



## **Media Release**

### **Local Businesses are Local Heroes for Charity on the Move**

20 October 2009

Tandem Respite Inc. will be opening its new office in the Blaxland Centre, Griffith on Monday 26 October 2009. "We have been operating out of two offices in Weston and Holder which has been challenging. The move to one location is very exciting and will allow us to further streamline our operations to the benefit of our clients and staff" said Tandem CEO Cheryl Daw.

Tandem was offered space in the Blaxland Centre at Griffith by the ACT Government, however the site was in need of major refurbishment. The refurbishment has been made possible thanks to the support of an astonishing number of local businesses. In particular, Tandem would like to thank Stavro and Michael Dascarolis from Decca Building Group for their contributions in project managing the refurbishment. Ms Daw commented: "We were enormously relieved when offered this assistance on a pro bono basis as we realised we were well out of our comfort zone and could not otherwise afford the services and expertise that the Decca Building Group have provided."

Tandem is a primary provider of respite, personal care and social support services to children, young people and adults with moderate to profound disabilities, people living with a mental illness, the frail elderly, and their families and carers living in the ACT. Tandem was created in February 2008 when Respite Care ACT and FaBRiC amalgamated, forming an organisation that provides a whole of life service to over 600 clients. "We provide a service that is meaningful and beneficial to the person receiving support and respite to their partner or carer. This could be helping an adult prepare for their day such as assisting them to get up, get dressed and showered. With a child with a disability, it could involve taking them to a local park or helping them to participate in activities that kids would typically do" said Ms Daw.

"In these times of economic downturn and competing demands for the philanthropic dollar we have been overwhelmed by the strong response we have had from local businesses and enterprises and the commitment many are making to helping Tandem relocate, allowing us to grow Tandem's programs" concluded Ms Daw.

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## **FACT SHEET**

- In the 2006 census , 4,572 men and 5,746 women in the ACT stated in the that they had a profound or severe disability that required help or assistance in the three core activities of self-care, mobility and communication.\*
- In the 2006 census , 25,937 people in the ACT stated that they provided unpaid care, help or assistance to a family member or other person with a disability.\*
- Tandem provides over 100, 000 hours of respite, personal care and social support services to children, young people and adults with moderate to profound disabilities, people living with a mental illness, the frail elderly, and their families and carers living in the ACT
- Tandem offers unique services to their clients such as the Client Holiday Scheme - where families can enjoy short holidays with the assistance of support workers - and the Recreational Activities Program, which provides opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to participate in inclusive recreational and sporting activities.
- Tandem's programs also focus on reducing the social isolation experienced by people with a disability and their families and carers, those living with a mental illness and the frail elderly

*\*People with Disabilities ACT Inc. Annual Report 2007*