

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **29/01/2018**

MEDIA RELEASE: ABILITY LINKS CELEBRATES MAKING 1 MILLION COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

This week, Ability Links NSW is celebrating making 1 million community connections across the state.

Far North Coast Ability Links Program Manager, Robert Baldwin from Social Futures said the milestone highlights the important dual role of Ability Links NSW in supporting people living with disabilities develop a sense of belonging to their communities and making communities more inclusive.

“One of the great strengths of Ability Links is our Linkers’ vast knowledge of and connection with the communities we work in.”

“Having 1 million (and counting) community connections has allowed our Linkers support Ability Links participants to reach their goals and ultimately live the lives they want to live.”

“Overwhelmingly people want connection with their communities, however, sometimes they’re not quite sure where to start,” Robert said. “That’s where Ability Links can help.”

“It can be as simple as connecting a participant with their local men’s shed or community garden, or much more involved, such as supporting a local festivals become more inclusive and improve attendance at and success of the events.”

“By making more connections we create more accessible and inclusive communities. At the end of the day, that means we all win: economically, by enabling people with disabilities to spend their money in local businesses; and socially, by appreciating and recognising the special perspectives and contributions that people living with disabilities bring to making our communities better for us all.”

To find out more about Ability Links NSW call 1300 792 940 or visit www.abilitylinksnsw.org.au.

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Image: Cassie Douglas, Christopher Douglas and Daniel Cooper – Ability Links Participants.

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we live and work and their continuing connection to land, water, sea and community. We pay respects to Australia's First Peoples, to their unique and diverse cultures, and to Elders past, present and future.

Notes to editors:

1. Social Futures is a social justice organisation with more than 20 offices in Regional NSW. We have more than 40 years' experience as a regional leader, advocating with the communities we work in; working in partnership with others; and providing services that promote inclusion, fairness and social justice. Our work encompasses homelessness and housing supports, youth and family services, programs that promote genuine participation for people with disability, community sector support, professional development, and systemic advocacy.