

WINTER 2023

Can:Do 4Kids Smile

Empowering children to achieve their full potential

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How you can make an impact through life-changing assistive technology



"All together Can:Do 4kids has helped me from before I can remember to become the independent young woman I am."
Adeline, Can:Do 4Kids Client (pictured)

Welcome!

Welcome to the Winter edition of our supporter update.



Our community partners are some of our greatest friends and allies. They back us at every step, and the support we get from these teams and organisations helps us deliver the best possible services to the community. For all children, we know early intervention is important, but for our clients, it is everything. Nurturing the development and abilities of a child with a disability in the early years can literally change their life.

Our inaugural Can:Do Giving Day on Thursday 29 June invites our supporters, big and small, to join together to support a common cause, creating a tremendous amount of impact and raise awareness through collective gifts during a 24 hour period. By working together, we can save resources, time, and money. These savings will be able to go towards what matters most; the heart of our organisation, and our reasons for showing up every day: The children whose lives deserve to be better.

And of course we have witnessed over the years the benefits, for example, as at 15, Adeline's life is just getting started and looks bright! This year's Dinner in the Dark client speech was delivered by Adeline Roe. It was a highlight to have Adeline as our guest speaker and has brought us full circle, right back to 2014 when it was Adeline's parents, Amy and Adrian Roe, who shared their story with us. It was also particularly exciting considering her selection in the Australian Blind Cricket Women's squad for the 2023 World Games.

We work with children who are one of a kind, and so are our services. It is an exciting time to be a part of Can:Do, and as our stories will continue, our work will too.

Warmest wishes,

Lester Wynne-Jones
Can:Do Group Chief Executive

My Can:Do Journey - Adeline's story

My name is Adeline Roe.

I am fifteen years old and live with my Mother Amy, father Adrian and sister Alex. I'm very passionate about blind cricket and play for Blind Cricket SA (BCSA); I enjoy going to the gym, particularly focussing on strength and conditioning for cricket and everyday life. I like to go on runs with my sister, we're competitive but keep it fun; I like to watch movies and TV shows with my family; I also really enjoy listening to music and reading.

I was diagnosed with Cone Dystrophy at six months old. Cone Dystrophy means that people affected have either little to no cone function in their eyes. Cones are part of your retina and help people to see in the day, they also assist with fine vision and colour vision and this effects my overall visual acuity and means my colour vision is very limited. I also have photophobia, meaning that bright light conditions can reduce my vision to zero.

I'm told that I had many more appointments with Ophthalmologists and Neurologists for Electroretinograms (ERG's) to measure my retina function. These were conducted under standard conditions and also under anaesthetic at ages under one and then again at three. When I was diagnosed with Cone Dystrophy, the Ophthalmologist

recommended the services of Can:Do 4Kids to my parents, which we are truly grateful for to this day.

Although I have very few memories of my early Can:Do days, I can remember going to playgroups like jumping beans and getting to meet other kids with vision and hearing disabilities. I remember that Jumping Beans was a lot of fun and I made some good friends. I also remember going to many Can:Do 4Kids Christmas parties at the Modbury centre and also at Townsend House and more recently outside at a park with jumping castles and other fun activities.

I can remember supporting my Mum and dad with their many fundraising activities for Can:Do 4Kids, even participating in the city to bay with Can:Do 4Kids since before I can remember (my first time was while I was in a pram). We even ran a few quiz nights which were fun.

I have had many therapists from Can:Do 4Kids over the years who helped me with everything from independent living skills to gross and fine motor skills, assistive technology and Orientation and Mobility (O&M). I have been lucky to have been supported by fantastic therapists like Belinda, Bec, Adele, Kerry,

Adeline's achievements would not be possible without the kindness and generosity from supporters like yourself. Help us support Adeline's dream of reaching out to support more families like her own by filling out the enclosed supporter form and brighten the life of a visually challenged child today.

Jordana, Alex, Tristan, Justin and Adriana. With them I learnt things like how to ride a bike with Alex, how to use an iPad and its accessible features with Tristan and how to cook with Jordana – I still use the spaghetti bolognese recipe I learnt when I cook for my family. More recently, I participated in the WHISPA support group and we did more social stuff like going bowling and traveling down to Glenelg on the tram to have lunch at the surf lifesaving club.

All together Can:Do 4Kids has helped me from before I can remember to become the independent young woman I am. I am forever grateful for the life skills they have assisted me to build, I look forward to continuing to grow together and helping Can:Do 4Kids reach out to more families for support.



Adeline as a baby, with her mum Amy and navigating the world with her white cane

Where are they now - Cam and Hamish continue to flourish



Can:Do Kid Cam



Can:Do Kid Hamish

Thanks to Can:Do 4Kids, Cam has started school (and received his first A!), learnt to ride a bike, swim the length of the pool on his own, learn how to catch public transport and has most recently competed in little athletics in the mainstream program. None of these achievements would have been possible if it wasn't for the wonderful work that Can:Do 4Kids do with our Can:Do Kids. I would never have thought the day I received Cam's diagnosis that we would be here happy, healthy and smashing his goals!! We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the assistance that has helped our son grow into a confident, happy go getter who has reached so many milestones and no doubt will be reaching so many more in his life!

- Mum, Jasmine

Dinner in the Dark has helped to support many local South Australian children and we have loved watching their journeys over the years. We reached out to a few of our former clients who are pleased to share a journey update with you.

Looking back now, Hamish has come a long way. His emotional maturity is having a direct link to his academic achievement and overall happiness. Hamish is currently enjoying an overseas holiday in Indonesia and happily trying new foods! He wants to one day advocate for better footpaths in Indonesia like we have in Australia to help kids just like him. We are so appreciative for the constant supportive and professional approach Can:Do 4Kids have provided our family. Without their support, Hamish would not be where he is today. We will be forever grateful.

- Mum, Aly

Dates to Remember

Giving Day

Thursday 29 June

Loud Shirt Day

Friday 20 October

Can:Do 4Kids
Smile

Empowering children to achieve their full potential

**Support children in our community
who are blind or deaf**

fundraising@candogroup.com.au
(08) 8100 8200



Donate Today



Spotlight **Jessica Curnow**

What is your role at Can:Do 4Kids?

My role at Can:Do 4Kids is Senior Lead Speech Pathologist with Can:Do 4Kids. As the Discipline Lead within the Speech Pathology team, I work closely with the other Speech Pathologist's in the team. This also allows me to stay up to date on the latest research and techniques, which allows for continuous learning and professional growth.

Tell us about your journey towards becoming a Speech Pathologist? Why did you choose this career path?

I am passionate about equal healthcare throughout Australia, especially in rural areas but am also as dedicated to achieving positive and sustainable results for my clients locally. I strongly believe that communication is a fundamental human right and that effective communication, fosters stronger communities.

What do you love about working for Can:Do 4Kids and with our clients?

I love working at Can:Do 4Kids because it has given me the opportunity to work alongside passionate and dedicated clinicians, who specialise in hearing and vision. Our organisation's values focus on meaningful work, enabling us to make a significant and rewarding impact in the lives of our clients. I also love the state of the art facilities that we have down south at our Noarlunga clinic.

What are the some of the most rewarding aspects of your role?

As a Speech Pathologist, I get to work closely with children who have difficulties with communication disorders such as stuttering, articulation difficulties, and language disorders. I find when they overcome these challenges and communicate effectively it can be incredibly rewarding for them. Sometimes it is the seemingly small wins that are profoundly rewarding and can make a huge difference. I feel so privileged to be able to make a positive impact on the lives of children and their families. Seeing the progress children make through therapy and knowing that I played a part in that progress is incredibly fulfilling and a rewarding career choice.



What are the some of the most rewarding aspects of your role?

In my own downtime, I love getting lost in a good book, finding new cafes and spending time with my friends and family.

Learn more about Jess and our other Can:Do 4Kids specialists by visiting cando4kids.com.au



Become a Tech Buddy

"Assistive Technology helps me in every aspect of my life" says Can:Do client, Adeline, "with these tools I am able to lead an independent life; I can watch a movie on the big screen, read for enjoyment and travel on public transport just like my friends. I am grateful for the advancements in technologies available and the training I have received via Can:Do."

Scan the above QR code and give an impact gift today that will help Can:Do 4Kids to purchase life-changing technology.

Can:Do 4Kids

Give a bright start

Thursday 29 June

Double your donation and impact

Donate online at cando4kids.com.au



Connect with us...

Can:Do 4Kids

cando4kids.com.au



Can:Do Hearing

candohearing.com.au

