

**AUSTRALIA'S DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT
CONFERENCE**

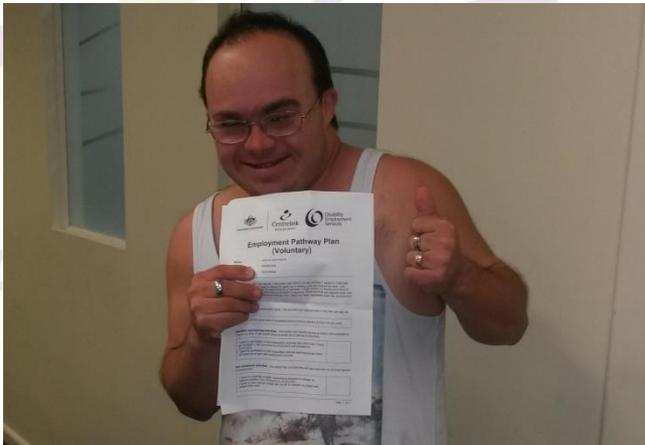
**1.30–2.15pm Thurs 19 August 2015
Sheraton on the Park, Sydney**

**Training & Development for
People With Disability**

**Dr Robbie Lloyd, Community Relationships Manager
SkillsLink Training (aka Port Macquarie Community College, NSW)**

Combining experiential learning, fun and job skills

- Community Colleges and their local community allies play a central role in assisting vulnerable people (people with disability, mental health challenges, traumatised groups) to learn new skills, develop confidence and become part of entrepreneurial new community ventures.



- By respecting people's different learning styles and speeds, adult learning approaches help people to gain confidence and take risks.

Taking small steps to new ventures



- Developing whole-of-life learning programs, where creative classroom activities combine with hands-on experience in community ventures.
- Personal confidence & skills for employment strengthened.

- Exploring new skills & opportunities for developing their own small businesses by people with disabilities.
- Providing a Business Incubator support service helps people to run their own businesses and still have a place to belong and share socially while working on their business.



Collaborating to support local development

- Bringing people with disabilities together with other vulnerable groups to support each other's creative, personal and vocational development builds social cohesion and inclusion.
- The Mid North Coast Human Services Alliance (MNC HSA), a coalition of NGOs who are seeking collaborative partnerships for development in regional Australia, is a strong local support network for such approaches.

**Watch for MNC HSA's
Conference: "Sustainable
Services: Creating a New
Future" 16-17 Nov. at
Panthers, Port Macquarie**



Community Ventures involving people of mixed abilities:

- Companionship in nursing homes and retirement villages (and soon individual homes)
- Animal Companionship



- Catering for community group gatherings
- Community Gardening, horticulture and permaculture
- More to come in partnerships with community

Port Macquarie Hastings School of Hard Knocks

- SkillsLink Community College is also establishing a branch of the School of Hard Knocks for the Mid North Coast of NSW with Dr Jonathon Welch.
- This Creative Arts for Recovery Program will provide a range of activities: from choir activity to musical performances, creative writing to percussion groups.



- This will also align with a Post-School Enterprising Futures College for 18-25 year olds living with disability, where students can engage in experiential learning.

CONCLUSIONS

- The aim of this project is to share practical ways of more effectively engaging with and supporting self-development of vulnerable communities.
- By forming collaborative partnerships for such development among local individuals, families, carers, NGOs and businesses it is possible to share the benefits more widely.
- True sustainability will come when the community is deliberately choosing to employ these people and use their small businesses as part of improving everyone's quality of life – and it's a heap more fun!

SkillsLink
TRAINING
Your community college

