

**Company:** Staying Independent Pty Ltd

**Company Description:** Staying Independent is a healthcare provider servicing the disability community in Australia. We are working with clients under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), we are one of the fastest growing providers in Australia. We see clients with intellectual disabilities, neurodivergent individuals (Autism), and mental health diagnosis.

**Nomination Category:** Entrepreneur Categories

**Nomination Sub Category:** Best Entrepreneur - Health Products & Services

**Nomination Title:** Kezia Tieck: Building the Most Awarded Healthcare Startup in Asia-Pacific

1. Which will you submit for this nomination, a video of up to five (5) minutes in length or a written essay of up to 650 words? Choose one:

Essay of up to 650 words

2. If you are submitting a video of up to five (5) minutes in length, provide the URL of the nominated video here, OR attach it to your entry via the "Add Attachments, Videos, or Links to This Entry" link above, through which you may also upload a copy of your video:

written

3. If you are providing a written essay for this nomination, submit in this space an essay of up to 650 words describing the achievements of the nominated entrepreneur since 1 January 2023:

**Total 643 words used.**

Kezia Tieck is reshaping disability care at scale. In March 2024, she launched *Staying Independent* — an Australian NDIS healthcare company — with no capital, no staff, and no clients. Just one obsession: to prove that smarter systems, not more spending, are the key to solving inefficiencies in one of the world's most costly government health schemes.

Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) commands over \$44 billion in annual funding, yet remains chronically inefficient, with projected financial blowouts in the tens of billions. While others call for reform or more funding, Kezia built a model that outperforms and replaces the traditional system - one that most providers still rely on despite its inefficiencies and consistently poor client outcomes.

In just 15 months, she scaled her company from \$0 to \$687,000 in revenue with no external capital, achieving a 49% profit margin, now a team of 17 staff, and 80+ complex clients — most underserved by traditional providers. Projected to exceed \$1.5 million by February 2026, her trajectory ranks in the top 1% of NDIS providers by speed, scale, and profitability.

**Benchmark:** The average NDIS startup earns under \$200,000 in its first two years. Most never grow beyond sole trader status. Kezia built a 1,000%+ growth company and a model attracting attention from the biggest national providers interested in national rollout.

Her service design, the *NDIS Integrated Outcomes Model*™, a proprietary care framework that closes the critical gap between clinical planning and frontline delivery. In typical systems, therapy goals are written, then forgotten. Kezia's model aligns all disciplines under one outcomes-based system — turning clinical plans into daily results. It's not just process. It's generalisable gains.

And the results are measurable. Clients previously excluded from effective care — youth in crisis, individuals with multiple psychiatric conditions, or up to nine diagnosed disabilities — are now:

- Living independently
- Securing employment
- Forming first-time friendships
- Achieving therapy goals daily

Staying Independent is also an inclusive, LGBTQIA+-affirming organisation trusted by families, clinicians, and referrers alike — because it delivers what others only promise.

Kezia also holds the exclusive Australian licence for *Conover Online*, a U.S. tool that quantifies critical soft skills like decision-making, emotional regulation, and responsibility — essential for job readiness and life skills. She's the first to apply this within disability services under the NDIS, and will present her results at a global health innovation summit in Denver, USA, in late 2025.

But she's not stopping there.

In late 2025, Kezia will launch *LearnAble AI*™ — one of the first AI-powered learning and communication platform designed specifically for individuals with intellectual disability. Currently under embargo, the platform features adaptive modules, real-time communication tools, and personalised coaching — redefining how lifelong independence and functional capacity can be developed. LearnAble AI is set to raise the global standard for digital disability support.

Internally, Kezia leads with obsessive precision. Her systems are digital, automated, and audit-ready. She brings in clinical experts, AI engineers, and NDIS experts to train her team. Her staff retention is 100%. In an industry with 40%+ turnover, that's nearly unheard of — and driven by culture, not incentives.

Kezia works seven days a week, by choice - determined to see her ideas come to life. She is driven by two core principles:

**Curiosity. Efficiency.**

In 2025 alone, she led *Staying Independent* to:

- Win 2x Gold Stevie® Awards (Asia-Pacific)
- Win the People's Choice Stevie® Award for Favorite Healthcare Company
- Serve as Australia's most awarded disability care provider
- Maintain elite margins while scaling 1,000%+
- Deliver a replicable care model now being emulated across the sector

**Kezia Tieck isn't just building a successful company — she's building a category.** Her work redefines what disability care can be: efficient, scalable, and outcome-driven. Through *Staying Independent* and *LearnAble AI*™, she is creating a global blueprint for health innovation that delivers results — not just services.

4. In bullet-list form (up to 150 words), provide a brief summary of up to ten (10) of the chief achievements of the nominated entrepreneur since 1 January 2023:

**Total 136 words used.**

1. Founded Staying Independent in March 2024 with no capital, clients, or staff.
2. Scaled to \$687,000+ revenue in 15 months with a 1,147.6% CAGR.
3. Maintained 49%+ profit margins—exceptional in disability care.
4. Built a 17-person multidisciplinary team with 100% voluntary retention.
5. Served 80+ complex NDIS participants, including clients with up to 9 co-morbidities.
6. Created the NDIS Integrated Outcomes Model—a first-of-its-kind national framework.
7. Introduced Conover Online to Australia for NDIS employment readiness. Collaborating with US market leaders to roll the program out. She will present her research at an international conference in Denver in October 2025.
8. Launching LearnAble AI—an inclusive tech platform for people with disabilities.
9. Won 3 Stevie® Awards, including People's Choice—Healthcare.
10. Built a scalable, tech-enabled business with zero reliance on grants or external funding.

## Attachments/Videos/Links:

[Kezia Tieck: Building the Most Awarded Healthcare Startup in Asia-Pacific](#)



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