



# Imagine the Possibilities: Increasing employment opportunities for people with disability

with US-based expert, Sara Murphy

IDV, Yooralla, MiLife, the 'Ticket to Work' team at the Brotherhood of St. Laurence along with the Centre for Social Impact at Swinburne University and Koomarri are committed to **improving community inclusion and employment outcomes** for people with disability. We have partnered to present a workshop run by an international expert on how to maximise the chance of people with disability **Building Meaningful Lives** that includes participation in the workforce.

The idea of getting a job can be intimidating for many people with disability - and inconceivable for some families. But when we take a step back from what may or may not seem possible, there is a shared understanding that having a job is a good thing. The benefits of having a job go well beyond a paycheck. Having a job is a way to make new friends and define ourselves. The dignity and self-worth that comes from working cannot be understated. For adults of all ages with disability, the idea of getting a job may seem impossible. For others, letting go of the structure of a day program or job at an Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE) to work in the community seems daunting or impossible. Fortunately, this no longer needs to be the case. Experience from overseas demonstrates that even people with significant disability can play a valued role in our workforce.

This session is designed for **people with disability and their families and advocates** to learn about the benefits of person-centered discovery and Customised Employment as a means to enter the workforce and sustain a job. We will present a model that braids work and non-work services together to create wrap-around supports and service plans that are individualised. This approach has been applied in the USA with excellent results in workforce participation and outcomes of people with disability.

The session will be run by US-based Senior Training Associate for TransCen, Inc. Sara Murphy. Sara will talk about how to reframe the job seeker and the job placement process, using a "strengths, not deficits" approach. She will discuss how disability providers should work together with individuals and their support network to teach critical skills, build meaningful lives and put people on the road to success. Sara will provide examples of how job seekers' unique skills and personal characteristics add value to an employer's business and can result in a customised position.

This session is also about lifting the ceiling of our collective expectation of what is possible for people with disability. Job seekers and their families will leave with new ideas for advocating for themselves and their loved ones and easy-to-use tools for finding not just a job, but the right job.

This event is supported by IDV, Yooralla, MiLife, the 'Ticket to Work' team at the Brotherhood of St. Laurence along with the Centre for Social Impact at Swinburne University and Koomarri.

## Event Details

**Tuesday 2 May, 6:30pm - 9pm**  
Bellfield Community Hub - Narragourt Community  
Room 1, 15 Daphne Crescent, Bellfield

**Monday 8 May, 6:30pm - 9pm**  
Carnegie Library - Boyd Room  
7 Shepparson Ave, Carnegie

**Suitable for:** People with disability, families, advocates

**Free.**

**For bookings, please contact  
Peter Symonds at [info@idv.com.au](mailto:info@idv.com.au)**

# Facilitator Biography



Sara Murphy is a Senior Training Associate for TransCen, Inc. and the Director of TransCen's WorkLink program. TransCen is an American non-profit organisation dedicated to improving education and employment success of youth and young adults with disability. TransCen's work is driven by the belief that employment and active community participation are attainable for all individuals, regardless of disability or other perceived barriers to employment. For the past 30 years, Ms. Murphy's focus has been on community inclusion and employment for people with disability.

She has extensive experience in program development, person-centered community-based services, Customised Employment methods and system change and service transformation.

As part of TransCen's training and consultation team, Ms. Murphy provides technical assistance and training at multiple levels: US federal/state agencies, school districts, service providers and individuals/families. Ms. Murphy has participated in a number of American federal and state initiatives, such as Social Security Administration's Youth Transition Demonstration Projects, the Federal Department of Education's Customised Employment training project and Wisconsin's Building Full Lives Project.

Currently, she is a Subject Matter Expert for the US Federal Department of Labor's Office of Disability and Employment Policy (ODEP) and is supporting state agencies and providers across America with system and service transformation efforts. In addition to this work, Ms. Murphy also consulted for Cincinnati Children's Hospital's Project SEARCH program, replicating the project model, and helping to establish Project SEARCH's Learning Academy.



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