

Pathways to a career in disability support services



Disability support services in Australia are largely delivered through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Over 500,000 Australians with disability use the NDIS to access services for treatment, care and support to build independence. It allows them to develop new skills, maintain work, volunteer and improve their quality of life.

Disability support services are delivered in a range of settings including residential, supported living, community, day programs and in the home. Support can include physical and psychosocial support, community groups, sporting clubs, support groups, libraries and schools.

A highly skilled and professional workforce is the foundation of high-quality services in disability support. Career pathways include existing and emerging roles as a disability support worker, lived and living experience worker, peer work, specialised support and clinical roles, support navigation, technology specialist and more.

Why choose a career in disability support services?



Diverse pathways from care and support roles to leadership.



In-demand skills to get job-ready with practical training.



Make a difference to support individuals with a disability.



A growing industry as disability support is one of Australia's most in-demand sectors.



Long-term employment prospects in a sector that needs skilled workers.

Career pathway snapshot:

Corey's story



Corey Grossman

Service Coordinator, Community Living Association

After five years running a gardening business, Corey's career took a turn after an injury forced him to step back from manual work. Looking for direction, he completed a careers quiz which suggested his suitability for employment in the care and support sector.

After talking to a friend who worked in disability support services, Corey decided to give it a go. While completing a Certificate III in Community Services, he undertook a work placement at Community Living Association and he was able to secure a permanent role.

Since then, Corey has completed a Certificate IV in Disability Support and been promoted from being a disability support worker to a service coordinator position. He said, "It's a very rewarding job. You get to put smile on people's faces every day, all day and that's rewarding in itself."

"I'm loving it, you know, I plan on staying for a very long time." For those thinking about a career change, Corey's advice is simple: give it a go.



Corey's career pathway

Owned a gardening business



An injury led to a change career



Completed a Cert III in Community Services



Employed as a mentor



Promoted to disability support worker



Completed a Cert IV in Disability Support



Promoted to service coordinator



Aiming for senior management roles

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