



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR RELEASE:** Thursday 1 December 2016

### **Kempsey Regional Support Integrates with Ability Options**

Leading National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provider Ability Options has announced Kempsey Regional Support (KRS) has integrated with its organisation.

CEO of Ability Options Mr Fred Van Steel confirmed the integration following a meeting with the Kempsey Regional Support Committee and Members in Kempsey.

The Mid North Coast will transition to the NDIS from July 1, 2017 with an estimated 5,800 people in the area to be accessing their supports through the NDIS by 30 June 2019. This figure includes an estimated 2,700 eligible participants who will be new to funding.

The NDIS gives people with disability, their families and carers a chance to advocate for supports that are aligned with their goals, offering people with disability choice and control over their supports

Mr. Gary Phillips, Manager Kempsey Regional Support, welcomed the integration into Ability Options. "Our integration with Ability Options will allow Kempsey Regional Support to tap into Ability Options proven NDIS experience and vast resources allowing for the uptake of new ideas, technology, reporting and the eventual expansion of our services to the local community."

"The landscape of the disability sector is changing dramatically and the integration will ensure that Kempsey Regional Support is ready to support Participants through the transition to the new NDIS funding model as seamlessly as possible."

Mr. Fred Van Steel, CEO of Ability Options said " Our extensive experience of working with the NDIS in the Hunter, Nepean Blue Mountains trial sites and now the new districts across the Greater Western Sydney area, where we support close to 800 participants, has proven that the NDIS is life changing for people living with disability and their families."

"The support we are offering people under the NDIS is already having a positive impact on peoples' lives and we look forward to sharing our person centred approach to disability support with Kempsey Regional Supports and their Participants." concluded Mr Van Steel.

Under the integration, Kempsey Regional Support will continue to offer the full range of services currently accessed by over 300 local people in Kempsey and surrounding areas and will also retain its much respected brand identity.

Kempsey Regional Support has also relocated to new offices and has a new address and phone number:

Address: 72 – 74 Elbow Street, West Kempsey 2440.

Phone Number: 02 6561 8300

Web: [www.krs.org.au](http://www.krs.org.au)

Email: [info@krs.org.au](mailto:info@krs.org.au)

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### **About Ability Options**

Ability Options have been supporting people with disability who need assistance to achieve their aspirations and inclusion in the community for 40 years. Ability Options are an experienced provider assisting participants with tailored services through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and have been leaders in the NSW Hunter Nepean Blue Mountains trials site and more recently in the Greater Sydney Districts since the rollout in July 2016.

With more than 900 employees, Ability Options provide a variety of services from 25 sites across NSW, supporting people in the home and in the community, in education, with allied health, supported and independent living. Ability Options assist people to find the job that's right for them, through the Australian Government's jobactive scheme as well as the Disability Employment Scheme (DES).

Ability Options is a strong supporter of the NDIS and are behind its full implementation. We stand firm behind its principles of increasing independence, choice and control, improving social and economic participation and making a real and profound difference in people's lives.

[abilityoptions.org.au](http://abilityoptions.org.au)

### **About Kempsey Regional Support**

Kempsey Regional Support is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation offering a range of flexible support solutions to suit the individual needs of people with a disability and their families/carers. Their support options give children and adults living with disability access to different and interesting opportunities and activities throughout the Kempsey Macleay and surrounding areas.

[krs.org.au](http://krs.org.au)

### **What is the NDIS?**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides individual support for people living with disability, their families and carers.

The NDIS means people can work on different goals throughout their life to assist them to be independent by providing eligible people a flexible, whole-of-life approach to the support needed to pursue their goals and aspirations and participate in daily life.

[ndis.gov.au](http://ndis.gov.au)