

Carers Alliance Media Release

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History or Hoax?

“In the cold light of day Budget Night was Fudge it Night for people with disabilities and their families. Rather than historic, the government’s proposal for implementing the National Disability Insurance Scheme is a sad, poorly executed hoax pulled on those Australians with a severe dependent disability”, said Marylou Carter, Secretary of the Carers Alliance.

The Budget provides for just over \$85 million a year for individualised packages for people with significant disability, while about \$164 million a year is set aside for more fatcats, technocrats and yardsticks.

“Based on last night’s figures full implementation of the scheme by 2018 is simply impossible” said Ms Carter.

The Productivity Commission recommended \$600 million in the first year of implementation, with increases over 6 years to reach the targeted \$6.8 billion when fully implemented.

The Gillard government had two choices on how to implement a National Disability Insurance Scheme, either do it on time in co-operation with the states and well or introduce it with seat-of-the-pants haste and do it badly. With impeccable consistency, the Gillard government picked bad politics over good policy in a game of hide-the-dollar one-upmanship for political ends.

‘It is fanciful to claim this version of the National Disability Insurance Scheme as historic when in reality the Gillard government has squibbed, and they know it.’

“Additional money is always welcome to give people with disabilities the opportunity to be the best they can be. However, the Carers Alliance does not see this current proposal as moving forward to ‘a great Labor reform’, we see it as ‘a great Labor retreat’.

The Gillard government has shown it lacks the courage for real reform for real people in real need.

Carers Alliance a federally registered political party formed to promote a better life for and advance the full inclusion of people with disabilities and their supportive families.

Contact: Marylou Carter, Secretary Ph: 0425 363 421