

## **1A**

- Summarize your proposed project using this sentence structure as an approximate guide:

***This project will use (X technology) to address (X major social issue). In (X time period), our project will (X impact of project on major social issue).***

This project will use **Mobile Devices Application** technology to address the needs of 2.5 million people with a disability across Australia, for information about disability accessible community facilities and resources, disability accessible toilets, public buildings, amusements and life enriching activities.

In three years rollout, our project will have reached the majority of Australians with a disability with information covering their local areas community resources and facilities.

**This would also benefit others** with mobility and severe health issues such as the **growing number of seniors** as the Australian population ages.

**"A new technology project created by people who have a disability - for people who have a disability and their carers."**

**ManyMinds APP** promoting greater community access information for people with disability in Australia.

- A technology framework that could be adopted internationally for people with a disability around the world.

- Providing essential information, conveniently accessible on a mobile phone app, relevant to people with a disability, such as disability accessible transport and transport providers, disability access toilets, essential services, disability accessible buildings, disability accessible community resources (libraries, swimming centres, amusements and entertainments) and much more for life's necessities and life enrichment for people with a disability.

### **CONTENT RESEARCH TEAMS -**

**Employing people who have a disability** to research and data entry the essential information for each geographical area and for service types.

**Expanding the team of people with a disability** with special education and training programs to enable them to join the research and data entry teams.

National research and data entry hubs located at Homebush and Chatswood.

Project management, training and employment support provided by the Differently Abled Peoples Association. A not-for-profit charity focussed on cultivating and empowering the abilities and talents of people with a disability.

### **IMPLEMENTATION STAGES**

The initial core Research and Data Entry team of people with a disability has been trained and is experienced, thus providing a tried and tested framework for expansion.

The project funds will enable the expansion of information for both services listed and geographical areas covered.

Developed progressively with content for:-

1. All major capital cities in Australia (in order of population size), then
2. All major regional centres in Australia (in order of population size)
3. All other local government areas in Australia (in order of population size)

(Population size priorities according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data - aiming to reach the greatest number of people first and progressively)

## **1D**

**For the following set of project questions, please be as specific as possible and, if you have them, use numbers to make your case. The more clear your answers are, the better we can imagine and evaluate your proposal.**

***In the first 1-2 sentences, quantify the size of the problem it addresses. In sentences 3-4, describe how this project uses innovative technology in its solution. Use data and be as succinct as possible.***

In 2018 the Australian population is 24,772,247 people, with 4,533,321 reporting to have a disability and functional mobility impediments.

The ABS report "Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia Summary of Findings, 2015" reported "The **disability prevalence rate** in Australia has remained relatively stable over time, with 18.3% of people reporting disability in 2015, and 18.5% in 2012 and 2009." The ABS report *Autism in Australia* stated "In 2015 there were **164,000 Australians with autism**, a 42.1% increase from the 115,400 with the condition in 2012." (ABS. "Autism in Australia", 29 March 2017 ABS ) The ABS report *Intellectual Disability in Australia* stated "In 2012 there were around **668,100 Australians (2.9%) with intellectual disability**, which represents a statistically significant increase from the estimated 565,000 people (2.6%) with intellectual disability in the 2009 SDAC. (ABS. "Intellectual Disability, Australia, 2012". 30 June 2014).

**Mobile devices, such as mobile phone and tablets, are a part of everyday life** for the vast majority of Australians including the majority of people who have a disability. And if the person with a disability doesn't use them, their carers do.

The MMApp technology puts essential information in the hands of every person with a disability &/or their carers, where ever they go, without the need of a large cumbersome print directory or an appointment with a social worker. **The technology empowers people with the information they need, when they need it, no matter where they are.** For example, if you are out and in a wheelchair and need a to find the closest disability accessible toilet urgently, the MMApp will have the answer immediately. Now that is technology innovation coupled with humanity.

ManyMindsLink that has the capacity to provide limitless information regarding community access with **simple and easy to use icons which can be easily accessed by people with limited literacy.**

It also **promotes a sense of security and safety** by being able to contact a carer with a single icon, and the carer can contact the person with a disability in the same way, if they get lost in a crowd.

Another feature of this app, is a '**CARER ALERT**' mechanism where if the user has a fall an alert will be sent directly to either a family member or carer with geolocation of the user. All these features remove the anxiety for people with disabilities and allow them to be 'set free' if you like, and be more confident in knowing they have the 'choice' to participate and live independently and safely within in their community.

When **Voice** is turned on **every picture and text starts talking** while touched, and double tap will activate searching and the results read out - for the **benefit of those who are visually impaired, limited sight or limited literacy**. **Voice activation** will be development with the project funds support.

The cost of mobile communications aids can potentially be funded by the NDIS enabling more people with disability to own their own devise.

It will be available in Apple and Android versions.

The technology could be applied to other countries and languages globally in the future.

## **1E**

- **How will you implement your project?**

**If you're building an app to do X that will reach Y people, what's the path to get there?**

We intend, As part of our budgeted costs, to hire a Project Manager who will lead and drive implementation planning and will be the person who is accountable for the success implementation project.

### **Preliminary**

The basis of the MMLink App has been developed and tested.

The grant funds will allow for enhancement of its features such as Voice Activation, expansion of content relevant for people who have a disability and their carers, and the promotion to people who have a disability for it widespread adoption. This will entail recruiting and training more people with a disability to be Researchers and Data Entry at the hub offices.

#### **Phase 1 – Modelling Employment Hub practices**

- Design Policy and Procedures manual
- Develop Project and Implementation Team
  - Identify mentors from within the satellite hub

Provide for purchase a functioning prototype

- iTunes
- Play Store

Approach Council etc., for data / material to ensure application is always up to date

- Employ people with disability to update information constantly

#### **Phase 2 – Initiate and implement Research & Data Entry Hub 1**

#### **Phase 3 – Initiate and implement Research & Data Entry Hub 2**

#### **Phase 4 – Initial and implement Research & Data Entry Hub 3**

#### **Phase 5 – Marketing Plan and Implementation**

- *Marketing & Building Awareness of Many Minds Link App*
  - Website
  - Google Analytics
  - Social Media
    - Facebook
    - You Tube
    - Twitter
  - Community Service Announcements on over 450 Community Radio Stations in Australia
  - NDIS Participants Newsletter feature - reaching everyone in Australia with an NDIS Plan.
  - Media Release to all Disability Associations newsletters around Australia
  - Promotional Poster to all CentreLink offices around Australia
  - Approach Local Government Councils, Information Offices for inclusion in their directories and news bulletins.
  - Information to all Special Schools in Australia.
  - General Media Releases - mainstream media.
- **Approach disability organisations to inform them of the application for use by their clients**

**1F**

**If selected as a winner, how would your project utilize the funding received? Provide a budget for how your organisation would spend this amount.**

**ACTION: add budget**

## **Impact**

- 2a) Discuss the problem your proposed project aims to address, and the total expected impact of this project if executed.

Explain how you calculated this impact number, including any assumptions made arriving at this projection. The more specific, the better. Example: Over the span of 6 months, 60 additional ESL students will have learned how to read at an 8th-grade proficient level.

In 2018 the Australian population is 24,772,247 people, with 4,533,321 reporting to have a disability and functional mobility impediments. (Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) prevalence). The ABS report "Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia Summary of Findings, 2015" reported "The **disability prevalence rate** in Australia has remained relatively stable over time, with 18.3% of people reporting disability in 2015.

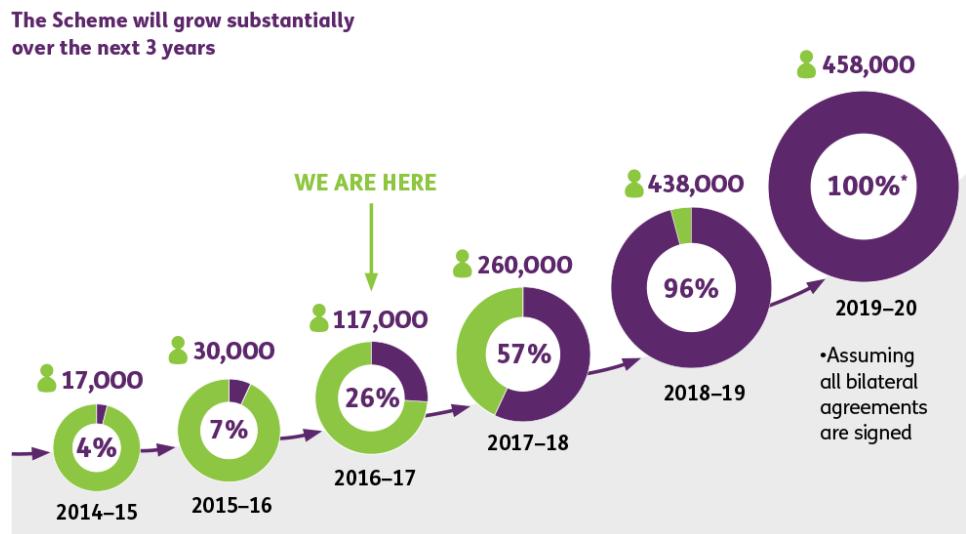
Through the project, the marketing and promotions phase would promote awareness of the application to all person with a disability and their carers in Australia. (see promotion strategy above)

As noted under the ILC Policy Framework (p. 7) ([www.ndis.gov.au/communities/ilc-home/ilc-policy-framework.html](http://www.ndis.gov.au/communities/ilc-home/ilc-policy-framework.html)): "The NDIS Scheme Actuary advises that of Australia's population of people with disability, there are approximately:

- **2.5 million people with disability in Australia under the age of 65 years**

- 900,000 of the 2.5 million report they **need assistance with activities of daily living** at least weekly, 410,000 of this 900,000 are likely to access the NDIS as participants”

**Promotion through the NDIS Newsletter** will reach the following people with a disability who are eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.



People with a disability can become **socially isolated**, so the project aims to provide information about supportive social clubs and groups and their events that people could participate in. Organisers of these events will have an online facility to lodge details about their group and events, that then will be accessible across the network.

The project will **help promote greater community access and life enrichment for people** who have a disability and their carers, by not only providing essential information related to their disability such as disability accessible toilets, specialist disability and health service providers, but also accessible community facilities and resources such as disability accessible libraries, swimming centres, amusements, entertainment venues, and disability accessible transport and transport providers.

**An additional benefit is**

**"A new technology project created by people who have a disability - for people who have a disability and their carers."**

**Employing people who have a disability** to research and data entry the essential information for each geographical area and for service types.

**Expanding the team of people with a disability** with special education and training programs to enable them to join the research and data entry teams.

Project management, training and employment support provided by the Differently Abled Peoples Association. A not-for-profit charity focussed on cultivating and empowering the abilities and talents of people with a disability.

**2b What are the 1-3 key indicators you will use to track progress toward the impact you described above? How will you measure these indicators?**

**Example: 90% or more attendees at trainings report a change in behavior after 3 months.**

1. It is expected that within the 1st year the database will triple in size. Information that will be measured
2. Media Promotions - measuring the readership - listenership of media outlets publishing our promotions. Figures according to circulation (for print media) or listenership surveys (for radio)
3. Number of downloads of the MMLink App for distribution portals, web site and links.

### **2c     What geographic region does the project impact?**

Developed progressively with content for:-

1. All major capital cities in Australia (in order of population size), then
2. All major regional centres in Australia (in order of population size)
3. All other local government areas in Australia (in order of population size)

(Population size priorities according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data - aiming to reach the greatest number of people first and progressively)

## **Technology / Innovation**

### **3b     How does your project use technology?**

This ManyMindsLink mobile application is originally built on Apple IOS/XCode platform adopting Geo-Location information approach with inbuilt GPS facility. It was then converted to Android platform using Android Studio. It has been designed to make data entry tasks easy for people with disability to work so that they can even use a camera to capture actual location for recognition and accuracy. We have added an inbuilt emergency alert when the phone is dropped or shaken and a Help button is linked to a nominated carer for easy assistance when needed or to locate missing person with disability.

### **3c     What's innovative about your project?**

**If this idea has never been tried before, let us know.**

To our knowledge there is no similar disability specific application that has the potential to be so far reaching.

DAPA [Differently Abled People Association Inc.] has developed an application ManyMindsLink which is a **mobile phone application** that can run **on smartphones and other mobile devices** and is a **geo-location search engine application** that assists to search and find places by the touch of a finger. It is **ergonomically designed** and focuses on people with intellectual disabilities to access their community. **It uses simple, and pictorial icons** to highlight points of interest with reasonable distance from central / selected location. This application will enable people with a disability to actively participate and move more confidently within their communities, as well as the assurance that all this information is in their hands and the security knowing

that contact with their carer is no more than an icon away and in emergencies their carer will receive immediate notification alerts and vice versa.

Over the next two years, our project will **further develop this application to increase the content data** and in turn increase information to the user and promote awareness its benefits to people with disability. Although this application is currently focused on the Australian environment it has no barriers to extending locations and languages. **Further development of this application will be focused on incorporating voice activation and gesture recognition** to further increase the usability to people who are physically challenged non-verbal or illiterate. We believe that potential of this application is limitless and not only has the capacity to impact people living with any type disability, but has inspired interest from people caring for the aged, particularly dementia, and beyond that to the general population needing to know about a new location, lending itself useful even to tourists.

Once DAPA had performed a feasibility study on the application it became evident that the **research and data entry component of this application could be performed by people with a disability**. Consequently DAPA formed a **team of employees with Autism and intellectual to provide the data entry component**. Over the last year the modeling of this team has shown great success and now DAPA's vision to replicate this employment model in the next two years, as a social firm, increasing the opportunities for employment for people with a disability.

The **ManyMindsLink** Application is an exciting and innovative product that will 'set free' the individual and get them participating more in their community and communicating more easily with others. It is our vision to be able to perfect and continually update the **ManyMindsLink** application and to ensure that everyone with a disability has access to this product, whilst creating employment opportunities for people with a disability.

## Scalability

- How will your project scale beyond what you've proposed here?

For example, will you create a model that other communities or organisations can replicate, scale through your global organisation, etc?

The scalability of **ManyMindsLink** Application is expected to expand its data to over 500,000 pieces of data nationally within three years.

Both the app itself, and the employment model, are **able to be replicated in other countries and other language groups**. To be replicated in another country, the App only requires the input of data relevant to that country and promotion to the local region or communities. Although the data entry would be achievable from Australia, ideally the employment model could be replicated to provide employment for people with disability from within the country in which the app is to be used.

We are prepared to partner with any disability service organisation which has a demonstrated infrastructure for their services.

## Feasibility

- 5a What are the 2-3 most significant risks you foresee in this project? How has your team planned to address them?**

The most critical risks have been identified below, along with the risk mitigation. To overarch the whole project, a Project Manager will be hired to manage the entire project and manage risk:

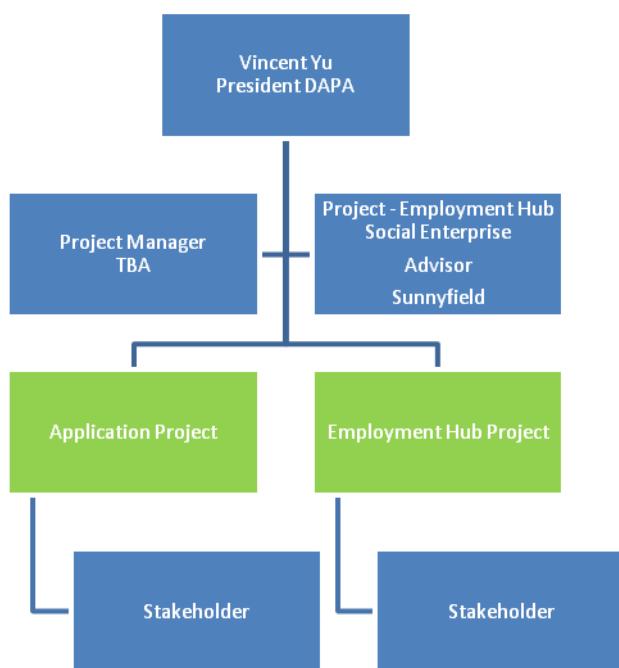
- **The application expands too quickly** – DAPA intends to apply Risk Management procedure around the application data expansion.

**Commercial vandalism of the database** - DAPA intends to apply IT Risk Management procedure to ensure that data is encrypted and IP sensitive.

## 5b Who is the core project team? What makes them poised for success?

Please respond with the project team that will be working on the proposed project

**The Project Team Organisational Chart**



**Vincent Yu** – President of Differently Abled People Association Inc., an organisation founded by parents and young people who have a disability including Autism Spectrum Disorder to meet the support needs of people who have a disability.

**Vincent is owner director of an IT company** called Citisystems (Aust) Pty Ltd since 1984 and also an **owner director of our ISP company called Netdata since 1994**. The company has grown up to 15 staff with a turnover of \$2m annually. Our projects involved AMP demutualisation, ADI, setting up CBA Martin Place Electronic Banking network, Fujitsu's various systems, Independent consultants to Arnott's biscuit, MBF, Reserve Bank, HCF, Telecom, Prospect Electricity and IT systems for Global Disability & Health Care Services. Four years ago, we have started our ManyMindsLink application and then devote my time to create DAPA for a long term job opportunities for people with disabilities.

Personally, I came here in 1967 to complete my **Mathematics BSc (Hon) degree and my Master of Mathematics degree** before starting in IT industries as a software engineer and then became System Analyst in Computer Science Australia to build the first Australian real-time database distribution system for York Motors from 1976. I left to become a contractor before forming my own software company.

**5c Who do you consider your 3 most significant partners (e.g., funders or others that have worked with your organisation) from the past 3 years? If none, list none.**

**DAPA** – Differently Abled People Association Inc. was founded by parents and young people who have a disability including autism spectrum disorder to meet the support needs of people who have a disability and help them discover and develop their abilities and talents to achieve greater independence in the areas of life and social skills, leisure and creative pursuits, communications and technology skills, vocational skills and adult education needs.

So often programs and services emphasise the disability whereas our new organisation seeks to take a more positive approach and emphasise the abilities and talents of the individual. This is reflected in the choice of name for the association. It is the key philosophy underlining our purpose in helping people with disability and/or autism spectrum disorder discover and develop their abilities and talents; to make a socially valued contribution to the community and benefit other people in a similar situation to themselves.

The association aims to promote greater community awareness of the abilities and talents of people who have a disability and or autism spectrum disorder.

**Sunnyfield** - demonstrated as a disability service provider which has capacity and infrastructure to push this project to become nationwide. Sunnyfield's philosophy is to place our clients at the centre of all thinking and decision making. We focus on learning about and acting upon the choices a person wants to make. We support people to be engaged in their lives and focus on their unique skills, interests and abilities.

**Global Disability & Health Care Services.** - A specialist professional disability support staffing service. We developed and maintain their IT systems.

**5d How do volunteers contribute to your organisation's work today? Is there a way for volunteers to help contribute to your project?**

Volunteers are important in our work place to provide living skill training and some are hard working committee members.

The incorporation of volunteers into it our programs helps build our organisational strength and a sense of ownership that volunteers gain when they become visible advocates for our association.

Using volunteers extends the resources of an association. Volunteers provide extra hands that enable us to do tasks and activities that might not otherwise get done. Volunteers also provide valuable input to association leadership, staff and clients.

**5e Please include links to up to 3 articles or publications related to your work.**

**Please include http:// or https:// in the URLs.**

- <http://www.dap.asn.au/>
- <http://www.mmlink.com.au/>
- <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Many-Minds-Link/188450677964969>

**5f      Anything else we should know?**

DAPA is working on the next version of the ManyMindsLink application and is working on voice activation and gesture recognition. This revision will be especially useful for non-verbal people with a disability and people effected by stroke.