



Media Statement

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No. of pages: 1

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COMPANY PROFILE:

Break Thru People Solutions is an Australian not-for-profit organisation that provides a range of specialist services across New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

They are renowned for their expertise in providing employment services to all job seekers such as people who are long term unemployed, Indigenous Australians, people with a disability and those from a non-english speaking background.

Break Thru also delivers both accredited & non-accredited training courses for both employers and job seekers. Their training is tailored to the individual needs of their job seekers and is designed to help them gain skills that are needed to improve their job prospects. Their training caters for a wide array of people including those that are mature aged, parents returning to the workforce or those looking for work after injury or illness.

Break Thru People Solutions was honoured to have been chosen amongst hundreds of employment service providers to launch the Australian Government's new \$1.2 billion Disability Employment Services (DES) at their Maroubra office yesterday.

Minister for Employment Participation Mark Arbib was delighted to share how "the new arrangements meant more jobs for people with disability, improved choice for job seekers and employers and more innovative service delivery.

For the first time, people with disability will have direct access to the help they need to find and keep a job. There will be no waiting lists because the Government has uncapped services and under the Rudd Government people with disability will have access to better and more individually tailored employment services".

The new Disability Employment Services will operate under two new programs:
Disability Management Service – assistance for those job seekers who are not expected to need regular, long-term support to maintain their job; and
Employment Support Service – assistance for job seekers who will need regular long-term support to maintain their job.

Break Thru People Solutions CEO, Ross Lewis said "This is a day many of us have dreamed of and have worked so very hard to achieve - the uncapping of disability employment service programs. It is a comfort knowing that the Minister and Australian Government have truly listened to our industry, from peak bodies to individual agencies and given people with a disability the help they need to get work".

The Rudd Government has also launched a \$6.8 million Disability Support Pension (DSP) Employment Incentive Pilot to trial a new way of encouraging employers to offer employment to people with disability and allow DSP recipients to demonstrate their skills. The pilot will operate in the 15 Labour Force Regions** and will run until February 2012.

-ENDS-

**Break Thru chosen for
the launch of the
Government's new
Disability Employment
Services**

- Newcastle
- Outer Western Melbourne
- Northern, North Western and Central West
- North Western Sydney
- Northern Adelaide
- Wide-Bay Burnett
- North Eastern Melbourne
- South Eastern Melbourne
- Brisbane City Outer Ring
- Barwon-Western District
- Fairfield-Liverpool
- Gold Coast South
- Southern Adelaide
- Gosford-Wyong

Break Thru would like to acknowledge the attendance from DEEWR representatives and Australian employment /disability peak bodies (most of who flew in for the opening) including:

- Ms Annette Williams, President, Australian Rehabilitation Providers Association National
- Mr Paul Cain, Policy Officer, National Council on Intellectual Disability, representing the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Mr Tim Walton, President, National Disability Services (Chief Executive Officer of AFFORD)
- Mr George Guiliani, Deputy CEO, Jobs Australia
- Ms Annette Gill, National Employment Services Association
- Ms Lucy Macali, Chief Executive Officer, ACE National
- Ms Donna Faulkner, Chairman, ACE National
- Mr Michael Gleeson, Executive Director, People with Disabilities Australia
- Mr Damien Anderson, Manager of Resolution and Investigation at the CRRS, representing People with Disability Australia

Departmental representatives:

- Mr Tony Waslin, Group Manager, Specialist Employment Services Group
- Ms Janine Pitt, NSW/ACT State Manager
- Ms Annette Donohoe, Account Coordinator, NSW State Office

Thank you also to all Break Thru staff who attended and helped organise the event and to Noel Hiffeman from the Board.



**** The pilot will operate in the following 15 Labour Force Regions:**

- Richmond-Tweed and Clarence Valley