your fundraising efforts will assist children throughout Queensland and bring smiles to their little faces. Specifically, your donation will assist MontroseAccess to provide respite and therapy support services to children with physical disabilities.

A special thanks to all of the clients and families who so willingly gave up their time to travel, support and attend various launches, zone meetings, interviews and wrap-ups held across the state for 'Clubs Smile for a Child'.

Above: The 10–14 years camp had an outdoor activity focus.

Bribie Island Charity Bowls Day

For the fourth consecutive year Paul Rigby, his friends and family worked tirelessly collecting prizes and selling thousands of raffle tickets all in preparation for the annual Bribie Island Charity Bowls Day.

On Sunday 1 October 2006, hundreds of keen bowlers, members of the Bribie Island community and MontroseAccess directors and staff arrived at the Bribie Island Bowls Club for the Charity Bowls Day.

The day started with a game of friendly bowls and purchasing numerous raffle tickets in between sets. After a few hours out on the greens it was time to enjoy a delicious BBQ and enough time to purchase more raffle tickets before the Monster Raffle Draw commenced.

Speaking of Monster Raffle, Paul, with the help of many local businesses and supporters, managed to secure over 55 prizes, plus two signed football jerseys by the Broncos and Queensland Reds, for the silent auction. Overall Paul managed to raise \$10,000 for MontroseAccess — bringing the four-year total to over \$32,000!

Thank you to all who attended the Bribie Island Charity Bowls Day in support of Paul Rigby and MontroseAccess. We would also like to sincerely thank Paul for organising such a terrific event and his ongoing support of our organisation. A special thanks to the many businesses and individuals who helped make this event possible.



Above: Paul Rigby and the MontroseAccess Bowls Team.



Above: PKF Golfers enjoying the challenge!

MontroseAccess Corporate Golf Day

On Friday 6 October 2006, Pat Welsh, Malcolm Johnston, Charlie Earp, Peter Meares and other sporting legends and celebrities put their handicaps to good use at The Glades Golf Course, Robina.

Guests enjoyed eighteen holes of golf, a coaching clinic from Charlie Earp, BBQ lunch, pre-dinner drinks, a gourmet dinner at The Glades restaurant, as well as a fundraising auction.

Malcolm Johnston entertained guests as he spoke about his time as a jockey, the infamous Kingston Town, and his life experiences. Seven Sport commentator Pat Welsh and singing auctioneer Phil Black did an amazing job in their respective roles as MC and auctioneer, raising an incredible \$10,000 at the auction!

We thank our sponsors of the 2006 MontroseAccess Corporate Golf Challenge: Seven Sport, Genesys Wealth Advisers (Andrew R McMaster & Associates Pty Ltd), Australian Agricultural Chemicals, PKF Chartered Accountants, Minale Bryce Design Strategy, FKP, National Australia Bank, Lion Nathan and Fire-Works Gallery.

We would also like to thank everyone who was involved and participated in this event. Special mentions to Pat Welsh, Phil Black and Malcolm Johnston for your outstanding contributions on the night.

'Home Away From Home'

MontroseAccess Parent Flats provide wheelchair-friendly and comfortable accommodation at a minimal cost for clients and their families while attending on-site services, a weekend away or having a base to stay while visiting friends and family in Brisbane.

In 2006, after being refurbished, rendered and revamped, one flat was officially re-opened for client use.

To celebrate the refurbishment of Parent Flat Two, the official opening was held on Monday 10 April 2006. In attendance was local member for Mount Ommaney, Mrs Julie Atwood MLA, as well as dignitaries from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, Disability Services Queensland and the Rotary Club of Rocklea, along with MontroseAccess staff. Guests were given a guided tour of the new flat and a lovely morning tea following the formal unveiling of the plaque. The importance of providing accommodation to families whilst clients are receiving therapy services was a hot topic of conversation amongst all who attended.

MontroseAccess extends a sincere thank you to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, who kindly donated the funds to refurbish the flat. We would also like to thank our own Backyard Blitz team: Solver Paints — who donated the paint, and the Rotary Club of Rocklea, who volunteered their painting and renovation skills!



Above: Relaxing in the refurbished Parent Flat Two.



Above: The official opening of Parent Flat Two.

MONTROSEACCESS PARENT FLATS PROVIDE WHEELCHAIR-FRIENDLY AND COMFORTABLE ACCOMMODATION AT A MINIMAL COST FOR CLIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Who is Ability First Australia?

Our founding member organisations share a common history, initially established as Crippled Children's Societies. Australia wide, the members provide vital support to 40,000 children and adults with disabilities and their families at an annual cost of over \$150 million.

Our values (what matters to us):

- Deliver on a promise
- Make a difference
- Never give up

Our Founding Member Organisations:



International Affiliate



Member services include:

- individual and family support services
- respite and accommodation services
- assistive technology and equipment solutions
- community participation
- early childhood support services
- therapy services and medical rehabilitation
- job training and employment services
- leisure access and recreational services

Ability First Australia has a combined member workforce of 3,000 employees and in any one year, more than 3,000 Australians volunteer their time and expertise to assist member organisations achieve their goals.

Through constructive national partnerships, Ability First Australia strives to ensure that every Australian child and adult with a disability, and their families, will have access to programmes that maximise their potential and improve their quality of life.

How will our members benefit?

Ability First Australia and our founding member organisations will work together to raise the profile of our collective national identity and develop national strategies to increase funding to support the delivery of member client services.

This funding may come from a variety of sources including (but not limited to):

- national corporate partnerships
- national and international trusts/foundations
- national and international fundraising initiatives
- efficiencies through national cooperatives and supply agreements
- Commonwealth Government funding opportunities

In addition to the financial returns, our founding member organisations can benefit from:

- professional training and development
- networking among member organisations and our international affiliate
- increased resources, innovations and sharing of knowledge
- capacity to ensure the long-term growth of a skilled member organisation's workforce
- national benchmarking and best practices in disability

OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

Allens Arthur Robinson
 Andrew R McMaster & Associates Pty Ltd
 ANZ Staff Foundation
 Australian Agricultural Chemicals
 Australian Government (Targeted Program)
 Bond University
 Brazil Enterprises Pty Ltd
 Bribie Island Bowls Club
 Caboolture Dressage Group Inc
 Carbrook Golf Club
 Citipointe COC
 Clubs Queensland 'Clubs Smile for a Child'
 Dean Kath and Kohler Solicitors Toowoomba
 Department of Communities
 Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
 Invacare
 Disability Services Queensland
 Doris Lois Waraker Charitable Trust
 Earlen Pty Ltd
 Fire-Works Gallery
 FKP
 Gambling Community Benefit Fund
 Genesys Wealth Advisers
 GlaxoSmithKline Australia Pty Ltd
 Glebe Garden Club
 Gold Coast Care for Children Fund
 Gold Coast Children's Society
 Hills Fencing
 J H Emerson and Co
 Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund

Lion Nathan
 Matthew Roy Charitable Trust
 Medibank Private
 Minale Bryce Design Strategy
 Minter Ellison Lawyers
 Myer Community Benefit Fund
 National Australia Bank
 Non Government Centres Support
 Pickering Automotive Groups
 PKF Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers
 PMM Group Brisbane Pty Ltd
 QUT Faculty of Business
 QUT Staff Community Welfare Fund
 Redland Bay Golf Club
 Reuben Peleman Benevolent Fund
 Richard Harper Ferris Charitable Trust
 Rotary Club of Mitchelton
 Seven Sport
 South Toowoomba Bowls Club
 Sports Super Centre
 St George Foundation
 Tattersall's Bowls Club
 Teenage Adventure Camp (TAC-Q)
 Thakral Holdings
 The CM and JA Whitehouse Foundation
 The Walter and Eliza Hall Trust
 Traffic Road Use Management Division
 Unilever Australasia
 Wards Transport Roma
 Westside News

GEORGE MARCHANT — OUR BENEFACTOR ALWAYS REMEMBERED

"I am an instrument of God and will use those powers given me to help others"
 (George Marchant)

When MontroseAccess (The Queensland Society for Crippled Children) first opened in 1933, it was in part made possible by the generosity of Mr George Marchant.



In the early 1930s, Mr Marchant donated his own home at Taringa to The Queensland Society for Crippled Children as our first residence. Due to the extent of the Poliomyelitis epidemic and resulting growth in client numbers, Mr Marchant bought our present site at Corinda in 1937 as a gift to the organisation. Montrose Home was then able to provide accommodation for 90 children with multiple services available including long-term accommodation, schooling, dental treatment and even a barber!

When Mr Marchant died in 1941, his commitment to The Queensland Society for Crippled Children was evident, as he bequeathed a significant donation and the remainder of his estate to the organisation.

The generosity of Mr Marchant has contributed significantly towards improving the lives of Queensland's children with physical disabilities, and his commitment continues to strengthen the organisation to this day.



Montrose Access

The Queensland Society for Crippled Children – established 1933

ABN 59 009 661 705

P.O. Box 50, CORINDA QLD 4075, Australia