



“The Victim is our Priority”



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Winter 2022

During the last 2 months my family has been isolating because of COVID, so Tina and I are now working from home for ADSSA.

We have some good news for ADSSA and the Jack Watkins Memorial Park. I have engaged with The Port Adelaide/Enfield City Council regarding the upgrade of the Park, and they have agreed to do this with permanent seating. The Council has also agreed to sponsor the ADSSA Memorial afternoon to be held on 25th November. The ADSSA board are in the process of organising the Memorial Day and Week at our next meeting. We are making a change to the time of the Memorial Day event as we believe that having it in the afternoon will be more suitable for everyone. We will be sending out more information soon.

Our Vice President, Shane Wright, has resigned from the ADSSA board. We would like to thank Shane for his support and acknowledge the contributions that he has made to ADSSA. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their ongoing support during these difficult times.

Many thanks

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President of ADSSA

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From the Social Worker

I too, want to mention Memorial Day on November 25th at 1pm. Please save the date and note the new time. We have had a hiatus of 2 years because of the pandemic. The new time will not be as harsh as the former EARLY start of 8am!

I nearly always find inspiration from my clients when writing our newsletter, and this one is no different! I have mixed feelings when I am talking about COVID, because of how so many people have suffered across the world, but I

wanted to share a story about one of my long-term clients -16 years in fact - where the pandemic has worked in her favour, as strange as that might seem. Susan is an 82 yr old widow (of 16 years), who lives alone; she does not have children; no extended family in Australia; does not drive and English is her second language. Susan is the eldest of 10 children and all her siblings live in the Philippines. For many years I have supported applications to have her young sister come and stay with her for months at a time, “for company”, as Susan would say. Although Susan is fiercely independent physically, we all know how cruel loneliness can be for some people, and the importance of social support for good mental health outcomes and quality of life. I admire how well she has coped over the years. It really is quite remarkable.

Her sister, who I now know very well, arrived in Australia in February 2020. She has been stuck here all this time, because of the pandemic, waiting for restrictions to ease in her own country. She returns home in January 2023. She can now flight direct from Sydney to Manila, no hotel quarantine, and then a direct flight onto to her city, on another island. The Philippines has 7,640 islands!

During this time, their mother - aged 103 - died in her own home in the Philippines. Both Susan and her sister were naturally unable to go home for the funeral. I’m so pleased they were together here, to comfort one another. I have learnt a lot about how strong family ties are in the Filipino culture. They really do look after one another, with huge personal sacrifice.

What a potent reminder to us all about the impacts of the pandemic and the various states of mind that we have all experienced. I know we are ‘not out of the woods’ yet and COVID is still a threat to the most vulnerable, but I am feeling more hopeful about 2023, and our continued adaptability to life with COVID.

Penny Jacomos, B.A.Soc.Wk.,MA(SS), Social Worker

Please feel free to contact me any time on my mobile: 0412701630 or email me on: pjacomos@hotmail.com

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