



Shayne Neumann MP (centre), celebrating the 2018 Blair Disability Links directory launch with Able Australia's Peter Tully (right) and Shawn Gamble (left).

ABLE AUSTRALIA BEING RECOGNISED BY ALL SIDES OF POLITICS

The work Able Australia has been doing across the country is being recognised by not only those we support but from all sides of politics too.

In Queensland, the Able team has received acknowledgement from a range of MPs representing all the major political parties, while in Tasmania the Greens MP for Bass also singled out Able's work in a speech to parliament.

The Blair Disability Links directory and expo is synonymous with Able in Ipswich. Queensland Federal Labor Member for Blair, Shayne Neumann MP first established these resources in 2010 with the support of Able Australia's Disability Development Officer, Peter Tully. The directory and event allow disability service providers as well as people living with disability and their carers to connect and share information throughout the local community.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As Able Australia's new CEO, I would firstly like to thank the many staff, clients and carers that I have met in the first few months, for making me feel so welcome. Since starting in November I have had a chance to meet a great many people and I am excited by what I see.

Able Australia is a strong organisation with a talented pool of staff and volunteers supporting a very broad range of clients and carers. I believe we are well positioned to face the changing landscape that the national disability insurance scheme (NDIS) is creating.

There will be challenges along the way. Any change comes with its own set of challenges. What will set Able Australia apart from others in this sector will be our unwavering dedication to delivering the highest levels of service to our clients.

Given that we support some of our society's most vulnerable people it is incumbent on us to do so. I am heartened to see that staff and volunteers do work hard to create a safe environment for our clients while delivering high quality care.

It doesn't mean the job is done. There will always be room to improve. As part of our journey of continuous improvement we will constantly be reviewing and enhancing our systems and processes. Your feedback, whether as a client, carer or other stakeholder will be welcomed.

Should you wish to become more involved in Able by contributing to the design of our quality, care and safety frameworks, I invite you to get in touch with me so that we can discuss how we can make this happen.

Kate MacRae
Chief Executive Officer, Able Australia

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Able's work in Jimboomba, Queensland is also being recognised. Scott Buchholz, Federal LNP Member for Wright not only visited Able's office to make a donation, he made special mention of Able in his Christmas speech to parliament. "Able Australia are like the safety net in our community; they help people who are disadvantaged with food packs and other assortments," said Scott.

Both Jane Prentice MP, Federal Liberal Member for Ryan and Assistant Minister for Social Services and Disability Services and Milton Dick MP, Federal Labor Member for Oxley have also publically commended the Able team in Queensland. Jane Prentice MP has worked closely with Peter Tully and his wife Linda since 2013 on the Fresh Futures Market – a disability expo that gives people with a disability, or those supporting someone who is, the opportunity to connect with a range of services.



Able clients with the Stompin Youth dance company.

In Tasmania, the team received special mention from Andrea Dawkins, the Greens MP for Bass. In a speech to state parliament, the MP spoke at length about how the Able Australia team in Launceston had "made their mark" on the local community. Andrea recounted her experience attending a dance workshop featuring Able Australia clients and members of the Stompin Youth dance company; she described it as "one of the most phenomenal things I have ever seen."

It is heartening to see Able receive such widespread recognition for the work being done. While every service may not receive public recognition, we acknowledge and pay thanks to each and every staff member and volunteer for the work they do.

To receive a copy of the MPs' speeches in full, email comms@ableaustralia.org.au

Stompin Image source: Examiner.com.au

ABLE CONTINUES TO EXPAND



Able to offer community participation and supported independent living in Queensland.

Able Australia will be expanding its service offering in the Ipswich area of Queensland to include community participation and supported independent living. The services will commence early in 2018 and expressions of interest are being taken immediately from clients and carers.

Able has had a presence in Queensland for over five years and in that time, built a strong reputation for delivering high quality, reliable services that serve the community's most vulnerable.

"We have a long standing relationship supporting disabled and people in need within the Queensland community. Demand for our transport services and the various programs we run in Queensland, such as Active

Living for Seniors, Youth at Risk and Meals on Wheels grows year on year," says Ann Adkins, Area Manager, Logan River Valley and South Coast, Queensland. "Expanding our service offering seemed a very natural next step to take."

From supported living options and outreach services, through to in-home support programs and community engagement, Able will ensure those in need within Queensland will be supported.

To register your interest or to get more information, visit www.ableaustralia.org.au/ndis, call **1300 225 369** or email info@ableaustralia.org.au

KAREN'S STORY

Ten years ago, Karen was at the pinnacle of her career. Having travelled the world and climbed the corporate ladder, she had secured a coveted CEO position. Weeks later Karen's life changed dramatically when she had a stroke.

As a result of the stroke, Karen found she had very limited mobility on the left side of her body and that her brain function was impaired. Karen initially required around the clock care and doctors suggested that she would never walk again.

With the support and compassion of Able Australia's Supported Independent Living service and Lifestyle Choices program staff, as well as Karen's own determination and resilience, she has since made significant progress. Karen is now mobile and able to live a more independent life within the broader community.



Karen (right).

MEET THE ABLE TEAM



What is your name?

Chris Stallard.

What is your role at Able Australia?

I'm Able Australia's Service and Business Development Manager.

My main focus is to expand our existing services and support new clients to connect into them.

When did you start at Able Australia?

I started at Able Australia in October 2017 but this is actually my second stint. I worked for Able Australia back in 2006-2009. For those of you that may remember me, please do reconnect.

What are you most looking forward to working on in your role at Able Australia?

Going out and meeting our clients and carers so that we can develop services that are really relevant to them.

Tell us a little about your prior working experience.

I am passionate about the not-for-profit (NFP) sector and have worked for various NFP organisations supporting a variety of social issues including mental health and more recently youth development.

What sort of things do you like to get up to in your spare time?

I am an avid golfer and I enjoy most things sport related. As an Adelaide boy, I support Port Adelaide in AFL and the Adelaide Strikers.

I also have a beautiful 3 year old girl, Isla who is at a great age and always fun to be with.

ABLE CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (IDPWD) WITH ABLEART

Able Australia celebrated International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) by hosting the annual ableart exhibition at Federation Square, Melbourne.

The exhibition featured more than 90 works of art created by artists in the Able Art Therapy program. The event not only showcased our clients' incredible talents, it also helped raise awareness of deafblindness, Able Australia and the ableart program.



Members of the public enjoying the artwork on display.

ableart assists people with a disability to find new ways to express their emotions, explore their creativity and increase their confidence and self-esteem.

Of paintings on display, more than 20 were sold to members of the general public throughout the week long exhibition. The proceeds from each sale went back to the artists.

If you would like to know more about the Able Art Therapy Program email comms@ableaustralia.org.au

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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