

# WE LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS VE

## MEDIA RELEASE

6th December 2017

### LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS IN TASMANIA

Staff, clients and customers of Life Without Barriers are celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national support service provider's arrival to the Apple Isle, with events on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of December in Launceston and Hobart respectively.

State Director for Tasmania, Rhonda McLaughlin said the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which will see special recognition of staff achievers making the difference in lives of many, was a reflection of the organisation's success supporting the community.

"Since Life Without Barrier's established itself in Tasmania in 2007 we have seen a continued expansion of our services offered, making meaningful changes to people's lives across the state," Rhonda said.

Starting with support to people with disability, our services now encompass foster care, support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, refugees and Asylum Seekers, older people and people vulnerable from social inclusion."

Recent developments for the Tasmanian team include the wonderfully successful "*Lets start a Moo-vement*" foster carer recruitment campaign with Ashgrove Cheese, the roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) allowing clients with disability to tailor their services to meet their needs.

"The NDIS is making independent living more accessible to our clients," Rhonda said.

"With living and support arrangements taking on a different look according the individual and their needs.

"Since the scheme has been established, Life Without Barriers have worked with a number of young people and their families to design supported living arrangements that provide appropriate levels of support and assist individuals to build skills and confidence."

While Life Without Barrier's celebrate their first decade in Tasmania, Rhonda McLaughlin said staff are already looking ahead at the next 10 years and the possibilities that lie ahead.

"10 years may seem like a long time for some, but our team are already looking forward to continue to grow the range of supports we offer individuals and groups within the community," Rhonda said.

"Our focus will be to build enduring relationships with our clients and working with them to design services that work.

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In the spirit of Reconciliation, Life Without Barriers acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country, and their connection to land, water and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures and customs, and to Elders both past and present.

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“We will also be ensuring that we can meet people’s needs in a way that means they don’t have to access a range of different services, unless of course they want to.”

**END**

**About Life Without Barriers:** Life Without Barriers (LWB) is one of Australia’s largest leading social purpose, not-for-profit organisations, working in more than 300 communities across all states and territories. Its main areas of operation includes support to children, young people and families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, refugees and asylum seekers, people with disability, older people, and people who are vulnerable to social exclusion.

## **Media Enquiries**

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