

NEWS FROM THE NDIS TEAM – 22 SEPTEMBER 2010

There have been many exciting developments in the last couple of months in the campaign for a National Disability Insurance Scheme. During the federal election campaign all three major parties – Greens, Labor and the Coalition - expressed their support for the concept of an NDIS and all committed to giving serious consideration to the findings of the current Productivity Commission inquiry into Disability Care and Support. The fact that support for the NDIS became truly bipartisan was an important achievement - one that has become even more significant in the face of the final outcome of the election.

While much progress has been made, we still have a long, long way to go. The forthcoming state elections in Victoria and New South Wales represent another opportunity to raise awareness of the needs of people with a disability, their families and carers with politicians and the general public. It is important for state governments to understand that while the NDIS represents a long term solution, there are many things they could and should do in the short term to relieve the pressure on people with a disability, their families and carers. There are many, many people who need help and assistance right now.

In Victoria, we have declared October to be Visiting Month. We would like every Federal MP from Victoria as well as every state MP to receive a visit from a person with a disability, or a family member in their electorate. We would like people to let their local member know what their life is like now, and what it could be like if Australia introduced an NDIS.

The National Disability and Carer Alliance is coordinating the visits and can send you some material to leave behind with your local member, as well as a tip sheet for visiting MPs. If you are able to participate please contact Kirsten Deane at kirsten.deane@ndis.org.au and she can send you the material. Please include in your email the name of your local member or, if you are not sure, your postcode so Kirsten can send you contact details. We need as many people as possible to participate for this to be a success so we would appreciate all your help.

Once again, thank you again for all your support.

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