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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Careers in Disability Special Report)

A career within the disability sector is a highly rewarding profession.

St Michael's Association has over 190 staff members across our Launceston and Devonport program areas.

Our staff members come from diverse life experiences which enrich the lives of our participants.

After training as a teacher in her native China, Grace Zhang took advice from some friends to consider working in disability care soon after she moved to Tasmania.

"They were working in disability care and thought it might be good for me as there are some similarities with my previous job," she said.

Grace, who did volunteer work at a primary school when she first arrived in the State, undertook her Certificate III in Disability Services and joined St Michael's in 2020.

Since then, she has worked across various Launceston programs including the Lyne House Respite Centre and the Day Program, based in the Launceston suburb of Newstead.

"To me this is a really meaningful job," she said.

"Every day, when I come to work, I can feel that I am helping people who live with disabilities to achieve their goals and to improve their life skills."

"I really enjoy the work because not only am I earning a wage but I am also doing something positive to help people."

Devonport-based support worker Will Sheean always had a desire to work in an industry where he could help people.

Will started working for an irrigation company in a predominantly clerical position before taking some time out to support his father, who was unwell.

About 2 ½ years ago he gravitated to a disability support role and joined St Michael's.

“Obviously when I first started, I was not sure about things but after a month or so I started to feel this was something which I could really enjoy,” he said.

“I enjoy helping someone else have a good day, particularly when they get to do something they would not normally do.”

Will said the supportive working environment offered at St Michael’s had certainly assisted him to settle into the role.

“They (St Michael’s) have been flexible when my father was not well and everyone is willing to have a chat (if there is something he wants to talk about).

“It has been great.”

St Michaels Training has been offering accredited training for Tasmanians with a disability and the disability sector since 2003.

Uniquely, St Michaels Training is the only Tasmanian Training Provider working exclusively in the disability sector. Conveniently located in the heart of Launceston’s CBD, St Michaels Training offers blended learning opportunities, including traineeships, workplace-based skill sets and classroom-based training across the state. If you are interested in embarking on a rewarding career in the disability sector, please contact St Michaels Training by calling (03) 6333 2600 or visiting <https://stmichaelstraining.tas.edu.au/>

For additional information regarding St Michaels please call (03) 6331 7651 or email info@stmichaels.asn.au. Follow us on Facebook @stmichaelsassociation.

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