

The NDIS – Getting Informed

Session for people who are Blind or have Low Vision

Thursday 23rd November 2017



Expanding Ideas; Creating Change

“Very great change starts from very small conversations, held among people who care.” - Margaret Wheatley

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of supporting people under 65 with a disability in Australia. The scheme will start to roll out in the **Brisbane** region from **1st July 2018**, with people being contacted to begin the access process from January 2018.

Join us for a tailored workshop for people who are blind or have low vision including a guest speaker, **Linda Blaik** (Geelong, VIC), a woman who is blind who has been a participant of the NDIS for almost 5 years now.

The NDIS – Getting Informed

What do I need to know to feel ready for the NDIS?

This workshop provides information about the why, when and how of the NDIS. You will learn how to access the scheme and what to do to feel prepared to develop a plan with the NDIS when the time comes.

Sharing Practical Strategies

Linda will share her personal journey and some of the things she has learnt about the NDIS

This part of the workshop will provide a chance to listen and talk more with Linda about her experience and share some practical ways to make good use of the opportunities offered by the NDIS.

Who should attend?

People who are blind or have low vision, their family members and close friends.

Coorparoo

Date: **Thursday 23rd November, 2017**

Venue: **Queen Alexandra House
347 Old Cleveland Road
Coorparoo** (adjacent to the Brisbane Vision Australia head office)

Times: **9.30 AM – 4:00 PM**
Getting Informed and Sharing Practical Strategies

Please arrive a little early to help us start on time.

Registrations are essential.

*Cost of attending this event is funded by the Queensland Government, **there is no cost to register** however places are limited.*

Light refreshments will be provided.

Register by 20th November through the CRU website

www.cru.org.au

If you cannot register online or need assistance to register, call the CRU office on **3844 2211**



Interpreter

Contact CRU if you need assistance to register, attend or participate in this event.



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Expanding Ideas; Creating Change

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Featured Presenter



Linda Blaik (Geelong, VIC)

My name is Linda Blaik. I live in Belmont Geelong, Victoria, with my husband David and my beautiful black guide dog Daicos. We have 3 adult children who have given us 3 wonderful grandchildren.

I was fortunate to be involved with a great program here in Geelong, the LEAD Barwon Project. Leading Educating Advocating for Disability. The project was funded by the Victorian State Government and implemented by the Committee For Geelong CFG. The project worked with a group of people with a disability, informal carers and family members of people with a disability, to build their capacity to speak about their personal experience of Australia's new National Disability Insurance Scheme NDIS. LEAD Barwon commenced in October 2013 and concluded June 2014, during that time I took part in workshops, public speaking about my experience with the NDIS process. Myself and other participants have become highly sort after guest speakers and panellists, I have engaged with media ie: television, radio print and on line. I have taken part in discussions with state and national government representatives in positive ways to ensure the new scheme is supported by them and the whole community. Linda also is employed by NDIA as an independent panel member for recruitment of all levels of staff at NDIS.

I feel I have established sustainable mechanisms, connections and networks to be able to effectively advocate for myself and others for the development, delivery and continued improvement of the scheme.

The thing I enjoy is volunteering with Guide Dogs Victoria GDV, I'm currently the Geelong office Volunteer coordinator, I like to organise a fund raising night once a year for GDV and the other charity that is close to my heart is Albinism Fellowship of Australia AFA. My husband David is a person with Albinism PWA, I am also the Vic state rep for AFA.

Currently I am a member of the GDV client advisory committee and November brought a wonderful surprise to be voted on to the CFG's Strategy and Policy Committee S&PC, I am the first person with a disability to serve on this committee.