

# SELWYN LAUNCH GROUP

## *Supporting Young People with Disabilities in Selwyn*

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2013

Welcome to the first edition of the Selwyn Launch Group quarterly newsletter. (Please note we have had to alter our name from “Selwyn Launchpad” due to a legality in the name “Launchpad” already being used by a similar group nationwide). What a learning curve it is setting up a new group! Having established our own entity enables our group to provide access to a variety of services for our young people, rather than having to be reliant on one provider. Our steering group has met on a regular basis since the group was founded on the 14th March 2013, gradually developing roles and planning our journey.

One of the first priorities for our group was coming up with Mission and Vision Statements. After various discussions, we came up with the following:

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *TO PROMOTE THE INCLUSION OF YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE SELWYN DISTRICT*

**VISION STATEMENT:** *TO SEE THE YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES LIVING AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE WITH MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT AND A GREAT SOCIAL LIFE*

The next priority was to get the young people together and start planning what they wanted to do with their days, and see if we could get a Provider to work in with us. Selwyn Launch Group is definitely up and running and six young people met for their first day activity at the Rolleston Community Centre on Tuesday, 30th July from 10am until 2pm, facilitated by IDEA Services (see photo below). Their first session consisted of planning their futures, and developing their individual desires and goals. The aim of this group is for the young people to develop their personal skills, learn new skills and work towards independence by being able to access education, life skills and work skills, hopefully leading to employment opportunities locally. We are also working towards being able to offer this service to the Darfield township at least one day a week in the not too distant future.

Selwyn Launch Group is hoping that the publicity we have received through the various local newspapers, and word of mouth, will encourage businesses in the Selwyn area to assist the young people with work experience and paid employment opportunities.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers, service providers and businesses who have shown an interest in Selwyn Launch Group and have offered their services. In particular, we would like to thank IDEA Services for their support and guidance, and Selwyn District Council in providing us with venues for our meetings and for their encouragement and support in offering us the use of their facilities.

Our goal is to eventually extend these opportunities for our young people to have training opportunities, or be gainfully employed within the Selwyn District, five days a week, so watch this space!!

Please feel free to contact Sandra Gilmour (03) 3181757 or Tania Pring (03) 3181106 for any further information or for any job opportunities you may have for Selwyn Launch Group.

Back Row: Ryan, Kylie and Georgia  
Front Row: Bridget, Sarah, Tasha and  
IDEA Services Youth Leader Grace

