

## **State Budget helps Victoria prepare for NDIS**

Minister for Community Services : Tuesday, 1 May, 2012

Additional funding for people with a disability in the 2012 13 Victorian Budget will ensure Victoria is well placed for the introduction of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge said today.

"Through ensuring Victorians with a disability, their families and carers have real choice about how they access the care they need, Victoria will cement its place as the nation's leader in disability reform," Ms Wooldridge said.

Victoria's economic challenges are real and they are serious, but we are taking the responsible and necessary approach to enhance frontline services and introduce new measures to protect the most vulnerable Victorians," Ms Wooldridge said.

The central feature of the disability Budget package is a boost of \$38 million to deliver up to 400 new individual support packages (ISPs).

Individual support packages provide Victorians with a disability with choice about the types of support they access and greater control over their own lives," Ms Wooldridge said.

The Victorian Coalition Government will also continue to deliver new and innovative supported accommodation places for people with a disability, as a result of \$20.1 million over four years provided in last year's Budget.

This is further to the recent announcement of more than \$14 million over four years from the Coalition Government for the ongoing operating costs of 53 new accommodation places, to complement capital funding secured from the Commonwealth.

"While we continue to innovate in our accommodation options, we are taking the responsible and necessary approach needed to ensure existing supported accommodation is safe," Ms Wooldridge said.

'After years of neglect under Labor, the Coalition Government is providing \$10 million for fire safety upgrades for up to 1300 properties, which are owned and/or operated by the state or by funded community service organisations, the majority of which are for people with disabilities.'

As part of the Coalition Government's commitment to leading and driving the implementation of the NDIS, the Budget also allocates specific funding of \$900,000 to support preparatory work needed to launch the NDIS, including improved service integration and planning and increased support options for people with a disability.

Funding of \$500,000 over the next two years will also be invested in Mansfield Autism Services for the continuation of the travelling teacher services.

Consistent with the Victorian Autism State Plan's aim of making it easier to get support, this program assists families to develop the skills and confidence to work and live with their children who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

"While demand for disability services continues to grow, the Coalition Government is making strategic investments to deliver real benefits for more Victorians with a disability, their families and carers," Ms Wooldridge said.

"At the same time, these investments will help make sure Victoria is ready for an NDIS."

**LISA Comment:** "Well said Minister! *However, this sounds very much like more dollars for your department to do more bureaucratic bungling*".

"When are you going to fix the shocking '**reactive management**' and '**staff lore**', to be proactive management and management law throughout your department?"

"When are you going to demand your department managers accept real responsibility for service level, quality and complaints. And that they feel really guilty if there is just one complaint from consumers?"

When are you going to insist your department management and staff accept that without people with a disability and their families, they would not have a job. Rather than the present general attitude of, 'Our job would be much better without the clients and their families (customers) bothering us!'"

**Extra 1:** [Proactive v Reactive Management](#)

**Extra 2:** **NSW.....**Planning for now, tomorrow and the future workshop with Jeremy Ward, 9 June, 2012. The workshop will be of interest to those wanting to plan a long term positive and secure future for a person with developmental disability. It will be highly relevant for families (including adult brothers, sisters and extended family) and allies of people with disability as well as for workers who are considering the role they could play in supporting families with this planning. When: 9 June, 2012, 9:15am-4:00PM. Where: Newcastle Travelodge. Download: [Flyer](#)

**Extra 3:** Please note: We are available on 'Skype'.

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