



**NSW DISABILITY
INDUSTRY INNOVATION
AWARDS**
RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE
IN THE DISABILITY SECTOR

SHOWCASING INNOVATION: 2012 NSW
DISABILITY INDUSTRY INNOVATION AWARDS

WINNERS & FINALISTS





NSW DISABILITY INDUSTRY INNOVATION AWARDS

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE
IN THE DISABILITY SECTOR

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Supporting innovation and new ideas is critical in ensuring a successful transition of the disability services system in NSW to more person centred approaches.

The NSW Government in partnership with National Disability Services has established the NSW Disability Industry Innovation Awards program to create a unique platform to recognise and reward innovative and creative individuals and service providers striving to improve outcomes for people with a disability.

The O'Farrell Government congratulates each of the winners and finalists of our inaugural NSW Disability Industry Innovation Awards in 2012.

The profiles showcased herein stand as a testament to the inspiring individuals and organisations that are making a difference in the lives of people with a disability by rising up to the challenge of transforming our service system to be truly person centred.

The richly diverse, creative and innovative solutions and ideas demonstrated in these award profiles instil me with great confidence that our sector is on track to deliver high quality, person centred, flexible and responsive services and support across NSW.

These inspiring stories serve as a blueprint for the sector to encourage us all to think differently and innovatively in order to create solutions and new ways of working that aim to achieve the best outcomes for people with a disability, their families and carers.

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability Services

1 LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AWARD (INDIVIDUAL & ORGANISATION)

WINNER (INDIVIDUAL): FIONA MILLER, ON-FOCUS



On-Focus is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation providing support services for people with disability on the Far North Coast of NSW.

The achievements of the CEO, Fiona Miller, in advancing the organisation into the 'New World', clearly demonstrate an innovative approach and vision for regional organisations.

Fiona made the decision to flip the organisation's way of thinking, facilitating the Executive Team and Board to shift On-Focus from being 'that place' on the edge of town to being the heart of the town, where people with disability are the heartbeat and highly visible.

Fiona's dream has created a rapid advance in On-Focus' ability to embed a person-centred culture in the organisation and wider community, as well as facilitating new innovations and energy for embracing people with disability.



...where people with disability are the heartbeat and highly visible."

FINALIST (ORGANISATION): NORTH WEST DISABILITY SERVICES

North West Disability Services (NWDS) have been recognised for their Community Contributions Initiative where service users are actively encouraged to connect to the community by engaging with physical support, fundraising and donations. The outcome of this initiative has seen individuals with disability gain confidence in their own value and ability to bring about change not only for themselves but for others.

'Giving back' through community contributions, enables each person the opportunity to choose activities they are interested in, with the often natural outcome of social interaction, a sense of belonging and friendship.

By challenging clients to participate, NWDS have promoted community awareness of disability and most importantly demonstrated that people with disability are active contributors to society.



...individuals with disability gain confidence in their own value..."

FINALIST (ORGANISATION): JEWISHCARE



JewishCare maintains a philosophy of including people with disability in mainstream programs and the Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS) and Mentoring programs are no exception. The BBBS program aims to improve the self-esteem and feelings of wellbeing of young people between the ages of 6-15 who are experiencing a challenging upbringing by being linked to a suitable Big Brother or Big Sister. The Mentoring Program is aimed at young adults over 18 years old.

Benefits include supporting children and young people to develop a relationship with someone who will be there for them and the flow on effect of linking a volunteer with a person with disability is that it breaks down stereotypes and misconceptions.

The programs involve working with participants and their families to discover interests and goals and then enable individuals to achieve them through a strength-based approach which incorporates social justice principles of respect and empowerment.

Joel is 23 and arrived in Sydney from Perth 18 months ago. Joel has Asperger's Syndrome and lives with his single mother. Joel was linked with a mentor 9 months ago at a time when he was experiencing anxiety and depression. Since this time Joel has enrolled in a TAFE course, learnt to travel independently around Sydney, developed social and communication skills, become employed and generally become a happier and more content individual. His mentor is a constant stable and positive influence in Joel's life.

2 INNOVATION IN INDEPENDENT LIVING AWARD (INDIVIDUAL & ORGANISATION)

WINNER (ORGANISATION): TAD DISABILITY SERVICES

TAD Disability Services (TAD) uses technology to assist people with disabilities by designing and creating unique, customised equipment to meet specific needs and enable individuals to live fuller and more independent lives.

TAD is particularly innovative in the way it taps into the skills and knowledge of volunteers and enables them to use their extensive technical skills and creativity to provide direct support for people with disability. Each year over 250 volunteers donate 32,000 hours of time to design and make unique solutions for people in the community.

TAD is an example of an organisation that has consistently demonstrated an innovative approach to supporting people with disability by offering low cost and personalised solutions to meet their real needs, enabling them to live fuller and more independent lives.

John uses a wheelchair and attends classes at a community college where he must use a stair climber device to reach his classroom. Recently John found that the stair climber could not accommodate his new wheelchair. The manufacturer could offer no solution other than an expensive new model. John approached TAD and volunteer Jim, a recently retired mechanical engineer, was allocated the task. Within a week Jim had designed and developed a custom bracket, at a cost of less than \$50.



FINALIST (ORGANISATION): SPINAL CORD INJURIES AUSTRALIA

Continuing the tradition of independent accessible accommodation for people with spinal cord injuries that started the organisation forty-five years ago, Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) launched the CHOICES apartment. The CHOICES apartment offers people with a spinal cord injury the chance to experience life outside the medical environment during the intensive rehabilitation period following an injury, an opportunity that has been limited up until now.

Many people feel very overwhelmed following discharge from hospital, limiting the opportunity to move forward with their lives and back into the community, workplace and environment. SCIA's CHOICES apartment is therefore a valuable innovation to complement current rehabilitation options.

“Staying at CHOICES apartment has been a huge, positive learning experience for both myself and my partner. Now we can see how to manage and schedule carers to fit into our daily lives when we go home. We loved going through all the equipment and gadgets; it made us realise just how many helpful devices are available. Spending time away from hospital together has been so good.”

“

...chance to experience life outside the medical environment...”

FINALIST (ORGANISATION): PHYSICAL DISABILITY COUNCIL OF NSW

The Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) sought and received a grant from the NRMA. The grant was for the development and facilitation of an educational program to develop the capacity of people with a physical disability in NSW to identify their own risks in an emergency situation, and develop a plan to manage those risks in an emergency or disaster.



“

...they need to feel safe, confident and in control of their own lives.”

PDCN appreciates that for people to live independently in the community, they need to feel safe, confident and in control of their own lives. As the peak organisation for people with physical disability in NSW, PDCN has responded innovatively to the identified concerns of people with physical disability.

3 EXCELLENCE IN PROMOTING INCLUSION OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY & THEIR FAMILIES AWARD (INDIVIDUAL & ORGANISATION)

WINNER (ORGANISATION): PATHWAYS EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION INC



Pathways Early Childhood Intervention Inc (Pathways ECI) provides family-centred services to children with disabilities aged birth to seven years. In July 2009, they introduced a new program, EarlyStart, funded by Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC), a division of the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, under *Stronger Together* which was modified in order to provide families with individual funding. Pathways ECI voluntarily chose to individualise part of the funding in order to provide each family with more choice and flexibility.

Moving towards giving families greater control and choice over their early intervention funding is a positive step for the future. In this new hybrid model, families have had opportunities to learn about self-directed funding and personalised solutions to support the long term resilience of families – the ultimate aim of the EarlyStart program.

"I would like to thank Pathways for providing our family with the EarlyStart program. We had difficulties with going out with our child as he doesn't understand safety and is always running away from us. Your staff helped us to learn some strategies to teach him to hold onto our hand and stay with us when we are out. It was suggested that as he loves to play with water, we could use our EarlyStart money to pay for swimming lessons. We were assisted to get out to the pool for the first few lessons and also assisted in the pool. Now we are managing on our own and I feel less stressed knowing that I have learnt some ways to plan and manage our outings better."

FINALIST (ORGANISATION): AUTISM SPECTRUM AUSTRALIA (ASPECT)

Aspect Behaviour Intervention Services (BIS) has been funded by ADHC since 2002 to provide positive behaviour support services to 25 families at any one time or 'places' per year in Western Sydney. After identifying that the service system in Western Sydney was characterised by different support services working in isolation, with lengthy waiting lists and a crisis driven model, Aspect BIS reviewed literature on best practice positive behaviour support service delivery, and developed and implemented an innovative plan to transform behaviour intervention service systems in this region.

Two concepts underpinned the transformation, establishing a collaborative referral panel and a two-tiered service model that matches support to family needs, including service workshops and home-based support. Aspect BIS adopts a family-centred positive behaviour support approach when working with clients. Comparing service provision from January to June 2010 and January to June 2011, there was a 50% increase in the number of families accessing some form of BIS service.

"It is good to discuss the referral with other professionals and be able to obtain several perspectives from different services as to which one might best meet the family's needs at this point in time."



FINALIST (ORGANISATION): AUBURN DIVERSITY SERVICES INC (ADSi)



The Auburn pilot project began in July 2010 and aimed to build a community in Auburn where local people with disability and their families and carers are included, have valued social roles and can participate as citizens. Auburn Diversity Services Inc (ADSi) also hoped to improve the relationship between disability services and the mainstream community in Auburn.

The project is the result of a partnership between ADHC's Parramatta Case Management Early Intervention Team and ADSi with an aim to involve more agencies as project partners.

The project uses Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) as a basis for positive action. ABCD recognises strengths, gifts, talents and assets of individuals and the community, rather than having an exclusive focus on needs and problems. ADSi has also adopted a whole of place approach so that it can support and foster the contribution of local people with disability.

“...improve the relationship between disability services and the mainstream community in Auburn.”

4 EXCELLENCE IN REGIONAL INNOVATION AWARD (ORGANISATION)

WINNER (ORGANISATION): ACCESSIBLE ARTS

Accessible Arts NSW commenced the Creating Connections Project in October 2011 having identified a need for greater support for people with disability in regional NSW to establish new arts and disability networks and support existing opportunities for people with disability to fully experience and participate in the Arts.



“...groups and individuals to become involved in arts and disability projects...”

Accessible Arts has demonstrated innovation in devising, developing and delivering this project through inspiring and supporting a range of arts and disability organisations and 13 local councils to work closely and strengthen the capacity of all regional

stakeholders. It offers opportunities for groups and individuals to become involved in arts and disability projects including platforms for self-advocacy to improve social inclusion and professional development opportunities and paid work.

“Creating Connections is about pushing boundaries. It's about changing people's perceptions of art and the people who make it. Regardless of what your ability is, it's about using art as a way to communicate.”

FINALIST (ORGANISATION): NORTHCOTT DISABILITY SERVICES



Northcott Disability Services was the lead agency for the 2011 Absolutely Everybody Spring Ball, held at Tamworth Town Hall. The traditional Debutante Ball, still a popular event and 'rite of passage' in many country towns, enabled the individuals involved an opportunity to develop new skills, culminating in a celebration involving family, friends and the wider community.

Participants taking part committed to fortnightly dance lessons from early June and then weekly lessons during August. What started as a regular dance class grew when the participants wanted to expand their repertoire.

The Ball had the support of the whole community with a number of high school students volunteering as debutantes; and personal, community and business support for dance lessons, suits and dresses, decorations, hair and make-up, the band, filming and production of the event, ushers and first aid.

The 'Absolutely Everybody' theme was embraced from the start of the programs with 21 debutantes and their partners, aged between 16 and 53 years of age, actively involved.

“...develop new skills, culminating in a celebration involving family, friends and wider community.”

5 EXCELLENCE IN THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AWARD (ORGANISATION)

WINNER (ORGANISATION): COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AUSTRALIA INC

The Jeenee project seeks to dramatically improve community accessibility for people who live with disabilities through the innovative use of technology.

The project originated in New South Wales with the support of the NSW Government and ADHC.

The aim of the Jeenee project is to provide opportunities for people to increase experiences, choices and decision making within the community and in their personal lives. As individuals gain skills and confidence learning experiences in a secure environment, they will become active and visible citizens within the community.

Jeenee uses three different forms of common technology to provide a coherent assistive application to people who live with disabilities. These take them through learning experiences using gaming software in a virtual community; into their real time personal life using a mobile application specifically designed for an Android device, and into a social space community on a web-based portal.



FINALIST (ORGANISATION): THE CAPTIONING STUDIO



The Captioning Studio provides captioning services for education, the workplace, online content and live theatre performances. It has developed and patented its own theatre captioning technology, called GoTheatrical! NSW has the highest number of venues and production companies in Australia offering GoTheatrical! theatre captioning for people with hearing loss.

In February 2012, The Captioning Studio developed a world-first theatre captioning App enabling people with a hearing loss to also access live captions on their smartphones or tablet devices, as well as on plasma screens.

With the development of the new theatre captioning App, patrons now have a choice as to where they sit making less expensive ticket options available and giving people with a hearing loss the freedom to choose to sit anywhere they like. In 2011 The Captioning Studio launched its 'CaptionClub', a social club for theatre captioning patrons and their partners, families and friends.

The GoTheatrical! App is a world first innovation and has received global attention since it was launched.

“...provide captioning services for education, the work place, online content and live theatre...”

FINALIST (ORGANISATION): AI-MEDIA

Ai-Media has been a major innovator and investor in services for people with disabilities. Since 2006, Ai-Media has applied its expertise in live captioning using re-speaking technology to develop Ai-Live.

Ai-Media's main focus has been on services for people with deafness or hearing impairment. Recently Ai-Media has turned its attention to a broader range of disabilities and the positive outcomes that Ai-Live can provide, including improved access to education for school age students. Ai-Live works well within the school, university and work environments to provide access to real-time speech-to-text captions, giving users greater awareness, inclusion and improved outcomes.

Ai-Media has improved opportunities and inclusion for people with disability through its captioning services and unique innovations such as Ai-Live.

As part of an Ai-Live pilot that was run in a NSW school, one of the students went from the bottom of their English class before the trial, to coming first in the end of year exam only 10 weeks later.



“...improved access to education for school age students.”

6 EXCELLENCE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARD (ORGANISATION)

WINNER (ORGANISATION): DEAF SOCIETY OF NSW



The Deaf Society of NSW is the leading provider of specialist services for deaf people and their families in New South Wales, having extensive and proven expertise in the provision of services to the Deaf Community, and is committed to ensuring quality outcomes.

Their vision is 'Equity for deaf people', and the achievement has been to grow this equity in the workplace as well as in services to the Deaf Community. Thanks to initiatives over the past three years, genuine equity in the workplace is now a reality. Specific achievements include having almost 50% of staff who are deaf or hard of hearing, having

a deaf-friendly work practices policy, and creating a bilingual

website and workplace programs.

Deaf and hard of hearing staff are now engaged across all levels of Deaf Society of NSW including management, senior management and the board.

Achievements have been made through strategies which are innovative because they are not designed for people with disability, but through a collaborative approach involving both deaf and hearing staff to create a whole workplace that is deaf-friendly by design. The aim has been to make sure that inclusion is not viewed as a burden on staff, but is taken for granted as a necessary part of doing business well, is owned by people at every level of the organisation, and is a model for other organisations.

“...deaf-friendly work practices policy, and creating a bilingual website and workplace programs.”

FINALIST (ORGANISATION): KURRAJONG WARATAH

Kurrajong Waratah is a non-government organisation (NGO) providing services to over 1,000 babies, children and adults with disabilities across the Riverina and Murray regions of NSW.

The People for People (P4P) project is a resourcing and training partnership that commenced in 2010 between NGOs in ADHC Western Region, aimed at developing a skilled and competent NGO workforce in the Western Region to meet the service challenges that exist now and in the future for rural and regional disability service providers.

Many NGOs and their services are located in isolated and rural locations where little or no training opportunities exist for staff who often work in challenging and isolated rural and remote service delivery. P4P builds workforce capacity and skills of staff, provides relevant, cost effective training and development opportunities within organisations. Mentor networks were built to further expand the skills of mentor trainers through a community of practice approach which, in turn, developed connections and relationships between the sector's NGO staff.

The achievements made to date are the result of a strong supportive partnership that the P4P team has developed with each participating NGO and supported by Regional ADHC staff. With a participation rate of 96% of eligible NGOs a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed to formally underpin this relationship and the respective responsibilities of each party to workforce development.



FINALIST (ORGANISATION): CEREBRAL PALSY ALLIANCE



Cerebral Palsy Alliance (CPA) supports children and adults with cerebral palsy in NSW and the ACT. CPA recognised that in order to deliver on their mission, it needed to attract and retain the right people, with the right skills for the right roles. In 2010, CPA identified workforce development as one of its key strategic priorities.

CPA's nomination highlights numerous innovative approaches to address workforce development such as offering a skills recognition program for all senior disability support workers in the organisation. This innovative program was cost effective and offered highly valued recognition to employees with years of experience in the sector.

Other initiatives include offering a secondary school student traineeship program, development of virtual learning environments – an online learning portal, knowledge hub, formalised talent management pathways offering a comprehensive orientation and induction program and the development of a student unit program through a partnership with the University of Western Sydney.

7 INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AWARD (ORGANISATION)

WINNER (ORGANISATION): GREENACRES DISABILITY SERVICES & ILLAWARRA SHOALHAVEN MEDICARE LOCAL

Greenacres Disability Services has partnered with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Medicare Local to provide the 'Better Days Mental Health Program', a sustainable peer-led support service and onsite individual professional input for Greenacres employees with severe mental illness. The aim of the program is to improve the lives of employees with mental health issues.

The peer-led support service has evolved from a fully supported group to a mostly peer-led group. Greenacres Disability Service recognised that providing assistance to their employees to resolve the issues encountered outside the workplace showed a marked improvement in work attendance and well-being. This initiative has resulted in a 20% reduction in absenteeism since inception.



“ The aim of the program is to improve the lives of employees with mental health issues.”

The project is funded from existing government initiatives. There has been a bottom up as well as a top down approach towards driving the program and key people from the partner organisations are recognised as the drivers of the initiative.

As part of the National Disability Services (NDS) state-wide Regional Support Worker Conferences, information about Better Days is being presented by the Greenacres employees, staff and Illawarra Shoalhaven Medicare Local mental health nurses.

The aim is to promote good mental health and reduce stigma associated with mental illness. This has been a very empowering experience for the employees and a powerful message for attendees of the conferences.

WINNER (ORGANISATION): FIRSTCHANCE INC & AWABAKAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES



The Little Yarns Project is set up as a collaborative partnership between Firstchance Inc and Awabakal Early Childhood Services, designed to bring prevention and early intervention into the local Aboriginal community through the Awabakal Child Care Centre (Wickham), Awabakal Preschool (Glendale), Biraban Preschool (Toronto) and Playgroups (Fennell Bay and Woodberry).

The Little Yarns Project aims to provide a culturally appropriate early intervention support service to Aboriginal families in a way that is acceptable and accessible to the community, and opportunities for Aboriginal staff to further enhance their skills in working with children with additional needs, and early intervention staff to become familiar with and begin to understand some issues of working with Aboriginal families.

Through the process of collaborating and establishing a partnership, a model has been developed which embeds the service delivery within the Aboriginal community utilising services that Aboriginal families are already accessing and therefore feel comfortable with.

“...designed to bring prevention and early intervention into the local Aboriginal community...”

FINALIST (ORGANISATION): SYLVANVALE FOUNDATION

Sylvanvale Foundation believes that everyone should have the chance to connect with the world, to share and show what their life is like. It was from this belief that the U-Turn Multimedia for Person Centred Approaches project was born.

Developed in partnership with Nepean Community College and the Penrith Apple Store, U-Turn gave Sylvanvale service users and key support staff the chance to explore, learn and experience a range of multimedia technology to develop a personal project or plan.

The program ran for one day per week for six weeks, with participants using a variety of digital formats such as photos, video, audio and the internet to create their projects.

New things – and new people – can be intimidating for everyone, more so for people with disability. U-Turn helped ease people with disability into a new environment and fostered new relationships and partnerships that otherwise wouldn't have been developed.

Mark has been participating in Brazilian jiu-jitsu for over a year now and is incredibly proud of his achievements. He wanted to capture this in his personal project at U-Turn. Mark liked the way he could combine his sporting interests with multimedia. "I made a film of my Brazilian jiu-jitsu by sticking different movies and pictures together of me doing jiu-jitsu in the right order on the computer," Mark gave a speech and showed his film to a room filled with over 50 people.



FINALIST (ORGANISATION): LIFESTART CO-OPERATIVE LTD



Lifestart's Eastern Sydney Branch had been in temporary premises since 2010 after moving out of a previous rental property. Lifestart saw a great opportunity to build capacity in the local community to not only establish a permanent home, but to also factor in growth to address the significant waiting lists for early intervention services. The Cubes for Kids project aimed to secure support from community partners and government to establish an early intervention, transition to school and school age services hub in the local community.

The project has seen Lifestart partner with two government departments – Department of Education and Communities (DEC) offered land at Chifley Primary School and buildings to be refurbished, with ADHC committing funding towards the refurbishment. Willana Associates agreed to design and run the project on a pro bono basis. Support was also offered from countless local businesses and community groups, including Sydney Roosters Football Club and its major sponsor, Steggles, as well as families receiving support from Lifestart. The local school community has also been very engaged with the project.

Cubes for Kids is a great demonstration of how through innovative partnerships government departments can work together at the local level and with the community and business sector to make a difference in the lives of people with disability.

8 EMERGING LEADER AWARD (INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED BY THEIR ORGANISATION)

WINNER (INDIVIDUAL): SHEREE HURLEY, SPINAL CORD INJURIES AUSTRALIA

Sheree Hurley has been recognised for her work with Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) where she has made a huge difference to the clients she worked with directly, their family and friends, the wider population of people with a spinal cord injury and the organisation. Her knowledge, skills, compassion, and abundance of ideas to improve the lives of people with a spinal cord injury, are an inspiration to all who know her.

Sheree constantly looks for new opportunities to support people to return to the lives they had before their injury. She is driven by the desire and commitment to improve the life of each and every person with a spinal cord injury, empowering individuals through education and support.

Sheree developed a considerable number of innovative, diverse and impactful approaches to supporting people with spinal cord injury. She is respected, not only at SCIA, but by government, other non-government organisations, medical professionals, and by the corporations she worked with to turn a vision into a reality and help hundreds of people.



FINALIST (INDIVIDUAL): ALLISON HAMMETT



After suffering an acute stroke in 2000, resulting in a permanent disability, Allison (Alli) became a community volunteer and advocate, leading a number of initiatives to benefit stroke survivors and looking at stroke prevention.

Alli has been a campaigner and advocate for equality for people with disability for over 12 years. She has held key positions on committees, Ministerial Task Force committees and working panels, voicing and advocating the needs and better service provision for people with disabilities.

Alli is currently in the final stages of establishing a not-for-profit in this area.

The organisation focuses on leading edge, bold prevention campaigns, designed and produced by artists for online digital media use. In development is a new range of online rehabilitation services for stroke survivors and their families. Alli has developed new and innovative products and services which create low-cost, accessible rehabilitation services to regional and metropolitan NSW which will be widely available with the new National Broadband Network (NBN) roll-out.

Alli organised the Innovative Stroke Prevention & Awareness Campaign launched in November 2011 which was the first of its kind launched on a global conferencing platform. The 'Interactive' platform, which is owned by the community, uses Facebook and it is estimated to have reached 15,000 people.

9 EXCELLENCE IN ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD (ORGANISATION)

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: LIFEBRIDGE EAST INC

Lifebridge East Inc provides a range of respite, skills development and support services to people with disability, people with dementia and their carers in the Far North Coast region of New South Wales.

Lifebridge East undertook to engage consultants to work with the organisation over a 12 month period (December 2011 until December 2012) to assist them in repositioning themselves culturally, philosophically and structurally as a person centred service that works in real partnership with people with disability and their families. By changing the organisational culture and processes Lifebridge East is seeking to create an organisation that works in a mutually beneficial partnership with people with disability and their families.

Lifebridge East is making a commitment and investment, both in money and time, to educate staff and families in person centred values, person centred thinking and person centred practice. Real understanding of the philosophy and values driving this change to person centredness will lead everyone at Lifebridge East – from support workers to the Board of Management – to ensure that Lifebridge East demonstrates a true commitment to empowering people with disability.



“...provides a range of respite, skills development and support services to people with disability.”

10 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (INDIVIDUAL)

WINNER (INDIVIDUAL): GREG KILLEEN, SPINAL CORD INJURIES AUSTRALIA



Greg is in his 21st consecutive year of employment with Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) where he started as the Information Officer. Greg has quadriplegia from an acquired spinal cord injury and due to this lived experience of severe physical disability, and involvement with many disability stakeholders, he has developed an in-depth knowledge and understanding of government, non-government and community services and programs.

Greg is committed to understanding the changing needs of, and representing, people with disability as he is a member of many disability organisations and is proactively involved in disability, community, health, non-government and government committees either as a volunteer consumer representative or representing SCIA, its members and service users.

Greg has dedicated a large amount of his professional and personal time, effort and financial resources to the disability sector. His achievements have provided many tangible and intangible benefits for people with disability, their families and carers in numerous ways. This demonstrates innovation and true commitment to empowering people with disability to ensure their interests, preferences and desires are at the centre of the supports achieved.

NDS WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EFFORTS OF THE JUDGING PANEL FOR THE 2012 NSW DISABILITY INDUSTRY INNOVATION AWARDS:

- **Eileen Baldry** – Chairperson, NCOSS (Professor, School of Social Science UNSW)
- **Cain Beckett** – Chairperson, Disability Council of NSW
- **Patricia Forsythe** – Executive Director, Sydney Business Chamber
- **Tony Lund** – Chair, Industry Development Fund
- **Sally McManus** – NSW Branch Secretary, Australian Services Union
- **Jim Moore** – Director General, Family and Community Services.

