



CEO MESSAGE

Welcome to the first edition of Achieve News for 2016. Before looking forward to what we can expect this year, it is worth reviewing the highlights of 2015 and considering how well they have positioned us for the exciting challenges of 2016.

Last year, for the third time in a row, Achieve was proud to win the NSW Business Chamber Business Award for North Eastern Sydney. Our repeated success in this awards program is an indicator of how well Achieve is preparing its people, culture and processes for the roll-out of the NDIS throughout NSW from 1 July this year.

We have also been honoured with an award from the Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) that recognises our Crowle Project in Ryde – sustainable and affordable social housing solutions which are integrated with a commercial residential project. In preparation for the NDIS roll-out, last year we ran a series of information sessions for the people we support and their families and carers.



We also conducted some one-on-one sessions to provide attendees with the opportunity to ask question about what is possible with individual funding under the NDIS. These information sessions will continue for the coming few months to help people plan ahead and gain an understanding of how Achieve is responding to the coming changes with shifts in its services and business model.

Another piece of work which began in 2015 came to fruition in February this year. I am very pleased to announce the amalgamation of Achieve Australia and On Focus – a not-for-profit organisation based in Casino on the Far North Coast of NSW. Like Achieve, On Focus provides support services for people with a disability. Its scope of services, philosophy and

culture make it a good fit with our organisation. With the advent of the NDIS and related funding changes in the sector, there is increasing competition and pressure for organisations to undertake reform. I'm pleased to say that Achieve has a strong balance sheet, which is important as we face these challenges. The amalgamation with On Focus has further strengthened our geographic coverage and scope of services.

Looking forward to this year, Achieve's main focus will continue be the provision of high quality services and supports to people with a disability. In future we will do this under the following structure:

- My Home – formerly known as Community Living;
- My Career – formerly Enterprise and Career;
- My Life – formerly Day Program; and
- My Wellbeing – a new service.

Under the My Wellbeing service offering, Achieve will offer both ongoing services for people it is currently supporting, and an expanded range of products and services for both existing and new customers.

These services will be designed to support people with their communication, health, emotional and financial wellbeing.

In summary, 2016 will be a year of ongoing development, growth and expansion of Achieve – while still providing our people with the quality of services and support they have come to expect over the years.

Along with the entire Achieve team, thank you for your continued support and trust in our organisation. During the coming year we will work hard to retain your confidence, while at the same time innovate and expand our offerings in support of our mission: to deliver on the right of people with a disability to achieve a meaningful and valued life.

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achieve
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building extraordinary lives

MY CAREER

OUR PACKAGING AND ASSEMBLY SOLUTIONS WORK FOR MANY INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING AIRLINES AND RETAIL

Marrickville: Achieving career opportunities for people with disability

One of our driving principles at Achieve is to support people with disability to learn and maintain life and work skills through development plans, employment and training services.

We operate a commercial enterprise in Marrickville where individuals with disability are provided employment opportunities.

Here are the more recent employment opportunities;

- Packing 350kg of garlic into 1000 hessian bags for Thomas Dux and UMS Cookies. This task was efficiently completed by six supported employees over two weeks.
- Over a period of two weeks, 14 supported employees relabelled 61 pallets of coconut water for Raw C.
- For Paper Scissors Rock (Wheel & Barrow), we engaged two supported employees for two days to pack over 10,000 cookies into individual boxes.

These jobs are completed in a dynamic work environment created by our caring staff who assist our supported employees to reach their full potential. Marie, who has been employed since 2006 describes her work as “very fulfilling”

Marie - employed since 2006

“The best part of my job at Achieve is the ability to help the people we support in reaching their full potential.”

Alongside Marie, many other staff help to create a safe and friendly working environment comprised of commercial packaging positions, where supported employees are able to pursue and further develop an array of skills in our processing facility.

achieveaustralia.org.au

Gaye - employed since January 2014

“Working with the supported employees and hearing that they are having a good day, enjoying their jobs and love coming to work, it makes my job worthwhile knowing how happy they are here.”

Gaye describes her job as rewarding, knowing that she is able to help our supported employees learn a new skill that they can use in their future career. These services and jobs are tailored to address each individual's specific abilities, and to ensure each person makes a successful transition to further employment.

Maryanne - employed since March 1998

Maryanne, one of our supported employees since 1998 says, “It makes me happy to come to work, and my favourite job is the cutlery machine. It's my job to do the toothpicks” Maryanne proudly explains her responsibilities at Marrickville, “I like to get paid so I can buy muggacinos, they are my favourite.”

Beverly - employed since September 2001

“Coming to work makes me feel happy; I love all the jobs that I get to do at work. My favourites are vegetable packing, putting the stickers on the boxes and putting the cutlery in the pockets.”

Beverly, who has been working at Marrickville since 2001 says she is a “happy, and proud employee”, and loves getting paid so she can go shopping. Beverly enjoys spending her money on show bags and games with family at the Easter show.

“I am very good and win prizes.”



To help us to provide more employment opportunities either by way of referral or contacting us for your business solutions, please contact us at info@achieveaustralia.org.au

3 A SNAPSHOT OF OUR SERVICES



MY HOME: In 2015, Achieve was a successful respondent of the NDS funded Social Impact Measurement Tool (SIMT) which was developed to better capture real outcomes and benefits realised by people we support.

Achieve has rolled out staff training and implementation of the SIMT in trial sites across New South Wales as well as parts of our accommodation and Community Living sites.

To know more about our My Home services go to achieveaustralia.org.au/achieve-support-services/live-independently



MY LIFE: To assist people to live the life of their choice, Achieve's 'My Life' service offers a range of options to suit their goals, aspirations and desires.

Based on their talents, hobbies, interests and social connections they wish to be part of, Achieve will work and explore a range of activities and supports to help them achieve more daily.

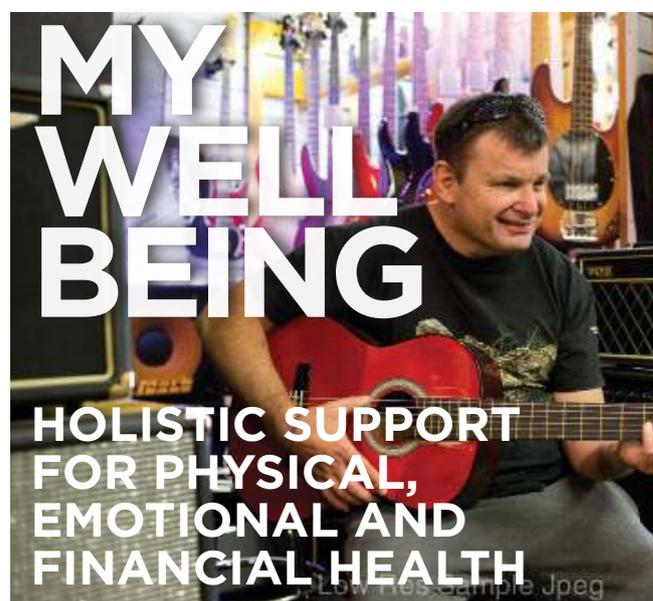
For more information about My Life services, head to achieveaustralia.org.au/achieve-support-services/learn-participate



MY WELLBEING: A person's wellbeing is enhanced when they lead a healthy lifestyle, have a strong sense of belonging and connectedness to their community and also have the ability to contribute to these communities.

To help a person live a quality life, Achieve's 'My Wellbeing' service focusses on providing holistic lifestyle support for the critical aspects of life; physical, emotional and financial wellbeing, making sure the person is always at the centre of any decision making process.

They will be assisted by our dedicated and qualified team of practitioners, who will regularly monitor and manage each person's ongoing wellbeing.





NDIS READINESS

Over the last few months, Achieve has been working with staff, people we support and families on a one to one basis to assist people to get a better understanding of the NDIS, and to identify the types of assistance that are offered under the scheme.

Now registered as an NDIS Provider in the Hunter Valley Trial site, Achieve has taken a tremendous leap forward beyond the Sydney area.

Our initial services will include assistance with daily life at home, in the community, education and at work, including transport to access daily activities.

For FAQs have a look at our website achieveaustralia.org.au/ndis/ndis-faqs and more information about key locations in the NDIS roll out, please visit achieveaustralia.org.au/ndis/ndis-roll

FABRIC, NEEDLECRAFT AND MORE... AND MORE ON SUNDAYS ...

Fabric, Needlecraft and More has come a long way in a short time. In the last 30 months it has made a whopping \$250,000 in revenue!

Such is the groundswell of enthusiastic shoppers, we have extended our opening days to include every third Sunday of the month from 9am to 2pm.

A big thank you to all our passionate and dedicated volunteers who enable the shop to operate these extra days.

We would also like to thank the donors of the products we sell. Everything we sell is donated

and the heartfelt stories that go with the donations are an ever present inspiration for our volunteers.

All funds raised from the shop provide additional supports for community participation and help projects such as Platinum level accessible homes in community living as well as provide real jobs for those with a disability.



ONWARD AND UPWARD

Achieve Australia's new apartments at the Crowle site at Belmore St, Ryde are progressing well. Construction of the complex is running ahead of schedule and as you may know, Achieve is the owner of 22 of these apartments.

Achieve's intention is to provide future apartment living opportunities for people who require support in order to live in the community.

The apartments are being purpose-built to a very

high standard including widened doorways and passages, ramps, specially fitted bathrooms, designed with the future in mind. There is sufficient flexibility in bedroom configurations to allow differing living arrangements.

Such a wonderful living environment will provide opportunities for people to exercise choice and control and to live as independently as possible. We believe that this opportunity is unique, setting a new benchmark in future apartment living for people with a disability.

The photograph here, taken in early January shows the scaffolding and covering of one of the southern buildings. This building is at its full height and work on the interior continues at a fast pace. We are sure you will be excited to see this development project coming to fruition.

OUR OFFICES

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