

\$1b Starts NDIS Care Plan

Jessica Marszalek – Herald Sun, Melbourne – May 9, 2012

The Budget has revealed a \$1 billion down-payment to kick start its much lauded National Disabilities Insurance Scheme.

Spread over four years, the money will be used to set up the first stage of the NDIS, which aims to provide lifelong care for the severely disabled.

Initially 10,000 people will be supported from July next year, and 20,000 from July 2014. But cities and towns to benefit first will not be announced until late this year until the rollout begins.

There are 400,000 Australians living with a disability and this scheme is set to help paraplegics, those afflicted with cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, brain injuries and other permanent disabilities, no matter their circumstances.

- \$1 billion to launch the NDIS from July 2012
- 10,000 people will initially get support, doubling in 2013
- Launch sites to be negotiated with states and territories.

More than \$213 million will be used to train the first local area coordinators, who will work with people on funded support packages catered to their needs.

More than \$342 million will be spent on that individualised support in the three years from next year.

Victorian MP Bill Shorten, who led the push for the scheme, said it would end the "second-class citizenship" for people with disabilities and their carers, who have suffered with inadequate support.

"This is the first step for at least 10,000 and 20,000 families who have ageing parents who have midnight anxiety about who is going to care for their adult child when they no longer can," he said.

"At last it will be possible for Australians to be able to make that promise to those ageing carers that your kids are going to be OK."

Each state and territory will kick in funds, and the Victorian Government has been positive about the changes.

A fully implemented scheme is tipped to cost about \$8 billion a year.

The scheme is being rolled out a year earlier than had been proposed.

Canberra involves states in \$1 billion support scheme

By DAN HARRISON – The Age, Melbourne – May 9, 2012

An injection of \$1 billion will kick-start the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The funding, to be delivered over four years, demonstrates the Commonwealth's commitment to the scheme, but is less than some disability campaigners had hoped for.

People with disabilities will be individually assessed and will work with local coordinators to develop support plans, taking into account their goals and needs.

The money will begin to flow with an \$84 million down payment in 2012-13, rising to \$363 million in 2015-16.

More than a third of the funding has been earmarked for care and support costs, while \$155 million will be used to employ local coordinators and \$123 million has been allocated to prepare the disability sector to **deliver services in new ways**. Almost a quarter of a billion dollars will be spent on building an information technology system **to measure the performance of the new arrangements**, while \$59 million will pay for assessments of people with disabilities to determine their eligibility and what support they need. A National Disability Transition Agency to co-ordinate the implementation of the scheme will cost \$53 million, while \$17 million has been allocated to research and evaluation.

The scheme will begin in July next year in four locations and deliver personalised care and support for up to 10,000 people. It will grow to support up to 20,000 from 2014-15.

The Commonwealth will begin negotiations with state and territory governments on the four locations where the scheme will start. It expects to name these later this year. The experience in the four launch sites will determine when and how the government rolls out a national scheme.

A national scheme is expected to cost \$8 billion a year more than governments now spend on disability services. The Commonwealth will be expecting each **state to at least maintain their current level of spending on disability services**, and will be encouraging them to lift their level of spending to that of Victoria, which spends \$8378 annually per person.

The federal government will ask those that participate in the launch to collectively contribute \$288 million over the first four years of the scheme. The Commonwealth will pay all administration costs, **but will ask states to share the costs of care and support.**

In a separate measure, the government will inject almost \$60 million into 600 businesses which employ people with a disability, supporting about 20,000 jobs.

KEY POINTS

- **\$3425 million** for individual support packages for those with significant permanent disabilities.
- **\$154.8 million** for local co-ordination.
- **\$122.6 million** to help disability service industry prepare.
- **\$240.3 million** for an IT system.
- **\$59.6 million** for employment support for the disabled

LISA Comment: The original intention of the NDIS was not just more of the same, but to give all people with a disability and their families services with dignity, an entitlement and customer service.

The foremost reason for NDIS ([LINK](#)), is to provide more funding to significantly reduce or eliminate the waiting list for services and equipment.

Equally important, is to ensure all people with a disability have an entitlement to services and equipment.

The following key points are contradictory. Rather than the original intention the NDIS shall be totally federal, the states are now becoming involved, and they have never been able provide creditable services, deliver service in new ways or measure performance.

- Deliver services in new ways.
- Measure the performance of the new arrangements.
- States to at least maintain their current level of spending on disability services.
- Commonwealth will ask states to share the costs of care and support.

We suggest we are certainly to see more services, but just more of the same old crap! People with a disability and their families still treated as lucky to get anything, should feel eternally grateful and should never, ever, complain.

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NOTE: We are always interested in feedback and information; general, specific, good or bad.

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