



**Community Services
2009-2010**

Community Services

2009-2010

Once again Senses Foundations Community Services has had a very successful year. Throughout 2009-2010 Community services have endeavoured to offer flexible and creative solutions in order to meet the various and sometimes complex need of the client whom we serve.

Providing 'Right Fit', support that recognises the need for;

- . Warmth and solidarity
- . A real enjoyment of each others company
- . An understanding that the client knows what is best for them.

In the Respite service we have seen significant growth, and under the Coordinators careful stewarding, the services have become ever more responsive and reflective of how the families wish to be supported.

The Community Services service has also seen growth, and during 2009-2010 we welcomed a new Coordinator for this area. Under her guidance the service has really begun to embrace the outcomes framework set down for the ATE/PSO program. Karen has moved the thinking forward in Community Options with more staff developing knowledge and expertise in this area.

Obviously all this fantastic work by Clare and Karen would be more difficult if it was not for the amazing support staff in Community Services. Once again we have been lucky to welcome some new and enthusiastic staff and have been extremely fortunate to retain and regain the services of some long standing staff.

As Manager of Community Services I am very proud of what we continue to achieve and I would like to applaud every ones efforts over the last twelve months and highlight our achievements in this report.

Family Respite Service

During 2009-2010
Senses Foundations
Respite Service
Included:

- Family Respite Support
- Holiday Respite
- Intensive Family Support
- Family Fun Days project.



Isabella and
Gemma at the
Park.
Autumn 2010



Lauren and Clare
at the Zoo
May 2010

All of these areas were overseen by a Coordinator, with the support of a very committed group of staff.

FAMILY RESPITE SUPPORT.

During 2009-2010 Senses Foundation once again provided Family respite support. The Disability Services Commissions contract with senses is to provide 2307 hours to 14 families, this year we provided 2315 hours to 16 families. All of this being done within budget.

	Contract	Actual
Hours	2307	2315
Families	14	16

This year saw a number of new clients being taken on, replacing other families that either left the service or received IFS funding.

The process of developing a person service continues to undertaken in a very sensitive and caring manner, being very much aware that for some the notion of respite can be a negative one. However services are adaptable, with very support staff being provided.

In 2010 Senses Respite services have provided families with support on a regular basis, or more flexibly depending on the needs of the family. Also staff have been asked to work with the siblings as well as the person with the disability-thus enhancing the support.

The reality of Family Respite Support is that it has to be very fluid.

One of the new Respite support workers is currently working with a family that has recently migrated from Africa. The worker began supporting the family when the mother was pregnant.

The support worker quickly developed an understanding of the issues facing the family and with the support of the coordinator has offered the family a very flexible service, visiting the family and supporting during hospital appointments.

The mother particularly has found this a huge benefit.

Staff are expected to work in the family home or out in the community. With the person with the disability or their brothers and sister or the whole family. Staff are required to work within strategies set down by school and family, or to undertake therapy programs. All this and to fit seamlessly within the family dynamic.

Long gone are the days that respite could be referred to as 'baby sitting'. Respite is a

complex juggling act of physical and emotional support.

HOLIDAY RESPITE and other arrangements

Another part of the Respite Service is the Holiday Respite.

As with Family Respite Support this service is very flexible support children and adults during school holidays, family holidays, weekends or other special occasions—including those of cultural significance. As Family respite Support we have provided the service to more families than contracted and once again within budget.

	Contract	Actual
Hours	610	618
Families	9	15

Whilst this service is invaluable, for some families it does not provide enough support during the very hectic holiday periods. Consequently Senses has sort additional funding for these families both during gazetted school holidays and at times that have allowed parents to celebrate important occasions.

INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT

The Intensive Family Support has continues to grow with a number of new families being provided a service through Senses Foundation.

As with the Family Respite Service, IFS is provided in a flexible and creative manner. The recent developments in the thinking around respite and IFS has led to DSC allowing families and providers to be much more flexible in how they use funding and thus receive a respite effect.

Examples of alternative uses of IFS.

The Garden Path.

One of the IFS families raised an issue regarding their daughters capacity to access the garden. The child in question loves the opportunity to get out and about in the garden to play with her brothers and sisters and help her Dad with the veggie patch. However due to her mobility and the lack of an accessible path, this could only be safely achieved with the constant supervision of her parents. It was argued that the provision of a wide flat path would enable her to move freely about the garden. The request was taken to the Individual Funding Management Committee. It was agreed .

The Garden Gate

Another IFS family discussed how much the family love to spend time outside in the garden. However the family only have a relatively small front yard that leads from the drive directly out onto the main road.

The family felt that to put a gate across the drive would allow for the opportunity to access the front garden with a greater degree of independence and safety. Equally the family would not have the fear of one of the siblings leaving the front door open and the child with the disability being able to get into the garden and onto the road. The Respite effect of this would be significant. The mother would not feel that she was constantly needing to watch her children when they were playing outside.

The idea was put to IFMC and it was approved.

FAMILY FUN DAYS

During 2009/2010 Senses Foundation organised a series of Family Fun Days.

These days were open to families of school age children .

The fun days were provided at a variety of locations including the zoo, a farm and a park. All the days

offered a number of sensory activities and were designed to meet the needs of children we support.



Activities included.
ART and CRAFT
MASSAGE
LIBERTY SWING
ANIMAL HANDLING

COMMUNITY OPTIONS SERVICE



Includes;

- **Alternatives to Employment**
- **Post School Options**
- **Recreation**
- **Senses Camps**
- **Disability Aged Care**

Alternatives to Employment And Post School Options

Once again 2009/2010 saw an increase in the provision of ATE/ PSO support . Chart 3 shows the increase in numbers during 2009/2010 in dark purple. Hours having increased by over 50%, to 12478

Chart 3

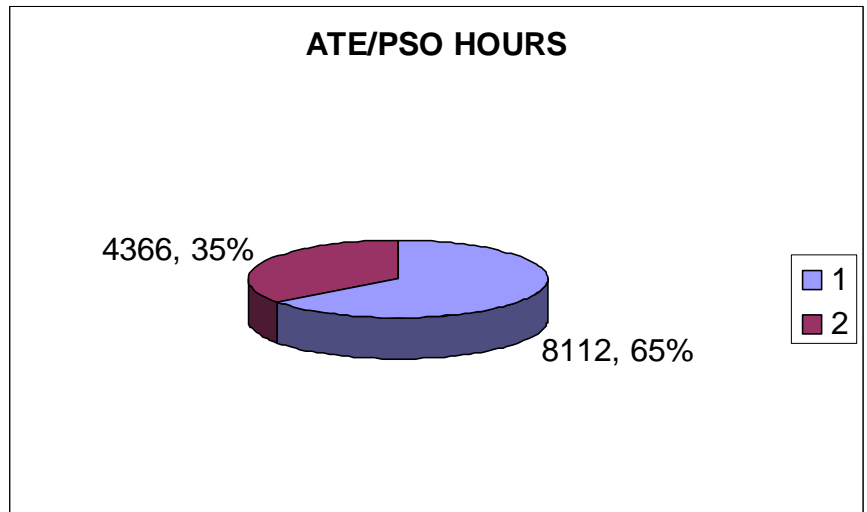


Chart 4

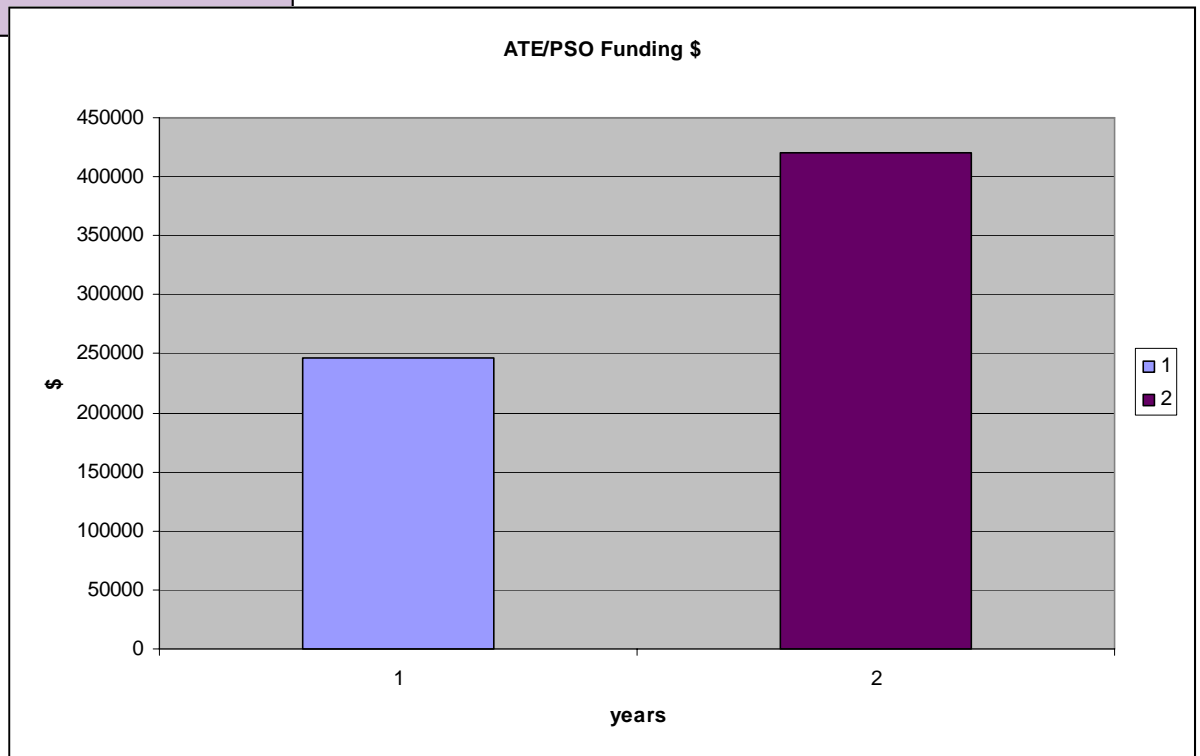


Chart 4 shows the increase in funding, with the total ATE/PSO funding being over 420,000

Alternatives to Employment And Post School Options

.....continued

2009/2010 saw the continued implementation of the Quality Management Framework within ATE/PSO (and all other program areas.)

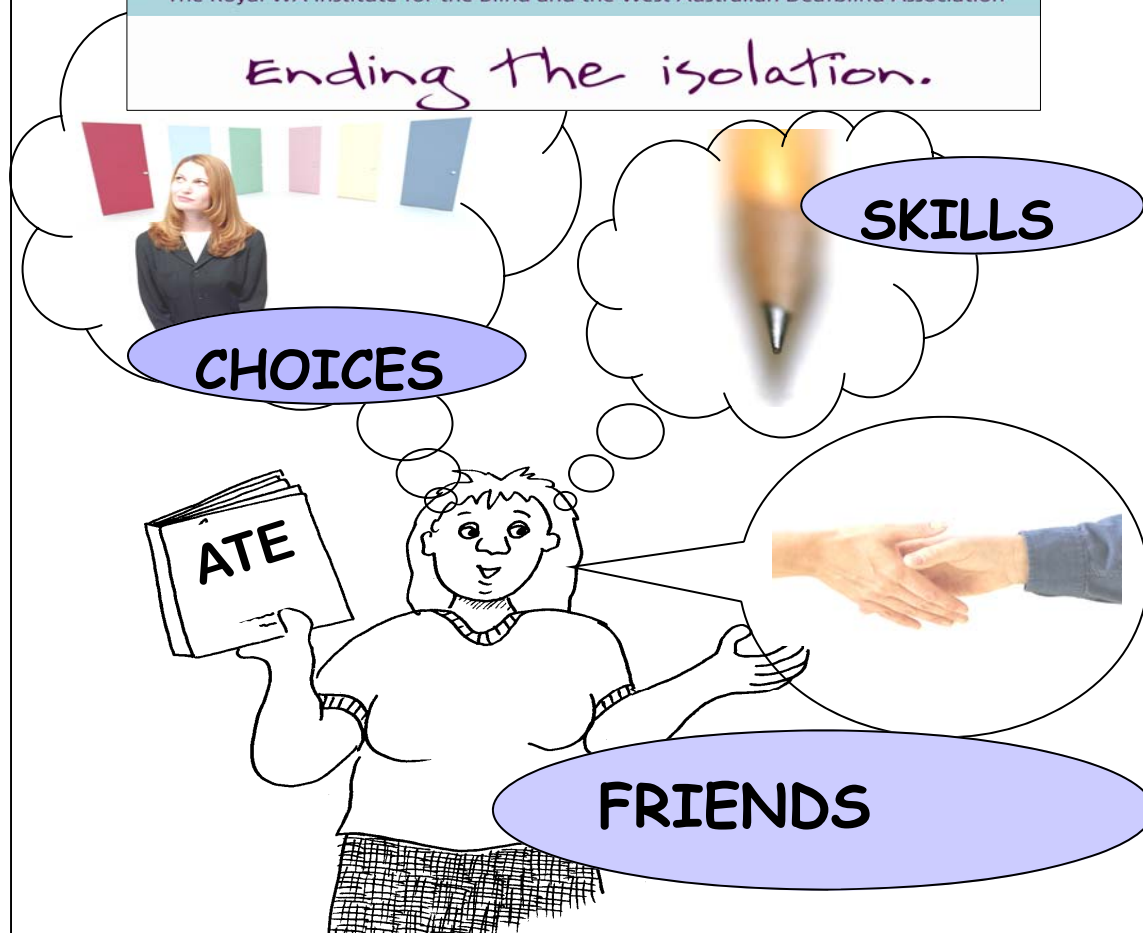
Through the hard work of the Coordinator and the support staff the 4 Outcomes for ATE/PSO have been further reinforced within the services.

A group of staff underwent training to develop their understanding of inclusion and how services support people to become involved in their community. The training had a particular focus on getting to know the people with whom we work. Finding out their strengths and capacities and telling the stories about the person and their life. From developing this rich understanding of someone we are able to discover what they are interested in and what makes them interesting to others.

The ATE/PSO service continues to embrace a philosophy of person centred practice, and is keen to engender a strong understanding of this in the support staff. The training that was undertaken will hopefully provide a blue print for other work with staff and clients.

.....more.....

Alternatives to Employment And Post School Options



ATE BOOKLET FOR EXPO 2010.

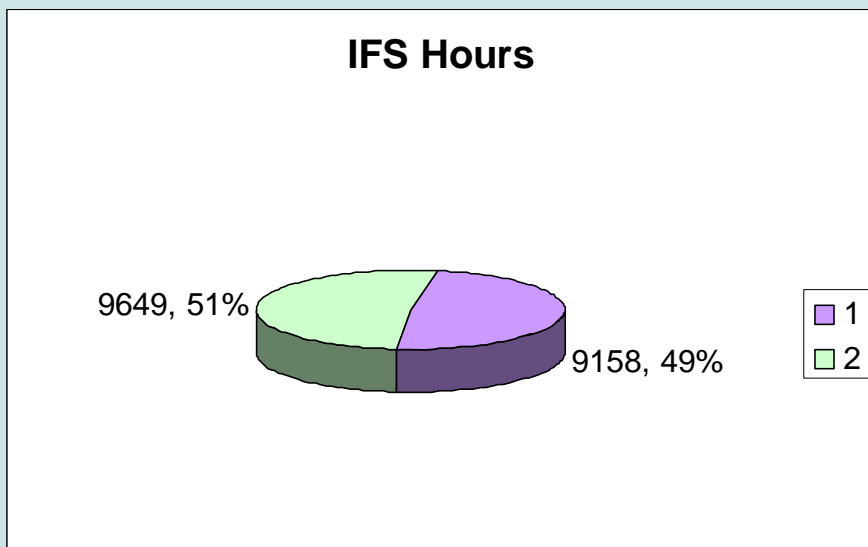
ATE EXPO 2010.

Once again Senses Foundation attended the ATE Expo organised by DSC. Unlike previous years there seemed to be a greater desire for the community based model of service provided by Senses. Previously families have expressed concern regarding the model, preferring the centre based option. However discussions with families showed a real interest in a more individual community based support.

IFS continued

As has been mentioned Senses Foundation saw a significant increase in IFS hours and funding during 2009-2010

Chart 1



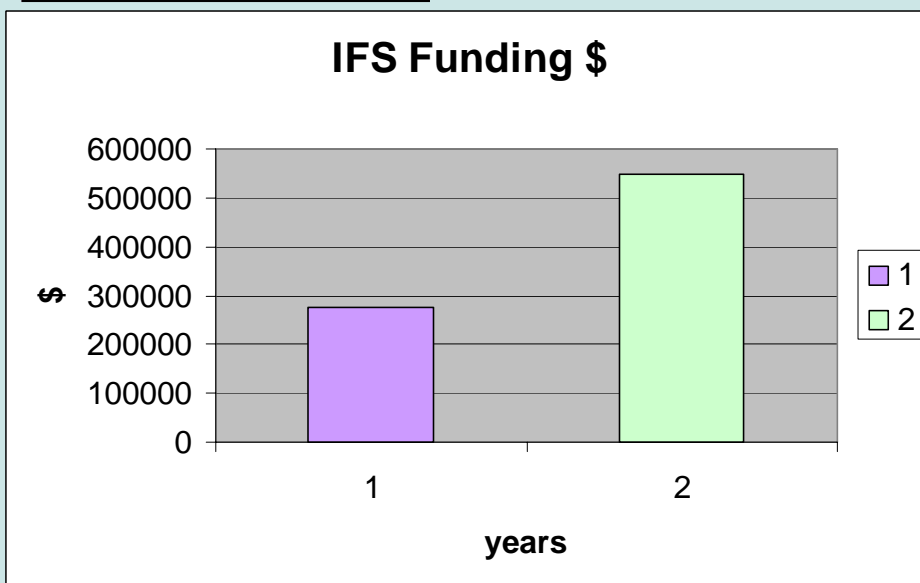
IFS HOURS

Chart 1 shows a comparison between hours at the end of June 2009 and June 2010. The green area is the increase during 2009-2010. Total hours currently 18807, which represents a significant increase.

Chart 2

IFS FUNDING

Chart 2 shows a comparison between the funding at the end of June 2009 and June 2010. The green area is the total funding for 2009-2010. Total amount is currently \$548914



IFS Issue.

Whilst we have seen significant increases in funding for families, it has not come without issues. For many families the IFS funding comes after years of limited support. To go from 5 hours a week day to 5 hours a day can be very daunting. Senses works closely with families to determine exactly what it is that the family require, not assuming that paid supports are going to offer the best support. During 2009/2010 a number of families receiving significant funding have had difficulties making full use of the funds. This has mainly been families of a person with profound and multiple disabilities. Often there is a lack of suitably experienced staff to provide support. Equally for some families there seems to be a gradual evolution of the support which is reflective of the families dynamic rather than prescriptive.

RECREATION DAC AND CAMPS

Once again during 2009 and 2010 Senses Foundation has provided a number of camps

Using Department of Sport and Recreation Funding Senses was able to provide 4 Day Camps and a 4 day Adventure

The 4 day camps were Water Biscuiting, Camel Riding, Go-Karting and 36 different people were involved in the "day" camps.

DISABILITY AGED CARE. DAC has continued to provide services to 5 clients through out 2009/2010, totalling 3,380 hours of support



Eleven people with a disability were involved in the "Adventure Camp". Senses Foundation used a DSR camp site to run the camp, with structured activities occurring over two days. Due to the success of the previous years camp the activities provided were Archery, Climbing, the "Big Swing" and kite making and flying. Added to this was also an orienteering activity in the evening.

RECREATION

During 2009/2010 768 hours of Recreation was provide to 10 people. All community based, determined by the individual and in a non segregated environment.



THANK YOU

to all our hard working and committed staff.

Once again during 2009 and 2010 Community Services has been blessed with some fantastic staff. Staff that have been working for Senses for a number of years, some quite new and others that started in this year.

All of the staff have shown commitment and genuine willingness to get to know the clients with whom they are working. People have gone beyond the call of duty providing an exceptionally high level of support to the clients and their families.

Remarks such as the one below show just how much people appreciate the service we provide

"Just touching base with you regarding Graham (SW) He is great! He is so motivated and gives XXXX choices as to where he wants to go and what he wants to do – the variety has been excellent in the 3 days that he has taken XXXX out. He can actually talk XXXX into walking – no mean feat!! In fact, I am finding no hassles getting XXXX ready to go out so far. XXXX is also giving me feedback as to what they have been doing – a certain change from before. As you know, XXXX is no easy task, but Graham is so calm in the way he deals with XXXX. Fantastic! Many thanks for your efforts in getting the right person."



THANK YOU !