



**Bedford**<sup>TM</sup>

*Media Release*

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## **Bedford Chief Executive bids farewell**

Influential Bedford Chief Executive – Max Dyason – has announced his retirement after 11 years with the iconic South Australian organisation.

Max joined Bedford in 2000 with an unrelenting commitment to provide vital opportunities to help people with disability realise their full potential.

Max was pivotal in the development of the 'Abilities for All' programme – South Australia's first state-wide tertiary education initiative for people with disability or disadvantage – and played a key role in securing strong relationships with various local and national businesses, to establish community based employment opportunities for clients and key business partnerships for Bedford.

Perhaps most notably, Max's leadership was paramount in the organisation's successful growth and outreach into regional South Australia, as a result of which Bedford now provides key services to people throughout the State, including in Millicent, Mount Gambier, Wallaroo, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and Kadina, Mount Barker and Murray Bridge.

Max said he was extremely sad to be leaving "the best job in South Australia" but the organisation was in good shape to grow and prosper into the future.

"Being Bedford's CEO has been a wonderfully satisfying role for me and I will miss so much about the organisation... it's a great place, with wonderful people and we're doing something particularly worthwhile – providing vital training, employment, housing, recreational and community involvement opportunities for people who really need our support," he said.

"The tremendous growth in our community based employment activities, through our CareerSystems division has been most gratifying, as has our community housing partnership with our State Government. I feel as though I am leaving Bedford in the best possible situation; we have grown from supporting 520 people to over 3,600 people with disability or disadvantage and we are well positioned for the future. "

"There are so many positives on the horizon and so many great people at the helm, including our Board and Executive Team."

"All I want is for Bedford to carry on thriving and I'll look forward to watching the organisation continue to innovate and offer pathways for people with diverse needs in the years ahead."

Max leaves the organisation in strong stead - as the State's most diverse provider of services to people with disability or disadvantage.

His last day at Bedford will be Friday, 16 September.

A nationwide search will be conducted to secure his replacement.

**Bedford background:** Visit [www.bedfordgroup.com.au/news\\_and\\_info](http://www.bedfordgroup.com.au/news_and_info)

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