



Where is SA at?

Premier Rann should speak out

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NSW has officially joined the push for a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Given the overwhelming case presented in the draft Australian Productivity Commission report this comes as little surprise.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/nsw-govt-to-get-behind-ndis-20110526-1f5fo.html>

By making a public statement NSW joins Victoria in taking a very positive and pro active role in lifting the debate and profile of the NDIS discussion.

David Holst , Chair of Disability Speaks steering committee comments "It is essential that all states take a proactive approach to NDIS. Many including myself in the disability sector will take a jaundiced view of the motives of the States in this NDIS discussion. Given the states have for twenty years failed miserably to meet their obligations to fund even basic disability support the concept of moving the responsibility to the Federal Government will have massive financial appeal to many state premiers and treasurers".

With the NDIS report highlighting the additional billions of dollars per annum that are needed urgently I could not care less who foots the bill?

Like thousands of other disability sector disenchanted supporters I care little about the motives of the state governments. They have already proved beyond doubt that they prefer to spend their state budgets on short term and politically more popular projects than caring for people with disability.

The draft NDIS report is quite clear that the provision of disability services should be a Federal Government responsibility.

The states should be doing everything they can to make sure this happens sooner rather than later.

At least then the states will be able to genuinely claim they have done something to assist people with disability, even if it is to stop pretending the states really care or are ever going to fix the disability crisis.

The sooner the Federal Government takes control the better.

Let's see Disability and NDIS become a priority issue at the next COAG meeting.

It would be great to see Mike Rann, Premier of SA demand this happens.

David Holst

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