



ConnectGV's new state of the art facility Officially Opens

The honourable Damian Drum MP officially opened ConnectGV's new state of the art facility on Wednesday, June 30 at 2pm. The ceremony and unveiling of a plaque commemorated this notable milestone for ConnectGV, that saw clients that use the facility, stakeholders and the community in attendance.

ConnectGV CEO, Carolynne Frost said, "this new facility was in the planning for many years. Our own fundraising efforts and the recent \$2 million commitment from our local Member for Nicholls and the Australian Government's Community Development Grant Programme, has meant that our plans for this wonderful facility came to fruition in April when our clients and staff first walked through the doors. The response from clients when they walked through the doors for the very first time was heart-warming; this space is every bit about ensuring local people within our community have the necessary facilities that best support them to meet their needs and achieve their goals. The new Bowenhall facility provides a space to learn and grow as well as being a place to belong and feel proud to be a part of.

The new facility caters for varying abilities and replaces the old building, demolished in July, that was constructed in 1954. ConnectGV's new facility delivers clients flexibility, greater choice, embraces new technologies and is a safe and inviting space that can be shared with the community. A space that will accommodate an increase in client numbers and has been designed to meet the ever-changing landscape of the NDIS that is a market driven insurance model.

The impressive double story facility stands right across the road from where the old Day Options building stood in Bowenhall Street. "Our clients and staff watched the daily progress of the build from just across the road, which has provided them a sense of belonging before the doors even opened and a familiarity with the new surroundings which is so important for many. We were literally able to close the door of the old building and walk straight into the new building, albeit it with a lot of work behind the scenes from our dedicated team of staff," Carolynne said.

ConnectGV is continually reviewing its programs to ensure they are diverse to meet the individual needs of people with a disability. Carolynne said, "our guiding principles of Being, Belonging and Becoming are at the heart of our decision making and the opportunities we create for our clients." We look forward to building on these principles within this space also.

The new facility not only offers pathways and opportunities for clients with a disability, it has opened up many possibilities for the entire ConnectGV team. "We provide training, mentorship, student placements, traineeships and opportunities for existing and potential new staff to increase their skills and pursue their chosen path at ConnectGV." Carolynne said.

ConnectGV has grown and evolved over the years to meet individual need and it continues to be committed to 'building on what matters', to become a leading and inclusive local disability service and registered NDIS provider, with individual supports, employment and accommodation on offer.

Many thanks to each and every community member that helped make this a possibility. Every bit of support has assisted in getting us to this point today!