



To whom it may concern,

Macarthur Disability Services and National Disability Services NSW are excited to inform you of the Companion Card program, a new initiative for people with a disability in NSW.

The aim of the Companion Card program is to reduce discriminatory ticketing practices as well as increase community participation for people with severe or profound life-long disability. **It is not for everyone with disability.** It is specifically for people who have the life-long need for a carer to attend community activities and events.

By accepting the Companion Card and becoming an 'Affiliate' a business agrees to issue a second ticket at no charge to cardholders, at their venues and events. Currently many people are required to pay two booking and/or admission fees when they go out, one for themselves and one for their companion (carer). Acceptance of the Card would make a substantial difference to how often cardholders would be able to go out as it reduces the cost greatly. **We would thus like to invite you to be part of the Companion Card program.**

**Potential benefits of affiliation include:**

- your organisation would be listed on the Companion Card webpage which would be hyperlinked to your website at <http://www.nds.org.au/nsw/companioncard/affiliates.htm> Cardholders and carers are now using this webpage as their 'entertainment guide', thus giving Affiliates preferential business
- the attraction of a new untapped market, people previously unable to afford to pay for themselves and their carer to attend an activity
- enhancing the company's positive public image.
- having an edge over your competition by offering affordable activities to a niche market
- assisting to meet some of your obligations under anti-discrimination legislation.

If you would like to support the Companion Card, please complete the attached *Industry Affiliation Form* and return in the reply paid envelope. Should you require further information, please feel free to visit the Companion Card webpage [www.nds.org.au/nsw/companioncard.htm](http://www.nds.org.au/nsw/companioncard.htm) , phone or email me to discuss.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely

Jeffrey Tonge  
Affiliate Manager  
Companion Card NSW  
Phone: (02) 9256 3152  
Email: [jeffrey.tonge@nds.org.au](mailto:jeffrey.tonge@nds.org.au)