

Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme – the Impact on Informal Care

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About Carers ACT

- A leading not for profit organisation supporting carers in the Australian Capital Territory.
- Part of a national network of carer associations.
- Supporting carers in the ACT across a range of service types including:
 - Information,
 - Advocacy,
 - Respite,
 - Counselling and support groups
 - Education ,
 - Social support services

About Carers

- Carers provide unpaid support to family members or friends with disability, mental illness, chronic illness, terminal illness, or frail aged.
- There are an estimated 2.8 million carers in Australia, 43,000 of whom are living in the Australian Capital Territory.
- Value of informal care is 6.3 billion dollars per year.

About the National Disability Insurance Scheme

- Australia introduced NDIS – large social reform in 2012.
- 460,000 people with disability in Australia who are likely to be eligible for the NDIS. Of these, 5,000 live in the ACT.
- A government-funded universal life-time support program for Australians under 65 years with permanent and significant disability.
- National roll-out commences in 2016 with expected completion in 2019.
- The ACT is the only State/Territory which is rolling out the scheme in its entirety with others opting for a gradual approach.
- An individualised model of funding.
- Based on the assumption that 80% of care will be provided by informal carers/ family.

Opportunities and Involvement of Carers in NDIS

- National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013.
- NDIS Operational Guidelines.
- Carer Statements.
- Carer supports included in the scheme.

Challenges for Carers

- Carer role in decision making.
- Block funding.
- Respite.
- Employment.
- Transport.

Opportunities for Service Providers

- Innovation.
- Partnerships.
- Better outcomes for participants and families.

Challenges for Service Providers

- Block funding to fee for service.
- Pricing catalogue.
- Communication.
- Delay in some key information and frameworks.

Branch Out Disability Services

- New service arm.
- Leveraging off existing services and experience.
- Co-design with carers and participants.
- Focus on skills development, independence and building networks.

A Case Study

- Branch Out Café Training Program- a case study.
- Changes in pricing catalogue.
- Back office costs.

Opportunities and Challenges Still to Come

- Scheme continues to evolve in trial.
- Continue to monitor and evaluate viability of service lines.
- Best fit modelling – as at August 2015.
- Competitive market.
- Shift in culture and attitude.
- More choice and control.
- Increase in self advocacy.

Contact Details

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