



What We Do At M.A.R.S.

Murchison Accommodation Respite Services - M.A.R.S.



Murchison Accommodation Respite Services (M.A.R.S.) is a new and unique facility that provides quality respite and day programs to people with a disability under the NDIS system. We also provide accommodation for people needing placement whilst waiting for their own suitable accommodation—We are based in the Northern Victorian region – 1hr 40 minutes North of Melbourne Airport.

Located in the small, picturesque town of Murchison on the Goulburn River the facility consists of:

- 35 single rooms and 5 double rooms
- break out rooms for activities
- several dining rooms
- large commercial kitchen
- several kitchenettes
- monitored security system
- fire detection infrastructure to a high standard
- numerous fenced courtyards in pleasant surrounds
- child friendly animals



At M.A.R.S.

- We provide accommodation/respite services for people in the NDIS scheme
- We develop life skills to increase the confidence of individuals
- We teach teamwork for improved social interaction
- We conduct activities that broaden horizons
- We accommodate people needing short or medium-term accommodation whilst waiting for alternate living arrangements. eg post hospital for a range of ages

We have handpicked our experienced staff who live our motto of 'Quality Care Matters'

Additionally, given the low population density in the area, pandemic control is a lot more manageable than urban areas.





What We Do At M.A.R.S.

Why We Exist:

As a mother of a child with a disability, one of the owners teamed up with three close friends to overcome some of the challenges she and her child faced along their journey.

The team quickly set about finding the right location and facilities to provide an NDIS service and experience that would exceed client's expectations. It wasn't long before they discovered the right facility, location and community in the town of Murchison.

The business owners are Lyn Almond, Andrea Mason, Jason Lambrecht and David Frizzell.



What We Do

We want to make a positive difference in the lives of NDIS participants and their carers.

One of our key objectives is to ensure that parents, family and carers can take a break to recharge, in the knowledge that their loved ones are being well cared for. This can be on a regular basis for a few hours, a day, overnight, a weekend, or for longer periods as agreed.

We are committed to quality and effective services which are individualized, responsive and respectful to the client and their carers.

Some of the services we offer are;

- Short Term Accommodation including Respite - STA
- Medium Term Accommodation - MTA
- Programs of Support
- Development of Daily Living and Life Skills

This includes

- Holiday Programs
- Day Programs
- A large range of activities

As a first step, we conduct a personalized interview to better understand the need of our guests.



What We Do At M.A.R.S.

Life Skills:

Depending on the goals of the individual we will be offering clients the opportunities to learn life skills which can be anything from cooking, shopping, applying for jobs, paying bills, dancing, improving communication, painting, gardening, swimming and many more.



Activities (Activities)

We organize activities which are enjoyable and provide an opportunity to broaden social skills.

This can include trips to sporting events, movies, the gym, Kyabram Fauna Park, to name a few. If willing and able, we can even have a hit of tennis, kick the ball, or throw some hoops. We welcome suggestions from carers and participants.

We also have numerous games and craft activities which will provide a sense of achievement. Our guests can even visit the pigs and cows at the farm.



Entertainment:

If they wish, our clients, will get the opportunity to be a part of the entertainment. They get the chance to explore their own creativity whether it be in a play, a concert or just general fun. If they wish they can see themselves played back on the big screen in our very own theatre room.

... and if we are especially lucky, we may even get a visit from Captain Crazy Dance or a ride in the horse and cart buggy.



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Why the name M.A.R.S.?

We wanted a name that says what we did, was easy to remember and was synonymous with the famous meteorites of Murchison. Thus, we ended up with M.A.R.S. – Murchison Accommodation Respite Services.

More about the location:

Spending time in the fresh air is important to the well-being of everyone. We take pride in the numerous open spaces and manicured gardens unique to our facility. Certainly, if a client wishes, they can even participate in gardening tasks or they can just bask in its natural benefits as do the local birdlife.

If animals are more to the client's liking, they can feed the friendly chickens that contribute to the health of the vegetable patch or cuddle 'Impey' the rabbit.

Local Services and attractions:

Apart from the local bakery there is the chemist, medical centre, collectables store, garage, hotels, swimming pool, bowling club...

How do I get there?

Of course, you can drive yourself or loved one to M.A.R.S. Alternatively, we can meet you at the Murchison train station which is a short distance from our facility. There are several coach and train services to and from Melbourne and Shepparton with stops along the way. We are also planning to provide a passenger vehicle which provides transport to and from local towns.

- Link to website for train-service

<https://www.vline.com.au/Timetables/Train-coach-Timetables?loc=Shepparton%20Station&route=410B>

What do I do from here?

You can contact us directly to discuss options or connect with your NDIS support co-ordinator.

admin@marsfamily.com.au, or Phone: 03 580 88 900, or view our website at www.marsfamily.com.au

FAQ:

Does M.A.R.S. provide an easy means of providing feedback?

We operate under the requirements of the NDIS Code of Conduct, accordingly we respect the rights of all people to be able to provide us feedback which will help us continue to excel in our service delivery.

Please find a link to our Complaints/Feedback Form.

If I am over 65 and waiting for my own suitable accommodation, can I stay at M.A.R.S.?

Yes, we are not a nursing home, however, any privately funded or NDIS funded individuals can stay at M.A.R.S.