



### **NDS and Ticket to Work join forces to tackle School to Work transition**

National Ticket to Work has joined National Disability Services (NDS) to ensure Young Australian with disability have every opportunity to successfully transition from school to work.

There are currently 25 local Ticket to Work networks operating in Australia and, in 2014, they supported over 600 students to gain access to work learning opportunities. With 250 young people obtaining real jobs with real wages.

Funding from the Commonwealth Government Department of Social Services and the Eureka Foundation has meant that National Ticket to Work can continue to support local communities for the next year to implement evidence-based practice to improve school transition.

Ticket to Work is challenging the status quo of low expectation and lack of opportunities through a local community partnership model that brings together disability-specific and mainstream representatives from a variety of sectors to work strategically together to improve the transition and employment needs of young people with disability.

Ken Baker, NDS Chief Executive, stated: 'NDS sees great opportunities by partnering with Ticket to Work and working together to create opportunities for young Australians with disability'.

'NDS is keen to support even more communities develop Local Ticket to Work networks to improve school transition and provide students with workplace learning opportunities such as career development, workplace preparation, work experience and Australian School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships.'

Michelle Wakeford, National Manager of Ticket to Work, said 'the relationship with NDS will strengthen Ticket to Work's ability to create positive change for young people with disability; giving us greater reach into local communities and enhancing our research and policy expertise. In short, NDS will provide Ticket to Work with the architecture for spotlighting and promoting strategies and practices that produce optimal employment and career achievement for young people with disability.

For more information on Ticket to Work, including the evaluation of the initiative, see [www.tickettowork.org.au/](http://www.tickettowork.org.au/)

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