

Case Study

Dams Grounds Maintenance

Client:
Water NSW
Woronora and
Sydney Metro



BuyAbility Procurement acts as contract manager on behalf of Water NSW and awarded this contract to Flourish Australia (formerly Richmond PRA – Enterprise) due to their extensive experience in large scale grounds maintenance. The contract was negotiated using value for money principles throughout.

The contract encompasses all of the five southern water supply dams - Avon, Nepean, Cataract, Cordeaux and Woronora. Work includes Lawn and Garden maintenance for all picnic grounds, gardens, pathways, helipads and Water NSW buildings. The contract commenced in Aug. 2011 and was initially a 2 year term with options to extend, all of which have been taken up.

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OUTCOME

The 21 supported employees working on this project find the grounds maintenance of the dams one of the most satisfying jobs they do. The length of the contract means that Flourish Australia have been able to put into place a long term human resources development plan for their supported employees and supervisory staff.

Many of the supported employees have now been trained in Certificate III in Horticulture and WHS. They also learn how to work in teams and how to work to programmed timelines – all of which assists in promoting self confidence and independence. **BuyAbility Procurement**, Flourish and Water NSW have regular performance management meetings to evaluate the work carried out.

In the contract's six years of operation, the high quality of the work has been commented on by Water NSW staff and the general public visiting the picnic areas. Because of the high level of contract performance. Water NSW have also awarded a second contract to Flourish Australia, the Blue Mountains Catchment contract. Water NSW has also used other Disability Enterprises in varying roles in other catchment areas. The Water NSW manager of this project is the Senior Operations Works Supervisor.

ANALYSIS

The case study highlights the opportunity for Government organisations, or other organisations to potentially meet their business objectives, as well as providing contracts that lead to sustainable employment for people with disability.

The significant issue that has emerged from this particular case study is that people with disability have skills - and can deliver goods and services which meet all Government standards.

The partnership in the case study, between Water NSW, **BuyAbility Procurement** and Flourish Australia, has ensured meaningful and sustainable work for the employees who work on this contract.

Structures and barriers to employment of people with a disability can be broken down and managed. Creating positive outcomes for individuals and the communities in which they work.

Formerly 'Disability Enterprise Procurement', **BuyAbility** is NDS's government endorsed service with the purpose of reducing the high rates of unemployment and underemployment of people with disability through socially responsible procurement opportunities in both the public and private sectors.

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