

Meet our LAC Director: Ben Fioramonte

Former SSI Ability Links Operations Manager, Ben Fioramonte recently transferred into the role of SSI's Director Local Area Coordinator Services. Ben, a self-proclaimed introverted-extrovert, and loving father of two, shares how he plans to lead the LAC team, his battles against his morning alarm and why he got into the disability sector.



How long have you been with SSI?

I have been with SSI for two years. Prior to joining SSI, I spent over 10 years managing aged care and disability services with small and large not-for-profit organisations such as The Benevolent Society and the St Vincent de Paul Society.

How do you feel about transitioning from Ability Links to the LAC?

Transitioning into LAC from Ability Links feels like a natural evolution.

The Ability Links and FutureAbility teams have worked incredibly hard over the years to build the capacity of people with disability, their families, carers and communities. They have helped thousands of people to achieve their goals.

The opportunity for them to merge with skilled and experienced LAC staff, transitioning from Vinnies into SSI, will only lead to even greater outcomes for the people and communities we serve.

I feel very blessed to be working with my new team.

What is your position and what does it involve?

I am the Director for LAC Services. My role is quite diverse and involves many responsibilities such as program design and development, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluating social impact, problem solving, workforce planning, and supporting teams to achieve the best outcomes for the people we serve. It also involves a lot of meetings!

How would you describe your leadership style? I

suppose I would describe my leadership style as being a mixture of [participative](#) and [servant leadership](#).

I like to have different thinkers on my team, people with diverse skillsets and experiences to draw from. My approach in LAC will be to establish a team of leaders all working toward the same goal.

I believe this is the best way to achieve greater social impact and quality outcomes for people with disability.

What does a day in your work life look like so far?

Each day can look a little different, but this how I would describe a typical one:

4:30am: Alarm goes off. Set alarm to 'snooze'

4:45am: Alarm goes off. Set alarm to 'snooze'

5:00am: Alarm goes off. Set alarm to 'snooze'

5:15am: Curse, then throw alarm clock across room.

Wake up, stretch and exercise whilst listening to 'Rocky' soundtrack and Katy Perry's 'Roar'.

6:00am: Have breakfast and make mess in kitchen.

6:30am- 8:15am: Follow up on actions from previous day, work on priority tracker, prepare for the day/week.

8:15am: See that daughter needs a nappy change, but pretend you didn't notice.

8:25am: Get into trouble for making mess in kitchen.

8:30am- 5pm: Meetings...

5pm-6pm: Catch up on daily actions and have lunch.

What brought you to work in this sector?

What brought me to the disability sector and now one of the best parts of my job is seeing and hearing about the difference our teams and our services make in the community every day.

My team is made up of incredibly talented individuals with enormous drive to help others grow and flourish in their environments and communities. The most rewarding part of my job is working these inspiring people in our pursuit to achieve greater equity for vulnerable communities. It is why I do what I do.

What is something important about the LAC every SSI staff member should know?

The LAC program is about ensuring people with disability have the capacity, tools and resources to exercise greater choice and control over their plan, and their lives.

It is also about supporting people to navigate a complex system in order to make the most out of their funding and the mainstream and specialist services available to them in their local area.

How would you describe yourself?

I'm an extroverted introvert. I love being around people and working with others, but I need to be alone in order to recharge, reflect and plan ahead.

I also have an amazing wife and two cheeky kids, Maverick (four years old) and Isabelle (three years old going on 13).

I used to have hobbies. But then my wife and I had children...

Do you have any Netflix (Stan, ect), YouTube, Music or Podcasts recommendations?

At the moment I am listening to the audiobook version of ['Can't Hurt Me' by David Goggins](#). I love hearing about people overcoming the limitations of the mind. Very inspiring...

