

New Workforce Connectors based in your region – available to help you with regional disability workforce challenges

A skilled, sufficiently large and diverse disability workforce is critical to the delivery of high quality services and to the success of the NDIS. In the *NDS State of the Disability Sector Reports in 2017 and 2018*, providers cited HR Strategy and Workforce Planning as one of their top three business capabilities most in need of improvement.

The Victorian Government is funding a program of strategies outlined in, *Keeping our sector strong: Victoria’s Workforce Plan for the NDIS to build the Disability workforce in Victoria*. This plan identifies the need to support regions as one key strategy. In line with this, the NDS has commenced a new **Disability Workforce Innovation Project** funded by DHHS. Under this project four regional workforce connectors have been appointed to use their local knowledge and networks to help local organisations and stakeholders to:

- Identify and **capture local workforce issues and contributing factors**
- Identify and work on **local solutions**
- **Access funding grants** with free grant application workshops and follow up coaching
- Choose and access **workforce tools** and other resources
- Increase **relevant workforce data** using the NDS *Workforce Wizard*
- Find out about what **other organisations are finding useful and not useful**
- Form and **facilitate local collaborations** to work on local workforce problems
- **Increase** Victorian Government **knowledge of local disability workforce issues**

The Workforce Connectors will be listening to a broad range of local stakeholders including consumers, carers, providers, disability workers, Registered Training Providers/TAFEs, Disability Employment Agencies, local advocacy groups, unions, local councils, etc.

If you, or your organisation, have workforce challenges you are keen to address please contact the Workforce Connector in your area:

Andrew Gibbs	Mallee, Loddon and Central Highlands	Mob. 0436 820 096
Chris Hawken	Inner and Outer Gippsland	Mob. 0436 820 089
Clare Malcolm	Goulburn and Ovens Murray	Mob. 0436 820 087
Dianne Hardy	Project Lead and Wimmera South West and Barwon	Mob. 0436 820 088

Further workforce support

The federal government has funded the *Boosting the Local Care Workforce (BLCW) initiative*. BLCW Regional Coordinators will also be working with providers, potential providers and other stakeholders to gather intelligence and provide localised support. NDS Workforce Connectors will coordinate with the BLWC to avoid unnecessary duplication and maximise support for local organisations. You can contact Deb Dean on 0425 716 261 for more information about BLCW.