



NDIS SA Taskforce

March update

South Australian taskforce to tackle the National Disability Insurance Scheme

The South Australian Minister for Disabilities, Ian Hunter, recently announced the Government's commitment to providing people with disability greater choice in the services they use. Mr Hunter and the Premier, Jay Weatherill, announced a reform of the provision of support for people with disability following the release of the disability blueprint, Strong Voices.

Under the reforms, 17 of the 34 recommendations from the blueprint, will be supported, and the others will be considered in the Budget process.

One of the supported recommendations includes transition from current funding arrangements to universal individualised funding to align with the proposed National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

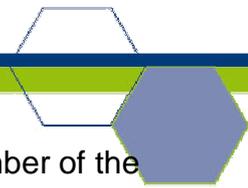
In January 2012, Minister Hunter established a NDIS SA Taskforce. This taskforce will provide advice to the South Australian Government on reforms necessary to establish a functional and efficient NDIS in South Australia.

The NDIS will operate on insurance principles and provide choice of care and support to people with disability and their carers.

The taskforce is chaired by the Chief Executive of the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI), Joslene Mazel. Members include senior staff from the government and non-government sector as well as invited individuals with lived experience of disability, and relevant expertise and knowledge of the disability services sector.

South Australia is well positioned to provide input into the development of a NDIS at the national level, with the following representation:

- The Hon Jack Snelling MP and the Hon Ian Hunter MLC are members of the Select Council of Treasurers and Disability Ministers on Disability Reform;
- Dr Lorna Hallahan is a member of the National NDIS Advisory Group which provides expert advice on the development of a NDIS and will conduct a series of workshops and community engagement sessions around the country; and
- The Senior Officials' Working Group, which has been established to support the Select Council, is made up of senior staff from a number of government departments.



Dr Ken Baker, Chief Executive, National Disability Services National, is also a member of the National NDIS Advisory Group and whose role is to represent the interests of non-government service providers.

One of the first priorities for the NDIS SA Taskforce is to build the partnerships that will form the foundations of a future NDIS.

In order to be able to offer people with disability, their families and carers control, choice and support to live full, dignified and connected lives, the disability services sector needs to be equipped for new ways of operating. This is a priority for the NDIS SA Taskforce.

Upcoming activities on the NDIS include:

- The South Australian roll out of a national survey 'Progress for Providers Poll'. This is a self-assessment tool to assist services with their progress in responding to the NDIS and in particular, individualised funding. Data from the poll will be collated to form both a national and state/territory based picture of service provider readiness for the NDIS. The results will inform the taskforce on what is required to successfully transform the delivery of disability services in South Australia; and
- The National NDIS Advisory Group will be holding its next meeting in Adelaide on Thursday, 15 March 2012 and Friday, 16 March 2012 and will meet with the NDIS SA Taskforce, peak bodies and opinion leaders.

Membership:

- Chair – Ms Joslene Mazel, Chief Executive, DCSI;
- Dr Lorna Hallahan, Senior Lecturer, Flinders University and Chair, Disability Minister's Advisory Council;
- Ms Noelene Wadham, State Manager, National Disability Services South Australia;
- Mr Robbi Williams, Chief Executive Officer, Julia Farr Association;
- Mr Ross Womersley, Executive Director, South Australian Council of Social Service;
- Mr David Holst, Chair, Intellectual Disability Association of SA; and
- Members from the following Government agencies:
 - DCSI;
 - Department of the Premier and Cabinet;
 - Department of Treasury and Finance; and
 - Mental Health, SA Health.

For more information on NDIS and to receive regular updates visit the Commonwealth's website www.ndis.gov.au.

Information on the development of a NDIS in South Australia will be available online soon.

