



Nathan Lee
Navigating NDIS
Reform



We respectfully acknowledge the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and Yirrganydji peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples present.



Nathan Lee

General Manager of Mental Health and Wellbeing

Centacare FNQ

- Provider of a range of services across FNQ
- 20+ years experience – Pre and Post NDIS
- Registered NDIS Service Provider



References Points

NDIS – National Disability Insurance Scheme

NDIS – National Disability Insurance Agency

NDIS Participant – Individual living with disability in receipt of an NDIS plan

Registered provider- A service provider who has undergone audit and certification process to delivers services and receive NDIS funds directly from the NDIA



NDIS – How it works

- Individualised funding for people with disability to live an ordinary life.
- In order to gain access to the NDIS, demonstration of functional impact of Disability needs to be evidenced.
- If access is successful a person receives an NDIS plan with funding across three categories Core, Capacity and Capital



NDIS – How it works

- The person with the plan (NDIS Participant) can then go to the market and select services and providers of their choice
- Prices for supports are capped and limited to funding
- Dependent upon plan a person can use registered or unregistered NDIS Providers.
- Plan periods vary and can be 1-5 years dependent upon need



NDIS Reforms - "Getting the NDIS Back on Track," are a series of changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) aimed at making it fairer, more sustainable, and better aligned with the needs of participants and providers. These reforms address issues of funding, eligibility, access, and the overall structure of the NDIS. The main goals are to improve participant experience, ensure long-term financial stability, and deliver better outcomes for people with disabilities



NDIS – What the Reforms Involve:

- Improved access and eligibility:
- Strengthened Quality and Safeguards:
- Changes to how NDIS plans are managed:
- Co-design and engagement:
- Emphasis on early intervention and capacity building:
- Enhanced financial sustainability:



NDIS – The Reforms

- The NDIS Reforms are the response to the Disability Royal Commission in which 13 of the 222 recommendations have been accepted.
- Also, in response to the NDIA review and lack of information relating to this...



NDIS – 1 Move to independent Pricing model

- Independent pricing will take time.

Issues around “commissioning for quality” and how this is measured.

- Independent Health Age Care Pricing Authority have provided their report to the agency/government, however it has not been released publicly.



NDIS – Foundational Supports

-Foundational Supports – pushed to states, who cashed out all their disability funding as part of the bilateral agreement. Aim is to commence with 0-8 year olds developing foundational supports and building capability and capacity (to try and keep out people from getting into the scheme; so its not seen as the “only lifeboat”). Will then move onto Psychosocial/mental health supports.



NDIS – Navigators

- Navigators – pilot projects occurring around the nation in different areas, no clear plan or pathway forward. LAC contracts have been extended until 2027 at this point.
- Expected phasing out of Support Coordination services



NDIS – Mandatory Registration

- Mandatory registration being brought in for Coordinators of Supports, SILS and Platform Providers.
- Minister Rishworth (Prior to the election) said this would be coming in from 1 July 2025 and will have a 12 month period to be achieved.



NDIS – Risk Proportionate registration

-Recommendation from the review around risk proportionate to registration/regulation across the scheme. -Looking to increase the overview of the quality and safeguards commission to understand who are providing what services within the scheme, however the depth of vision will alter based on the risk of support



NDIS – Price Guide / Wage increases

-NDIA have committed to releasing the 2026 price guide 5 business days from the announcement of the wage price index (3.5%, released)



NDIS – Pilots of Support

-Direct Commissioning pilots in rural and remote areas in the process of being scoped



NDIS – Home and Living

-Alternative Commissioning for Home and Living with a focus on outcomes/quality payments for improved services



NDIS – Workforce

-Already a shortfall in the workforce economy and only going to get worse over the next 5 years as the aged care “consumer directed care” models increase and add additional pressures on an already scarce workforce.



NDIS – Continually increasing responsibilities of providers

-Misalignment with the actual costs of supports and no consideration for quality (i.e. introduction of emergency disaster management responsibilities, however no price change in CoS for 5 years)



NDIS – Media

- NDIS is something Australia and the media love to hate
- Its an ongoing challenge to providers of support
- Open Market There are huge issues for Not-for-profit providers compared to for profit providers
- Medicare comparison



NDIS – Views and Challenges of the reforms

- Registered Not for Profit provider (bias)
- Successful solvent operation NDIS service provision requires quantum mass
- Safeguarding loopholes are still vast and concerning
- Cost of quality
- De professionalizing of the sector



Questions?

Discussion...

