

# MEDIA RELEASE

**29/03/16**

## ***More than 1,000 Jobs on Show***

Following the success of last year's inaugural event, the Aged Care Illawarra Workforce Action Group (ACIWAG) is pleased to be once again hosting a Career Expo to help build a stronger and more vibrant workforce across the Illawarra. The Careers Expo will be held from noon – 6pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Café Essay & Conference Centre, 11-13 Burelli St, Wollongong.

The Career Expo will feature an exhibit area with 30 employers & training organisations, showcasing career opportunities. Employers have indicated they have over ONE THOUSAND jobs needing to be filled in the next 12-24 months.

"In a time when employment is declining in many of the region's traditional employment areas, this is a great opportunity to highlight careers in aged and disability services" said Mark Sewell, ACIWAG member and Aged and Community Services (ACS) Regional Chair "Aged and disability services are huge employment growth sectors for the Illawarra and Shoalhaven"."

"It's important to recognise that, while there will be great opportunities for direct care workers, the aged and disability sectors also offer a range of career opportunities from building and property services, administration and management roles, to professional services such as finance and marketing" ACIWAG member and CEO of the Illawarra Forum, Nicky Sloan said

"Whether you are a young person looking for inspiration for the future, a career-changer looking for the next opportunity, or one of the region's many job seekers, the Careers Expo is a fantastic opportunity to come and learn just what our sector is all about." Ms Sloan added

Aged and disability services can offer many advantages for their employees including flexible working conditions, local opportunities, challenging and rewarding activities, and secure careers with interesting pathways.

"Imagine a job where you are appreciated and respected, and can make a really huge and positive difference in someone's life" said Mr Sewell "There will be many employers there on the day with actual job vacancies ready to meet the right people, as well as facilities and support for job seekers to complete online applications."

## **Media Interview/Photo Opportunity**

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| <b>12.30pm – 1pm</b> | <b>Event Launch featuring Gareth Ward MP (Representing Hon John Ajaka MP Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services,) Stephen Jones MP, Sharon Bird MP and Mark Sewell (Regional Chair Aged &amp; Community Services NSW )</b> |
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**Media Contact:**

**For Comment:**

**Nicky Sloan 0407 933 279**  
**Mark Sewell 0407798881 or 0409833101**

**To organise an interview time and/or to confirm your attendance.**

**Tessa Parsons      0421 044 152**  
**OR Carole Johnson      0419 464 753**

[tessa@illawarraforum.org.au](mailto:tessa@illawarraforum.org.au)  
[carole@jaievents.com.au](mailto:carole@jaievents.com.au)

**Key Messages**

The Aged Care Illawarra Workforce Action Group (ACIWAG) is a partnership project of Aged & Community Services NSW & ACT (ACS), the Illawarra Forum, NSW Dept Industry State Training Services, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, RDA Illawarra & TAFE Illawarra.

- Aged Care, Community Care and Disability Services is now Australia's largest employment sector with 1.2mil jobs
- Demand is growing faster than any other sector and will continue to grow to meet the population demands for the next 40 years
- Australians are living longer and the number of Australians who are older is increasing, but the numbers in the Illawarra are **higher** than the NSW and Australian averages.
- It is projected the Illawarra needs at least 1000+ new workers in the next 12-24 months to meet the growing demand
- There are a wide range of roles beyond the traditional Nursing/Carer roles including Transport, Maintenance, Recreation, IT, Hospitality, Finance, Health, Administration & more.
- This sector can provide an interesting and diverse career for many years for people from any background, gender or age.
- Skills of all kinds are required; most people have many of transferable skills which are welcome in the sector. There are also a variety of training options available, for those that need further training.
- The way we have delivered services in the past is changing. This is a great opportunity for new workers to be part of a large reform and shape the future of the community services sector.