Case study

Karyn, support coordinator and registered disability worker

Karyn is a 49-year-old disability worker in central Victoria. She works as a direct care support worker for someone with complex disability. She is also a support coordinator who helps people with their NDIS plans.

Employed as a support worker for eight years and an unpaid carer for 15 years, Karyn has seen big changes in the sector.

One of the biggest changes was the introduction of the NDIS and the difficulties navigating plans. Seeing that support was needed in this area, Karyn moved into the disability workforce.

Karyn sees disability worker registration as a way to ensure the right people are entering the workforce.

"Registration is so important as it means professionalism is being recognised and brought to the sector."

Karyn, support coordinator and registered disability worker

Image used for illustrative purposes

Case study

Yunus, registered disability worker

Yunus is 18 years old and based in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. He has been working with people with disabilities for over two years.

Coming from a family with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) speakers, Yunus has focused his career on working with clients from CALD backgrounds.

He is now a proud support coordinator. He liaises with various organisations to ensure that people with disabilities are being supported regardless of who they are or what their disability is.

Having both family and friends with cognitive and physical disabilities, Yunus was familiar with the needs of people with disability in the community even before starting a career in the disability sector. He also knew the gaps where these needs were not being met.

Yunus' long-term plan is to finish his Bachelor of Nursing and become a specialist support coordinator.

For Yunus, being registered gives him an extra layer of confidence in his skills that he can demonstrate to both clients and employers.

"Being registered means I am able to show clients that I am trusted and qualified. I can also show potential employers I am willing to take that extra step for my career."

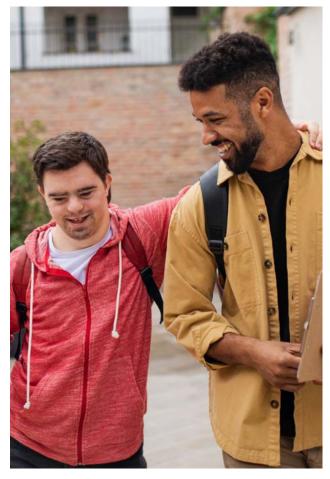Yunus, NDIS support coordinator and registered disability worker

Image used for illustrative purposes

Case study

Jay, youth mentor and registered disability worker

Jay is a 43-year-old youth mentor working with children with complex backgrounds. A large number of the children mentored by Jay have a disability.

Originally from the UK, Jay was a professional basketball player who volunteered as a mentor for children caught up in gang culture.

Since migrating to Australia, he has continued mentoring. He started his own business and works mainly with young people in correctional facilities.

Registration helps Jay as his business is now recognised as a professional disability service provider. It ensures the community knows he has the skills to work with children with disability.

He also sees the recognition registration provides as a benefit for the whole sector.

"Registration and being recognised as professional are important as an individual, and to increase confidence in the sector and the appeal of entering the sector as a worker"

Jay, registered disability worker