

# The Social Innovators Project



**Artemis**  
DISABILITY SERVICES

**Authentic. Independent.  
Confident. Connected.**



## Authentic Skill Development

The Social Innovators Project is a bespoke 12-week social skill and independence development program for teenage NDIS participants between 13 and 17 years of age. Unlike many social skill development programs, the SIP utilises the best practice educational strategy of universal design for learning. This program is delivered by a dual-registered and practicing Teacher and Developmental Educator that tailors session content to be inclusive of the goals of each individual participant. Additionally, this project encompasses an online component to maintain peer connections between sessions and improve participants' digital literacy capabilities.



## Meaningful Independence

The SIP utilises freshwater shrimp keeping as a conduit to fast-track authentic daily living skill development and meaningful independence. Participants each care for a self-selected breed of freshwater shrimp and learn about their care requirements and breeding strategies. Over time, participants discover successful strategies, share them with their peers, and have the opportunity to trade or sell shrimp that they breed themselves. Shrimp are fantastic low maintenance pets that require only a small space and have simple care needs.



## Sustained Peer Connections

Many group programs last for 60 minutes each week without facilitated peer contact between sessions. The SIP discounts group rates to provide weekly 90 minute face-to-face classes, as well as facilitated digital communication throughout the week, for less than the price of a 60 minute individual therapy session!



**ENQUIRE NOW**



[www.artemisdss.com.au/sip](http://www.artemisdss.com.au/sip)

## Program Details and Participant Eligibility



### Program Overview

The Social Innovators Project is delivered at the Cove Community Centre over a 12-week program block. 90-minute sessions are conducted each Tuesday from 4:00pm - 5:30pm. A one hour intake meeting is conducted with the participant and a parent/caregiver to ensure suitability and best target explicit social and communication skill development opportunities throughout the project. The overarching theme for the program is shrimp keeping. This hobby has been selected to provide participants with a shared experience that facilitates social communication opportunities and develops independence, responsibility, resilience, and meaningful peer connections. Each week explores an element of shrimp keeping for engagement and concurrently delivers explicit social communication skill learning. Between sessions, participants have the responsibility of caring for their own shrimp in their home and will maintain regular contact with their peers and program facilitator through the online learning and communication portal. At the conclusion of the program, a participant progress report is provided to celebrate successes and guide future opportunities for growth.

Individual Speech/OT/DE sessions cost \$193.99 per hour. The Social Innovators Project is able to deliver 90-minute group sessions, and facilitate additional online peer learning opportunities, for between \$123 (5 participants) and \$162 (3 participants) per week. We are able to offer significantly greater opportunities for growth in truly authentic and inclusive contexts for a lower weekly fee.



### Participant Eligibility

- Participants must be between 13 and 17 years of age and have, or establish, a goal to improve social communication and/or community participation.
- As costs are split amongst the group of participants, all those enrolled MUST commit to the project for the full duration of the 12-week program.
- Participants must have access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone capable of accessing Google Classroom. They must also have parental consent to read and post in the closed online group with their peers (all interactions monitored and moderated by facilitator).
- Where literacy levels prevent independent posting on an online communication platform, participants require willing support from a parent or caregiver to help facilitate online interactions. The Google Classroom is facilitated by the Developmental Educator and questions / conversation prompts will be posted each week throughout the program to support and sustain peer connections.
- Participants must have permission from parents/caregivers to take care of shrimp in their home. Shrimp aquariums are small and only require approximately 40cmx30cm of space on a sturdy countertop, table, or desk away from electronics.



### Why Shrimp Keeping?

Freshwater neocaridina shrimp are a small (1-2cm) low-maintenance pet bred by hobbyists all over the world. They are low-cost to purchase and only need feeding twice per week. They are available in a wide range of colours which makes trading a fun and rewarding activity to engage in with peers or other hobbyists. Undertaking a shrimp breeding project is highly rewarding and helps facilitate independence, resilience, and responsibility. Depending on the type and quantity of shrimp, a beginner setup is provided to the participant for \$95 - \$150 on an at-cost basis along with all setup and care information to ensure success. Caring for a shrimp colony can take as little as 15 minutes per week!

