

FEBRUARY 2018

Chair Chat

with Prof. David Gilchrist



In this edition, I will focus on the future known directions and pathways during 2018. As you may be aware, with the State Labor Government's decision on the adoption of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) managed by the national agency, there are a number of known outcomes. Here is a summary of the key directions for this year.

Directions and Pathways

- The overall transition timeline in Western Australia will extend to June 2023 and the number of people served will increase to a total of 47,941 participants.
- The national legislation, the NDIS Act 2013 will assume primacy within WA. This act is due for review during the course of the year and any relevant Western Australian legislation that is affected will need to be reviewed and amended. These amendments will work their way through the state parliament.
- The nationally consistent eligibility, access and funding criteria will enable and facilitate the interstate transfer arrangements for people living with disabilities. The previous independent and state based systems were a major impediment and barrier to this process.
- There is now a nation-wide requirement by the NDIA to provide initial individual person centred plans with a regular process of review, although they may not be annual. Annual PCP's will no longer be required by the State Government.
- Nulsen Disability Services is now aware of the transition timeline and planning schedule up to June 2020. Residents and families will be provided with reasonable notice and informed of the transition timeline and process.
- The existing quality management process will

remain in place until June 2020 and the national system, named the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, will commence in WA from 1 July 2020.

- Since the introduction of the NDIS, there has been an increase in the general public's awareness of the impact of disability, with related issues reported regularly in the national and local media.

Ongoing Challenges

- The national funding framework will be informed by a major report planned for release during March this year.
- Government funding arrangements will change from funding three months in advance to funding in arrears on the presentation of invoice. This process will challenge the cash-flow provisions of all non-government organisations.
- The transactional methodology can result in higher administration costs for many service providers.
- The national funding framework will provide ongoing challenges to the state based Enterprise Bargaining Agreements and require extensive negotiations.
- The price paid for services delivered will need to account for the geographic spread of

services within WA and the needs of people living with high support needs.

- The demand and supply of services, particularly in rural and remote areas, will remain a key issue due to the vast distances involved in acquiring and providing services in some locations.
- The supply of a competent and well-trained workforce will continue as a challenging issue over the next decade.
- Major policy decisions will be made at the national office located in Geelong in Victoria, though it is anticipated that key operational decisions will be delegated to the local state office of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

Nulsen Disability Services is responding to these challenges through the development of a strategic growth plan alongside a concurrent review of all our customer service systems; namely client contact, access to services, service planning, financial, information technology, human resources, staff training, service quality and therapy services, including positive behaviour support.

Over the coming months I will outline some of these reviews and how they may affect services. At all times, we will endeavour to ensure that the residents' services will maintain the current high standard and level of quality care.



Professor David Gilchrist BA BBus PhD FCA FAIC is a chartered accountant and a historian. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Notre Dame Australia and is currently a Professor at the University of Western Australia as well as the Public Sector Accounting and Disclosure Research Cluster. Over his 25-year career, David has held many senior roles in the not-for-profit, commercial and public sectors. He has taught at several universities across the globe, sits as Chairman on multiple boards and has published several key national reports. Achievements include: working as the Assistant Auditor General WA, the Associate Dean of the School of Business, University of Notre Dame Australia, Chairman to Nulsen Disability Services, and the Kimberley Individual and Family Support Association. David produced the “Australian Charities 2013” and the “Australian National Costing and Pricing Framework” issued jointly with National Disability Services. He is widely published as an academic and a journalist. [See David’s full profile here.](#)