

# Our **purpose**

To enhance the lives of people with a disability.

# Our **vision**

Choice. Inclusion. Achievement.

# Our **core values**

- We put people first • We are one team • We are all accountable
- We strive to always do it better • We are inspired by challenges
- We make ethical and sustainable decisions

# **Annual General Meeting**

## **Exploring Future Support Options Project Update**

# Why DSA is doing this research?

- Requests from Members at the 2010 AGM
- 2010 Board Strategic Review
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

# Research Project Team

- Mark Spurr (CEO)
- Kevin Brown (DSA Board Member)
- Catherine Dickson (GM Community Support Services)
- Louise Mooney (GM Employment Services)
- Heath Dickens (Manager DSA Employment)
- Jennifer Delany (Project Officer )

# Project Aims

- Explore the desired future support needs of supported employees in regard to:
  - Accommodation
  - Social supports
- Determine support options that are currently available
- Explore innovative options for potential Government funding

# Methodology

- Communicate the project to all employees and their family/carer
- Establish focus groups to identify perceived support needs
- Research current support options and future policy directions

# Communication of Project and Request for Participation

- Article in the Business Services Employee Newsletter and Solutions Magazine
- Letter sent to all employees, families and/or carers to get involved
- Letter to all Employee Representative Committee Members (ERC)
- Advertisements on factory Notice Boards

# Employee Focus Groups held to date

- Mascot                      12<sup>th</sup> of October  
   (29 employees)
- Condell Park      26<sup>th</sup> of October  
   (16 employees)
- Braemar – sessions still to be held

# General Feedback from Employees

- Current accommodation arrangements varied across the groups
- Majority of people living independently still require support in a variety of areas. Many noting that these needs have increased over time
- Most of those living at home had never discussed what would happen when no longer able to live with parents or where they would like to live

# General Feedback from Employees (cont)

- Significant challenges with finding affordable housing that meets their needs in locations of their choosing.
- Issues noted were:
  - too small
  - repair and maintenance issues
  - living with significantly older neighbours
  - living in areas where there is high crime/drug problems
  - unable to find housing close to their family



# General Feedback from Parents

- Very happy that DSA was helping people explore their future needs
- For those employees who live at home - very little future planning undertaken. A few made a Will, nothing further.
- An overwhelming sense of not knowing where to start with planning for the future
- High anxiety and concern from parents on what would happen in the future

# General Feedback from Parents (cont)

- Keen for further information (financial planning, assistance with getting started with planning, other relevant information e.g. Public Guardian and Trustee)
- Keen to share their views
- All requested an update/copy of the report on the project
- Interest expressed in setting up parent/carer support group

# Resources provided at Parent/ Carer meetings

- FAHCSIA's booklet – Planning for the Future booklet (2007)
- Information on other resources – 'SAFE and SECURE' Planning for the Future
- DSA commitment to organise future focus groups and forward other relevant information/resources

# Where to from here....

- Ongoing collation of the information from our employees and their families/carers
- Completion of round one of focus groups across all Business Services locations
- Completion of parent/carer phone interviews
- Next round of focus groups will review social support needs. This will commence in early 2012

# Where to from here....cont.

- Continue research and development into availability of current accommodation and social support options
- Continue research analysis on current social policy trends on accommodation and support needs for people with a disability

# Where to from here....cont.

- Explore possible support options under an NDIS
- Communication with Government, NDS, carer lobby groups and other disability providers to identify good practice models for future support options

# **Report will be made available by June 2012**

- Recognising the evolving possibilities in the changing disability environment, this report will detail:
  - DSA's research findings
  - Proposal/suggestions for innovative practices including NDIS opportunities
  - Recommendations for government funding submissions