

North Coast Fun Club is auspiced by Biala Support Services Inc. Our organisation is just one part of a bigger team comprising services within Biala Support Services Inc.

What is North Coast Fun Club?

This service organises fun, safe and supervised social outings and activities for adults who have an intellectual disability. Some people may also have other disabilities.

North Coast Fun Club (NCFC) is funded by The Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care.

Who is eligible to attend North Coast Fun Club?

Selection criteria

- Only people who have an intellectual disability may attend. Some people may also have other disabilities.
- People must be aged 18 years or older. There is no age limit over being 18, although some people over 60+ **may** find some outings inappropriate for their age group.
- People who have very high or complex care needs and require individual one to one support may need to be accompanied by a Support Worker funded by them. NCFC can assist with organising this.

Zero tolerance

- People who are not respectful and / or do not behave appropriately within the NCFC group and toward other group members will be asked **not** to attend Fun Club outings/activities.
- North Coast Fun Club will not tolerate abusive language or aggressive or inappropriate behaviour towards another group member or Care Support Staff. Any breach of this and the person will be asked **not** to attend outings/activities. The person will also receive a letter explaining the reason for being asked not to attend.
- People who have behavioural problems which may impact negatively or adversely upon the other group members or Care Staff will be asked **not** to attend if their behaviour is unmanageable; **but only after consultation with them and / or their carer/s or service provider** so as to explore every strategy or means of support NCFC can utilise in an attempt to help manage these behaviours. Documentation outlining what these behaviours are is to be supplied by the family / service provider to NCFC and a care plan will be formulated in conjunction with the family / service provider. Only after every management strategy has been explored and exhausted and the behaviours are still unmanageable, will the client be asked **not** to attend any more outings/activities. Explanatory documentation will be sent to the client / carer / service provider.

Care Staff

Caring and dedicated support staff attend each outing or activity to assist clients. NCFC relies heavily on our dedicated volunteers. The number of Care Staff provided for each outing or activity depends on how many clients, especially high need clients, are booked in for each outing/activity.

The number of people who attend outings/activities who have high care needs is limited. Some people who have complex care needs and need one to one individual support may need to be accompanied by a Support Worker funded by them. This decision will be in consultation with the co-ordinator who can assist with organising funded support.

Transport

Every effort is made to help each client access outings or activities. We try to be flexible but it is not possible to collect clients from their homes or drop clients to their homes if they live in a **remote area**.

Fun Club usually **meets clients/carers at central locations for collection** and at the end of each outing or activity we take them to their homes and see them safely inside.

The amount of people we are able to provide transport for is limited. We have a '**booking system**' whereby people ring the Coordinator & leave a message on voice mail. The Coordinator will only ring back if there is a problem. Outings usually become 'booked out' very quickly. So **booking in early is recommended**. A fee is paid by each client for their transport.

- Sometimes carers / service providers may bring clients to the outing/activity venue and collect them again after the outing/activity.
- Some clients may transport themselves and meet us there.
- We sometimes use a '**buddy system**' whereby a client who has their own transport may transport other clients to and from outings/activities (with permission from their carers) when necessary. The North Coast Fun Club Recreation Co-ordinator can be a liaison for this to happen.

What areas does North Coast Fun Club provide a transport service?

We have central pick up areas at Goonellabah & Alstonville (most times) and Ballina, Lennox Head and Byron Bay. We do not collect clients from their homes except in special circumstances, but we do take each client back home and see them safely inside. Clients from other areas may meet us at these central locations which are advertised on flyers sent out before each outing or planned activity.

However, if clients live in a remote area we are unable to drop them back to their homes after the outings/activities, but prior to the outing/activity the co-ordinator can negotiate a suitable drop off point and then on the way home from an outing/activity will ring the carer / service provider to say what time we will be arriving at the pre-arranged location, thus allowing enough travel time to meet.

How do I find out about the outings or activities?

The Recreation Co-ordinator sends out flyers about each upcoming outing or activity. The Co-ordinator tries to give as much notice as possible by getting the flyers out early so people have time to prepare for an outing and save money for it, especially if a big outing is planned (such as a trip to a theme park) which may be more expensive. **BOOKING IN FOR EACH OUTING IS ESSENTIAL!**

North Coast Fun Club has a **mailing list**. You can ask to have your name, address and phone number included on the mailing list. Many other organisations in the community have requested flyers be sent to them to give out to their clients. Flyers are also handed out at Strikers Disabled Bowling League which is another Biala Support Services Inc. organisation. Many clients who attend the bowling league also regularly attend Fun Club outings/activities.

Telephone numbers and contact names:

North Coast Fun Club northcoastfunclub@bigpond.com	(02) 66246615	Rhonda Prior - Coordinator
Biala Support Services Inc.	(02) 66864763	Wendylee Playford - Manager
Strikers Disabled Bowling League	(02) 66865143	Sue Parker - Co-ordinator
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