

NDIS campaign update

With the support of people-power the Every Australian Counts campaign for the NDIS has reached first base.

Campaign supporters deserve a big pat on the back! However the NDIS must compete with many other big issues in the 2012-2013 federal election.

We need every MP in Australia to support the NDIS, regardless of their political affiliations. The NDIS is too important to hundreds of thousands of people's lives to become a political football.

Counting on our MPs

NDIS supporters needed NOW to talk to Queensland federal MPs about how important the NDIS is to their local communities in:

**Bowman Dawson Fadden Fisher
Groom Hinkler Oxley Wright**

When you talk to your MP, tell us how you go!

MPs getting visited in the electorates of:

Blair, Bonner, Brisbane, Capricornia, Dawson, Dickson, Fairfax, Flynn, Forde, Griffith, Herbert, Kennedy, Leichhardt, Lilley, Longman, Maranoa, McPherson, Moncrieff, Moreton, Oxley, Petrie, Rankin, Ryan, Wide Bay.

- **A big thank you to the 55 Queensland NDIS Champions** already registered to receive an MP Action Pack! Your MPs need to hear from you – don't let anyone in their electorate office tell you anything different!

NDIS "groundwork underway"

The need for all of us to maintain pressure on our MPs to support the NDIS was reinforced by Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers Senator Jan McLucas.



The Senator emphasised that intensive ground-work for the NDIS was underway, with 15 priority areas identified in the earliest stages of getting NDIS-ready. NDIS campaign activists in turn emphasised to Senator McLucas that:

- **Reform of the disability system is needed urgently** – with thousands of older people with disabilities and older carer families needing support right now while preparations for the new scheme are underway
- **Don't keep us in the dark** – there was strong demand for improved information sharing and communication from the federal government right from the earliest stages of NDIS planning and preparation
- **Capacity building** – a strong, vibrant service and support sector needs real investment in capacity building to meet the needs of people with disability and their families



www.everyaustraliancounts.org.au

NDIS | Revolutionising disability services

Political update

The Federal Government responded quickly to the Productivity Commission's final report, providing an initial \$10 million, setting up the first COAG meeting establishing a Select Council (disability ministers and treasurers) and advisory panel (well-regarded advisors with direct experience with disability).

The Federal Opposition – which may become the federal government - has not yet specifically endorsed the introduction of the NDIS, despite many individual Liberal MPs publicly supporting the NDIS and the Federal National Party resolution supporting the NDIS.

ACTION: It doesn't matter if your MP is Liberal, Labor, National, Green or Independent. Tell them you expect they will support the NDIS. Ask them to hold an NDIS meeting in their electorate, just like Ipswich MP Shayne Neumann is doing.

The NDIS roll out timeframe

The NDIS implementation plan defined by the Productivity Commission **starts in 2014 and finishes by 2018**. The two years preceding the 2014 launch will develop the structure and technology that a transformational national scheme requires, along with securing multi-partisan political commitment to the implementation of the NDIS. The NDIS is too important to rush it and get it wrong – we won't get any second chances.

But ...

What about funding unmet need NOW?

Everyone, including the Productivity Commission, agrees that interim funding is urgently needed to alleviate the worst problems of inadequate support of people with disability and their families. Both the federal government and the state government must deliver critical support to people with disability now. This should not be delayed until the NDIS.

The Queensland Government – with a State election in our state next year, Queensland activists must tell their Liberal, National and ALP State MPs we expect them to support the NDIS AND that we expect them to deliver urgently-needed interim disability support and funding based on the NDIS principle of a person-centred approach.

ACTION: Before you visit your State MP, download an [MP toolkit](#) or contact [EAC Qld](#) and we'll mail you an MP kit.

The heart and soul of the NDIS is personalised funding and choice

Interim funding – regardless of its source - must align with the principles recommended by the Productivity Commission – where the person with disability is at the centre of the decision-making and is not forced to accept resources or services which do not specifically meet identified needs.

NDIS events

QLD – Ipswich 10 October Federal MP for Blair Shayne Neumann is holding an NDIS meeting at Ipswich Trades Hall, from 11:15am. **With Minister Jenny Macklin on hand** to answer NDIS questions, this will be a great opportunity to get the latest NDIS update from a senior government minister.

MP NDIS Breakfast, Canberra 13 October All Federal MPs and Senators have been invited.

National Press Club NDIS Address, Canberra, 23 November 3 high calibre speakers with direct experience of disability explain how the NDIS will benefit the social and economic future of all Australians.