MINISTER FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

A FOCUS ON ABILITY, NOT THE DISABILITY

2 September 2013

The Northern Territory Government will today launch a five-year strategy to increase attraction and retention rates for people with a disability in the public sector.

Minister for Public Employment John Elferink said EmployAbility is an important strategy to improve career opportunities for individuals living with a disability in the Territory.

EmployAbility reflects the public service's focus on the ability rather than the disability of people, and commitment to be an equal opportunity employer.

“At the end of the day, it's the ability that really counts,” Mr Elferink said.

“The strategy aims to create a more inclusive and diverse public sector workforce environment with a range of career opportunities on offer.

“There are around four million people who identify as having a disability in Australia, and more than half of these are of working age.

“Employees with a disability are more likely to stay with an employee for a longer period, have lower absenteeism, and strengthen workplace morale, according to recent research.

“The strategy will work to address a gradual decline in recent years of people employed in the public sector who identify as having a disability.”

EmployAbility will position the Northern Territory Public Service (NTPS) as a disability confident employer by:

- Advancing an inclusive workplace culture;
- Supporting attraction and retention practices;
- Supporting skills acquisition and career development; and
- Promoting accessibility.

Mr Elferink said the NTPS will continue to build confidence in employing people with a disability.

Mr Elferink will tonight officially launch EmployAbility at a function to mark the opening of National Disability Week.

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