

Participant Story: Alexia Harriton

Written by Olga

Shared by Margaret Henville

We have some lovely pictures of my daughter Alexia, enjoying the sun and her outings with Manaia Assist. She gets to go out every day and experience something new.

The best way to learn about the world as a Deafblind person is through touch and smell. Alexia's low vision and hearing helps her to experience some things but it is the active support she receives that is making the difference in her life. The funding and flexibility of the NDIS has provided Alexia with opportunities we had only hoped would be possible.

Veni, Alexia's support person says 'Alexia loves the warmth of the sun on her skin. When she sits on the grass she turns from side to side to warm her face. The sensation of the changes on her bare feet at the beach make her smile, although she was surprised at first'. The sunlight is gentle on her eyes too.

When travelling on the train Alexia feels the movement and senses the changes in her environment. At the movies the sound waves travel through the cinema and you can see her thinking about where the sounds are coming from.

Alexia is a very determined lady and adapts to the world around her. It is amazing to watch her figure out exactly what is going on.

Deafblindness presents unique challenges to individuals, families and caregivers. For her support team providing access to the world beyond her fingertips is what brings meaning to our work and improves Alexia's quality of life.

Team work, collaborating and focusing on what makes life great for Alexia, figuring out the strategies of how to get there, listening to each other and sharing all make it easier.

Without the assistance of Alexia's support group, to mention a few, Jeder Institute and the caring people of Manaia Assist, The Ella Centre, Aruma and her therapists, Alexia would not be enjoying life as she is today, visible in these pictures.

We are very grateful for everyone working with Alexia in making her life matter.