



Press release: 5 September 2016

Get 'NDIS Ready' With *Spark NeuroCare*

People with disabilities in Townsville are beginning to transition to the NDIS. For customers of *Spark NeuroCare*, this has involved working with trained coordinators from Townsville and Brisbane to develop individual plans to meet their ongoing support needs.

Ms Penelope McNally from Black River and Ms Debbie Glover from North Shore, both who have MS, are looking forward to the NDIS. They have been working on developing their individual "My Plans" with the team from *Spark NeuroCare* to help access the supports they need on a day to day basis as well as assistance to achieve their personal goals.

"The NDIS has reduced my fears about how I will be looked after in future if and when my independence decreases and my dependence on other people and services increases. The whole scheme gives us a feeling that we will have more control and choice over the quality of services provided to us," said Ms McNally.

Ms Glover added "I like the idea that when you need something in the future, from a simple shower chair to a full purpose bathroom build, the process of getting it will be more practical. We can get advice on the best product that suits, then look around and choose what we want. We won't have all the paperwork and long waiting times plus we have more control and get to be more involved in the decisions that concern us."

"The NDIS will allow people with a disability to make a greater contribution to society because their needs are being met. Some people may even be able to keep or return to employment because of the assistance to help make their life better," Ms Glover added.

Mrs Emily Mussap, Team Leader, *Spark NeuroCare* said her organisation is currently assisting locals with progressive neurological diseases to prepare for the NDIS.

"Helping customers with Motor Neuron Disease, Huntington's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and Epilepsy to navigate the NDIS is one of the many important things that we do at *Spark NeuroCare*," said Mrs Emily Mussap.

“We also provide customers with referrals to appropriate services, links to other local support agencies, assistance with managing service provider relationships and generally being their point of contact for support and local knowledge,” said added.

Spark NeuroCare is a Queensland first involving seven not for profits who have joined together to provide free service coordinators for hundreds of local customers with progressive neurological diseases (PND).

“People with MND, Huntington’s Disease, Parkinson’s Disease, MS and Epilepsy are welcome to contact *Spark NeuroCare* for support. We are offering a free drop-in centre from 10:00am to 11:30am on 13/09, 11/10, 8/11 and 13/12. People and their family and carers can stop by for complimentary morning tea and a chat with the service coordinators for assistance with their personal situation,” said Mrs Mussap.

Spark NeuroCare is located in the Clinical Services Building at James Cook University.

Spark NeuroCare is a free service for eligible customers. For more information please phone 07 4412 7700 or visit www.sparkneurocare.org.au.

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About *Spark NeuroCare*:

The members of the *Spark NeuroCare* collaboration include Epilepsy Queensland Inc, Huntingtons Queensland, Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland Inc, MND and Me Foundation Ltd, MS Queensland, Parkinson’s Queensland and Youngcare.

The proof of concept project is funded by *Spark NeuroCare*, the Queensland Government and from philanthropy. If successful, the current proof of concept project may pave the way to expand the service across the state in line with the NDIS implementation rollout.

Media contacts

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