

## **The Nursery Group – Member Profile**

### **Nature's Care Nursery**

Natures Care Nursery is one of four business units conducted by Coastal Disability Services. The other units are a timber products division, a grounds maintenance unit and also a packaging operation. Within our business services we employ 100 supported employees and 25 staff (including administration).

The Natures Care Nursery was initially established in the late 1980's and has been progressively developed since then. At present we operate a number of different sections, Retail, Wholesale, Landscape Supplies and Contract Garden Maintenance. Within this unit we employ 3 staff and some 22 supported employees.

Retail is a mix of self propagated and purchased varieties of species to suit coastal climatic conditions. Our Wholesale area concentrate on mainly landscape varieties and these are sold into both local and Sydney and Newcastle markets. We are members of the Nursery Industry Association and conduct stalls at the regular trade markets at Rouse Hill in Sydney and Newcastle. Our Landscape Supplies business is well established and we sell a range of products from soils and mixes to mulches, etc. We sell mainly brand names such Aust. Natives Landscapes, Beresford Park, etc.

Our contract work is growing and is considered an area of opportunity due to the movement of people to retire locally as either "seachangers" or "treechangers".

We are also looking to capitalise further on regeneration work by supplying local endemic species for Landcare, Home builders, etc.

We have plans underway to greater promote this business (e.g. local agents for Wollemi Pine sales) and increase turnover. We are currently installing a new large hothouse as well as revamping our Retail area.

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