

Monday 2 December 2024

## City of Ryde champions disability employment

The City of Ryde is proud to announce the launch of Empower Ryde, a groundbreaking community initiative designed to foster greater engagement and collaboration among people with disability who live, work, or study in the City of Ryde area.

This initiative continues Council's longstanding commitment to inclusivity and aligns with key actions outlined in the City of Ryde's Economic Development Strategy and Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2022-2026).

Empower Ryde is a peer-led program where individuals with shared experiences collaborate, discuss, and solve complex challenges related to employment.

City of Ryde Mayor Trenton Brown expressed enthusiasm about the initiative, which offers valuable resources and connections to help participants thrive in their professional journeys, whether they are seeking a job, looking to change roles, or aspiring to start a business.

"We are committed to creating a vibrant and inclusive community where every resident has access to equal and equitable opportunities," Mayor Brown said. "This program is a testament to our dedication to enhancing civic engagement and ensuring that the needs and aspirations of our community are met."

Empower Ryde is designed to create a network of support that fosters confidence and builds valuable skills. The City of Ryde invites all residents to participate in this initiative and contribute to the continued growth and development of our community. For more information and to get involved, please visit our official website at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/EmpowerRyde](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/EmpowerRyde).

### Advocating for inclusion in the City of Ryde

The City of Ryde is committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse community. With a longstanding tradition of supporting the International Day of People with Disability, Council continues to lead initiatives that promote equity, opportunity, and the celebration of all individuals. Find out more about the City of Ryde's support services and programs for people with disability at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Disability](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Disability).

Alongside Empower Ryde, Council is also proud to host its inaugural Ryde Shine Ability Talent Competition in 2024, an inspiring talent show for people with disability who are living, working, studying or doing social activities in the Council area.

The top three winners will receive vouchers redeemable at Katcha Music for recording sessions or music lessons, along with a three-month contract with Diverse Talent Management, offering support and guidance to help them pursue their passion. Additionally, the winners will be invited to perform at Council events in 2025.

Our 2024 Finalists will perform at the final event where winners will be named on Thursday 5 December 2024 at North Ryde School of Arts. For more on the competition and to secure your free tickets to the final event, visit [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/RydeShineAbility](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/RydeShineAbility).

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