

IgniteAbility[®]
small business start-ups

impact report 2019



SSI 
settlementservices
international

Supporting entrepreneurship for people living with disability

Established by Settlement Services International (SSI) in 2013, the Ignite[®] Small Business Start-ups program has been designed to assist recently arrived refugees and other newcomers to start up their own business or consolidate an existing one.

By 2018, the Ignite[®] program had assisted over 550 Sydney-based entrepreneurs with refugee backgrounds, launching more than 100 business ventures.

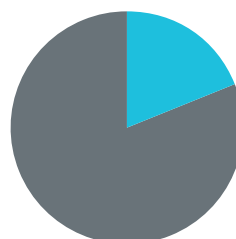
Drawing on the success of the Ignite[®] program, in 2017, SSI established its second business start-up program – IgniteAbility[®] Small Business Start-ups to facilitate business creation for people with disability.

SSI is a leader in disability reform, creating opportunities for people with disability to contribute in all aspects of life: economic, social and civic. ABS data highlights that people with disability have a higher rate of entrepreneurship than people without disability. As a result, SSI has developed a ground-breaking program that taps into an individual's ambitions and motivations for a future of sustainable self-employment.

SSI recognises that meaningful employment is important in obtaining a stable, secure and independent future, as well as to an individual's physical, mental and personal well-being and sense of belonging and identity.

The IgniteAbility[®] Small Business Start-up program is founded on SSI's commitment to enhancing the social and economic participation of people living with physical, and intellectual disability or mental ill health. Referred individuals who are passionate about starting or expanding business are supported by specially trained IgniteAbility[®] facilitators.

Context



4.3 million people, or **18.3%** of the Australian population, live with **some level of disability** (ABS 2015)

1.37 million people or **5.8%** of the population had a profound or severe disability (ABS 2015)



The number of people with disability who are of working age is increasing. **The disability rate for Australians of 'prime working age'** is currently around **15%** (ABS 2015)

Impact



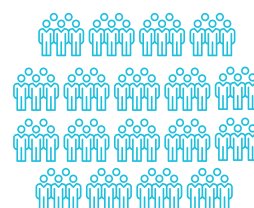
60%

of participants report **greater social inclusion**

45!

IgniteAbility[®] **small businesses** established to date

IgniteAbility[®] worked with **140+** entrepreneurs



TURNING PASSION INTO POSSIBILITIES

From 2017–2019, IgniteAbility® supported more than 100 people with disability, including 40 young people, 58 people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and refugee backgrounds and three people from the LGBTIQ+ community who were living with mental illness, physical, sensory and intellectual disability or autism. In less than three years, more than 45 businesses have been launched with the support of IgniteAbility®.

Case studies



Quang Nguyen

Business name: Quang Nguyen Network

Established: 2018

Type of business: advocacy and public speaking

Disability: cerebral palsy

Joined IgniteAbility®: 2017

Quang, who was born with cerebral palsy, has been a long-term disability rights advocate and activist, taking part in initiatives aimed at improving the lives of those who live with disability and changing the perceptions of the community.

However, it wasn't until he connected with SSI's IgniteAbility® program that he realised this passion could be turned into a business that could also help other people who, like him, had to face daily barriers due to living with disability.

"My IgniteAbility® facilitator has been a great support. She's taught me the basics of running a business, admin tasks and strategies, invoicing and planning."

Carly Bishop

Business name: Carly's Coffee Couriers

Established: 2018

Type of business: coffee delivery

Disability: moderate intellectual disability

Joined IgniteAbility®: 2017

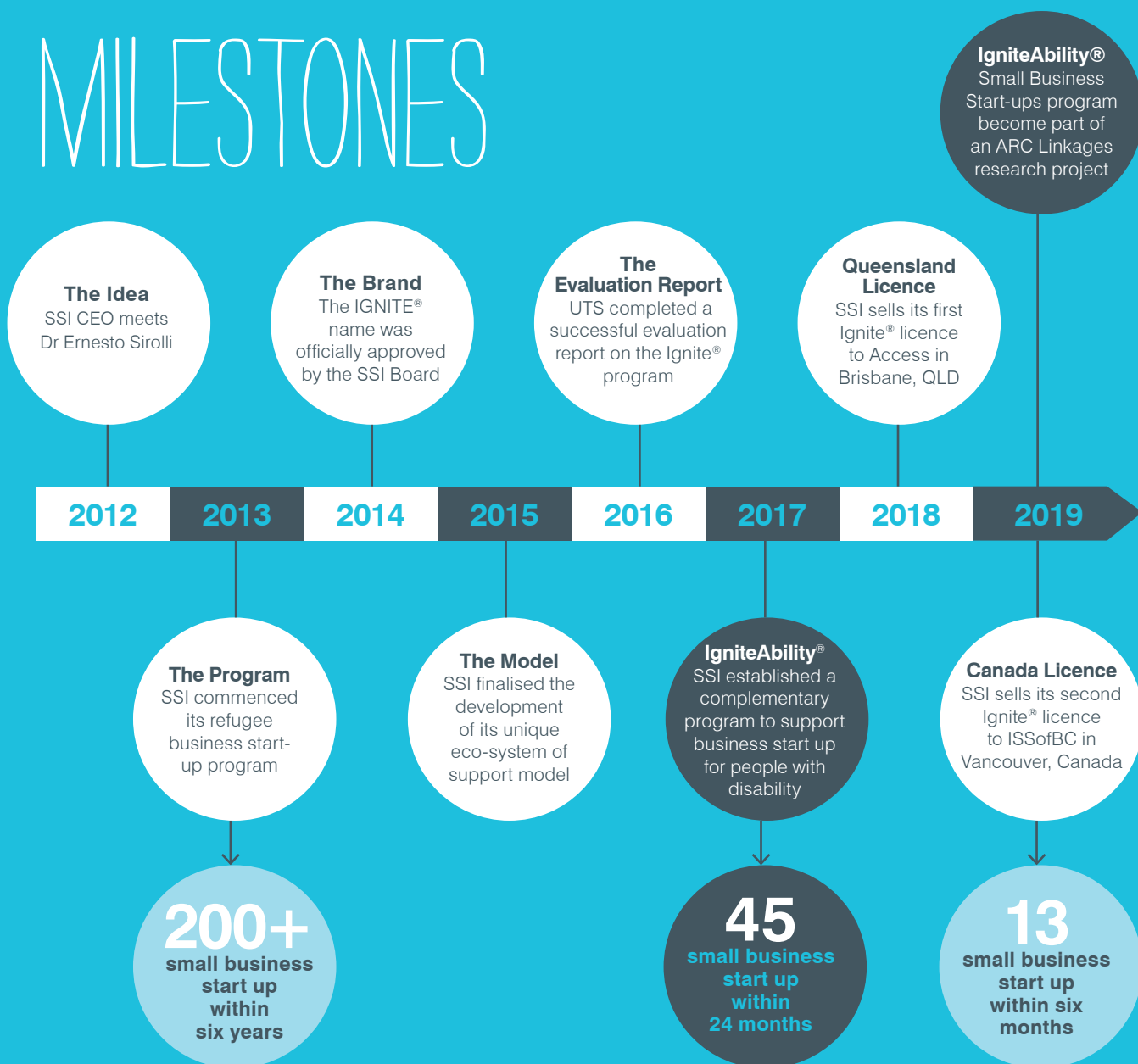
Carly Bishop was first introduced to IgniteAbility® through Ability Links NSW. Since then, she has seen her business idea come from concept to start-up. Carly was recently recognised as an Illawarra Women in Business awards finalist.

Carly launched her business – Carly's Coffee Couriers – in 2019, and she has achieved such success in her south Sydney locale that she's preparing to enter her next phase of growth and scale up her business in multiple locations.

"IgniteAbility® has been invaluable in providing business support in a range of areas from general business planning to the setting up of social media pages."



MILESTONES



Contact us

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AN SSI INITIATIVE

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