

# NEWSLETTER



February/March 2018 Edition

## Message from the CEO

"Welcome to 2018! I trust you had an enjoyable and relaxing festive season with family and friends.

This year will once again see many changes for our Disability employment program. The performance framework review, new Disability Employment Services guidelines and transition arrangements, are just a few of the things Disability Employment Agencies will be working on in 2018. In February, providers will receive notification of offers of business and then preparation for the new Disability Employment Services will ramp up. IDEAL Placements will be considering new employer engagement strategies to assist our participants find sustainable employment within the local area. IDEAL is keen for any ideas from our participants and employers; so if you have any ideas please fill in our survey".

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Idealemployer>



## Employment Services Manager Report

Mackay and Sarina region, DES and TTW, have been super busy meeting new participants and getting to know existing clients better, so that we can help them into their best fit employment choices, but we still have time to work on a few special projects to benefit our local community. One of the projects that we have been working on at the start of this year is the continuation of the Ticket to Work partnership for the region. IDEAL Placements operates as the lead agency for this programme in Mackay, which assists school students with a disability to transition to employment over the final years of secondary education.

We believe that all young people have the right to engage in meaningful and rewarding work. In conjunction with local schools, employers, training providers and State and Commonwealth Government agencies, IDEAL is working to assist students with disabilities to prepare for work, gain work experience and then find school based traineeships where they are able to make a smooth transition from thinking and acting like full time students to becoming skilled workers as soon as they exit secondary education.

Last year's Ticket to Work program led to some really excellent and exciting outcomes for our participants, and this year we have been able to expand the Program to include more schools, more students and super importantly – more employers!

As a community, we continue to work towards increasing diversity in our workplaces, so that everyone benefits. Participants' gain all the benefits of employment, including money, social inclusion, health benefits and job satisfaction, and employers gain access to a whole group of hardworking and loyal employees, skilled and ready to contribute to the local economy.



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a. 5 Peel Street,  
Mackay QLD 4740

**SARINA**  
p. (07) 4943 0594  
a. 3/33 Central Street,  
Sarina QLD 4737

**PROSERPINE**  
p. (07) 4945 2591  
a. 34 Chapman Street,  
Proserpine QLD 4800

**AIRLIE BEACH**  
p. (07) 4948 2123  
a. 18/230 Shute Harbour Road,  
Cannonvale QLD 4802

**BOWEN**  
p. (07) 4786 6729  
a. 3/36 Powell Street,  
Bowen QLD 4805

## National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – People with a disability are achieving their goals, inspirations and dreams.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is into the second year of implementation in the Mackay, Whitsunday and Bowen regions. The NDIS supports people with a permanent and diagnosed disability that causes a significant impact to their day to day life.

At IDEAL Placements, we will work with you to identify the supports you need to live a full and happy life. You will have 'Choice and Control' over how, when, where and who will be providing these supports. IDEAL can help you achieve goals in many aspects of your life, including more independence, getting involved in your community, education, employment and health and well-being.

As a provider of Under NDIS, IDEAL Placements can provide:

**Support Coordination** – IDEAL will assist you to find the best and most appropriate service to meet your needs. We can coordinate complex plans and manage service providers relationships on your behalf. This is a totally non-bias service

**Plan Management** - IDEAL can make your life easier by undertaking all the financial activities. We will manage your budget and bills, pay invoices and manage your whole support package finances.

**Service Delivery** – IDEAL can help you with the provision of support workers. We will listen carefully to your support needs and match you with the most appropriate staff member. We even have a profile book on all our support workers and if available, you can have the worker of your choice.

IDEAL Placements has been a provider of choice for over 20 years. As an employment specialist, we assist people with a disability to engage in meaningful and sustainable activities such as sporting or cultural activities, preparation for a working environment, job ready activities, training, work experience, volunteer work and employment.



IDEAL looks forward to providing 'Better Choices, Improving Lives and Creating Futures' for our current and future participants of these programs.

If you have a goal, objective or aspiration and need support and assistance to achieve it, contact **Tracy Woods – NDIS Services Manager** - on **49578177** or **0488 343 560** to discuss eligibility and criteria for the program.

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### Happy 10 Year Anniversary to Sue Thompson!

We appreciate your dedication and hard work throughout the years and we are so proud to have you in the IDEAL Team.



## What's been happening?

### 2017 Blood Drive

On 30 November, 2017, IDEAL Placements took part in a blood drive. Our main goal was to help lift the stigma that people with a disability cannot give blood.

Mayor Greg Williamson showed his support for the cause by attending the event to donate blood, in addition to five other IDEAL Placements staff members and participants – for some, this was their first time.

It was a successful day with many of the participants leaving the drive more knowledgeable about giving blood and less afraid.

Thank you Leanne, Jayni and Charlie for their hard efforts organising this event and to everyone else whom attended.



### STOP THE PRESS!

IDEAL Placements has formed a partnership with AURORA Training Institute and have commenced training in the following course;

CHC33015 Cert III in Individual Support

Students have commenced, love the classes and are looking forward to starting a new career as a support working in the NDIS industry.

Jenny, our trainer, is doing awesome, training and mentoring the students.



### Events in Mackay

The Mackay City Centre **Easter** Carnival returns and will draw large crowds for loads of fun in the Mackay City Centre. Join in the free family fun including a Monster **Easter** Egg Hunt, kids activities, food stalls and amusement rides. There will truly be something for everyone this **Easter** so join in the fun and celebrate the Mackay region!

Contact details:

**Email Enquiries:** [festival@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:festival@mackay.qld.gov.au)

**Telephone Enquiries:** 4961 9777

**URL Enquiries:** [www.themecc.com.au/festivals](http://www.themecc.com.au/festivals)



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## Whitsundays



### Whitsundays Regional Manager Report

2018 is moving along quickly and before we know it; it will be gone so don't forget there's no time like the present to focus on your long term goals. Discuss your options for working towards these goals with your job coordinator to see what relevant work experience or study could also assist.

We have more programs than ever now with Disability Employment Services, Transition to Work (youth employment), NDIS, training and other linking programs.

If you need assistance with the NDIS we have Sherry focusing her time on the Whitsundays, not only building supports but building independence. If you or someone you know needs assistance with the NDIS please don't hesitate to contact Sherry. If you need assistance with any of the employment or training programs please don't hesitate to contact me directly to direct you to the best possible person for the job.



### Good News Stories

Debbie has been working at Bowen Medical as a Medical Receptionist. Debbie was offered an opportunity to work with the help of wage subsidy. She loved that she is still around and helping people and her nursing back ground is a bonus to the employer. Debbie always greets you with a welcoming smile and happy positive attitude.

Well Done Debbie keep up the Good Work!

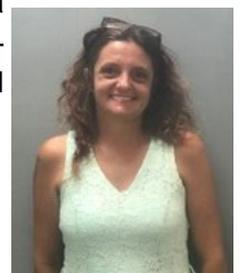


Right: Debbie hard at work

Patricia commenced services with IDEAL Placements in Bowen. Patricia had no certificates and wanted to complete a course to give her the confidence and knowledge to help her better her options when applying for employment.

Patricia has attempted to do training before but did not complete. After discussing her options with her Job Coordinator she decided to enrol in a Cert III in Business. Patricia has successfully just completed the first semester of her training; she is pumping through it and doing a great job.

Patricia has utilized the Bowen office equipment to help her achieve her goals. Patricia has just commenced her second semester. Well Done Patricia and good luck in the second semester.



Right: Patricia is very happy that she has completed the first semester of her training.