

# One Endeavour

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### On the cover:

Happy retirement, Ross! Ross White with his work mates at his retirement party.


One Endeavour is the official Endeavour Foundation magazine full of news and stories, and content penned by people with disability.

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 Endeavour Foundation

# Looking forward



It's with great relief that we've well and truly farewelled 2020 and we've moved into 2021 – a year that is filled with things to look forward to.

This is Endeavour Foundation's Platinum Anniversary year and while

we reflect on 70 years of making possibilities a reality for people with intellectual disability, we remain focussed on the future.

This year will see the completion of the first 15 homes to be built as part of our landmark three-year \$35m My Home, My Life initiative.

Our massive commitment to help reduce the significant shortage of suitable homes for people with intellectual disability in Australia means My Home, My Life is the biggest spending initiative in our organisation's history.

Too many people with disability are living in short-term, unstable, or unsuitable accommodation or with aging parents who increasingly rely on support themselves. Many also end up in aged care services because suitable supported accommodation is unavailable.

This is why we are taking action now.

Without our members and supporters, this incredible undertaking would not be possible. Thank you for your dedication and support.

It's fitting the first of these homes – built to the Platinum standard of the Livable Housing Australia guidelines – will be finished in our Platinum Anniversary year.

To celebrate our dedication to helping people with disability achieve their goals and dreams, we are re-launching the Imagine What's Possible competition.

In 2018 we received hundreds of entries from people with intellectual disability hoping to have their dream come true.

Our three winners were Josh, who mowed the lawn on Parliament House; Leigh, who created an award for people with disability; and Noel, who lived his dream of attending Sydney's Maris Gras.

In 2021, we're looking to exceed this and make five dreams come true. Find out more about how you can enter this competition along with an entry form inside.

At the end of last year, I had the honour of presenting a unique gift to Ross White, who finally retired after an astonishing 59 years with Endeavour Foundation as a supported employee.

Ross White has lived our history.

He attended our first purpose-built school – Bowen House – and was taught by the school's legendary first principal, Thelma McConnel herself. His story will inspire you, as it inspired me.

I hope you enjoy the first of three Platinum Anniversary editions of your One Endeavour Magazine.

There is so much more to come.

ANDREW

Andrew Donne  
CEO

CELEBRATING

**70**  
Years  
of possibilities



# Ross crosses the finish line after 59 years



When Ross White first moved to Brisbane as a 14-year-old, he couldn't read, write, or speak.

But the now 77-year-old, who has retired after 59 years of work with Endeavour Foundation, still remembers the country race meets he attended as a boy,

where beautiful horses would cover crowds of thirsty punters in clouds of outback dust.

Growing up with intellectual disability in western Queensland in the 1950s, there was little support and it impacted Ross's development.

"It was hard because there were no facilities (to work with) people like Ross, until we moved from Quilpie to Charleville," said his sister Gladys White.

"There wasn't much there either, so our father decided Brisbane was the best place.

"My father said, 'I have five boys and Ross needs special care, so we'd better find it for him,' so we moved to Brisbane."

## A new movement

As the White family did what they could to support Ross, there were many other families just like theirs struggling to get by through a lack of support.

After the second World War, there was a baby boom – giving birth to the generation that would be known as “the Boomers” – and classrooms were overflowing.

Children with intellectual disability were at the back of the queue when it came to securing classroom places.

In 1951, frustrated parents took matters into their own hands, banding together to form an organisation now known as Endeavour Foundation, but in the parlance of the day known as the Queensland Sub-normal Children's Welfare Association.

They employed a specialist teacher and opened a makeshift school on the verandah of a home in Coorparoo.

A few years later the organisation would go on to open its first dedicated school in Bowen Hills, called Bowen House.

Schools were quickly followed by vocational training centres with a strong emphasis on the abilities of each person and offering meaningful employment pathways.

Finally, Ross White and others like him would have a place to go that understood their unique needs. A new movement had begun.

## Finding a new family

By 1960, Ross White was 14 years old, living in Brisbane, still largely non-verbal, and unable to write.

His sister, Gladys White remembers a friend of her mother showing them a newspaper clipping about a school that could help Ross – it was Bowen House.

The White family decided to take Ross for a look at the school to see if it would be suitable.

The school's Principal, Thelma McConnell, saw a huge amount of potential in Ross and his family decided she might be able to help him.

In just a year, he had jumped a hurdle in his development.

"Mrs McConnell said, 'I wish I'd have had him when he was seven,'" remembers Miss White.

"She meant she could have taught him more [if he'd been at the school longer] because she had to teach him to read and write.

"But within 12 months he was out of there and into the printing press."

From his first job at the printing press in Bowen Hills in April 1961 to his final job in Geebung in 2020, Ross White has worked for Endeavour Foundation for an astonishing 59 years.



"If we'd have lived and stayed in the country, he'd have never had that opportunity. He'd have just stayed as he was just learning from us," Miss White said.

"Endeavour Foundation has been the greatest organisation for him. It's got him to where he is today."

## Ross brings our history to life

Endeavour Foundation CEO Andrew Donne said Ross and his family should feel very proud of all he has achieved, and his incredible contribution.

"Ross brings Endeavour Foundation's history and mission to life," Andrew said.

"He's a wonderful example of what people with intellectual disability can achieve if they have the right support and after 59 years of dedicated hard work, he's crossing the finish line."

Despite the years that have passed since he first moved to the city, Ross White's memory is still strong when he thinks about the teacher who changed his life, and how his love of horses began as a youngster.

"I remember Mrs McConnell," said Ross, "She was real good. I used to ring up and say hello to her every now and then [after she retired]."

"I love the races," he said, "Many years ago my cousin in country Cunnamulla, he had a horse and he said you can have a go on the horse – so I did.

"Now, I got a white appaloosa – a big white one – in the paddock called Cal.

"He's a very old horse. He's quiet and I used to ride him around the paddock, but I can't ride him anymore."

Here's hoping Ross and Cal get to enjoy a bit more time in the paddock together.



*Ross's retirement present was a custom artwork commissioned by CEO Andrew Donne and created by QArt, depicting Ross crossing the finish line at Melbourne Cup on his horse, Cal.*



# My Home, My Life

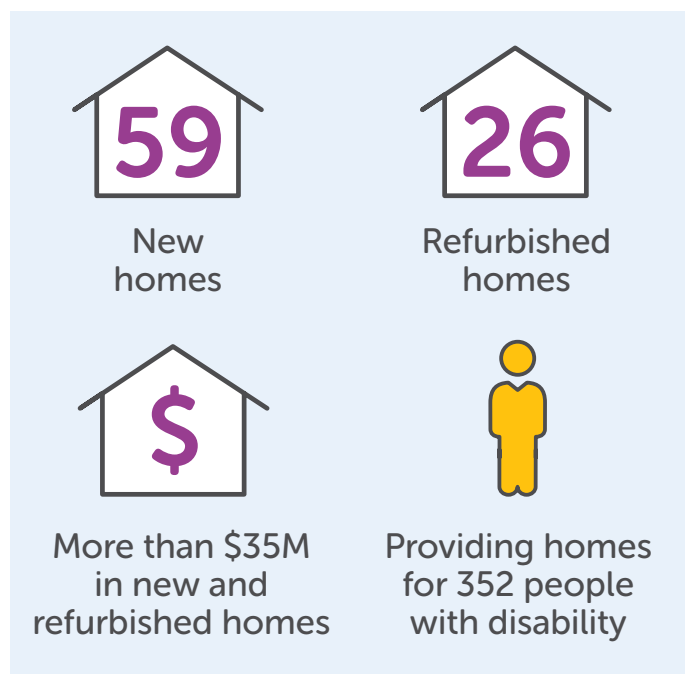
## Our \$35m pledge to tackle the accessible housing shortage

Our My Home, My Life initiative will see Endeavour Foundation invest more than \$35m over three years to build fully accessible homes for people with intellectual disability in areas where they are needed most.

We will build 59 new accessible dwellings and refurbish another 26 to bring them to the platinum standard of the Livable Housing Australia Guidelines.

This means 252 people who currently choose us as their accommodation provider will be able to live in a brand new or fully refurbished home.

It will also give another 100 individuals with intellectual disability the option to live more independently in a home that meets their needs, now and into the future.



### Creating brighter futures

Jason Moore has been living independently with support from Endeavour Foundation for many years and is excited at the prospect of having a brand new fully accessible home to live in.

Mr Moore helped launch the My Home, My Life initiative alongside NDIS Minister Stuart Robert in Toowoomba.

*“Oh, it’s very special; it’s one of my dreams and I’m very excited,”*  
*Mr Moore said.*

“[I’m looking forward to] having State of Origin parties and barbeques and just spending time with my housemates.”

Endeavour Foundation’s CEO Andrew Donne said the need in the community for the kinds of homes we’re building is great.

“While we know many people with disability are still living at home with aging parents or are living in short-term or unstable accommodation.

“Demand for Specialist Disability Accommodation far outstrips the housing available for NDIS participants with thousands of new accessible housing options still needed.

“The time for action is now and Endeavour Foundation is doing everything within our power to help meet this need.”

### The accessible housing shortage

The NDIA estimates more than 28,000 people will need supported accommodation.

Fewer than half of that number currently has access to it.

In Queensland alone, it’s estimated more than 1,700 people need accessible housing.

There are 5,600 Australians with disability under 65 living in aged care.



## The homes

Endeavour Foundation has created three distinct design themes – Modern Contemporary, Hamptons Coastal and Country Rustic – which can be adjusted to fit any location.

Our new homes are built for two to four residents with an additional room available for onsite overnight assistance.

The new homes boast assistive and safety technology such as help alarms, central locations close to amenities and modern energy saving features like solar panels.

For more information, go to [endeavour.com.au/myhome-mylife](https://endeavour.com.au/myhome-mylife).



## Where we're building

The first phase of the My Home, My Life initiative will see 15 new homes built before July 2021, in Toowoomba (5), Bundaberg (4), the Sunshine Coast (2), Ipswich (2), the Gold Coast (1) and Townsville (1).

However, we have no plans to stop there and land is already being bought for development in phases two and three.

Other areas we are looking to build include Mackay, Rockhampton, Cairns, Logan, Moreton Bay, Brisbane, Warwick, Stanthorpe and more.

## Your support

When people can't find the right home, they can quickly become isolated. Their health and wellbeing can deteriorate quickly.

The accessible housing shortage is putting more people with disability in this terrible predicament.

There are many ways to support our drive to build accessible homes.

To get involved, go to [endeavour.com.au/fundraising](https://endeavour.com.au/fundraising).



# Cheers to 50 years, Peter!



Since 1970, Peter Rouse has been turning his hand to any task he's been given at our Business Solutions site in Bundaberg, Queensland.

However, Endeavour Foundation has been a part of Peter's life for even longer. He was a student in the local Bright Horizons school, special educational school founded by Endeavour Foundation, before he came to work for us.

50 years later, he's still working and showing the younger employees how it's done!

"Peter is very adaptable," Hazel Patterson, an Endeavour Foundation employee of 40 years, told the local paper Bundaberg Today.

"I've known Peter for a long time.

"He puts in a great day's work as a part-time employee, is well liked and respected by staff and fellow employees."

Opportunities for people with intellectual disability were scarce during the 1960s and 70s, so Endeavour Foundation started a small workshop on rented space in Bundaberg where supported employees manufactured children's toys and soft drink crates.

The workshop continued to grow until the present Business Solutions site in Bundaberg was built in 1971 on donated land.

Ever the hard worker, Peter said he wouldn't be slowing down yet.

"There have been a lot of changes [over the years]," Peter said.

"It has been a good place to work.

"I'll hang around a bit more."

**Thank you, Peter – and congratulations on your amazing milestone!**

# David's license to succeed



Hey, my name's David and I work at Endeavour Foundation Business Solutions in Townsville.

Living with an intellectual disability, it can take me a little longer to learn new things but last year, I earned my Medium Rigid Truck Licence.

I want to thank my manager, Shelley, and the other staff at Endeavour Foundation in Townsville for believing in me and giving me encouragement, support, and guidance.

My licence is more than a piece of paper to me. It means that I have achieved a life goal and it means I can work more independently.

# Eddie's new job opportunity



Eddie loves to stay active within the community and volunteers as a local firefighter. After his work on railways dried up, he was eager to find a new job opportunity with the help of Community Solutions' Disability Employment Services team.

Eddie throws himself into every opportunity. Fortunately, he has access to support and training to help him find work thanks to the Community Solutions team in Rockhampton.

When Community Solutions has a local event, Eddie always chips in so he can gain experience with completing different tasks and can meet new people. He's also the perfect person to make sure these events are accessible to everyone.

"I walk around and look at if you were in a wheelchair how would you get into places that don't have wheelchair access," said Eddie.

Community Solutions Rockhampton team member Margi said Eddie's eagerness to take up any opportunity shows that he really wants to work.

"He has always been one of my favourite people," said Margi.

"Eddie's smile and enthusiasm are infectious, and he has always been keen for involvement with events."

Margi searched for the right job opportunity that would allow Eddie to put his skills to use and be around a great team.

She struck gold with Liam, Dealer Principal of the local Central Isuzu, who needed a part-time yard worker. One of his team members had the great idea of exploring the opportunity to hire someone with a disability.

So, Margi connected Liam with Eddie and, as a result, Eddie started his employment with Central Isuzu.

"It's been my experience that if you give people the opportunity to gain employment, they become an enormous advocate to the business," said Liam.

Bronach is another Community Solutions team member who works closely with both Liam and Eddie to make sure Eddie has all the support he needs to smash out his tasks.

Each week, Bronach heads out to Central Isuzu to see Eddie and sometimes she even jumps on the tools to help him clean the trucks.

"Bronach comes out and usually spends a good two to three hours a week with Eddie and actually works alongside him which I find incredible," said Liam.

Eddie quickly settled into his new role cleaning trucks at Central Isuzu. His eagerness to learn, work and be a part of the team is truly valued in the workplace.

"Eddie's attitude is very refreshing," said Liam, "He really appreciates the opportunities that he's given... he's always happy, always up for a chat."

Through Community Solutions' support and local community connections, Eddie has a new job and a new team to be a part of.

# Annabel's dream comes true



Endeavour Foundation's Battle of the Bands is all about making dreams come true for people with intellectual disability. And 2020's virtual event to celebrate International Day of People with Disability, did just that for Annabel.

One of Annabel's NDIS goals is to perform Australia's national anthem at an event, which she'd been on track to do.

"Annabel was ready to achieve her NDIS goal, however, due to COVID, the event didn't go ahead," Windsor Learning and Lifestyle site manager Marissa Nankivell said.

"When I heard about Battle of the Bands, I thought it would be the perfect opportunity for Annabel to still live her dream.

"So I approached the Battle of the Bands event team and with their full support, Annabel opened the event by singing the national anthem."

For Annabel, it was more than just achieving one of her NDIS goals.

"I can show people that they can do whatever they want to do," Annabel said.

"If they want to sing that national anthem like I do, they can actually achieve it.

"They can succeed in their dreams."

To watch Annabel achieve her dream and see our other amazing acts perform at the Virtual Battle of the Bands, go to [endeavour.com.au/bands](https://endeavour.com.au/bands).

# Our changing NDIS



*We have seen firsthand the positive impact the NDIS has had on the lives of people with disability in Australia. Most participants are with us on this – according to the latest quarterly report about 85% of participants now rate their NDIS experiences as good or very good.*

*2020 will go down in history as a year most of us would rather forget but there have been some changes to the NDIS in the last year that we believe will make it even better.*

## 1. Participant Service Charter

This is something that Endeavour Foundation has strongly advocated for – a Participant Service Guarantee for the NDIS, which establishes clear standards and guards against poor service.

In June 2020, the charter was introduced, meaning the NDIS would guarantee response times. For example, the NDIS now has:

- 28 days to explain a decision
- 21 days to decide who can access the NDIS
- 70 days to approve a plan
- 2 days to get in touch after receiving a complaint and 21 days to resolve it if possible

The charter is already seeing an improvement in service from the NDIS with 100% of access decisions made within the 21-day timeframe compared with 74% a year earlier. Meanwhile the NDIS says 95% of complaints are closed within 21-days compared to 58% a year ago.

## 2. Plan flexibility

There are two main things that have helped increase plan flexibility in the past 12 months, and both of them have to do with core funding:

- Core supports are now flexible across all four categories
- There are moves to put more NDIS line items in your core funding.

By including more in your core funding and allowing you to use core supports across all categories, it makes your NDIS plan more flexible than ever before. That means you have more choice and control.

## 3. Rural and remote access

The NDIS is now fully rolled out across the country, which is a big cause for celebration.

However, there are a lot of things that can make it harder (or even impossible) to access support if you are living in a remote or rural area of Australia, including a lack of providers.

### A new strategy

The NDIS's new Rural and Remote Strategy aims to address these goals:

- Easy access and contact with the NDIA.
- Effective, appropriate supports available wherever people live.
- Creative approaches for individuals within their communities.
- Harnessing collaborative partnerships to achieve results.
- Support and strengthen local capacity of rural and remote communities.

Speak to your Local Area Coordinator (LAC) to find out your options and watch this space as the NDIA plans to improve access to services in remote areas.

### Change is coming

As one of Australia's biggest disability service providers, we hear you and your feedback every day. We are always advocating for positive changes in the NDIS based on your experiences. We provide regular feedback to the NDIA to help improve the scheme and make it fairer for the people we support.

# What's your dream?

Leigh dreamed that students with disability at her school in Kingaroy could also receive awards.

Josh dreamed of cutting the grass of politicians on top of Parliament House in Canberra.

Noel dreamed of being flown to Sydney for the first time to participate in Mardis Gras.

In 2018, Endeavour Foundation made all those dreams come true as part of our Imagine What's Possible competition.

Now, the Imagine What's Possible competition is back, and it will be bigger than ever before.

## Turning dreams into reality

Imagine landing your dream job, finding your dream home, or learning to do something you've always dreamed of.

It's time to put 2020 behind us and focus on making big dreams come true in 2021.

In 2018 we made three dreams come true but this year, we'll be selecting five dreams to fulfill for people with intellectual disability. Entrants will be asked to think big and share their dream experience for a shot at making their dreams come true.

Competition entries will open on Monday 15 February 2021, and close on Wednesday 31 March 2021.

Entries can be submitted via a paper entry form or online at [endeavour.com.au/imaginewhatspossible](http://endeavour.com.au/imaginewhatspossible).

Judging will take place in April 2021, with winners announced in May 2021.

Then, we will get to work on making our competition winners' dreams come true.



"My dream to participate in Mardi Gras in Sydney came true thanks to Endeavour Foundation."

**Noel from Bundaberg,  
2018 Winner**



"When I went to school there were no awards for children with disability. Endeavour Foundation helped me create an award to celebrate our achievements."

**Leigh from Wondai,  
2018 Winner**



"Thanks to Endeavour Foundation, I was able to put on my work boots and a high-vis shirt and mow the lawn on top of Parliament house! Prime Minister Scott Morrison told me, "Well Done!"

**Josh from Capalaba,  
2018 Winner**

Endeavour Foundation's  
Imagine What's Possible competition

# Dream big and win

**ENTER NOW**  
for a chance to  
make your dream  
come true

[endeavour.com.au/imaginewhatspossible](http://endeavour.com.au/imaginewhatspossible)

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# Why online learning is great for people with intellectual disability



## Hi! It's Alex here.

If there's one thing that the Coronavirus has taught me, it's that we all need some extra activities to do at home from time-to-time. Participating in Endeavour Foundation's Thrive Learning project taught me the value of having online resources at our fingertips. It means we can keep our skills sharp, learn new ones, and even – as I found out first-hand – keep in shape!

Online learning is an important part of the future of support services and it's getting more popular among people with intellectual disability too.

## Will online learning replace face-to-face learning?

No way. We think these online programs are a great addition to face-to-face learning and support, but not a replacement for face-to-face learning through social interaction. What online programs give you is the opportunity to learn anywhere, anytime, and about almost anything.

So, let's explore the benefits of online learning together...

### 1. It's on your terms and easily works in with your routine

Routines are important to everyone, whether you have a disability or not. They help you manage your time and help you get things done that matter to you.

Online learning programs break things down into smaller, simpler steps so you can learn new things without feeling overwhelmed and you can fit them around your day.

### 2. It's cheap... and often free

Let's face it, learning new skills in real life can be expensive – and that's not even counting transport costs. Online learning has made learning new skills cheaper and more accessible than ever before.

### 3. Leaving the house can be hard, and you might not always be up for it

Anxiety, immune conditions, safety concerns, fear of new places, financial barriers, lack of support or transport – these are all reasons we might need to stay home some days.

Because of online learning, staying at home doesn't mean missing out on the activities you enjoy.



## 4. It can be tailored to people with intellectual disability

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, when people had to stay home, we realised there weren't many suitable online resources already out there for our customers- so, we changed that.

We used our education and specialist disability knowledge to put together online courses for people with intellectual disability called Thrive Learning.

## 5. It's great if you live in a remote location

Living in a rural or remote part of Australia can mean there is less to do, or that you have to travel further to do things.

Online learning has opened more opportunities than ever before as you can access it from anywhere at any time.

Online learning has opened more opportunities than ever before as you can access it from anywhere.

## 6. It works well with your regular in-person services

If we stop exercising, we get unfit. The same is true of learning. If we stop learning, our brains can get hazy and we can forget some of the things we have learnt.

By practicing at home, the life skills you learn through your in-person services, you will be reinforcing those lessons which helps you move on to more advanced skills.

The Thrive Learning cooking course is just one example where you can learn about WHY you need a healthy breakfast, and HOW to make one too. Peanut butter protein balls anyone? Yum!

## 7. It helps improve tech skills

As a bonus, online learning also helps us learn more about using computers and other technological devices. By regularly logging into a course and following the steps, you are not only becoming fitter and stronger, or a better cook, but also a better tech-user.

So, are you ready to get started? Ready to learn something new? Ok, let's go have some fun learning online at home!

## Free online learning for people with intellectual disability

Thrive Learning is a series of fun, interactive, and accessible learning programs, created for and in partnership with, people with intellectual disability.

There are three programs currently available with more being developed. Each program includes 10 modules with easy to use videos, accompanying workbooks, and user guides that are self-guided and can be completed from the comfort of your own home.



### Cooking

If you like cooking (and eating!) delicious recipes, then this is the program for you!



### Fitness

Get stronger, fitter and learn about your body with our fun fitness program.



### Music

Get ready to rock and learn about music throughout the ages.

**Sign up for free at [endeavour.com.au/thrive-learning](https://endeavour.com.au/thrive-learning)**



# THE GREAT ENDEAVOUR RALLY

## Looking back

In the late 1980s, a never-ending journey started. This journey would draw in people young and old from all corners of the country, each craving adventure and a chance to do their bit for people with intellectual disability.

What is this journey? It's the Great Endeavour Rally, of course. In all the years this epic adventure has been taking place, it has...

In short, it's a journey and an adventure that has to be experienced to be believed. But don't just take our word for it; listen to the rally's "Doctor" himself. Peter Brady is a member of the "Dirty Doctors" and 10+ year veteran of the Great Endeavour Rally.

Raised approximately **\$11,000,000** to fund services and support for people with intellectual disability

Driven anywhere from **3,000-4,000km** per rally, criss-crossing all corners of Australia except Tasmania and Western (for now)

Averaged more than **\$300,000** raised per rally over recent drives with fields of 30-35 cars

Taken **3-5 people** with disability on the road per rally

Explored more than **120,000km** of Australia

"I just love driving where we drive in these things, seeing the country, seeing things I wouldn't normally get to see, and the people who do it with you. But most of all, why we do it in the first place is to raise money for people with intellectual disability."

**Peter Brady**  
"Doctor"



## Looking ahead

The Great Endeavour Rally's 30 plus years on the road so far have been incredible, in terms of impact and experience. But the best is yet to come. 2021 is a new year, filled with fresh opportunity for adventure and for fundraising.

In Endeavour Foundation's 70th year, the Great Endeavour Rally will be hitting the road with more than 70 cars. More than 60 of these will be the cars of everyday supporters, both new and longstanding, all of whom are eager to go the extra mile for people with intellectual disability.

The 2021 Great Endeavour Rally will start from St George on August 5 and finish in Charleville on August 14. Stops include Tibooburra, Cameron's Corner, Poeppel Corner, and Birdsville. This will equate to just over 3500 km driven along iconic tracks and private roads, some of which will connect with parts of Australian history (while forging a better future).

Rally organiser and #teampossible member Nathan Woolhouse said to sell out the event in 2021 was a fantastic turnaround.

"The Great Endeavour Rally is the best way to see this amazing country," Nathan said.

"We have the highest number of entrants we've seen in years, we've had to halt registrations, and we're seeing a waiting list develop. Endeavour

Foundation turns 70 this year so it's a perfect way to celebrate.

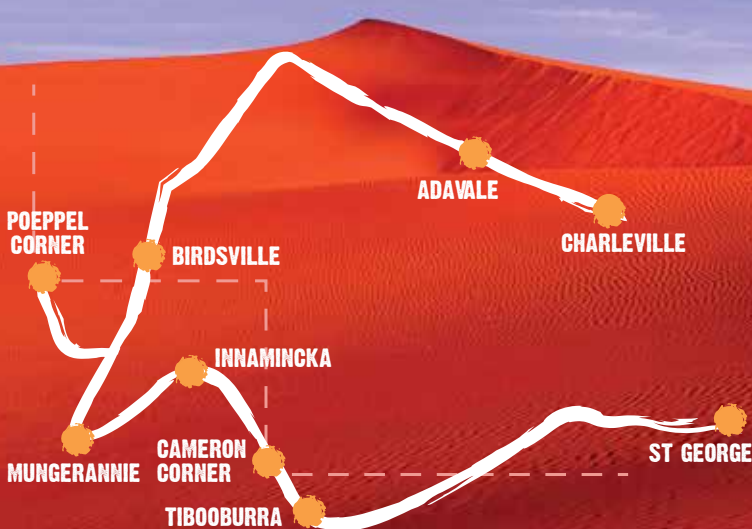
"To top it off, they're raising funds for a great cause – helping Endeavour Foundation make possibilities a reality for people with intellectual disability through awesome new learning resources."



*The full 2019 rally field of 36 cars, half of what we will be taking in 2021*

Within a few weeks of the rally selling out, the 'rally family' as they like to be known had already raised a staggering \$40,000. This achievement has everyone involved excited about how much more can be raised, considering \$340,000 was raised during the previous rally with half the number of entrants.

The focus for the funds in 2021 will be Thrive Learning platform, a resource that in the minds of the rally family proves that new skills and possibilities can be brought to people with disability wherever and whenever.



# GREAT ENDEAVOUR RALLY SIMPSON DESERT ADVENTURE 2021

5 August - 14 August 2021

You can follow all the excitement of the 2021 Simpson Desert Adventure through either #GER2021 or @greatendeavourrally on Instagram.

# Disability diagnosis: why it's so important to get it right



Getting a correct disability diagnosis can take a lot of time, money and paperwork, but it is one of the best things you can do to make the most of your National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan.

Your disability support providers can only provide supports that you have funding for. If a diagnosis isn't quite right, this can sometimes mean that people miss out on the services they need.

One of the first steps towards NDIS support is having your disability diagnosed. What this means is that your support needs will be assessed according to how your disability affects your life.

## Why is this important?

If you need help in some areas but are not assessed correctly, you might not be able to get that support funded through your NDIS plan.

## How does diagnosis work?

You will be asked to give information about your disability. Things like, how it impacts your daily life, and if it is permanent.

In most cases, the information you provide needs to be backed up by a qualified health professional who has known you or treated you for some time. Their qualification must be relevant to the disability. For instance, a speech pathologist might not be the right person to give information about someone with paraplegia.

## What happens when you have an incorrect, or incomplete diagnosis?

In some cases, more evidence might be needed or the information you provided might be unclear. When this happens, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) can ask more questions which may delay your access to the NDIS. Sometimes, the NDIA can even refuse your application for funding and you might have to start over.

## Who do I see to get an intellectual disability or autism diagnosis?

If you have an intellectual disability or are autistic, chances are you have a relationship with either a Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, or Speech Therapist. These health professionals are all qualified to confirm your disability and provide information about how it affects your life.

## What does the NDIS mean when they say 'evidence of disability'?

The evidence you need to show varies from disability to disability. Generally speaking, the NDIS will want a health professional to conduct a standardised assessment. This is then presented to the NDIS as a form of proof of disability.

If you're a bit lost on who to see and what disability assessments they will do, the NDIS has it covered.

It's worth noting that providing evidence of your disability can be difficult. For instance, it might not always be easy to prove that a mental illness is permanent. Under the current system, the responsibility is on participants to provide evidence that is used to assess their eligibility.

The bad news is, this can require a lot of time and effort and having to understand the NDIA's checklist of what they consider a suitable disability.

The good news is this is changing in 2021.

## New independent disability assessments are coming

Having to collect evidence to prove your disability is something that can be stressful and time consuming. As the NDIS evolves, changes are being made to the way things are done to make it fairer and easier to use.

Soon, independent disability assessments will be introduced. This means someone you don't know but who understands your disability will assess your capacity to manage everyday life. Their assessment will help determine what supports you need. It will mean you will no longer have to collect evidence yourself and will help everyone get NDIS funding access faster.

## What should I do now?

Your NDIS planner will try to work out what is reasonable and necessary, and diagnosis can play an important part in that, but there are other factors at play. You can help speed up the process by keeping records of your treatment history, or a list of the therapists and doctors you have seen and thinking about the type of supports you would like access to.

# Disability Royal Commission

## An update

In 2020 the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability focused on experiences with issues and systems to do with COVID-19 as well as education, health, employment, homes and living arrangements.

To date the Royal Commission has hosted 6 workshops, 6 community forums and 10 public hearings, providing 41 days of evidence. By January 2021 the Royal Commission had received 1,785 submissions, 468 responses to issues papers and 7,013 telephone calls to the information line.

The Chair of the Royal Commission, the Honourable Ronald Sackville AO QC has requested an extension until 29 September 2023 to present the Royal Commission's final report.

## 2021 focus and direction

The Royal Commission encourages people to share their experiences of violence, neglect, abuse or exploitation to help them understand the impact of abuse and provide recommendations on preventing it in the future.

They will host another nine Public Hearings focusing on:

- Criminal justice system – February, Brisbane
- NDIS and service providers – April and May, Sydney
- First Nations and out-of-home care – June, Brisbane
- Restraints in education – July, Sydney
- The health and safety of women and girls with disability – August
- Employment – September
- Disability support workforce issues – December

Currently, the Royal Commission is calling for responses to issues papers on promoting inclusion. They are seeking views about what an inclusive society looks like, the barriers to inclusion, how we can become a more inclusive society, and how inclusion might prevent violence, neglect, abuse or exploitation. You can send your response by 2 April 2021.

We expect the Royal Commission to release further issues papers throughout 2021.

Any comments or responses to the issues paper can be provided, either:

- **electronically to** [DRCEnquiries@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:DRCEnquiries@royalcommission.gov.au)
- **in writing to** GPO Box 1422, Brisbane, Queensland 4001
- **by phone** on 1800 517 199 or 07 3734 1900
- **by audio** recording
- **by video** recording

This year, the Royal Commission will remain focused on fact finding and exploring potential solutions. We look forward to the Royal Commission continuing their holistic approach of addressing a range of integrated issues and challenges facing people with disability.

Endeavour Foundation is hopeful that the Royal Commission will develop recommendations that will ensure people with disability have the same rights as other Australians.

Endeavour Foundation will continue to:

- monitor the hearing and research papers published by the Royal Commission for any findings or recommendations;
- respond to requests from the Royal Commission; and
- assist people we support, and their families and carers to engage with the Royal Commission.

## Keep in touch with the Royal Commission

Visit [disability.royalcommission.gov.au](http://disability.royalcommission.gov.au) | **Subscribe** to their newsletter

**Follow** the Royal Commission on social media

# What's on?

## Townsville Disability Expo

14 May 2021

Townsville Stadium, Annandale

[disabilityexposc.com.au/townsville](http://disabilityexposc.com.au/townsville)

## Mackay Disability Exhibition

18 May 2021

McDonalds Multisport Stadium Mackay

[disabilityexposc.com.au/mackay](http://disabilityexposc.com.au/mackay)

## Rockhampton Disability Expo

21 May 2021

Hegvold Stadium, Rockhampton

[disabilityexposc.com.au/rockhampton](http://disabilityexposc.com.au/rockhampton)

## Endeavour Foundation's 70th anniversary

14 June 2021

[endeavour.com.au](http://endeavour.com.au)

## Gold Coast Disability Expo

18 - 19 June 2021

Gold Coast Event Centre, Bundall

[goldcoastdisabilityexpo.com.au](http://goldcoastdisabilityexpo.com.au)

To keep up to date with events happening at Endeavour Foundation, go to [endeavour.com.au/events](http://endeavour.com.au/events)

## Interested in being a member?

Membership of Endeavour Foundation provides you with an opportunity to assess what we do and offer feedback. We value our members' opinions and we strive to ensure that our services and supports are continuously developed and improved.

Your membership enables us to expand and create services and policy that have benefits far beyond today, so that people with disability can live their best life.

If you have any questions regarding your local Area Committee or would like to speak to your local Area Committee Chair please contact the Company Secretary at [companysecretary@endeavour.com.au](mailto:companysecretary@endeavour.com.au) or on 07 3908 8401.

## Tell us. We are listening. We will act.

If you have a concern about the service you are receiving from us, it is important that you tell us.

We want to hear from you  
– we are listening.

With your help, we can continuously improve the quality and safety of services we provide – to you and to others.

Please contact our Customer Practice and Safeguarding Team:

1300 730 334

[feedback@endeavour.com.au](mailto:feedback@endeavour.com.au)

[endeavour.com.au/feedback](http://endeavour.com.au/feedback)

# A home is about more than bricks and mortar.

Our home is a symbol of our individuality and independence. It's a sanctuary, a place where we can spend time with friends, family and loved ones.

Endeavour Foundation is investing almost \$35million dollars in brand new, fully accessible Supported Independent Living homes in central locations throughout metropolitan and regional Queensland. We build contemporary, custom-designed homes for just two to four residents that meet the Platinum standard of the Livable Housing Australia Guidelines.

Find your new home with Endeavour Foundation by visiting [endeavour.com.au/myhome-mylife](https://endeavour.com.au/myhome-mylife) and expressing your interest today.



Endeavour Foundation customer Jason Moore from Toowoomba will be moving into his brand-new home this year. He was asked what it means to him to have a new house. He said

*"It's very special, it was one of my dreams. The home looks beautiful and wonderful and I'm very excited to move in."*



Images displayed are indicative only.



Express your interest in living in a brand-new accessible home today. Visit [endeavour.com.au/myhome-mylife](https://endeavour.com.au/myhome-mylife) or call **1800 112 112**.