



Welcome to 2017 and the first monthly edition of Chair Chat. In this issue I'd like to take the opportunity to share recent revelations regarding the WA NDIS with you.

On Friday December 2nd 2016 the State Government announced that final negotiations will commence on a nationally consistent, but state-run National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Nulsen Disability Services applauds the announcement and fully endorses a no-fault entitlement support system that gives people with disabilities and their families choice, power and control to determine the services they need. We believe this should build on the existing system rather than creating a new centralised bureaucracy.

As currently planned, the WA-delivered NDIS transition is anticipated to commence on 1 July 2017 and must mirror key elements of the NDIS Act 2013. In addition, the Commonwealth has stipulated 11 clear conditions that must be met in a WA-administered scheme, and the WA Government has agreed to those parameters.

Those fixed conditions include national consistency for key elements such as eligibility and access, the WA Government funding 100 per cent of the administration and operating costs, and clear sharing of governance responsibilities.

We believe the provision of high quality services to people living with complex disabilities occurs by building local, effective and valued relationships between:

- the customer and the planner
- the customer and the service provider
- the planner and the service provider
- the service providers with each other

Over the coming months, Nulsen services in the Armadale, Murray and Serpentine-Jarrahdale areas will commence planning their transition to a WA NDIS, which expanded to these areas on October 1. In addition, from January 1 2017, the National Disability Insurance Agency will begin delivering its NDIS model in Bayswater, Bassendean, Chittering, Toodyay, York and Northam. The commencement of these transitions will begin to introduce us all to the new funding system and how we can continue to best support people with disabilities and their families.

We remain concerned about how the changes will impact on the level of funding for each person with a complex disability, as well as the sustainability of the sector that provides service to people with disabilities.

Our concerns are:

The rates paid to service providers by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) are inadequate which increases the risks both for people with disabilities and service providers.

- The NDIA's low 'efficient price' will not cover the organisation's full costs to provide that service.
- The 'efficient price' was set based on the funding that was available for the scheme, rather than what it costs an organisation to provide that service.

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- Operating at a loss is not a sustainable business practice so service providers will be faced with the choice of reducing the quantity of services, and /or the quality, or closing their doors.
- We are asking for the flexibility to negotiate a more appropriate local pricing regime informed by local costs to ease the risk for people with disabilities and enable service providers to better plan to meet the future increase in demand for services.



As we navigate the months ahead, I will be in regular contact with you via this newsletter to communicate latest trends and developments regarding the NDIS. In addition, you will be invited to hear from Peter Batini, who has recently joined the Association in the capacity of Business Development Manager. Peter is well known to the Association having had a very long career with the Disability Services Commission in senior executive roles and more recently at ACTIV Foundation. Peter's role will be to assist the Association to strategically plan and engage with the NDIS in WA, contribute to Association growth and capacity building and areas of quality.

To give you an indication of what information to expect from Peter, we've enclosed an infographic summarising the 11 conditions the Commonwealth has stipulated that must be met in a WA-administered scheme along with the Association's commentary.

The months ahead will not be without its challenges as we continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that the future and final WA NDIS model is responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and ensures a sustainable and viable disability system that continues to evolve in this State. Of keen importance to us, will be ensuring that the WA NDIS system is responsive to people with complex disabilities.

Nulsen will continue to work in good faith with State and Commonwealth governments, our colleague organisations in the sector and wider community in order to pursue our mission in the interests of our services users. Your Board is optimistic about Nulsen's future in the Western Australian disability services sector and look forward to supporting people with complex disability for many years to come.