

## The NDIS Engagement Team Quarterly Update Newsletter

5<sup>th</sup> Edition – December 2017

The NT Engagement team wish all a very safe and happy new year.

### Community Connector training held in Alice Springs

Together with their host organisation, NPY Women's Council, 10 Community Connectors from the APY Lands attended the Community Connector Induction training in Alice Springs on 20 November 2017, presented by Annette Hiscox and Danny Curtis from the Engagement Team.



While in town they were also given the opportunity to attend AIS (Australian Interpreter Services) to register as interpreters.

The Connectors were provided an overview of the NDIA, the NDIS and the role Community Connectors play in the delivery of the Scheme in remote areas.

Learnings included an understanding of what the NDIS is, and what it means for people in a remote community with disability, the changes between the former system and the NDIS and the key principles of the NDIS outlining the procedure for accessing the NDIS and the pathway of a participant.

**New staff in the Engagement team** We have welcomed two new engagement officers, Jason Taylor and Robert Turner. We also welcome a new business support officer, Anne Harden. Jason, Rob and Anne are working in the Darwin office.



Jason Taylor



Anne Harden



Robert Turner

## Rave reviews for joint information night

More than 30 people attended an NDIS information night on Thursday, 7 December. The session was run in partnership with disability services provider Helping People Achieve (HPA). The NDIA Engagement team talked all things NDIS to HPA and disability support staff, as well as people with disabilities, their families, carers and community members.

The team answered questions about [when the NDIS will roll out in the NT](#) and how people receiving support will transition. For those not receiving disability support, the team discussed how to [request access to the NDIS](#).

Susan Burns, of National Disability Services, Australia's peak body for disability services organisations, said the night was engaging and informative. "Getting information out to participants and family members is of great benefit to continue the success of the transition," she said. "Congratulations again to all who were involved. It was really well received by attendees."

The NDIS Engagement team plans to hold more information sessions for people with disabilities, their families and carers next year. For more information about the NDIS, or to book an information session at your organisation, email [engagement.nt@ndis.gov.au](mailto:engagement.nt@ndis.gov.au) and one of the team will respond to your query.

## Darwin Disability

### Awareness Festival

A Disability Awareness Festival was held in Darwin from 4 to 22 September 2017.

The Engagement team attended a launch event, fundraising walk and family fun day as part of the festival.

The festival program celebrated diversity and different abilities in our community through inclusive events such as a movie night, fundraising walk, quiz night, art exhibition, family fun day, human rights public forum and a rehabilitation ward open day at Royal Darwin Hospital.



### Disability Awareness Week

Engagement team members attended the launch of Disability Awareness Week and the festival on Monday, 4 September. The Darwin City Council hosted the launch at the Civic Centre courtyard.

The crowd heard key speeches from the Chair of the Disability Awareness Week Committee, Debbie Bampton, disability advocate Cassandra Jevdenijevic and NT Health Complaints Commissioner Stephen Dunham.

### Steps Towards Capability

About 400 people gathered in white shirts and caps for the Steps Towards Capability fundraising and awareness walk on Saturday, 9 September. The 7km walk was set up by local community organisation Helping People Achieve (HPA). The fun walk was from Darwin Trailer Boat Club to East Point Reserve and back.

The Engagement team spoke with more than 110 people about the NDIS and its rollout in the Northern Territory.

**Family fun day** The Engagement team attended a family fun day held at Lake Alexander, East Point Reserve, on Saturday, 16 September. Dozens of families gathered at the fun day for a barbecue and inclusive activities.

**Disability worker sworn in as NT Administrator** Former Somerville Community Services CEO Vicki O'Halloran was sworn in as the Northern Territory's Administrator on October 31. The Administrator is appointed by the Australian Governor-General. The role is similar to that of State Governors.

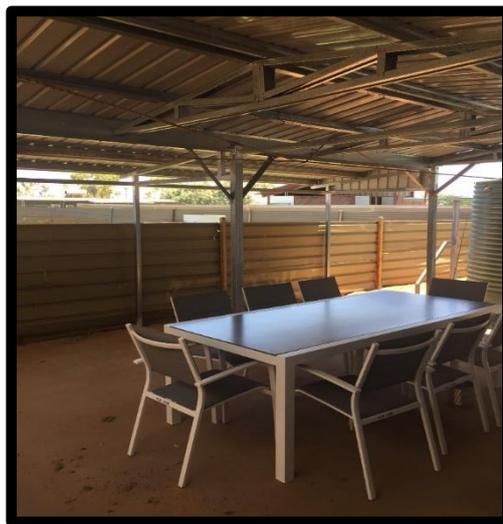
Mrs O'Halloran joined Somerville as deputy CEO and manager in 1993. She became CEO in 1998.

She is a past president of National Disability Services, Australia's peak body for non-government disability service organisations. Mrs O'Halloran was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to people with disability in 2014.

**NDIA helping in the bush** The NDIA has offered a helping hand to assist the community at Ali Curung, a small Indigenous community of approximately 500 people, 170km South of Tennant Creek, by providing a grant to assist in the refurbishment of the Ali Curung Homemaker Centre.

The initiative is a jointly-funded venture with Barkly Regional Council to upgrade the facilities at the respite centre. The centre is used by Aged Care clientele and NDIS participants and provides meals and respite on a daily basis. The renovations were completed in December 2017.

Some of the renovations include a new outdoor covered area, new water tank and new air-conditioner. New chairs and portable meal tables and a new TV offer more comfort to our participants in this isolated community.



## NDIS Provider Toolkit update

The new [NDIS provider toolkit](#) is now available on the NDIS website.

**What's new?** The provider toolkit is structured in seven stages and is designed for organisations and individuals who want to learn more about working with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

You can get [step-by-step guides](#) to accessing **PRODA** and using the **myplace** provider portal.

The updated toolkit has a number of [Provider eLearning Activities](#) for you to view.

To get an overview, check out the [provider toolkit introduction video](#) on YouTube.

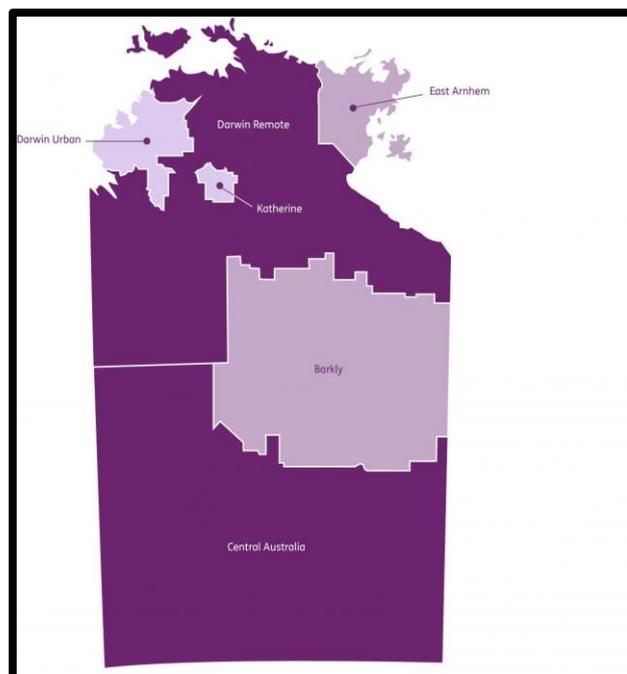
[New Provider Toolkit FAQ \(PDF\)](#)

[New Provider Toolkit FAQ \(DOCX\)](#)

You can [give feedback about the provider toolkit](#) here.

## Where we are going

- 1 January 2017** The NDIS commenced in East Arnhem and for Supported Accommodation in Darwin.
- 1 July 2017** Roper Gulf  
Tiwi Islands  
Victoria-Daly  
West Arnhem  
West Daly  
Katherine Region  
Supported Accommodation in Alice Springs
- 1 July 2018** Darwin Urban – including Belyuen, Coomalie, Darwin, Litchfield, Palmerston and Wagait  
Alice Springs  
Central Desert  
MacDonnell



**Where you can find us** We now have face-to-face access in all regional centres, including Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy. Families, participants, carers and providers can:

- Test their eligibility;
- Find out about accessing **myplace**;
- Ask questions about their plan; and
- Give feedback.

**Darwin:** Department of Human Services offices, Knuckey Street, Darwin.

**Open:** 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

**Nhulunbuy:** Prime Minister and Cabinet offices, 74 Chesterfield Court, Nhulunbuy.

**Open:** 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

**Katherine:** Supreme Court Building, Level 3, 14 Parson Street, Alice Springs.

**Open:** 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

**Katherine:** Department of Human Services offices, 4 Second Street, Katherine.

**Open:** 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

**Tennant Creek:** Prime Minister and Cabinet offices, 1/9 Paterson Street, Tennant Creek.

**Open:** 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

**Reduced activity period** All NDIA offices in the NT will shut for a Christmas and New Year break at close of business on Friday, 22 December 2017 and will reopen at 8.30am on Tuesday, 2 January 2018. NDIA staff in the NT will not work during this reduced activity period.

**Contact us** Please do not forget to let us know if you have any questions or issues you need help with. For matters relating to plans, email [nt.servicedelivery@ndis.gov.au](mailto:nt.servicedelivery@ndis.gov.au)  
To get more information about anything NDIS, including help with **myplace** or registration, please email the Engagement team [nt.engagement@ndis.gov.au](mailto:nt.engagement@ndis.gov.au)