



Ability Links NSW

October 2014



Family &
Community Services

Ability Links NSW

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Background

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006
- The National Disability Strategy 2010-2020
- Living Life My Way Consultations

What is Ability Links NSW ?

- A **new way to support** people with disability, their families and carers – to lead inclusive lives and achieve their goals.
- Part of shift towards **Person Centred Approach**
- Part of the ongoing **reform** of the disability sector
- **Connections to community** - outside of the traditional disability service system

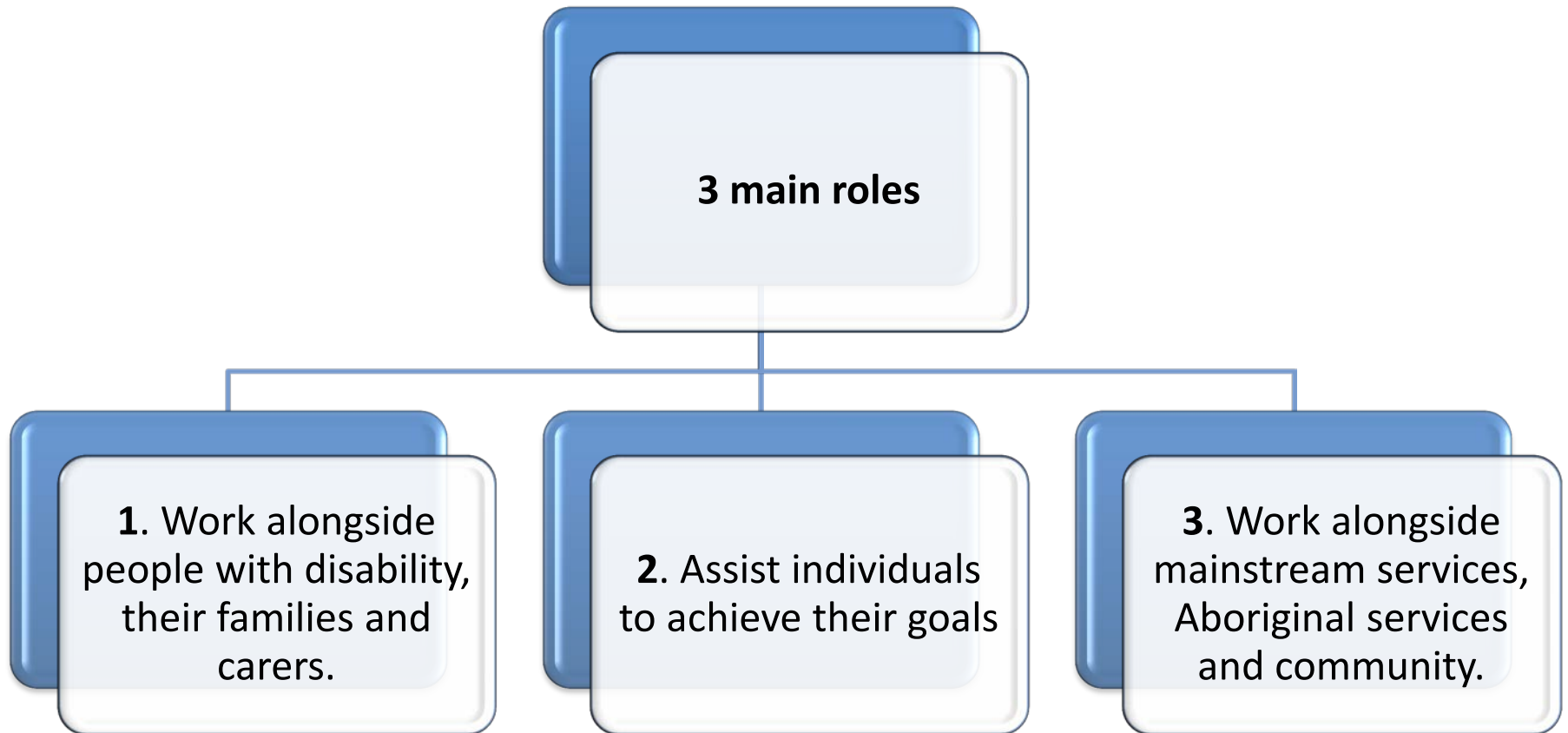
What is Ability Links NSW ?

- Ability Links NSW will be delivered by 268 Ability Links Coordinators, known as **Linkers**
- 47 Aboriginal **identified** Linker positions across NSW
- **Linker diversity** – to attempt to meet the needs of all sectors within the community
- Aboriginal identified positions delivered by Aboriginal non government organisations

What is Ability Links NSW?

- **Values-based initiative** underpinned by the principle that people with disabilities are **valued and equal members of society**
- Designed to **promote the rights** of people with disability to **live meaningful/fulfilled lives in all spheres of their life**
- Facilitate the **inclusion of people** in the activities offered by public, private, non-government & volunteer based services & organisations

What does a Linker do?



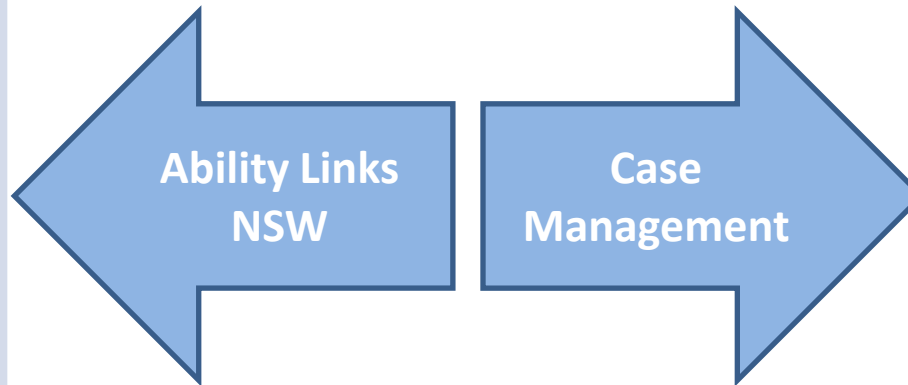
What does a Linker do?

- Knows the community and what's available
- Supports people to make connections within community
- Is accessible and mobile
- Thinks outside the box
- Can make referrals if required

How does Ability Links NSW differ from Case Management?

Aims to:

- ***provide a locally based first point of contact in local community to improve access and engagement;***
- ***support and encourage participants to reach their goals.***



Aims to provide a collaborative model of individual client focused service delivery including:

- ***assessment;***
- ***planning;***
- ***implementing and monitoring services.***

Who can access a Linker?

- Ability Links seeks to support people **who are not traditionally known to the disability service system**
- Ability Links can **complement funded services** to support people to make **community connections outside of the specialist disability system**
- **Anyone can contact their local Linker** – no proof of diagnosis or referral required
- **No assessment or eligibility criteria**
- **Not time-limited**

How to access a Linker?

- To access a Linker in your local area, contact your local Ability Links provider
- Fact sheet, including provider contact details, available here today
- Provider contact details available on ADHC website from this week at:

http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/ability_links_nsw



Sydney based Linker contacts



Provider Name	FACS District	Contact Details
St Vincent de Paul Society in partnership with Settlement Services International	South Western Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and Sydney	Ph: 02 8622 0456
UnitingCare NSW/ ACT in partnership with Settlement Services International	Northern Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains and Western Sydney Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern	Ph: 02 8830 0768
Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation <i>In partnership with Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care and Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation</i>	South Eastern Sydney / Sydney Botany Bay, Hurstville, Kogarah, Randwick, Rockdale, Sutherland Shire, Sydney, Waverley, Woollahra, Canada Bay, Leichhardt, Marrickville	Ph: 02 9528 0287

Sydney based Linker contacts

Provider Name	FACS District	Contact Details
Annecto – The People Network <i>in partnership with Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation</i>	South Western Sydney / Sydney Bankstown, Liverpool, Fairfield, Ashfield, Burwood, Canterbury, Strathfield	Ph: 02 8047 0909
Jaanimili (UnitingCare Children, Young People & Families) <i>in partnership with Yenu Allowah Aboriginal Child & Family Centre</i>	South Western Sydney / Western Sydney Camden, Campbelltown, Wollondilly, Wingecarribee	Ph: 02 8796 9707
Sydney Region Aboriginal Corporation	Nepean Blue Mountains Western Sydney / Northern Sydney Auburn, Parramatta, The Hills Shire, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Ryde, Warringah, Willoughby	Ph: 02 4722 3524

Ability Links NSW to date

**February
2012**
Establishment
of ALNSW

2012
Initial Tender
process

2012
Establishment
of ALNSW
Taskforce

July 2013
Launch of
ALNSW in
Hunter

July 2014
Ability Links
NSW is
available
statewide

Ability Links and the NDIS

- A collaborative partnership
- Linkers supporting people with community connections
- Memorandum of Understanding

Linker Numbers

FACS District By Cluster	Number of Linkers
Central Coast	Aboriginal – 6
Hunter New England	Generalist – 35

FACS District By Cluster	Number of Linkers
Mid North Coast	Aboriginal – 13
Northern NSW	Generalist – 31

FACS District By Cluster	Number of Linkers
Murrumbidgee	Aboriginal – 11
Western NSW	Generalist – 24
Far West	

Linker Numbers

FACS District By Cluster	Number of Linkers
Northern Sydney	Aboriginal – 5 Generalist – 47
Western Sydney	
Nepean Blue Mountains	

FACS District By Cluster	Number of Linkers
Sydney	Aboriginal – 6 Generalist – 64
South Western Sydney	
South Eastern Sydney	

FACS District By Cluster	Number of Linkers
Illawarra Shoalhaven	Aboriginal – 6 Generalist – 20
Southern NSW	

What comes next?

- Community Engagement
- Learning & Development
- State-wide conference
- Ability Links Evaluation
- Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Strategy
- Communications
- Capacity Building



Questions & Answers



Close

