

AQA & Independence Australia Group are joining forces.

Independence Australia Group (IAG) and **AQA Victoria (AQA)** are excited to announce they will officially merge as of July 1, 2025, marking a significant step toward enhancing the delivery of high-quality support services for people with disabilities. This strategic merger brings together two trusted, purpose-driven providers with a shared vision: to empower people living with a disability to live independently within inclusive communities.

IAG is currently one of Victoria's largest disability service providers which began as the Paraplegic Association of Victoria in 1957, founded by and for people with spinal cord injury, and shares many of AQA's characteristics as a purpose-driven organisation. IAG has leveraged its social enterprise activities to support its continued growth to become one of the most trusted and sustainable disability service providers.

For 37 years AQA has been a trusted provider of specialised support for Australians living with quadriplegia and paraplegia with high physical support needs. This legacy of care will continue, with a strong commitment to preserving existing services, minimising disruption, and maintaining the flexibility, choice and personalised approach that clients value.

A dedicated project team from both organisations is working collaboratively to ensure a smooth and considered integration, prioritising continuity of supports and clear communication throughout the process.

"By combining the strengths of IAG and AQA we can better navigate the challenges of the rapidly evolving disability services sector and emerge stronger and more capable of providing choices for our communities, whilst accessing a greater depth and range of services," said Peter Turner, Managing Director & CEO at IAG who will lead the combined group as CEO.

"We look forward to welcoming AQA into the Independence Australia Group, creating a future-ready organisation that will empower more Australians to regain and retain their independence within an inclusive community".

"Peter is an exceptional leader who genuinely understands and embodies AQA's mission and values, and I am confident in his ability to guide the organisation forward and proud to pass the reins to his capable hands", said incumbent CEO at AQA Kristian Dauncey.

"Joining forces with Independence Australia Group will create a trusted, unified organisation built on shared values, complementary strengths and decades of experience. Together, we are deepening our commitment to people living with a disability by enhancing the quality, reach and impact of the support we provide."

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