

Media Release

2 December 2011

The Hon. Andrew Constance, Minister for Disability and Minister for Ageing officially opens Achieve Australia's Araluen Facility

On Tuesday 29 November over 90 people attended the official opening of Achieve Australia's new Day Program facility, Araluen, in Epping.

Previously run as a Wedding Function Centre, the magnificent building was purchased by Achieve Australia in April this year. It was then refurbished to improve the overall accessibility and suitability for use as a Day Program facility for people with disability.

The refurbishment has included the installation of a lift, ramps, new external pathways, upgrade of lighting, installation of two new accessible bathrooms, an upgrade of a third bathroom and a full refurbishment of the commercial kitchen.

The milestone event on Tuesday evening was officially opened by The Hon. Andrew Constance, Minister for Disability and Minister for Ageing, who spoke of his genuine delight in opening the facility:

"The programs and activities conducted at Araluen will enable more intimate and individualised learning and development opportunities. Day program facilities like this are vital in enabling people with a disability to participate in their community."

To highlight a recent community participation experience, 'The Good Life As I See It' Photography Exhibition was presented by University of Western Sydney (UWS) students, Bianca Gardner and Jackie Tannos.

The exhibition is the result of a three month photography project that involved weekly engagement between Day Program participants and UWS university students. The project was very successful; participants with students worked together to raise money for digital cameras, then visiting various locations to take photographs reflecting 'the good life'. They then assisted with the curation of the exhibition.

The 'Good Life As I See It' photography exhibition was open to the public on Friday 2 December to celebrate International Day of People with Disability. Photographs are still available to be viewed on weekdays at Araluen by appointment.

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About Achieve Australia

Achieve Australia is a community based not-for-profit organisation operating across metropolitan Sydney. We support more than 550 people with disability across accommodation, employment and day programs throughout the community on the basis of achieving social inclusion. We are also planning to commence a respite service.

Achieve Australia is supported and funded by NSW Department Family and Community Services - Ageing, Disability & Home Care (ADHC) and programs funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). We support people with disability to live, work and participate in the community.

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