



Media Release

Stronger Disability Services in Victoria Through Merger

Two of Victoria's most highly regarded disability organisations are intending to merge in 2017.

Melba Support Services and Karden Disability Support Foundation are intending to come together to expand their highly regarded services and to position both organisations to better meet the needs of individuals under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The merger will also deliver greater financial sustainability to the organisations and enable investment into critical "back of house" services, which are essential to the provision of support under the NDIS.

Continuity of services for existing clients of both organisations is guaranteed.

The organisations have undergone an extensive due diligence process and the Boards of the two organisations have resolved to complete the merger by 1 July 2017.

Chair of Karden Disability Support Foundation, Ms Daina MacLeod said "Karden and Melba share a very similar mission, philosophy and values that focus on respect, treating people with dignity and human rights. This is one of the main reasons we have chosen to merge".

"We're excited to be coming together to build a stronger organisation and to provide an expanded range of services and opportunities for individuals with disability".

It is proposed that Karden, who is based in Ballarat, will continue to operate under its existing trading name, although legally it will become part of Melba Support Services Incorporated.

As part of the merger, the two organisational boards will be combined, and a dedicated Ballarat advisory committee is planned.

Rachael Jones, Karden's CEO will continue to work as the senior manager responsible for all Ballarat region services while Glenn Foard will be Chief Executive Officer of the merged entity.

Rachael Jones, CEO of Karden Disability Support Foundation said "This is not the first time that Karden and Melba have worked together. We were jointly awarded a Government tender in 2015 to provide support to the clients of the Sandhurst Centre".

"Melba is an excellent fit for Karden and the merger will enable us to expand the services we provide".

"Melba has been a leader in the disability services sector for the last 44 years. We are thrilled to be joining an organisation with such extensive experience and alignment of values and purpose" said Ms Jones.

CEO of Melba Support Services Glenn Foard said "The care and wellbeing of the individuals supported by both organisations are our priority, and it has been critical to ensure that there won't be any change to the services they receive, nor the high-quality service we provide".



Background:

Melba Support Services is based in Lilydale and provides services throughout eastern and southern Melbourne and the Yarra Ranges. Karden is based in Ballarat and provides services throughout the Central Highlands region.

Karden and Melba were among the first not for profit disability providers to voluntarily comply with National Disability Standards.

Melba is the only organisation in Australia to be accredited for person-centred excellence with distinction by the Council on Quality and Leadership, USA.

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Authorised By:

Websites: www.melbasupport.com.au

www.Karden.org.au

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