No Barriers a Disability Priority for NT Government

A program that enables people with disabilities to learn new skills and engage in meaningful activities outside their care environment has been launched by Health Minister Kon Vatskalis, as part of Disability Awareness Week.

The NT Government has provided more than $1 million funding for the Life Without Barriers Community Pathways Program, which provides an additional 28 day option places across the Northern Territory.

More than 180 direct support hours are being provided each week through the program.

“Life Without Barriers was developed in Darwin and Alice Springs to provide services for people with severe and profound disabilities, who are not eligible for supported or open employment,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“This is an exciting step for many people with a disability, opening the door to a greater variety of day options and skills development opportunities.

“Disability Awareness Week is an important local health initiative that has had a positive effect on the NT community since it began in 2004.

“It aims to recognise the achievements of Territorians with a disability and increase access to services, facilities and opportunities in general.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to providing services to meet the needs of Territorians with disabilities, the frail aged, Senior Territorians, families and carers.”

Earlier this year, the Government opened the Office of Disability, which plays an integral part in this process as a ‘one stop shop’ providing support by improving access to advice and services.

Mr Vatskalis also welcomed the appointment of a Disability Access Coordinator who will help implement a whole-of-government framework to improve access to mainstream services for people with a disability.

“This is an exciting step forward for aged and disability clients. It fulfils the Government’s commitment to improving access to advice and services,” he said.

“The Government provides and funds a wide range of specialist disability services including supported accommodation, day options, personal assistance and comprehensive assessment and support planning. In the past twelve months there has been an increase in the number of supported accommodation places across the Northern Territory.”

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