NEW SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DISABILITY SERVICE WORKERS

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The Northern Territory Government will establish annual scholarships for people working in the disability service sector to boost their skills and career opportunities.

Minister for Disability Services Robyn Lambley made the announcement during a conference in Alice Springs today, on the impending trial of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the Barkly.

“The scholarship program recognises the outstanding effort and hard work many Territorians already provide in the sector,” Mrs Lambley said.

“It also ensures those same people have the opportunity to up skill and increase their training.

“We will be offering four annual scholarships of up to $2500 for disability service workers, who would like to pursue further study to up-skill, develop their career opportunities, and contribute to ways we can modernise the delivery of disability services.

“The scholarships will be able to be put towards tuition fees, resources and reasonable costs.

“People who work in this sector are truly unique in their willingness to work hard, and with compassion and strength, to empower people with a disability to actively participate in their community.

“The scholarship program will also ensure the Territory remains at the forefront of best practice and innovation in the provision of disability services.”

Work on the scholarship application process is underway, and the program will be one of the first agenda items for the inaugural Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability Reform next month.

More than 130 people attended today’s NDIS conference in Alice Springs, which included presentations from National Disability Services, Brain Injury Australia, First People’s Disability Network and NPY Women’s Council.

The conference provided organisations and disability service workers with the information and tools they need to begin preparing for the NDIS trial.

“With the Barkly trial of the NDIS just three months away, it is an exciting time to be involved in the disability services sector in the Territory,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Over the course of the trial, 103 residents with significant and profound disabilities will have their needs assessed.

“The Barkly trial will be unlike any other currently underway around the country.
“It will shine a spotlight on the many challenges that Territorians with a disability, their families, carers and service providers face on a daily basis.

“We will learn a lot about the issues surrounding access, quality and level of services provided under the trial.

“I am confident that with a unified approach we will also learn a lot about how together we can improve the services clients and their families receive.”

Under the current NDIS Agreement, the Territory Government is responsible for 40 percent of the funding required for the scheme, with the Commonwealth making up the balance.

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