

FEBRUARY 2019

Chair Chat

with Prof. David Gilchrist



A Once in a Decade Opportunity

The WA State Labor Government has recently commenced a process to establish a ten year plan or vision for disability services within the state. I am assured that the plan will be both aspirational and practical at the operational level and will flow into the State Government's annual budget allocation process.

The plan will establish the pillars of systemic change over the next decade. It will encompass all citizens with disability within this state serviced by the National Disability Insurance Scheme, noting that the NDIS will directly serve about 10 percent of all citizens with disabilities, and all other people who will need ongoing services from the mainstream service agencies.

The government is keen to ensure the plan reflects the needs of people living with disability, so it is important you provide your thoughts regarding the content of the plan where possible. Thank you to those who completed the online State Disability Plan survey which has now closed.

You may wonder if you can provide input that will be meaningful and add value to this process. As a consumer or participant in disability services you have the right, if not the responsibility, to express your views on the current and future services within the state.

During the first half of this year the Department of Communities Disability Services, will advertise an invitation to attend face-to-face consultation sessions in the metropolitan and regional areas so that the vision for the State Disability Plan can be prepared with adequate input. A Community Reference Group will be established with diverse representation from various parts of the sector. Later on during the year, we will witness the

Key Points

- **During the next six months there is the opportunity to provide personal statements and comments on the ten year State Disability Plan.**
- **Opinions from a wide range of stakeholders in the disability sector are welcome.**
- **An opportunity, if missed, may never be repeated.**

implementation of a 'Values and Action Change' campaign targeting the wider Western Australian community.

At a systemic level you may wish to comment on a variety of issues. Please refer to the following sources of information where possible:

- For background on the progress of the national scheme, please refer to the [Chair Chat of November 2018](#).
- To comment on the vital issue of social housing for people living with disabilities, please refer to the [Chair Chat of August 2018](#).
- To comment on the employment of people living with disabilities, please refer to the [Chair Chat of December 2017](#).
- Employment opportunities for staff and related workforce development issues within the disability sector in Western Australia please refer to the [Chair Chat of November 2017](#).

[To access all Chair Chat editions, please visit the Nulsen website.](#)

Many of these systemic issues have been recognised for years with a disturbing lack of clear direction provided by both the Federal and State

Governments. It is hoped that the development of the State Disability Plan will clarify these issues and generate meaningful actions to overcome the current hiatus.

Alternatively, you may wish to comment on a more personal level regarding the direct services of your family member. These comments could relate to:

- The relevance of the individual planning process;
- The pace of the transition process into the national scheme;
- The appropriate allocation of resources to assist every person who lives with disability;
- The consistency of staff and shifts within the service;
- The quality of services, both prior and following transition;
- Does my current experience match my view of an inclusive community and will it lead to more inclusiveness in the future;
- Will the current process match my vision for building better services over the next decade;
- Finally, will the current process lead us to high quality services and better times?

Throughout the planning process, it's important to remember that there is nothing more powerful than the testimony of the person who is directly affected by the delivery of services by non-government

organisations and mutual concern for the bureaucratic processes of government.

If you would like to receive assistance in composing a personal testament, please get in touch via communications@nulsen.com.au.



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.](#)