

Factsheet



Montrose Access

OCTOBER 2011

MontroseAccess Clients

- 1 in 22 Queensland children has a physical disability
- MontroseAccess works with more than 600 children and young adults with physical disabilities throughout Queensland
- MontroseAccess was originally set up to assist children suffering from the effects of the polio virus
- MontroseAccess is not condition specific, our clients have various rare and often undiagnosed conditions
- Today, clients have varying degrees of disabilities, the most common being neuromuscular conditions, juvenile arthritis, acquired brain injury and arthrogryposis
- Clients' ages range from toddlers to young adults

"MontroseAccess has been an immense help, allowing me to retain some of my independence through its respite services. Consequently, I'm filled with more confidence to keep striving towards full independence somewhere down the track and to keep working hard at uni."

– Tristram Peters, Client and MontroseAccess Ambassador

"Having a child with additional needs requires a parent to maintain an enormous load of information – MontroseAccess makes that job so much easier by keeping current with what is happening for Darcy."

– Louise Stuart, Parent

A vision

The MontroseAccess vision is to inspire quality lives.

For almost 80 years now, MontroseAccess has provided treatment, education and care for children and young adults with many kinds of physical disabilities, as well as invaluable support to their families.

Our mission is to provide support services to clients and their families to ensure that these individuals can achieve their maximum individual potential for participation in their community.

We do this through encouraging and facilitating all types of activities that children, teenagers and young adults of all abilities and backgrounds enjoy.

With an holistic approach to the support of our clients, MontroseAccess is a vital presence in the homes, schools and communities of more than 600 families throughout Queensland; many of whom have nowhere else to turn for ongoing care.

MontroseAccess services include:

- Physiotherapy
- Speech pathology
- Social work
- Occupational therapy
- Equipment loans
- Family support
- Recreation
- Respite

MontroseAccess is a not-for-profit organisation and we rely on community and government support to maintain the valuable services that we provide across Queensland.

Which is why we're talking to you now about our future....

Looking to the future

MontroseAccess has come a long way since a group of caring and pioneering Rotarians recognised the need for a support network for children affected by the devastating virus poliomyelitis.

Starting as the Queensland Society for Crippled Children with an 'institutionalised' approach, MontroseAccess has progressed to an organisation which supports children and young adults, with all types of physical disabilities reach their full potential.

The children and the families we serve are supportive of this new approach of caring for clients in their own communities. After all, it is convenient, accessible, less disruptive and cost effective. It also helps us better reach new clients in other parts of Queensland.

But to ensure that we can continue to be our best, we need to look seriously to the future. Our Board has recognised that our assets are tied up in bricks, mortar and real estate that we – and our clients – don't need.

To remain on the Corinda site, we will need to fund annual maintenance costs of \$146,000 plus \$4.75million for necessary outstanding maintenance and repairs. Even if we sell part of the land for development, we don't believe enough money will be raised to fund the site improvements needed. This money could be better spent on improving facilities for our current clients and reaching new clients in the southwest Brisbane growth corridor and southeast Queensland where demand for our services is growing.



What we propose

Consequently, we're currently applying to Brisbane City Council to sell our Corinda MontroseAccess headquarters for residential redevelopment. As part of this plan we will lease a new premises nearby in southwest Brisbane to house our corporate and therapy functions and open a new independent, purpose-built respite centre.

It is still early days in the project plan and a lot of consultation and work has to happen, but selling Corinda will guarantee that MontroseAccess is able to maintain the highest quality of services into the foreseeable future.

This eventual move will mean:

- Services are protected and we can better provide the highest level of support to clients across Queensland
- We can reach new communities where demand is growing
- Jobs are safe and staff changes are not part of our plan
- We will make every effort to honour our historical ties to the past
- Any future development of the site will be in keeping with the local surrounds
- MontroseAccess is committed to providing park and river access to the local community as part of any site development

And crucially, as part of this process we will be talking to our clients, their families, staff, residents and all of our stakeholders to ensure that all opinions and feedback are incorporated into our plans going forward

If you have any questions about the proposal or feedback please do get in contact. In the meantime we are committed to keeping you updated as we progress with plans

The MontroseAccess Story

MontroseAccess first emerged in 1933 as the Queensland Society for Crippled Children.

The brainchild of a group of leading Brisbane doctors and businessmen, all Rotarians, had rallied together to form the Society to support children affected by poliomyelitis. At the time, an entrepreneur named George Marchant, who had made his wealth from making soft drinks, was so impressed by the Rotarians' plan that he offered the use of his house at Taringa as a starting point for the Society.

By 1936, the home was no longer large enough to cater for the growing number of children requiring support. Again George Marchant stepped in having found an ideal site in Corinda, purchased it, and gifted it to the Society.

In January of 1938, 55 children moved to the Corinda home situated amongst nearly four hectares of garden high up on the Brisbane River. The site grew over time to cater for on-site care including education and accommodation for clients and staff. It was an ideal place for children to be able to lead a normal existence, receive full time care, education and therapy.

With the development of the polio vaccine, MontroseAccess responded to the needs of the day and now caters for children and teenagers with all types of physical disabilities.

The Corinda grounds have provided a base for nearly 75 years of unrivalled service delivery. MontroseAccess has built a reputation around that impeccable standard and has strived to maintain and develop its reputation.

In order to continue this best practice and respond to a growing client base in new communities, we must look to the future. A new site is required that will better serve staff, our service model – but most importantly clients and their families.

MontroseAccess principles:

Respect and Dignity

- We respect the right to privacy, dignity and confidentiality for all

Equity and Fairness

- We believe in consultation and equity in everything we do

Family Focus

- We recognise that each family is unique and has individual goals

Partnerships

- Partnerships within our communities are the strength of our future

Quality and Innovation

- We strive for continuous improvement, innovation and growth

For further information contact
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