

MEDIA RELEASE

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National disability scheme a game changer: Toowoomba CEO

YellowBridge QLD is eagerly counting the days until Australia introduces its biggest social reform since Medicare.

Come 1 July, the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will give people with a disability unprecedented choice and control over how, when and where they access support and services.

“It’s a game changer,” said Penny Hamilton, chief executive of YellowBridge QLD, a Toowoomba-based community organisation that provides disability support, community housing and home services across the Darling Downs, Southern Downs and Lockyer Valley regions.

“For the first time in our country’s history, people with a disability will have full authority over how they will spend their care money so they get the services and support they really need and want,” she said.

“Choice and control are at the heart of this scheme. It means, people with disabilities can set their own goals, plan their care and coordinate their support services.”

This is quite different to the existing one-size-fits-all approach, which was built more around the needs of organisations and the system than people with a disability.

Along with in-home support, the NDIS will fund reasonable and necessary support that helps people achieve their goals such as therapies, equipment, home modifications, mobility equipment, taking part in community activities or assistance with employment.

As part of the new process, YellowBridge QLD’s experienced disability support team will help clients develop a tailored individual plan outlining their needs, goals and aspirations in preparation for the introduction of the NDIS. The plan will then guide the development of their NDIS plan which will outline how and where they invest their care money.

“This is a once-in-a-generation reform that will benefit all Australians. We should all be proud of such a progressive scheme that values individual control and choice,” Ms Hamilton said.

To find out more about the NDIS and how YellowBridge QLD can help, phone 4639 3271.

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GAME CHANGER: Looking forward to the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme is YellowBridge QLD chief executive Penny Hamilton (left) with Disability Services General Manager Jodie Collins and Housing Services General Manager Darce Foley.