Tracey Alexander

Tracey is the CEO of Gladstone Community Linking Agency Inc. Tracey has many years’ experience in community services. She is very highly regarded within the disability sector, presenting at state wide gatherings and recently being appointed to the Central Queensland Regional Disability Council, being the voice for people who have a disability and their service providers from this region to government and the Minister. Under her leadership G.C.L.A is also responsible for the Mainstay Respite Care house and the Gladstone Community Hub, both very important community resources. In the past, Tracey was responsible for establishing and maintaining a Registered Training Organisation.

Her goal for 2015 is to ensure G.C.L.A is the ‘service of choice for people who have a disability,’ particularly as the National Disability Insurance Scheme is being introduced. Tracey is also passionate about staff receiving appropriate training and qualifications, she would like to see GCLA the ‘service of choice for staff.’ G.C.L.A currently employs 85 staff and is a strong, vibrant community organization celebrating its 20th year.

Kristie Hayward

Kristie is currently the Service Manager at GCLA and has come to the organization with a wealth of knowledge in disability and therapy. Having obtained a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Social Work, Kristie travelled across Canada and the UK working as a Social Worker in predominately Child Protection. Kristie returned to Queensland and started working at Disability Services across a number of positions. Kristie came to GCLA in 2014. She is a mother of three children ranging in ages from 10yrs to 4 and attempts to run a household, care for all the kids while escaping with work and chocolate for sanity.

Tricia Yarrow

Tricia relocated with her family to Gladstone from Far North Queensland two years ago. Whilst she was in Far North Queensland she worked within the Disability Sector. Since moving to Gladstone Tricia has been employed with Gladstone Community Linking. The organisation has given Tricia the opportunity to grow as a professional. Now, Tricia is the Senior Coordinator and Manager of the GCLA Mainstay Respite House. As the Manager of the respite house Tricia is responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the house, and organizing bookings to suit families and guests. Some of her other duties include ensuring daily service delivery to the people choosing to use GCLA services. Assisting people to maintain individual living skills, be involved and active in the community, achieve goals, but most rewarding of all is for everyone to be treated as equals with the same opportunities.
Leanne Jones
Leanne has recently relocated from the United Kingdom in December 2014 to Australia, to be closer to family. During her time in the UK she worked with people who had severe and enduring Mental Health issues. Leanne joined GCLA in January 2015 as a Co-ordinator. Leanne’s role with GCLA is, under limited supervision, direction and guidance, to assist people who have a disability and/or their families to identify future goals and develop individual support services of their choice, through regular Individual Personal Plan reviews.

Jo Olliver
Jo’s passion is embedded in equality for all. Jo has worked in various roles in the disability sector for 15 years, she also holds a degree in social science. Jo has worked in both government and non-government agencies and has a clear understanding from each perspective. A highlight of her career was to encourage local government to open a facility to rehabilitate children 0-5 years in intensive early intervention therapy. Jo has been with GCLA since January 2015 as the Individual Personal Plan Co-Ordinator focusing on family centred planning and goal achievement with GCLA’s Service Users. In Jo’s spare time she enjoys travelling and experiencing different cultures.

Tash Dingle
Natasha has been employed by GCLA for the last five years as a support worker. In 2014 she completed her Training qualifications and now trains new staff as well as having her regular support shifts. Natasha really enjoys the goal based supports, which assist people who have a disability to achieve their full potential. She has a special interest in Mental Health and supports many people to continue to living independently. At home she shares her Unit with her younger brother who has Aspergers. Through the experiences of this work Natasha has been able to assist her brother to improve his independence and social skills. In her down time she loves spending time with her cats.

Michelle Kyle
Michelle has been in the Community Care Industry for the past 22 years and thoroughly enjoys it. She has been employed by GCLA for the past 2 years. Her role involves training new staff and stepping in when support staff are unavailable. As a professional Michelle strives to assist individuals and families to achieve their goals and maintain their independence. Michelle is a co-operative team member, with a positive attitude who always provides quality service to the community. With a busy family at home, Michelle balances her work and home life very well.

Suzie Lawler
Suzie has been employed by GCLA for over ten years, working in many roles such as Support worker, Program Co-ordinator and Service Manager, she is currently the Event Planner. In this role she sources opportunities for GCLA in public relations, and individuals who have a disability as well as organising inclusive community
events. Suzie is also a registered Endorsed Enrolled Nurse, when time permits she carries out work in this role. Suzie is an active volunteer in many community organisations and clubs; she holds various positions on their committees. Her greatest role is being mum to her three daughters, her eldest daughter Ruby being her constant driving force and motivation to ensure that our community embraces inclusion and provides opportunities for people who have a disability to participate and be accepted as integral, valued members of the community.

Ruby Lawler

Ruby is almost 21 years old and lives with her family on a small farm near Gladstone. As well as her part time work at a local kindergarten (having completed a Certificate 3 in Childcare Services) Ruby volunteers an assistant swim teacher, committee member and Athlete Leader for Special Olympics Queensland. She is also an active and valued member of her local swim club, the Gladstone Gladiators, and regularly competes in their swim meets. Ruby is committed to investing in her local community. She has been supported by the agency for 10 years and is achieving her dreams and goals. Ruby has recently taken on a volunteer role as Youth Ambassador for Gladstone Community Linking Agency and she is using this opportunity to develop her leadership skills and share her experiences with others.

Karen Lee

Karen Lee is a proactive parent of a teenager with Autism and an intellectual disability. Karen’s son has been a service user of GCLA since 2004. Karen is now a privileged member of the GCLA Management Committee. She has also been a volunteer and member of the Special Olympics Gladstone Committee since 2011. Karen has enjoyed watching athletes with disabilities set personal goals and attain them. It is her desire to see all people with disabilities reach their full potential, by being treated with respect and to have equality and inclusion within the community which they live in.

Peta Hill

Peta is the Training and Development Manager for Active Training Specialists (Gladstone). As Corporate Sponsors for Gladstone Community Linking Agency she has been working closely with the team to develop nationally recognised training and assessment for the staff throughout the organisation. Peta has been teaching adults in the Vocational Education and sector, including clients living with a disability, for more than 15 years. Peta is fortunate to say that she loves her job. She is excited to be a part of the study tour as she will have the opportunity to visit international organisations and observe their training practices which will support their commitment to best practice within their operations and documentations.