

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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New joint venture to boost economic participation of people with disability

A pioneering collaboration between one of Australia's largest providers of disability services, Life Without Barriers (LWB), and leading employment services provider, Angus Knight Group (AKG), will create better outcomes for job seekers with a disability as a result of a successful bid to provide employment services nationally.

JobLife Employment, a first-of-its kind joint venture between LWB and AKG, will provide Disability Employment Services (DES) in 26 service areas around the country from 1 July 2018 following its successful outcome in the Australian Government tender for DES. This will make JobLife one of the 10 largest DES providers in the country, creating opportunity for thousands of job seekers who currently experience barriers to employment.

JobLife will leverage LWB's extensive disability services experience and national presence, in partnership with the five-star rated disability employment services experience of AKG's JobFind Centre business, to assist job seekers with a disability find and maintain sustainable employment.

Chief Executive of Life Without Barriers, Claire Robbs said, "JobLife will be a fierce advocate for job seekers around the country and our collaboration with Angus Knight is a great example of what can be achieved when two committed organisations join forces to improve the lives of people in the community.

"People with disability who find sustainable employment benefit from greater independence, increased self-confidence and a number of other positive impacts such as improved overall well-being and social participation.

"We know there are thousands of job seekers eager to find work. They just need support, and I am delighted that our partnership with Angus Knight will expand our service offering to employment services and create more choice and control for people with disability to find and thrive in sustainable work," she said.

Chief Executive Officer of Angus Knight Group, Michael Hobday said, "We are excited to partner with a highly respected social purpose organisation with a significant national presence, whose legacy has roots firmly planted in creating opportunities for people with disability.

"There is great synergy between our two organisations and a shared commitment to help improve the social and economic participation of people with disability who have so much to contribute.

"It's an opportunity for our two organisations to learn from each other, leverage our networks for growth, and set JobLife up as the first choice for disability employment services," Mr Hobday said.

Chief Executive Officer of JobLife Employment, Anthony Parsons said, "JobLife is the result of a unique partnership between a social purpose organisation that supports some of the most vulnerable people in the community and a highly experienced employment and training company that has provided services to more than 100,000 people.

"I'm appreciative of the opportunity to tap into over 40 years of combined experience between Life Without Barriers and Angus Knight in the delivery of a wide range of employment, training and specialist support services across Australia.

“We know that people who are looking for work want to be treated with respect and receive genuine support to unlock employment opportunities, and equally, employers want great staff matched to the roles they have available. JobLife is well-positioned to do just that, as a collaboration between two person-centred organisations built on values-driven culture and meaningful impact,” Mr Parsons said.

JobLife will operate across 26 employment services areas (ESAs) nationally, with a presence in 35 locations. The company is currently recruiting experienced staff to provide disability employment services when it opens its doors to participants on 2 July.

For more information, visit www.joblifeemployment.com.au or email contact@joblifeemployment.com.au

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About Life Without Barriers:

Life Without Barriers is one of Australia’s largest not-for-profit social purpose organisations, delivering innovative, community-based programs to more than 18,000 people from diverse community groups across the country. Employing more than 5,600 staff, LWB works in more than 440 communities delivering services in family support, disability, out-of-home care, aged care, mental health, youth justice, homelessness, substance abuse, and provides support for refugees and asylum seekers.

About Angus Knight:

The Angus Knight Group has been delivering employment, training and technology services to more than 100,000 recipients since 1991. The Group delivers Disability Employment Services (DES) through JobFind Centre Australia, which assists people with disability, injury or ongoing health conditions in NSW. JobFind achieved five-star rating for its delivery of DES in Fairfield and Illawarra. The organisation was one the original job network providers when delivery of employment services was outsourced in 1998, and was among the five largest providers until 2015.