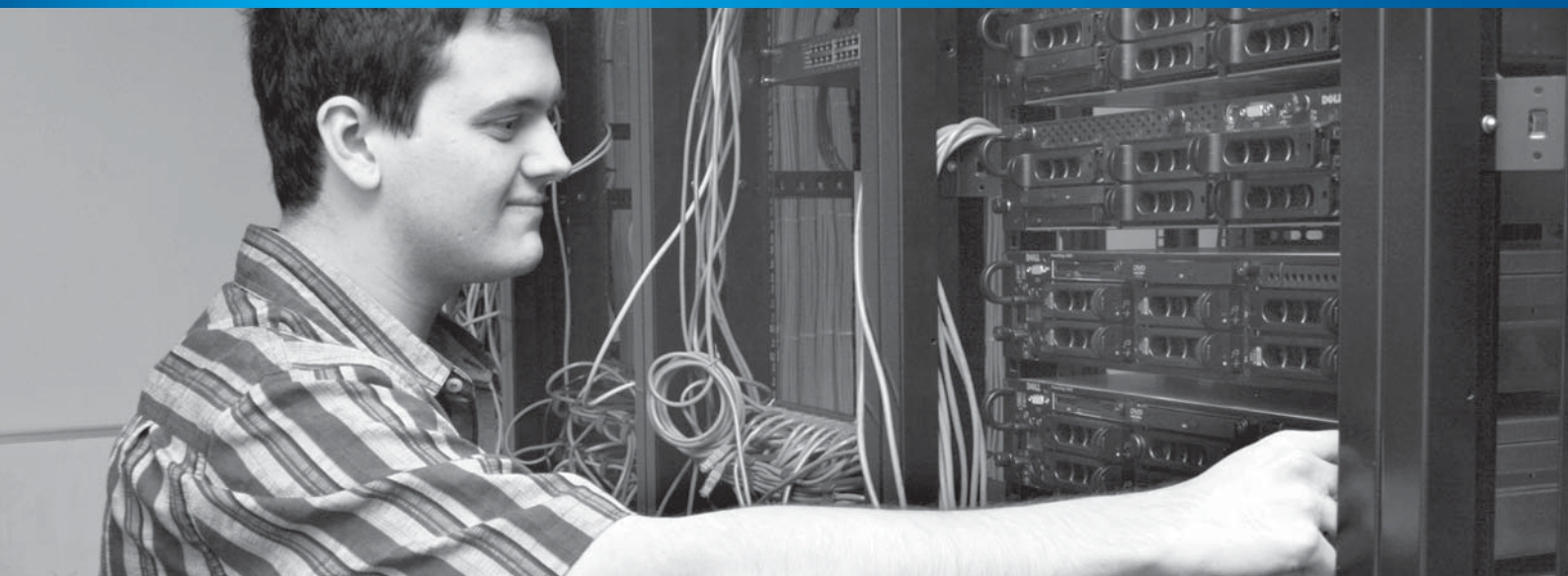




...building an inclusive society





Celebrating 80 years of building an inclusive society Our History (1929 to 2009)

In the early part of the last century, Australia's children were threatened by polio and tuberculosis, as well as other conditions causing disability. Each year, the number of children with disabilities grew and there was little help and support available. The Rotary Club of Sydney recognised the need to provide for these children and, in 1929, founded The NSW Society for Crippled Children, now known as Northcott Disability Services. Today, Northcott celebrates significant changes in attitude, technology and innovations which has forged an inclusive society and enabled people with disabilities to find their place as valuable members of society.



- 1929** Rotary Club of Sydney meet to launch the fundraising campaign to found The NSW Society for Crippled Children.
- 1930** The first school for crippled children opened - the Fred Birks Activity School at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children.
- 1937** The Margaret Reid Orthopaedic Hospital was opened at St Ives and was in operation until 1982.
- 1938** The Beverley Park Orthopaedic Hospital was opened at Campbelltown.
- 1947** His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir John Northcott KCMG KCVO CB Kt StJ, Governor of NSW, became Patron of The NSW Society for Crippled Children.
- 1951** A special school opened in Parramatta.
- 1956** Long term residential care began at Beverley Park for young people with a severe disability.
- 1969** May Gibbs bequeathed royalties jointly to The NSW Society for Crippled Children and The Spastic Centre of NSW.
- 1973** Wagga Wagga regional office opened.
- 1974** Tamworth and Coffs Harbour regional offices opened.
- 1975** Properties are purchased in Tamworth and Wagga Wagga for Northcott's respite care.
- 1989** Computer Assistive Technology Service was established.
- 1991** Head Office moved from Surry Hills to the former Northcott school in Parramatta.
By 1991 children with disabilities were integrated into local schools.
- 1995** The NSW Society for Crippled Children name was changed to The Northcott Society, to reflect the changing client base in a more positive and affirming way.
- 1999** The Thomas Hepburn Lennox Scholarship Trust is announced.
- 2003** Ability First Australia, an alliance of eight former Crippled Children Societies around Australia, was formed and incorporated.
- 2003** New purpose built premises at 1 Fennell Street, North Parramatta were opened by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW.
- 2005** Northcott becomes an affiliate of Easter Seals Disability Services (USA) and adjusted its brand to Northcott Disability Services.
- 2006** Illawarra office opened at Dapto and Northcott Equipment Solutions opened new premises in Newcastle.
- 2007** New offices opened at Penrith and Queanbeyan.
- 2008** New offices opened in Hornsby and Ballina.
- 2009** Moree office opened.





Our Purpose

Building an inclusive society.

Our Vision

As the leading provider of choice, we will meet the needs of three times more clients by 2012.

Our Values

Quality

Demonstrating innovation, continual improvement and best practice.

Accountability

Meeting our responsibilities to all our stakeholders.

Equality

Creating an environment free from discrimination, where equality of opportunity is available to all.

Respect for others

Valuing the opinions and respecting the rights of others.

Honesty and Integrity

Being open and transparent in our communications and ethical in our practices.

Who we are

Established in 1929 as The NSW Society for Crippled Children, Northcott Disability Services was founded by The Rotary Club of Sydney to provide for children with tuberculosis, polio and other diseases.

Today, Northcott Disability Services is one of the state's leading service providers for people with a broad range of disabilities, having grown from humble beginnings to support more than 6000 children and adults with disabilities, their families and carers across New South Wales (NSW) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Northcott provides a broad range of programs to people with a broad range of disabilities; physical, intellectual, sensory, acquired and degenerative disabilities, as well as challenging behaviours.

Some people with rare or lesser known disabilities find Northcott to be the only provider of appropriate support and services.

Northcott's purpose is to build an inclusive society. This is achieved by supporting people with disabilities to develop their skills and achieve their goals - including their potential for independence and ability to participate in their community.

Northcott employs more than 400 people state-wide, including case workers, direct support workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, social workers and speech pathologists to reach clients within their own community in metropolitan and regional areas.

Northcott is an independent not-for-profit organisation that receives some Government funding, yet relies on the generosity of individuals, organisations and community groups to continue to provide services to people with disabilities, particularly in programs where non-government or limited support is available.





How we help

Northcott Disability Services supports people with disabilities to reach their full potential by offering a range of quality services which promote a genuinely inclusive society.

We do this by:

- Aspiring to provide the highest quality services to our consumers
- Offering innovative solutions to individual needs
- Adapting services in response to our consumers' changing needs and community expectations
- Contributing to the development of a more inclusive society.

In all that it does, Northcott has adapted to the needs of its clients, encouraging inclusion and access to the community. Northcott is unique in that support and services are not only directly provided to our clients, but their carers, siblings and the entire family.

For people with disabilities, the support and services Northcott provides can often mean the difference between a life of isolation and segregation and a life of greater self-reliance and confidence.

"In my 17 years of dealing with health professionals, case workers and doctors, I feel compelled to write that the service our family has received from Northcott has far exceeded my expectations. The on-call service has been fantastic, the emotional support... amazing! Northcott has focused on our family strengths, leading to our self confidence, self esteem and self-worth being restored. This has enabled us to function as a stronger, more unified family unit, able to cope with any future challenges that may arise."

***Mother of client with autism who accesses
Northcott's Intensive Family Support Service in Penrith***

Our services

Northcott Disability Services is a dynamic and innovative organisation that provides a breadth of services for people with disabilities. From early childhood development, through to assisting individuals gain employment and independent living skills during adulthood, to supporting ageing parent carers, Northcott's provision of services centres on each stage of the changing life cycle. Over 70 individual programs are available and these can be broadly grouped below.

Accommodation

A range of accommodation options, including long term supported accommodation for people with high needs and transitional residential programs for people who are developing greater independence are provided by Northcott.

Autism

Northcott offers a range of early intervention support services for children diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families in metropolitan Sydney, regional NSW and in the ACT.

Day Programs

Day Programs aim to assist people with a disability to develop the skills they need to work towards their goals, increase their independence and participate as valued and active members in the community. A broad range of program models are available to meet individual's needs throughout their life. These programs operate in metropolitan Sydney and various regional locations.

Employment

Northcott's employment Service, JOBMATCH, assists people with disabilities to gain employment in the open labour market. A range of other programs assists people with disabilities to make transition arrangements between school, vocational and technical education, higher education and employment.

Equipment

Northcott Equipment Solutions (NES) provides expert advice and service of products in the one place,

allowing people with disabilities to achieve greater mobility, independence and freedom.

Individual and family support

Support for people with disabilities and their families are available from birth through to adulthood across metropolitan and regional NSW. Social/case workers, educators, physiotherapists, occupational and speech therapists provide in-home and community support, assisting individuals and families to access generic and specialist community resources. Northcott also provides a general and Aboriginal specific intensive family support service for families who are experiencing crisis and group programs for individuals, parent/carers and siblings.

Recreation and leisure

Recreation and Leisure programs provide children, young people and adults with the opportunity to spend time with their peers in age appropriate social and sporting activities. These programs operate in Metropolitan Sydney and Dubbo. In addition to these, Northcott facilitates camps/weekends away and also hosts metropolitan interschool sports carnivals for children with a disability.

Respite

A broad range of respite services for both people with disabilities and their parents/carers are available across NSW. Services offer flexible, individually tailored respite for all ages, including older carers as well as centre-based respite.



Specialist services

The NSW Paediatric Spinal Outreach Service provides a state-wide services to children and adolescents who have had a spinal cord injury caused by trauma or disease.

Macarthur Family Resource Links facilitates community projects aimed at strengthening connections between families with young children, who have disabilities or developmental delays and their local community.

Young Persons in Residential Care In Reach Program is aimed at improving the quality of life for people under 65 years of age living in residential aged care facilities.

The Northcott Spina Bifida Group provides support to individuals with spina bifida and their families across NSW and the ACT.

The Leaving Care Program offers support and advice for young people with a disability who are leaving the care and support of the Minister of Community Services.

Support Groups

Innovative and flexible support groups provide fun activities and meaningful forums which focus on self awareness and self development. Support groups provide participants with the opportunity to develop peer friendships, shared understanding and responsibility, information exchange and feelings of acceptance.

Technology

Computer Assistive Technology Services (CATS) provides information, advice and support regarding technology options for people with disabilities. CATS offers people with disabilities increased independence in the areas of computer access, communication and access to everyday appliances at school, home and work.

Tertiary scholarships

Northcott administers various scholarships to assist individuals with disabilities across NSW with the cost of tertiary education.



How you can help

Northcott Disability Services was established by the Rotary Club of Sydney and supported by groups from within the community, who set out to raise funds for Northcott. These supporters recognised that for people with disabilities, their need for support and services was critical. Today, our supporters allow us to continue to build an inclusive society. Below are ways you can assist in supporting Northcott to continue its work.

Donation

Northcott relies heavily on the generosity of the community. A small donation goes a long way and without these kind acts of generosity, Northcott could not provide the services we do to people with a disability. Join our regular giving plan as a 'barrier breaker' or donate today.

Bequests

A decision you make today could change a child's life tomorrow. Bequests continue to form the largest private source of income to Northcott Disability Services. By giving in this way, with a gift that keeps on giving, you can help us secure the future of a vital service.

Community Fundraising

The community contributes approximately one third of our total income. By fundraising on our behalf, you are assisting us to raise vital funds that will enable our clients to have access to the best in client care and support. Some of the ways you can get involved include holding

a fundraising event, including a fundraising element to an existing event or setting up your own fundraising web page.

Corporate Partnership

There are many ways your company can get involved: sponsor one of our events/initiatives, participate in our workplace (payroll) giving program or volunteer.

Events

Great events to support a great cause. Northcott holds annual entertaining and inspirational events to help raise funds to support people with a disability. Northcott's Cricket Legends Lunch and Celebrity Doodle Auction are just some of the upcoming events.

A Gift in Memoriam

When a loved one passes, their family or friends often wish to honour their life passions and/or charity choice. There are many ways to do this and many people choose to ask for donations instead of flowers.



Merchandise

By purchasing goods from Northcott's merchandise program, you are helping to raise money and spread the word on who we are.

Volunteering opportunities

First and foremost, by volunteering, you are supporting our clients. Whether you are spending the day on a project at one of our respite houses or working for a few hours at a fundraising event, the time you donate is very much appreciated. **For more information please contact the Volunteer Coordinator on (02) 9890 0100 or email volunteering@northcott.com.au.**

For more information or to donate:

Phone: 1800 818 286

Fax: (02) 9683 2827

Web: www.northcott.com.au

Email: fund@northcott.com.au



One of the most substantial bequests to Northcott has been from the designs of May Gibbs iconic bush characters, Snugglepot and Cuddlepie.

In 1969, May Gibbs left in her will the copyright of all her works to Northcott Disability Services and The Spastic Centre of NSW, which has allowed Northcott to continue to support thousands of children and adults with disabilities and their families.

In memory of May Gibbs's 130th anniversary in 2007, Northcott launched the first ever Gumnut Baby Badge, with a second series pin in 2008. All proceeds raised support Northcott Disability Services.

To purchase a pin or to find more information on May Gibbs copyright or our other merchandise items, please contact (02) 9890 0100 or email fund@northcott.com.au.



Northcott Conference and Function Centre

Built in 2003, The Northcott Conference and Function Centre (NCFC), based in the Northcott Building in North Parramatta, offers modern and accessible state of the art rooms for hire for individuals and organisations.

Secure and street parking is offered, with special rates available for not-for-profit and charitable organisations. All revenue from the Centre supports Northcott Disability Services.

Function Rooms

The Centre is large enough for functions with up to 330 guests. If it's a formal or social event that you're planning, such as a presentation evening or wedding, this modern centre offers a choice of rooms and outdoor garden/courtyard areas.

Adjacent to the function rooms is a commercial style kitchen that offers expansive stainless steel preparation areas and is equipped to ensure catering efficiency.

Corporate Rooms

NCFC offers meeting rooms and conference facilities for all your corporate needs, from the smallest training group through to a seminar for 330 people.

We can provide the complete conference package so that you can concentrate on the business at hand. Our staff will organise everything from your coffee on arrival to special accommodation packages at nearby hotels.

State of the art audio-visual equipment is available with all our rooms and includes:

- Video conferencing
- High speed internet connection
- Electronic whiteboards.

"The Northcott Conference and Function Centre is an ideal place to hold your conference. The staff are helpful, organised and professional, both before and during the event. The rooms were perfectly set, with equipment ready (and working!!!) with a member of staff on hand, at all times, if required. Such service and preparation ensured the smooth running of the day.

We were holding a workshop on healthy eating and they were also more than happy to adapt the menu to specifically suit our needs. Highly recommended!"

Donna Robbins

Healthy Kids Lifestyle Project Coordinator, NSW Department of Education and Training







Contact Us

Northcott's services are delivered from close to 30 sites and offices located around NSW and the ACT, with continued focus on addressing the challenges facing a lack of resources in rural areas by expanding Northcott's growth in regional NSW. Northcott's central office is located in North Parramatta, Sydney.

In the Sydney metropolitan area, Northcott's services are delivered through offices located at:

- Campbelltown
- Hornsby
- Liverpool
- North Parramatta
- Penrith
- Roselands.

In rural areas, Northcott's services operate across regional NSW through offices located at:

- Ballina
- Coffs Harbour
- Dapto
- Dubbo
- Moree
- Tamworth
- Queanbeyan
- Wagga Wagga.

Northcott Disability Services Central Office

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TO MAKE A DONATION

1800 818 286

www.northcott.com.au

 **Ability First**
AUSTRALIA