



NDIS Update

Media Release: - Friday 10th December, 2010

NDIS National Disability Insurance Scheme Notes from the campaign

Hi everyone

It has been a period of considerable activity since the last campaign update. Work will continue in earnest over the Christmas/New Year period in preparation for what we believe will be a very busy few months at the beginning of next year.

Most work has focused on the development of a new campaign website. The current NDIS website has served us well until this point, providing a central repository for information and encouraging people to visit and email their local MPs to build support for the NDIS. We are however now ready to move to the next stage of the campaign. The new website will be a simple, engaging, interactive website which will allow people to engage with the campaign on a number of different levels. It will be a website that speaks both to people with a disability and their families but also to the general public. It will explain to people with no experience of disability what the problems are and how the NDIS will provide solutions. It will constantly evolve and change as the campaign itself evolves and changes. We hope very much that it will become a site that people will come back and visit often to find out what is new and what is happening with the campaign.

We intend to launch the new website at the end of January so stay tuned and we will provide more details as the launch date grows closer. Please let everyone in your networks know about the coming changes and to keep an eye out for the new site.

Since our last update there has been a state election in Victoria. We declared October Visiting Month in Victoria and set ourselves the task of ensuring every state MP and every federal member from Victoria received a visit from someone with lived experience of disability to spread the word about the need for an NDIS. As with the Federal election we were pleased

that we were able to secure tri-partisan support for the NDIS, with Labor, the Coalition and the Greens declaring their support for the NDIS and promising to champion its introduction with their Federal colleagues if elected on November 27. Achieving the support of all parties was particularly important in this election which was predicted to be close – an accurate prediction as it turned out. We will be now looking to the new Baillieu government to honour its election commitments. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those committed and passionate individuals who took the time to email or visit their local MP to tell them about the need for the NDIS – we are sure all these visits contributed to the two announcements made by the parties. We appreciate everyone’s energy and commitment in tackling such a large task.

And finally, we are delighted to announce that the National Disability and Carer Alliance will next year convene The National Disability and Carer Congress: Make Every Australian Count to be held in Melbourne on May 2 and 3. Mark the date in your diaries now. Come along to this exciting event and hear from our elected representatives about their vision for people with a disability, their families and carers in this country, hear from international experts about developments in disability policy around the world and most importantly, hear from people with a disability, their families and carers about their hopes for the future. This congress will be unlike others with many opportunities for participants to quiz presenters and engage in greater discussion and debate than is usually possible within traditional conference programs. A discounted subsidised rate will be offered for individuals with a disability and family members in order to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to participate. We are on the cusp of transformational change in this country – come along to the Congress and hear what it will mean for you and how you can be part of it. Registrations will open early next year – save the date and spread the word.

As always, thank you for your commitment to the campaign.

John Della Bosca and the NDIS campaign team
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