

# 2018 Robyn Murray Award for Exemplifying Inclusive Practices

In 2011 the Community House Association of the Outer Eastern Suburbs (CHAOS) Network founded the Robyn Murray Award in memory of Robyn Murray, former Executive Officer of Japara Neighbourhood House and Manager of Glen Park Community Centre who passed away on 18 September 2010.

Robyn was well known as a person who was passionate about the inclusion of people of all abilities, and lived and breathed her convictions every day. The award recognises people who truly embrace the principles of inclusion in their work.



Our students were thrilled to learn that they had been recognised by the Robyn Murray Award. One of our students, Joel, wrote this wonderful piece about how much winning this award meant to the group.

### *Digital Literacy Class Award*

*On Fridays I attend a digital literacy class for all abilities group. The group was recently informed that we had won the Robyn Murray memorial organisation award. This award recognises people and programmes run in outer eastern neighbourhood houses that promote and practice total community inclusion by including people of all abilities.*

*Robyn Murray, who sadly passed away in 2010 was a dynamic and amazingly passionate person who whole-heartedly believed in total inclusion for people with disabilities and fought like a lioness protecting her cubs for people, like myself, to become active participants in mainstream community programs. As somebody who knew her personally, I was extremely touched to hear that our group had received this award.*

*Every week, we are given the freedom to express ourselves creatively, in a supported environment. We joke, we laugh, we cry at each other's hardships and triumphs and then we write. We are given the opportunity to do a lot of creative writing as a group, through writing exercises, which allows us to think outside the box and thus prevent us from becoming completely consumed within our own thoughts and ideas, in turn we can flourish as writers. In addition to this we are also encouraged to share our own individual writing pieces. We also work on our communication skills, interviewing skills and we're also taught how to use computer programs such as movie maker.*

*In conclusion, our tutor is totally committed to fostering and fleshing out our talents and abilities as people with so called "disabilities". She always maintains that literature is about documenting the human experience. I can't think of a group more worthy of such an award. It completely embodies Robyn's spirit and I would like to think that she is present in the room with us every Friday. Thank you Robyn, rest in peace.*

*By  
Joel Barraud*

**Congratulations to you all and thank-you again to our wonderful trainer Katherine and the dedication of her volunteers Kelvin and Andy.**