

JANUARY 2019

Chair Chat

with Prof. David Gilchrist



Modest Expectations

The new year promises to be a year of stagnation and marking time within the WA disability sector. What are the main reasons for this muted and subdued forecast?

At a national level there is the timing of the Federal election due by May. Very few key decisions will be made while this spectacle plays itself out. If the Liberal Government wins another term I would expect minimal changes to the current situation. If the Labor Party wins the federal election as expected by many political pundits, there are a number of potential outcomes.

Firstly, the timeline for the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Australia wide will likely be delayed for at least 12 months to June 2021, as the new government will have the opportunity to blame any delay on the preceding dysfunctional government. We have all seen this script and drama on previous occasions. It is likely that there will be some changes proposed to the membership of the Board of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), with some previous Labor party politicians introduced onto the Board.

There will also be the opportunity to review the national legislation proclaimed in 2013, as the intended review after five years is now overdue. This will provide the State Labor Government with the opportunity to review the state based disability legislation, a chance that the current lethargic State Government should not miss.

At the state level, we will see the transfer of the management of Local Area Coordination (LAC) from the government agency to two non-government organisations, namely Mission Australia and Advanced Personnel Management.

Key Points

- **There will be major changes in the management of the local coordination services within the metropolitan area.**
- **The major impact on Nulsen Group will take place with the transition of services over the next two years.**
- **Nulsen invites you to have a say on shaping the vision for the State Disability Plan via <https://bit.ly/2RsOEY5>.**

The following table outlines the proposed arrangement for the metropolitan area.

Mission Australia	Advanced Personnel Management
Central North Metropolitan South East Metropolitan North East Metropolitan	North Metropolitan Central South Metropolitan South Metropolitan South West Great Southern Inner Wheat-belt

The NDIA will continue to manage the local coordination service in the majority of country regions, namely the Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest, Gascoyne, Goldfields including Esperance and Outer Wheat-belt regions.

Mission Australia and Advanced Personnel Management (APM) will both need to recruit up to 200 staff members over the next few months. As good quality local coordinator staff are scarce, I anticipate that the recruitment and selection process will slow down the rate of development and implementation of the scheme. The timeline of June 2023 for the full implementation of the national scheme within Western Australia will be

severely challenged.

The Western Australian government, which once had the distinction of running the first and pre-eminent Local Area Coordination service in Australia, have transferred the coordination system and an \$800 million plus investment in the disability sector for a handful of mumbled promises from frequently changing Federal Ministers. Time will tell on the suspect wisdom of this approach, as the State Government will always retain the responsibility for all its citizens, including those living with disabilities. I feel most concerned for the parents, families and people living with disabilities that will be directly impacted by this process. Please advise us if you have any concerns and we will do our best to assist and guide you through these turbulent and unsettled times.

The WA State Government recently commenced a process to establish a 10 year vision or plan for disability services within this state. You can have a say on shaping the vision for the State Disability Plan via <https://bit.ly/2RsOEY5>. I will provide a more comprehensive report on the intent and terms of reference of this welcome and overdue initiative in a future edition of Chair Chat.

Nulsen itself will continue on the measured growth and diversification strategy as outlined in the [Strategic Plan 2018-2023](#). I will also provide a full description of the process and outcomes for the

Adventist Care and Outcare initiatives in future Chair Chat editions.

As reported in the December article, during the second half of 2019, remaining Nulsen services will commence the transfer into the NDIS and will require 130 participants to develop new person centred funding plans. We will keep you updated of any further information or delays.

For now I wish you the best of health and success over the coming 12 months. It is going to be an interesting if somewhat frustrating time.



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.](#)