

Media Release



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School embraces the real meaning of community involvement at Christmas

Grade Prep and Grades 3 and 4 children from Melton Primary School and people with disability supported at **annecto's** David House in Yarraville celebrated a successful year's integration project with Christmas activities held at David House last Monday.

Volunteers from David House spent their time this year at Melton Primary school as assistants in the classroom and the school grounds with the children helping to break down the barriers associated with disability. Melton Primary School teachers Sharon Sowter and Liz Collins coordinated the integration project with staff from **annecto's** David House. Ms Sowter said that the project had given the school children the opportunity to get to know and include people in our community who have a disability.

'We have seen success in the way children relate to people in the community with disability. Children who may be withdrawn or very shy eagerly line up to sit next to the volunteers, to talk about their week', she said. 'David House volunteers supported the children with different study projects throughout the year and have been invited to attend performances and concerts as important people in the lives of the school children'.

Features of the Christmas event included a performance by the David House Community Choir, playing mini golf and bocce, trampolining, BBQ lunch, music and dancing.

For more information about the Integration Project contact Kate Warlond Support and Planning Coordinator, *annecto* Community Options, Yarraville site on 93140988

Images and case studies available. (Media consent from all subjects obtained)

annecto – the people network is an independent, not for profit association located in the northern, eastern and western metropolitan areas of Melbourne, the Grampians and the Loddon Mallee region, and is committed to increasing opportunities and choices in the community for people with a disability, older persons and their carers, and to realising a more inclusive society.

annecto's David House in Yarraville offers disability services and initiatives which are underpinned by individual, person-centred approaches, community inclusion and development to increase social inclusion and citizenship rights with the aim for sustainable long term outcomes.

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