

Boosting the Local Care Workforce Program

The Boosting the Local Care Workforce (BLCW) Program was announced in the 2017/18 budget as a \$33 million program to support service providers in the disability and aged care sectors. Delivered by EY, the First Peoples Disability Network and the Community Services Industry Alliance, the Program aims to:

- Enable service providers to develop some of the skills and capabilities required to effectively operate in the disability market.
- Help service providers to attract, retain and optimise their workforce.
- Improve service providers' awareness of opportunities to enter, expand and/or collaborate in the disability market.
- Assist in the identification of issues and gaps that are present or emerging in local markets to better identify market conditions and inform policy solutions.

The BLCW Program is supported by 3 initiatives

- **Regional coordinators:** Work with existing and prospective service providers and stakeholders in their geographic region.
- **Specialist Coordinators:** Provide a national approach to key areas including:
 - High support needs
 - Workforce planning and development
 - Financial management and Specialist Disability Accommodation
 - Allied health
 - Self-managing NDIS participants
 - Indigenous providers
 - Disability and aged care collaboration
 - Remote areas
- **Sector Transition and Employment Support:** Funding support for providers to purchase transition assistance.

Allied health service providers play a large and pivotal role in the NDIS, particularly with capacity building supports. With high demand for key professionals including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech pathologists, there is a need to understand how to best support and sustainably grow this workforce.

The Program's Specialist Coordinator for Allied Health is Katie Bourke. A registered Physiotherapist based in Adelaide, Katie has a background in clinical service delivery and program management. She is aiming to connect with key stakeholders around allied health workforce planning, supports and innovative service delivery to help build knowledge, connect solutions and share resources.

To discuss the Program further and join the conversation on challenges and opportunities for the allied health workforce, please contact Katie directly

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