



## **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

### **THE NDIS IS COMING AND *EVERYONE* NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT IT**

With the NDIS roll-out already commencing across the state the countdown is on until the government backed scheme becomes policy everywhere. In arguably one of the biggest changes to the disability sector in recent memory there are a number of considerations organisations, clients, staff, stakeholders and families should be mindful of once the new system is finally implemented in the Central West.

“The onus is now on organisations to not only effectively transition into the NDIS but also adhere to the code of conduct,” said Currajong Disability Services (CDS) CEO Jeff Evans.

“Many including us at CDS welcome the changes and we are already preparing for the new scheme and have reviewed CDS’s own Code of Conduct to ensure that we comply with the NDIS.

“Like any change there will be challenges but I know our dedicated team and board will embrace the NDIS and strive to make it work for the benefit of our clients and the community,” he said.

The NDIS Code of Conduct reflects the core tenets of the National Standards for Disability Services. These include respecting people with disability, listening to and being guided by what a person wants, respecting people’s right to privacy and prohibiting behaviours that may cause harm.

The Code of Conduct will apply to all providers and workers who are funded under the NDIS, regardless of whether they are registered, or whether they receive funding through individual plans or contracted services.

Workers involved in providing NDIS funded supports or services in any capacity are considered to be in the NDIS sector and will be required to comply with the Code of Conduct. This includes

employees, contractors, consultants, volunteers and people who are self-employed. Workers who are members of a professional association and required to comply with an existing professional code of conduct, such as nurses, psychologists and health care workers, will also be required to comply with the NDIS Code of Conduct. The NDIS Code of Conduct has been developed with reference to other relevant codes to ensure a consistent definition of acceptable practice, with minimal additional burden on workers.

More information can be obtained at - <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/what-ndis.html>

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## **THIS WEEK AT CURRAJONG DISABILITY SERVICES ...**

This week at CDS we had a range of activities including a visit to The Wiggles at the Parkes Leagues Club and The Biggest Morning Tea in Condobolin. We also have new work placement volunteers, staff and client profiles, NDIS info as well as a calendar of events and photo galleries. Don't forget you can get involved by emailing stories and photos to – [dane.millerd@currajong.org.au](mailto:dane.millerd@currajong.org.au)

### ***Wade and Genevieve checking out The Wiggles***



*Ross McCulloch and John Dwyer enjoying the Condo Biggest Morning Tea.*



## **CLIENT PROFILE**

**Sarah Bowkett**



*Sarah Bowkett, 28, Parkes.*

**What do you love most about CDS?** Talking to other people and making friends. Everyone is awesome!

**What is your favourite thing to do here?** I like to spend time with my friends.

**How long have you been at CDS?** I have been here about 10 years.

**What would you change about CDS?** More training courses to help clients gain employment.

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## **Big demand for jobs in disability sector**

WITH the roll-out of the NDIS underway, numerous roles within the disability sector have emerged and the demand will only increase. Along with on-the-job and TAFE training, the need for higher education is also expanding. It all bodes well for those looking to break into the industry as there currently aren't enough graduates to support the vacancies within the disability network. The shortage has seen organisations such as Flinders University to offer mid-year intakes into disability courses.

“Developmental educators are emerging as a separate and fully fledged allied health profession in league with physiotherapists, psychologists, social workers, occupational and speech therapists,” says Associate Professor Caroline Ellison, who heads the Disability and Community Inclusion Unit at Flinders University.

“We just don't have enough graduates to meet demand.

“Every year we have employers crying out for suitable graduates and it's growing by the day.”

As more and more states transition to the NDIS, now is the time to get training and accredited in the burgeoning industry – among the nation's fastest growing.

Last year's graduates have obtained 100% employment, and they probably also worked part-time in the sector while studying, Associate Professor Ellison says.

The degree is recognised by the National Disability Insurance Agency and national professional organisation, Developmental Educators Australia Incorporated (DEAI).

DEAI chair Jose Koppelman-Guthrie, who is a Flinders graduate, says developmental education is a “very rewarding and satisfying career”

“Developmental educators are multi-disciplinary disability specialists with expertise in fostering the skills, independence and quality of life of individuals with developmental and/or acquired disabilities,” Ms Koppelman-Guthrie says.

“The Flinders course teaches graduates to work with an individual holistically, to ‘do with, not for’ a client,” she says.

“We consider development across the lifespan, and to adopt strength-based and person-centred approaches, working closely with other professionals and families and carers for optimal outcomes.”

Flinders University is a national leader in the field, the only university in SA offering these specialised studies and now a leader in the Southern Hemisphere for international online studies. After 20 years, there are disability and developmental educator graduates all around Australia and also Asia.

As well as an ATAR score, entry pathways also include a Certificate IV or Diploma.

Flinders University also offers an online Bachelor of Disability and Developmental Education (Rehabilitation Counselling), a graduate certificate and Master of Disability Policy and Practice.

As well as developmental educators, other sector career options include case managers, disability liaison officers, residential care, support workers, service coordinators, employment placement and behaviour consultants ranging from education, disability advocacy and program development to community rehabilitation, employment placements and human and vocational services in private practice, not-for-profit and government sectors.

The Australian Government’s NDIS is a new way of providing individualised support for eligible people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers. It will be fully rolled out by 2020.

***For other Flinders University online courses go to***

***<https://www.flinders.edu.au/study-online>***

***Blake Huntly stamping bags for Onnie’s Coffee.***



## BIGGEST MORNING TEA IN CONDO PROVES POPULAR

CANCER Council's Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a chance for Australians to get together and raise money for a great cause. 1 in 2 Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85. One dollar at a time you are making a real difference helping to fund Cancer Council's vital research, prevention and support service programs.

On Thursday 25th May a group from the Condobolin B&S attended ***The Biggest Morning Tea*** at the Central West Support which was also attended by participants from Currajong Disability Services (CDS).

A great time was had by all from Ross McCulloch chatting to new people through to John Dwyer, who caught up with his good friend Heather Blakley (one of the organisers). Everyone enjoyed the yummy cakes and fruit as well as the great company and vital funds were raised for cancer research. The group also had their photo taken by The Condobolin Argus Newspaper.

"Everyone had a fantastic time!" said Debbie Hamilton, a disability support carer with CDS.

"They thoroughly enjoyed it and we were happy to support such an important cause."



***Ross McCulloch and John Dwyer enjoying the Biggest Morning Tea in Condobolin last week.***

*Email your photos and stories to – [dane.millerd@currajong.org.au](mailto:dane.millerd@currajong.org.au) for our next weekly newsletter email. Deadline is 10am each Thursday. The weekly email newsletter is designed to keep everyone abreast of events and changes within the organisation in the lead up to the NDIS and subsequent implementation.*

## **NEW STAFF**

**MARTIN BATES**

**Age** – 36

**Position** – Disability Support Worker

**Time in role** – Nearly four months as an employee. I started in February this year.

**What do you like most about your role and CDS?** Being in a role where I can make a difference to people's lives. I wanted a hands-on role after being a linker with CareWest in a previous life. I love being able to help people achieve their goals and develop relationships.

**Why are you working in this industry?** I want to help people and I love seeing a smile on their face. I have had personal experience with disability in my family and it gives me great satisfaction. Inspiring the clients to be the best they can be.

**If you weren't in this industry what would you be doing?** I'd be a fulltime apiarist (beekeeper).

**What is the greatest myth in this industry?** Public perception that disabled people can't do things when this is not true. They have skills that can be realised with training and encouragement. Autism (which I also have) especially is seen as troublesome and that isn't always the way. I am working here despite having it and Einstein was also autistic.

**If you were CEO for a day what would you change first?** More resources would be great but I know Jeff and the board have already started that process.



***Martin Bates is enjoying his new role at CDS helping people achieve their goals.***

Do you have any feedback? Email us at [feedback@currajong.org.au](mailto:feedback@currajong.org.au)

Your comments are confidential and will go directly to the CEO for consideration. We encourage all stakeholders to send through their views so we can all strive to make Currajong Disability Services a better and more progressive organisation.

## **STAFF PROFILE**

### **Roslyn Tucker**

**Age** – 21 forever

**Position** – Corporate Services Manager

**What do you like most about your role and CDS?** The people. All the people are great and it never gets boring. The work environment is diverse and very rewarding.

**Why are you working in this industry?** Circumstances but I love it.

**What is the greatest myth in this industry?** What you see is what you get not the contrary.

**If you were CEO for a day what would you change first?** I wouldn't want to be CEO but if I was I would do a role reversal so all admin staff know what it's like to be a carer in the front line and all carers know what we need to do in the office to keep the business growing.



***Roslyn Tucker from CDS has a long history with the organisation and a wealth of experience.***

## NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

### Currajong Carers Support Group News

The past week also saw “Together” Chats with Matt – a great initiative where people could call in and chat with Matt and other facilitators from the *Together* program. It was and continues to be a great opportunity to hear how other groups run and pick up tips and hints on how to better do things.

Next meeting will be on June 20 and CCSG welcomes any new or interested parties who want to join or come along and check it out.

Carers Australia NSW is also running NDIS workshops throughout the region over the next few months to get the best outcome from the NDIS for the person they care for and themselves.

The two-part workshop focuses on building knowledge and skills to help carers to make informed choices when accessing the NDIS. The aim is to raise awareness and functionality for carers as well as accessibility.

Day 1 will consist of an introduction to the NDIS while Day 2 will focus on the role as a carer in the NDIS.

**TIME** - Workshops run from 10.00am to 1.30pm. Attendance both days is required.

**LOCATIONS** - Bathurst – 22nd February + 8th March, 2018; Cowra – 17th August + 31st August, 2017; Dubbo – 10th August + 24 August, 2017; Orange – 21st February + 7th March, 2018; Parkes – 16th August + 30 August, 2017.

**MORE INFORMATION** - e: [education@carersnsw.org.au](mailto:education@carersnsw.org.au) (p: 02 9280 4744)

**REGISTRATION** - [www.surveymonkey.net/r/ndissdm](http://www.surveymonkey.net/r/ndissdm)

*Currajong Carers Support Group is here to support and offer assistance as well be a sounding board. They are a tremendous and important part of the CDS family.*

### Currajong Autism & Special Needs Group

Sue Larkey, international author, speaker and Autism Specialist coming to Parkes to conduct a workshop on Teaching Strategies & Behaviour Support. This workshop is for Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Families, Service Providers, Support Workers, Therapists and anyone who wishes to learn more about Autism. It will be on Monday 11th September 2017 at Parkes Services Club. Tickets will be available to purchase through their website very soon. Cost of tickets will be: Parents \$100 (\$80 early bird price) and Professionals \$130 (\$110 early bird price).

### Condo CDS news

Condobolin Currajong Disability Services have also been very busy these past few months. The Biggest Morning Tea was a big hit and allowed John Dwyer and Ross McCulloch (**pictured below**) to meet new people and get involved in a very special day on the national calendar. In addition to this, they also went to a Reconciliation Week function where they were able to interact with Aboriginal people and participate in another important and enjoyable day on the national calendar.

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## **NDIS CODE OF CONDUCT**

What is included in the NDIS Code of Conduct? As part of the consultation on the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework, stakeholders' said that the NDIS Code of Conduct should reflect the core tenets of the National Standards for Disability Services.

These include respecting people with disability, listening to and being guided by what a person wants, respecting people's right to privacy and prohibiting behaviours that may cause harm. Stakeholders also identified the need to address the possibility of behaviours that may not constitute a crime, but which should never be acceptable in the context of the NDIS, such as: exploitative or otherwise unethical treatment; neglect; and vengeful or deceptive behaviour in response to a complaint or incident.

More information can be obtained from - [https://engage.dss.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ndis\\_code\\_of\\_conduct\\_discussion\\_paper\\_-\\_final.pdf](https://engage.dss.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ndis_code_of_conduct_discussion_paper_-_final.pdf)



*CDS client Patrick Trout with new work placement carer Reshelle Van Dyk picking some songs on the iPad. See story on Reshelle below.*

## **PEOPLE ARE RESHELLE'S PASSION**

RESHELLE Van Dyk loves helping people. In fact, it is her passion and she confesses that even if she wasn't at Currajong Disability Services (CDS) she would still be helping others somehow.

"I have always wanted to get into the disability industry," said Reshelle.

"Having just finished my six month TAFE course I now have on-site training," she said.

"It is a dream come true to finally be in the industry I have studied hard for.

"Now I hope this work placement becomes fulltime work in this sector – especially with Currajong Disability Services who have been great!"

After hearing how great CDS was through friend Rhys Forrestal she decided to give CDS a call and the rest is history.

"It's fantastic here and everyone has been so supportive," said Reshelle.

"It was a challenge relocating and coming to Parkes for work and study but completely worth it.

“I just hope I can do a good job, help build the new team culture and try to change public perceptions about people with disabilities who understand more than they are given credit for,” she said.

“I get a real buzz out of this and couldn’t imagine myself doing anything else.”



*Reshelle Van Dyk checking her roster at Currajong Disability Services in Parkes. Reshelle will be in the office on Friday’s with the aim to eventually seek full-time work in the disability sector.*

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JUNE 8 – Best Friend’s Day**

**JUNE 9 – Tenpin Bowling (Orange)**

**JUNE 16 – Mexican Day**

**JULY 5 – NAIDOC Week**

**JULY 7 – Global Forgiveness Day**

**JULY 10 – Teddy Bear’s Picnic**

## **PHOTO GALLERY**



*Currajong Disability Services clients attended The Wiggles at Parkes Leagues Club last week.*



*Currajong Disability Services Peter John with Sarah Shambrook preparing for the NDIS.*



***CDS Board member Angela Wilson with the new Buddy Bench at Forbes North Public School with Michelle Herbert.***



***Amanda Clifton and her sister Megan at The Wiggles***



*Alan Parker with Chris Spicer cleaning up outside the CDS Parkes office.*

POPULATION

Number of people who have a disability  
**37.2** or **12.1%**  
MILLION of the civilian noninstitutionalized population

By Age



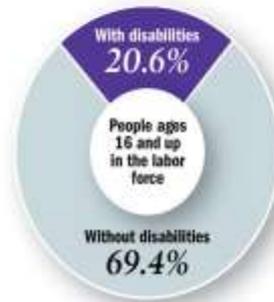
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

INCOME



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

ON THE JOB

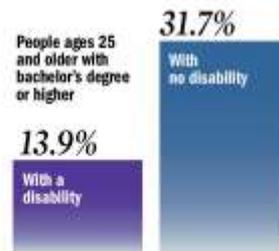
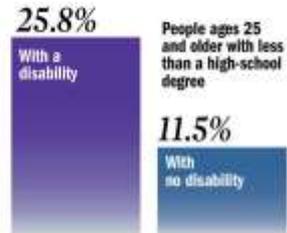


People ages 21 to 64



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau

EDUCATION



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

THE DIVERSITYINC TOP 50

2013 DiversityInc Top 10 Companies for People With Disabilities

- Ernst & Young
- Procter & Gamble
- IBM
- KPMG
- WellPoint
- AT&T
- Kaiser Permanente
- Prudential Financial
- Microsoft
- Accenture

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