

Media Release



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For immediate release

SAMARITANS LAUNCHES NEW EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Samaritans Early Childhood Early Intervention has recently been appointed as a NDIS Transition Provider and is launching a new program to offer support to children and young people aged 0-12 years with additional needs across the Mid North Coast and Great Lakes areas.

As well as providing assistance to families where children have an NDIS plan, the Early Childhood Early Intervention team can provide support for families who are concerned about their child's development through information and education, linking families to local community resources.

"Samaritans experienced Early Childhood Early Intervention will support and promote the family's competence and confidence in providing their child with development enhancing learning opportunities. It's a great program to increase the inclusion for young people living with a disability within our community," said local program lead, Dianne Mead.

The program will provide support and liaison with schools to support smooth transitions from early childhood settings, support parents with resources and strategies to best meet the child's identified needs and goals and increasing opportunities for community inclusion and engagement for children requiring early intervention.

"The program currently runs social groups, local playgroups and facilitates collaborative meetings with other therapist supports, ensuring the best possible outcome for children. It's about helping children, their families and the whole community to provide better support toward meeting individual goals for young people," Ms. Mead said.

Participation in the program can be either self-referral by the family, or on behalf of the family by an early childhood service, early intervention service, school or community organisation.

The program is also exciting news for jobs in the region, as Samaritans are currently recruiting staff to be part of the Early Childhood Early Intervention team – allied health (Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, therapy assistants, psychology) and Accredited Teachers.

"Research tells us that parents are the most influential people in a child's life. Young children learn and develop through play and through relationships with important people in their lives. The approach of Samaritans ECEI is evidenced-based and has proven to be the most effective way to assist families who need support. It is also the most cost effective way to ensure your child's funding is maximised under NDIS." Ms. Mead said.

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