**Billabong Beats**

**Host: Gavin Moore**

**Guests: Marilyn, Victor and Brianna**

**Transcription by Leilani Fuimaono**

GAVIN: Yeah, welcome everyone to Billabong Beats right here on 3CR. This is our Disability Day special, and we've got some guests in the studio today from Connecting Home. We've got Marilyn who's a senior case worker. Hi, how are you?

MARILYN: Hi Gavin, how are you?

GAVIN: Yeah, good. And we've got also Brianna, who's the NDIS worker for Connecting Home. And our special guest we've brought in today is Victor. He's from the Stolen Gen, and he's on the NDIS I believe.

We're going to talk about how to access the NDIS. I've heard it's quite strenuous, but we'll find out more about that in a moment. Just going to chuck a song on, and we're going to come right back with the Disability Day special here on Billabong Beats coming at you from 3CR, 21 Smith Street.

*[“I was born blind” - Dr. G plays]*

GAVIN: Yeah, Dr. G there with "I Was Born Blind." Just before this show come on, it was the Koori Survival Show with Black Betty. I thought she was moving to another day, I don't know. They're in and out and around and around, up and down. Yeah. Anyways, look, do any of you guys drink wine? Do you drink wine? Any of you people? Wine, wine? No.

MARILYN: No.

GAVIN: ‘Cause they bootlegging again here at 3CR and they've got the best wine in the world.

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GAVIN: So there you go. It's 3CR they've got the bestest wine in the world. Anyway and it'll have you talking shit in no time, and it won't be able to shut you up. Right, but look on Friday, is the 3CR awards night. And that's going to be at North Fitzroy. But today we're talking about disability. It's Disability Day here. I think it's an International Day of Disability, is that correct?

MARILYN: Correct.

GAVIN: Yeah. And look like I said we've got Marilyn Mackey and Brianna and then a special guest Victor in the studio today. Marilyn, you're the senior case worker at Connecting Home. How many clients do you suppose that have been taken away, have a mental illness or have a disability?

MARILYN: Basically Connecting Home, we would have I believe close to 45 clients case-working wise who are active. Who are either members of the stolen generation, descendants and family of stolen generation, with various sort of mental health issues. Also, just chronic health issues and so forth. So that's the support case managing part of it.

But then we've got the NDIS part of our Connecting Home, which is we support clients with their disability who receive a package. I think we all start from, from the start, which is the way to refer to the NDIS. Which is through the NDA, which is a 1-800 number. So the number is 1800-800-1110. A lot of our clients find it hard to actually access on their own. So they do come to Connecting Home and actually we would make the call on their behalf whilst they're present there.

So NDIA would not actually accept, say myself to lodge like a referral on behalf of the client unless the client is there. So clients who are wanting to access the package, you can call Connecting Home and speak to one of the support coordinators or also case workers. And our number is 03 8679 0777. We also can do case work and NDIS for one particular client. So they can actually access the service on both sides.

GAVIN: Yeah. That sounds really good. Maybe Brianna, can you tell us how hard it is to? What's the process? What's the first step to get a package from the NDIS? What do we do?

BRIANNA: Yeah.

GAVIN: Obviously we call Connecting Home. And what's the next step after that?

MARILYN: Yeah. Thank you. So basically we can then with the client call the NDIA. We do the referral by phone, so they ask a couple of questions. We might require some reports out of doctors or psychiatrists or psychologists. The issues range from disabilities, physical disabilities, also mental health disabilities or a dual of both. So we actually walk the journey of the client on from the minute we've called NDIA, to then having the appointment with the NDIS.

We usually do the Brotherhood of St. Lawrence. Once they've secured a package, if they want Connecting Home to manage their package, we are NDIS registered. Clients can also choose other service providers.

But yeah, so usually if they go with us they stay with Connecting Home. And then we have the likes of Bree who does the support coordination, which is managing the packages and also sort of achieving the goals the participant wants. And we can go through a little bit of that.

GAVIN: Yeah. Tell us a little bit about what goes into it Bree?

BRIANNE: We meet with a client and we organize a plan. And we sit down and work out what goals they want to achieve and how we can help them.

GAVIN: So that's a client management plan?

BRIANNE: Yeah.

MARILYN: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

BRIANNE: And through that we organize activities for them such as therapy. We could do like art therapy, music therapy. We can help them get a counselor.

GAVIN: So that's all paid for by the NDIS if you get it?

BRIANNE: Yep.

MARILYN: Yes.

BRIANNE: And that's what we do through the support coordination. We support them and we coordinate with their money. So we see how much money they get and what they can use it for.

GAVIN: Yeah, right. Because I wouldn't mind doing Thai Chi or something like that. Maybe acupuncture. Because I've got diabetes as well, as well as a mental illness.

Anyway, look tell us what else Bree? So we come to say Maryland, we put together a management plan. And then we've got to go and see the doctor to get approval. We've got to get a medical certificate from the doctor. Yeah?

BRIANNE: Yep.

GAVIN: Is that only one?

MARILYN: Look, it doesn't always have to be, it depends on the needs of the client. It depends on what their goals are. So that's why when you go through the Brotherhood - sorry - to the local coordinator to assess the client, they will then, every client different needs, so they’re not all the same.

GAVIN: Yeah.

MARILYN: The only part we kind of see is when the actual loan package has been approved with a dollar sign on. Which everyone varies, not everyone's the same. That's when Connecting Home and the likes of Bree start working with a client on what they want out of the package.

GAVIN: Oh, sounds good.

MARILYN: Yeah.

GAVIN: And you've brought Victor in today, he's actually one of your clients.

MARILYN: Yes.

GAVIN: And member of the Stolen Generation as well.

MARILYN: Yes.

GAVIN: How you going Victor?

VICTOR: All right. Yeah.

GAVIN: Yeah. And so what, has Connecting Home been looking after you?

VICTOR: Yes. They have been.

GAVIN: Yeah. Right. What sort of outings have you been on? What sort of stuff have they done?

VICTOR: Well, they've been driving me around.

GAVIN: Does black fullas get driven around all the time, mate? [laughter]

VICTOR: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Oh, we'd been going to few country towns.

GAVIN: Like a few outings, ey?

VICTOR: Yeah, been on a few outings. And yeah, they look after me with food when I need it, with the package and that.

GAVIN: Yeah. Great. And do they assist you with all your other appointments? Like to get to the doctors or physio or whatever?

VICTOR: Yes, they do. They do that.

GAVIN: Yeah. Oh yeah. So he's given yous a good rep, you guys at Connecting Home. Look, we're just going to go to a song and we'll be right back, hey. This next song is by Bana Laurie and "Love is the medicine."

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*[“Love is the Medicine” - Bana Laurie plays]*

ARCHIE: Hello, this is Archie Roach and you're listening to good music on 885 AM on 3CR.

ANNOUNCER: Billabong Beats would like to thank Connecting Home for their financial support of this program. Connecting Home support survivors of the stolen generations across Southeastern Australia. To find out more. Check out connectinghome.org.au.

*[music by an Indigenous artist plays]*

CHOCO: Sorry is not good enough for genocide. So “Sorry Day” to me it means that all these bad things that have happened to all us mob, over the years and it's still happening today. There's been nothing really positive done for us since the apology, their first apology and how long have we got to go on before we get things really happening?

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GAVIN: That was the deadly Talgium Choco Edwards there. You might know him more maybe as the jurisdiction man. Taking on the state government and the crown. Questioning their sovereignty, questioning the whole justice system, which is built on a lie.

I'm lining up to do my no jurisdiction case next. What happened to me was -- I've got a quick minute, I'll tell you what happened -- I received the letter from the Greens Party. They said that, "We've enrolled you on your behalf, we've enrolled you on the electoral roll."

I said, "What? You can't do that to me!" And then wait, a couple of months later I start receiving fines from the electoral commission. And look I have never even give consent for me to go on the electoral roll.

So it looks like I'll be lining up to do a jurisdiction case too. And it's pretty clear that I have no jurisdiction otherwise the state government wouldn't be asking them for a treaty. But anyway, we're not here to talk about that today.

We're here to talk about International Disability Day. And we've got Connecting Home workers with the NDIS information. And special guest Victor here, Victor Lancaster. So what else is, how's the new office out there at Epping for Connecting Home? I understand you've just moved into your new office.

MARILYN: Yeah, it's good. We've got room for growth. Plenty of opportunities. Statistics have shown that a lot of community are moving up Northern suburbs. It's good to see there's a couple of other Indigenous organizations there have opened up there in Epping and Thomastown. So we felt like it was our future place to be. Given that when we see the future of Connecting Home, we feel like we've got so much growth and so much potential happening there. Which, at the moment it already is. Because, we have two programs. We have the support program, which is where I work from. And then we have the NDIS program, which is where Bree and our other colleagues.

GAVIN: Yeah, yeah.

MARILYN: So future wise I think there would be plenty of opportunities to expand the service. So, which is really good. And there's also lots of sort of other services that we can connect with and do some networking. We're still looking after all the clients regardless of where in Melbourne they are. So moving to the Northern suburbs, has not affected the way we’re working with our clients. So yes, it's fun times and actually exciting.

GAVIN: Yeah. No. I reckon that Connecting Home is just fantastic. I only rang youse up about five years ago or something.

MARILYN: Yeah.

GAVIN: Because I saw that your logo was a house.

MARILYN: Yep.

GAVIN: And I was actually homeless at the time. And I thought I would ring up these guys and have a bit of a go at them. And they're actually rolled out the carpet for me. I'm like, "What?" And the next minute they helped me out. They helped me get my accommodation. And they helped me get into a house. And they helped me get my driver's license and they helped me with the management plan that you create for the clients. It's sort of like your deed, you tailor make those plans for the clients.

MARILYN: Yes.

GAVIN: Yeah. All right then. Look, we're going to go to another song. And then often think about with my one brain cell what to talk about next. [laughter]

*[“Rolling With the Rhythm” - Kutcha Edwards plays]*

GAVIN: Yeah. Kutcha Edwards they're, "Rolling With the Rhythm." And you're on 3CR and my name's Gavin Moore. And I'll be taking you through up to 12 o'clock. This is our Billabong Beats disability special and we've got guests from Connecting Home in this morning. And they've told us all about how to access the NDIS and what the process is. And our special guests, Victor, one of their clients is coming in and giving them the tick of approval. And yeah they're all right. Look, thanks for coming in you guys.

MARILYN: Thanks for having us.

BRIANNE: Thanks for having us.

VICTOR: Thank you.

GAVIN: Alright look, I hope to have you in for the next disability special.

MARILYN: Yes.

GAVIN: Yeah. All right, look, we're going to go to another song now. And we'll be right back. Thank you.

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*[acoustic folk music plays]*

PAULINE: Tune into Power From the Margins. 3CR broadcast for International Day of People with Disability on 3rd of December. From 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM we'll feature BIPOC perspectives, live music, artists and discussions for details, visit 3CR.org.au./disabilityday2019.

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GAVIN: Yeah. Wine for the summertime people, on 3CR.

*[“In the Summertime” featuring Shaggy remix plays]*

GAVIN: Yeah, Shaggy, “In the Summertime”! Now it's time for Toots and the Maytals, right here on 3CR.

*[“Bam Bam” by Toots and the Maytals plays]*

GAVIN: “Bam Bam” there, by Toots and the Maytals. I've had some water.

*[another song plays]*

Archie Roach: Hello. This is Archie Roach and you're listening to good music on 855 AM on 3CR.

*[acoustic music by Indigenous artist plays]*

SPEAKER: I really feel that the government is ashamed to let people know what they really did to the Indigenous people in this country. And it's about time they slept themselves in the face and seen the truth, so at least we can get some pride back in our tribes.

Because all we hear is tragedy in these stories being told and heartbreak. And some people never get over it and me, myself, I'll never get over it. But I think the government should do a lot more in supporting and they should do a lot more so it, well, it never happens again. But it is happening. Our children are still being put into institutions, our people are still being locked up.

*[song continues to play]*

GAVIN: Yeah. Thanks for being with us today here on Billabong Beats for our 3CR disability special. My name's Gavin, and we've come to the end of the hour. It's, what it's 11:56 now. Coming up next is [inaudible]. So stay tuned for that. But we're going to go out today with a song that’s just mad in my mind. I just love it. It's a song by Sonia Dada, in "The edge of the night." Sees you all next week, with 3CR.

*[“Edge of the Night” by Sonia Dada plays]*