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Considering a career change? Disability services set to expand with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

A career that helps to shape people's lives for the better and build opportunities where no two days are ever the same – isn't that the dream of most job-seekers?

On the eve of Disability Action Week (10-16 September), now is the perfect time to consider the possibilities of a career in the disability services sector.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will roll out in Central Queensland from November 1, and disability services organisations like AnglicareCQ will be expanding their workforce to meet the needs of people living with a disability, following changes to the way disability support are being delivered.

AnglicareCQ is a local provider of disability supports, with more than 30 years of local experience in community service. The staff, management and board are all Central Queenslanders through and through, passionate about seeing disability services delivered in the region.

AnglicareCQ's Disability Services Coordinator, Louise Millers, is heading up the organisation's NDIS delivery in Biloela. Louise, a qualified nurse, joined AnglicareCQ in 2005 as a Support Worker. She says the NDIS is exciting news for those who will be eligible to receive disability support.

"AnglicareCQ has had plenty of enquiries about the NDIS – and it will certainly help participants who aren't supported yet to truly receive the services they need."

"To grow our team of Disability Support Workers, it's crucial to focus on bringing out the best in both carers and participants. I love matching loud carers with quiet participants or vice versa to get the best out of both people or providing our participants with the choice of who they work with. You'd be surprised at what makes a successful partnership!" said Ms Millers.

With a person first mindset, the AnglicareCQ team is a dynamic place to work, delivering services across Rockhampton, Gladstone, Blackwater, Barcaldine, Winton, Emerald, Biloela, Longreach and Moura. This person-centred focus is key to successfully delivering the NDIS, given the scheme's participant-led approach to funding. Louise says this is nothing different to how Anglicare CQ currently delivers support.

"People with disabilities are the reason I stay in this job – it's so important to remember that we're working with people to enjoy their life. I also get huge satisfaction out of keeping our team of carers happy. Finding time for your staff is crucial to keeping good staff."

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Chinkie Van Rensburg, AnglicareCQ's General Manager People and Strategy, says that AnglicareCQ is looking for people of all ages and walks with a love for people to express their interest to work with our team.

"We want to help our participants to be part of their local communities through inclusion. We want participants to live their best life and provide them with more dignity as well as a sense of fun. We are deeply invested in working with people to make the best of their lives – we have our hearts and souls invested in this gig."

Working in the disability services sector could involve assisting people with a disability in areas such as personal care, developing general living skills, transportation, as well as supporting them to participate in community activities.

Full on-the-job training is provided, and the team-based environment at AnglicareCQ means new workers will develop a thorough understanding of the rights and responsibilities of people with a disability, as well as the range of supports that individuals require with a focus on capacity building, independence and autonomy. Most importantly, the person-centred approach of putting the needs, wants and goals of participants first will be the focus.

"Anglicare Central Queensland may be a not-for-profit organisation, but we are a for-purpose organisation – and we give life to our purpose through our staff. Our staff is our brand. We endeavour to make the most ordinary things extraordinary – simply by doing them with the right people," said Ms Van Rensburg.

Are you looking for a career that enables you to work directly with people with disability, to work with them to achieve their goals and dreams? As the spotlight turns toward Disability Action Week, consider if a career in disability services might be right for you.

To find out more about working with AnglicareCQ, visit anglicarecq.org.au/work-with-us/ or call 1300 769 814.

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