



MEDIA RELEASE

14th May 2021

PLANNED MERGER OF KIDZWISH & THE DISABILITY TRUST HERALDS EXCITING NEW ERA OF CARE

The KidzWish Foundation today announced its intention to merge with The Disability Trust, one of the leading disability service providers in NSW.

KidzWish and The Disability Trust are embarking on a collaborative relationship; the key drivers of which are mutual respect and the shared purpose of enabling better lives for children and adults with disability, so they thrive.

Ultimately, this merger allows KidzWish to leverage the expertise and capabilities of The Disability Trust to expand its therapies and programs for children and their families across the Illawarra. Importantly, the merger will provide both organisations the opportunity to deliver continuity of care across a lifetime, so children have clinical consistency and feel supported as they enter into adulthood.

Founded in 2004, KidzWish Foundation in recent years has recognised a need to join forces with a larger organisation to continue providing high-quality services to children and families in the complex, fast-growing and competitive market created by the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Following an extensive search for an organisation that aligned in values and brand DNA, the KidzWish management and Board agreed to merge with The Disability Trust.

Mitch Henry, Chair, KidzWish Foundation said, “KidzWish Foundation and The Disability Trust have always been focussed in delivering a diverse range of services to benefit the community. The synergies gained through the merger will allow both entities to broaden and innovate their services for children with a disability and their families.”

“Our organisations are very much aligned in our purpose and values. We believe this is an exciting combination to expand KidzWish’s reach, grow our service capabilities and, through shared resources, continue to provide best in class clinical services to more local families in need.”

The Disability Trust CEO Margaret Bowen welcomed the intention to merge with KidzWish saying, “We are delighted to be working towards the KidzWish team joining The Disability Trust Group. This merger will bring our services together to provide a continuum of support for people living with a disability at all stages of life. The Disability Trust recognises the positive reputation of KidzWish and values the services that have been provided to children with a disability in our local community.”

“As leading providers of disability services and supports, we recognise the importance of continuing to evolve to meet the changing needs of both people living with a disability and the landscape presented by the NDIS.”



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One of KidzWish Foundation's strengths has been its high-profile fundraising and awareness capability, and the proposed merger will see the charity arm of the KidzWish Foundation continue operations under its own entity as a charitable fundraising organisation.

Fundraising and Events Manager, Renee Hawira has garnered more than a decade of experience working for KidzWish and believes the planned integration will lead to even better outcomes. "The fundraising team is enthusiastic about the opportunities ahead for our children and their families," she says. "The merger will secure KidzWish's ambition to broaden our services, therapies, and deliver more engaging and inclusive events."

The completion of the build of KidzWish Place as a community resource in Flinders will still occur with timelines to be announced shortly. There will be no changes to staffing levels at KidzWish.

The intention is to merge KidzWish Foundation into a member of The Disability Trust Group effective July 1, 2021.

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