

# WE LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS VE

## MEDIA RELEASE

29<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### ONE DOOR CLOSSES, ANOTHER DOOR OPENS

- Newcastle founded organisation Life Without Barriers calls for Community Celebration -

Newcastle founded social purpose organisation Life Without Barriers (LWB) calls for the Newcastle community to celebrate the closing of its very first premises at 55 Parry Street and the opening of new doors at 32 Union Street on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

In a lunchtime event we call on Parry Street clients and the people of Newcastle to celebrate the closing of one foundational door and then opening of a new contemporary one.

**Event:** Farewell to Parry Street

**Date:** Fri 7<sup>th</sup> July

**Time:** 12.30pm – 2.00pm

**Address:** 55 Parry Street, Newcastle

“Parry Street was where it really all started,” says Life Without Barriers Chief Executive Claire Robbs. “It grew from the grassroots of our community and the family and friends of our Chairman who saw the need for services in Newcastle for people with a disability.”

Parry Street began with a group of local community members addressing a need for disability programs and services for their relatives in 1997. Throughout that time, Life Without Barriers has received fantastic support from Newcastle City Council allowing LWB to be tenants there for the last 20 years and providing a beautiful space and garden for clients. LWB survived the 2007 June floods in Parry Street that caused significant damage, but staff rallied and rebuilt. In a nostalgic farewell it is with some sadness we leave Parry Street, but shared in equal measure by the excitement of opening Union Street.

“Every human being is entitled to the opportunity to live to the best of their ability with the support of their community. I believe that is what all people deserve and are entitled to. Parry Street will forever hold a place in our hearts as the founding and spiritual home of Life Without Barriers that provided us with the firm footing to become the national organisation servicing and supporting many vulnerable populations that we are today. We are not too far up the road in Union Street and excited about opening the new building and offering more programs,” say Life Without Barriers Chair Terry Lawler.

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Life Without Barriers  
352 King Street  
Newcastle NSW 2300

T: 02 4033 4500  
E: [info@lwb.org.au](mailto:info@lwb.org.au)  
W: [www.lwb.org.au](http://www.lwb.org.au)

In the spirit of Reconciliation, Life Without Barriers acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country, and their connection to land, water and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures and customs, and to Elders both past and present.

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Union Street will provide a contemporary space for disability clients to participate in range of meaningful programs. These programs will compliment those which are offered in the community such as fitness, health and wellbeing, and arts and craft just to name a few. Union Street will encourage members of the community and businesses to work together to enhance inclusion in the community. Life Without Barriers clients will also benefit from the purpose built change room facilities supporting them to have their personal care needs attended to, in the most dignified way.

Life Without Barriers has grown from its humble beginnings in Parry Street to a national organisation in 300 communities across the country, who still retains its head office in Newcastle.

So as they say – when one door closes another door opens. Life Without Barriers bid a fond and memorable farewell to 55 Parry Street and welcome a new and exciting chapter at 32 Union Street, Newcastle West.

Union Street officially opens its doors on Mon 17<sup>th</sup> July at 9am.

## **END**

**Available for interview:** Claire Robbs – Life Without Barriers Chief Executive

**Download Photo 1:** [Founding LWB Board at Parry Street](#)

**Download Photo 2:** [Erin Lynch – client at Parry Street](#)

**Download Photo 3:** [Blair \(LWB\) & Fina \(client\) at Parry Street](#)

**Download Photo 4:** [Client at Parry Street](#)

**About Life Without Barriers:** Life Without Barriers (LWB) is one of Australia's largest leading social purpose, not-for-profit organisations, working in more than 300 communities across all states and territories. Its main areas of operation includes support to people with disability, children, young people and families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, refugees and asylum seekers, older people, and people who are vulnerable to social exclusion.

## **Media Enquiries**

Abby Edwards

External Communications, Media & Events Coordinator - Life Without Barriers

**E:** [abby.edwards@lwb.org.au](mailto:abby.edwards@lwb.org.au)

**T:** 0472 821 808