

Melba Support Services is a not-for-profit, community based organisation that supports people who live with a disability to lead everyday lives of their choice.

Melba has been a leading community organisation in the Yarra Ranges for more than 40 years. Melba is also the first organisation in Australia to be accredited for person-centred excellence by the U.S.-based Council on Quality and Leadership.

Our mission, for individuals with a disability to lead everyday lives, underpins every decision, action and communication undertaken at Melba, and helps to ensure that the services we provide value and respect the rights of each person accessing our services, and focuses on each person as an individual. As a not-for-profit organisation, Melba relies heavily on donations to enable us to continue to provide services that are of the highest quality, are individualised and forward thinking.

For over 40 years we have been providing services to people with intellectual disabilities that have been benchmarked by the industry as best practice. Our leadership team are often invited to key note at conferences and our systems and tools have been shared with many other services to ensure that we are making the largest positive impact possible.

Donations help us to assist people to connect with their chosen communities, undertake valued roles, and support people to lead everyday lives.

In 2014 Melba has a series of major projects that we are undertaking. Each of these projects are underpinned by our values to ensure the services we provide remain person-centred and individualised, and each are aimed at providing greater choice for each of the people we support. And of course, they all require funding that is above our traditional funding, to achieve. These projects will have a significant impact on each of the people we support, and we hope that they will also help to drive change and improvements within the disability sector.

### HAVING CHOICES...

Having choices in life, whether big or small, is something that many of us have a great deal of control over. From what we choose to eat for breakfast, to where and with whom we live, our choices help us to become the person we want to be and help us to achieve our goals and dreams. However, for people who have an intellectual disability, those choices are often very limited – and we want to change that.

### GETTING TO REALLY KNOW A PERSON...

Melba is committed to providing greater choice to the people we support. One of the ways is we do this is through our commitment to truly getting to know each person, what they like and don't like, what is important to them, and what they would like to be doing in the future. We do this through Personal Outcomes Measures Interviews, Facilitated Person-Centered Planning and our Human Rights Checklist. To undertake this for one person, across one year, it costs us \$137.

### ACCOMMODATION CHOICE...

Melba has also embarked on our Accommodation Choice Project, where we will build 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units, in a shared space, to enable people to have more choice about where they live, with whom they live and with how many people they live. This is an enormous project that we believe will instigate significant changes in the way disability accommodation services are provided, and we are proud to be leading the way.

### PART OF THE COMMUNITY...

To truly be connected to our community, we first need to be seen within it and have good access to it. For the past 40 years Melba's Ormeau Rd, Mt Evelyn site has been a central location for Melba activities, however we now acknowledge that with limited access from the site to other community facilities, a lack of public transport and the fire risk associated with it, we need to relocate to a more central place. This project is an enormous, but much needed one, and we are currently investigating potential sites. We know that relocating to a more centrally based site will significantly benefit every person we support.

Your donations will help us to achieve all of this.

Thank you in advance.

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- PART OF THE COMMUNITY
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