



# The Centre for Disability Employment Research and Practice

## The Best Head for the Hills: Evidence Based Disability Employment Leadership Retreat 2017.

- ▶ Purpose: Foster innovative approaches to solving the future course of Disability Employment.
- ▶ This Year's Theme: Advancing Employment in the New NDIS / DES Paradigm.

When: 23 - 26th October, 2017

Where: Oscars on the Yarra, Warburton. VIC

Time: 5pm Monday, 23rd October to 1.00pm Thursday 26th October.

We're unabashed fans of the think tank run by our friends at The Centre for Social Capital in the USA, who have for twelve years have hosted an invitation only enclave of thought leaders in the world of customised employment practice to gather and explore solutions to disability employment issues.

In 2017, we continue the journey. Limited to a small gathering and open to all with an interest in Disability Employment, our second retreat will give preference to previous participants before opening to new participants.

Over three days we'll build on the successes from our 2016 retreat and explore some of the outcomes and then explore new ideas, new research and evidence pointing to the future of disability employment in Australia.

The process will start by highlighting what works in different settings and we hope will finish on Thursday with a common approach to evidence based employment that works within the new NDIS / DES world of practice. It's this uniformity of practice that clients who transition through the different service types cry out for, which becomes even more urgent in a time when disability employment systems grapple with the idea of client choice and control. The balance of our time will be spent discussing emerging aspects of customised employment practice and organisational change to survive in the new paradigms..

We've got a lot to talk about and we've arranged everything to allow this to happen. It's not a conference, but a gathering of thought leaders - are you one?

Register your interest or find out the full details by emailing: [lauren.pavlidis@cderp.com.au](mailto:lauren.pavlidis@cderp.com.au).

Full registrations will open on 1st May, 2017.

# Theme: Advancing Employment in the New NDIS / DES Paradigm.

We believe that by creating an atmosphere of sharing and open speech, the right people will turn up and in 2016 they did! Part of that process includes holding the retreat in a clean mountain environment beside a flowing river. We'll start the process by listening to participants sharing their success's and highlighting what works for them. We admit to some bias in that we believe evidence based practices such as those employed by customised employment specialists are the gold standard when it comes to person centred approaches to employment.

As part of the process of exploring what is working, we'll break into small groups to explore an individual group area and then in presenting the results to the larger group see if we can find synergies and common approaches that work. From here we hope to sow the seeds of creating a practice base that is universal across the different employment settings.

We want answers to the following questions.

- What processes work in creating successful open employment jobs for people with a disability?
- Is social enterprise a viable option to transition people from ADEs to open employment?
- What works in transitioning people with a disability to open employment?
- What works in creating micro-enterprise opportunities of people with a disability?
- What changes are needed to make SLES and the NDIS employment supports create real jobs?
- What organisational changes are needed within providers to foster individual choice and control?
- What learnings from the 2016 Retreat helped advance your program?

The answers to these questions will be compiled into a discussion paper for release. By the end of the retreat we hope to have advanced the course of disability employment and furthered our advocacy of employment opportunities for those that wish to pursue them.

But we don't want to work you into the ground, so there will be opportunities to relax and explore the local area. Warburton is an area rich in beauty and offers a range of attractions to explore. We also have a quest speaker who will talk about his journey to success.

Evenings will be spent enjoying each others company and sharing experiences, making new friends and building new networks. All this is a serene mountain environment, perfect for clearing the brain and engaging in constructive discussion. But it's not all hard work, like 2016 we'll be heading out on Wednesday night to enjoy some of the local delights before dining at a wine cellar in Healesville. At last years participants request, we've amped up the night out!

## **Registrations.**

Lauren Pavlidis from CDERP will be handling registrations. You can email her on: [lauren.pavlidis@cderp.com.au](mailto:lauren.pavlidis@cderp.com.au) regarding your intention to attend. Registrations will be handled in order of receipt. The cost of the program is \$450 which includes all materials and our last day lunch on Thursday. A deposit of \$150 is required by the 30th July , 2017 to save your spot. The balance of your payment is due no later than 15th September, 2017. After this date full registrations are required. All payments are non refundable.

## **Accommodation.**

We've arranged the accommodation on site at the Best Western, home of Oscars. Accommodation is twin share to ensure that everyone gets the opportunity to network and meet new faces. If you want to have a room to yourself, that's ok, but will be at the single room occupancy tariff.

Rooms are \$255 per person twin share and includes breakfast and \$450 for a single room for the three nights inclusive. Lunch and dinner is at your cost, except for the last day when we'll be hosting a lunch event at our cost, as a way of thanking you for being a part of the event. Oscars is fully licenced, however if you have a favourite drink, then you might want to think laterally about that. Our suggestion is that you might want to BYO your favourite drinks (and snacks), so that you don't have to make the gruelling 10 minute walk into town!.

Lauren will be allocating shared room occupants on a same gender basis, unless you have a friend that you wish to share with ( you'll need to let us know). Lauren will also allocate single occupant rooms as well. The accommodation is a disability friendly environment.

## **Meals.**

We'll be taking regular food breaks, so If you have any dietary needs, then let us know. Breakfast is provided, lunch and dinner will be from the menu at your cost and of course we have our last day extravaganza at our cost! To make things easier, we've organised a BBQ for Monday night so we can all sit down, relax over a few drinks and get to know each other. Price of the BBQ is \$25 per head. Please let us know if you'll be partaking. Let us know if you have any meat preferences within reason). Warburton and surrounds also have a selection of eateries if you choose to dine out. Remember, we've also organised Wednesday night, so really you just need to think about Tuesday night dining in al a carte or do your own thing. Let us know so we can let them know for catering purposes. To make it even easier we've arranged a meal package, so you need to confirm with reception when you check in.

## **Transport.**

For people who are flying in to Melbourne and hiring a car, we'd like to make it easier by connecting you with participants undertaking the same journey. By car pooling you can share the costs and ensure that everyone gets there in time for Monday nights dinner. It's important that you let us know in advance so that we can share details and make tentative arrangements for you. If you're local, maybe you can help out or do the same thing. Warburton is approximately 70 kilometres east of Melbourne via Lilydale and is the gateway to the Mount Donna Buang Snow play area and home to mountain bikers, hikers and other bush activities at other times of the year.

Remember it is a mountain environment and can get cold quickly, but is a great place in spring. Flowering plants and trees, wildlife and crisp clean air.

Mind you it's a great place to burn a marshmallow over an open fire!



# The Centre for Disability Employment Research and Practice

## The Best Head for the Hills: Evidence Based Disability Employment Leadership Retreat 2017 Registration Form.

When: 23 - 26th October, 2017  
Where: Oscars on the Yarra, Warburton, VIC 3799 ([www.oscarsontheyarra.com.au](http://www.oscarsontheyarra.com.au))  
Time: 5pm Monday, 23rd October to 1.00pm Thursday 26th October.

Name: .....Organisation:.....

Street Address: .....City: .....State: .....PC: .....

Phone: .....Email: .....

Room Preference: .....(Single or Shared) Assistance with Transport: Y/N.....

Disability Specific Requirements: .....

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Dietary Requirements: .....

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Other Information Important to Your Participation:  
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Invoice Required: Yes / No. If required email or post.

Registration to attend requires a confirmed paid deposit of \$150 by the 30th July 2017 and full payment by the 15th September, 2017. Before registering, please email [lauren.pavlidis@cderp.com.au](mailto:lauren.pavlidis@cderp.com.au) to confirm available spaces. Completed registrations emailed to Lauren Pavlidis.

Deposits and full payment can be made to: Disability Employment Research Pty. Ltd t/a Centre for Disability Employment Research and Practice;

National Australia Bank. Acct: 083004 911425114.

Email completed registration form to: [lauren.pavlidis@cderp.com.au](mailto:lauren.pavlidis@cderp.com.au)