

## Update on women's health research

The Women and Infants Research Foundation hosted WA Governor Kim Beazley as part of a recent visit to mark the beginning of Women's Health Week (September 7 to 11).

Mr Beazley was particularly interested to hear about WA's leading role in COVID-19 research.

The foundation's chief scientific director, Professor John Newnham, and chief operations director Deb Portuges told him about the latest research and scientific achievements as well as how the foundation

had transformed its operations in response to the pandemic.

The Governor heard of an impending Australia-wide study being led by the foundation and the Australian Pre-term Birth Prevention Alliance, examining the link between the imposed coronavirus lockdowns and rates of early pre-term birth.

Women's Health Week is an annual nationwide campaign of events and online activities centred on improving women's health and helping all women to make healthier choices.



■ Dr Jodi Graham and Kim Beazley greet each other with a bump of the elbows.

## Rocky Bay celebrates a milestone

Rocky Bay reached the incredible milestone of 1000 active staff this week.

A coordinated celebration was held across all nine of Rocky Bay's hubs, which included beautiful celebratory cakes for each hub made by creative Rocky Bay speech pathologist and part-time baker, Naomi Ng, and a giant 1000 cake made by Margaret of Sugarloaf &

**When I arrived to support them, I just had this rush of passion**

Co for the head office in Mosman Park.

CEO, Michael Tait addressed the Mosman Park hub where the 1000th staff member, Danielle Gleeson, was inducted.

Danielle began this week as a community disability support worker, after working with an agency in

the sector.

Earlier this year, she completed a certificate III in individual support, where part of her work experience was facilitating groups of people to support them to learn new skills.

She had previously provided personal care and social support to a Rocky Bay customer, which began her passion for work in the disability sector and cemented her career choice.

"When I arrived to support them, I just had this rush of passion and knew this was what I wanted to do," she said.

"I enjoyed it so much, so I went from there and applied with Rocky Bay.



■ Michael Tait and Danielle Gleeson

"I wanted to work with Rocky Bay so I could commit to one organisation and put in my all to make a difference.

"This is what I want to

do long-term and there is a lot of progression in this type of job, which is a big thing for me.

"It's a really nice environment here [at Rocky Bay]. Everyone is so friendly, everyone is like-minded and has the same passion."

Danielle said her personal experience, coupled with the desire to challenge stereotypes and promote inclusivity, was another big reason she chose a career in the sector.

"I am a very bubbly and happy person, but I had a lot of challenges at a very

young age, so I have a lot of empathy for people who aren't very confident or who have low self-esteem.

"I recently finished working with a customer who lives with an intellectual disability and hadn't spoken to anyone in 40 years properly like he did with me.

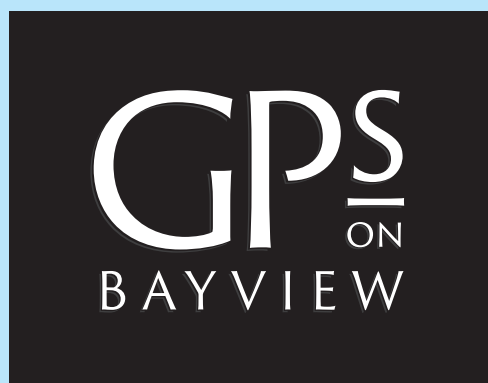
"I don't give up and I interact with everyone. Everyone can have a meaningful life."

Danielle plans to study sign language, so she can continue promoting good communication and inclusivity.

Rocky Bay CEO Michael Tait said: "To have over 1000 staff and be such a strong organisation on the other side of COVID speaks to the quality of the people we employ.

"They make such a difference to improve the lives of the people we support.

"I look forward to the next part of our journey – we will be announcing new offices, supported accommodation housing and we have new programs to develop. It is a very exciting time to be part of the sector."



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