



# Autism Awareness Day: Local families facing very real struggle

Most parents find it hard to imagine the struggle of caring for a child with autism, but local mum Katie Gilbert experiences it every day times three.

With three sons under eight diagnosed, Ms Gilbert is using Autism Awareness Day to shine light on the needs of family members.

"It's hard to take care of yourself, we're quite often forgotten about," Ms Gilbert said.

She recalls the moment her eldest son was first diagnosed with autism, and she was forced to reevaluate her world.

"It was a bit of a shock, actually," she said.

"I hadn't met anyone with autism myself, so all I knew about it was what I had seen on TV."

After her younger sons were also diagnosed, Ms Gilbert dedicated her life to learning about the disorder.

"Information is power, and I wanted to know as much as I could to not only help me come to terms with it, but to help support them in the best possible way," she said.

"I'm still learning about autism."

Despite an unwavering love for her children, Ms Gilbert said she "mourned" her sons as she struggled to find appropriate support networks early on.

"We have so many hopes and dreams for our children, and even now I don't know if they will ever be able to live out of home," she said.

"It sounds terrible, but all of my dreams for them came crashing down."

Often, the struggle of a child with

autism is overlooked as there is little understanding of it in the general community.

On multiple occasions, Ms Gilbert has been harassed by strangers in public places.

"When a child is having a meltdown, you get the condescending stare from strangers," she said.

"It makes you feel so uncomfortable."

While the biggest help for people with autism is early intervention, Ms Gilbert is encouraging family members to seek help for themselves.

"Find someone who has lived through it who can explain it to you a little better and shine some light on it," she said.

Ms Gilbert praises the increasing recognition of autism in Penrith.

- Emily Newton

## Chance for us all to learn more

Autism Awareness Day is being held on Sunday, April 2 to increase awareness in the community of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Autism is a developmental condition that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime.

People with ASD experience difficulties with communication, social interaction and restricted/repetitive interests and behaviours. These difficulties are often accompanied by behavioural challenges and sensory issues.

Autism does not discriminate - it touches all cultures and demographics. It is a lifelong developmental condition. It affects the way a person relates to his or her environment and their interactions with other people. The word 'spectrum' describes the diverse range of difficulties and their effect that people with ASD may experience.

The figures are frightening - one in 68 children will be diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder - which affects almost four times as many boys than girls. Currently, there are around 230,000 Australian people living with Autism.

Consequently, early diagnosis followed up with early intervention services are vital in enhancing children's lives and thus reaching their full potential.

A flexible range of best practice early intervention services can help our children learn important life skills such as how to talk, read, write, draw, and valuable play skills for social interaction and lifelong independence.

The *Western Weekend* today presents a special in-depth feature, profiling a range of service providers and assistance available to families dealing with an Autism diagnosis.

Resources and help are also available via Autism Awareness Australia.

Visit their website at [www.autismawareness.com.au](http://www.autismawareness.com.au) or call 1300 900 681.



Aspect Capable Employment Service, offering person-centred employment training and support to job seekers on the autism spectrum.

For more information contact Aspect's Employment Coordinator Kate Halpin on (02) 8977-8382 or [khalpin@aspect.org.au](mailto:khalpin@aspect.org.au)





## All Abilities

Therapy and Support Services

All Abilities Therapy & Support Services are NDIS registered providers of Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy & Psychology. We offer a range of individual sessions, group sessions & intensive school holiday programs.

**Ph: (02) 4731 3469**

Suite 3003C

(Borec House Level 3)

29-57 Station Street, Penrith NSW 2750

WW27427

# SPECIAL FEATURE

AUTISM AWARENESS

SPONSORED CONTENT

## Building confidence and supporting strengths

Everyone has their own unique abilities to be nurtured.

The Australian Foundation for Disability (AFFORD) offers a range of programs and services that support your individual strengths and build self confidence to achieve your best.

AFFORD offers Allied Health Services which connect you with behavioural therapists, support from psychologists and other professional services so you receive the support you need.

AFFORD also provides a range of support services for carers and families.

Six years ago Rachel and her family joined AFFORD to help identify ways for Rachel to overcome anxiety and lack of confidence in her own abilities.

Team Leaders at the AFFORD Penrith Lifestyle Centre took the time to get to know Rachel better; learn about her interests and develop a plan, specifically for Rachel, that outlined some of her personal goals and aspirations.



Today, Rachel is a vibrant, happy and confident young woman that takes part in many programs including music, dance, swimming and cooking.

"Rachel has become a participant in her own life, rather than being someone just watching it," comments the Senior Lifestyle Assistant at Penrith Lifestyle Centre.

AFFORD is a registered charity and trusted provider of disability services to over 2,000 people every day across Greater Western Sydney. For more information about AFFORD, visit [www.afford.com.au](http://www.afford.com.au) or call 1300 233 673.

# NOVA EMPLOYMENT

## Hire *dis*Ability

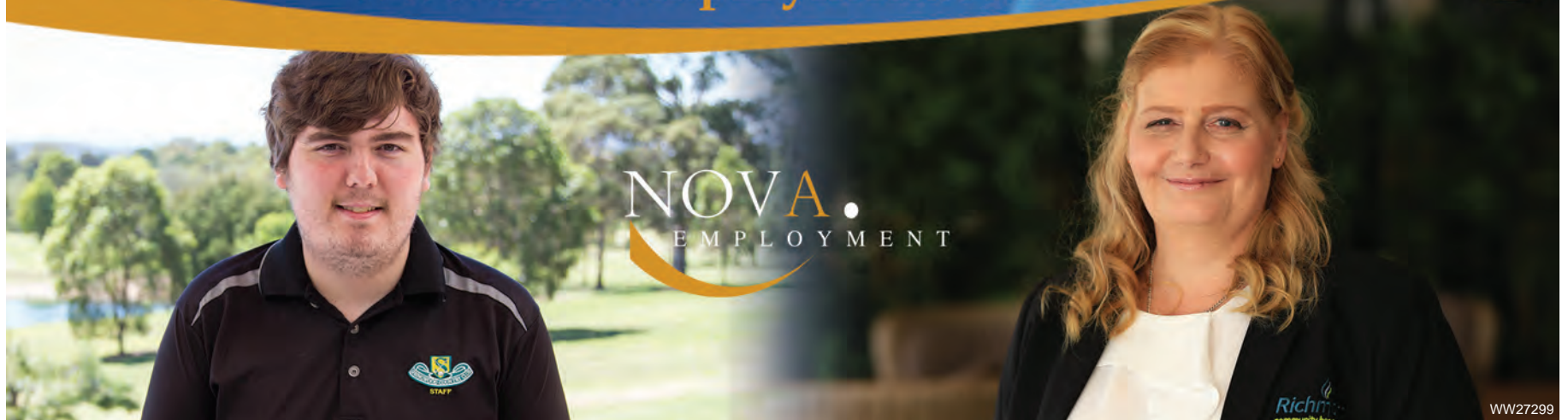
NOVA Employment has assisted over 15,000 Sydney businesses with their recruitment needs, including the Springwood Country Club.

"NOVA Employment has provided us with skilled employees across a wide range of roles. We recommend other employers to focus on ability," Roy Bowyer - Club President.

If your business is in need of quality, committed employees,

**1800 656 537**

[www.novaemployment.com.au](http://www.novaemployment.com.au)





Your Trusted NDIS Partner  
SUPPORTING YOUR NEEDS

OUR TEAM OF HIGHLY SPECIALISED STAFF CAN SUPPORT YOU WITH:

- ✓ Allied Health Services for behaviour therapy.
- ✓ Choice and person-centred programs across our Penrith, Mount Drutt and Jamisontown Lifestyle Centres.
- ✓ To socialise with others in a supportive and inclusive environment.
- ✓ Support for carers through forums, therapeutic groups and social experiences.

AFFORD HAS BEEN TRUSTED BY THE PENRITH VALLEY COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL DISABILITY SUPPORT FOR 65 YEARS. WE FOCUS ON YOUR INDIVIDUAL ABILITIES TO MAKE SURE YOU GET THE SUPPORT THAT YOU NEED AND DESERVE.



**700+**  
PERSON-CENTRED PROGRAMS DELIVERED EVERY WEEK

PROVIDING DISABILITY SERVICES TO OVER **2000**  
PEOPLE IN GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY EVERY DAY!

- LIVING
- COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLBEING
- WORK
- EDUCATION & TRAINING

For more information about how Afford can help you through the NDIS call 1300 233 673 or [www.afford.com.au](http://www.afford.com.au)



Tamara Van Antwerpen from the Luke Priddis Foundation with the *Marvelous Max* books

## Marvelous resource for teachers and students

**A**wareness and understanding comes from education and education starts in our schools.

Marvelous Max, which started as a three minute animated video for Primary School kids, was proudly created in a joint effort between the Luke Priddis Foundation (LPF), Lil' Melodies Director

Amy Gray and the animation experts at Blue Clay.

The aim of the video was to create more awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Marvelous Max program is a free resource for all school across Australia, though it must be said that this program is now also being used in schools

throughout England, Canada, USA, Ireland, Saudi Arabia and the Ukraine.

This year's joint venture between Lil' Melodies, Luke Priddis Foundation, Lions Club of Lugarno and Pack & Send Australia will see over 300 school libraries (and counting) receive two 24-page *Marvelous Max* books this April.

The *Marvelous Max* book is able to be used for all ages, stages 1-3.

For local schools that participate in the 'LPF Go Blue for Autism' campaign, there is the opportunity to also receive the full 30-page Teachers Classroom Information, Resources and Student Activities Folder.

This includes a Marvelous Max USB, facts, figures, strategies for teachers and students to implement in the classroom, along with lesson plans and class activities.

Educating children about Autism Spectrum Disorder will help them better understand their classmates who are on the spectrum and the idiosyncrasies associated with the disorder.

With increased understanding, the focus will shift away from characteristics that may make a classmate appear different and shift towards the positive aspects that make each individual a unique and important part of the school community.

Leaving kids uninformed about Autism Spectrum Disorder can lead to misunderstanding which, in turn, can lead to bullying and a feeling of isolation for the children affected.

Marvelous Max is designed to be presented to Primary School kids in Years 1-6.

It is intended for all classes, not just those that have students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Register now or call the Luke Priddis Foundation Centre for Autism on 4736 2202 for more information.

You can also head online and visit [www.lukepriddisfoundation.com](http://www.lukepriddisfoundation.com).



### CENTRE FOR AUTISM

The LPF Centre for Autism facilitates a person-centered approach. The Foundation is proud to advocate for people living with Autism Spectrum Disorders and provides support and services to our community. The Luke Priddis Foundation is a Registered NDIS Provider.

#### SERVICES

- Speech & Language ■ Occupational Therapy
- Psychology & Diagnosis ■ Sensory Integration
- Early Intervention ■ Behavioural Management
- Social & Living Skill Development
- NDIS Planning, Coordination & Support



#### SOCIAL SKILLS GROUPS

- Lego Focus Group ■ Duplo Club
- Lego Club ■ Emoji Club
- Children's Skills development
- Playgroup ■ Secret Agent Society
- Parent support groups

[www.lpfcentreforautism.com](http://www.lpfcentreforautism.com)

Level 1, 496 High Street PENRITH, 2750

4736 2202

info@lukepriddisfoundation.com

# SPECIAL FEATURE

AUTISM AWARENESS

SPONSORED CONTENT

## Helping find a dream job for those with ASD

Do you want better health, more independence and an interesting social life?

What about an improved self-confidence and wellbeing?

If you answered 'yes', then it's time to get a job.

But not just any job, one you enjoy that suits your skills, experience and abilities.

You can do this through NOVA Employment, a specialist disability employment service that excels in finding and maintaining award-wage work for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Through NOVA Employment, you are 20 per cent more likely to get a job than any other service provider in Sydney.

Over 60 per cent of NOVA's job seekers with ASD gain work in industries as various as warehousing, admin, hospitality, horticulture and maintenance.

NOVA CEO, Martin Wren, says he's sick of job seekers with ASD being pigeon-holed into repetitive, menial roles because people assume that's what they want.



"Just like any other job seeker, people with ASD need assistance to establish their employment goals," Mr Wren said.

"A significant part of this process is learning about the available options."

NOVA staff listen to job seekers' hopes for the future, help them establish clear and realistic goals and develop the skills to pursue those goals.

Combined with post-placement support, NOVA is able to successfully find suitable positions in the community to match the goals of people with ASD.

Visit [www.novaemployment.com.au](http://www.novaemployment.com.au).

# NADO

Live Your Way

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE?  
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

### Who is NADO?

We are all about community inclusion, individual achievement and family resilience.

We pride ourselves on being a local organisation, with local knowledge and local connections.

When people connect with NADO, new doors will open to work, friendship, sports, leisure and independence.

Our team can breathe life into your NDIS plan, enriching your goals with their ideas, passion and experience.

We are passionate about helping each person we support to live life to the fullest.

### WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Accommodation \* Respite \* Supported Recreation \* Supported Holidays \* Sport and Leisure \* Kids Programs \* School Holiday Activities \* Support Coordination \* Plan Management \* NDIS Supports

*Our role is to help you bring your goals to reality*



NADO now has two locations where we can HELP you with your Support Coordination and NDIS Plan Implementation:

**NADO Connect**  
66 Station Street, Penrith

**Community Connections Building**  
Suite 105, 114-116 Henry Street, Penrith

Call NOW to discuss your individual support to suit your needs  
**1300 738 229**

[info@nado.org.au](mailto:info@nado.org.au) | [www.nado.org.au](http://www.nado.org.au)

WW27298

# Linking you with your community

**Support for people with disability, their families and carers to live the life they want.**

Ability Links NSW is a free program aimed at enhancing social inclusion and community participation. Whether your goal is to be part of a sports team, further your education or explore a new hobby, you're at the centre of decision making about how you live your life.

Find out more.

p: **8830 0768**

e: [abilitylinks@uniting.org](mailto:abilitylinks@uniting.org)

w: [abilitylinksnsw.org.au](http://abilitylinksnsw.org.au)



# Uniting

WW27224

**Penrith Women's Health Centre**



[www.penrithwomenshealthcentre.com.au](http://www.penrithwomenshealthcentre.com.au)

**Our Services:**

-  **Female Doctors & Nurses**
-  **Massage**
-  **Counselling**
-  **Domestic Violence Services**
-  **Services for Migrant and Refugee Women**
-  **Legal Advice**
-  **Well-being Groups**
-  **Information & Referral Service**

**4721 8749**

Penrith Women's Health Centre is a community organisation run by women for women and is funded by NSW Health

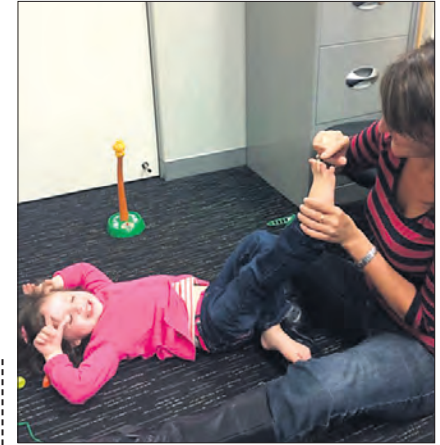
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# SPECIAL FEATURE

SPONSORED CONTENT

## AUTISM AWARENESS

### More than 30 years of helping children with Autism



Established in 1986, Nepean Speech and Language Services (NSLS) prides itself on being one of Penrith's leading speech pathology practices in working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Continuing education is deemed a necessity at NSLS.

Amongst other Autism specific communication and social skills programs, all their therapists are trained in the world renowned Hanen 'More Than Words' program.

This is a family-focused, social pragmatic intervention program which addresses the needs of both non-verbal and verbal children with ASD.

This program teaches parents to learn about their child's unique learning style, the importance of play, and the need to manipulate everyday routines in order to motivate the child to communicate effectively.

Nepean Speech and Language Services

also provides outreach services to many schools in the Penrith area, including schools that have Autism Support Classes.

Social skills groups are run through school holiday periods in order to provide true to life situations for children to practise their social skills in.

NSLS are registered NDIS and DSS providers, and proudly provide services to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder from 12 months of age to adulthood, and across all levels of severity.

Contact Nepean Speech and Language Services to access further information.

For more information, visit [www.nsls.com.au](http://www.nsls.com.au), call 4721 4766 or send an email to [mail@nsls.com.au](mailto:mail@nsls.com.au).

You can also follow NSLS on social media via Facebook.



**thorndale foundation**  
supporting people with disability

**Thorndale Foundation** provide a range of supports to enable participants to realise their individual capacities and aspirations.

- NDIS Registered Provider
- Employment - Garden Maintenance, Production, Recycling
- School Leaver Employment Supports (SLES)
- Vocational Training
- Leisure, Living & Life Skills
- Residential Services
- NDIS Support Coordination
- Group Support
- Individual Support

P: PO Box 122, St Marys NSW 1790 A: 47-49 Rance Road, Werrington NSW 2747  
T: (02) 9912 7800 E: [info@thorndale.com.au](mailto:info@thorndale.com.au) W: [www.thorndale.org.au](http://www.thorndale.org.au)

Find us on Facebook 



### Cameron's Story

Cameron was diagnosed with autism at a young age. He was non-verbal, sensory sensitive and extremely picky with his food. Cameron disliked wearing clothing, shoes and often absconded from home and preschool. Cameron was non-verbal throughout his primary school years. During his high school years he flourished. He began wearing clothing for the entire day, his speech improved and his social skills increased which included social interaction with all students at school.

The time came for Cameron to complete high school which was another hurdle, and transition into employment. For Cameron to embrace this life change he was encouraged by his family to purchase his work clothing including a hi-vis vest.....he now had his uniform and was ready to commence employment.

Cameron has settled into employment and enjoys working at Thorndale Industries. He is now able to travel independently to work using public transport as well as appropriately answer questions asked of him.

*"I highly recommend Thorndale as a workplace and commend them on their professionalism, compassion for their clients and helpfulness to families turning to them for assistance" said Tina-Maree (mum).*

**thorndale industries**  
supporting people with disability

WW27272

# SPECIAL FEATURE

AUTISM AWARENESS

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## Breaking through barriers

The right planning and compassion can go a long way when it comes to looking after your future.

To achieve the best life possible, Breakthru is committed to helping create your future your way by providing customers with a range of services to bring their choices to life.

A registered provider of the NDIS, their focus is breaking through barriers, and they are reinforcing this stance on Autism Awareness Day.

Working with thousands of Australians over the past 20 years, Breakthru recognises that everyone has a story and is committed to improving the lives of people they support.

Specialising in disability and mental health services, Breakthru offers a variety of supports to help people find meaningful training and employment.

They believe that with personalised service, customer choice and collaboration, customers can achieve their goals and aspirations.

Breakthru's pursuit of excellence is evidenced by their unwavering commitment to personal planning and individualised support.

Breakthru believes everyone deserves an experience and service that delivers true choice and puts you in control of your life. Visit [yourchoice.breakthru.yomstar.com](http://yourchoice.breakthru.yomstar.com).

## Support as unique as your child.



If you have a child with an ASD, we can provide support in many ways, including help for your child to develop their communication and language skills, take part in school and sport, participate in group activities, learn social skills and make friends and much more.

To find out more, call 1300 831 445



Tailored support for children with a disability or developmental delay.

[www.sdn.org.au](http://www.sdn.org.au)

NDIS Registered Provider

WW27277



# Fitness4Autism

An event jointly organised by The Luke Priddis Foundation & Little by Little Inc



**Sunday 9 April**

**JAMISON PARK, PENRITH**

Join us for a run or walk and a picnic in the park. Free fitness activities, sausage sizzle, drinks, face painting and rides.



## Registration

IN ADVANCE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED BY EMAILING [EVENTS@LUKEPRIDDISFOUNDATION.COM](mailto:EVENTS@LUKEPRIDDISFOUNDATION.COM) OR [AJCULLEN47@TPG.COM.AU](mailto:AJCULLEN47@TPG.COM.AU) CALL: 4736 2202

## Entry

INDIVIDUALS \$20  
FAMILY OF 4 \$50  
FAMILY OF 5 \$60  
FAMILY OF 6 \$70  
GROUP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

## Check-in

FROM 9.00AM  
5KM RUN 10AM  
5KM WALK 10.45AM



## Navigate the NDIS with breakthrough

Have you heard about the NDIS, but aren't sure if you or a person you care for is eligible? **breakthru is here to help you navigate the NDIS.**

**Here's a few ways we can help you navigate the NDIS, stress-free:**

- We help you explore your needs, goals and expectations of the NDIS, so you're prepared for your NDIA meeting.
- Support before, during and after your NDIA meeting to ensure you receive a plan that meets your goals and expectations.
- We can help you implement your plan and assist in connecting you to the best supports available to you.

breakthru's purpose is to help build the best life possible for the customers we support.

### **Get in touch today**

1800 767 212 | [hello@breakthru.org.au](mailto:hello@breakthru.org.au)

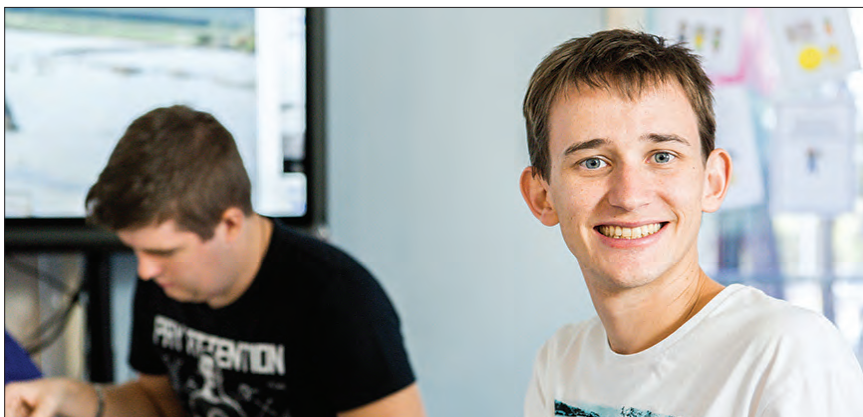
breakthru are a registered provider for The National Disability Insurance Scheme.



# SPECIAL FEATURE

AUTISM AWARENESS

SPONSORED CONTENT



## Endeavouring to raise awareness

With significant media attention on autism in the new NDIS world, there is a great opportunity to shine a light on what it means to be on the spectrum.

Simon Wardale, Manager with Endeavour Foundation's Specialist Behaviour Service, said that taking time to consider the experience of autism will benefit everyone.

"Some people with autism struggle with new social situations and social skills. This can seem like a disinterest in social interaction but often that's not the case," he said.

"People with autism can tend to struggle to pick up on subtle social cues, and

to understand how others are thinking or feeling which, as you might imagine, makes it very hard to work out how you are 'supposed' to respond."

He explains that this barrier to understanding creates anxiety and feelings of being overwhelmed which can, in turn, lead to unwanted behaviour.

"If Autism Awareness Day can achieve anything, it must be greater understanding and empathy," Mr Wardale said.

"While support and access to necessary services is crucial, there's also a huge amount of work to be done in terms of how we, as a society, take steps to understand and be active in creating an inclusive, accepting environment."

**LAPSTONE**  
EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION SERVICE

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ECIS@LAPSTONEPRESCHOOL.COM.AU

Servicing the Nepean and Blue Mountains areas  
Providing best practice in Early Intervention since 1985

**NDIS REGISTERED SERVICES – individual, group, family**  
LAPSTONE works flexibly with families drawing on the breadth of experience of our dedicated team of specialists including:

- Early Childhood Specialist Educators
- Occupational Therapists
- Psychologists
- Speech Pathologists
- Physiotherapists
- Family Support Worker

We visit your child in your home, at Childcare or Preschool or other place that works best for your family



WW27423

**REAL POSSIBILITIES**

Working with you to bring real possibilities to life through the NDIS.



Make the most of your skills and interests – at home, at work and in the community.  
Contact us for a chat.

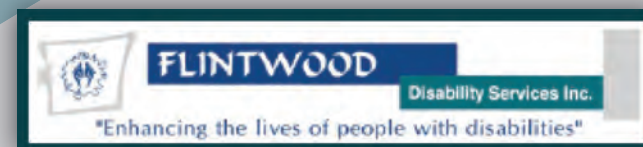


1800 112 112  
hello@endeavour.com.au  
endeavour.com.au

**ENDEAVOUR**  
FOUNDATION  
Opportunities for people with a disability

17092\_WW

WW27373



## Who is Flintwood?

Flintwood is a flexible service that enhances the opportunities of people with disabilities to have a varied and fulfilling life within the community.

### A normal day may consist of?

- Helping people achieve their dreams/goals and aspirations
- Support people in creating their own independence to participate in activities consistent with their likes and interests
- Accessing the community on a regular basis both in groups or individual support
- Supporting life skill development

## Want to join our team?

We currently have a positions available across the Northern beaches, Parramatta and the Western suburbs areas.

Day Service usually runs 8am – 4pm Mon – Fri. This is negotiable depending on your personal commitments and availability.

Group Homes – run 24/7 Mon – Sun offering a variety of shifts to suit your lifestyle

### What we can offer you:

- A work day that is never the same
- Activities around the Sydney metropolitan area
- The opportunity to display your unique talents and run activities
- Salary sacrificing – the ability to earn extra tax free dollars and increase your take home pay
- A VIP membership that offers further discounts
- Professional development opportunities

### About you:

In addition to being a bright, innovative, supportive and enthusiastic person, you need:

- A valid and current drivers licence
- Currently hold, or willing to obtain a first aid certificate and
- Currently hold, or willing to obtain a Cert III Individual Support (Disability)

For more information, contact us on 02 9630 1777 or forward your resume to [human.resources@flintwood.org.au](mailto:human.resources@flintwood.org.au) to show your interest.

Apply now to join a rapidly growing and well respected Organisation with strong commitment to our employees, Participants and families.

# SPECIAL FEATURE

AUTISM AWARENESS

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## Flintwood is here to help

Flintwood Disability Services is an organisation focused on enhancing the lives and opportunities of adults living with disabilities.

They are committed to working with individuals and their families to support the lifestyles and aspirations they choose as individuals.

Flintwood is fully immersed in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the changes and opportunities it brings. They are working closely with families and individuals to ensure they can work best to help you achieve your dreams and aspirations.

They have a good variety of programs and services to suit every individual.

Flintwood continually strives to employ skilled and motivated people to provide high level support. Employees receive ongoing training and support to ensure the highest quality of service is provided to their clients.

Some employment options include:

- Working in a group
- Supporting individuals in the community or in their home
- Flexible hours offered both weekdays and weekends
- Casual and permanent employment

If you are a family or individual and want more information on how Flintwood can support you, call 9630 1777 or email [admin@flintwood.org.au](mailto:admin@flintwood.org.au).

# It's all about your family



Lifestart supports children and young people living with disability or delay aged 0-24 years, their families and carers through:

- early intervention
- school age years support
- specialised therapy
- inclusion in the community
- family information and support
- helping communities and services to build capacity

Tel: 9623 2100 • Email: [nepean@lifestart.org.au](mailto:nepean@lifestart.org.au)  
8-10 Carinya Ave St Marys • [www.lifestart.org.au](http://www.lifestart.org.au)

www.18292



# Nepean Speech & Language Services

Speech pathology services for children and adults

Ph: 4721 4766

## Our speech pathologists:

- **Specialise in working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**
- Are trained in Hanen 'More than Words' and 'Talkability' communication programs
- We are registered NDIS providers

## We also treat communication difficulties such as:

- Articulation
- Developmental delay
- Dyspraxia
- Expressive language
- Learning difficulties
- Are registered with Medicare and private health funds
- Rehabilitation-post brain injury
- Reading, writing and spelling
- Receptive language
- Stuttering

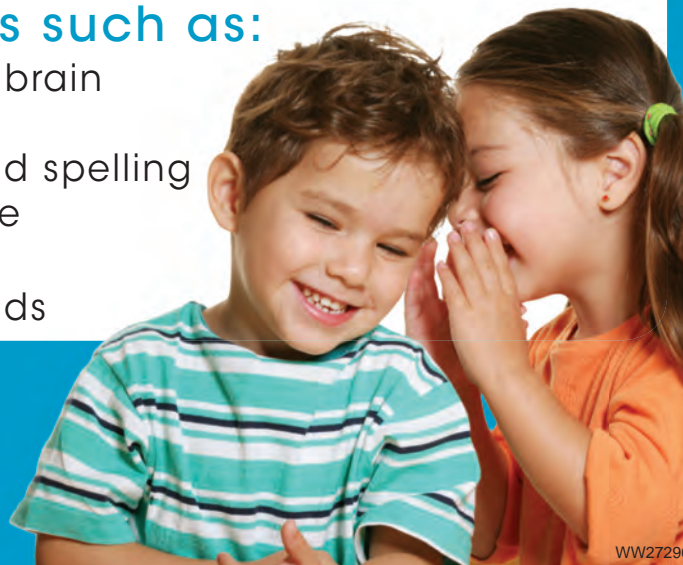
Shop 1, 'The Broadwalk Arcade'

458 High Street, Penrith

ph. (02) 4721 4766

e. [mail@nsls.com.au](mailto:mail@nsls.com.au)

[www.nsls.com.au](http://www.nsls.com.au)



www.18292

I AM MUCH HAPPIER  
ABOUT LIFE WITH MY  
NDIS PLAN. I HAVE  
FOUND A PASSION TO  
HELP OTHERS.



HANNAH, HWNS CUSTOMER

EVERY DAY House with No Steps support people like you on their NDIS journey. Let's work together on making your plan a reality.

visit [hwns.com.au](http://hwns.com.au)

email [enquiries@hwns.com.au](mailto:enquiries@hwns.com.au)

freecall 1300 LETS GO (538 746)



House with No Steps

Let's Go!

WW27453

## SPECIAL FEATURE

AUTISM AWARENESS

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### Realise the power of the NDIS with world class solutions



In an era when more and more of us are time poor and juggling priorities, a new partnership is giving NDIS participants greater freedom with choice and control over their plans.

NSW residents can now access these world class solutions so everyone can realise the full potential of their NDIS plans.

Not many people have heard of “self direction” or “plan management”, but together they liberate NDIS participants from the administration burden of managing their plan.

Simply put, this takes the stress out of dealing with payments and paperwork while opening the door to “unbiased” providers.

In an Australian first, Integra has joined with US-based Public Partnerships (PCG) to provide self-direction and plan management to NDIS participants.

Integra is part of the APM group of companies, a human services specialist

with more than 20 years' experience and delivering services to more than 900,000 people throughout Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. PCG has helped more than 130,000 people in the US through plan management services.

Integra's unique offering to NDIS participants includes:

- Ensuring high quality provider service agreements are in place
- Locating providers best able to meet specific needs
- Navigating the system, and teaching participants how to develop the skills to allow them to exercise true choice and control
- Ensuring participants have full budget control

Want to learn more? 1800 MYNDIS.



How will I manage My new NDIS budget?

We're here to help you put your NDIS plan and supports into action. We will remove the confusion, coordinate your Supports for you, and give you the freedom to make decisions that perfectly suit both your needs and budget.

With 15-years of experience in self-direction and disability support, we can help you to:

- Choose the provider you want with unbiased, expert advice
- Make your money go further
- Live your life free of complex paperwork
- Control your plan the way you want through our Portal & Mobile App
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