

# INTOUCH

ISSUE 55 - April 2023



## Foreword

As we approach the end of the month of April, we are reminded that time flies by so quickly, and summer is just around the corner. We are on the doorstep of the closing of the applications for children to attend Skolasajf - 3rd May 2023. With this deadline on the agenda, the FES departmental teams are hard at work finalising the programme of activities and resources, the staff complement needed, the service requirements, and the amenities needed, to ensure that every child who attends has a memorable and enriching experience.

The first of the bi-annual Childcare Seminars was organised in April, allowing the Childcare Educators to further hone the necessary skills and their knowledge to provide excellent care for children. We believe that investing in the employees' training and development is crucial to maintaining the high standards that the FES' clients have come to expect from us.

Additionally, FES Head Office staff also organized a team-building activity to promote collaboration and effective teamwork. A strong and cohesive team is the key to delivering quality services to our clients.

As Skolasajf approaches, we are pleased to announce that we have created a new role, Playworker Performing Arts. Incorporating the Performing Arts programme within the Skolasajf activities can provide numerous benefits for children. It can enhance their creativity, social skills, and self-expression while also promoting physical activity and boosting their confidence and self-esteem. More information in the next pages of this newsletter.



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# WORK WITH US - NEW ROLE AT SKOLASAJF

The Foundation for Educational Service (FES) is receiving applications from prospective candidates who would like to work in the role of **Playworker (Performing Arts)** during Skolasajf 2023, starting from 12th July 2023.

The sole remit will be to deliver a performing arts programme according to the genre practised by the applicant, throughout the period of Skolasajf 2023. These Playworkers will be in charge of delivering the sessions to different age groups within the centre/s, which sessions may be part of a final performance by the children for the parents at the end of Skolasajf.

Each eligible applicant will be called for an interview, part of which would be a presentation of the programme which the applicant intends to implement in the centre.

More information can be found at:

<https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/Home/Profile?eq=ygAeyuvS1l4%3d>

Playworker  
**PERFORMING ARTS**  
with Skolasajf

REF. NO. 1024  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 73/2023



For more info and to apply:  
<https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/>

 22586835  [hr.fes@gov.mt](mailto:hr.fes@gov.mt)

# VACANIES KLABB 3-16

Klabb 3-16

@

MELLIEHA

ST PAUL'S BAY

QAWRA

Check eligibility and apply at:

<https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/>

 22586835  [hr.fes@gov.mt](mailto:hr.fes@gov.mt)

## APPLY NOW! PLAYWORKER

- ✔ Part-time work
- ✔ After school and during school holidays
- ✔ Work with children in a fun environment
- ✔ On the job support
- ✔ Free training



Vacancies for Playworkers specifically for the Klabb 3-16 Centres at **Mellieha, Qawra and St Paul's Bay**.

These holiday locations can also be a source of income for you. Join us for a part-time job with a difference.

Check the eligibility criteria and apply now. Click on <https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/>.

# A WINDOW TO THE CREATIVE MINDS



NEED JUST A FEW HOURS OF CHILDCARE?

**10AM TO 2PM**



COMPETITIVE RATES!  
CALL US **22586829**

SOCIALISATION & EXPLORATION

*I have an only child and he does not get to meet any children his age. How can I help him to socialise?*

*I do not work, so I do not need a full day of childcare. Can I use just some hours in the day?*

*How can I help prepare my child for Kindergarten?*

These are all too common questions that we hear from concerned parents. The FES Childcare service is the optimum solution to address these concerns.

The **10am to 2pm** time window is the perfect opportunity to introduce children to social groups, learn about social boundaries, and learn about acceptable behaviour towards other people.

It is also the time that allows them to wonder and explore, as they develop physical and cognitive skills with a range of child-led learning opportunities.

**If the above questions are similar to your concerns, call FES on 22586829 and learn more about our competitive rates.**

22586829

fes@gov.mt

www.fes.gov.mt

# CHILDCARE

## REGISTRATIONS AND EXTENDED HOURS

### Extended Childcare Hours

Monday - Friday  
06:00-18:00

Birgu	Tel: +356 2180 9285
Birkirkara	Tel: +356 2598 5561
Naxxar	Tel: +356 2598 6820
Pembroke	Tel: +356 2137 6644
Haż-Żebbuġ	Tel: +356 2598 7681
Qawra	Tel: +356 2598 6996

FES Head Office TEL: +356 22586829



The FES Childcare Centres are offering the service **over a longer period of hours** in six centres.

The centers at **Birgu, Birkirkara, Naxxar, Pembroke, Haż-Żebbuġ** and **Qawra**, are now accepting children between **6am and 6pm, from Monday to Friday**.

Parents interested in using this service are encouraged to contact FES, or any of the chosen centres, or visit the **service.gov hubs**, for more information.

**Registrations are also open** for the remaining FES Childcare Centres at:  
**Bormla, Siggiewi, St Venera, San Gwann, Marsa, and Floriana.**

A full list of the FES centres with all the contact details can be found at:

<https://fes.gov.mt/childcare-centres/>

Queries to FES can be asked on telephone **22586829** or via email to **[fes@gov.mt](mailto:fes@gov.mt)**

22586829

[fes@gov.mt](mailto:fes@gov.mt)

[www.fes.gov.mt](http://www.fes.gov.mt)

# HOW TO APPLY FOR OUR CHILDCARE SERVICES

**1. Choose your preferred centre from the list found at:**

<https://fes.gov.mt/childcare-centres/>

You can also have a look inside of the centres, by watching the videos at:

<https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/Child%20Care/Videos.aspx>.

**2. You can download an application form from:**

<https://fes.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Childcare-Registration-Form.pdf>

You can also contact the chosen centre directly, ask for a tour of the place, and get the application directly from there.



Children can be registered at the centre by handing over to the Centre Coordinator, the filled-in application form together with the necessary documents. Only one application per child is to be submitted.

The Centre Coordinators and the FES FB Messenger service are always available to answer your queries. The Centre Coordinators will also be available to help you fill in the application form.

The childcare service is offered to children until they are eligible to move on to the government Kindergarten on the 1st of February, while children who are three years of age by the end of December are eligible for Kindergarten on the 1st of October, of that same calendar year.

# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHILDCARE SEMINAR

Staff from the FES Childcare Centres attended the first seminar for 2023, held as part of their continuing professional development. Titled 'Honing our Personal Development Skills – Values and Practices', the staff listened to talks, and engaged in discussions, on subjects related to their line of work.

The staff members were addressed by the FES CEO **Mr Michael Bondin**, and the Head of Programmes **Mr David Chircop**. The guest speakers were then invited to deliver their presentations, as follows:

'Data Protection Issues' by **Ms Amanda Mifsud**, Corporate Manager at FES.

'Parental Alienation' by **Mr Anthony Cauchi** from the NGO Happy Parenting (Malta).

'Oral Communication, Storytelling and Reading aloud to toddlers and young children' by **Ms Christine Grech**.

'The physical handling of children from 3 months to 3 years', by **Ms Stephanie Azzopardi**, Occupational Therapist at CDAU



# CHILDCARE ACTIVITIES

The toddlers at **Is-Sardinella Childcare Centre** had a blast making nature soup.

They collected various natural materials, such as leaves, flowers, and twigs, and added everything to a pot of water creating a “soup”. This activity helped children to develop their creativity, imagination, and sensory skills. It also encouraged them to explore and appreciate the natural world around them. Additionally, making nature soup provides an opportunity for children to learn about the different properties and characteristics of the materials they collect, such as their colours, textures, and scents. Overall, making nature soup proved to be a simple yet rewarding way for the children to engage with and learn from nature.

Thank you to all the staff at Is-Sardinella Childcare Centre, especially to Ms Romina, who prepared this fun and educational activity for the children.





# KLABB 3-16

## ACTIVITIES

During the 2nd week of the Easter Holidays, the members of staff at **Siggiewi Klabb 3-16** planned a full programme of activities for the whole week, including a Sports Day, Pizza Day and Storytelling sessions in relation to this month Programme Manual- Nursery Rhymes, Sing-along & Stories!

The Sports Day was organised in the yard for all the children falling in the different age groups. Various games were organised during this day including Obstacle Courses, Pirates and Islands ,Tug of War and many other games.

The children also enjoyed a Pizza Day. Children were asked to get their own ingredients such as the pizza base, tomato pizza sauce, mozzarella, and other healthy toppings. Our little chefs had a lot of fun preparing their own pizza.

Another great event was the Book Character Day, where the children were asked to dress up as their favourite book character for the day. At 13.30pm a guest author, Ms. Marisa Ben Hadj Khalifa, visited the centre to read her own published books in the yard. All our students were kept engaged and enjoyed themselves listening to these stories.

Such activities provide various benefits, from increased physical activity, to psychological and social advantages. These extracurricular activities can help our children build their own individual personality, cut down on emotional stress, and enhance social skills that could benefit them in the future.

May we take this opportunity to thank all our staff at Siggiewi Klabb 3-16 who went the extra mile with the organisation and implementation of these activities.



# KLABB 3-16 MUSIC ACTIVITY



The programme of activities at the **St Paul's Bay Klabb 3-16 centre**, is being enhanced with the participation of Ms Yvette Grixti, an established musician who is also experienced in teaching at all levels. The programme being delivered by Ms Grixti offers an excellent opportunity for children's participation in a combination of various artistic expressions, aimed at children in the Year 1 group.

The activities have various elements to keep the children engaged, such as music, singing, learning about an instrument (ukulele), movement, story-telling, dramatization and team-building games. The activities also lend themselves to teach children about virtues conducive to a positive behaviour, such as respect, kindness, sharing, and friendship.

The pictures featured here are from the first session, which immediately gripped the young students' attention and fuelled their enthusiasm. We look forward to share more pictures from more sessions in the future.

Thanks to Ms Yvette Grixti for her commitment to deliver this artistic programme.



# MEET OUR EMPLOYEES



Name: **Emma Camilleri**  
Role: **Playworker Skolasajf**

## **1. What are you currently studying and how did you decide that you wanted to work with Skolasajf?**

I am currently studying for a Masters degree in Primary Education at the University of Malta. This is the reason why I work with Skolasajf. It gives me the opportunity to gain experience, including learning how to manage difficulties and challenges, how to create a work routine, and what children enjoy the most or least. Other useful tips for my future career include how to work with colleagues such as the Coordinator, the Child Support Worker and even other Playworkers, and sharing tips on how to manage challenging behaviour, tips on specific activities that children really enjoy and other activities that maybe weren't so successful.

## **2. Could you describe one of your typical workdays as a Playworker?**

On arriving at the centre, I prepare the classroom environment to welcome the children, and then prepare for the activities of that day by using the weekly plan. For example, if we are doing cooking, I prefer to prepare all the ingredients close by to have them handy for the activity. If we are going to do a painting activity, I make sure I have all the colours and paints available in class. When it is time for the children to arrive, I welcome them and accompany them to class. I start with the daily time-table, which usually starts off with a Circle Time session. Other activities include activities from the Skolasajf Programme, sports and games with the Sports Playworker, story telling and reading sessions. The weekly schedule is also enhanced with a number of partners and outings, which are really fun and make the day more exciting.

## **3. What is your favourite part about the role of a Playworker and what do you find to be the most rewarding?**

My favourite part about the role of a Playworker is the fact that I get to meet a group of lovely children every summer and spend the whole summer playing games, doing activities, learning and having fun together! It's really sweet seeing children enjoy themselves, have fun, socialise, make new friends, eat, cook and play. When children come to Skolasajf everyday eager to start their day and participate in the activities and actually tell you that they really enjoyed their summer with you, I believe that this is very rewarding!

## **4. Which part of your role do you find most challenging?**

The climatic conditions of our Maltese summer are a challenge in themselves as they affect the energy levels. However, I always try to plan fun and leisurely activities, I also make sure that the children drink water frequently and sometimes we take a water break where we wet a bit our faces to feel refreshed! The children really enjoy this. Managing things on your own can also be challenging, however the Centre Coordinators are helpful and encouraging. Another challenge is to build a good relationship between the PW and the CSW in the class, to work together to create a fun and meaningful summer experience for the children.

# MEET OUR EMPLOYEES

## 5. What advice do you have for someone new to this role at Skolasajf?

Following are some tips that anyone can use to make sure to use the time efficiently and make the day enjoyable for the children.

1. Make sure to seek for help when you're not sure about something. Make sure you know what the procedures are. Ask when you do not know.
2. Communication is key. Communicate with other PW's and the CSW's in your classroom. Communicate with the PER and the Coordinator. I believe it is very important.
3. Plan fun activities from the Programme to make sure the activities are successful, fun and easy to implement for you and for the children. The CSW will have the same plan of activities and will modify as needed.
4. Make sure to arrive on time everyday to have some time to prepare the class, activities and yourself!
5. Prepare a good healthy lunch and a big bottle of water to keep yourself hydrated and to have enough energy and motivation to implement more activities and games with the children.
6. Make sure that the children are enjoying themselves and not feeling bored.
7. In the case of very young children like Kinder 1,2 and Year 1 make sure to take them to the bathroom frequently and to drink water frequently. I worked most of my Summers with Kinder and it's very important to dedicate water breaks as very young children forget that they need to drink.
8. I always find it useful to create a daily time-table. This helps me feel at ease and will know what is next on the agenda at a glance.

## 6. What is your plan for the future?

My plan for the future is to become a Primary Teacher and after that I plan on dedicating my time to Research. I love to carry out research and learn more about Education, teaching and learning. My favourite area is Education for Sustainable Development. However, I look forward to working at Skolasajf during my summer holidays as it is the best way to not only earn some extra money, but also fill up my time in a meaningful way, and enjoy some time having fun with the children in my class!

# MEET OUR EMPLOYEES



Name: **Daniel Saliba**  
Role: **Sports Playworker Skolasajf**

## **1. What are you currently studying and how did you decide that you wanted to work with Skolasajf?**

I have just started working as a Primary School Teacher at Msida Primary this year. I teach Year 3 students. The reason why I choose to work with Skolasajf is because I love working with children and helping them reach their full potential. This will be my 5th year working at Skolasajf, both as a Playworker as well as a Sports Playworker.

## **2. Could you describe one of your typical workdays as a Sports Playworker?**

A typical day would include preparing and making sure all of the equipment required for the day is clean and is set up in the morning so that when the children come for the PE session, there are no inconsistencies. Afterwards, I start the sessions with the different class groups, all whilst making sure that all needs are catered for as much as possible. At the end of the day, I collect all of the remaining equipment and reflect on which activities went according to plan, which ones did not, and how I can improve them.

## **3. What is your favourite part about the role of a Sports Playworker and what do you find to be the most rewarding?**

My favourite part about this job is getting to see all of the children: regardless of race, gender, and physical difference, playing, striving and working together towards the same goal – that of having fun. All whilst helping them learn different essential values which will be vital in their continuous development as citizens of tomorrow. That, in itself is very rewarding, something which cannot be said about all jobs.

## **4. Which part of your role do you find most challenging?**

Probably making sure that I cater for all the needs of the different children within your lesson. Goes without saying that the biggest challenges often have the highest of rewards, and this is no different. Seeing the children happy after having catered accordingly is worth its weight in gold.

## **5. What advice do you have for someone new to this role at Skolasajf?**

My advice is to be prepared so that you will enjoy the experience, have fun and be grateful that you have a job which will instill happiness in others; a rare opportunity to be appreciated.

## **6. What is your plan for the future?**

My plan for the future is to continue striving to become a better teacher overall and to continue appreciating and understanding others.

# TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY FOR HEAD OFFICE STAFF

During our team building event in Mgarr, we had the opportunity to experience the beauty of nature and learn about local agricultural practices. We also learned about the traditional methods of making pastizzi, and had the chance to taste the local olive oil made from the olives that were grown in the grove we visited. In addition, all head office staff had the opportunity to collaborate together in carrying out activities related to such local produce. This experience helped us to better understand the importance of supporting local businesses and preserving traditional agricultural practices.



# SKOLASAJF VACANCIES



## SKOLASAJF VACANCIES

**Work with us!**

**PLAYWORKER SKOLASAJF 2023**  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 73/2023

**PLAYWORKER PERFORMING ARTS SKOLASAJF 2023**  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 73/2023

**SPORTS PLAYWORKER SKOLASAJF 2023**  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 65/2023

**CHILD SUPPORT WORKER SKOLASAJF 2023**  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 75/2023

**CHILD SUPPORT WORKER (RESOURCE CENTRE) SKOLASAJF 2023**  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 76/2023

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Applications close on 19/05/2023



## SKOLASAJF VACANCIES

**Work with us!**

**REGIONAL COORDINATOR SKOLASAJF 2023**  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 66/2023

**REGIONAL COORDINATOR (INCLUSION) SKOLASAJF 2023**  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 70/2023

**CENTRE COORDINATOR SKOLASAJF 2023**  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 77/2023

**CENTRE COORDINATOR (RESOURCE CENTRE) SKOLASAJF 2023**  
Jobsplus Permit Number:- 78/2023

**Apply now: <https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/>**  
Applications close on 19/05/2023



# TRAIN AND WORK WITH FES

Click on <https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/> for the **FULL LIST** of vacancies, to apply, and get more information, including salary rates, eligibility criteria and job descriptions. For any queries, call **22586830/35**, or write to [hr.fes@gov.mt](mailto:hr.fes@gov.mt).

**Playworkers Development Course - REF NO:1035**  
Expires On: 14/06/2023

**Playworkers Klabb 3-16 (Part-time) - REF. NO: 1039**  
Jobsplus Permit Number: 451-2021  
Expires On: 19/05/2023

**Tutors Klabb 3-16 (Part-time) - REF NO: 1041**  
JobsPlus Permit Number: 248/2022  
Expires On: 19/05/2023

**Child Support Workers Klabb 3-16 (Part-time) - REF. NO: 1040**  
JobsPlus Permit Number: 251/2022  
Expires On: 19/05/2023





# Photo of the month

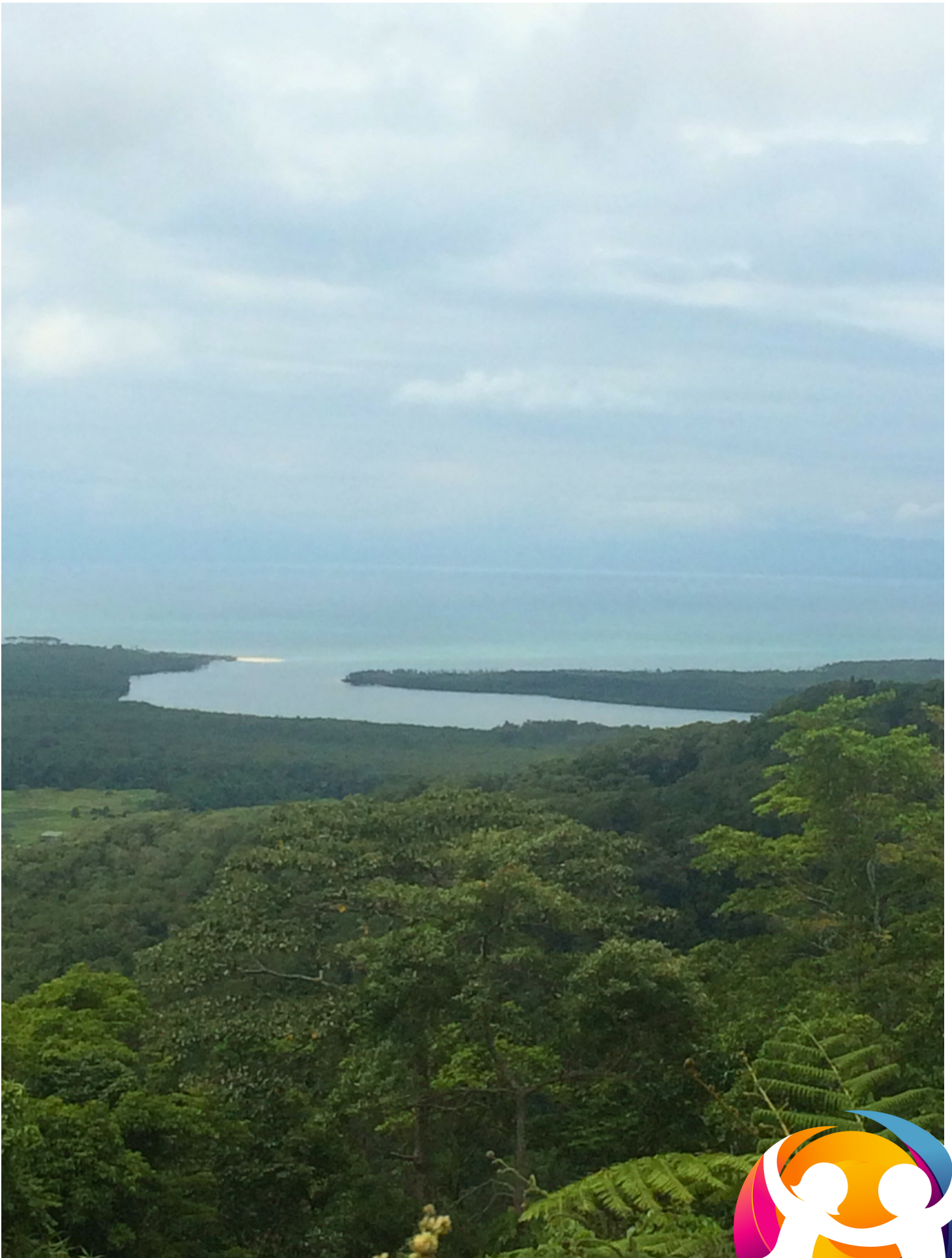


Photo by: Bella Said - the luscious greenery of Australia.





**Zentrum Business Centre**  
**Level 1, Mdina Road**  
**Qormi**

Opening hours: 8:00 am - 3:15 pm



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