

Myhorizon bridges distance

Disability Support program for CQ kids

AWARD-winning disability services provider Myhorizon is trialling a new technology assisted early intervention program to support children with disability and their families in Emerald, Barcaldine and Longreach.

Myhorizon's "Baby Bridges" program targets children with disability aged zero to five, utilising a variety of therapy-based approaches to empower parents with the knowledge and skills they need to support their child's development.

Delivered face-to-face at sites across Queensland, the program is now being offered for the first time to families in Central Queensland via Skype, telephone and other digital technologies.

Baby Bridges State Coordinator Geraldine McKinnon said the new program would help young parents in remote areas access vital support services such as occupational therapy, Auslan, speech therapy, children's yoga, picture exchange communication and physiotherapy that would otherwise be unavailable to them due to distance.

"Our Early Intervention service is constantly innovating to better support families of children with disability throughout Queensland," Ms McKinnon said.

"By harnessing phone and video technology we will



CONNECTING UP: Myhorizon is bringing childhood disability support services to the bush with a new tele-health service

now be able to extend the benefits of our Baby Bridges program to children and parents who can't attend our service centres in person."

Myhorizon CEO Joe Gamblin said the new program would contribute to Myhorizon's mission to

create uplifted, connected communities for people with disability throughout the state.

"The pilot program is a natural extension of our existing early intervention service and speaks to Myhorizon's strong ability

to respond to local community disability support needs across Queensland".

Ms McKinnon will be travelling to Emerald on September 15 with Baby Bridges occupational therapist Adele Suda to talk

to families about the program at the Children's Therapy for Remote Communities Forum for Disability Action Week. Topics to be covered on the day include navigating the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS),

and how various therapies can be used to support childhood development. Time for Q&A will also be included.



Children's Therapy for Remote Communities Forum:

Your chance to learn about emerging early intervention opportunities to support your family

About the forum

Myhorizon's celebrated early intervention program Baby Bridges is now being offered to parents and their children in remote locations for the first time through integration of a variety of new assistive technologies. To learn more about the options available we warmly invite you to meet with Baby Bridges' State Program Coordinator Geraldine McKinnon and our experienced Occupational Therapist Adele Suda.



What to expect

- Information on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and how occupational, play and sensory therapies can support your child's development.
- Tips on how to help your child reach their potential with supporting reading materials for you to take home.
- Q&A format so you get answers to any burning questions you may have.

Date and time

9am-4pm, Thu 15 September

Venue and registration details

Local venue in Emerald to be confirmed. Please contact Geraldine McKinnon for further information on 0429 369 766 or email gmckinnon@myhorizon.org.au