



## **NEW EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS LAUNCHED TO SHIFT FOCUS ON ABILITY – NOT DISABILITY**

**As The Mai-Wel Group gets set to celebrate 50 years of advancing the lives of people with a disability and providing opportunities for individuals, the Hunter disability service provider launches another program to open the door to career opportunities for those with a disability.**

Hunter LabourForce Solutions, a division of The Mai-Wel Group, recently launched a new employment program for people with a disability.

This new program, funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is a specifically designed employment program for people with a mental illness in the Hunter.

It was identified that there was a lack of Specialist Mental Health Employment Services in the Hunter region, The Mai-Wel Group responded to the Australian Government's 'National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy' by developing an employment program based on the recommendations.

Currently, the employment rate remains almost 30% lower for people with a disability. The launch of this important employment program will succeed in maximising each person's potential to participate in education and employment by focusing on ability, not disability.

Hunter LabourForce Solutions currently operates this program in Maitland, Cessnock and Dungog.

The Mai-Wel Group recognises the importance of education and training as a pathway to sustainable employment, both as an employer and service provider, and is passionate about presenting day to day work or employment opportunities for those with disabilities.

"Staff and management of The Mai-Wel Group are committed to the success of the program and understand the value and importance of work for people experiencing a mental illness", says Hunter LabourForce Solutions Manager, Kyllie Tegg.

"It is more than just earning an income at the end of the day; it's about having somewhere to go, somewhere to belong and an opportunity to participate in their community".

People who are experiencing mental illness and are interested in, or who are looking for work opportunities can contact Hunter LabourForce Solutions on 02 4934 3144 to find out more information on the range of services The Mai-Wel Group can provide to the community.

Hunter LabourForce Solutions is a specialist employment program which places people with disabilities into local businesses. More than just recruitment, they provide services that enable their clients to obtain and retain valued employment in the local community.

**Please direct all media enquiries and interview requests to Eclipse Media, Events & PR on 4961 3200  
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