
December 2025 Newsletter

From Stronger Together Foundation <info@stf.org.au>

Date Mon 08/12/2025 12:00

To Narelle Peart <narellep@stf.org.au>



December

NEWSLETTER

A message from Ellen



As we wrap up the year, there is so much to celebrate across our Stronger Together community. We delivered our fourth annual Stronger Together Conference, introduced our first School Options Workshop, and hosted three professional development workshops for educators, clinicians and families, strengthening inclusion well beyond our own programs.

We also rolled out free Occupational Therapy Screeners, adding to our existing free Speech Screeners, helping families access early developmental support when it matters most. Our Sensory Breakout Space continued to grow in reach and recognition, appearing at new community events such as the Hills Food & Wine Festival and remaining a valued feature at local gatherings.

Alongside this impact, we held another successful Golf Day and launched our first Ladies Night under the Stronger Together Foundation. Both events are wonderful fundraising and engagement events that brought our community together in support of our work.

These experiences from learning and support to connection and generosity have shaped a year of growth and inclusion for children and families.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our mission, shared our work, supported our fundraising or helped bring our initiatives to life.

I hope you enjoy this final edition of 2025 and feel proud of the role you've played in making it all happen.

— Ellen Kulbicki, CEO

Latest News

We're a 2026 CommBank Staff Foundation Grant Recipient!

We're thrilled to share that we've been awarded a CommBank Staff Foundation Community Grant for 2026. This funding will help us expand our

support for siblings of children with disabilities and developmental needs through programs like SibWorks and Stronger Sibs, our holiday camp designed specifically for siblings. These programs build understanding, confidence and resilience, giving siblings a space to connect with others who share similar experiences.

Can you help us secure more community funding?

Many grants can only be accessed through nomination. If you know of a community, corporate or foundation grant that supports inclusion, early intervention, or children's services – please let us know. Your nomination could help fund more free screeners, group programs or sensory spaces next year.

**Proud recipients
of a 2025 CommBank
Staff Foundation
Community Grant.**



**CommBank
Staff Foundation**

Fundraising

Christmas Raffle – Last Fundraiser of the Year

Our raffle is now live, with the major prize being a \$1,000 Castle Towers gift card – plus 11 other fantastic prizes to win!

Every ticket purchased helps us continue offering free screeners, run group programs like Andy Bear Club, and bring our Sensory Tent to community events.

 [Buy a ticket](#) |  Share with family & friends |  Drawn 17th December



Upcoming Events

We're proud to once again bring our **Sensory Breakout Space** to two wonderful local events. Our tent provides a calm, inclusive environment for children and families who may need a break from the noise and crowds. Inside, families will find soft lighting, sensory toys, and comfortable seating, a peaceful retreat designed to help everyone enjoy community celebrations at their own pace.

Mayor's Children's Christmas Party

Sunday 7 December 2025

Bella Vista Farm

Sensory-Sensitive Hour: **9–10 am**

General Admission: **10 am–2 pm**

Glenhaven Carols by Candlelight Sunday 14th December

Glenhaven Oval

3.30pm to 9pm



[Read more about sensory sensitive spaces](#)

Available Services

Speech and OT Screeners - January Appointments **NOW OPEN**

We've opened extra screener sessions during January to support families before school begins.

These sessions help identify developmental, functional or communication areas that may need support before school or kinder begins. Free to families thanks to fundraising and grants.

Occupational Therapy Screeners

 Wed 7 & Wed 14 January

Speech Pathology Screeners

 Thurs 8 & Thurs 15 January

[Book FREE OT Screener](#)

[Book FREE Speech Screener](#)

School Holiday Programs

We still have a small number of places available in both January programs – but spots are filling fast.

Intensive Transition to School (Kindy 2026)

A practical, fun week helping children build confidence, independence, school routines, friendships and readiness for the first day.

Create, Play & Explore (Years 1–5 in 2026)

STEM activities, arts, cooking, sensory play and group challenges – perfect for curious kids who love building, exploring and making new friends.

Submit your EOI now to secure your place.

Transition to School

Intensive Program for children starting Kindergarten in 2026

A structured, therapist-supported program that helps children build independence, confidence, classroom skills, and social readiness.

Children will learn:

- ✓ Wearing and managing school uniform
- ✓ Following routines, bell times & transitions
- ✓ Working independently and in groups
- ✓ Following teacher instructions
- ✓ Managing belongings & table tasks
- ✓ Social participation and confidence



[Learn More](#)

Create, Play & Explore

School Holiday Program for Year 1–5

Hands-on experiences in STEM, arts & crafts, movement, cooking and sensory play in a supportive, therapist-led group.

Children will:

- ✓ STEM Projects
- ✓ Arts & crafts
- ✓ Cooking & food experiments
- ✓ Movement & games
- ✓ Social participation & friendships
- ✓ Therapist-supported learning



[Learn More](#)

January 2026 School Holiday Group Program Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WC 5 TH JAN		Create, Play & Explore Year 1 – Year 5 2026 @ Stronger Together Foundation 9am – 1pm		Create, Play & Explore Year 1 – Year 5 2026 @ Stronger Together Foundation 9am – 1pm	
WC 12 TH JAN		Create, Play & Explore Year 1 – Year 5 2026 @ Stronger Together Foundation 9am – 1pm		Create, Play & Explore Year 1 – Year 3 2026 @ St Gabriels School 9am – 3pm	
WC 19 TH JAN		4 Day Transition to School Kindy 2026 @Stronger Together Foundation 9am to 12pm			
WC 26 TH JAN		4 Day Transition to School Kindy 2026 @Stronger Together Foundation 9am to 12pm			

2026 Group Programs - Enrolments now open!

We're currently planning our Term 1 group programs and are inviting families to submit an Expression of Interest to secure a place early. These programs support children to build confidence, social skills, routines and emotional regulation in a warm, structured and inclusive environment. For details of individual programs see the link.

2026 Group Programs

2026 Term 1 Group Program Schedule

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Andy Bear Club (3-5 years) 8:30am – 11:30am	Andy Bear Club (3-5 years) 8:30am – 11:30am	School Ready Kidz (children starting Kindergarten in 2027) 9:30am – 11:30am	Cub Club (6 months – 4 years) 9:30am – 11:00am	School Ready Kidz (children starting Kindergarten in 2027) 9:30am – 11:30am
	School Ready Kidz (children starting Kindergarten in 2027) 12:30pm – 2:30pm		Kidz Club (Kindergarten – Year 4) 3:30pm – 5:00pm	



Staff News

We're delighted to share some wonderful news from within our team. Our Speech Pathologist, **Bianca**, married her partner **Jacob** on **Sunday 16th November**.

Please join us in congratulating Bianca and Jacob on their beautiful celebration and wishing them a lifetime of happiness together.



We are hiring!

We're growing our team and are currently hiring a **Speech Pathologist**.

This role is ideal for someone who is passionate about family-centred practice, enjoys working across home, school and community settings, and wants to be part of a supportive team making a genuine difference to children and families in the Hills District.

With flexible scheduling, a warm team culture and opportunities to contribute to group programs and community initiatives, it's a role where you can truly see the impact of your work.

If you know someone who would be a great fit, please feel free to share this opportunity with them.

JOIN OUR TEAM

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