



"MEDIA RELEASE"
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NDIS Update

Media Release: - Thursday October 21st 2010

NDIS National Disability Insurance Scheme
Notes from the campaign

Dear Supporter

It has been great to meet with some of you during the last few weeks as I have travelled around the country gaining a better sense of where things are at across the nation. I have met with and spoken to individuals and organisations in Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia and look forward to heading to Queensland shortly. It has been wonderful to meet so many committed and passionate people supporting the campaign. I have been able to soak up a lot of ideas and some concerns about the approach to the campaign by listening to service providers, advocacy organisations, carer organisations as well as many individuals with a disability and their families. I hope this kind of engagement will continue as the campaign progresses.

There are now more than 590 submissions on the Productivity Commission website, with more posted every day. The Productivity Commission has now received more submissions during this inquiry than during any other inquiry in the Commission's history. This is testament both to the level of interest in the issue and the level of need. The job of the Productivity Commission is now to review the submissions, and combined with their own fact finding and research, come up with a draft report in February. It will then be our responsibility to respond to their findings. We therefore anticipate that February and March will be a very busy period. We also intend to make the most of the media opportunities that will come with the release of the report in order to make sure we continue to build public support for the introduction of an NDIS. Look for opportunities to participate where you can letters to the editor, calls to talkback radio, contact with local newspapers – all these things

are very important in building public awareness and support.

We also hope to make some changes to the look of the campaign and to the NDIS website as we gear up for this busy period next year. We will also be making some changes to how we communicate with our supporters. I look forward to sharing more with you as the work progresses. In the meantime, please encourage those who have not signed up for news to do so on the website www.ndis.org.au or look for us on [Facebook](#). Staying in contact is very important, particularly as we build up to our activities next year.

The upcoming state elections in Victoria and New South Wales also provide another opportunity to raise awareness and build support for the NDIS. State governments are important for two reasons. While the scheme will be national, it is very important that the states do not impede progress or implementation – their support is therefore very important. The second reason is that while we wait for the introduction and implementation of an NDIS there are things state governments could and should do in the short term to relieve the pressure on people with a disability, their families and carers. These are our two messages in the lead up to both state elections.

In Victoria we have declared October 'Visiting Month'. We are trying to ensure every Victorian state MP and every Federal MP from Victoria receives a visit from a person with a disability, family member or support organisation. We are still looking for individuals and organisations willing to participate – please contact Kirsten Deane from the National Disability and Carer Alliance at kirsten.deane@ndis.org.au if you would like further information.

In New South Wales we are holding a rally on the steps of the Opera House on October 28. Radio host Alan Jones will MC the 'Show Your Strength' rally and both the Premier and Opposition Leader have been invited to attend. The purpose of the rally is to demonstrate the strength of the disability sector, and to secure a commitment from all major parties to continued disability funding and reform under Stronger Together 2 in the short term and the NDIS in the long term. For more information please visit the website www.showyourstrength.com.au or find our page on Facebook. We would love everyone in NSW to attend – organisers are asking people to wear blue to create a sea of people calling for change.

Thank you to those who got in touch after my last update – I do appreciate the feedback and look forward to working with you all as the campaign progresses.

John Della Bosca
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Disability Speaks will distribute on behalf of any organization that meets suitable criteria online information that is of wide disability community interest via our database that now numbers nearly 4,000 recipients for Government, advocacy groups and other major disability organizations. We hope in the lead up to elections, state or federal, we can distribute policy and support information from political groups. Such distribution is not in any way endorsement by Disability Speaks. From time to time Disability Speaks will also distribute media releases commenting on developments in the disability sector. We strongly encourage you to forward all releases to your friends, clients and disability supporters and encourage them to subscribe direct. To do so simply send an email subject "subscribe" to the address below.