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ndis.gov.au

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Celebrating first year of NDIS service delivery

Social Futures is celebrating a successful first year delivering Local Area Coordination (LAC) services across more than 80% of regional NSW as a community partner with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Speaking on behalf of Social Futures and its sub-contractors, Mid Coast Communities and Intereach, Social Futures CEO Tony Davies says there is much to be proud of over the past 12 months.

“Since starting LAC services on 1 July 2017 we’ve helped thousands of people with disabilities transition from the former State-based system onto the NDIS, as well as welcoming many new participants who previously had received little or no support,” says Mr Davies.

“Across our combined footprint we now have 137 LACs working out of 22 offices spread from the Queensland border in the north to Broken Hill in the far west and the River Murray in the south. In the process we’ve supported our NDIS participants to build capacity and control in their lives, to pursue their goals and to achieve the lifestyles that so many Australians take for granted.”

LACs have also provided ongoing support to participants and their carers through community engagement activities such as workshops and forums, and have built strong relationships with existing and new service providers in our regions.

Social Futures is directly responsible for providing LAC services in northern NSW and much of western NSW. Among the many NDIS participants we have supported is Phil, a nature lover who has been living with an acquired brain injury and Ankylosing Spondylitis for 24 years.

Prior to receiving his NDIS plan Phil did not have much help to tend his garden due to his mobility issues. Now he is able to use his NDIS funding to employ a gardener to mow his lawn, trim his trees and plant out his veggie garden. Phil is “ecstatic” about the positive changes in his life.

Mr Davies adds: “The NDIS is a transformative social reform that will continue making a positive difference for many thousands of people. We do understand that the introduction of this major program has not always been a smooth process but we have a strong commitment to responding to any concerns and learning from our shared experience.

“This will inform everything we do to support our existing and new participants over the year ahead.”

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Social Futures is delivering the NDIS in the Northern, Western and Far West areas of NSW on behalf of NDIS Partner Social Futures.