



## Fact Sheet 2

# Where do I start?



**Starting a micro business might seem like a very big and overwhelming job yet many people with many different types of abilities and disability have done it.**

Some people have started a micro business on their own and others with the help of family or friends. Some have begun early when in high school while others have started later in life.

**Here are tips from people who have started a micro business.**



### **Is a micro business for me?**

**A micro business is one employment pathway and not for everyone so take time to discover if it is for you.**

- Learn from the wisdom of others. There are many stories on the internet to give you ideas and spark your interest. Check out our resource list in Fact Sheet 3.
- Consider your interests and skills - think about what you like to do that could be turned into a business. Build on your strengths and what you can do.
- Visit organisations and businesses and see what is needed. How can your interests and passions link with what is needed in local businesses or in your community. From little ideas, big things can grow.
- Get clear on your reason(s) or purpose for starting a business, for example, making income, having purpose, expressing self, or community connection.
- A micro business takes time and persistence. We are all different and micro enterprises are not for everyone. Ask yourself **“Am I ready to commit, persist and have a go?”**.



## What next to start my micro business?

If you decide yes to start a micro business here are tips for the next steps.

- Start with a vision or dream for yourself and your business. Think outside the box. What is my dream? A strong vision will help to sustain you through the ups and downs of building a business.
- All businesses are about building community and networks. Who do you know? Who can help you? Who supports your vision? Who works in businesses?
- Everyone you know or meet can be a potential supporter or customer of your business.
- Don't be afraid to ask others for help and ideas. Most people are very willing to share ideas, support and assistance.
- Start small and go slowly. Businesses take time to establish.
- If you are an NDIS participant find out how the NDIS can help you in your micro enterprise journey. How does it link to your goals?
- Not all ideas will work. Be prepared to build on what is working and adjust what is not.
- Many micro businesses start with one idea and develop and change as new opportunities present themselves. Be flexible and open.
- Being a business owner is a continual process of growing and learning. While on the job learning is best, industry training workshops, online courses, and forums can also help.
- Review your purpose and intention regularly. Is your business still meeting your needs? Do you need to move in a different direction?
- Don't wait for someone else to give you answers or make decisions for you. This is your journey and there is no one right way.
- Running a business requires you to investigate business planning, network, obtain an ABN, register your business name, learn how to market and sell, and research legal and industry regulations.
- Make sure you use reputable organisations to avoid paying unnecessary fees.
- Buy from and support other micro businesses in your community.
- Appreciate, celebrate and share your achievements.