

07 Jul 2016 Hornsby Advocate, Sydney

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HORNSBY

Helping unleash potential

Young Melissa hopes to gain more independence under the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Nigel Gladstone

MELISSA Hulm says that the National Disability Insurance Scheme will give her more freedom as it rolls out in Hornsby.

The 23-year-old, who has an intellectual disability, lives in Hornsby with a flatmate in supported housing.

She now hopes to be able to live independently thanks to an the opportunity to apply for more financial assistance under NDIS, which began operating in the area on Friday.

Ms Hulm works at the House With No Steps in Belrose in the packaging department.

"I have been planning with work for the NDIS and I think it's great. It's exciting to get to be able to choose, Ms Hulm said. "I'm good at what I'm doing now and I want to be a team leader here."

She made a choice to stay in Sydney, away from her family, to study and find a job a few years ago.

"It's kind of hard because I don't get to see my family,"

she said. "But I want to live on my own."

The NDIS offers more freedom, support and choice, she

"I'm excited about the NDIS. I think it's a good idea because people with a disability are forgotten.'

In NSW more than 40,000 people with a disability are expected to transition to the NDIS in the next 12 months.

Hornsby state Liberal MP Matt Kean said the NDIS will change lives.

"It will give people with disability real and meaningful choice and control over what supports they receive and who provides them," he

In northern Sydney 2600 more people with a disability will get support from a \$40 million boost to funding.

I think it's a good idea because people with a disability are forgotten

Melissa Hulm



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