



Pathways to a career in disability support services



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

The NDIS currently allows over 500,000 Australians with disability to access services for treatment and care, support to build independence, 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 aged care is one of Australia's most in-demand sectors.



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

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Career pathway snapshot:

Jess' story



Jessica (Benge) Burr

Manager, AL3 – Avid Life Long Learning

Jess grew familiar with disability support at an early age through her cousin who had a disability. She realised the difference she could make in her cousin's daily life and for others with a disability.

At 16, Jess completed her CHC22015 Certificate II in Community Services and has since completed 4 additional qualifications, working across nearly every part of the disability sector from direct support and education to coordination, training and leadership.

Now leading a new NDIS-focused initiative that combines her lifelong passions for autism advocacy, hands-on support and workforce training, Jess' journey shows how the disability sector offers not only rewarding work opportunities but also the chance to grow, lead and make a lasting impact.

There are so many different aspects to this industry. There's endless opportunities and that's really cool.



Jess' career pathway

Supported a cousin with a disability



Completed Cert III in Individual Support in Year 11



Completed a Cert II and III in Community Services



Earned an Australian Overseas Foundation scholarship

Moved to Canada as personal assistant to a go kart racer with autism



Founded Racing with Autism Australia



Completed a Cert IV in Training and Assessment



Completed a Diploma in Community Services

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