



National Disability Coordination Officer Program
AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Pathways and Connections

Hunter-Central Coast

*A transition resource for services
and students-people with disability*



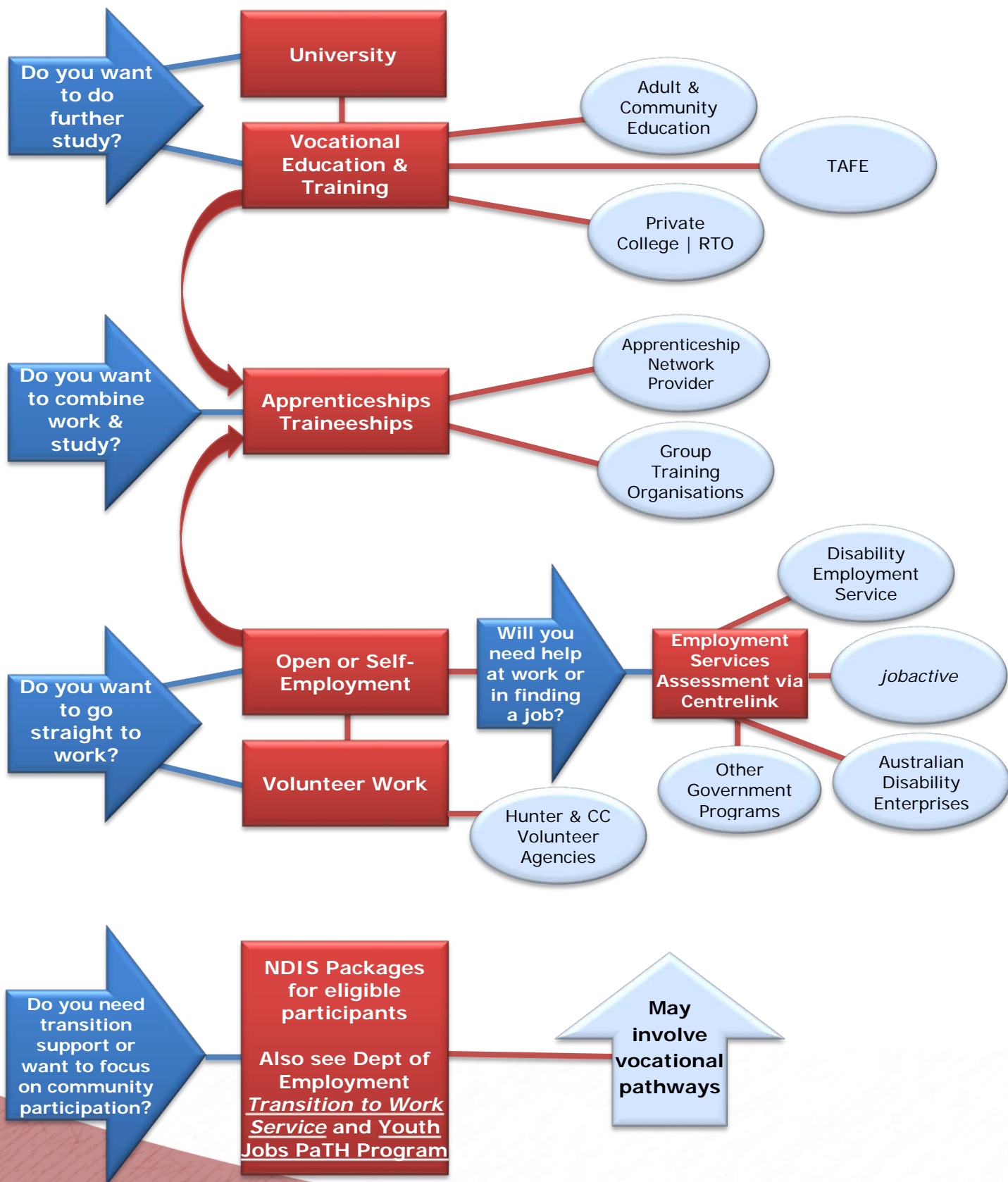
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THE PATHWAYS – LIFE AFTER SCHOOL

There are a number of pathways that students with disability can consider when planning their life after school. For people with disability in the community seeking to move forward, the pathways are similar apart from day programs for Year 12 school leavers in areas where the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is yet to rollout. For those eligible for the NDIS, following the full roll out in mid-2016 to the rest of our region, there may be additional assistance when transitioning. (More on [NDIS page 12](#)).



SUPPORT AND RESOURCES IN THE MOVE FORWARD

PEOPLE TO SPEAK WITH IN THE SCHOOL, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, AND HIGHER EDUCATION SECTORS

SCHOOLS

Staff to speak with... there are differences between the Government, Catholic and Independent school sectors but there are staff in each to assist students with disability and their transition planning post school. Students will generally be linked with this service in Years 10, 11 and 12. You can also speak with Careers Advisers and Year Advisers.

Government Schools - Support Teachers Transition www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport		
<p>Tom Davison Based at Newcastle Senior School ☎ 4985 3122 F: 4985 3121 ✉ Tom.Davison@det.nsw.edu.au</p>	<p>Lake Macquarie Area: Belmont HS Cardiff HS Glendale Tech HS Hunter Sports HS Lakeside SSP Wakefield School SSP Warners Bay HS West Wallsend HS Whitebridge HS</p>	<p>Newcastle Area: Kotara HS Lambton HS Merewether HS Newcastle HS + Laman Street Campus Newcastle Middle School SSP Newcastle Senior School SSP</p>
<p>Gayl Chappell Based at Callaghan College (Waratah Campus) ☎ 4968 1939 ✉ gayl.chappell@det.nsw.edu.au</p>	<p>Port Stephens Area: Irrawang HS Hunter River HS + Tutorial Centre Tomaree HS</p>	<p>Newcastle Area: CC Waratah Campus Hunter School Performing Arts CC Jesmond Campus CC Wallsend Campus</p>
<p>David Nevins Based at Hunter River Community School ☎ 4933 5844 F: 4933 5557 ✉ david.nevins@det.nsw.edu.au</p>	<p>Maitland Area: Dungog Francis Greenway HS Kurri Kurri HS Maitland HS Maitland Grossman HS Hunter River Community School Rutherford HS</p>	<p>Other: Muswellbrook Area Singleton HS Muswellbrook HS Scone HS Merriwa CS Mt View HS Cessnock HS</p>
<p>Bronwyn Flanagan Based at Glenvale SSP ☎ 4325 0792 ✉ BRONWYN.CARBERRY@det.nsw.edu.au</p>	<p>Central Coast Area: Henry Kendall HS Terrigal HS Gosford HS North Gosford Learning Centre Lisarow HS BWSC Umina BWSC Woy Woy</p>	<p>Kincumber HS Narara Valley HS Erina HS TLSC The Entrance TLSC Tumby Umbi Glenvale School Narara Glenvale School Nth Entrance Kariong Heights</p>
<p>Tracey Scheitel Based at Lake Munmorah HS ☎ 4358 1411 Ext 119 F: 4358 1433 ✉ Tracey.Scheitel@det.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Lake Macquarie HS Morisset HS Swansea HS Toronto HS TLSC Berkley Vale Five Islands School</p>	<p>Wyong HS Northlakes HS Gorokan HS Lake Munmorah HS Wadalba Community School Hopetown School</p>
<p>Denise Cobourn Based at Hastings Secondary College (Westport Campus), Port Macquarie ☎ 6584 3527 F: 6584 0335 ✉ Denise.Cobourn@det.nsw.edu.au</p>	<p>North Coast (Foster-Taree-Port Macquarie) Areas: Kempsey Melville Hastings Secondary College (Westport), Port Macquarie Wingham</p>	
<p>Chris McGill (Relieving) Based at Great Lakes College – Tuncurry ☎ 6555 0500 ✉ christopher.mcgill@det.nsw.edu.au</p>	<p>Great Lakes College - Forster and Tuncurry Campuses</p>	<p>Bulahdelah Taree</p>

Catholic Sector	More Information
Things work differently across school sectors, but there will be someone who can assist with transitional arrangements for students with disability. Your school may also have its own website to help you understand the supports that can be offered	Maitland-Newcastle Diocese (includes Taree) Kathy Gillespie ☎ 4979 1226 📧 www.mn.catholic.edu.au Broken Bay Diocese Valerie Button ☎ 9847 0382 📧 www.dbb.org.au NSW Catholic Education Office ☎ 02 9287 1555 📧 www.cecnsw.catholic.edu.au
Independent Sector	More Information
Each school will probably have its own website with information about the supports offered to students with disability	Association of Independent Schools 📧 www.aisnsw.edu.au ☎ 02 9299 2845
All Sectors	More Information
NDCO Program - can assist staff, students, families-carers with transition information, resources (such as this book!), and organises transition events	National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) Hunter-Central Coast ☎ 0438 218848 ✉ kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au 📧 www.newcastle.edu.au/ndco

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

Alternative schools offer students an opportunity to start afresh in a more supportive environment than is usually offered in traditional schools. These are independent schools, and each website has additional details.

Hunter	
ALESCO Learning Centre (WEA Hunter) 📧 www.weahunter.edu.au/alesco-senior-college	Enquiries about WEA Hunter courses or programs... ☎ 4925 4200 ✉ alesco@weahunter.edu.au
D.A.L.E. Christian School 📧 www.spcc.nsw.edu.au ✉ dale.program@spcc.nsw.edu.au	<i>Newcastle</i> 98 Georgetown Road, Waratah, 2298 ☎ 4949 2929 <i>Cessnock</i> Within St Philip's Christian College Lomas Lane, Nulkaba, 2325 ☎ 4991 3855
Young Parents' School 4949 2949 Newcastle	Within St Philip's Christian College Lomas Lane, Nulkaba, 2325 ☎ 4991 3855
Margaret Jurd Learning Centre 📧 http://mjc.nsw.edu.au	272 Sandgate Rd, Shortland, 2307 ☎ 4951 7345 ✉ enquiries@mjc.nsw.edu.au
Central Coast	
ET Australia Secondary College 📧 http://etaustralia.com/secondary-college	123 Donnison Street, Gosford, 2250 ☎ 4323 1233 ✉ email@etaustralia.com
D.A.L.E. Christian School 📧 www.spcc.nsw.edu.au Young Parents' School 4949 2949 Wyong	Within St Philip's Christian College 20 Narara Creek Road, Narara, 2250 ☎ 4331 4400 ✉ dale.program@spcc.nsw.edu.au
Eagle Arts & Vocational College	22 Kincumber Street, Kincumber, 2251 ☎ 0455 195920 ✉ eagleartsandvocationalcollege@gmail.com
NG Central (at Youth Connections) 📧 www.youthconnections.com.au/NGC	Gosford - contact Andrea ☎ 4346 1111 or ✉ andrea@youthconnections.com.au
TLK Alesco School 📧 http://tkalesco.nsw.edu.au	Old School Place Via 80 Shannon Parade, Berkeley Vale ☎ 4388 1384 ✉ info@tkalesco.new.edu.au

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

TAFE

INSTITUTE	CONTACT More information page 15
Hunter-Central Coast TAFE Hunter Institute Disability Teacher Consultants ☎ 4923 7450	Disability Support Service: www.hunter.tafensw.edu.au/services%20and%20facilities/pages/disability-services.aspx Institute Website: www.hunter.tafensw.edu.au
North Coast TAFE North Coast Institute Taree Campus Disability Teacher Consultant ☎ 6591 3645	Rhonda Ebeling ✉ rhonda.ebeling@tafensw.edu.au Disability Support Service: www.northcoasttafe.edu.au/student-support/student-services/disability-support-services.aspx Institute website: www.nci.tafensw.edu.au

ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION (ACE)

Community College	Phone ☎	Email ✉	Location
Central Coast Community College	4348 4300	info@cccc.nsw.edu.au	Central Coast Campus Shirley Street, Ourimbah, 2258
Singleton Community College Inc	6572 4029	acescc@bigpond.net.au	83-87 York Street, Singleton, 2330
Skillslink Training	6583 7288	skillslink@skillslinktraining.com.au	77 Hastings River Drive Port Macquarie, 2444
Tomaree Community College Inc	4984 1011	tom.ace@hunterlink.net.au	17 Government Road Nelson Bay, 2315
Tuggerah Lakes Community College	4353 0017	info@tlkcc.com.au	Shannon Parade Berkeley Vale, 2261
Workers' Educational Association - Coast	6554 9215	enquiries@weacoast.edu.au	Cnr Manning & Lakes Streets Tuncurry, 2428
Workers' Educational Association - Hunter Ltd	4925 4200	enrolments@weahunter.edu.au	150 King Street Newcastle, 2300

More information (02) 9666 8549 or www.cca.edu.au

NSW providers www.training.nsw.gov.au/forms_documents/ace/provider_contact_list.pdf

UNIVERSITY STAFF

Universities have Advisers to assist prospective and current university students with disability. Most universities require you to make an appointment with an Adviser before you commence so that any necessary adjustments and support can be discussed. [More information page 16](#)

Link with staff at universities in NSW and other States

www.adcet.edu.au/students-with-disability/current-students/disability-services-university

University of Newcastle (UON)

✉ student-disability@newcastle.edu.au | ☎ 4921 5766 | www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

Charles Sturt University (CSU) | ✉ disability@csu.edu.au | ☎ (02) 6933 2987 or 6338 4531

Southern Cross University (SCU) | ✉ disability@scu.edu.au | ☎ (02) 6620 3943

University of New England (UNE) | une.edu.au/disability-support | ☎ (02) 6773 2897



EMAIL LISTS TO STAY IN THE LOOP!

- **MovingOn e-list** for students and families... general information about events, resources, news
- **Regional Email Lists for Staff...** disability-education-employment issues and to stay in the loop with regional events, networks, training and resources

To subscribe to these lists go to www.newcastle.edu.au/ndco and click on "Receive Email Updates" tab on the right

or ✉ kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au

NETWORKS

- **Students, families-carers** – [Community Disability Alliance Hunter](#) and others on [page 37](#)
- **Staff** – School Leaver Networks and Disability Employment Advisory Groups in the Hunter, Central Coast – contact [NDCO](#) for more information kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au

SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Hunter-Central Coast School Leaver Expos Facebook page** to keep in the loop with transition issues all year round www.facebook.com/hccexpos
- **NDCO Program** (transition to study & work) www.facebook.com/ndconewcastle | North Coast www.facebook.com/ndconc | NDCO online newsletter www.scoop.it/t/all-things-ndco
- Most providers have a social media presence – search for them online

EVENTS

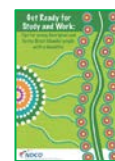
- **Hunter and Central Coast School Leaver Expos for Students with Disability** – [annual events](#)
- **Enhancing the Links Seminars** – all the [information](#) you need to plan life after school with disability

Contact the NDCO Program

☎ 0438 218848
✉ kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au
North Coast Events
cynthia.fitzpatrick@newcastle.edu.au

DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES INCLUDING TRANSITION WORKBOOKS

- **Get Ready for Study and Work With Disability** Workbook – student, parent, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander versions www.westernsydney.edu.au/ndco/getreadytoptips
- **Create Your Future...** this NDCO film resource includes short personal stories of people with various disabilities moving through the stages of transition and participation in post-secondary education and employment. Available online <https://vimeo.com/ndcoprogramme> or DVDs available for staff from [NDCO](#) kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au
- **What's the difference between high school and post-secondary education and training?** www.adcet.edu.au/resource/4896/whats-the-difference-school-vs-vocational-ed-and-training
- **How to Transition to Tertiary Study: Helpful Hints for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder** www.adcet.edu.au/students-with-disability/autism-transition
- **Your Right to an Education: A guide for educators and people with disability** Provides information to students-families about how the Disability Standards for Education may affect them www.ddaedustandards.info/PDF/DDA%20e-booklet.pdf
- **For Staff... Building Confidence in Enrolling Learners with Disability.** A guide for education-training providers to assist them support students with disability through the training pathways, course selection, & individual education planning process. ACPET-NDCO resource www.acpet.edu.au/uploads/files/NDCO%20Booklet%20%20copy.pdf



WEBSITES

- **Get Ready for Uni** website for students with disability
📄 www.westernsydney.edu.au/ndco/getready
- **Get Ready for Study & Work** has information on post-school options available to people with disability, reasonable adjustments for study and work, disclosure, links to many other resources
📄 www.westernsydney.edu.au/getreadyforstudyandwork
- **LaunchPad** - Aspect website created as a transition resource for young people with autism or Asperger's and their families 📄 www.autismlaunchpad.org.au
- **Surviving Year 12** 📄 www.youthbeyondblue.com/do-something-about-it/surviving-year-12
- **What's Uni Like** is an online course helping people answer questions: Is university for me? What should I expect at university? What academic skills will I need?
📄 www.whats-uni-like.edu.au
- **Campus Quest** is a game designed to help people understand and prepare for life at uni
📄 <https://campusquest.com.au>
- **My Big Tomorrow** - a UON career information website 📄 www.mybigtomorrow.com.au
- **JobAccess** for people with disability, employers, co-workers and service providers to get advice and resources for employing people with disability | 1800 464800 | 📄 www.jobaccess.gov.au
- **Education to Employment** – for graduating university students with disability
📄 www.westernsydney.edu.au/educationtoemployment
- **Choosing Your Path: Disclosure, It's a Personal Decision**
A website for people with disability, employers, and educators that explores when to disclose about your disability 📄 www.westernsydney.edu.au/ndco/disclosure
- **For Staff... NDCO Indigenous Awareness Project** - website supporting the needs of services to better understand the culture and customs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly around the subject of disability 📄 www.ndcoaware.net
- **Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education & Training (ADCET)** – information for staff working in the education sector and students moving to training or higher education. Certainly worth a look! 📄 www.adcet.edu.au

DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING – FREE ONLINE

Developed as part of the Australian Government's [National Disability Coordination Officer](#) (NDCO) Program, this Disability Awareness Training is **the only eLearning training freely available in Australia**. Its content is ideal for someone who has minimal or no knowledge of disability, and can be used as a refresher course to be applied across the workplace and the community. It's a self-paced introduction to disability and inclusive practices 📄 www.disabilityawareness.com.au

GET INVOLVED AND SUPPORT OUR SECTOR

Support the Supporters Campaign... Hunter and Central Coast Staff, Services and the Community giving our business to those who provide training and employment opportunities for students and people with disability – let's create jobs for the people we support by spending where it counts! JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN! An initiative of the NDCO Program and Hunter and Central Coast Disability Employment Advisory Groups
Contact: Kay Dean, NDCO Hunter-Central Coast | 0438 218848 | kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au
Facebook Campaign: www.facebook.com/SupportTheSupportersNSW

TRANSITION PROGRAMS

NATIONAL DISABILITY COORDINATION OFFICER PROGRAM (NDCO)

The Australian Government's National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) Program works strategically to assist people with disability access and participate in tertiary education and subsequent employment, through a national network of regionally based NDCOs.

NDCOs work with stakeholders at the local level to reduce systemic barriers, facilitate smooth transitions, build links, and coordinate services between the education, training and employment sectors. The NDCO Program adopts the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) definition of disability.


The objectives of the NDCO Program... along with preparing this book for you!

- improve linkages between schools, tertiary education providers, employment service providers and providers of disability programs and assistance at all government levels;
- improve transitions for people with disability between school/community and tertiary education, and then to subsequent employment; and
- improve participation by people with disability in tertiary education and subsequent employment

Your NDCO can link you with local services in the tertiary education and employment sectors, let you know about upcoming career events and expos, provide information and referrals, provide professional development about rights and support in tertiary education and work, and much more. To find NDCOs in other areas around Australia go to www.education.gov.au/ndcoprogramme.

There are 31 NDCOS based across every region in Australia. These are your local NDCOs

Hosted by University of Newcastle

NDCO Hunter-Central Coast Callaghan Campus	NDCO North Coast Port Macquarie Campus
 0438 218848	 0428 394125
 kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au	 cynthia.fitzpatrick@newcastle.edu.au
 www.newcastle.edu.au/ndco	 www.newcastle.edu.au/ndco
 www.facebook.com/ndconewcastle	 www.facebook.com/ndconc



NSW NDCOS

TRANSITION SUMMARY

Planning

- Start Planning from Year 9 - there are lots of ways to find out what's happening so you can plan ahead really well!
- All the pathway choices and links are included in this book!

Who to Talk to

- There are lots of services/people who can provide information about what's out there after school - have a look at pages 5-7

Events

- There are transition Expos and Seminars you can attend to learn more details about what's available - see page 8

Staying in the Loop

- There are email lists and online newsletters
- Networks for staff, and seminars, workshops and information cafes for students and families-carers
- Social media more your thing?
- Have a look at page 8 for these links

Resources

- See pages 8-9 for links to websites and downloadable transition workbooks

SUPPORT FOR YOUR DISABILITY

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing individualised support for eligible people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers. The NDIS trial has commenced in the Hunter area for people aged up to 65 years, and will rollout progressively to the rest of the Hunter-New England and Central Coast regions from July 2016.

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE AGENCY (NDIA) (ADMINISTER NDIS)

Many participants will move to the NDIS with the support of their current disability service when it's their turn to "transfer in", but if you need help or you're new to support, staff at NDIA reception can assist with enquiries and forms (you can also examine your eligibility on the [NDIS Checklist](http://ndis.nsw.gov.au/ready-for-ndis/checklist) <http://ndis.nsw.gov.au/ready-for-ndis/checklist>).

The NDIA holds regular community and provider forums which are listed on the *NSW Events Page* <http://ndis.nsw.gov.au/events> and on the national website www.ndis.gov.au/news/events/nsw. They may also offer some pre-planning workshops – ask your Planner or Local Area Coordinator (who you will be linked with) for more details when you receive news about your Eligibility.

NDIS Living My Plan Videos

- Part 1 view on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_HWADP5Uas
- Part 2 view on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOxwsa0Oqkw



Contact

☎ 1800 800 110 | Offices: 1 Hilltop Plaza, Charlestown, 14 Auckland Street, Newcastle, 280 Mann Street, Gosford | 🌐 www.ndis.gov.au | 🌐 NSW NDIS website <http://ndis.nsw.gov.au> | Events <http://ndis.nsw.gov.au/events> | Facebook www.facebook.com/NDISAus

NDIS – THE PLANNING PROCESS

Resources including a planning process page and links, videos, and fact sheets have been developed to help you identify your needs, goals and current supports. The NDIA also offers pre-planning workshops and community forums (listed on their event pages above). There is also support from other Agencies listed in the following section.

- 🌐 **NDIS Ready** webpage www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-ready link to the resource *My NDIS Pathway – a guide to being an NDIS participant*
- 🌐 **The Planning Process** www.ndis.gov.au/participants/planning-process
- 🌐 **Videos** www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/videos-and-stories/videos
- 🌐 **Factsheets** www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/fact-sheets-and-publications

SCHOOL LEAVER EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS (SLES)

You may have heard of School Leaver Employment Supports (SLES)? SLES is a new reasonable and necessary support for Year 12 school leavers, to assist them transition from school and into employment. Supports may include work experience generally in open employment, job site training, travel training, and activities that contribute to achieving an employment outcome and linkages to ongoing employment support. Ask your Planner or school if you may be eligible. In the Hunter-Central Coast you can contact NDIA staff if you have any questions regarding SLES funding

☎ Liz Anderson 0475 830688

🌐 www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/sles

SUPPORT FOR THE NDIS PROCESS FROM OTHER AGENCIES

If you're already linked to a service, don't forget to ask them for advice about the process

Organisation	Contact Details
MyChoice Matters <i>They have workshops and an infoline</i>	My Choice Matters brings people together to share their experiences and collect ideas and information that everyone can use. ☎ 1800 144 653 📧 info@mychoicematters.org.au 🌐 www.mychoicematters.org.au FB www.facebook.com/mychoicematters
Community Disability Alliance Hunter (CDAH) <i>They have Planning Cafes and Seminars</i>	User led disability support organisation, run by and for people with disability and their families. ☎/SMS 0490 053 454 📧 info@cdah.org.au 🌐 www.cdah.org.au FB www.facebook.com/cdah.org.au
Ability Links <i>Phone for advice and links to support...</i>	Ability Links aims to assist people with disability to be valued & equal members of their communities and to help build a society where people with disability enjoy inclusive lives in all spheres. ☎ 4905 0700 (Hunter area) or 4326 0400 (Central Coast area) 📧 ability.links@vinnies.org.au

ABILITY LINKS

Ability Links NSW (ALNSW) supports people with disability, their families-carers as a part of the ongoing reforms of the disability services system in NSW. It provides people with a locally based first point of contact to support people to access supports and services in their local communities. In the Hunter and Central Coast Regions St Vincent de Paul has the contract to deliver the service. **For more information** ☎ 4905 0700 🌐 NSW Website www.abilitylinksnsw.org.au

AGENCY FOR CLINICAL INNOVATION TRANSITION CARE NETWORK

NSW Health Transition Care Coordinators assist young people with chronic medical conditions and their carers as they move from children's health services to adult health services because of age. This statewide service offers assistance and support to find, link and navigate adult health services.

Contact: Northern NSW Angie Myles, Transition Care Coordinator
 📧 Angela.Myles@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au | ☎ 4936 6678 | M: 0434 361202
 🌐 www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au – transition care resources including factsheets

INCOME SUPPORT

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (CENTRELINK)

Centrelink delivers a range of services to the Australian community and is the gateway for people seeking access to Australian Government income support. Payments and services may be provided to help you if you have an illness, injury or a disability that means you cannot work, or can only do a limited amount of work. Centrelink is also responsible for the registration and referral of job seekers to employment and related services. Centrelink has trained Senior Customer Service Advisers that can help individuals with disability find the service that best suits their needs.

More information: 🌐 www.humanservices.gov.au ☎ Service Officer 132 850

THE PATHWAYS – WHAT'S OUT THERE?

TRAINING

UNIQUE STUDENT IDENTIFIER – ALL TRAINING STUDENTS NEED THIS!

Every year, an estimated three million Australians build their skills by undertaking nationally recognised training. All students doing nationally recognised training need to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI). This includes students doing Vocational Education Training (VET) in schools.

A USI is a reference number made up of numbers and letters. Creating a USI is free. It creates a secure online record of your nationally recognised training that you can access anytime and anywhere, and it's yours for life.

The USI is linked to the National Vocational Education and Training (VET) Data Collection, and this means an individual's nationally recognised training and qualifications gained anywhere in Australia, from different training organisations, will be kept all together.

The USI will:

- link a student's VET achievements, regardless of where in Australia they did the course
- let students easily access secure digital transcripts of their achievements (transcripts will be available from April 2016)
- give students more control over their VET information

More information

www.usi.gov.au | Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/OHXEjWiZo5s>

TRAINING SERVICES NSW (PREVIOUSLY STATE TRAINING SERVICES) - VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Vocational Education and Training (VET) is that part of tertiary education and training which provides accredited training in job related and technical skills. It covers a large number of careers and industries like trades and office work, retail, hospitality and technology. Training Services NSW funds and oversees the new Smart and Skilled model.

Qualifications range from certificate II to certificate IV, and diploma and advanced diploma. Individuals can be trained in part qualifications or 'skills sets'.



More information

www.training.nsw.gov.au

TAFE

Under *Smart and Skilled* the NSW Government is targeting funding towards skills that are needed for jobs and economic growth [📄 https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au](https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au)

Each year the **Skills List** – online page www.training.nsw.gov.au/smartandskilled/nsw_skills_list.html - sets out priority areas for training. The qualifications on this list will receive government subsidies to make sure training priorities match the needs of the economy. This list includes qualifications that will attract a government subsidy that year plus their prices and fees.



The Skills List is reviewed annually and covers:

- Certificate II to Advanced Diploma qualifications
- Select Foundation Skills courses
- All apprenticeships and selected traineeships
- Part-qualifications for key groups and sectors

TAFE Disability Teacher Consultants

Teacher/Consultants provide a range of services to assist students. These include pre-course counselling and assistance with the enrolment process for those training at TAFE, as well as determining the most appropriate classroom support and assessment modifications. A range of strategies can be employed and may involve tutorial support, the use of assistive technology, a sign language interpreter, note-taker, or disability assistant.

Before enrolling in a course be sure to contact a Teacher Consultant who will be able to guide you through the process, discuss what exemptions you are entitled to, and put appropriate supports in place. [See page 7 for contact details.](#)

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Community Colleges are providers of quality education and training. General and vocational courses reflect the needs of local individuals, community groups and businesses. Community involvement often extends to specialist programs, such as youth programs and literacy, and the provision of a meeting place for a cross section of local groups.

To find Community College near you [📄 www.cca.edu.au](http://www.cca.edu.au) and [additional contact details p 7.](#)

REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS (RTO)

There are many Registered Training Organisations offering a variety of courses across the Hunter-Central Coast. Most of the Disability Services listed on [pages 27-34](#) are also RTOs.

To find an RTO near you go to

To search for a particular course go to

[📄 https://training.gov.au/Search/SearchOrganisation](https://training.gov.au/Search/SearchOrganisation)

[📄 www.myskills.gov.au](http://www.myskills.gov.au)

PREPARATION AND DISABILITY CONTACTS

Prepare early, base your decisions on good information, and plan ahead so that you can organise appropriate disability supports to assist you to be successful in your study. Look at the resources and websites on [page 8-9](#) to assist in this planning.

Universities have Advisers to assist intending and current university students with disability, and require you to make an appointment before you commence so that any necessary adjustments and support can be discussed. Medical documentation will be required to support the reasonable adjustments requested for your disability.



University of Newcastle (UON) Contacts:

✉ student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

☎ 4921 5766

🌐 www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

To find support for students with disability at universities across Australia:

🌐 www.adcet.edu.au/students-with-disability/current-students/disability-services-university

EDUCATIONAL ACCESS SCHEME (EAS)

The Educational Access Scheme (EAS) helps students who have experienced long-term educational disadvantage gain admission to tertiary study. To be eligible for EAS consideration your educational performance must have been seriously affected, normally for a period of at least six months during Year 11 and/or 12 or equivalent, due to circumstances beyond your control including disability.

For more information 🌐 www.uac.edu.au/eas

OTHER UNIVERSITY PATHWAYS/STUDY OPTIONS INCLUDING ENABLING PROGRAMS

If your ATAR was not what you expected, you are from another university, or you haven't studied in a while... there are a range of other entry pathways and options to study at UON.

🌐 www.newcastle.edu.au/future-students/undergraduate-study/other-pathways-and-study-options

STEPPING INTO... INTERNSHIP

Stepping into is a paid internship program designed specifically for university students with disability who want to gain some paid hands-on work experience in their chosen field of study. The [Australian Network on Disability \(AND\)](#) work with their members to identify and provide opportunities for university students with disability to “step into” the workplace to gain exposure to their potential career field, and get involved in projects/work alongside experienced professionals.

For more information 🌐 www.and.org.au or ☎ 02 8270 9200

APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

There are many ways to learn more about Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships and how to find a job. You can contact an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider in your region (called Apprenticeship Network Providers (ANP) – listed below), search advertised job vacancies, contact employers in industries where you would like to work, contact your local Group Training Organisation, Centrelink office, or *jobactive*/Disability Employment Service, discuss Australian Apprenticeships with your careers adviser, or **register on each ANPs Gateway portal**.



More about Australian Apprenticeship Support Network

📄 www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/australian-apprenticeship-support-network

New portals developed as a required service under the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network have great information and can match job seekers to apprenticeships and traineeships. Job seekers should register their information on each Apprenticeship Network Provider's (ANP) portal for the best outcome! For more information... contacts for each ANP are listed. All job seekers and employers are eligible for these free services, which includes mentoring programs with each.

Apprenticeship Support Australia Jeff Cooke 1300 363831	MEGT 136963	Sarina Russo 1300 178776	VERTO Peter Styles 1300 483786
We have a range of online tools to help you plan your career on our free advice portal. You can complete a career quiz, research careers, watch videos, take the Job Fit Test to see if you are a fit for careers of interest, and even build a resume and apply for jobs.	Our Gateway services work to match the right person to the right apprenticeship. It also helps those who may not suit an apprenticeship by giving them information about other alternatives career paths they could follow.	Gateway Services delivers tailored advice and support to eligible Australians interested in Apprenticeships and Traineeships. <i>Gateway for Schools</i> http://sarinarusso.com/apprentices/targeted-support/gateway-for-schools	CareerGate is an online, individualised testing and recruitment service, designed to help you select the apprenticeship, occupation or training pathway that is best suited to you.
www.skillsroad.com.au	https://megt.jobreadygateway.com.au	<i>Gateway Services</i> http://sarinarusso.com/apprentices/targeted-support/gateway-services	https://verto.jobreadygateway.com.au

FUNDING UNDER SMART AND SKILLED

Government funding is available for the formal training component of apprenticeships and most traineeships. Under Smart and Skilled, all apprenticeship and most traineeship qualifications are subsidised. Training for existing-worker trainees is not subsidised. Under Smart and Skilled, NSW apprentices and new-entrant trainees or their employers pay a fee for the qualification rather than paying early or by semester. They may still pay in instalments over a number of years, but the fee is an amount for the qualification, fixed at the time the apprentice or trainee commences.

INDIGENOUS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

Indigenous Apprenticeship Programme has been developed for [Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or both, applicants only](#) (www.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/careers/identifying-as-an-aboriginal-or-torres-strait-islander-person for more details on documentation). Provides a tailored approach to learning, based on academic and cultural requirements. Motivated Indigenous Australians with an interest in contributing to the Australian Public Service should apply.

More information 📄 www.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/careers/indigenous-apprenticeship

SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIPS/APPRENTICESHIPS

School based traineeships/apprenticeships provide students with the opportunity to attain a nationally recognised Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification as well as their Higher School Certificate (HSC) and gain valuable work skills and experience through paid employment. School based traineeships/apprenticeships can commence in Year 10. While studying for their HSC, school-based trainees/apprentices work part-time and undertake their formal (off-the-job) training as part of their HSC.

More information  www.sbatinnsw.info/traineeships.php

SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIAN APPRENTICES WITH DISABILITY (INCLUDING DAAWS)

Australian Apprentices with disability and their employers may be eligible to receive additional assistance under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program. A range of assistance is available to support Australian Apprentices with disability, including **Disabled Australian Apprentice Wage Support** which is paid to employers, and assistance for tutorial, interpreter and mentor services for apprentices. Assistance is also available through the Employment Assistance Fund which helps people with disability and mental health conditions by providing assistance to purchase a range of work related modifications and services. Employers can access the scheme via [JobAccess](#) or through [Disability Employment Services](#) or [jobactive](#). This assistance is intended to help the Australian Apprentice with disability, either directly or indirectly through their employer, to reach their full potential as a skilled worker and to ensure that they are not excluded from participation in the Program.

More info  www.training.nsw.gov.au/businesses/apprenticeships_traineeships/assistance_disabilities

USEFUL APPRENTICESHIP RESOURCES

- Australian Apprenticeships  www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au
- To find your local Apprenticeship Network Provider visit or [see above](#)  www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/search/aacsearch.asp
- Australian Apprenticeships Job Pathways  www.aajobpathways.com.au
- Australian Apprenticeships Training Information Service  www.aatinfo.com.au

OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMS

CAREERPATHWAYS is a partnership between the NSW Department of Industry – Training Services NSW and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services (Housing). It helps social housing clients to develop skills including literacy, numeracy and communication. It also helps participants with the more practical aspects of gaining employment such as dressing for interviews, childcare, and travel.

More information: www.training.nsw.gov.au/careerpathways | ☎ 4974 8535

📧 career.pathways@industry.nsw.gov.au | Facebook www.facebook.com/careerpathwaysnsw

GROUP TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

A Group Training Organisation (GTO) is an organisation established predominately to provide training and employment opportunities. Group training organisations employ apprentices and trainees and are responsible for ensuring that those employees receive suitable training and experience. The Hunter Valley Training Company is a member of many of our regional disability networks www.hvtc.com.au.

More information:  www.grouptraining.com.au

NOT SURE WHICH SERVICE YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR?

If you are a school leaver and NOT in receipt of Disability Support Pension, enrolled in a support class/special school, or attracting additional funding under Integration Funding Support, Centrelink can do an assessment to determine which service may be most suitable for you – *jobactive*, Disability Employment Service, or an Australian Disability Enterprise. Find your nearest Service Centre (Centrelink) <http://findus.humanservices.gov.au>.

If you are a school leaver and fit the above criteria, you will have usually received additional planning support at school to access employment pathways. All school leavers with disability - see information below, including [DES Eligible School Leaver Guidelines](#), for more information.

JOBACTIVE

Find a *jobactive* Provider near you <https://jobsearch.gov.au/serviceproviders>

jobactive is the Australian Government's new employment service, designed to better meet the needs of job seekers and employers and improve job outcomes.

[jobactive website](http://jobactive.gov.au) <http://jobactive.gov.au> | **More information** <https://employment.gov.au/jobactive>

 You can also call the *jobactive* Employment Services Information Line 136268

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (DES)

Find a DES Provider near you <http://jobsearch.gov.au/serviceproviders>

Disability Employment Services (DES) increase the employment participation of job seekers with a disability, injury or health condition. There are **TWO** separate Programs with DES. More information www.employment.gov.au/disability-employment-services-job-seekers-and-employees

DISABILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICE (DMS)

For job seekers with disability, injury or health condition who require the assistance of a Disability Employment Service but are not expected to need long-term support in the workplace.

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SERVICE (ESS)

For job seekers with permanent disability and with an assessed need for more long-term, regular support in the workplace.

ACCESSING DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (ALSO SEE ELIGIBLE SCHOOL LEAVER GUIDELINES BELOW)

- You can register directly with a local Disability Employment Services Provider – find your closest provider through the [Australian JobSearch](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au) website www.jobsearch.gov.au. More information below under "Eligible School Leaver Guidelines" and, if you don't fit any of that criteria, Centrelink can do an assessment to see which service is most suitable for you
- You can call the Employment Services Information Line **DES 132 850**
- You can visit the nearest Service Centre (Centrelink) <http://findus.humanservices.gov.au>

ELIGIBLE SCHOOL LEAVER GUIDELINES

Eligible School Leaver policy applies to both Disability Employment Service (DES) ESS and DMS Programs. There is an expectation that most students will be serviced in ESS, as most will have high ongoing support needs. Students might approach a provider seeking to Directly Register or might become aware of DES because a provider has approached their school. DES providers who are Directly Registering Eligible School Leavers must consider all of the students' circumstances and determine whether DMS or ESS services would better meet the students' needs. Students must be provided with information about various providers and services that are available and given the opportunity to choose a preferred provider. In some cases, if students want to continue with tertiary or other study after they finish school, they may not need a DES.

Documentary Evidence to Support Eligible School Leaver Eligibility

When directly registering a job seeker as an Eligible School Leaver, Disability Employment Service (DES) providers must obtain appropriate documentary evidence to support the job seeker's eligibility. Students must be in their final year of secondary school and receiving the Disability Support Pension or enrolled in a support class/special school or attracting additional funding under Integration Funding Support. Information about the additional educational funding must be obtained from the school principal or his/her representative. Once students leave school it is in their best interest to go to Centrelink who can explain the range of options available, including options around further study or training. Centrelink can also discuss eligibility for income support while studying or looking for work.

AUSTRALIAN DISABILITY ENTERPRISES (ADES)

Australian Disability Enterprises are places of employment that provide support to employees to complete a choice of meaningful work and career paths in a safe work environment. Supported workplaces seek to remove barriers to integration thus enabling people with disability to participate fully in their local community through employment. There are a variety of ADEs operating across NSW providing a variety of tasks and learning opportunities for their employees in a wide range of commercial and industrial operations. ADEs provide a range of employment options to:

- People for whom competitive employment at an award wage in the open labour market is unlikely
- People who, because of their disability, need substantial ongoing support to obtain or retain paid employment

HUNTER

Name	Location	Contact	Overview
Access Industries www.accessindustries.com.au	Hunter Central Coast Sydney	4969 3066	Supported employment in the areas of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber Manufacturing/Pallet Manufacturing • General Packaging & Sewing
Caloola Vocational Services	Cessnock	4990 1213	Supported employment in the areas of grounds maintenance, grapevine pruning, light mine processing work, landscaping & rubbish removal. Some workers are employed in an Enclave in the Retail Industry
Delando Corporation www.delando.org.au	Waratah	4968 1969	Supported employment in lawn maintenance, retail & laundry
Endeavour Group Australia www.endeavourgroup.org.au	Hunter	4990 2600	Supported employment opportunities within their successful social enterprises. These include the Endeavour commercial laundry, wine packaging warehouse & property care team
House With No Steps www.hwns.com.au	Valentine Lambton Warabrook	4941 8100	HWNS offers a wide variety of employment & training programs
Koora Industries www.challengecommunity.org.au/Business-Services/Koora-Industries	Muswellbrook	6543 2222	Produce an array of different styles of pallets made from either hard wood or soft wood depending on our customer requirements. We also produce a wide variety of survey pegs & dunnage blocks with almost any size available

Kurri Contracting Service http://kkcc.com.au/kurri-contracting-service	Kurri Kurri	4937 4555	For 30 years, KCS has provided employment to people with disability who live in the local area. KCS is designed to increase employment options & life skills through ongoing training & support, thereby also providing the community with a professional contract service
The Mai-Wel Group www.maiwel.com.au	Maitland	4932 8599	Offers supported employment including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturing timber products • Packaging, processing, collating & promotional products • Light engineering • Security shredding & paper processing
Witmore Enterprises www.witmore.org.au	Singleton	6572 2578	Have supported employment opportunities in their timber products, ground maintenance crew, & contract services

CENTRAL COAST

Name	Location	Contact	Overview
Fairhaven Services www.fairhavenservices.com.au	Point Clare Tuggerah	4349 5500 enquiries@fairhaven.org.au	Fairhaven operates two social enterprises that provide supported employment & work experience opportunities in the areas of general packaging & warehousing, timber/pallet furniture manufacturing, upcycling of materials
Lasercraft Australia www.lasercraft.com.au	West Gosford	4323 1373	Small manufacturing & packing business

MANNING

Name	Location	Contact	Overview
Valley Industries www.valley-industries.com.au	Taree	6552 8888	Valley Industries has created a range of support & employment opportunities for people with disability

VOLUNTARY WORK/WORK EXPERIENCE

Voluntary work and work experience can be a good way to help you:

- Find out what type of work or course suits you
- Gain experience while you study, are seeking paid employment or exploring a career change
- Gain experience working for causes that you are interested in
- Assist in creating change in areas that are important to you

Voluntary work also provides you with an opportunity to understand what supports and accommodations may be required to support you in an employment setting.

Central Coast Volunteer and Referral Agency	Niagara Park Community Centre, Washington Ave, Niagara Park ☎ 4329 7122 Fax 4329 7188 ✉ volunteer@volunteeringcentralcoast.org.au 💻 www.volunteeringcentralcoast.org.au
Hunter Volunteer Centre	Level 1, 810 Hunter Street, Newcastle West, 2300 ☎ 4940 0077 Fax 4940 0099 ✉ info@huntermvolunteercentre.org.au 💻 www.hvc.org.au
Volunteer Resources and Referral Officer Manning Support Services	78 Wynter Street, Taree, 2430 ☎ 6551 5700 Fax 6551 5700 ✉ reception@mssinc.org.au 💻 www.mssinc.org.au/why-and-how-to-become-a-volunteer.html

OTHER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS, ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES

ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY (AES)

AES is a 100% Indigenous managed, national, not-for-profit Recruitment Company. Being wholly Indigenous gives them the “know how” to match the right career seekers to the right opportunities, and to achieve great retention rates.

More information: 📧 www.aes.org.au | ☎️ (02) 4939 4500 | Fax: (02) 4939 4510

ADULT MIGRANT ENGLISH PROGRAM (AMEP)

The AMEP helps new migrants learn basic English skills that will assist them to successfully and confidently participate socially and economically in Australian society. The AMEP is available to migrants from the family, skilled and humanitarian visa streams and provides up to 510 hours of English language tuition within the first five years of visa commencement or arrival in Australia.

More information: 📧 www.education.gov.au/amep | [Download Factsheet](#) | **Hunter:** Emily Brown, MAX Solutions | 1800 021560 | Mobile: 0437 482712 | ✉️ emily.brown@maxsolutions.edu.au

BUILDING STRONGER FUTURES – EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR YOUTH WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE LOW VISION

An Australian Government and Vision Australia Initiative - if you are blind or have low vision, are aged between 15-24 years inclusive, are not currently in secondary education, and are willing and motivated to gain employment, then this program is for you. To be delivered in various locations across Australia it involves a three week face-to-face interactive skills development program, followed by job placement and problem solving assistance for six months. Individuals may still be able to participate if they are enrolled in tertiary education or involved in employment services.

Expressions of Interest: Belinda Wilson | ✉️ Belinda.wilson@visionaustralia.org | 03 8378 1223

CARECAREERS

Want to work in the Care Sector? Many people with disability find great jobs in our sector. Go to <http://carecareers.com.au> for information, vacancies, and training information!

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (EAF)

EAF gives financial help to eligible people with disability and mental health condition and employers to buy work related modifications and services. EAF is available to people with disability who are about to start a job or who are currently working, as well as people who need help to find and prepare for a job. Also available to people with disability who are self-employed, and jobseekers who need Auslan assistance, or special work equipment to look for and prepare for a job.

More information: 📧 www.jobaccess.gov.au/employment-assistance-fund-eaf

ENABLED EMPLOYMENT – DISABILITY RECRUITMENT SERVICE

This innovative Australian company is changing the way skilled people with disability find meaningful, well paid work. Not a Disability Employment Service provider. Skilled people with disability can search for jobs, and employers can lodge work opportunities.

📧 www.enabledemployment.com | Video on how it works! www.youtube.com/watch?v=33ICP1GSq5U

HUNTER FUTUREPRENEURS

Thinking of starting a business and need some support and guidance? Hunter Futurepreneurs - funded by the Australian Government - can help you. They have the experience and resources to support you at every stage of your entrepreneurial journey, from developing your **new business idea** to ongoing advice and support as you build your enterprise. Our services are absolutely free and include: Help finding and developing **small business ideas**; Business skills development and training; One-on-one advice sessions and workshops; Mentoring and networking support; Ongoing advice and support for your growing business.

More Information: Cheryl Royle | 0407 991277 | 📧 www.hunterfuturepreneurs.com.au

JOB IN JEOPARDY PROGRAM

If you are already working and need assistance to retain your job, you should approach a Disability Employment Services (DES) provider directly. DES can assist you with a [Job in Jeopardy](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/job-jeopardy-assistance) Program www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/job-jeopardy-assistance

JOBACCESS – NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE

JobAccess is an Australian Government initiative to support the employment of people with disability. It's a one-stop information shop providing a free, confidential, national online and telephone service. It has step-by-step guides and checklists on recruitment, job searching, adjusting a workplace, employer incentives, understanding rights and responsibilities at work and much more. *JobAccess* Advisers - a team of professionals who provide free, confidential and expert advice - can answer questions about employment | www.jobaccess.gov.au | 1800 464 800

MAKING EXPERIENCE COUNT – RESOURCE FOR MATURE AGE JOB SEEKERS

www.adcet.edu.au/resource/9250/making-experience-count-personal-stories-of-mature-age-job-seekers-with-disability - an NDCO resource

NATIONAL DISABILITY COORDINATION OFFICER PROGRAM (NDCO)

NDCOs are funded by the Australian Government to assist people with disability access tertiary education and subsequent employment. NDCOs - there are 31 Australia-wide – work regionally to facilitate smooth transitions, build links, and coordinate services between the education, training and employment sectors. They connect people with disability to resources, events, websites, social media, expos and seminars for school leavers. The NDCO also facilitates the Hunter and Central Coast Disability Employment Advisory Groups, and is an active member of several other groups.

Contact: Kay Dean NDCO Hunter-Central Coast | ☎ 0438 218848 | ✉ kay.dean@newcastle.edu.au
🌐 www.newcastle.edu.au/ndco | Facebook www.facebook.com/ndconewcastle

NATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

The National Work Experience Programme is part of *jobactive*. It's a work experience programme which places job ready job seekers in real life work experience placements where they can gain skills, experience & confidence to move from welfare to work while giving back to their community.

More information: 🌐 <https://jobsearch.gov.au/jobseekerinfo/nationalworkexperienceprogramme.aspx>

NEW CAREERS FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

The New Careers for Aboriginal People (NCAP) Program funds organisations to employ and train people as NCAP officers whose role is to assist Aboriginal people into employment and/or training. NCAP officers are Aboriginal people who have the ability to provide training and employment assistance and advice, and are in touch with the needs of Aboriginal communities.

More information: 🌐 www.training.nsw.gov.au/programs_services/funded_other/acp/ncap.html

NEW ENTERPRISE INCENTIVE SCHEME - SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Job seekers who are interested in running a new small business may be eligible to participate in the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS), delivered as part of *jobactive*.

More information: 🌐 www.employment.gov.au/self-employment-new-enterprise-incentive-scheme-neis

PACE MENTORING

The [Australian Network on Disability](http://www.and.org.au) (AND) www.and.org.au is offering students and job seekers the opportunity to be mentored by some of Australia's best and brightest professionals from a range of industries through their PACE Mentoring Program.

Applicants are matched with mentors. The pair meet a minimum of six occasions over the 12 week Program and are encouraged to focus on conversations and activities surrounding: Reviewing resume and cover letters, Mock interviews, Worksite visits, Networking skills, and Building confidence. It's completely free to be involved in the program, and anyone over the age of 18 with disability is eligible to apply for the program.

Further information applications@and.org.au | ☎ 03 9621 2276 to speak to the PACE team

SKILLS FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SEE) - FREE

Looking for a job? SEE will help you learn the skills you need to get the job you want by:

- improving your English, reading and writing skills, and
- improving your maths skills.
- be more confident about doing further study

Do you want to?

- build a better pathway to the job you want?
- improve the skills you already have?
- SEE will help you find a job by improving your skills
- It will also help with everyday tasks, like writing, filling in forms and reading to your child

Quick facts about SEE

- it's free, and you can begin at your own level
- you can learn at your own pace
- you can still look for work or care for your family
- you can study full time, part time or by distance mode
- you can study between 10 and 25 hours a week
- training is based on your future goals
- you can do work experience
- it can help if English is your second language

Is SEE right for me? Are you:

- between 15 and 64 years old?
- registered as a job seeker with the Centrelink?
- not a full time student?
- Contact Centrelink or your local Employment Service Provider to ask if you are eligible for SEE



Target Groups

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- youth
- people with disability
- mature aged people
- job seekers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

More Information: www.education.gov.au/skills-education-and-employment

Central Coast: Sarah Plummer, Work Experience and Community Liaison Officer (SEE Program-Sydney North West), Max Solutions | ☎ 1800 021 560 | Mobile: 0447 150487
Sarah.Plummer@maxsolutions.edu.au | www.maxsolutions.com.au

Hunter: Emily Brown, Work Experience and Community Liaison Officer (SEE and AMEP Hunter Region) MAX Solutions | 1/6 Chapman St, Charlestown NSW 2290 | ☎ 1800 021 560 | Mobile: 0437 482712
emily.brown@maxsolutions.edu.au | www.maxsolutions.com.au

SOLDIER ON – WORKING ALONGSIDE SERVICE PERSONNEL

At Soldier On, we continue to adapt to meet the needs of service personnel and families. This means **providing services for the entire family**, in areas that truly support connection with the greater community, whether participants are still serving or have separated from service. We focus on three key areas - Social activities, **employment and education**, and psychological support. Whether our participants need to access services in one or all three areas, our staff are here to help them connect with others and to secure their futures. There is a job board on the website.

<https://soldieron.org.au> | ☎ 1300 620 380

[Soldier On Newcastle](#) (inside Newcastle Jockey Club), 88 Darling St, Broadmeadow

SUPPORT IN FINDING AND KEEPING A JOB

JobAccess website www.jobaccess.gov.au/people-with-disability

TRANSITION TO WORK SERVICE – NEW

Transition to Work is part of the Australian Government's Youth Employment Strategy.

- **Empowering YOUth Initiative** - support young people at risk of welfare dependency into work by inviting not-for-profit community organisations to put forward proposals for innovative ideas that offer a different approach to those currently available.
- **Engaging Early School Leavers** - strengthens requirements for young job seekers aged 15-21 yrs who haven't completed Yr 12 to continue their education or look for work to receive Youth Allowance.
- **Work for the Dole** - part of *jobactive*, which helps people aged 18 and over gain the skills they need to become work-ready and make a contribution to their local community.
- **National Work Experience Programme** - builds confidence and real life work experience for job seekers and prepare them to meet expectations of employers by undertaking unpaid work experience with businesses, not-for-profit and Government organisations for up to 25 hours per week for a maximum of four weeks per placement.

If you are a young person or a Transition to Work participant, call 1300 854 414 for more information or visit www.employment.gov.au/youth. **Find a provider** <https://jobsearch.gov.au/serviceproviders/search>

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Your employer has an obligation to ensure that you have safe systems of work, safe equipment and proper training. However, you also have an obligation to follow appropriate workplace health and safety procedures. It is important that you follow these procedures, because the last thing you want to do is risk your own health and safety or the safety of your workmates. If you find problems like faulty equipment, slippery floors or a lack of safety gear, tell your employer immediately. You should also tell your employer if you are unhappy with your training and, if nothing happens, see your workplace health and safety representative. If you work through a Group Training Organisation or Labour Hire agency, report your concerns to them as well. If you are a work experience or structured workplace learning student, you should also speak to your teacher or trainer about your concerns.



More Information: SafeWork NSW ☎ 131050 | www.safework.nsw.gov.au | More information at www.talkingsafety.org | www.youthsafe.org. Source: www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/templates-and-guides/best-practice-guides/a-guide-for-young-workers

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM – A NEW NSW INITIATIVE FOR H-CC

Open to young people (15-24) in the Central Coast & Hunter regions of NSW, the Department of Industry's *Smart, Skilled and Hired Youth Employment Program* is designed to help young job seekers enter the workforce. Young people can become work ready or kickstart a fulfilling career by connecting to training, mentoring, work experience placements, & other support to build their skills & experience. To be eligible you must:

- be out of work, or working part time, or working casual hours (less than 28 hours a week) and needing to get more hours or more stable work
- be aged between 15 and 24 at the time you register
- have either finished Year 10 or have turned 17 years old
- not be registered with Commonwealth employment programs like *jobactive*, Transition to Work or PaTH, unless you need support with things like mental health, housing, drug problems or transport to help you get a job
- be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident, humanitarian visa holder (including refugee and humanitarian visa categories) or a New Zealand citizen

Hunter-Central Coast Providers:

- APM Employment Services | More information 1800 276937 | www.apm.net.au
- The Salvation Army Employment Plus | www.employmentplus.com.au/article/smart-skilled-and-hired - to apply contact your local office www.employmentplus.com.au/find-office

YOUTH JOBS PATH – A NEW DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Youth Jobs PaTH is a new, flexible program designed to prepare young people for work. It also encourages employers to trial a young person for a job by offering interns and financial incentives to reduce the cost of recruitment. Youth Jobs PaTH has three elements: Prepare - Trial - Hire.

More information: <https://jobactive.gov.au/path>

DISABILITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

NSW POST SCHOOL PROGRAMS – CHANGES WITH THE NDIS

After school many young people with disability will go directly to employment, vocational education and training, or higher education. In addition to these pathways, the NSW Department of Family & Community Services, Ageing Disability & Homecare (ADHC) provided two Post School Programs for eligible young people with disability - *Transition to Work* and *Community Participation*.

WHAT IS THE NDIS?

The NDIS will replace the state system. The NDIS is a new way of working that provides people with disability with choice and control over their lives and the supports they receive. The NDIS will roll out across NSW between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2018.

WHAT SUPPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNDER THE NDIS?

Under the NDIS, eligible people with disability will have an opportunity to make their own decisions about what supports they need and who provides them. The roll out of the NDIS means that instead of specific programs being run, eligible people with disability - through their plan - will be able to access the reasonable and necessary supports they need in their lives. This means that many of the types of supports and activities that are available from Ageing Disability and Home Care (ADHC) will be available under the NDIS.

If a young person is already receiving disability support from the NSW Government (ADHC) then those current support arrangements will continue until the person can apply to access support under the NDIS. At that point, staff from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) will meet with the person to discuss their ongoing support needs and how these can be met through the NDIS.

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Apart from your school, the National Disability Insurance Agency can be contacted on 1800 800 110. More information is also available on the NDIS website www.ndis.gov.au. If you're not sure whether you are classed as someone currently receiving ADHC supports, or if you have any questions, you can contact the Life Skills and Respite Information line on 1800 761 030.

Checklist for families and carers:

- Detailed information and resources about transition of the NDIS in NSW can be found on the [NSW NDIS website www.ndis.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ndis.nsw.gov.au)
- Ask your current provider to make sure your information is up to date ahead of planning discussions with the National Disability Insurance Agency (if you receive current supports)
- Visit the My Choice Matters website www.mychoicematters.org.au or speak to a family member or carer for help in working out your goals
- If you currently receive disability support services you will be contacted before the rollout in your area

Sourced from

www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/support/learning_new_skills/post_school_programs/2016-school-leavers-and-the-ndis 27 April 2017

EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE MANY CHANGES IN THIS AREA, STUDENTS CAN BE SUPPORTED ALONG THE WAY THROUGH LINKING WITH SERVICES LISTED IN THIS BOOK, ALONG WITH SCHOOL CONTACTS.

POST-SCHOOL SUPPORT AND NDIS PACKAGE PROVIDERS

Hunter Providers			
Name	Location	Contact	Overview
Ability Options www.abilityoptions.org.au	Hunter Central Coast North Coast Sydney	0420 308863	By focusing on the individual, Ability Options enables people with disability to enhance their lifestyle & achieve their goals
breakthru www.breakthru.org.au	Hunter Jillian McColl Customer Serv Officer Tori Delahaye	1800 767212	breakthru is NDIS registered & provides tailored & innovative experiences for all, including young people wanting improved access to the community, inclusion in activities that suit individual preferences, & access to employment opportunities. Offers Support Coordination
Castle Personnel Services www.castlepersonnel.com.au	Central Coast Hunter Maitland Manning	Wendy Jurd-Hill 4926 3700	Castle's Transition program is NDIS ready & provides support to young adults to achieve employment, independence & social participation goals. Castle Personnel continue to be a leading provider of transition services through the delivery of innovative learning programs that focus on individual outcomes
Cerebral Palsy Alliance cpasolutions.org.au	NSW	9413 3400	We service all disabilities not just people with Cerebral Palsy (CP)... in fact, we have less clients with CP
Challenge Community Services www.challengecommunity.org.au	Hunter Upper Hunter Lake Macquarie Central Coast	Enquiries 1800 679129	We support participants with low, moderate & high support needs, across all identified disabilities, from all backgrounds, in single & multiple programs
Coastlink Respite Care www.coastlink.org.au	Central Coast	4355 4701 0419423364	Coastlink provides community access & centre based programs across Central Coast. Individual programs are developed with each person to support them to meet their goals & aspirations through a person centred approach
ConnectAbility Australia www.connectabilityaus.org.au	Hunter	4962 1000	ConnectAbility is a Hunter based disability service providing supports across all Local Government Areas. Working with you ConnectAbility will look at your NDIS support package & find the options that best meet your requirements to enrich your life. Our collaboration & partnerships with community organisations, local businesses & volunteers help us to make your goals a reality. We are an NDIS registered provider & are resourced to provide supports 7 days a week
Disability Services Australia www.dsa.org.au	NSW	1300 325754	We can guide you through your NDIS journey, from the planning & application process, to making your NDIS plan a reality. In the Hunter we provide support to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with an NDIS funding package • People who are not yet in one of the areas eligible to access NDIS funding, but who are able to access other funded disability support services • People who are interested in purchasing our services on a fee for service basis
Endeavour Group Australia www.endeavourgroup.org.au	Hunter	4990 2600	Our vision is to create a community where there are not "people with disability", rather people living with choice, opportunity & a sense of belonging. Endeavour Group offer individuals the ability to select their own pathway using a person-centred approach to support their goals
Essentially Your Choice www.essentiallyyourchoice.com.au	Newcastle/ Hunter Valley info@essentiallyyourchoice.com.au rchoice.com.au	0448 754605	Essentially Your Choice is a registered service provider providing Support Coordination, employment services, behaviour support and group activities. We inspire individuals through choice

Flourish Australia www.flourishaustralia.org.au	NSW SE QLD	1300 779270	Flourish Australia has a long history of supporting people in the community and their own homes who live with mental health issues. Our goal is to encourage people to live a fulfilling life & to reach their goals and potential. We have four years' experience with the NDIS and can support you to both access the scheme and with supports
House With No Steps www.hwns.com.au	Charlestown Lambton Adamstown Edgeworth Maitland	Kathryn Connolly- Reeves 4946 2934 Linden Butler 0418 124056 Chris Lewis 0411 278892	<p>At House With No Steps we're working as a team with the people we support, their families & carers to visualise & reach for the dreams & goals that really mean something to them. If you'd like to learn or try something new, or meet some new people, then joining one of our Community Hubs is a step in the right direction. We know that choice & control are important to you, which is why our service is offered in a variety of ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Disability Enterprises (supported employment) • Flexible Options - overnight stays or longer • Person Centred • Community Inclusion
House With No Steps Employment Supports www.hwns.com.au	Charlestown	Tania Glynn 0458 494068 tglynn@hwns.com.au	We have a long history of successfully assisting people with disability to learn new skills & find sustainable & meaningful employment. Our creative & flexible program is designed to meet your individual needs, & we will work with you to develop your individual vocational plan & support with: Career planning Hands-on training Develop Social & life Skills Job matching Job survival skills Valuable work experience Preparation for the practical aspects of having a job Gym & sporting activities Healthy cooking Budgeting & Travel Training Free Accredited Employability course
Hunter Care Group www.huntercaregroup.org	Hunter	4950 2269	Our vision is to ensure all our clients receive personalised support. By identifying strengths to create equal opportunities in the community, our fundamental approach to building an effective working environment with our clients is our unique "tailored approach". By this, we treat you as an individual & work alongside family & friends to create a plan to support your needs
Interactive Community Care www.iccare.com.au	Hunter & Central Coast	4927 8333	Provides support for people with mental health, intellectual, sensory & physical disabilities. Our mission is to design a service that works best for you by providing assistance when & how you want it. Our team are passionate & committed to supporting people in our community to explore all opportunities
Job Centre Australia Choice and Control Australia http://choiceandcontrolaustralia.com.au	Charlestown	4910 0608	Job Centre Australia's Choice and Control Australia Program runs 4 days a week for eligible school leavers to gain the skills needed for employment and life. We assist clients with independent living skills, social & recreational skills, access to external courses, work experience, job searching, independent goals, art, drama & music workshops, fitness, building and maintenance, gardening, learners training and much more. We conduct individual & group workshops to help our clients achieve their goals. We run fun and varied social and recreational activities, and are a person centred program that works closely with the individual to achieve their hopes and aspirations
Leapfrog Ability www.leapfrog.org.au www.facebook.com/pages/LeapFrog-ability/348366828584287	Greater Hunter and Central Coast (our new office has now opened Wyong)	4979 7777	<p>Leapfrog Ability are specialists in providing services to people living with an Intellectual Disability across the Greater Hunter and Central Coast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDIS Plan Coordination • Speech Therapy • Occupational Therapy • Psychology & Behaviour Support • Physiotherapy • Group Learning Programs

Life Without Barriers www.lwb.org.au	Hunter	4918 6225	We provide quality support that assists people in realising their full potential through empowering approaches that: Promote & support positive relationships, valued roles & inclusive communities; Adapt to people's changing needs; Develop people's skills & abilities; Strengthen families; Enhance decision-making & choice; Focus on health & safety; Develop resilience & independence; Involve service users & their families in the design & review of their supports
Lifestyle Solutions www.lifestylesolutions.org.au www.facebook.com/LifestyleSolutions	Hunter & Central Coast	1800 634748	At Lifestyle Solutions we partner with people to develop support systems which reflect their individuality, interests, vision & culture. We deliver person centred & individualised support that provides choice & voice to every person we have the privilege of supporting. Our unique range of flexible, responsive & high quality supports are designed to achieve positive outcomes that focus on social inclusion, community participation & creating valued roles for the people we support
New Horizons www.newhorizons.net.au	Hunter	4037 0400	Delivering on its promise to <i>'put wellbeing at the centre of everything we do,'</i> New Horizons is an experienced registered NDIS service provider, tailoring services & supports to achieve individual wellbeing needs & goals. Our services under the NDIS include Daily Living Skills, Specialised Supports, Accommodation & Tenancies, Independence, Employment & Education, Cultural & Spiritual, Community & Social, & Physical Wellbeing
New Lake Peer Support www.newlakepeersupport.com.au	Newcastle & Lake Macquarie	4963 6420	New Lake Peer Support is a not for profit organisation that supports people in the Newcastle & Lake Macquarie local government areas. We provide the following: Day Programs, Social & Recreational Access-Community Access, Short Term Accommodation-Respite/Holidays, Personal Care & Supported Living
Northcott www.northcott.com.au	Hunter Central Coast	4935 0400	We work creatively and relentlessly with each customer to unlock, discover and unleash their potential, supporting and empowering them to be the best they can be now and in the future. Our customers are not numbers, they are unique individuals. We personalise our services to each customer's current and future needs and goals, every single one, to ensure their development and growth. As advocates for our customer's inclusion, we empower them with confidence, choice and opportunity so they can live their life, as they choose, in their own way
Options Disability Support www.optionsdisabilitysupport.org.au	Hunter Central Coast	4340 5155	Will work alongside of you to meet your goals. We find creative ways to package supports so that you can develop living skills, have fun, make friends & work towards employment & lifelong learning with industry professionals. Call us to talk about your needs
Response Services www.responseservices.org	Hunter Central Coast	Newcastle Chris Gibson Mark Gibbons 4940 5000 Central Cst Belinda Henry 0478808200	Response aims to be responsive to individual choice & achieve positive outcomes for people with a disability. We assist young adults in making the transition from 'school' to 'adult life' in the areas of employment, independent living & relevant participation within the community. Response is now actively supporting many individuals under the NDIS & continues to service individuals with NDIS funding
Samaritans Foundation www.samaritans.org.au	Newcastle & Hunter	Lauren Fisher-Heslop 0417 047277	Samaritans provide a wide range of services to people in the community including Disability services & Youth services. The Youth Services work with young people & their families around housing & homelessness as well as building relationships, family mediation & reconciliation, group programs & individual programs

Sunnyfield www.sunnyfield.org.au	Hunter Central Coast New England NSW ACT	Client Engagement Team 9412 8676	Enriches the lives of people with disability by creating choice, opportunities & skills for life. We are a leading disability service provider that has supported people with disability & their carers for 64 years & provide trusted, flexible, personalised support services across NSW & the ACT. We actively support & skill people with disability for their daily lives & to achieve their personal goals including working in partnership with families & communities, to facilitate opportunities for true inclusion
Tomaree Accommodation Service (TAS) Inc tasoffice.inc@gmail.com	Salamander Bay-Nelson Bay area	0408 653417	Our mission is to focus on strengths, encourage self-worth, promote individual rights & opportunities for meaningful participation & active inclusion in society. We have an accommodation house for respite & long term care, training in our TAS Stars restaurant, outreach services, day options, supported holidays, brokerage, advocacy, transport, social activities
The Deaf Society www.deafsocietynsw.org.au www.facebook.com/deafsocietynsw	Hunter Central Coast	Newcastle 4929 7494	The Deaf Society works to achieve equity for deaf people. We provide support in the areas of NDIS, employment, education, interpreting, & community services to ensure that deaf, deafblind & hard of hearing people have access to all areas of life on an equal basis with others
The Mai-Wel Group www.maiwel.com.au	Maitland Lower Hunter Cessnock	Intake Team Facilitator 4932 8599	NDIS supports include Working Life, Lifestyle & Leisure, Living Options, Creative Arts. We deliver flexible & innovative solutions to enable people with disability to live the life they choose
Unisson (formerly Sunshine) http://unissondisability.org.au	Sydney Hunter Central Coast	Diana Allen Coordinator Supported Living Hunter 0428 86727	Unisson is one of NSW's leading service providers in the disability sector, supporting children & adults with disability to live a great life. Working together with you & your support networks, we are focused on a flexible approach to discover what's important for you when exploring possibilities to achieve your goals & get the outcomes you are looking for
Youth Connections www.youthconnections.com.au	Newcastle Hunter Central Coast	Kim Moore 0429 210035	Youth Connections is a not-for-profit innovative organisation tailoring support/service to the individual needs. Participants are offered personalised support, choice & flexibility to assist them achieve their individual goals, also enhancing their ability for independent decision making. The supports offered are aimed at increasing participants everyday meaningful life skills through transition support, community participation, travel training, social & recreational activities

Central Coast Providers			
Name	Location	Contact	Overview
Ability Options www.abilityoptions.org.au	Hunter Central Coast North Coast Sydney	0420 308863	By focusing on the individual, Ability Options enables people with disability to enhance their lifestyle & achieve their goals
breakthru www.breakthru.org.au	Central Coast	Customer Services Manager 1800 767212	breakthru has worked with 1000's of Australians over the past 20 years to access the services they need to live their best life possible. As an experienced NDIS provider, our person centred, flexible supports are specifically designed to achieve outcomes for young people with varying disabilities & support needs. With a focus on individual & personal outcomes, breakthru's vocational services can assist you to prepare and ensure you have suitable supports available to maintain employment. Our support coordination services will help you to implement your NDIS plan so you can access the supports you require to live your best life possible.

Castle Personnel Services www.castlepersonnel.com.au	Central Coast Hunter Maitland Manning	Wendy Jurd-Hill 4926 3700	Castle's Transition program is NDIS ready & provides support to young adults to achieve employment, independence & social participation goals. Castle Personnel continue to be a leading provider of transition services through the delivery of innovative learning programs that focus on individual outcomes
CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay	Central Coast centralcoastdisabilityfutures@dbb.org.au	1300 558946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Participation • Flexible Respite • Life Choices • Active Ageing
Central Coast Living Options www.cclo.com.au	Tuggerah Business Park	4353 2411	We are a small not-for-profit organisation. We have two supported accommodation homes, & provide community services as well as a day program
Challenge Community Services www.challengecommunity.org.au	Hunter Upper Hunter Lake Macquarie Central Coast	Enquiries 1800 679129	We support participants with low, moderate & high support needs, across all identified disabilities, from all backgrounds, in single & multiple programs
Coastlink Respite Care www.coastlink.org.au	Central Coast	4355 4701 0419 423364	Coastlink provides community access & centre based programs across the Central Coast. Individual programs are developed with each person to support them to meet their goals & aspirations through a person centred approach
Disability Services Australia www.dsa.org.au	NSW	1300 325754	We can guide you through your NDIS journey, from the planning & application process, to making your NDIS plan a reality. We provide support to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with an NDIS funding package • People who are not yet in areas eligible to access NDIS funding, but who are able to access other funded disability support services • People interested in purchasing our services on a fee for service basis
Endeavour Group Australia www.endeavourgroup.org.au	Hunter Central Coast	4990 2600	Our vision is to create a community where there are not "people with disabilities", rather people living with choice, opportunity & a sense of belonging. Endeavour Group offer individuals the ability to select their own pathway using a person-centred approach to support their goals
Fairhaven Services www.fairhavenservices.com.au	Central Coast - Point Clare	4349 5500 enquiries@fairhaven.org.au	Fairhaven provides supports & opportunities for people who live with disability. Established in 1962, our services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDIS co-ordination of support • inclusive, flexible support for individuals to work toward capacity building in order to achieve their goals in a variety of life areas • supported employment through our packaging & upcycling ADEs • a diverse range of centre-based activities • support with community access focused on motivating & embracing individual talents of the younger adult • a wide range of long term accomm options for people with low, medium & high support residential needs
House With No Steps www.hwns.com.au	Gosford Wyong	Robyn Black 0434 165150 Sally Baldwin 0434 165151	We provide person centred services to assist people develop life skills, social connections, community participation and recreational opportunities. The program calendar is developed by the people accessing the service in collaboration with the support people at the hubs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Participation • Centre-based, Community and In-Home Respite • VOOHC Children's Services

Interactive Community Care www.iccare.com.au	Hunter & Central Coast	4927 8333	Interactive Community Care provides support for people with mental health, intellectual sensory & physical disabilities. Our mission is to design a service that works best for you by providing assistance when & how you want it. Our team are passionate & committed to supporting people to explore opportunities
Job Centre Australia Choice and Control Australia http://choiceandcontrolaustralia.com.au	Gosford Wyong	4322 2200 4352 1555	Job Centre Australia's Choice and Control Australia Program runs 5 days a week for eligible school leavers to gain the skills needed for employment and life. We assist clients with independent living skills, social & recreational skills, access to external courses, work experience, job searching, independent goals, art, drama & music workshops, fitness, building and maintenance, gardening, learners training and much more. We conduct individual & group workshops to help our clients achieve their goals. We run fun and varied social and recreational activities, and are a person centred program that works closely with the individual to achieve their hopes and aspirations
Leapfrog Ability www.leapfrog.org.au www.facebook.com/pages/LeapFrog-ability/348366828584287	Greater Hunter and Central Coast (our new office has now opened Wyong)	4979 7777	Leapfrog Ability are specialists in providing services to people living with an Intellectual Disability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDIS Plan Coordination • Speech Therapy • Occupational Therapy • Psychology & Behaviour Support • Physiotherapy • Group Learning Programs
Life Without Barriers www.lwb.org.au	Central Coast - Tuggerah & West Gosford	Christine Peruch 4343 8830 Mobile 047830688	One of Australia's leading providers in innovative, community-based services for people with a disability & people with a mental health issue including those from all cultural backgrounds. We have 2 bright, modern & fully equipped centres in central locations
Lifestyle Solutions www.lifestylesolutions.org.au	Hunter & Central Coast	1800 634748	At Lifestyle Solutions we partner with people to develop support systems which reflect their individuality, interests, vision & culture. We deliver person centred & individualised support that provides choice & voice to every person we have the privilege of supporting. Our unique range of flexible, responsive & high quality supports are designed to achieve positive outcomes that focus on social inclusion, community participation & creating valued roles for the people we support
New Horizons www.newhorizons.net.au	Central Coast	9490 0082	New Horizons has a long history of providing innovative services that support individuals & communities to enhance wellbeing. Since forming the world's first social enterprise almost half a century ago, we've expanded the reach of our services to thousands of people in hundreds of communities in Australia. We assist people to achieve wellbeing in a variety of areas of their life
New Lake Peer Support www.newlakepeersupport.com.au	Newcastle & Lake Macquarie	4963 6420	A not for profit organisation that supports people in the Newcastle & Lake Macquarie local government areas. New Lake Peer Support provides the following supports: Day Programs, Social & Recreational Access-Community Access, Short Term Accommodation-Respite/Holidays, Personal Care & Supported Living
Northcott www.northcott.com.au	Central Coast	4351 0861	Northcott is a provider of a wide range of supports for people with disability. Assisting with the transition from School to Work & also with daily living skills both inside & outside the home are amongst some of our specialties. With sites in both NSW & the ACT, we are able to support participants in most areas. Supports include Vocational Skills Training, Living Skills, Behaviour Support, Therapy, Technology & Equipment & Community Access

Options Disability Support www.optionsdisabilitysupport.org.au	Central Coast	4340 5155	Options Disability Support will work alongside of you to meet your goals. We find creative ways to package supports so that you can develop living skills, have fun, make friends & work towards employment & lifelong learning with industry professionals. Call us to talk about your needs
Regional Youth Support Services Inc www.ryss.com.au	Central Coast	4323 2374	Regional Youth Support Service Inc provides opportunities for young people on the Central Coast to be better equipped to meet life challenges. We have a shopfront youth service in Gosford providing information, advice and referral, support work, case management, skills-based programs, arts programs, mentoring and events. Our Abilities Caseworkers work with 17 to 24 year olds with disability and will be providing services under NDIS. Our Youth Arts Warehouse has exciting programs around Visual Arts including digital art, Music and Theatre
Response Services www.responseservice.org	Hunter Central Coast	Central Coast Belinda Henry 0478 808200	Aims to be responsive to individual choice & achieve positive outcomes for people with a disability. We assist young adults in making the transition from 'school' to 'adult life' in the areas of employment, independent living & relevant participation within the community. Now actively supporting many individuals under the NDIS & continues to service individuals with ADHC funding
Samaritans Foundation www.samaritans.org.au	Central Coast	4384 8404 0409 996658	Supporting people who are over 18 years with disability in their home or in your local community. Support to develop independent living skills such as budgeting, meal preparation, grocery shopping, cleaning, travel training
Sunnyfield www.sunnyfield.org.au	Hunter Central Coast New England NSW ACT	Client Engagement Team 9412 8676	Enriches the lives of people with disability by creating choice, opportunities & skills for life. We are a leading disability service provider that has supported people with disability & their carers for 64 years & provide trusted, flexible, personalised support services across NSW & ACT. We actively support & skill people with disability for their daily lives & to achieve their personal goals including working in partnership with families & communities, to facilitate opportunities for true inclusion
The Deaf Society www.deafsocietynsw.org.au www.facebook.com/deafsocietynsw	Hunter Central Coast	Gosford 4321 1533	The Deaf Society works to achieve equity for deaf people. We provide support in the areas of employment, education, interpreting, & community services to ensure that deaf, deafblind & hard of hearing people have access to all areas of life on an equal basis with others
Unisson (formerly Sunshine) http://unissondisability.org.au	Sydney Hunter Central Coast	Team Leader Supported Living 0428 82268	Unisson is one of NSW's leading service providers in the disability sector, supporting children & adults with disability to live a great life. Working together with you & your support networks, we are focused on a flexible approach to discover what's important for you when exploring possibilities to achieve your goals & get the outcomes you are looking for
Youth Connections www.youthconnections.com.au	Green Central Gate 1 Kangoo Rd Kariong Gravity Youth Centre Goobarabah Ave Lake Haven Long Jetty Unit 4, 314-316 The Entrance Rd Long Jetty Newcastle 49 Broadmeadow Rd Broadmeadow	Matt Williamson 0418 414590 4346 1111	Skools Out - an after-school & school holiday support program for high school aged young people living with disABILITY Skool's Out Seniors - designed to equip participants in years 11 & 12 for the transition from school to employment & further education Next Step Program & Transition To Work - post school programs for young people with disability Individual Engagement - Youth Connections staff are able to assist participants one on one within the community to accomplish their NDIS goals Community Participation Program - Out & About inclusive program engages young people with local activities Transcendence – gaming hub created by Youth Connections in partnership with FundAbility

Manning Providers			
Name	Location	Contact	Overview
Ability Options www.abilityoptions.org.au	North Coast	0420 308863	By focusing on the individual, Ability Options enables people with disability to enhance their lifestyle & achieve their goals
breakthru www.breakthru.org.au	Taree Tuncurry	6550 1896 6537 0700	Our person centred, flexible program is specifically designed to achieve outcomes for young people with varying disabilities & support needs, with a focus on individual & personal outcomes
Buckets Way Neighbourhood Group	Gloucester	6558 2454	Looking for work experience options, paid work, volunteer work or a Day Program that will cater to individual needs that are recognised through Individual Planning process
Castle Personnel Services www.castlepersonnel.com.au	Manning	Wendy Jurd-Hill 4926 3700	Castle's Transition program is NDIS ready & provides support to young adults to achieve employment, independence & social participation goals. Continues to be a leading provider of transition services through the delivery of innovative learning programs that focus on individual outcomes
Valley Skills for Life – Valley Industries	Taree	6551 2605	Helps people with disability develop the skills they need to increase their independence & participate as valued & active members of the community with a person centred approach. Planners work with each individual to design a program of activities to achieve the individual's goals
Life Without Barriers www.lwb.org.au	Taree	6539 2100	One of Australia's leading providers in innovative, community-based services for people with a disability & people with a mental health issue including those from all cultural backgrounds. We have 2 bright, modern & fully equipped centres in central locations

ONLINE PLATFORMS TO FIND SUPPORT WORKERS


Name	Location	Contact	Overview
Better Caring http://bettercaring.com.au	National Online Platform	Jodie Schleusener 0478 398132	A leading online marketplace where individuals with support needs can connect and engage directly with high-quality workers to enhance quality of life and independent living. Connections are made based on individual preferences including flexibility, skills and attributes
Careseekers www.careseekers.com.au	NSW	1300 765465	We connect people looking for qualified care workers. Our online service offers a better way to find care workers, whether it's for ongoing care or for one hour. Time poor or just simply overwhelmed? Use our Concierge Service and let us find care workers for you (Concierge has a one off introductory fee)
Hireup www.hireup.com.au Email hello@hireup.com.au	NSW	9113 5933	Hireup is an online platform for Australians with disability to find, hire and manage support workers who fit their needs and share their interests. At Hireup, good support is about more than just the right credentials. Find someone you have something in common with and you'll find support that's right for you. NDIS approved provider
Home Care Heroes www.homecareheroes.com.au	Sydney Central Coast	1300 755507	We are focused on social inclusion, building relationships and making the process of finding help simple, affordable and easy! We connect people who need a little bit of help, with vetted genuine workers that match their interest, hobbies or language through our online platform. We are customer focused and, as NDIS approved providers, flexible around payments

ADVOCACY SERVICES

People with disability encounter a range of physical, cultural, social and attitudinal barriers, which prevent them from accessing the same rights as people without disability. This includes making decisions about their lives, living independently, getting an education and employment, obtaining an adequate standard of living and healthcare, getting around and being included in society. An advocacy service can assist if they have a problem or feel they have been treated unfairly.

Name	Region	Contact	Type of Service
Disability Advocacy Finder	National - finder displays contact details, location & directions	https://disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap	The Department of Social Services' online disability advocacy finder now includes NDIS Appeals and state- and territory-funded advocacy providers. The finder helps people with disability find National Disability Advocacy Program services across Australia
Central Coast Disability Network www.ccdn.com.au	Central Coast	4324 2355	Working to develop better opportunities for people with disability in our local community. They also offer a range of disability services
Disability Advocacy NSW www.da.org.au	Hunter, New England, Mid North Coast, Central West, Central Coast, Hawkesbury-Nepean	1300 365 085	DA believes that people with disability have the same rights (and responsibilities) as people who do not have a disability. DA's core purpose is to ensure that people with a disability realise these rights in practice by advocating with and for them. DA's helps people of all ages with any type of disability or mental illness get fair treatment
Family Advocacy familyadvocacy@familyadvocacy.com	NSW	9869 0866 or free call 1800 620588	Peer run advocacy service
IDRS www.idrs.org.au www.facebook.com/IntellectualDisabilityRightsService	Newcastle Hunter Taree	IDRS/CJSN Mary Davison Hunter Office 4926 5643	IDRS – Legal and Advocacy Support Specialist Community Legal Centre providing advice and assistance for people with intellectual disability. Free legal advice, education and training, some legal representation
	Central Coast	IDRS/CJSN Jacqui Gunst 9318 0144	CJSN - Criminal Justice Support Network Support for people with Intellectual Disability who are involved in the criminal justice system, whether a witnesses, victims or defendants. Support at Police Stations, at all courts, Juvenile Justice conferencing, legal appointments, court ordered mediation 1300 665 908 - For people with intellectual disability. Call CJSN between 9 am-10 pm, 7 days a week, for support at Police Stations & free legal advice

INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGY

Ability Technology www.ability.org.au	(02) 9907 9736 Based Newcastle, Sydney, Canberra	Helps people with disability to be productive, independent, secure & connected through the use of computer & home control technology
MyStudyBar 	www.callscotland.org.uk/mystudybar	<i>AccessApps</i> & <i>MyStudyBar</i> are terms for ranges of free assistive technologies. Consist of open source & freeware Windows applications which run directly from a USB stick. <i>AccessApps</i> provides a range of solutions to support writing, reading & planning as well as sensory, cognitive & physical difficulties, while <i>MyStudyBar</i> includes apps which support literacy
HumanWare www.humanware.com	(02) 9686 2600	HumanWare have been assisting people with low vision or blindness for over 25 years. We offer all of our clients one on one old fashioned service, & NO COST/NO OBLIGATION free demonstrations at your home or work
Assistive Technology Australia www.ilcnsw.asn.au	(02) 9912 5600	Our purpose is to provide impartial advice, information and leadership that builds capacity and optimises the value of assistive technology in leading a life of choice
Quantum Reading Learning Vision www.quantumrlv.com.au	Rob Drummond 0419 909532	Since the early 1980's, Quantum has been providing services & products to people who have Low Vision or Blindness
Spectronics www.spectronics.com.au	(07) 3808 6833	Spectronics supplies special needs software & "inclusive learning technologies" which foster real success & real inclusion in educational or community-based settings. We work closely with a wide network of professionals & technology users – reflecting our commitment to providing quality support
Texthelp	www.texthelp.com	Literacy, Accessibility & Dyslexia Software – software for people with reading & writing difficulties such as Read&Write, including talking spell checkers, word predictors & screen readers



A free program to download... *MyStudyBar* is a tool which helps overcome problems that students commonly experience with studying, reading and writing. Easy to install, simple to use, handy and effective, *MyStudyBar* provides comprehensive learning support at the desktop, where it is needed - www.callscotland.org.uk/mystudybar

OTHER SUPPORT-INFORMATION SERVICES

Name	Region	Contact	Type of Service
ARAFMI Hunter www.arafmihunter.org	Hunter	4961 2842	Mental Health Carers ARAFMI Hunter offers families, relatives & friends of people with mental illness counselling, support, information & education programs
Community Disability Alliance Hunter www.cdah.org.au	Hunter	SMS 0490 053454 info@cdah.org.au	User led disability support organisation, run by & for people with disability & their families
The Deaf Society www.deafsocietynsw.org.au	Hunter Central Coast	H 4929 7494 CC 4321 1533	Works to achieve equity for deaf people. Provide support in the areas of employment, education, interpreting, & community services to ensure that deaf, deafblind & hard of hearing people have access to all areas of life on an equal basis with others
Family Planning NSW www.fpnsw.org.au www.fpnsw.org.au/disability	NSW - 5 clinics (Ashfield, Fairfield, Penrith, N'cle, Dubbo) all are disability friendly	02 87524388 statehpu@fpnsw.org.au Also operate a confidential telephone info service - <i>Talkline</i> 1300 658886	FP is the state's leading provider of reproductive & sexual health services. Experts on contraception, pregnancy options, STIs, sexuality & sexual function, menstruation, menopause, common gynaecological & vaginal problems, cervical screening, breast awareness & men's health. Develop disability resources & provide training to support workers, teachers & parents/careers. Specialist Sexuality & Disability Service in Newcastle offers individual & group-based programs for people with disability & those who support them
Freedom 4 U Supported Holidays www.freedom4u.com.au	Hunter Central Coast	Sue Young 0448 100133	Create, support & organise supported holidays/respites/outings for individuals or groups around their CHOICE of the destination & activities. Freedom 4 U is an accredited NDIS provider. Say yes to new adventures
Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Newcastle www.guidedogs.com.au	NSW/ACT	Belinda Carroll -Mgr Leeanne Dowden-Client Liaison Officer 4925 3066	Provides a variety of supports to people who are blind or vision impaired that increase independence & minimise the impact of vision loss. Services provided direct to client at home, school or workplace
IDEAS NSW www.ideas.org.au	NSW	Angela van den Berg 0402 177061 1800 029904 Text: 0458 296602	IDEAS is a specialist information service that provides sustainable information on disability to support inclusive communities. They work to support people with disability & people with age related disability, their families & carers to self-advocate, enabling them to make informed decisions about matters of importance to them.
Mind the Gap: Disability Matters www.mind-the-gap.net.au	Newcastle Hunter	Linda Hughes 0411 234974	Work with people with disability & their families providing assistance in planning, designing & implementing support solutions, engaging service providers, direct employment of support, connecting with the community, monitoring your support, assistance in budgeting, & offer a full range of financial & administrative support
My Choice Matters www.mychoicematters.org.au	NSW	1800 144653	Works with people with disability & their families to live their life their way & get the most out of the changing disability system. Goal to help you learn & practice new ways of doing things & develop & grow your skills in Choice, Voice & Control
NSW Companion Card... NSW Gov initiative www.nswcompanioncard.org.au	NSW	Companion Card Info Line 1800 893044	Issued to people who have a significant, lifelong disability who will require attendant care for the rest of their life. Allows a person's carer free entry into participating venues & events, promoting the rights of people with disability to fair ticketing & making community access more affordable

SOCIAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The disability organisations included in this booklet have social activities as part of their everyday service for their participants, but here are a few others that you can join as well.

Organisation	Region	Contact	Details
Autism Spectrum Australia www.autismspectrum.org.au www.facebook.com/AutismSpectrumAustralia	Hunter (Charlestown)	Lara 0425 291712	Aspect has Social groups for young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder on Friday evenings at The Place at Charlestown Square
"Beat Street" Dance Class The Mai-Wel Group www.maiwel.com.au steven.burchill@maiwel.com.au	Maitland	4934 1867 0423 781713	Ballet, Hip-Hop, Jazz, Modern, Freestyle, Rock & Roll. Want to be part of something fresh, new & exciting? Join this weekly community inclusive dance class. All ages/abilities welcome!
Blind Bowls (NSW/ACT) www.nswvibba.websyite.com.au	NSW	Bruce Blackshaw 0412 611180	Encourages Vision Impaired & Blind people to participate in Lawn Bowls at local, State & National levels
Blind Cricket NSW www.blindcricket.com	NSW	leannebcnsw@gmail.com	For anyone with a vision impairment & who would like to give Blind Cricket a go
Blind Sporting Association of NSW (BSA) www.blindsportsnsw.com.au	NSW	02 4731 3992 blindsportsnsw@gmail.com	BSA coordinates & promotes the sporting & recreational interests of blind men & women of all ages. Contact them for details of activities such as Judo, Soccer
Camp Counsellors USA www.ccusa.com.au	Overseas		Providing Summer Camp jobs, work & travel adventures in the USA & world!
Gap Year www.gapyear.com	Australia & overseas		Plan, book, & share your gap year
"Gleefull" The Mai-Wel Group www.maiwel.com.au	Maitland	4934 1867 0423 781713	"Gleefull" is an all-inclusive & all ages performance group for people who love to sing, dance or perform- steven.burchill@maiwel.com.au
Options Theatre Company (Options Disability Support) www.optionstheatrecompany.com	Central Coast	4340 5155	Build confidence or show the world your skills in the Theatrical world - join the professional team at OPTIONS Theatre Company
Regional Goal Program www.goalball.com.au/regional-goal-program	Hunter	02 9630 6070 0431 268561 nswgoalball@gmail.com	Goalball is able to create a team atmosphere that is different from lots of other sports due to its team building communication key points
Paraquad www.paraquad.org.au	Hunter	Melanie Lloyd 4969 6388	Contact for Adaptive Yoga Instructor
"Songwriting & Recording" The Mai-Wel Group www.maiwel.com.au steven.burchill@maiwel.com.au	Maitland	4934 1867 0423 781713	Be the maestro of your own sound! Using easy to use software - write, compose & record your own music with a skilled sound engineer & talented singer/songwriter. 10 week course
Sons of Obiwan Saber Academy www.sonsofobiwan.com	Tuncurry	4351 8760	This is a group of like-minded individuals with a passion for Star Wars and Stage Combat. We aim to promote fitness, education, focus & fun in an inclusive atmosphere. Bookings essential
Special Olympics NSW www.specialolympics.com.au/nsw	NSW	1300 225 762	Special Olympics transforms the lives of children & adults with an intellectual disability through sports training & athletic competition. Team & individual sports
The Place: Charlestown Community Centre www.theplacecharlestown.org.au www.facebook.com/theplacecharlestown	Hunter (access o/side Chtwn Sq cnr of Frederick & Pearson Sts)	4032 5500	Has many activities for young people with & without disability including "Sensory Sing & Play" Classes, movie nights, lego parties, holiday activities
Transcendence Gaming Hub www.youthconnections.com.au/transcendence	Central Coast Gate 1 Kangoo Road Kariong	Matt Williamson 0418 414590 4346 1111	Transcendence is a gaming hub for young people – monthly on Friday nights. Bookings essential. See website for more details
Visual Arts Class The Mai-Wel Group www.maiwel.com.au steven.burchill@maiwel.com.au	Maitland	4934 1867 0423 781713	Visual Arts is an open access community group, providing social interaction & community participation while developing fine motor skills, expression & exploration of self
Wheelchair Sports NSW www.wsnsw.org.au	Broadmeadow	Sean Hannaford 0438 747665	Responsible for the development, promotion & delivery of wheelchair sport



This resource was compiled by the National Disability Coordination Officers (NDCO) for Regions 6 (Hunter-Central Coast) and 7 (North Coast). The NDCO Program is an Australian Government initiative and is hosted in Regions 6 & 7 by the University of Newcastle (UON) – www.newcastle.edu.au/ndco

[See page 10 for more details about the NDCO Program](#)

This resource is a work in progress and will be updated regularly to keep information current. However, no guarantee can be made that the information is accurate at all times.

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