



The NDIS Independent Review and

The National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS back on Track No 1); Bill 2024 [Provisions].

Disability Assembly WA (DAWA) welcomes and supports the NDIS Independent Review and eagerly awaits further clarity around what will be delivered...by whom, how and when. There is no doubt it is in the interests of all people in Australia to secure the future sustainability of the NDIS. Further, we recognise that sustainability is about more than cost.

The 26 recommendations and 139 supporting actions of the Review are based on evidence, are practical, and aim to restore trust and put people with disability back at the centre of the NDIS, however the detail is not yet complete. The interdependence of the actions remains uncertain, particularly in the space where Federal funding needs to meet State funding and service delivery; and where the intersection between support provided inside and outside of the NDIS is yet to be articulated. This lack of detail-where the detail has not been populated in the published framework- is not seen as a negative by DAWA, but as a space into which the collective voice of disability must now positively venture to add depth, value and opinion. DAWA is informed by a growing number of voices of West Australian people with a disability (PWD) and those who care for and about them, and is well placed to recommend, advise and assist in the next steps of creating the detail of a new NDIS.

DAWA welcomes the acknowledgement of family as carers and is particularly encouraged by the following recommendations:

- the development of foundational supports to ensure mainstream services become more inclusive and accessible;
- the potential changes for people over the age of 65;
- the increased focus on support to navigate the system, particularly during a family's early part of their journey;
- a wider range of housing options.

Areas that require caution and careful thought in the detail and roll out include, but are not limited to:

- the funding of shared supported housing;
- the eligibility of children under the age of nine years;
- the proposed changes to provider registration.

There are well over half a million people in Australia within the current NDIS. The diversity of disability is enormous and no one scheme can fully meet all the needs of all the people. Hence eligibility remains a key issue requiring clarity, as do better outcomes for children, for those with significant intellectual disability and others with 24/7 complex, high support needs.

As we await the Commonwealth Government and State Government responses, DAWA will continue to advocate for co-design, and offer our support and expertise to the change makers and Government agencies who, like DAWA, wish to ensure that the positive benefits are amplified and that choice and control of PWD is not compromised.

It is clear that the changes will be delivered as a package requiring legislative change and a probable timeline of five years.

The draft legislation, The National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS back on Track No1); Bill 2024 [Provisions], introduced to parliament on 27 March is the most significant change to the NDIS since legislation was passed in 2013. As such, DAWA would like to highlight the following key considerations and concerns:

- The speed of delivery of this draft legislation and the lack of clarity, including use of terminology not currently included in the NDIS or the NDIS Review creates a sense of nervousness.
- We seek assurance that strong bipartisan efforts will not be diluted with a power swing towards the Federal Minister for the NDIS.
- Recognition that people with disability, their families and carers are the experts and need to be front and centre in the design of any new system and definitions of supports.
- Furthermore, let us determine and build the new system before dismantling the old, and ensure the commitment to collaboration across governments and the disability community, as per National Cabinet agreement, is met.

Disability Assembly WA is actively working to contribute its collective voice to this important national project for all Australians living with disability and those who care for and about them.