

An Extraordinary Journey An Exceptional Moment — A Spectacular Trip to Canberra of CASS Disability Services

Travelling is always fascinating. People with disability also look forward to travelling even though extra care and preparation is indispensable.

Due to the renovation work of CASS Belfield Group Home for disability, a one-week trip to Canberra was specially organized by CASS Disability Services for the residents. Mr. Lu, who runs the CASS Belfield Group Home, one of the staff members organizing the trip, shared with us about the journey.

Mr. Lu introduced the itinerary, "The residents were very excited when they got on the coach. We took a short break at McDonald in midway and finally arrived our destination at Redbrow Garden after a 3-hour drive. All the residents were thrilled to tour around the surroundings and had a rest at the garden. The trip formally started on the second day.

Mr. Lu continued, "The environment is completely different between city and suburban. The long crow of a rooster welcomed in the morning and we all had a good sleep. The owner of the garden was very kind to prepare us homemade breakfast with fresh eggs from his own farm. We went for a stroll under the shade after breakfast. All of us were refreshed by the delicate fragrance of flowers along the trail. There was a small farm adjacent to the garden, the owner of the garden allowed us to feed and pat the animals. Our residents were overwhelmed. They loved the alpaca mostly and were very excited to feed them with lettuce. They enjoyed interacting with farm animals very much. Visits to different museums were arranged for the residents to have a thorough understanding of the culture and history of Australia and know more about the federal capital city."

An incident happened in the trip. Mr. Lu recalled, "One of the residents with autism called Siu Hai was very nervous about the new environment on the first day of the trip, he was unwilling to sleep at night because of the feeling of insecurity. Our staff members, regardless of tiredness after a full day work, tried to accompany him overnight to comfort him. With the patience and care from our staff members, Siu Hai was settled down and eventually able to sleep."

"For such a weeklong trip with the residents from dawn to dusk, we really had some worries and concerns over logistic arrangement, manpower and resources allocation at the beginning of our preparation. The trip was not easy even though it was well planned. On the way home, the residents told us they looked forward to having such a wonderful trip every year. We realized that all our effort was worthwhile."

"Time flies when you are having fun." The newly furnished Group Home was ready and it welcomes their return. All the residents were back with loads of unforgettable memory.

An extraordinary journey is engraved into our memory. We highly respect our staff members, a group of dedicate servants, who contribute their love and care unconditionally.

(We appreciate your support. Please contact CASS Headquarter at (02) 9789 4587 for enquiry.)



(Photo: The Group Home residents enjoy dinner at Redbrow Garden at Canberra)