

## Media Release

### **Ability Options partners with Evolve Communities to deliver a Cultural Training Program to all 1,150 Employees**

Ability Options, a not-for-profit services organisation, recognises the importance of National Reconciliation Week and the steps we as a community should take to understand the issues face by First Nations people through their Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). A Stretch RAP consists of elements that allow workplaces to build strong relationships, respect and opportunities within your organisation and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

As part of that ongoing commitment to reconciliation Ability Option's is pleased to announce its partnership with Evolve Communities, a Cultural Awareness Training Group to deliver an extensive Cultural Awareness Program to be delivered to all 1150 employees.

The 7 Steps Cultural Training program will roll out in two phases over the next two years.

In embedding reconciliation initiatives such as these, Ability Options highlights the importance of maintaining workplaces of diversity, inclusion, and cultural understanding through relevant staff training.

Ability Options CEO, Julia Squire, commented: *"Our Stretch RAP is an important part of meeting our Mission. It has advanced and will continue to advance inclusion and reconciliation within our organisation and our wider communities. A partnership with Evolve Communities to deliver cultural awareness training to all our Ability Options staff will assist all my colleagues in developing a cultural understanding of community and make Ability Options an even stronger organisation as a result."*

The role of Evolve Communities will be to provide guidance, mentoring and training around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and culture, enhancing the progress of Ability Options Reconciliation Action Plan which was established in 2016. As a majority-owned Indigenous business, certified by Supply Nation, Evolve Communities provide wisdom of Indigenous cultures which hold the keys to solving a broader range of problems in business, in society and globally.

*"We are so thrilled to partner with Ability Options who have impressed us with their deep commitment to reconciliation and understanding of allyship"* - Ms Aunty Munya Andrews said.

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Evolve Communities Co-Director, Carla Rogers agrees: *“At Evolve, we are passionate about creating a kinder and more inclusive Australia. This takes the 97% of the population like me who aren’t Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander to step up. Ability Options are providing their staff with the knowledge and skills to be allies.”*

In totality, this is in-line with the Ability Options’ vision to inspire and lead communities, and mission to support people to achieve their aspirations and inclusion in the community.

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### **About Us:**

**Ability Options provide employment and disability services. We support people and foster inclusion in the community in line with our Mission. We operate services from 94 sites that support people with disabilities and those whose lives are changed as a result of accidents, unemployment, and disadvantage.**

**Our Disability Services support people through accommodation, respite care, support coordination, community services and therapy. Our Employment Services assist job seekers, including parents, indigenous communities, school leavers and people with disability, to find work.**

**[abilityoptions.org.au](http://abilityoptions.org.au)**