

Innovative Business has 4th Birthday

"Nothing is too much trouble"

Community Concierge SA (CCSA) is a social enterprise business of CBS Inc. Currently four CBS Jobnet Employment Program clients run the concierge at the Aurora on Pirie building. In September 2015, the CCSA celebrated its 4th birthday with a social event.

Community Bridging Services (CBS) Inc. is a recognised leader in the provision of support for people with a disability. CBS is a not-for-profit organisation receiving funding by the Department of Social Services (DSS), with services in metropolitan Adelaide and rural/remote SA.

Nunzio Giurastante, CBS Business Development Manager said, "What makes this program so significant and unique is that it places people with a disability as the face of a building and that first point of contact for almost a 1000 people and 192 businesses. It has people without a disability coming to a person with a disability for help."

This business also fits perfectly with the CBS values of focusing on clients' strengths and interests and bringing people with a disability into the sometimes hard to access corporate environment. To quote Ilona Carr, a Concierge employee "*Our motto is . . . because nothing is too much trouble.*"

The Community Concierge SA program involves CBS employing and training jobseekers to undertake the demanding concierge role. Each Concierge staff member has been trained in Concierge services, First Aid and Security.

People with a disability in Australia are half (50%) as likely to be employed as people without a disability. In addition, around 45% of those with a disability in Australia are living near or below the poverty line. These facts alone show us that we need to change.



The biggest challenge for Australia is to provide an environment for change which allows for a cultural shift across all parts of our society. Active participation of people with a disability in society generally can occur with a change in attitude. This is something that can't legislated; people need to see the reason why change is important. Freddie Brincat OAM, Executive Director of CBS said "*Community Concierge SA is one great example of this change and community corporate responsibility shown by the owners of the Aurora on Pirie building.*"

Hon. Kelly Vincent, MLC, Dignity for Disability, was a special guest at the event.

CBS would like to expand its successful concierge program to other buildings in the Adelaide CBD. For more information on establishing a concierge service, contact Nunzio Giurastante on 8224 2902.