

## **Your Side rolls out new era disability service rolls out across Sydney's Eastern, Western and Southern regions**

Your Side has launched a new co-service (Collective Service) for people with disabilities across the Sydney region, providing social care and support services to people through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS.) The non-profit disability and aged care organisation Your Side's service, is the first known social enterprise acting as a major purchaser for services under the NDIS scheme, with 100% of profits returning to the program.

The new Your Side offices will be located at Bondi Junction to service the Eastern suburbs, Liverpool and Parramatta to service the western suburbs, and Hurstville for the southern suburbs and the Shire region. Over 1million people live with a disability in the Greater Sydney region and will now have the opportunity to avail of the service.

The organisation known as Your Northside – as it originally provided services to residents on Sydney's North Shore and Northern Beaches –is now expanding to cover 30 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across Sydney's entire metro region.

The NDIS was rolled out to provide people with disability with more control over the services they require in their daily lives, but some have found that managing a wide variety of providers to be overwhelming and costly.

Your Side identified that people with NDIS funding needed support in receiving care across all types of service, to meet all their needs. These services aren't just limited to health and disability-related suppliers, but also organisations who offer household and garden maintenance, transport, social activities and food and diet management.

Your Side's CEO Danielle Ballantine says: "The aim with our service is that we do the hard work on behalf of the NDIS recipient. We procure the best suppliers in the region, match our customers up with the most appropriate services and make sure it's at the right price-point so that people can afford it.

"While other providers are struggling with implementing the NDIS – one in four are operating at a loss and one in five are considering getting out of the sector – our model is sustainable for everyone. By listening to our clients and understanding their needs, we changed our business model to focus on group purchasing. This means we have been able to lower costs of service, meaning Your Side can make a person's NDIS budget go further. Our regular price and quality-checks to mean that the NDIS shopper is always getting the best deal and quality of service available to their quality of life."

Local businesses interested in becoming a supplier partner can contact Your Side's Partnerships Managers Sophie Stevens-Radford or Ross Lewis on 02 8405 4444. and people with disability interested in consultations can call the Customer Care number on 1300 134 332.

**ENDS**

### **About Your Side**

Your Side is a leading provider of support services for people with disability and NDIS Registered Provider based in Sydney. For over thirty years, Your Side – formerly known as Your Northside – has helped more than 500,000 people.

The organisation helps people with disabilities and older people to live how they choose, with all the support services to choose from, to do what they love. Care coordinators tailor support services to meet customer needs and advocate on their behalf.

The organisation acts as a social care hub for NDIS recipients, connecting customers to services available in their area, from provision of household chores and maintenance, to seeking transport services, respite services to allied health specialists.

### **Statistics about disability in Australia\*\***

- Almost one in five Australians reported living with disability (18.3% or 4.3 million people)
- In 2015, over three-quarters (78.5%) of people with disability reported that a physical condition was their main long-term health condition, with the remainder reporting mental and behavioural disorders (21.5%).
- In 2015, 2.4 million Australians with disability (living in households) needed assistance with at least one activity of daily life. Assistance was most commonly needed with health care (29.3%), property maintenance (26.9%) and household chores (23.5%). The proportion of people needing property maintenance assistance had decreased from 29.1% in 2012.
- It is expected that 460,000 people will be eligible for NDIS funding

**\*\*Source(s):** *ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers: Summary of Findings—2015*

### **About the NDIS\***

The NDIS will provide all Australians under the age of 65 who have a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to enjoy an ordinary life.

This may include greater independence, community involvement, employment and improved wellbeing. As an insurance scheme, the NDIS takes a lifetime approach, investing in people with disability early to improve their outcomes later in life.

The NDIS also provides people with disability, their family and carers with information and referrals to existing support services in the community. By 2019, the NDIS will support about 460,000 Australians with disability

To become an NDIS participant a person must:

- Have a permanent disability that significantly affects their ability to take part in everyday activities;
- Be aged less than 65 when they first enter the NDIS;
- Be an Australian citizen or hold a permanent visa or a Protected Special Category visa; and
- Live in Australia where the NDIS is available.

People with disability have the same right as other Australians to determine their best interests and to have choice and control over their lives. The NDIS recognises that everyone's needs and goals are different. The NDIS provides people with individualised support and the flexibility to manage their supports to help them achieve their goals and enjoy an ordinary life.

The NDIS replaces a disability system that was unfair and inefficient with a new, national system that is world-leading, equitable and sustainable. This provides certainty and consistency for people with disability, their families and carers. Australians will now have peace of mind that if their child or loved one is born with or acquires a significant disability that is likely to be with them for life they will get the support they need, when they need it.

The NDIS is social insurance, not welfare. As an insurance scheme, the NDIS takes a lifetime approach to support, investing in people with disability early to improve their outcomes later in life.

\* Taken from the NDIA website:

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/html/sites/default/files/documents/About-us/About-theNDIS.pdf>