

Media Release

September 2018

Orana and Down Syndrome SA set to join forces

Leading disability service providers Orana and Down Syndrome SA are excited to announce that they are joining together to increase their impact in the lives of people with disability in South Australia. Both organisations share the same vision and are a good cultural fit, and together offer a fantastic opportunity to people with disability in SA.

Shaun Kennedy, Chair of Down Syndrome SA commented “In an increasingly competitive environment, and with the introduction of NDIS, organisations such as ours who are fully committed to our clients and putting service before profit need to be in a position of strength”.

A big change like a merger is a great opportunity to build on Down Syndrome SA and Orana’s existing strong relationship and combined strengths in the NDIS environment bringing a greater positive impact to the people we support. Our staff are the key to delivering quality services to people with disability and we greatly value their commitment and expertise.

“Our focus remains squarely on continually improving the range and quality of services we offer to our customers. While honouring our traditions, we understand that people with a disability are customers with the right to choose the service provider that best meets their individual needs. Together, Down Syndrome SA and Orana can direct more resources to our combined offerings, allowing clients a wider choice of services provided by caring professionals who are valued by a viable organisation,” Bill Filmer, AM Chair of Orana.

The proposed merger will:

- Provide financial security for the future of current Down Syndrome SA services
- Build on the brand name of both entities to be a leader of services for people with intellectual disability
- Build a bigger cohort of families with which to network and build relationships

- Create a breadth of services enabling a whole of life approach
- Broaden the breadth of service locations including three Adelaide metropolitan and six Regional locations for Down Syndrome SA
- Provide an opportunity to innovate and offer new services

The target date the merger will take effect is subject to the necessary consents, approvals and agreements being transferred for the continuation of services. Current Down Syndrome South Australia Board member Paul Kerin will join the Orana Australia Ltd Board at this date and will play a pivotal role in bringing the disability service providers together and developing a new strategy for the organisations.

“With each day, we will work in partnership with our customers and staff to further improve our services as we strive to help more people with disability live in an inclusive community,”
Nick Mihalaras, CEO of Orana.

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Orana

Orana, a highly respected South Australian disability organisation with a long history. Orana’s value proposition is to “provide clients with individualised support to enable them to live a life of their choosing in an inclusive community” to read more about Orana please visit <https://www.oranaonline.com.au/>

Down Syndrome SA

Down Syndrome SA’s vision is to create an inclusive South Australia where every individual with Down syndrome is given an equal chance to learn, grow and thrive. We do this by providing the skills, education programs, social experiences and support networks to empower individuals with Down syndrome to succeed in a community which values their abilities and potential. To read more about DSSA please visit <http://www.downssa.asn.au/>