

90-day project update

Disability Workforce Hub to support move to the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will transform how disability care is delivered. A skilled, flexible workforce is required to meet expected demand from the Scheme.

Northern Adelaide will be the first region in South Australia where the NDIS will be available to adults from July 2017. This 90-day project aimed to establish a Disability Workforce Hub to support the implementation of the NDIS.

The Disability Workforce Hub in northern Adelaide opened for business on 14 November 2016 and is co-located with not-for-profit organisation Northern Futures in Elizabeth. The Hub will connect job seekers with local employers, training providers and employment agencies to help fill local job opportunities in the disability sector.

To meet the demand for NDIS services, the local workforce in northern Adelaide is forecast to double by 2018-19, increasing to up to 3500 full time equivalent (FTE) workers.

The Disability Workforce Hub is a partnership between the Department of State Development; the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion; Northern Futures; National Disability Services SA (NDS) the peak organisation for disability service providers; the University of South Australia; and Flinders University. During the three months that it took to establish the Hub, the Department of State Development engaged significantly and substantially with industry and other local stakeholders.

The collaborative experience has been reported as being very positive for both DSD staff and stakeholders, based on their feedback. The key was to collaborate early in the process to identify need and opportunities, and help shape responses that have stakeholder buy-in.

In 2016-17, four programs are being coordinated through the Hub:

- **Funding for industry-specific Jobs First Employment Projects** to meet the needs of disability sector employees who have identified job opportunities
- **Additional career services** to highlight the diverse employment and training opportunities available to jobseekers in the disability sector
- **Support of higher education partners** to deliver clinical placement opportunities that service the needs of the community and prepare students for careers in the industry
- **Provide workforce development opportunities** for new and existing disability sector workers to increase capabilities of individuals and organisations.

For more information about the initiative, see the [Disability Workforce Hub information page](#).