# Call for Papers

## Disability at Work conference

### Date: 14 - 15 June 2018

### Venue: Sofitel Sydney Wentworth

Following feedback from recent years, we’ve made some changes to how our 2018 Disability at Work conference will look – and we want you to help shape the event.

Day One will see two streams running. One dedicated to all things open employment and the other focused on marketing. Day Two will take a different path; looking at supported employment and transition to work.

We all know the important social and economic benefits of employment for people with disability, yet the employment rate for people with disability has remained unchanged for decades.

Over the past few years, the government – in consultation with stakeholders – has explored options to redesign the employment service offerings.

The new DES contract will commence in 2018, with a greater focus on participant choice and control, and an emphasis on employer engagement. A new funding model will be introduced; aimed at ensuring those furthest from the labour market receive more targeted assistance.

For many years, supported employment providers have experienced great uncertainty in many arenas. 2018 is set to be the year Disability Enterprises can focus on the job at hand, providing an array of high-quality employment opportunities in sustainable businesses.

Many new ideas are emerging for people transitioning into employment. The government is investing in transition opportunities through School Leaver Employment Supports. NDIS funding such as ‘finding and keeping a job’ allows access to targeted supports for people with disability seeking to enter the labour market.

There is no question that, for employment services, we are entering the next frontier. The 2018 Disability at Work conference will examine innovative ways to activate and engage people with disability along a continuum of employment opportunities. It is designed for employment service providers (open, supported and social enterprises) and professionals interested in promoting a broad range of employment opportunities for people with disability.

NDS is calling for the submission of abstracts of presentations 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.

### 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, of no more than 300 words in length, must be submitted by 28 February 2018 to:

Kerrie Langford

National Disability Services

Phone: 02 6283 3202 or 0448 249 150

Email: kerrie.langford@nds.org.au

Website: [www.nds.org.au](http://www.nds.org.au)

Abstracts 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. Along with your abstract, please include your name, organisation, title, contact details and a brief presenter profile of no more than 150 words.

### Additional information

For successful abstracts, 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 conference 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 around 1000 non-government service providers. Collectively, NDS members operate several thousand services for Australians with all types of disability. NDS provides information and networking opportunities to its members and policy advice to governments.