

MEDIA RELEASE

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Trixie Makay appointed Board Chair of Communities at Work

Communities at Work is pleased to announce the appointment of Trixie Makay as Chair of its Board, welcoming a highly experienced leader with deep expertise across government, professional services, governance and human services as the organisation enters a pivotal period of growth, innovation and expanded community impact.

A Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD), Ms Makay brings more than 35 years' experience across the public and private sectors. This includes 20 years in senior Australian Government roles and more than 16 years in leadership positions in Canberra. As a consultant, she has led major reforms across health and human services programs, developing strong expertise in governance, strategy, organisational transformation and sustainable service delivery.

Ms Makay's appointment strengthens Communities at Work's leadership at an important time for the organisation. She brings a genuine commitment to the organisation's purpose, a strong understanding of community needs, and a clear focus on creating meaningful and lasting outcomes for the people and communities Communities at Work supports.

Among the organisation's key upcoming initiatives is the Garran Early Learning and Intervention Centre, which will commence operations on 10 September 2026. The centre will provide early learning, intervention and family support for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Global Developmental Delay, helping families access specialised early learning support close to home.

Communities at Work is also preparing for Galilee School's annual Black Friday Ball on 27 November 2026. The fundraising event supports students in Years 7–12 who have experienced adversity and benefit from a flexible, highly supported approach to education. The organisation is inviting the Canberra community to get involved and help create positive opportunities for young people.

Looking further ahead, Communities at Work will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2027, marking five decades of supporting people, strengthening communities and contributing to a more connected and inclusive Canberra.

Ms Makay's governance expertise, reform experience and deep understanding of human services will support the Board as Communities at Work continues to evolve its services, respond to changing community needs and plan for long-term sustainability.

Under this next phase of leadership, Communities at Work will continue to be guided by its values and its commitment to delivering safe, sustainable and high-quality services that enable our communities to connect and thrive.

About Communities at Work

Communities at Work is one of the ACT region's leading not-for-profit community service organisations, supporting people across all stages of life through connected services that help individuals, families and communities thrive.

Our work spans early education and care, out of school hours care, school holiday programs, family day care, special assistance youth education, vocational training, emergency food and clothing support, community development, venue hire and community transport. Together, these services reflect our long-standing commitment to strengthening social connection, increasing opportunity and responding to the changing needs of the Canberra community.

At the heart of our work is a commitment to safe, high-quality early learning and education. Across our Children's Services we create nurturing, inclusive and engaging environments where children feel secure, are supported to learn and develop confidence, and build strong foundations for lifelong wellbeing and learning.

Through Galilee School, our independent special assistance school, we provide flexible, individualised education for young people in Years 7 to 12 who have experienced adversity. Through our Registered Training Organisation, Cple (RTO 88148), we also deliver nationally recognised qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care and Business, helping build workforce capability and pathways into meaningful employment.

Media Contact

Eva Hickman, Communities at Work, Ph: 0404 016 707, marketing@commsatwork.org