

# Disability at Work

MORE THAN JUST A JOB

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Disability at Work conference 2019

20-21 June 2019, Hilton Adelaide

NDS calls on interested parties, especially employment service providers and other professional employment specialists, to help shape this exciting event.

Our two-day national conference will examine innovative ways to inspire and engage people with disability in employment opportunities. It is aimed at employment service providers (open, supported and social enterprises) and professionals interested in the design and promotion of a broad range of employment opportunities for people with disability.

We invite the submission of presentation abstracts that will shape the delivery of employment supports for people with disability. The focus will be on enhancing access to employment, best practice and workable solutions.

#### What we know

Employment provides vitally important social and economic benefits for people with disability. These benefits include increased health and wellbeing, reduced reliance on welfare, greater financial security, a greater sense of self-worth and a positive role within the community. Reflecting this, the tag line for this year's Disability at Work Conference is "More than just a job".

Despite these known benefits, the employment participation rate of people with disability in Australia remains unacceptably low. The Government invests over \$1B per annum in specialist disability employment

programs, while the NDIS could potentially provide funded employment supports to hundreds of thousands of people with disability of working age. The Government's recently announced an NDIS Participant Employment Taskforce that will investigate how to remove barriers to employment for participants in order to achieve one of the scheme's foundation goals.

Employment service providers now find themselves in a different and challenging operating environment. The new Disability Employment Services (DES) contract continues to drive increased competition among providers while seeking to ensure more people with disability gain mainstream employment.

Although almost all supported employment providers are now operating within the NDIS, uncertainty persists. The supported employment model must continue to evolve and provide a wider range of quality employment opportunities for people with disability.

New support models continue to emerge for young people transitioning into employment. School Leaver Employment Supports under the NDIS are now available to school leavers nationally. The customised employment model has been adopted on a much wider basis, providing targeted supports that are designed to maximise outcomes for both jobseekers and employers.

## Abstract topic areas

You can submit abstracts for the following topic areas:

### Enhancing access to employment

- New approaches to supporting people with disability in employment
- Measuring the quality of employment outcomes
- Stories from employees who are achieving their employment goals
- Stories from employers that are making a difference
- New approaches to upskilling jobseekers and employees
- Developing career pathways and enhancing career choice

### Business and management

- Engaging employers
- Building a diverse and strong governance structure
- The benefits of diversifying income streams
- Business models that enhance financial viability
- Being competitive without rejecting cooperation
- Exploring the benefits and pitfalls of mergers

### Marketing and promotion

- Promoting the benefits of employing people with disability
- Marketing Supported Employment Enterprises and their products
- Marketing Disability Employment Services
- Effective employer, customer and partner engagement

## Submission of abstracts and enquiries

Abstracts, no more than 300 words in length, must be submitted by 1 March 2019 to:

**Kerrie Langford** ([kerrie.langford@nds.org.au](mailto:kerrie.langford@nds.org.au)).

Abstracts may be submitted electronically, as an email attachment, or by post on PC-compatible disc. They must be in MS Word or Word-readable format. They will be assessed for suitability for inclusion by a peer review panel. It is anticipated that presentations will generally be 30 or 45 minutes in length. Include your name, organisation, contact details and a brief presenter profile of no more than 150 words.

## Additional information

Presenters are invited to attend the conference as our guest on the day of their presentation. The cost of attendance at the conference on an additional day and any travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of each presenter. The event organisers reserve the right to edit the abstract and/or presenter profile for use during the conference.

National Disability Services (NDS) is Australia's peak body for non-government disability service organisations, representing over 900 non-government organisations. Collectively, our members operate several thousand services for Australians with all types of disability. NDS also provides information and networking opportunities to its members and policy advice to governments.