

Monday 11 September 2017

TECHNOLOGY PROVIDES DYNAMIC COMBINATIONS OF CHOICE FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

The creators of three innovative online platforms will join forces on 4 October 2017 in the Hunter region to showcase the online platforms supporting people with a disability and their carers to gain choice and control over all aspects of their lives.

As the NDIS rolls out, people with a disability are increasingly able to make choices they have previously not been empowered to make.

“The ‘Get Connected’ information sessions will highlight how technology can assist people with a disability to have choice and control over their care and support, social activities and gain meaningful employment,” said Careseekers Co-founder Marissa Sandler.

“These platforms are game changers for people with a disability and their carers,” said MyCareSpace founder Nicole Gamerov. “Being online, they reduce some of the barriers to accessing support, employment, activities and resources that match your actual needs. For providers, if you want to be relevant in the marketplace of today, it’s important to be accessible and visible online.”

The Get Connected forum is an opportunity for attendees to learn how to use the websites and direct questions to the founders/CEO’s of Careseekers, MyCareSpace and Toozly.

Careseekers is an online platform that directly connects people looking for in-home care and support, with care and support workers.

MyCareSpace allows people with disabilities and their carers to easily access a national directory of over 5,000 local services, providers, short term accommodation (respite) and activities plus a resource library and shared personal stories.

Toozly is Australia’s largest job search website for people with disabilities. It connects people with disabilities with meaningful employment and helps organisations tap into a largely underutilised talent pool of job seekers with disabilities.

People with a disability, their carers and family and those working in disability organisations and providers are encouraged to attend the event. **It is free to attend.** Please RSVP by phoning 1300 765 465 or emailing marissa@careseekers.com.au

When: Wednesday 4 October 2017

Charlestown:

11am-12.30pm

The Place, Charlestown Community Centre

Cnr Frederick and Pearson St, Charlestown

Media Contact & Interview/Photo opportunities:

Maitland:

2.30-4pm

Emerald Room, Club Maitland City

14 Arthur St Rutherford, Maitland

Marissa Sandler 0437 506 673



BACKGROUNDER:

MYCARESPACE <https://mycarespace.com.au>

MyCareSpace is an exciting new platform developed to serve both people with a disability, parents, carers and providers of services.

With the introduction of the NDIS, people have real choice and control over how they access disability services, and providers need to connect with customers in new and different ways in order to respond to their changing needs.

This led to the creation of Mycarespace, by two friends Nicole Gamerov and Bianca Shapiro. Through her own family experience, CEO Nicole knows how challenging it can be for someone to live with a disability.

'Having choice is well and good, but it can also create stress. Our objective is to support better informed choices by making relevant and quality information more accessible. Many forums exist on social media for people to solicit views and ideas from their peers, however the quality and accuracy of the information on these forums can be very subjective and in some cases factually incorrect,' said CEO Nicole Gamerov.

MyCareSpace offers a national directory of over 5,000 local service providers, access to high quality research, practical resources and personal stories as a powerful way of sharing knowledge. The directory has both NDIS registered and non-registered providers listed.

Nicole is passionate about inspiring people to reach their full potential and MyCareSpace encourages people to explore and seek out new experiences.

The service is free for all users. Service providers can list on the directory for free or they can elect to take a paid subscription, which allows them to customise their page, upload interactive media and images and respond to customer reviews.

Users and businesses can register at MyCareSpace at <https://mycarespace.com.au/user/register>



BACKGROUNDER:

CARESEEKERS www.careseekers.com.au

Careseekers is an online platform that directly connects people needing in-home care with care or support workers who can assist with personal care, domestic duties, social companionship and transport.

Careseekers was created by sisters Marissa Sandler and Lauren Hockley in 2015, following family experiences of supporting ageing relatives remain at home. Careseekers was one of five start ups chosen to participate in the NRMA/Slingshot Accelerator program and received initial funding from the NRMA and a Venture Capital fund.

The platform uses digital technology to directly connect qualified and experienced care and support workers with people who need care and support. People looking for care workers can post a job, invite care workers to apply for their job and contact care workers directly. Careseekers also offers a concierge service to assist individuals and families choose their care worker – this is great for consumers who are less tech savvy, time poor or overwhelmed by choice.

- By making this direct connection care and support is:
- Affordable – Careseekers is not an agency. The support and care workers set their own rates and start at \$25 per hour.
- Tailored – there are no minimum hourly requirements. Find someone for one hour a week or 24/7 live-in.
- The right fit – the person needing support, or someone assisting them, chooses who provides the care or support from our database of vetted care workers.

The platform has been in operation in NSW/ACT for two years and has successfully connected hundreds of individuals and families with care and support workers. The platform is currently expanding to Victoria.

To register with Careseekers, all care and support workers need to have a National Police Check obtained in the last 12 months, 100 Points ID and two references that can be called. They also go through an on-boarding process that involves a detailed online questionnaire and phone call from a member of our Care Community Team.

Workers paid through our online payment system are covered by public liability insurance. Careseekers is a private service. It can be used by self managed NDIS participants and regularly works with disability providers to help their clients pay for the service using their Government funding.



BACKGROUNDER:

Toozly <http://www.toozly.com.au>

Quick Facts:

- There are 2.2million working aged Australians with a disability.
- Toozly was established in 2015 as a single point of reference for job seekers with disabilities, Service Providers (Consultants) and Employers.
- Toozly is utilised by over 80 National Employment Service Providers with a combined network of over 700,000 job seekers with disabilities.
- Toozly Employers include Commbank, ANZ, NSW State Government, NDIS/NDIA, Life Without Barriers, PwC & Department of Human Services.
- We receive 250,000 page views per quarter - That's 1 million per year!

Toozly is Australia's largest job search website for people with disabilities. It was developed in 2015 by Dr Jeffrey Baron Levi, Neuropsychologist and Kieran Baron Levi, General Manager of Xcelerate Employment, a Disability Employment Service supporting jobseekers and employers throughout Sydney for the past 21 years.

In June 2017, Xcelerate was closed to focus full attention on Toozly, which then had over 3,000 registered Jobseekers and over 400 Registered Employment Consultants and Service Providers Australia wide.

Toozly has maintained a small, specialised team of dedicated staff, 100% of whom are either people who have a disability or are the primary carer of someone with a disability. Toozly is a privately funded organisation, operating out of Bondi Junction in Sydney - with a national reach. *Toozly helps organisations tap into a largely underutilised talent pool of skilled and experienced job seekers with disabilities.*

Toozly is completely free for Jobseekers, Employment Consultants and Service Providers.

Visit www.toozly.com.au & click to register in one of three groups:

