



MEDIA ALERT FOR MONDAY 14 MAY 2018

MEDIA AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

DATE: Monday 14 May 2018

TIME: 11am

LOCATION: CBA Innovation Lab, Commonwealth Bank Place South, Ground Floor, 11 Harbour St, Sydney

INTERVIEW / PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES: Disability Discrimination Commissioner Alastair McEwin, Northcott Innovation Executive Director Samantha Frain, NEST Ambassadors* Aaron Hickey, Aaron McMahon and Sharon Jacobs

Australia's First Home Matching Website 'NEST' Launches *Giving Accommodation Choice to People with Disability*

35,000 to 55,000 NDIS Participants Have Unmet Housing Needs Across Australia

With an estimated 35,000 to 55,000 Australian participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)** having unmet housing needs, Northcott Innovation has launched, NEST, a website matching people with disability to housing that meets their support and funding requirements as well as personal choices.

NEST is a fast, free and easy way for people with disability to find Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)*** that matches their lifestyle preferences (such as location, shared/unshared occupancy and modern conveniences including air-conditioning), as well as support and funding requirements.

With demand outweighing supply, finding an accessible home that meets funding requirements and also appeals has been difficult for people with disability. Often, many wait for years for a home, only to be allocated a vacancy that doesn't suitably meet their specialist needs or personal desires.

As the go-to destination for SDA properties, NEST gives back choice and enables people with disability to search for and be matched with SDA vacancies that fit their needs and preferences. Carers and support workers can also search on behalf of loved ones or those in their care.

To be matched with a property on NEST, people with disability or their carers create a profile outlining their support, funding requirements and personal preferences. NEST then automatically matches the profile with properties listed on the website that fit the needs and wants. They can then apply for their preferred properties. The provider responsible for the listing will be notified of the application so they can review and shortlist eligible applicants, manage tenancies and fill vacancies quickly.

Northcott Innovation Executive Director Samantha Frain said, “NEST gives people with disability the chance to truly match their needs and desires for a home with SDA vacancies in a simple platform that is easy to use. Even if they are just thinking about moving out or moving homes, NEST allows them to search for suitable properties and see what is available that meets their requirements. If they find something they like, all they have to do to apply is click a button.”

Ms Frain said choosing where to live is one of the biggest decisions anyone can make.

“In the past, SDA was offered via a Government based centralised waiting list system that met the person’s care needs but ignored important factors like where they would like to live, what type of home they wanted to live in and with whom they wanted to share. The new system under the National Disability Insurance Scheme throws away the centralised waiting list and leaves the filling of SDA vacancies to the market. That assumes the person with disability looking for somewhere to live, and the SDA provider with a vacancy, both understand how that market works and how best to find what they want. However, the reality is that there are many people chasing too few vacancies, which can be hard to find, and the requirements to fill those vacancies are complex.”

NEST also lists properties that are planned, being built or have a room becoming available in the immediate future and for up to two years. It also enables SDA and Supported Independent Living (SIL)**** providers to find eligible tenants to fill vacant properties and rooms.

Users can also search for properties without registering and creating a profile, however in order to be matched with suitable homes, a user must complete their profile.

Developed by Northcott Innovation, an established disability focused innovation company, and subsidiary of disability services provider, Northcott, NEST helps providers reduce the time they spend assessing funding eligibility, giving them more time to match the compatibility of applicants with existing residents.

NEST is available via desktops, laptops, tablets, mobiles (iPhones, Android and Windows).

*NEST Ambassadors can talk about the benefit of using NEST as a carer or person with disability looking for a home.

***The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of funding services and supports for people with disability. If you are aged under 65 and you have a disability you may be eligible for NDIS funding to support you.*

****The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) defines Specialist Disability Accommodation as accommodation for people who require specialist housing solutions that meet their extreme functional impairment or very high support needs. If you have SDA funding included in your NDIS plan, you can source the SDA you require and choose from the market. The SDA funding you have will cover the home itself, not the support services you may need.*

*****Supported Independent Living (SIL) is assistance with and/or supervising tasks of daily life to develop the skills of individuals to live as autonomously as possible. Supported independent living is funding for supervising tasks of daily life in a shared living environment, either temporary or ongoing. People with a disability who live in a private rental setting, own their own home and live with others, or those who live in Specialist Disability Accommodation may be eligible.*

Please note:

NEST does not provide housing or assess tenant applications. NEST is an internet-based matching platform. It connects people with disability in need of a home with suitable vacancies that meet their funding and support requirements, needs and wants.

About Northcott Innovation

Northcott Innovation is a solutions developer focused on creating new and innovative products and services for people with disability. Northcott Innovation's purpose is to enable the co-creation of solutions to support people with disability to live as equals in their communities.