

The State of the Disability Sector Report

Centre for Applied Disability Research, National Disability Services

The State of the Disability Sector report includes a business confidence survey which shows that most disability service providers are cautiously optimistic and plan to grow in the next six months; but a high proportion think that government agencies are not working closely enough with the sector to implement the NDIS successfully.

As part of the survey, organisations with less than \$1M in turnover reported higher financial stress than large organisations and were more likely to see the NDIS as a risk rather than an opportunity.

The Report includes the first release of data from the largest analysis of the disability workforce ever conducted in Australia. NDS has collated data from 20,000 employees to provide a snapshot of the disability workforce. A key finding from the snapshot is that 38% of all disability workers are casuals, a relatively high rate which is likely to increase under the NDIS.

The NDS State of the Disability Sector Report 2015 also highlights the need to improve employment opportunities for people with disability and provides an analysis of the hot issues facing policy makers. It concludes with 20

things NDS would like to see accomplished in 2016 to ensure the successful implementation of the NDIS and more opportunities for people with disability to work, be educated and engage in community life.

NDS chief Executive Ken Baker commented: "The National Disability Insurance Scheme is the right destination. But poor access to market information; cumbersome NDIS systems and processes; insufficient financial reserves within organisations; and low prices are all barriers on the road to a sustainable and dynamic NDIS" said Dr Ken Baker, Chief Executive, National Disability Services

Ken Baker concluded: "The NDIS will double the funding for disability support, expand choice for people with disability and their families, invest in early intervention and replace a fragmented inequitable system with one that gives people across Australia access to reasonable and necessary support. But there are legitimate questions about how we get to this destination and at what pace; and how to turn the ambitious vision of the NDIS into reality.

Download a copy of the report at www.disabilitysectorreport.nds.org.au

Full transition to the NDIS:



What can we expect in...

2016

<p>RAPID EXPANSION</p> <p>The NDIS will experience rapid expansion from 1 July 2016 when 37% of people eligible for individualised support packages will begin to enter the scheme.</p>	<p>A NEW MARKET</p> <p>The NDIS will attract many new providers into the market, create a more competitive environment and stimulate demand for disability support. Planning and strengthening an effective and diverse set of provider sectors will be fundamental to a successful transition.</p>	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>The NDIS is releasing a significant amount of planning to Local Area Coordinators (LACs). The move to collaborate LACs is welcome, but the initial agreement disability service providers from offering LAC services despite their understanding of the impact of disability, their local connections and their commitment to social inclusion.</p>
<p>QUALITY AND SAFEGUARDS</p> <p>Governments will agree on a new national quality and safeguarding system in the first quarter of 2016. This will see a gradual transition from the existing state systems to a new national framework which will include state based elements. NDIS is leading to a risk based approach to organisational accreditation and compliance legislation which balances the need for effective safeguarding and quality controls with consumer choice and reduced red tape.</p>	<p>INFORMATION, LINKAGES AND CAPACITY BUILDING (ILCB)</p> <p>The NDIS is developing plans for the provision of ILCB supports to people with disability, families and carers. It is critical that the NDIS approach ILCB commencing in the NDIS transition phase with care, building on what exists. Otherwise, critical services, information, networks and social capital will inadvertently be lost.</p>	<p>E-MARKET</p> <p>The NDIS anticipates plans to launch an online marketplace for purchasing disability supports prior to commencing full roll out in July. The online marketplace will aim to increase choice and control for people with disability and reduce compliance costs for providers.</p>