



# Multicap | Media Release

17 February 2017

## **Disability support workers to benefit at specialist conference**

Disability support workers have an unrivalled opportunity for professional development and networking in the upcoming Disability Support Workers Conference next week, which features speakers from throughout Australia and the world.

Co-hosted by Multicap and CPL, supported by Centre of Excellence and sponsored by Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, the second annual Disability Support Workers Conference will be held on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 February at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The conference, which features a line-up of Australian and international speakers, has been designed to provide up-to-date information on best practices for supporting customers and in-depth knowledge about the changing industry landscape.

Attendees will also have significant networking opportunities to enhance their own career prospects.

Multicap CEO Joanne Jessop believes the conference will result in better quality care for people with disability.

“Those attending the conference will develop more skills and knowledge about how to support their customers through the NDIS roll out,” she said. “We are very confident that our customers’ quality of life will be enhanced as a result, and that is what makes this conference so invaluable.”

The programme features an impressive line-up:

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|----------------|---|
| Amy Williamson | More than 15 years in Social Services sector, managing services within disability support, out of home care, homelessness, aged care and mental health. Amy has particular interest working with and learning from Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander people and communities. |
| Ann Greer      | Professional experience in disability support for more than 40 years, developing and managing services and supporting people with disability to dream big. Ann also has lived experience of disability through her adult son and daughter.                                      |
| Beth Lohmann   | The Employment and Community Services Director at Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin. She has been with Easterseals for the past six years working to increase integrated programing related to work and community.  |



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- Verity Bottroff (PhD)** Dr Bottroff has more than 35 years' experience working with people with disability and specifically people with autism, and led the development of tertiary education programs for professionals supporting people with autism in Australia.
- James Bannister** James is the national project manager for NDS's Zero Tolerance Initiative, with 15 years' experience in the disability sector, focussing on empowering people with disability.
- John Grantley (MEd)** An experienced academic who lectured in Bachelor of Disability Studies, and experience teaching children with severe intellectual disability. John has also coordinated projects to create employment and educational opportunities for people with intellectual disability.
- Kym McNally** Kym has extensive experience in Positive Behaviour Support and is a Senior Practitioner in the Practice Leadership team with the Centre of Excellence for Clinical Innovation and Behaviour Support, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.
- Lynn Walker** Lynn is the Director of Quality Assurance at Easterseals Arc in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and began supporting people with disability as a Direct Support Professional, and previously worked in rehabilitation and staff training.
- Mark Wakefield** More than 20 years' experience in behaviour support overseas and in Australia, as a teacher and Principal and also as director of his own health and social care business.
- Michelle McLennan** Michelle is a Senior Program Officer in the Behaviour Support Team with the Centre of Excellence for Clinical Innovation and Behaviour Support, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.
- Nick Lennox** Professor Nick Lennox Director, University of Queensland's Centre for Intellectual & Developmental Disability based in MRI/UQ. He is a researcher, educator, advocate & medical clinician.
- Sally Maizey** Sally is a qualified naturopath whose clinical experience has often included working with those with gender identity concerns and other sexual and hormonal issues. She has a keen interest in mental health and the endocrine system.



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Samantha  
McGowan

Sam is a Psychologist with 15 years of experience providing behaviour support to adults with disabilities. She has a particular interest in improving the implementation of agreed behavioural interventions to ensure positive outcomes.

Tickets for this important annual conference are available at [www.dsw.org.au](http://www.dsw.org.au) and can also be purchased in person on Tuesday 21 February at the conference.

## Web links

Multicap: [multicap.org.au](http://multicap.org.au)

Disability Support Workers Conference: [dsw.org.au](http://dsw.org.au)

## About Multicap

*Multicap is a leader in creative and sustainable solutions for disability support. Our expertise, our passion for placing customers first, and our commitment to finding a way, always and in all ways, is what sets us apart. We have been enhancing the quality of life of our customers and their families for more than 55 years. It's what we do.*

*Multicap: your choice in disability support. All ways, always.*

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