



**School To Work**  
for Secondary Students  
with Disability



Family Advocacy  
Suite 704/88-90 George Street, Hornsby 2077  
02 9869 0866

For immediate release

## **Milton Tyree, Leading US expert in Customised Employment for people with disability, returns to Sydney in March.**

There is no such thing as genuine independence as an adult until you secure meaningful and stable employment.

Think of all the things employment provides you: The opportunity to be a valuable contributor to society, to form relationships with members of the community, to buy the things you want and need, the financial capacity to socialise with friends, to travel and ultimately rent or buy your own home.

For people with disability these essential elements for the 'good things of life' are often out of reach, with barriers to securing employment, systemically and societally, firmly entrenched. Australia has one of the lowest employment rates for people with disability - ranking 21 out of 29 in the OECD\*. This worsens dramatically for people with significant disability, who often spend their adult lives in disability programs or sheltered workshop type arrangements, with many in this group still considered unemployable.

Milton Tyree, leading expert in the field of Customised Employment in the US, is returning to Sydney next month to present a 2-day workshop on Customised Employment as an effective way to address the above issues. The workshop, focusing on the vital second step of Customised Employment: Job Development, will take place on Monday 11 & Tuesday 12 March, 9:30am - 4:00pm AEDT at The Alcott, 1 Birdwood Avenue, Lane Cove NSW.

“Customised Employment increases the chances that people with disability will take their rightful place as valued employees performing fitting, suitably challenging, socially valued work in the open employment market,” says Mr Tyree, who is Project Associate for the University of Kentucky and owner of Milton Tyree Employment Consulting, LLC.

The concept of Customised Employment was developed in the United States over 40 years ago but it's still a relatively new concept in Australia. Customised Employment is not a program but a set of principles and strategies. These aim to tailor a job to fit the skills, interests, strengths and support needs of a person whilst still meeting the needs of a business or the market for a product or service.

Attendees will gain a wealth of knowledge and insights into an approach proven to achieve successful employment outcomes for people with disability.

Tickets are now available and bookings can be made at <https://bit.ly/MiltonTyreeWorkshop2024>

The event is part of the **School to Work** project, which equips young people with disability, with the support of families, to seek meaningful, paid employment in the community. This federally funded project is being run in NSW by Resourcing Inclusive Communities, an Initiative of Family Advocacy NSW. Through workshops, webinars, conferences, 1:1 support and resources, School to Work aims to show that people with disability can work in valued jobs that are based on their interests and career aspirations, with equal pay in workplaces that offer accessible and equitable opportunities.

\* OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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**About Family Advocacy**

We work with families to help them defend and promote the interests and rights of people with developmental disability.

*Please contact Kelly Evagelakos, Marketing and Communications Manager on 9869 0866 for more information. Interviews can be arranged with our Executive Officer, Cecile Sullivan Elder. We can find a local family as well, to flesh out an article or editorial piece on the benefits of employment for people with disability.*