



## Media Statement

18 November 2021

## **KPMG secures long-term future for DSA**

**Trusted not-for-profit disability service provider, Scope Australia, announced as preferred owner**

One of the nation's largest providers of disability support services Scope Australia (Scope) has been selected as the preferred owner of Disability Services Australia (DSA), providing certainty for participants and employees.

KPMG Australia Partners Gayle Dickerson, James Dampney and Peter Gothard undertook a comprehensive expressions of interest process after being appointed as Voluntary Administrators of DSA in August 2021. Administrators today selected Scope as the preferred owner after strong interest from a wide range of parties, with unions and key stakeholders supporting the decision.

Gayle Dickerson, Restructuring Services Partner, KPMG Australia said: "This an exceptional outcome for everyone at DSA and all stakeholders. From day one of the administration process, we made it clear that our priority was the ongoing continuity of support of participants. With aligned values and complementary strategies and services, the combination of Scope and DSA is a logical fit. Already established as one of Australia's largest and most trusted disability service providers, Scope will realise its ambition to expand services into NSW through the acquisition of DSA to help more people across Australia.

"This transaction will ensure continuity of services and an outstanding platform for DSA to continue under the DSA banner. Protecting all jobs and achieving this outcome while ensuring the quality of support of participants and observing COVID-19 infection controls during the administration process is testament to the dedication and commitment of everyone at DSA. DSA is now well placed for a bright long-term future under the strong and committed leadership of Scope, with participants set to enjoy a continuation of high-quality support, innovation and market-leading capabilities."

Scope CEO Dr Jennifer Fitzgerald said: "We are excited about this opportunity and the great outcomes we can deliver together for DSA participants and their families. This opportunity is the next step in Scope's strategy to expand our mission nationally. We believe we share a great synergy with DSA - shared vision, common values and a strong commitment to mission. We're looking forward to building the future together and creating greater social change for the benefit of all Australians with a disability."



A Deed of Company Arrangement Proposal (DOCA) has been received by the Administrators from Scope. Creditors are set to vote on the proposal at the creditors meeting scheduled for 1 December 2021 to complete the sale of DSA.

Scope is a registered NDIS provider with services including Supported Independent Living, Therapy, Early Childhood Intervention, Short-Term Accommodation and Day and Lifestyle Options. The proposed DOCA ensures protection of all employee entitlements for DSA employees and a full return for unsecured creditors.

DSA supports more than 1,500 people with a disability across NSW, helping participants develop skills and capabilities to gain independence and participate in society.

## **ENDS**

### **Media inquiries**

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