

# History

SA Group Enterprises, was a joint venture of Bedford Industries, Crippled Children's Association and Minda Incorporated.

Initial Board was the CEO of each organisation Malcolm Rohan (Bedford), David Cowdrey (Crippled Children's) Tony Wren (Minda).

## Board of Management

Len Dywer (Minda), Pagan Barrett Woodbridge (Bedford) Gary Wilson (Crippled Children's) and Neil Kirby.

Initial CEO appointed in May 1986 – Donald Sarre.

Staff appointed in June 1986.

Office Manager Joyce Williams, Supervisors Mike Curtin, Mike Parker & Maree Hollard.

SA Group Enterprises was set up as a demonstration project to provide long-term supported employment for 20 adults with severe disabilities who were previously unemployed.

The initial commitment by the 3 organisations was for Bedford to assist with the management of funding, payment of wages and any administrative tasks.

SA Group Enterprises would draw employees from both Minda and Crippled Children's Association which would mean 10 employees with severe intellectual disabilities and 10 employees with severe physical disabilities.

The demonstration project was funded on the basis of a mix of physical and Intellectual disabilities taken from two of the auspicing organisations.

The mix of disability within one service set SA Group Enterprises apart from other services and other demonstration projects as it is uncommon to have people with physical disability and intellectual disability working in the same service.

1986	SA Group Enterprises	SA Group Enterprises was first established as a demonstration project to provide employment and training for people with a disability who could not access other services due to high support needs.
1987	Business	Without any business plan the organisation began door knocking local businesses for general sub-contracting packaging and assembly work.
1991	InPrint	After some experimenting with computer training the first business division to be established was InPrint with a small office on campus at Flinders University. It began offering typing and desktop publishing services.
1992	SA Wire Ware	The next business division to be established was Wire Ware in the manufacture of hanging wire baskets and wire garden furniture.
1994	Precision Cartridges	After struggling with subcontracting the organisation purchased a laser toner cartridge remanufacturing franchise.
1995	New CEO	Although the organisation had established three small businesses they were not viable and were in financial difficulty. A new CEO was hired and the organisation restructured to reduce costs, and improves sales and business planning.
1996	SA Wire Ware	With a change in business, staff restructuring, introduction of inventory management, quality control processes and costing systems Wire Ware was prevented from closure.
1997	Inprint Design	A new business plan was developed for InPrint as it was identified there was more opportunity for growth in graphic design and print brokering. Along with a change of name from InPrint to Inprint Design, larger offices were secured from Flinders University. Software was upgraded, training was increased and graphic design staff were hired.
1998	Precision Cartridges Sold	Despite restructuring, increasing sales and improving quality control the business did not offer much in terms of future employment for people with disability or significant levels of income. Consequently the business was sold and supported personnel relocated to Wire Ware who were, at that time, offering more employment opportunities.
1999	Inprint Design	Inprint Design was again restructured with a new manager, this led to a greater focus on sales and the business began generating surpluses.
2001	Optcom	As a result of a merger with a smaller organisation who were in financial difficulties a new business venture was established. The business plan was to establish a web design, data entry and document scanning enterprise.
2002	SA Wire Ware	After a costing review as a result of declining furniture manufacture viability Wire Ware began focusing on the design and manufacture of POS display stands, resulting in further growth.

2003	Your Employment Success	Due to reforms in the disability sector there began increased demand for open employment services. SA Group Enterprises was approached by TAFE SA to provide specialist open employment services for the Deaf. New funding was secured and it began with 1.5 staff and 9 clients.
2004	Link Disability Magazine	Inprint Design became the new publishers of Link Disability Magazine and moved into larger office at the Mark Oliphant Building.
2005	Optcom Merger with Inprint Design	Due to the transition from Block Grants funding to Case Based Funding it was no longer feasible to operate Optcom and so to reduce costs Optcom was merged with Inprint Design. This also included the move of head office to the Mark Oliphant Building next door to Inprint Design.
2007	Autism SA employees	Autism SA transferred their supported employment places to SA Group Enterprises. While the majority of places were transferred to Wire Ware we continued to operate two smaller projects. An enclave of 5 people working on site at the IMVS Laboratories and a small computer business called Aspitech. Aspitech had 3 people with Asperger Syndrome and a volunteer.
2008	Worklink Enclave	An agreement was made between SA Group Enterprises and IMVS Laboratories to continue the enclave, providing employment for 5 people with Autism.
2008	Aspitech	The small computer repair business established by Autism SA was relocated to a shop front and expanded. A new computer recycling business was established.
2009	Wire Ware	A decline in business as a result of the GFC began to reduce the availability of work and a greater effort was made to increase sales and rebranding of Wire Ware.
2010	Aspitech	Aspitech became an Authorised Microsoft Refurbisher and employed more people.
2011	Aspitech	Aspitech was relocated to larger premises and a Business Development Manager employed to expand the business into electronics recycling.
2012	Your Employment Success	YES win DEEWR tender for 5 years with increased market share.
2012	Wire Ware	With ongoing decline in Wire Ware's business a decision was made to relocate Wire Ware into larger premises with Aspitech.
2013	Aspitech & Wire Ware	Co-location of Head Office, Aspitech and Wire Ware into a larger factory at Underdale and the significant expansion of Aspitech.
2013	Your Employment Success	YES grows and establishes 5 offices 2 fulltime North and South and 2 part-time in the East and a part-time office at the new Aspitech site in the West.

# The Enterprises

## Overview

SA Group Enterprises is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1986 with the aim of providing valued employment for people with disability through the development of social enterprises and specialist open employment services.

We believe we lead the way in inclusive employment and environmental sustainability and are committed to providing local job opportunities whilst continuing to improve the environment and quality of life within South Australia.

In order to offer employment SA Group Enterprises has developed a diverse group of divisions offering a unique range of employment and training opportunities:

- Aspitech – Environmental E-cycling, Refurbished IT and computer sales
- Inprint Design - Graphic design, promotion, print and website design.
- Link Disability Magazine - Australia's largest disability issues and lifestyle magazines.
- Wire Ware - Manufacturers and designers of point of sale display stands.
- Worklink Enclave - Supported employment within the community.
- Your Employment Success - Finding valued work for the Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing impaired.

SA Group Enterprises provides employment for people with disability through two main programs:

### 1. Supported Employment

The aim of supported employment is to offer people with disability tailored on-the-job support and training specifically where open employment may not currently be the best option.

Supported employment is offered within one of our social enterprises which are operated and marketed as businesses in their own right. A social enterprise is no different to any other business and must generate profit through trading. They only differ in that they are established to provide employment and that profits are retained to further develop the business and sustain employment.

### 2. Open Employment

The aim of open employment is to target employment opportunities that best match an individual's career aspirations in order to find employment. The service supports an individual through the processes of preparing, finding and securing employment. Once in employment, the service will support both the employee and employer with the goal of successful long-term employment.

Currently our open employment program offers specialist employment services for the Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing impaired.

## The Divisions

### **Aspitech – [aspitch.com.au](http://aspitch.com.au)**

Aspitech is a new style of business that offers a responsible way to recycle electronics, achieving a better environmental and social outcome for South Australia.

To achieve this Aspitech offers a unique two-tiered approach of reuse and recycle.

### **Reuse for the community**

Reusing technology has significant benefits to the environment, not only in reducing waste but also having a smaller carbon footprint, as recycling materials is energy-intensive. Consequently Aspitech identifies technology that is still usable and makes it available for sale at a low cost. Aspitech is also a participant in the Microsoft Refurbisher program meaning we can also offer low-cost computers with genuine Microsoft software for students and people with low incomes.

### **Safe and effective e-recycling**

Aspitech sorts and dismantles all electronic devices in our undercover factory and has works to internationally recognised standards for environmental protection and workplace safety. Using these standards Aspitech achieves a very high standard and can recover over 95% of usable materials diverting it from landfill.

### **Inprint Design- [inprint.com.au](http://inprint.com.au)**

Inprint Design is a graphic design service with over 20 years' experience in print, the internet and other media. This includes identity (logos and branding), publications (Journals, magazines and books), print advertisements, posters, websites and e-publications.

Inprint Design specialises in understanding the client's product or service needs, their competitors, and the target audience where it is translated into a visual solutions utilising space, colour, imagery and typography. Graphic design is an interdisciplinary, problem-solving activity which combines visual sensitivity with skill and knowledge in areas of communications, technology and business.

### **Link Disability Magazine – [linkonline.com.au](http://linkonline.com.au)**

Link Disability Magazine is a full colour glossy magazine featuring opinions and perspectives directly from people with a disability, published by Inprint Design. Link covers a diverse range of topics including news, issues, art, sport, breakthroughs, travel, health, advocacy, products and people in the disability sector. Link started out in 1980 as a small state-based newspaper and has since evolved into a national, professionally designed magazine also available free online.

### **Wire Ware – [wireware.com.au](http://wireware.com.au)**

Wire Ware specialises in high quality point of purchase display and product sale stands for the retail environment. Experienced in design, engineering and manufacturing of a wide range of steel point of sale, wire display stands and other complementary services, Wire Ware prides itself on being able to create any custom designed stand to suit any business situation.

To complement its range of point of purchase and point of sale products, Wire Ware has also developed a range of other solutions to make business easier. This range of services includes complete project management, material brokering, and subcontractor management and transport co-ordination.

### **WorkLink Enclave – [sage.org.au/enclave](http://sage.org.au/enclave)**

Worklink Enclave is a variation on our supported employment model where a small group of people are employed by SA Group Enterprise to work on-site within another business or organisation as a contracted workforce unit. Personnel employed are supported by trained staff on-the-job and receive the same employment and support programs as they would working within one of SA Group Enterprises businesses including wages and conditions, the only difference is that people are working within an external enterprise out in the community.

SA Group Enterprise has been successfully operating this unit within the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS) Pathology Lab at in Adelaide's CBD. This highly successful and exciting project is operated by our Human Services Department and currently employs six people in a unique workplace environment.

### **Your Employment Success – [youremployment.org.au](http://youremployment.org.au)**

Your Employment Success (Y.E.S.) is a Specialist Employment Service providing tailored support for the Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing impaired to prepare for and gain valued successful employment in the community. Y.E.S. targets employment opportunities that offer the best career choices for individuals while at the same time offers support for both employee and employer, ensuring successful ongoing employment.

Your Employment Success personnel are highly experienced in working with the Deaf and people who are hard of hearing and hearing impaired. The service offers interpreting, counselling, workplace modification and deaf awareness training. Staff can ensure valued employer-employee relationships that translate into sound business and human service practice which we believe sets our service apart from many others.