

MEDIA RELEASE

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Many busy hands produced 'Collabora Time' dolls

The many hands of Monte Lupo supported employees with a disability recently joined with residents from the Whitehouse retirement village for some serious craft 'Collabora Time' during Seniors Week 23-31 August 2008 to produce beautiful contemporary soft dolls.

The 'Many Hands Dolls – Collabora Time' craft group was a collaborative project proudly funded by the Federal Department of Communities as part of their Seniors Week celebrations. Monte Lupo supported employees who worked closely with Whitehouse resident seniors celebrated the success of producing the dolls using traditional craft methods at a morning tea on Monday, 25 August 2008.

Multicap CEO Joanne Jessop said the craft project was a wonderful reflection of the collaborative style of work that our Monte Lupo business service strives to achieve, and a great example of the aims of Seniors Week initiative.

"Our Monte Lupo business service was established in 1991 to provide creative opportunities for artists to focus on their capabilities and possibilities rather than on their disabilities," Ms Jessop said.

"Projects, such as this 'Many Hands Dolls – Collabora Time' initiative, are a terrific opportunity for our Monte Lupo artists' with a disability to work with other community groups to then make their work available for sale so everyone can take pleasure in it."

Monte Lupo Business Services Manager, Fiona Haynes, said the collaborative project provided a fantastic opportunity to pool the resources of committed, talented, and creative people from her service and seniors from the neighbouring Whitehouse retirement village to develop and deliver a high quality craft project.

"The finished dolls, along with photographic documentation of the craft group's interaction, were on exhibition in our Monte Lupo shop during Seniors Week", Ms Haynes said.

"For some participants, it was their first time to hold a needle and thread, and was an excellent chance for others with sewing skills spanning 60 to 70 years to teach others," she said.

The morning tea was held at Monte Lupo Shop, Eight Mile Plains on Monday, 25th of August 2008 with participants, Multicap staff, and other community members there to celebrate the success of the program.

Established in 1962, Multicap provides creative and sustainable support options for people with multiple disabilities, and challenging and complex behaviours, their families and carers in Queensland. Monte Lupo is a business service of Multicap established in 1991 to provide creative opportunities for artists to focus on their capabilities and possibilities rather than on their disabilities.

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Further information and photos: Fiona Haynes, Multicap Business Services Manager on 3340 9026, or email fionah@multicap.asn.au