Boosting the Local Care Workforce Program:
Understanding the allied health workforce in disability

Katie Bourke: BLCW Specialist Coordinator, allied health
What does the allied health workforce of tomorrow look like?
BLCW background

Allied health

• Emerging themes and future opportunities

Get involved
## Boosting the Local Care Workforce Program

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a $22 billion opportunity to support 460,000 people to achieve their goals.

The Boosting the Local Care Workforce (BLCW) Program has been established to support providers to realise those opportunities and establish an effective market for disability services nationally.

The BLCW Program aims to:

| Enhance the capacity of disability and aged care service providers. |
| Support services and aged care providers to operate effectively and expand their workforce under the NDIS. |
| Increase service providers’ awareness of opportunities. |
| Boost local job opportunities in regional, rural and outer metropolitan areas across Australia. |
BLCW Program initiatives

These aims will be achieved through three key initiatives which include a national network of Regional and Specialist Coordinators, and Transition Assistance Funding available to eligible service providers.

These initiatives are supported by the BLCW Program website, including the NDIS Demand Map and Readiness Assessment Tool.
BLCW Program initiatives

Through these initiatives, the BLCW Program will provide valuable insights and analysis back to the Australian Government to inform policy approaches.
Specialist Coordinator initiative

Specialist Coordinators focus on a sector focus area, develop useful tools and resources for the sector, and inform government of any issues and opportunities for policy development. Some of their activities are outlined below.

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<tr>
<th>Focus Areas</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>High Support Needs</td>
<td>Focus on NDIS providers that assist high support needs clients</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability and Aged Care Collaboration</td>
<td>Focus on opportunities for disability and aged care collaboration including recruitment and providing increased hours of work and prospective career paths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remote areas</td>
<td>Support market development in remote areas, especially through leveraging network of Regional Coordinators and connecting with other regional and remote programs or service delivery models</td>
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<td>Indigenous providers</td>
<td>Encourage more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned organisations to register as NDIS or aged care providers, and adding to the business skills of NDIS, health and aged care specialist Indigenous services</td>
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<td>Self direction &amp; self management</td>
<td>Focus on self-managing NDIS participants who are not fully utilising their supports or are having difficulty in engaging providers</td>
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<td>Allied Health</td>
<td>Focus on accessing allied health providers of value to NDIS and aged care and self-employed professionals/positive behaviour support practitioners</td>
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<td>Financial management</td>
<td>Engage with financial intermediaries and issues related to Specialist Disability Accommodation providers and developers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workforce planning</td>
<td>Identify available workforce resources and funding for training and recruitment and promote these within network of Coordinators and BLCW Program website.</td>
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The NDIS Demand Map provides an up to date forecast of the NDIS demand by postcode across Australia.

Use the map to find out:

- How many NDIS participants are expected to live in a postcode
- How much participants are expected to spend, and on what types of support
- How many workers may be required to meet participant needs and preferences

Access the Demand Map at:
Allied health: 
Emerging themes & future opportunities
Access to allied health services

Skills and experience
- Workforce pipeline
- Students
- Skill development, community of practice

Geographical Distribution
- Cross sector planning
- Innovative design
- Rethinking the ‘How’
Rural and remote person centred approach


Person at centre with their support network.

Services for a good life

Local solutions  Outreach  Centre-based  Role for technology

Evolving
Access to allied health services

Skills and experience
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Geographical Distribution
- Cross sector planning
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Low capacity
- Wait lists
- Business skills, service design and dimensions.
- Service efficacy – delegation

Indigenous communities
- Community designed solutions
- Capacity building and training within the community.
What does the allied health workforce of tomorrow look like?
What’s next?

• Have a look at the website: blcw.dss.gov.au

• Keep an eye out for the next round of transition assistance funding

• Get in touch via the website or direct at Katie.bourke@blcwprogram.com.au

• Share your experiences
• Find out more
• Get connected to a Regional Coordinator in your area